

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).

About special 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 analyses of 2098 adjectives. 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 convenience of writing, we've to adopt it

①The 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, 絮叨, 原先, etc. from Hanyu Shuiping Cihui 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>, rènzhen <认真>, duō <多>, kèkǔ <刻苦>...
		Non-pure Adj., e.g. bìlǜ <碧绿, AB>, rènhūhū <热乎乎, ABB>, yōuyōu <悠悠, AA>, hōnghōnglìlìèlìè <轰轰烈烈, AABB>...
	Special Adj. (the subsidiary part of Adj.)	Non-predicative Adj., e.g. dàxíng <大型>, ruǎnxìng <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 every word (of special adjectives) because of the limited space here.

1. Non-predicative Adjectives

1.1. As to non-predicative adjectives, Mr. Lushuxiang has written a monographic paper which contains so much materials and so excellent description that no one really has caught up with it later.^② In his 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>, dú tè <独特, distinctive>, gāo jí <高级, high-grade>, jī mì <机密, confidential>

② see Lu Shuxiang (吕叔湘) and Rao Changrong (饶长溶): "On Non-predicative Adjectives", in *Zhongguo Yuwen* (《中国语文》) 1981/2.

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

Zhèzhǒng fāngfǎ hěn dú tè.

<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 dú tè.

<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 following, 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 meanings.

Besides, the words such as hàn yīng<汉英: ~ 词典>, jīng guāng<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-predicative 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 Chinese>. What's different is that, Mr. Zhu discussed the monosyllables such as jīn<金>, yín<银>, nán<男>, nǚ<女>, etc. together with the disyllables or polysyllables; but Mr. Lu didn't list the monosyllables in the glossary of non-predicative adjectives, and just briefly discussed them in the fourth part of his paper. Maybe this is because of the different classification, since Mr. Zhu put his distinctive word (qūbiécí 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 disyllabic 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>.

③ see Zhu Dexi (朱德熙), *Yufa Jiangyi* (《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 symmetrical style), e.g. cí<雌, female>, xióng<雄, male>, etc. which only can modify nouns of animals: xiónglù<雄鹿, male deer>, 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 distinctive 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-classifier compounds, but we list them to be adjectives. In this paper, we just deal with the usages of non-predicative 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	cí 雌, female
dān 单, one, single	fǎn 反, in reverse
fèi 废, waste	fù 负, negative
fù 副, deputy	huā 花, multicoloured
gōng 公, male (of animal)	huà 化, being cut off
héng 横, horizontal	jué 绝, being cut off
huī 灰, grey	mǔ 母, female
liáng 良, fine (~药)	nǚ 女, female
míng 名, noted	néng 能, able
nán 男, male	páng 旁, other, else
néng 能, able	shí 实, solid
páng 旁, other, else	shùn 顺, in the same direction as (~时针)
shí 实, solid	wū 污, dirty (~水沟)
shùn 顺, in the same direction as (~时针)	wū 污, dirty (~水沟)
xiōng 凶, ominous	xióng 雄, male
xióng 雄, male	yáng 阳, south of hill or north of a river (archaic); open
yáng 阳, south of hill or north of a river (archaic); open	yīn 阴, north of hill or south of a river (archaic); hidden
yīn 阴, north of hill or south of a river (archaic); hidden	

① 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).

yuán 原, unprocessed

zhěng 整, whole

zǒng 总, total, chief

1.2.2. Disyllabic or Polysyllabic Words(169):

- běnlái 本来, original bǐtóu 笔头, in written form bīrán 必然, inevitable
 biànzhèng 辩证C, dialectical biāomiàn 表面C, superficial
 bùfǎ 不法, lawless bùguīzé 不规则C, irregular cányú 残余, remaining
 chángqī 长期, long-term chāojiǔ 超级, super
 chìpín 赤贫, in abject poverty chūbù 初步, initial, tentative
 dàgài 大概, general dàliàng 大量, a great quantity of
 dàpī 大批, large numbers of dàwúwèi 大无畏, dauntless
 dàxíng 大型, large-scale dàzhì 大致, approximate
 dándú 单独, independent, alone dēngtóng 等同C, equal
 diǎndī 点滴, a bit of dǐngshèng 鼎盛, of great prosperity
 dúlì 独立, independent/duōniánshēng 多年生, perennial/éwài 额外, extra
 èxìng 恶性, vicious fǎdìng 法定, legal fǎnfù 反复, repeated
 fǎnmian 反面, back, opposite/fěicháng 非常, illegal fēifǎ 非法, illegal
 fēngshuò 丰硕, rich and great fùdài 附带, subsidiary
 fùjiā 附加, additional fùjìn 附近, nearby fùshǔ 附属, subsidiary
 gāoděng 高等, higher gāodù 高度, high(ly)
 gāojí 高级1. senior, high-level gāosù 高速, of (at) high speed
 gèbié 个别C, individual gēnběn 根本C, fundamental
 gōngfèi 公费, at state expense gōnggòng 公共, public
 gòngtóng 共同, common gǔdiǎn 古典C, classical
 guóchǎn 国产, made in motherland guójì 国际, international
 hǎoxiē 好些, a good deal of hēisè 黑色, (of) black (colour)
 hóngsè 红色, (of) red (colour) jīběn 基本C, basic
 jīdòng 机动, motorized jīyào 机要, confidential
 jīxíng 畸形, lopsided jiānduān 尖端, most-advanced
 jiànjiē 间接C, indirect (opposite to 直接) jīngcháng 经常+regular
 jīngdiǎn 经典C, classical kǒutóu 口头, oral
 lǐxìng 理性C, reasonable liángxìng 良性, fine
 lièděng 劣等, low-grade lièzhì 劣质, inferior
 lièxìng 烈性, spirited, strong línchuáng 临床, clinical
 línshí 临时, temporary língxīng 零星C, odd, scattered
 luòdì 落地, being placed on the floor míngyù 名誉, honorary
 (～灯, floor lamp; ～窗, French window)
 mòdà 莫大, greatest, unmost nèizai 内在, inherent; intenal (～规律)
 qǐmǎ 起码, minimum; at least qiánzài 潜在, latent; potential
 qīn'ài 亲爱+, dear; beloved qīnshēn 亲身, person
 qīnshēng 亲生, one's own (parents, children) quánbù 全部, whole; total
 quánfù 全副, complete quán tǐ 全体, all; entire
 rèxiāo 热销C, best-sold réngōng 人工, man-made
 rénjūn 人均, of each person rénwéi 人为, artificial; man-made
 rénào 人造, man-made rènyì 任意, arbitrary, free (～常数, ～方向)
 rìcháng 日常, daily; everyday rìyòng 日用, daily; of everyday use
 shàngděng 上等, first-class; superior shàngshù 上述, above-mentioned
 shèwài 涉外, concerning foreign affairs (opposite to 下列)

shíxīn 实心, solid (~球)	shìlǐng 适龄, of the right age
shǒuxí 首席, chief (~代表)	shǒuyóu 首要, of the first importance
shuāngchóng 双重, double; twofold;	
(dual) (~标准/国籍)	shuǐpíng 水平, horizontal (~位置/方向)
sīháo 丝毫, the slightest	suǒshǔ 所属, what one belongs to
suǒwèi 所谓, so called	suǒyǒu 所有, all
tèdìng 特定, specific; given	tiānrán 天然, natural
tōngcháng 通常, general, usual	tóngbù 同步, synchronous (~卫星/加速器)
(~情况)	tóngděng 同等, of the same rank
tóngyàng 同样, same; similar	tóuděng 头等, first-class
tuántuán 团团, (~雾气)	wàizài 外在, external (~因素)
wànnéng 万能, omnipotent; universal	wàngwǒ 忘我, selfless
wēixíng 微型, miniature; mini- (~汽车)	wéiyī 唯一/惟一, only; sole
wèilái 未来, coming; future	wúcháng 无偿, free
wúdí 无敌, unmatched	wújī 无机, inorganic
wúshàng 无上, supreme (~的权力)	wúxiàn 无限, infinite, boundless
wúxíng 无形, invisible	xiàliè 下列, listed below (opposite to 上述)
xiānxíng 先行, before-hand; in advance	xiàchéng 现成, ready-made (~衣服)
xiàndài 现代, modern	xiànxíng 现行, currently in effect
xiāngdāng 相当, suitable; fit	(政策/法令)
xiāngduì 相对, relative (~高度)	xiānghù 相互, mutual (~关系)
xiǎoxíng 小型, small-sized/scaled	xīnshēng 新生, new (ly)-born
xīnshì 新式, of latest style; modern	xīnxīng 新兴, new and developing
xīnxíng 新型, new type	xǔduō 许多, many; much
xiùzhēn 秀珍, C. pocket-sized (~字典)	yěshēng 野生, wild (~植物)
yèyú 业余, spare time (~学校)	yīdìng 一定, fixed; certain
yīlǜ 一律, same; all	yīxìliè 一系列, a series of
yínnán 疑难, difficult; knotty (~问题/病症)	(~问题/事件/措施)
yìwù 义务, compulsory; voluntary	yìyàng 异样, unusual; peculiar (~服装)
yìngxìng 硬性, rigid (~条款)	yōuděng 优等, high-class; excellent
yōuzhì 优质, high quality	yǒuguān 有关, related; concerned
yǒujī 有机, organic (opposite to 无机)	yùqī 预期, desired (~效果)
yuánlái 原来, original; former	yuánshǐ 原始, primitive; primeval
(~的想法/地方/面貌)	(~公社/森林/社会)
zànshí 暂时, temporary; transient (~现象)	zhǎnxīn 崭新, brand-new; completely-new
zhēnzhèng 真正, genuine; true (~的朋友/英雄)	zhèngmiàn 正面, positive (~人物)
zhěngzhěng 整整, whole; full (~五十页)	
zhíjiē 直接, direct; immediate	
(opposite to 间接; ~原因)	zhōngděng 中等, medium (~size)
zhōngxíng 中型, medium-sized	zhōngxīn 衷心, cordial
zhòngdiǎn 重点, key	zhòngxíng 重型, heavy (-duty)
zhǔyào 主要, main	zhuānmén 专门, special (ized)
zìdòng 自动, automatic	zìfā 自发, spontaneous
zìfèi 自费, at one's own expense	

1.2.3. Brief Illustration:

(1) There are only 31 monosyllabic words which are much fewer and

occupy about 16% of the non-predicative adjectives; on the contrary, there are 169 disyllabic and polysyllabic words which are much more and occupy 84% or so.

(2) Monosyllabic words are more fixed in practical use, less productive in word-building and change very little while the disyllabic or polysyllabic ones are much freer and more productive in word-building or construction, such as the words formed in the suffix “-级” are countless in practical use: tèjí<特级>, yījí<一级>, èrjí<二级>, sānjí<三级>... N. + jī <n.级> of which only few (e.g. chāojiǎo 超级, gāojiǎo 高级, etc.) have been collected here because of the limited space. And this kind of most productive suffix are so many such as “-式”, “-等”, “-号”, “-性”, “-型” and so that we can never list them all.

(3) Monosyllabic words can modify nouns directly without de<的>, and when some of them (such as 名) modify a monosyllabic noun, another solid word will be formed, e.g. míngren<名人>, míngxīng<名星>, etc. Absolute majority of the disyllabic or polysyllabic adjectives don't need de<的> either when they modify nouns, but the words with a small plus sign+ on the right side often need de<的> if they are attributes.

(4) Absolute majority of all the non-predicative adjectives can be used in the sentence pattern “shì<是>... de<的>”, e.g.

Zhèbǐ shōurù shì éwài de. 这笔收入是额外的。

Nàzuò shuǐkù shì xiǎoxíng de. 那座水库是小型的。

But some others can't be used this way, they are míng<名>, néng<能>, shùn<顺>, hǎoxiē<好些>, xǔduō<许多>, quánfù<全副>, shàngshù<上述>, xiàliè<下列>, shǔ<所属>, suǒwèi<所谓>, tuántuán<团团>, zhěngzhěng<整整> and so on.

(5) The uses of some disyllabic or polysyllabic words are not so fixed or regular that they have a tendency to change into common adjectives because they can follow hěn<很> and/or be predicate (directly) sometimes. This kind of words have been marked a capital C on the right side in the words listed above. However, the changing adjectives (from non-predicate to common) are not so many as the newly-constructed non-predicative adjectives in style such as -型, -性, -号, etc. which will certainly be getting more and more in future with the development of the society the prosperity of economics and progress of science and technology. In another word, the amount of non-predicative adjectives as a whole will become larger and larger, but not smaller.

(6) Most non-predicative adjectives can't be reduplicated except few words which in the listed words have been marked a small c on the left side.

2. Non-attributive Adjectives

2.1. Term and Definition

It is Prof. Hu Mingyang who firstly advanced the term non-attributive adjective (非定形容词 in Chinese) indicating the adjectives which

can't be attribute directly (but predicate only).^⑤ Then Mr. Ye Changying call them predicate-only adjectives (唯谓形容词 in Chinese) which differs a little from non-attributive adjectives and is more limited in scope: the adjectives that can never be attribute, nor can they even if de < 的 > is added.^⑥

We adopt the term "non-attributive adjective" advanced by Prof. Hu, but with certain limits:

(1) absolute non-attributive adjectives (绝对非形容词 in Chinese) = Mr. Ye's predicate-only adjectives, which can never be attribute, such as 定, 妥, 蛮, 好意思, etc. e.g.

tuǒ < 妥 >: *tuǒ shì 妥事 *tuǒ de shì 妥的事

*hěn tuǒ de shì 很妥的事 Shìr tuǒle. 事儿妥了.

(2) conditioned non-attributive adjectives: adjectives which can be attribute only in the form: hěn < 很 > + adj. + de < 的 >, such as "多":

*duō qián 多钱 *duō de qián 多的钱 hěnduō de qián 很多的钱

But we can't say all the adjectives which can be attribute in "hěn < 很 > + adj. + de < 的 >" form are conditioned non-attributive adjectives. For instance, piàoliang < 漂亮 > can be used in this form, but we can never say it's a conditioned non-attributive adjective, because the latter can be an attribute only in one form, but piàoliang can be an attribute in three forms: piàoliang yīfú 漂亮衣服 piàoliang de yīfú 漂亮的衣服 hěn piàoliang de yīfú 很漂亮的衣服

(3) non-attributive is related to non-predicative. If a word is a non-attributive adjective, it is certainly able to be a predicate. If not, this word isn't an adjective, but other part of speech.

2.2. In 2098 adjectives, the words which accord with the demands listed above are 123 words which occupy only 6% of the whole of adjectives. They will be listed in two groups in the following (2.2.1. monosyllabic and 2.2.2. disyllabic or polysyllabic) and briefly illustrated in the part of 2.2.3.

2.2.1. Monosyllabic Words (84):

ào 傲, proud; haughty

bǎo 饱, full

bó 薄, slight, meagre (differs

from báo 薄, thin)

cao 草, careless

chén 沉, heavy

chòng 冲, vigorous

diāo 刁, tricky, sly

dìng 定, calm; stable

duì 对, correct

duō 多, many

è 饿, hungry

fán 繁, numerous; manifold

fán 烦, vexed

fú 浮, superficial

gù 够, enough

guǎng 广, extensive, numerous

guì 贵, expensive

hěn 狠, ruthless

huǎn 缓, slow

⑤ see Hu Mingyang (胡明扬), "Subclassification of Adjectives in the Peking Dialect", *Cah. de Ling. Asie Orientale*, Vol. XII No. 2 December 1983, pp. 3-19.

⑥ Ye Changying (叶长荫), "About the Predicate-only Adjectives", in *Beifang Lun cong* (《北方论丛》), 1984/3.

huāng 慌, flurried	hūn 昏, losing consciousness	
huó 活 ² , active; quick	jiān 坚, steadfast; resolute	jiān 奸, wicked
jiàn 贱, low-priced; humble	jiāng 僵, stiff	jǐn c 紧, tight
(骨头 is a solid word)	jīng 精, perfect; excellent	
jiǔ 久, (for a) long (time)	ké 渴, thirsty	kùn 困, sleepy
là 辣, (of smell or taste) sting	lài 赖, shameless	
liàng 亮, loud and clear; enlightened		láo c 牢, firm
lè 乐, happy	líng 灵, clever	lóng 聋, deaf
má 麻, tingle (腿~了)	mán 蛮, rough; reckless	mì c 密, close, dense
mù 木, numb	nào 闹, noisy	lèi 累, tired
piān 偏, slanting	píng 平, flat	qí 齐, neat; all present
qín 勤, diligent	rùn 润, moist	shǎo c 少, few, little
shèng 盛, rigorous; energetic (火势很~)	sōng c 松, loose	shuāi 衰, decline, wane
shuài 帅, graceful; smart	téng 疼, ache	suān c 酸 ² , grieved
suān c 酸 ³ , ache	tuǒ 妥, proper	tōng 通, open; through
tòng 痛, ache	xī c 稀, rare	wàng c 旺, prosperous
wěn c 稳, steady; firm	xiǎng 响, noisy, loud	xiǎn 险, dangerous
xiǎn 显, apparent	xū 虚, empty	xiàng 像, alike
xíng 行, capable	yán 严, strict; severe	xiū 羞, shy
xuán 玄, unreliable	yōu 优, excellent	yàn 艳, colourful
yǎng 痒, itching	zhōng 忠, loyal	yún 匀, even
zāo 糟, rotten; poor	zhú 足, sufficient	zhuàng c 壮, strong
zhǔn 准, standard		

2.2.2. Disyllabic or Polysyllabic Words (39):

ānxīn c 安心, relieved	biēmen 憋闷, fell oppressed
bùbiàn 不便, inconvenient	bùcuò 不错, correct
bùděng 不等, different	bùduì 不对, incorrect
bùfāng 不妨, of no harm	bùgǒu 不苟, scrupulous
bùgòu 不够, insufficient	bùrán 不然, not so
bùshàn 不善, bad, ill	bùyī 不一, different
chīxiāng 吃香, popular; well-liked	dǎnhán 胆寒, terrified
dòngxīn 动心, mind-perturbed	ěrbèi 耳背, hard of hearing
ěrshēng 耳生, unfamiliar to the ear	ěershú 耳熟, familiar to the ear
fēnmíng 分明, clear	gèbié 各别, odd; different
guòliàng 过量, excessive; over	hānhàng 酣畅 ¹ , merry and lively
hǎoyìsi 好意思, have the never	(with drinking); sound (sleep)
(used in the rhetorical question)	héqì c 和气, gentle, amiable
huānxīn 欢欣, elated	jiàotiáo 教条, rigid; dogmatic
jiéshěng 节省, economic	jiéyue 节约, thrift
kěyǐ 可以, pretty good	kèkǔ 刻苦, simple and frugal
kuàiyì 快意, pleased	lǎolèi 劳累, tired; over-worked
lǎolù 劳碌, working hard	qǐjìn 起劲, vigorous

① As to suān <酸>, we have 酸¹, 酸², 酸³, 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.

wúcháng 无常, variable yǒngyuè 踊跃, enthusiastic
 yóufāng 有方, with the proper method zhuānxīn 专心, absorbed
 zìrán 自然, natural

2.2.3. Brief Illustrations:

(1) The words listed above generally can not be attribute but predicate only. e.g. tōng <通>: Zhègè jùzi tōng. 这个句子~.

• Zhègè tōng jùzi. 这个~句子.

chén <沉>: Nàgè xiāngzi chén. 那个箱子~.

• nàgè chén xiāngzi. 那个~箱子.

bùgòu <不够>: Cáiliào bùgòu. 材料~. • bùgòu cáiliào ~材料

• bùgòu de cáiliào ~的材料

(2) They can be modified by adverbs such as hěn <很>, tài <太>, bù <不>, etc. of which the abilities of combination are different: bù <不> is more productive than hěn <很>, the latter is more productive than tài <太>.

(3) They can be followed by .zhe <着>, .le <了>, .qǐlái <起来>, of which the combinative ability is quite different: • le <了> is more constructive than • qǐlái <起来>, and the latter is more constructive than • zhe <着>.

(4) Contrary to the non-predicative adjectives which is increasing in quantity, the general trend of the non-attributive adjectives are gradually decreasing in quantity.

(5) some of them can be reduplicated; but all the reduplications will vary in meaning and can be used as attribute (with de <的>). The reduplicative style of monosyllabic words is AA, but that of the disyllabic words is AABB. The words which can be reduplicated have been marked a small c on the left side in the listed words above.

(6) The underlined words are conditioned non-attributive adjectives.

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