

# Why Chinese *de* is not like French *de*: A Critical Analysis of the Predicational Approach to Nominal Modification

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## Abstract

The item *de* subordinating modifiers of different categories to the head noun occupies a prominent place among the unresolved puzzles in Chinese linguistics. Taking den Dikken and Singhapreecha's (2004) "linker" analysis of *de* as a starting point, I will argue in general against proposals analysing the modifier XP in terms of an underlying predicate, located in a small clause (den Dikken and Singhapreecha 2004, den Dikken 2006) or a relative clause (Sproat and Shih 1988, 1991, Duanmu 1998, Simpson 2001, 2003). The aim is to pave the way for an analysis of *de* that is in accordance with the overall syntax of Chinese.

## Keywords

subordinator *de*, "linker", nominal projection, determiner, nominal modification

## 論為何並非所有的名詞修飾性成分都可以從謂詞成分轉換而來

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### 摘要

究竟把“的”字看作是修飾性成分好還是看作是名詞中心語好的問題，迄今為止語言學界對此問題並未達成共識。大部分學者基本上認為修飾性短語要麼是由小句中的謂詞成分轉換而來，要麼是由關係分句中的謂詞成分轉換而來。然而這些看法也並非完全無懈可擊。其實諸多修飾性成分的短語，例如介詞短語，並非能完全獨立作為謂詞成分使用。因此本文旨在論證，倘若“的”字的分析要與漢語總體句法特點保持和諧一致的話，我們就必須從新的角度對這個問題進行重新剖析。

### 關鍵詞

結構助詞“的”，連線性功能詞，名詞短語，限定語，名詞短語中的修飾關係