

Whether de<的> is Needed or Not

--A Statical Study of Adj.-Attributes

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0. Attribute is one of the basic syntactic funtions of Chinese adjectives. Whether "de"<的>is needed or not while being an attribute (i.e.modifying nouns)is an old problem which has been discussed in many works but never thoroughly settled in the past.I'm sorry not to be able to list the works concerned one by one because of the limited space here.

Generally speaking, adj.-attribute has three Forms: I. modifies a noun directly(Adj.+N.); II. must or can be followed by "de" <的> while modifying a noun(Adj.+de+N.); and III. follows "hěn" <很> (or its equivalents) firstly and be followed by "de" while modifying a noun (很 hěn[or its equivalents]+Adj+de+N). Most adjectives can be used freely or alternatively in the three Forms above according to the different context,mood and style in texts or speech; but the others must have a choice and can be used in one Form or two. For example,jiǔ<久> can be used only in Form III: hěn jiǔ de shì <很久的事 a long-existed thing>.but never in Form I: *jiǔshì <久事> or Form II: *jiǔ de shì <久的事>.

The studies before are often illustrated with wishful examples and almost never based on a certain amount of random materials. Without a thorough study of a certain amount of random materials, of course we can not clearly tell which adjectives can be used in which Form. And the paper here aims at making a thorough investigation of the concrete usage, distribution and frequency of adjectives in the three Forms according to concrete materials, which we hope to be able to supply a useful reference for the computational linguistics or the Chinese teaching as a foreign language.

For this reason, we've collected 2098 Chinese adjectives^[1] and

[1] The adjectives analyzed in this paper are mainly extracted from the concerned papers & books at home and abroad. At first, we collected all the words marked as adj.(2600 in all), then according to language habit or perception, we cancelled those which are obviously not adjectives, such as 快速, 乎乎, 谅解, 普及, 熟悉, 泰然, 无数, 翳叨, 原先, etc. from Hanyu Shuiping Cibui yu Hanzi Dengü 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.

made an overall study and statistical analyses of their syntactic functions, with which the paper here has been written. And the beneficial advices about it from the readers or scholars are always welcomed. It's necessary to state that the sub-classification and the terms used here somewhat differ from the others, but for the convenience of writing style, we've to adopt it of which the general frame is like the following:

Adj.	Common Adj. (the essential part of Adj.)	Pure Adj., e.g. dà <大>, hóng <红>, gāoxìng <高兴>, rénzhéng <认真>, duō <多>, kèkǔ <刻苦>...
	Non-pure Adj., e.g. bìlǜ <碧绿, AB>, rēnhūhū <热乎乎, ABB>, yōuyōu <悠悠, AA>, hōnghōnglielié <轰轰烈烈, AABB>...	
	special Adj. (the subsidiary part of Adj.)	non-predicative adj., e.g. dàxíng <大型>, ruǎnxíng <软性>...
		non-attributive Adj., e.g. tuō <妥>, ànxin <安心>...

1. Monosyllabic Adjectives

1.0. Monosyllabic adjectives can be divided into three kinds when they modify nouns: A.B and C.

1.1. Classification

1.1.1. Adjectives of Kind A can be used in Form I and Form II, and the ones with a small plus sign + on the right side also can be used in Form III. The underlined words can follow dà <大> when modifying nouns directly, e.g. dà měirén <大美人>, dà nántí <大难题>, dà lěngtiān <大冷天>. The dà <大> here is something like hěn <很> in meaning, but not the same in grammatical structure, because if we use hěn <很> instead of dà <大> here, "de" <的> is needed: hěnměi de rén <很美的人>, hěnnán de tí <很难的题>, hěnlěng de tiān <很冷的天>.

There are 113 words of Kind A:

ái 矮+	àn 暗	bái 白	bàng 棒	báo 薄+	bèn 笨
biǎn 扁	biě 疊	chán 谗	cháng 长+	chǒu 丑	chún 纯+
cì 次	cū 粗	dà 大+	dài 呆	dī 低	dǒu 陡
dú 毒	duǎn 短+	è 恶	féi 肥	fēng 疯	gāo 高+
gǔ 古	guāi 乖	guài 怪	guāng 光	guǐ 鬼	hǎo 好+

hēi 黑+	hóng 红+	hòu 厚+	huá 滑	huáng 黄+	hún 浑
jí 急	jiān 尖	jìn 近	jiù 旧+	jué<绝2. unique> ^[2]	
kōng 空	kǔ 苦+	kuài 快	kuān 宽	kuáng 狂	kuò 阔
lán 蓝+	lǎn 懒	lǎo 老	liáng 凉	lěng 冷	liè 烈
lǜ 绿+	luàn 乱	máng 忙	měi 美	mèn 鬼	měng 猛
mì 密	miào 妙	nán 难	làn 烂	nèn 嫩	nóng 浓
pàng 胖	píng 平	pò 破	qiǎn 浅	qiáng 强	qiǎo 巧
qīn 亲	qīng 轻+	qīng 清	qióng 穷	rè 热	ruǎn 软+
ruò 弱	sāo 骚/臊	sè 涩	shǎ 傻	shēn 深	shēng 生+
shí 湿+	shòu 瘦	sǐ 死	sú 俗	sù 素	
suān 酸1.of acid>	suān<酸2,pedantic>		suì 碎	tàng 烫	
tián 甜+	tié 铁+	wāi 歪+	wān 弯+	wǎn 晚	
xì 细+	xián 咸+	xiāng 香+	xiǎo 小+	xīn 新+	
yé 野	yìng 硬+	yuán 圆+	yuǎn 远	zá 杂	zhà 榨
zǎo 早	zhí 直	zhòng 重	zǐ 紫		

1.1.2. Most monosyllabic adjectives of Kind A can be used only in Form I, but the ones with a small plus sign+ on the right side can also be used in Form II: fangzhuozi <方桌子>, fang de zhuozi <方的桌子>. There are 65 words of this kind which is divided into two groups (a and b):

(a) cí 雌	dān 单	fǎn 反	fèi 废	fù 负
fù 副	gōng<公male (animal).opposite to mu母>			
héng 横	huā 花	huī 灰	huó <活.alive>	
jué<绝1. being cut off> ^[2]			liáng<良.fine>	
mǔ<母,female (animal) opposite to gong公>	nán 男			
néng 能	nǚ 女	páng 旁	shí<实1.solid.not empty>	
shuāng 双	wū 污	xiōng (凶2.inauspicious or ominous)		
xiōng 雄	yáng(阳, open)		yīn (阴.hidden)	
yuán(原.crude)	zhěng 整		zǒng (总,overall,total)	
(b) chà 差	fāng 方+	gān 干	hán 寒	huāng 荒
jiao 娇	jùn 俊	kū 枯	mǎn(满.full, filled: ~座 .~身)	
màn(漫: ~天)		máo 毛	mì(蜜:甜言~语)	
mì 秘	míán 缅	míng(明: ~月, ~码)	nuǎn 暖	
qí 奇	qīng 青	qīng 晴	róu 柔	shí(实2:true,honest)
shù 竖	shùn 顺+	tóng 同	wēn 温	wén 文
xié (邪,abnormal or evil: ~劲, ~门儿)			xián 闲	
xiōng(凶1.fierce,fearful)			xié(斜,oblique: ~园锥)	
zhēn 真+	zhèng (正), straight.upright:situated in the middle)	yán 严:~师	yáng 洋	
zhuān 专:~人		liàng 亮+		

[2] 绝2 is different to some degree from other words of Kind A. It is collocated only with the word 活儿, and a solid word will be made if in Form I: 绝活儿; but if in Form III, a numeral-classifier compound is needed before 活儿 which also can be another noun, e.g. 很绝的一手活儿, 很绝的一手字(一道菜, ...), etc.

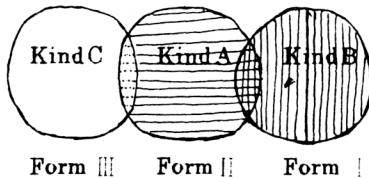
[3] 绝1 is a non-predicative adjective which means "unable to go through", "being cut off"; 绝2 is a common adjective which means: "unique", "that no one catch up" and can be both attribute (绝活儿) and predicate (他那手活儿真绝).

1.1.3. Most monosyllabic adjectives of Kind C can be used in Form Ⅲ, but the one with a small plus sign + on the right side also can be used in Form Ⅱ. There are 44 words of this kind of which most are non-attributive adjectives^[4]:

ào 懈	bǎo 饱	bó 薄	cán 残	cǎn 惨	chén 沉
<i>chōng (冲, with vim and vigour; vigorous)</i>					
diāo 刁	duì 对	duō 多	fán 烦	fàn 泛	guǎng 广
guì 贵	jǐ 挤	jiāng 僵	jǐn 紧	jīng 精	jiàn 贱
là 辣	lèi 累	nào 闹	piān 偏	píng 平	quán 全
shuài 帅	jiǔ 久	shǎo 少	sōng 松	tōng 通	wàng 旺
xī 稀	xiáng 响	xū 虚	yàn 艳	zāo 糟	
zhèng <正2, (of colour or flavour) pure; right>					zhuàng 壮
zhǔn 准	zú 足	suān (酸3, tingle; ache) ^[5]			téng 痛
tòng 痛+	yǎng 痒+				

1.2. Grammatical Characteristics. In this part, we'll state the similarities or differences of the three kinds of monosyllabic adjectives.

1.2.1. Most words of kind C and B can be used in Form Ⅲ and Ⅰ respectively and never confused with each other; but A is very complicated. Very few words (only the last three: 痛+ 痒+ 痒+) of Kind C and some of Kind A can be used in both Form Ⅲ and Ⅱ; some of kind A and some of group (b) in Kind B can be used in Form Ⅱ and Ⅰ while the others of Kind A can be used freely. Broadly speaking, the three kinds of monosyllabic adjectives are quite different in substance and the frame of their relationships is just like a chain illustrated below:



The words of Kind C which can be used in Form Ⅱ are so few that it's unnecessary to take it into consideration here. Thus the only coincidence we've to deal with is just that of Kind A and B. We know from above that the words with a small plus sign can be used in Form Ⅱ but we should point out that the difference between them of

[4] Conditioned non-attributive adjective are adjectives that can be used only in Form Ⅲ, as to which we'll discuss in another paper.

[5] As to suan <酸>, we have 酸1, 酸2, 酸4 differently classified because of the different meaning items. And we regard 酸2 (sad) as an absolute non-attributive adjective so that we'll not discuss it here.

Kind A and Kind B is more word-formalized and more solid than Kind A. Both Kind A and B has a sense of classification if they are used in Form I [6], e.g. *yuán dèngzi* <圆凳子.A>, *fāng zhuōzi* <方桌子.B>. And the two examples can be changed into Form II: *yuán de dèngzi* <圆的凳子.A>, *fāng de zhuōzi* <方的桌子.B>, but the latter can never be used in Form III (**hěn fāng de zhuōzi*) while the former can (**hěn yuán de dèngzi*).

When used in Form I, the words without a plus sign of Kind B are also more solid than those of Kind A. Neither *qīng cǎo* <青草.B> nor *qīng shuǐ* <清水.A> can be changed into Form II: **qīng de cǎo* <青的草>, **qīng de shuǐ* <清的水>; and the former can seldomly be used in Form III: **hěn qīng de cǎo* <很青的草> while the latter can be used like this, *hěn qīng de shuǐ* <很清的水>.

1.2.2. The features of the three Forms:

Adjectives in Form I purely restrict and modify nouns but the ones in Form III has a stronger sense of description. If we say *hóng zhǐ* <红纸>, we mean it's a kind of paper which differs from others such as *hēizhǐ* <黑纸.the black paper>; if we say *hěn hóng de zhǐ* <很红的纸>, we are describing how the paper looks like. In another word, the former is equal to "the red paper" in English and the latter "the paper which is (very) red". If in Form II, Prof. Zhu Dexi believed that the "Adj.+de" and the "N" are appositives; [7] but we don't think so. Here "Adj.+de" still modifies the "N", but the mood is stronger than Form I. However, they have not any appositive relation but a relation of modifier and modified. Please read the following dialogue:

Ask: Nǐ yào shénme? <你要什么? What at do you want?>

Answer: Yí zhāng hóngzhǐ. <一张红纸.A piece of red paper.>

Ask: Shénme? <什么? What?>

Answer: (1) Zhǐ <纸.(The) paper.>

(2) Hóngzhǐ. <红纸.(The) red paper.>

(3) Hóng de zhǐ. <红的纸.The paper which is red.>

(4) *Hóng(de). <红的.Red.>

If we answer the second question, we can choose the (2),(3) (adj. and noun) or (1) (noun only), but can never choose (4) (only adjective [and de]).

1.2.3. The properties of the three kinds of monosyllabic adjectives:

Monosyllabic adjectives of Kind A has a large quantity including typical adjective: colour words,etc. They are freely-used common adjectives, of which most can be used independently. Kind B has two groups (a) and (b), group (a) is separated from Kind A, but some of group (b) coincides with some words of Kind A in structural characteristics: both of them can be used in Form II and I. Group (a)

[6] see Zhu Dexi (朱德熙), *Xiandai Hanyu Yufa Yanjiu* (《现代汉语语法研究》, Commercial Press, Beijing, 1985), pp. 7-8.

[7] Ibid, p17.

is non-predicative adjectives, but most of group (b) are adjectival element in word-formation (solid monosyllabic adjectives?). [8]
 Group (a) can't follow hěn <很> or its equivalents and can't be followed by de <的> when it's an attribute (exception:nán <男>, nǚ <女>, zǒng <总>, páng <旁>). and if one of them is used to modify a noun, we can get another non-predicative adjective which is disyllabic(or polysyllabic) word, e.g.

cí <雌>: cíniǎo 雌鸟 *cí de niǎo 雌的鸟 *hěncí de niǎo 很雌的鸟
 dān <单>: dān rén <单人, non-predictive adj., dānrén chuáng 单人床 >
 fǎn <反>: fǎn dǎodàn <反导弹, non-predictive adj.,

fǎndǎodàn jīdì 反导弹基地>

fèi <废>: fèizǐ 废纸 *fèi de zhǐ 废的纸 *shěn fèi de zhǐ 很废的纸
 fù <副>: fùjūnzhǎng 副军长 *fùde jūnzhǎng 副的军长

*hěnfù de jūnzhǎng 很副的军长

nán <男>: nánjiàoshī 男教师 nán de jiàoshī 男的教师

*hěnnán de jiàoshī 很男的教师

nǚ <女>: nǚjiàoshī 女教师 nǚ de jiàoshī 女的教师

*hěnnǚ de jiàoshī 很女的教师

páng <旁>: pángrén 旁人 páng de rén 旁的 *hěnpáng derén 很旁的人

zǒng <总>: zōngshèjì 总设计 zōng de shèjì 总的设计

*hěn zōng de shèjì 很总的设计

Most monosyllabic adjectives of Kind C are conditioned non-attributive adjectives(条件非定形容词) which must follow hěn <很> and be followed by de <的> while modifying nouns. As to the main grammatical characteristics of Kind A, B and C (not including Form II), we can refer the following table:

	A: dú <毒>	B: máo <毛>	C: zhǔn <准>
Used in Form I	dúshé <毒蛇>	máoliào <毛料>	*zhǔnbiǎo <准表>
Used in Form II	hěndú de shé <很毒的蛇>	*shěnmáo de liào <很毛的料>	hěnzhǔn de biǎo <很准的表>
Changed into -V	shé hěndú <蛇很毒>	*liào hěnmáo <料很毛>	biǎo hěnzhǔn <表很准>
Asking Questions	shé dú ma? / dóbù dú? <蛇毒吗? / 毒不毒?>	*liào máoma? <料毛吗?> *máo bù máo? <毛不毛?>	biǎozhǔn ma? <标准吗?> zhǔn bù zhǔn? <准不准?>
Answer: Yes/No	dú./bù dú. <毒. 不毒. >	*máo./bù máo. <毛. /不毛. >	zhǔn./bù zhǔn. <准. /不准. >

[8] some monosyllabic of the 2098 adjectives we've analyzed can't be used

1.2.4. The same word can be divided into different ones because of its various meaning items, e.g. zhèng<正>2 belongs to Kind C and zhèng<正>1 belongs to Kind B:

Examples Features	Kind Features	zhèng, <正1> (Kind B)	zhèng<正2> (Kind A)
Used in Form I		zhèngqiánfāng<正前方> zhèng nán<正南>	*zhèng wèidào <正味道>
Used in Form II		*zhèng de qiánfāng <正的前方> *zhèng de nán<正的南>	*zhèng de wèidào <正的味道>
Used in Form III		*hěn zhèng de qiánfāng <很正的前方> *hěn zhèng de nán <很正的南>	hěnzhèngde wèidào <很正的味道>
Changed into S-V		*qiánfāng hěnzhèng <前方很正> *nán hěnzhèng<南很正>	wèidào hěnzhèng <味道很正>

2. Disyllabic (or Polysyllabic) Adjectives

2.0. Overwhelming majority of disyllabic (or polysyllabic) adjectives can be used in Form III, and only few can not be used so. The former are pure adjectives and conditioned non-attributive adjectives, the latter are non-pure adjectives and non-predicative adjectives.

There is such a large amount of disyllabic (or polysyllabic) adjectives that we've to deal with them in two parts(2.1.special Adjectives and 2.2.Common Adjectives).

2.1. Special Adjectives

Those that can't be used as both attribute and predicate are special adjectives of which, the ones that can't be used as predicate but attribute only (not including the pattern: "shì...de" 是...的) are called non-predicative adjectives and the others that can't be used as attribute but predicate only (not including Form III) are called non-attributive adjectives. As to the special adjectives, we'll discuss

independently, but they are marked as adj. in some dictionaries mentioned in note [1]. These "words" can be used as adjective in Archaic Chinese or some fixed idioms or idiomatic expressions, but can only be morphemes in word-building. They are 35 in all: 安, 四, 崇, 慕, 故, 寡, 活, 和 (hé), 欢, 矫, 净, 均, 恶, 酷, 犷, 劣, 鄙, 零, 盲, 秘, 蜜, 逆, 贫, 善, 私, 危, 纤, 贤, 异, 糜, 珍, 众, 同, 孑 and 甘, which distinguished from other monosyllabic adjectives in two ways: can't follow hen<很>; can't be reduplicated.

in another paper, so it's unnecessary to list them in detail here.

2.1.1. Generally speaking, non-attributive adjectives can't be attribute, but the conditioned non-attributive can be used as attribute in Form III. We've discussed it above while talking about monosyllabic ones. And it's just the same to the usages of dissyllabic or polysyllabic(non-attributive) adjectives, e.g.

bùdùi 不对:	kěyǐ 可以:
hěnbùdùi de shìqíng 很不对的事情	hěnkěyǐ de rén 很可以的人
*bùdùi shìqíng 不对事情	*kěyǐ rén 可以人
?bùdùide shìqíng 不对的事情	*kěyǐ de rén 可以的人

2.1.2. Disyllabic (or polysyllabic) non-predicative adjectives can be used as attribute in Form I and II, but not in Form III:

běnlái 本来:	běnlái miànmù 本来面目
	běnlái de miànmù 本来的面目
	*hěn běnlái de miànmù 很本来的面目

dàpī 大批:	dàpī rénmǎ 大批人马
	dàpī de rénmǎ 大批的人马
	*hěndàpī de rénmǎ 很大批的人马

hóngsè 红色:	hóngsè zǔzhī 红色组织
	hóngsè de zǔzhī 红色的组织
	*hěnhóngsè de zǔzhī 很红色的组织

duōniánshēng 多年生:	duōniánshēng cǎobén zhíwù 多年生草本植物
	duōniánshēng de cǎobén zhíwù 多年生的草本植物
	*hěn duōniánshēng de cǎobén zhíwù 很多年生的草本植物

Some disyllabic (or polysyllabic) non-predicative adjectives are not so regular that they have a tendency to change into common adjectives,^[9] and can follow hěn<很> while modifying nouns, e.g.

gèbié 个别:	gèbié qíngkuàng 个别情况
	gèbié de qíngkuàng 个别的情况
	hěn gèbié de qíngkuàng 很个别的情况
biànzhèng 辩证:	biànzhèng guāndiǎn 辩证观点
	biànzhèng de guāndiǎn 辩证的观点
	hěn biànzhèng de guāndiǎn 很辩证的观点

2.2. Common Adjectives

2.2.1. Non-pure adjectives

The common ground of non-pure adjectives is that all of them can or must be followed by de<的>, but never follow hěn<很>. We'll discuss it in three parts (Kind A, B and C) in the following.

[9] Lu shuxiang(吕叔湘) and Rao Changrong(饶长溶), "On Non-Predicative adjectives", in Zhongguo Yuwen (《中国语文》), 1981/2.

2.2.1.1. Kind A, "ABB", in which A stands for a monosyllabic adjective (now an element of word-building), BB for a reduplication of suffix, such as rēhūhū <热乎平>.

词语	词义	词语	词义
1. Words (117)			
(1) bái'ái'ái 白皑皑	báihuāhuā 白花花	báihuāng huāng 白晃晃	
bái māngmāng 白茫茫	báimēngmēng 白蒙蒙	báishāshā 白煞煞 BA	
bìyóuyóu 碧油油	chéndiāndiān 沉甸甸	chìluōluō 赤裸裸	
chítiaotiào/chítiaotiáo 赤条条	gānbābā 干巴巴	chòuhūhū 臭乎乎	
èhēnhēn/èhēnhé 恶狠狠	guāngliūliū 光溜溜 BA	gūlínglíng 孤零零	
guāngliūliū 光溜溜 BA	guāngtūtū 光秃秃	hēichēnchēn 黑沉沉	
hēidòngdōng 黑洞洞	hēihūhū 黑糊糊	hēiqūqū 黑黢黢 BA	
hēixūxū 黑魆魆	hēiyāyā 黑压压	hóngpūpū 红扑扑	
hóngtōngtōng 红彤彤/红通通	hóngyànyàn 红艳艳	hòudūndūn 厚墩墩 BA	
huáiliūliū 滑溜溜 BA	huángcàn càn 黄灿灿	huíliūliū 灰溜溜	
huímēngmēng 灰蒙蒙	huóshēngshēng 活生生	jíbābā 急巴巴AABB	
jīanliūliū 尖溜溜 BA (dialect)		jīadīdī 娇滴滴	
jīnhuānghuāng 金晃晃/金煌煌		jīnbābā 紧巴巴	
jǐnbēngbēng 紧绷绷 BA	kōngdāngdāng/kōngdàngdàng 空荡荡AABB		
kōnglùoluō 空落落 BA, AABB	lánjīngjīng 蓝晶晶		
lányīngyīng 蓝盈盈 (dialect)	lányāngyāng 懒洋洋		
lèhēhē 乐呵呵AABB	lètátáo 乐陶陶AABB (written)		
lèzīzī 乐滋滋 (oral)	liàngjīngjīng 亮晶晶 BA		
lěngbīngbīng 冷冰冰 BA, AABB	lěngqīngqīng 冷清清 BA, AABB		
lěngsēnsēn 冷森森	lěngsīsī 冷丝丝	lěngsōusōu 冷飕飕	
liángbīngbīng 凉冰冰 BA	liàngguāngguāng 亮光光 BA		
liàngjīngjīng 亮晶晶 BA	liàngtāngtāng 亮堂堂		
liàngzhēngzhēng 亮铮铮 BA	lùróngróng 绿茸茸	lùyīngyīng 绿莹莹	
lùyóuyóu 绿油油	luànsēnfēn 乱纷纷 BA	luànhōnghōng 乱哄哄	
luànmāmā 乱麻麻	luànpēngpēng 乱蓬蓬	luàntēngtēng 乱腾腾	
luànzāozāo 乱糟糟	mǎndēngdēng 满登登AABB (oral)		
màntēngtēng 慢腾腾AABB	manyōuyōu 慢悠悠AABB	mìzāzā 密匝匝AABB	
nuànhōnghōng 暖烘烘	pàngdūndūn 胖墩墩	pànghūhū 胖乎乎	
píngliūliū 平溜溜 BA (dialect)	qīnglínglíng 清凌凌	qīngyōuyōu 清悠悠	
qīngyōuyōu 清幽幽	qīngpiāopiāo 轻飘飘	rēhūhū 热乎乎	
rèlālā 热辣辣	rètēngtēng 热腾腾	ruǎnmiānmiān 软绵绵	
sháhēhē 傻呵呵	sháhūhū 傻乎乎	shīlīnlīn 湿淋淋 BA	
shīlūlū 湿漉漉	suānlīliū 酸溜溜	wénzhōuzhōu 文绉绉	
wūliūliū 乌溜溜	xiāngpēnpēn 香喷喷	xiōgjiūjiū 雄纠纠	
xiùdādā 羞答答AABB	xūpiāopiāo 虚飘飘	yīnsēnsēn 阴森森	
yìngbāngbāng 硬梆梆	yìngjuējuē 硬撅撅 (dialect)		
yuángungūn 圆滚滚 BA	yuánliūliū 圆溜溜 BA (dialect)		
zhíliūliū 直溜溜 BA			
(2) hànjin jìn 汗津津	lèiwāngwāng 泪汪汪	máohōnghōng 毛烘烘	
máoróngróng 毛茸茸	qǐ'áng'áng 气昂昂	qìchōngchōng 气冲冲 BA	

qìhūhū 气乎乎BAv qìxiūxiū 气咻咻 qìxūxū 气吁吁
 shuǐjīn jīn 水津津 shuǐwāng wāng 水汪汪 yóuwāng wāng 油汪汪
 xìngchōng chōng 兴冲冲

(3) chuǎnxūxū 喘吁吁 dīlīlīlū 滴溜溜 nào hōng hōng 闹哄哄
 xiàomǐmǐ 笑咪咪 xiào xīxī 笑嘻嘻

i. Grammatical Characteristics

i. About formation:

Adjectives in Group (1), Group (2) or Group (3) are formed with a monosyllabic adjective and a reduplication, a monosyllabic noun and a reduplication or a monosyllabic verb and reduplication respectively, so they can be called "A.BB", "N.BB" and "V.BB" style for short successively. Group (1) occupies the largest part of ABB non-pure adjectives and has 99 words; Group (2) fewer, has 13 words; and Group (3) the fewest, has only 5 words. Thus we can say ABB non-pure adjectives are mainly formed in A.BB style which occupies 85% or so.

ii. About Variation:

No.1. If we omit the underdotted character of a word listed above, the word meaning remains the same but its oral colour will be weakened to certain extent; and the second character will be read usually in light tone, e.g. liàngtāngtāng <亮堂堂,bright lit>, → liàngtāng <亮堂,bright>.

No.2. The underlined words can be changed into BBA: xiāngpēnpēn <香喷喷,sweet-smelling> → pēnpēnxiāng <喷喷香>. xiàomǐmǐ <笑咪咪,smilingly> → mimixiao <咪咪笑>, etc. And if a word has changed from ABB to BBA, it will be much verbalized and doesn't need de <的> when it's used as a predicate, e.g.

xiāngpēnpēn de fàn 香喷喷的饭

pēnpēnxiāng de fàn 喷喷香的饭

Zhèfàn xiāngpēnpēn de. 这饭香喷喷的.

*Zhèfàn pēnpēnxiāng de. 这饭喷喷香的.

*Zhèfànxiāng pēnpēn. 这饭香喷喷.

Zhèfàn pēnpēnxiāng. 这饭喷喷香.

No.3. The words with AABB on the right side can be changed into a larger reduplication of ABB style, in which the added character A should be read in light tone and the two reduplication characters after A (i.e. BB) read in high and level tone(55): mǎntēngtēng <慢腾腾,unhurried and slow> → mǎn man tēngtēng <慢慢腾腾>, etc.

No.4. The words with BA (or BAv) on the right side can be changed into BAsyle: lěngbīngbīng <冷冰冰, frosty or icy> → bīnglěng <冰冷>. hēiyōuyōu <黑油油, shing black,dark> → yóuhēi <油黑, swarthy, dark>. lǜyōuyōu <绿油油, green and lush> → yóulù <油绿, glossy, dark green>. Most of the words that has changed from ABB to BA will become degree adjectives <called 带程度意义的形容词 in Chinese, see 2.2.1.2. Kind B>; but the others (with BAv on the right side) become verbs, e.g.

kōngluōluō <空落落,empty and cold> → luòkōng <落空,come to nothing: fail>.

The four cases as above all appear in Group (1);only the fourth appears in Gruop (2) and all the changed words will become verbs: qìchōngchōng <气冲冲,furious> → chōngqì <冲气,take offence>,qìhūhū <气呼呼,panting with anger> → hūqì <呼气,out-breathe>;and in Group (3),there appears only the second case,which,because of its structure (V.BB),will be much more verbalized than others of the same style.

iii. About Pronunciation:

The pronunciation of reduplication in some words of Kind A is very complicated and the phonetic notations in the existed dictionaries are not so regular and standard that different scholars have different versions about it.^[10] Here we just make a brief annotation according to what said in Modern Chinese Dictionary (Xiandai Hanyu Cidian,《现代汉语词典》,Commercial Press,Beijing,1990): The reduplicaton in the ABB adjectives is usually read in high and level tone,but there existed few exceptions which will be read in its original tone, e.g. bái 'ái 'ái <白皑皑>, hóngyànyàn <红艳艳, brilliant red>, huángcàn càn <黄灿灿, bright yellow,golden>, lètátáo <乐陶陶,cheerful or joyful>, qì 'ángáng <气昂昂, full of mettle/dash>, etc. By the way,"恶狠狠" (ferocious) in Modern Chinese Dictionary is marked both its original tone (falling-rising tone),eheng heng and its variation (high and level tone) ehengheng.

iv. All the ABB adjectives should be followed by de <的>but can't follow hěn <很> in practical use,e.g.

zhè háizi pànghūhū de. 这孩子胖乎乎的.

pànghūhū de háizi. 胖乎乎的孩子.

*zhè háizi hěn pànghūhū. 这孩子胖乎乎.

*hěn pànghūhū de háizi. 很胖乎乎的孩子.

2.2.1.2. Kind B are the words such as bìlǜ <碧绿, dark green>, usually disyllabic degree adjectives,which is called"ba" style for short.

Words (56):

bǐzhí 笔直	bìlán 碧蓝	bìlǜ 碧绿	bīngliáng 冰凉
bīnglěng 冰冷	cǎolǜ 草绿	cāngcuì 苍翠	cōngbái 葱白
cōngcuì 葱翠	cōglóng 葱茏	cōnglǜ 葱绿	cōngyù 葱郁
cuǐlǜ 翠绿	fēikuài 飞快	fēnyún 纷纭	gǔntàng 滚烫
huābái 花白	huībái 灰白	hūnhuáng 昏黄	hūohóng 火红
huǒrè 火热	jīanliu 尖溜	jāohēi 焦黑	jāohuáng 焦黄
liūguāng 溜光(dialect)		liūpíng 溜平(dialect)	
liūyuán 溜圆(dialect)		liánmián 连绵	molu 墨绿

^[10] see Lin Lian (林廉),"About the Pronunciation of ABB Adjectives",in Yuwen Jianshe (《语文建设》),1992/12.

qīngcōng 青葱	qīngcuì 青翠	qīnglǜ 青绿	nènlǜ 嫩绿
qīngzǐ 青紫, the colour of the official's uniform in ancient China)			
qūhēi 黑	shàbái 煞白	shuǐlǜ 水绿	tiěqīng 铁青
tōnghóng 通红	tōngmíng 通明	wūhēi 乌黑	wūliàng 乌亮
xiānhóng 鲜红	xìnghóng 杏红	xìnghuáng 杏黄	xuěbái 雪白
xuěliàng 雪亮	yóuguāng 油光	yǒuhēi 油黑	zhànlán 漛蓝
zhǐhóng 紫红			

II. Grammatical Characteristics:

i. The words listed above have the implication of degree, state, or quantity in themselves and while modifying a noun, all of them need de<的>, can't follow hěn<很> and can be reduplicated only in ABAB style. e.g. bìlǜ <碧绿, dark green> → bìlǜbìlǜ <碧绿碧绿>, huābái <花白, grizzled> → huābáihuābái <花白花白>, etc. And they don't need de<的> when they are used as predicate, e.g. Tā liǎnsè shàbái. <他脸色煞白. He is ghastly pale.>...

ii. The underlined words can be changed into ABB style which bears much more oral colour, e.g. bīngliáng <冰凉, ice-cold> → liángbīngbīng <凉冰冰>, shàbái <煞白, ghastly pale> → báishāshā <白煞煞>, etc.

iii. Some words can reverse in word order. Those with the character liú<溜> will remain the same in meaning after they have been reversed. e.g. jiānliú <尖溜, very sharp> → liūjiān <溜尖>, liūguāng <溜光, very smooth> → guānliú <光溜>, liǔpíng <溜平, very smooth> → píngliú <平溜>, liūyuán <溜圆, round> → yuánliú <圆溜>; and the others will vary in meaning if they are reversed, e.g. huǒhóng <火红, red as fire; flaring> ≠ hónghuǒ <红火, flourishing; prosperous>, huǒrè <火热, burning hot; fervant> ≠ rèhuǒ <热火, showing tremendous enthusiasm>, etc.

2.2.1.3. Kind C. Reduplication.

I. Words (66)

(1) chénchén 沉沉	chōngchōng 冲冲	chóngchóng 重重	cōngcōng 匆匆
dǐngdǐng 鼎鼎	fēnfēn 纷纷	huánghuánghuang <皇皇, magnificent> ^[11]	
huánghuáng 煌煌	huīhuī 恢恢	jiǎojiǎo 皎皎	jiǎojiǎo 皎皎
jiǒngjiǒng 炯炯	léiléi 累累	liǎoliáo 窠窠	línlin 糜糜
màn màn 漫漫	mángmáng 茫茫	mǎngmǎng 莽莽	méngméng 蒙蒙
mòmò 漠漠	mòmò 脉脉	niǎoniǎo 娜娜	píngpíng 平平
qīqī 娥娥	róngróng 溶溶	róngróng 融融	sàsà 潇洒
shānshān 闪闪	tángtáng 堂堂	tāotāo 滔滔	téngténg 腾腾
tuántuán 团团	wāngwāng 汪汪	wéiwéi 巍巍	xióngxióng 熊熊
xúxú 徐徐	yáo yáo 遥遥	yōuyōu 幽幽	yōuyōu 悠悠
zhéngzhéng 整整			

[11] This 皇皇 can also stand for 惶惶 (in a state of anxiety) and 迤逦 (in a hurry).

(2) bānbanlālā 半半拉拉	dàdaliélié 大大咧咧	dàdaluōluō 大大落落
fēnfēnyángyáng 纷纷扬扬	fēngfēnghuǒhuǒ 风风火火	
gǔgunāngnāng 鼓鼓囊囊	huāhuālūlū 花花绿绿	jíjibābā 急急巴巴
lěnglěngbīngbīng 冷冷冰冰		lěnglěngqīngqīng 冷冷清清
mǎnmǎndāngdāng 满满当当		mànmantēngtēng 慢慢腾腾
máomaotēngtēng <毛毛腾腾, flurried>	mìmicéngcéng 密密层层	
mìmicóngcóng 密密从从	mìmimámá 密密麻麻	mìmizázá 密密匝匝
wāiwainiúniú 歪歪扭扭	xīngxīngdiǎndiǎn 星星点点	
xíngxíngsèsè 形形色色	xiùxiudādā 着着答答	yángyángsǎsǎ 洋洋洒洒
yùyùcōngcōng 郁郁葱葱		yōuyōudàngdàng 悠悠荡荡
yōuyōuhūhū 悠悠忽忽	zhànzhanjīngjīng 战战兢兢	

III. Grammatical Characteristics

i. The underlined words are enlarged from Kind A (2.2.1.1.), e.g.
lěngbīngbīng<冷冰冰, Kind A> → lěnglěngbīngbīng<冷冷冰冰, Kind C>,
màn tēngtēng<漫腾腾, Kind A> → mànmantēngtēng<慢慢腾腾, Kind C>,etc.

ii. Most words of Group (1) can omit de<的> while modifying a noun, but the words in Group (2) must have de<的>, e.g.

yōuyōusuūyuè 悠悠岁月 long-long years = yōuyōu de suīyuè 悠悠的岁月
*xíngxíngsèsè rénwù 形形色色人物 figures of all forms

xíngxíngsèsè de rénwù 形形色色的人物 (figures of all forms)
iii. Group (1) can be used as predicate directly: xīnshì chóngchóng <心事重重, be laden with anxiety>; but Group (2) must have de<的> when to be predicate: zhèxièzì mìmimámá de. <这些字密密麻麻的. These characters are closely-written.>

iv. Group (1) has much more written flavour, but Group (2) much more spoken colour.

v. All the words of Group (1) are read in original tone; but the situation of Group (2) is very complicated. However, as to most of Group (2), the first character is read in its original tone, the second in light tone, the last two read in high and level tone (including variation). And if the last two characters of a word is read in its original tone which is falling-rising tone, the second character should be read in its original tone, not light tone, e.g.

huāhuālūlū 花花绿绿	wāiwainiúniú 歪歪扭扭
fēngfēnghuǒhuǒ 风风火火	yángyángsǎsǎ 洋洋洒洒
mìmicéngcéng 密密层层	mìmicóngcóng 密密从从
mìmimámá 密密麻麻	

2.2.2. Pure Adjectives

Disyllabic or polysyllabic adjectives can be used in Form II, and/or Form III, but not all can be used in Form II, please see the following examples which will discuss in three Kinds (A, B and C):

	A: piàoliang 漂亮 (pretty)	B: dàfāng 大方 (natural and poised)	C: měilì 美丽 (beautiful)
Form I	piàoliang gūniang 漂亮姑娘	* dàfāng gūniang 大方姑娘	*měilì gūniang 美丽姑娘
Form II	piàoliang de gūnian 漂亮的姑娘	?dàfāng de gūniang 大方的姑娘	měilì de gūniang 美丽的姑娘
Form III	hěn piàoliang de gūniang 很漂亮 的 姑娘	hěn dà fāng de gūniang 很大方 的 姑娘	hěn měilì de gūniang 很美丽 的 姑娘

If we add some other words to the examples in Form I, we can see that some words such as piaoliang (Kind A) can be used in the three Forms freely, that is to say, they can have or omit de <的> in practical use; some, such as dafang (Kind B) must have de <的> while modifying a noun; and the others, such as meili (Kind C) seems not so standard if they directly modify a noun, which is grammatically correct, that usually needs de <的> when to be attribute. Anyhow, this de <的> can be omitted in a certain context (not including the phrase with hěn <很>), e.g.

(A) piàoliang <漂亮>: Tā shì ge piàoliang gūniang.
Piàoliang gūniag rénrén xǐhuān.

(B) dàfāng <大方>: *Tā shì ge dàfāng gūniang.
Dàfānggūniang rénrén xǐhuān.

(C) měilì <美丽>: Tā shì ge měilì gūniang.
Měilì gūniang rénrén xǐhuān.

According to our statistical analyses, there are all together 1778 disyllabic and polysyllabic words in the 2098 adjectives. Of the 1778 words, there are 1569 common adjectives, the others are special adjectives that we've discussed in 2.1. (special Adjectives). Of the 1569 common adjectives, 239 words are non-pure adjectives we've discussed in the part of 2.2.1, the others are 1539 pure disyllabic or polysyllabic adjectives that we'll deal with in the following.

Of the 1539 pure disyllabic or polysyllabic adjectives, Kind C (such as měilì 美丽) occupies the absolute majority, about 60%; Kind A (such as piàoliang 漂亮) occupies the fewest, about 13.2%, only has 200 words; Kind B (such as dàfāng 大方) is between the two, about 26.8%, has 329 words. In frequency of practical use, Kind A is larger than Kind C, and the latter larger than Kind B.^[12] Maybe because of much higher frequency in practical use, the spoken colour of piàoliang 漂亮 which belongs to Kind A is stronger than that of its synonym měilì 美丽 which belongs to Kind C. When to be an attribute, it's free for the former whether de <的> is needed or not.

[12] Nearly half of the adjectives discussed here has not been collected in 《汉语水平词汇与汉字等级大纲》, but so is the situation of practical use of the adjectives collected in it.

but it will depend upon the context for the latter. *Dàfāng* <大方> which belongs to Kind B gets relatively the least quality of adjectives and is not so fixed or regular in practical use that some of Kind B (see 2.2.2.2.) sometimes are concurrently verbs, and thus Kind B must have de<的> when modifying a noun.

We'll list and briefly discuss Kind A and B in the following.

2.2.2.1. Kind A [13]

1. Words

(1) <i>ài mèi</i> 暧昧 <i>āng zāng</i> 肮脏	<i>bǎo hé</i> 饱和 <i>bēi cǎn</i> 悲惨
<i>biānyuǎn</i> 边远 <i>biàn lì</i> 便利	<i>biāozhǔn</i> 标准 <i>bóruò</i> 薄弱
<i>cán fèi</i> 残废 <i>càn làn</i> 灿烂	<i>cāngmáng</i> 苍茫 <i>chángyuǎn</i> 长远
<i>chónggāo</i> 崇高 <i>chǒu'è</i> 丑恶	<i>chǒulòu</i> 丑陋 <i>cùbào</i> 粗暴
<i>cuò wù</i> 错误 <i>dútè</i> 独特	<i>èlìe</i> 恶劣 <i>ēn'ài</i> 恩爱
<i>fá dà</i> 发达 <i>fán máng</i> 繁忙	<i>fánzhòng</i> 繁重 <i>fēngjiàn</i> 封建
<i>fēng liú</i> 风流 <i>fù bài</i> 腐败	<i>fú huà</i> 腐化 <i>fǔ xiǔ</i> 腐朽
<i>fù guì</i> 富贵 <i>gānjìng</i> 干净	<i>gāomíng</i> 高明 <i>gāoshàng</i> 高尚
<i>guāng huī</i> 光辉 <i>guāngmíng</i> 光明	<i>guāngróng</i> 光荣 <i>guǎngdà</i> 广大
<i>guì zhòng</i> 贵重 <i>guǒ duàn</i> 果断	<i>háo huá</i> 豪华 <i>hóngwěi</i> 宏伟
<i>huájī</i> 滑稽 <i>jīmì</i> 机密	<i>jiǎnpǔ</i> 俭朴 <i>jiàn kāng</i> 健康
<i>jié chū</i> 杰出 <i>jǐn jí</i> 紧急	<i>jīn qiào</i> 紧俏 <i>jǐn xiù</i> 锦绣
<i>jīng xiǎn</i> 惊险 <i>jīngmì</i> 精密	<i>jīng pí</i> 精辟 <i>jīng ruì</i> 精锐
<i>jīng zhàn</i> 精湛 <i>jù dà</i> 巨大	<i>kēkè</i> 苛刻 <i>kèkǔ</i> 刻苦 (assiduous)
<i>kǒng bù</i> 恐怖 <i>kǒng huāng</i> 恐慌	<i>kǒng jù</i> 恐惧 <i>kùnnan</i> 困难
<i>láng bài</i> 狼狈 <i>láo kǔ</i> 劳苦	<i>lián háo</i> 良好 <i>língsuì</i> 零碎
<i>lǐng tōng</i> 灵通 <i>mì mì</i> 秘密	<i>mǐn ruì</i> 敏锐 <i>míng guì</i> 名贵
<i>mò shèng</i> 陌生 <i>píanyuǎn</i> 偏远	<i>pián yí</i> 便宜 <i>piào liang</i> 漂亮
<i>pín qióng</i> 贫穷 <i>pínglān</i> 平安	<i>píng děng</i> 平等 <i>píng jūn</i> 平均
<i>píngxíng</i> 平行 <i>pò jiù</i> 破旧	<i>pò lán</i> 破烂 <i>pò qìe</i> 迫切
<i>pǔ biàn</i> 普遍 <i>pǔtōng</i> 普通	<i>qī qì</i> 蹤跷 <i>qí qū</i> 崎岖
<i>qǐ lì</i> 绮丽 <i>qiáng dà</i> 强大	<i>qiáng yìng</i> 强硬 <i>qīnmì</i> 亲密
<i>qīng shuài</i> 轻率 <i>qióng kǔ</i> 穷苦	<i>rènao</i> 热闹 <i>ruò xiǎo</i> 弱小
<i>shéchǐ</i> 奢侈 <i>shēnyuán</i> 深远	<i>shēn zhòng</i> 深重 <i>shén shèng</i> 神圣
<i>shēng dōng</i> 生动 <i>shì dāng</i> 适当	<i>shú lián</i> 熟练 <i>suo suì</i> 琐碎
<i>tài píng</i> 太平 <i>tè bié</i> 特别	<i>tè shū</i> 特殊 <i>tián mì</i> 甜蜜
<i>wèi jí</i> 危机 <i>wēi xiǎn</i> 危险	<i>wén míng</i> 文明 <i>xiáng xì</i> 详细
<i>xīaosǎ</i> 潇洒 <i>xīn xiān</i> 新鲜	<i>xīng shèng</i> 兴盛 <i>xìng fú</i> 幸福
<i>yínhuì</i> 淫秽 <i>yīng jùn</i> 英俊	<i>yīng míng</i> 英明 <i>yīng yǒng</i> 英勇
<i>yōuhuì</i> 优惠 <i>yōuliáng</i> 优良	<i>yōu měi</i> 优美 <i>yōu xiù</i> 优秀
<i>yōuyì</i> 异常 <i>yōuyuè</i> 优越	<i>yóuhǎo</i> 友好 <i>yuán shí</i> 原始 (primitive)
<i>zhèng cháng</i> 正常 <i>zhèng dāng</i> 正当	<i>zhōng shí</i> 忠实 <i>zhòng dà</i> 重大
<i>zhòng yào</i> 重要	
(2) <i>chōuxiàng</i> 抽象 <i>fān cháng</i> 反常	<i>fǎng gǎn</i> 反感 <i>fàng dǎng</i> 放荡
<i>fàng sì</i> 放肆 <i>hé fǎ</i> 合法	<i>hé gé</i> 合格 <i>jìn bù</i> 进步

[13] A to the problem of modifying a noun, so are quite a few non-predicative adjectives which haven't been listed here because we are talking about common adjectives in this part of the paper.

jūtǐ	具体	kāimíng	开明	kěkǒu	可口	màojiān	冒尖
tāoqì	淘气	tiēshēn	贴身	tiēxīn	贴心	tōngsú	通俗
tōumíng	透明	wánpí	顽皮	wúchǎn	无耻	yícháng	异常
yǒulì	有利	yóumíng	有名	yǒuxiào	有效	zhīmíng	知名
zhīxīn	知心	zhùmíng	著名	zhuānzhì	专制		
(3) bēiguān	悲观	dījí	低级	diǎngxíng	典型	gāojí	高级
kēxué	科学	kèguān	客观	kèqì	客气	lǎoshí	老实
màntiān	漫天	mínzhǔ	民主	nèiháng	内行	piànmiàn	片面
shìlì	势利	shùxiāng	书香	tàotiān	滔天	wài háng	外行
yìwài	意外	zhūguān	主观			xīaojí	消极
(4) bēidòng	被动	bìyào	必要	bùguǐ	不轨	bùlì	不利
bùxiǔ	不朽	cìyào	次要	dúdào	独到	dúduàn	独断
juéduì	绝对	kéchǐ	可耻	shíjí	实际	shíyòng	实用
xiāngduì	相对					xiānjìn	先进
(5) niánqīng	年青	niánqīng	年轻	zìbēi	自卑	zìfù	自负
(6) tūrán	突然						

II. Grammatical Characteristics

- i. Directly modify nouns with the following limits: firstly, the noun should be a disyllable; if not, de<的> is needed. e.g.
- jíechū dàibiǎo 杰出代表 jíechū de rén 杰出的人
 jíechū de gémínggànbur 杰出的革命干部
 chónggāo jīngshén 崇高精神 chónggāo de rén 崇高的人
 chónggāo de jīngshén dòushì 崇高的精神斗士; secondly, the noun should be of high quality as noun, that is, to say, should be a pure noun that can't concurrently be a verb; otherwise de<的> is also needed. c.f.
- língxiù 领袖, leader: chónggāo língxiù 崇高领袖 = chónggāode língxiù 崇高的领袖
 língdǎo <领导, leadership(n.)/lead(v.)>:
 * chónggāo língdǎo 崇高领导 ≠ chónggāode língdǎo 崇高的领导
 lastly, the ability of combination of different words is not quite the same. Most can modify a lot of nouns, e.g. piàoliang yǐfú 漂亮衣服 /jiājù 家具 /fēijī 飞机 /wánjù 玩具... mǐnzhǔ zhèngfǔ 民主政府 /zhèngchéhè 政策 /guāndiǎn 观点 /yìshí 意识 /qìfèn 气氛... but some can directly modify only one word or one sort of words, e.g. rěndǎo zhúyì <人道主义>, kěkǒu shíwù <可口食物>, àiméi guānxì <暧昧关系>, shùxiāng mèndì <书香门第>, míngguì yáocái <名贵药材>, etc.
- ii. As to some adjectives, if we use them to modify nouns directly, sometimes we can make up idioms or idiomatic expressions, which seem very tense, lucid and lively in style, e.g. fādá guójia <发达国家>, diǎnxíng xíngxiàng <典型形象>, rěndǎo zhúyì <人道主义>...
- iii. Besides modifying nouns directly, a few words are inured to modify a certain noun. Those that can collocate with rén <人, person> are cánfei <残废>, mòshēng <陌生>, niánqīng <年青>, niánqīng <年轻>, lǎoshí <老实>, tiēxīn <贴心>, zhèngchang <正常>; while those that can collocate with huà <话, speech> are nèiháng <内行>, wài háng <外行>, zhīxīn <知心>. This kind of collocation (i.e. adj. + rén 人 or huà 话) can be enlarged

by placing “de” in the middle, so that it should be regarded as a phrase, e.g.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| cánfèi rén 残废人 | → cánfèi de rén 残废的人 |
| mòshēng rén 陌生人 | → mòshēng derén 陌生的人 |
| zhìxīn huà 知心话 | → zhìxīn de huà 知心的话 |
| wài háng huà 外行话 | → wài háng de huà 外行的话 |

But a collocation of “adj.+xing性/ huà化/gan感/ du度” can't be enlarged in this way so that it should be regarded as a word, e.g.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| shēngdòng xìng 生动性 | → shēngdòng de xìng 生动的性 |
| tōumíng dù 透明度 | → tōumíng de dù 透明的度 |
| zìbēigǎn 自悲感 | → zìbēi de gǎn 自悲的感 |
| biāozhǔnhuà 标准化 | → biāozhǔn de huà 标准化的化 |

iv. some words often modify a noun of “adj.+n” form, e.g. cāng máng dàdì <苍茫大地>...

v. The pattern of word-building is mainly compound form to which Group (1) Kind A (129 words) belongs; then the verb-object form, the attribute-noun form, adverbial-verb form, the subject-verb form, which Group (2) (28 words), Group (3) (16 words) and Group (4) (16 words) and Group (5) (4 words) respectively belongs to. But it's hard to deal with the Group (6) (has only one word tūrán 突然) classification of word-building.

2.2.2.2. Kind B	Words
(1) āndìng 安定	āosàng 懊丧
bǎoshǒu 保守	bēifèn 悲愤
bēijian 卑贱	bēijìn 隐塞
bēifàng 奔放	bēizhòng 笨重
bēizhuō 笨拙	bīzhēn 逼真
biēmén 憨闷	biézhì 别致
cánkù 残酷	cāngcù 仓促
chāiyì 诧异	chāngshèng 昌盛
chāngkuáng 猖狂	chāngtōng 畅通
chāotuō 超脱	chāoziōg 彻底
chénjì 沉寂	chénjìng 沉静
chénmèn 沉闷	chénzhuō 沉着
chéngshú 成熟	chéngshú
chéngkěn 诚恳	chídùn 迟钝
chíshuǎn 迟缓	chíchéng 赤诚
chōngfēi 充沛	chōngfēi 充分
chōumèn 忽闷	chōumèn 惶惑
chóucù 稠密	chúncù 纯粹
chúnjié 纯洁	chúnjié 纯洁
chǔnbèn 蠢笨	cí'ài 慈爱
cí'ài 慈爱	cōngmáng 匆忙
cōnglóng 草龙	cōnglóng 粗犷
cūlǔ 粗鲁	dàidào 地道
dānbó 单薄	diāohuá 刁滑
duānxìang 端详	diāozuān 刁钻
duānzhèng 端正	duānzhuāng 端庄
duānzhang 端庄	duānzuò 短促
duānzhan 短暂	duānzhan 短暂
duìchèn 对称	duoyú 多余
duoyú 多余	éyào 摘要
fáilè 乏累	fanruo 繁多
fánfù 繁复	fāngbiàn 方便
fāngbiàn 方便	fēibó 非薄
fēngguāng 风光	fēnglì 锋利
gānhé 干涸	gānkū 干枯
gānkū 干枯	gānlìe 干裂
gānào 干燥	gānào 干燥
gānméi 甘美	gānméi 甘美
gōngzhěng 工整	gōngkāi 公开
gōngkāi 公开	gōngjìng 恭敬
gōnggu 固固	gōnggu 固固
gǔbǎn 古板	gǔdǐng 固定
gǔdǐng 固定	hánxù 含蓄
huānxiè 欢乐	huānxiào 欢乐
huānxiào 欢乐	huāngmáng 慌忙
huāngmáng 慌忙	huāngzhāng 慌张
huàngdang 晃荡	hùnxiao 混淆
hùnxiao 混淆	jiécu 急促
jiámáng 急忙	jiámáng 急忙
jiéqie 急切	jiézào 急躁
jiézào 急躁	jiǎnbiān 简便
jiǎngjiù 讲究	jiǎngjiù 讲究
jiāngjìng 经济	jiāngjìng 经济
jīng'è 惊愕	jīnghuāng 惊慌
jīnghuāng 惊慌	jīngkǒng 惊恐
jīngqí 惊奇	jīngqí 惊奇
jīngqí 惊奇	jīngyì 惊异
kāikū 开阔	kāikū 开阔
kǎojiu 考究	kǎojiu 考究
kěndìng 肯定	kěndìng 肯定
kùnhuò 困惑	kùnhuò 困惑
lèngdàn 冷淡	lèngjí 冷寂
lèngjí 冷寂	lèngjìng 冷静
lèngkù 冷酷	lèngkù 冷酷
liánmián 连绵	miáncháng 绵长
mǎfan 麻烦	měngliè 猛烈
měngliè 猛烈	miqì 密切
miánqiǎng 勉强	miáncháng 绵长
míngbái 明白	míngquè 明确
míngquè 明确	mínghu 模糊

nǎohuǒ 恼火	nǎonù 恼怒	nuǎnho和	pēngpài 澎湃
péngsōng 蓬松	píbèi 疲惫	pífá 疲乏	píjuàn 疲倦
piāomiǎo 飘渺	pínfán 频繁	pínfá 贫乏	pínghéng 平衡D
qiānqiáng 牵强	qiānbēi 谦卑	qiāngóng 谦恭	qiānxùn 谦逊
qiānchéng 虔诚	qiǎnbó 浅薄	qīnrè 亲热d	qīngchu 清楚
shūzhǎn 舒展	shūhu 疏忽	shūsōng 疏松D	shūyuǎn 疏远D
shuāiruò 衰弱	shùncóng 顺从d	sǐbǎn 死板	sōngxiè 松懈
suíbiàn 随便	tǐngbá 挺拔	tǐngxiù 挺秀	tuǒshàn 妥善
wāixié 歪斜D	wánqiáng 顽强	wánshàn 完善D	wǎnxī 惋惜d
wēiwǔ 威武	wéiyán 威严	wéiqu 委屈D	wēnnuǎn 温暖
wěndìng 稳定D	xīhan 稀罕d	xīqí 奇怪d	xìsuì 细碎
xiétiáo 协调	xièdài 懈怠	yāyì 压抑d	yīnshí 殷实
yǐnyuē 隐约	yōnglù 庸碌	yōngsú 庸俗	yōngjǐ 拥挤
yōngzhǒng 膨肿	yánsù 严肃D	yuānwang冤枉D	zhèndìng 镇定D
zhěngqí 整齐	zhōudao 周到	zhuāngdà 壮大D	zōnghéng 纵横

(2) ānxīn 安心d	bàdào 霸道	bǎoxiǎn 保险	bàoqiàn 抱歉	biēqì 憋气
chàjiùn 差劲	chènzhí 称职	chījīng. 吃惊	chīkuī. 吃亏	chīlì 吃力
chōngshí 充实D	chūmíng. 出名	chūqí 出奇	chūsè 出色	chūshén. 出神
cīyé 刺耳	cīgǔ 刺骨	cīmù 刺目	cīyán 刺眼	dédàng 得当
diūchǒu. 丢丑	diūliǎn. 丢脸	diūrén. 丢人	dòngrén 动人	duìjìng 对劲
duōqíng 多情	fáwèi 乏味	fàngzòng 放纵d	fèijié 费解	fèijìng. 费劲
fèilì 费力	fèishén. 费神	fèixīn. 费心	fùzé 负责	gǎnrén 感人
guǎiqíng 寡情	guòfèn. 过分	guòhuǒ. 过火	guòyìng. 过硬	hài xiū. 害羞
hánxīn. 寒心	héshēn 合身	huīxīn 灰心	jíshǒu 棘手	jīngrén 惊人
kěxīn. 可心	mài jìng. 卖劲	mài lì 卖力	mǎnyì 满意	mírén. 迷人
nài fán 耐烦	nài xīn 耐心	qíxīn 齐心	qǐjìng 起劲	sàngqì. 丧气
sǎoxìng. 扫兴	shāngxīn. 伤心	shéngshì. 省事		shīcháng 失常
shùnshǒu 顺手	shùnyán 顺眼	tānxīn 贪心		tòngxīn 痛心
yònggōng. 用功	yóulì 有力	yuè'ér 悅耳		yuèmù 悅目
zháo jí. 着急	zhuānxīn 专心	déti 得体		guòyǐn. 过瘾

(3) dàdǎn 大胆	dàfāng 大方	dàliàng 大量(largeminded)	hěnxīn 狠心
jīzhì 机智	lángjí 狼籍	méiguān 美观	wēifēng 威风
zhǔnshí 准时	gāoxìng 高兴		xiǎoqì 小气
(4) bǐtǐng 笔挺	bǐzhí 笔直	bǐxū 必需	bù'ān 不安
bùcuò 不错	bùdàng 不当	bùgōng 不公	bùpíng 不平
bùxiáng 不详	bùxié 不懈	bùxìng 不幸	bùzú 不足
gāo'áng 高昂	gāo'ào 高傲	gāosóng 高耸	gāozhǎng 高涨
hǎnjiàn 罕见	hǎochī 好吃	hǎokàn 好看	hǎotīng 好听
hǎoxiào 好笑	kě'āo 可爱	kěbēi 可悲	kěcǐ 可惜
kěguì 可贵	kěkào 可靠	kělián 可怜	kěpà 可怕
kěyí 可疑	kěwù 可恶	kěxǐ 可喜	nán dé 难得
nánkān 难堪	nánkàn 难看	nán tīng 难听	nán guò 难过
xiāngfǎn 相反	xiāngfǎng 相仿		xiāngsì 相似
(5) qìfèn 气愤	qìnǎo 气恼	qìn'éi 气馁	xīnlíng 心灵
xīnsuān 心酸		xīnlíng 心灵	xīnqiè 心切
(6) chíjǐu 持久	fēnsàn 分散D	jiéjìng 接近	túrán 徒然
bùdéliǎo 不得了(very serious)	bùdéyí 不得已	chàbuduō 差不多	liǎobude 了不得(terrific)
			liǎobuqǐ 了不起(amazing)

II. Grammatical Characteristics:

i. No one of Kind B can directly modify a noun, de<的> is needed when it's used as an attribute. It should be noted that chíjiǔzhàn<持久战, protracted war> is a fixed idiom which can't be enlarged to be *chíjiǔ de zhàn<持久的战> so that it mustn't be regarded as a phrase formed with an adjective and a noun.

ii. All the polysyllabic words belong to Group (6) of Kind B.

iii. Quite a few are the adjectives which can concurrently be a verb must be followed by de <的> if they modify nouns (Attribute-N). If not, the newly made-up phrases might be changed in meaning and construction (V-Object), e.g. chúnjié zúzhī<纯洁组织: V-O> ≠ chúnjié de zúzhī<纯洁的组织: A-N>; shùncóng qīzī<顺从妻子: V-O> ≠ shùncóng de qīzī<顺从的妻子>. Adjectives as such have been marked a capital D (causative verb) or small d (other verb) on the right side.^[14]

iv. The words marked a small dot • on the left are phrasal words duányúcí 短语词> which can become a phrase when some other element has been put in the middle, e.g. chījīng<吃惊> → chīle yījīng<吃了一惊>, guòyǐn<过隐> → guò ba yǐn<过把隐>... And those marked a small dot on the right side should be added some other element and de<的> while modifying a noun, e.g. zònghéng <纵横, in length and breadth>; zònghéngjiāocuò de lìjiāo qiáo<纵横交错的立交桥>.

v. Kind B has much higher ability of construction than A, but not so much adjectival quality than A and C, and is not regular or fixed in practical use (some can be verbs concurrently). De<的> is always needed when it's used to be an attribute. Without de "de" ambiguity might appears, but can be avoided in certain context, e.g. chúnjié duìwǔ <纯洁队伍, V-O> ≠ chúnjié de duìwǔ <纯洁的队伍 A-N>, but in yīzhī chúnjié de duìwǔ <一支纯粹的队伍>, its meaning won't vary if de <的> is omitted; that is to say, the " chúnjié duìwǔ" in yīzhī chúnjié duìwǔ <一支纯洁队伍> won't be regarded as V-O form.

vi. The word-building pattern of Kind B is also mainly compound form to which Group (1)(174 words) belongs; then the adverbial-verb form, the attribute-noun form, the subject-verb form, and the others (including compleptive form and polysyllabic adjectives), which Group (2)(71 words), Group (4) (47 words), Group (3) (11 words), Group (5) (6 words) and Group(6)(10 words) respectively belongs to.

vii. The adjective which can be verbs concurrently is usually built in compound form or verb-object form, but never in attribute-noun, adverbial verb and subject-verb form. The phrasal word (which has a small dot • on the left side) is always in verb-object form but never in others.

viii. There are a lot off adjectives having prefixes such as 可-, 不-, 难-, 相-, etc. which belongs to Group (4) and are mainly in adverbial-verb form. They are much more productive in word construction and of less solidity . but very commonly-used in practice.

[14] As to the object-taking adjectives, see Wang Qilong(王启龙), "A statistical

Analysis of the Object-Taking Adjectives", in Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies, Beijing, 1995/2.

Adjective-taking adjectives are a kind of adjectives which can take other adjectives as their objects. They are called "object-taking adjectives". In this paper, I will introduce the definition of object-taking adjectives, the classification of object-taking adjectives, the characteristics of object-taking adjectives, and the function of object-taking adjectives.

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