A Statistical Study Of Special Adjectives

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0.Brief Introduction

As we know,adjectives in Chinese generally can be used as attribute and predicate.But some of them can't be predicates,such as dàxíng<大型> chūbù<初步>,etc.:some of them can't be attributes(even if de<的>is added) such as hǎoyìsī<好意思>,duō<多>,etc. The former is called non-predicative adjective and the latter non-attribute adjective .both of which might be adverbial and /or complement. And we call them special adjectives (the subsidiary part of adjectives).

Aboutspecial adjectives,there have been lots of works which have done much beneficial exploration, but most of them are illustrated with wishful examples. As to the problems such as what proportion they occupy in Chinese adjectives, what words they are in details,and what grammatical characteristics they bear in themselves, and so on,no one has done thoroughly in a certain amount of random collection of adjectives. It's inconvenient for,the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language and the research in computational linguistics.

so we write the humble piece of writing based on the thorough analy -ses of 2098 adjectives.[1]It's necessary to state that the sub-classification of adjectives and their terms used here somewhat differ from the other scholars,but for the convenienceof writing,we've to adopt it

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[1]The adjectives analyzed in this paper are mainly extracted from the concerned papers & books at homeand abroad. At first,we collected all the words marked as adj.(2500in all),then according to language habbit or perception ,we cancelled those whichare obviously not adjectives, such as 快速, 平平, 谅解, 普及, 熟悉, 泰然, 无数, 絮叨, 原先, etc. from Hanyu ShuipingCihui yu Hanzi Dengji Dagang(《汉语水平词汇与汉字等级大纲》, Press of Beijing Languages' Institute, 1992); 口口声声, 纵情, 依稀, 尊严, 眼睁睁, 许久, 久险,etc.from Xinbian Hanyu Duogongneng Cidian (《新编汉语多功能词典》,International Culture Press, 1989) chief-edited by 冯志纯, 周行健; and 英雄 from Xingrongci Yongfa Cidian(《形容词用法词典》, Hunan Publishing House,1992) by 郑怀德 and 孟庆海.

of which the general frame is like this:

Adj.	Common Adj. (the essential part of Adj.)	Pure Adj..e.g. dà<大>. hóng<红>. gāoxìng<高兴>, rènzhēn<认真>, duō<多>,kèkǔ<刻苦>...
		Non-pure Adj.,e.g.bìlǜ<碧绿.AB>, rèhūhū<热乎乎, ABB>, yōuyōu<悠悠, AA>, hōnghōnglièliè <轰轰烈烈, AABB>...
	pecial Adj. (the subsidiary part of Adj.)	Non-predicativeAdj., e.g. dàxíng<大型>. ruǒnxìng<软性>...
		Non-attributive Adj..e.g.tuǒ<妥> ānxīn<安心>...

Besides.this paper aims at making a thorough investigation of a certain amount of random adjectives(2098),in order to find out what proportion they occupy, list them in details and make a brief introduction of their grammatical characteristics: but not to or could not make a meticulous description of very word(of special adjectives) because of the limited space here.

1. Non-predicative Adjectives

1.1. As to non-predicative adjectives, Mr. Lu shuxiang has written a monographic paper which contains so much materials and so excellent description that no one really has caught up with it later②In Lus paper. 407 non-predicative adjectives have been listed and their seven syntactical features have been stated in details: (1) modify nouns directly; (2)most can be followed by de<的>while modifying nouns;(3) most can follow shì<是>or be used as a noun equivalent when they are followed by de<的>;(4) generally can't be subject and object;(5) cannot be predicate;(6)can't follow hěn<很> and(7)not bù<不>but fēi<非>is needed in negative form. Just like what Mr. Lu has said, the non-predicative adjectives have a tendency to change gradually into common adjectives.

Perhaps because of the variation of meaning,some words Mr.Lu listed in the 407 words of his paper have changed now in meaning,and don't accord with the demands as non-predicative,such as dījí<低级.elementary .dútè<独特,distinctive>.gāojí<高级,high-grade>,jīmì<机密,confidential>

② see Lu huxiang （吕叔湘) and Rao Changrong(饶长溶):"On Non-predicativ Adje – ctive Adjectives",in Zhongguo Yuwen (《中国语文》) 1981/2.

juéduì<绝对,absolute>, kàngrè<抗热,hot-proof>, nàihuǒ<耐火,refracto-ry>,wàngwǒ<忘我,selfless>,wúxiào<无效,invalid>,yǒuxiào<有效,valid>,yǒuyì<有益,profitable>;bùguīzé<不规则,irregular>,bùpíngděng<不平等,unequal>,etc., all of whichcan follow hěn<很>,fēi cháng<非常>, tài <太> and can be predicates,e.g.

> Zhèzhǒng fāngfǎ hěn dútè.
> <这种方法很独特.This method is very unique.>
> Zhèzhǒng páiliè hěn bùguīzé.
> <这种排列很不规则.This arrangement is too irregular.>
> Zhèzhǒng fēnggé fēicháng dútè.
> <这种风格非常独特.This style is very distinctive.>
> ... ...

It is thus clear that non-predicative adjectives expressing property and category are emerging and changing gradually all the time, and the tendency is to change into common adjectives.But sometimes one meaning of certain words has changed but the other has not.For example, gāojí <高级>still will be listed in non-predicative adjectives in the follow-ing,but it has a small 1 on its upper right,which states that as non-predicative adjective, gaoji means"senior" or "higher-ranking"; but as common adjective it expresses the other meeanings.

Besides, the words such as hànyīng<汉英:~ 词典>,jīngguǎng<京广:~铁路>and so on, will be regarded as abbreviation in this paper and not as non-predicative as Mr. Lu did in his paper.

In order to run through his definition of adjectives (words which can be both attribute and predicate),Mr.Zhu Dexi cut off the non-predi-cative adjectives which generally can't follow hěn<很>and can be only attribute from predicative word< wèicí 谓词> in Chinese>, and put them into the kind of words called nominal word<tǐcí 体词> in Chinese> and then give them a new name distinctive words<qūbiécí区别词in Chi-nese>. What's different is that,Mr. Zhu discussed the monosyllables such as jīn<金>,yín<银>, nán<男> ,nǚ<女>,etc. together with the di-syllables or polysyllables;but Mr. Lu didn't list the monosyllables in the glossary of non-predicative adjectives, and just briefly discus-sed them in the fourth part of his paper.Maybe this is because of the different classification.since Mr.Zhu put his distinctive word(qū bié cí 区别词) into nominal word(tǐcí 体词).of course it would include nán <男>,nǚ<女>.jīn<金>,yín<银>,etc. which contain much more nominal quality than disyllablic or polysyllabic non-predicative adjectives; while Mr. Lu regarded the non-predicative adjectives as the subsidiary of adjectives,in which the words such as nán<男>,nǚ<女>,jīn<金>, yín <银>don't have so much adjectival quality as the disyllabic or polysyllabic ones, because they can be nouns by themselves.

We adopt the term "non-predicative adjective" introduced by Mr. Lu, but equally put monosyllabic words such as nán<男>,nǚ<女>,jīn<金>.

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③ see Zhu Dexi（朱德熙）, YufaJiangyi（《语法讲义》, Commercial Press, 1984), pp.52-54.

yín<银>and the disyllabic or polysyllabic ones together in classification discussion. The reasons are the following:(1)some monosyllabic non-predicative adjectives can't be used as noun directly (not including the situation in Archaic Chinese,idiomatic expression or sysmmetrical style).e.g.cí<雌.female>, xióng<雄.male>,etc.which only can modify nouns of animals :xiónglù<雄鹿.maledeer>.cíniǎo<雌鸟,female bird>; (2) As to nán<男>,nǚ<女>,etc. which are in our opinion of two kinds of usage: used to be nouns, they correspond to the sexual distictive words: "man" and "woman" in English; when used to be non-predicatives, they state which sex they belong to , and correspond to the English words" male" and "female". Jīn<金>is "gold" in English, a kind of metal,when it's a noun;but it corresponds to "golden" or "of gold" when it's non-predicative, and so on.

1.2.The non-predicative adjectives Mr. Lu collected are very plentiful(407) and the investigation is quite perfect in his paper. Though the ones in 2098 adjectives we're discussing here are not so many,yet we've to adopt the latter in calculating the proportion of non-predicative adjectives.By the way,Mr. Lu regarded jīnhuáng<金黄> as a non-predicate,but we think it to be non-pure adjective of the common adjectives. some grammar books regard xǔduō<许多>.hǎoxiē<好些> as numeral-classsifier compounds, but we list them to be adjectives. In this paper, we just deal with the usages of non-predictive adjectives in Modern Chinese. As to the other usages. we just give some indication if they have to be talked about.

In 2098 adjectives there are only 200 non-predicative ones which occupies about 10%.They will be listed in two groups. monosyllabic (1. 2.1.) and disyllabic (1.2.2.)and briefly illustrated in the part of 1.2.3 in the following.

1.2.1. Monosyllabic Words (31):

àn 暗,hidden,secret

dān 单,one.single

fèi 废,waste

gōng 公,male(of animal)

huī 灰.grey

liáng 良,fine(~药)

nán 男,male

páng 旁,other,else

shùn 顺,in the same direction as (~时针)

xiōng 凶,ominous

fù 副,deputy

héng 横.horizontal

huó 活,alive

míng 名,noted

néng 能,able

shí 实,solid

xióng 雄,male

cí 雌,female

fǎn 反,in reverse

fù 负,negative

huā 花,multicoloured

jué 绝being cut off④

mǔ 母,female

nǚ 女,female

shuāng 双,even-double

wū 污,dirty(~水沟)

yáng 阳,south of hill or north of a river(archaic):open

yīn 阴.north of hill or south of a river(archaic):hidden

④绝1 is a non-predicative adjective which means "unable to go through", "being cut off"; 绝2 is. a common adjective which means: "unique", " that no one catch up" and can be both attribute (绝活儿) and predicate (他那手活儿真绝).