

MASTER'S THESIS

An analysis of syntactic structures and semantic features of de- constructions in Chinese

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**AN ANALYSIS OF SYNTACTIC STRUCTURES
AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF
DE-CONSTRUCTIONS IN CHINESE**

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Abstract

The *de*-construction is one of frequently used phrase structures in Mandarin Chinese. It is a DP often used as subject or object in a sentence. Meanwhile, it cannot be used as a predicate, or be modified by adverbs, nor does it have tense or aspect marker. Recently, the head of the *de*-construction has triggered a heated debate (Zhang, 2009; Li, 2008; Shi, 2008; Xiong, 2005; Si, 2004; Ning1996, etc.). Within the theoretical framework of Minimalist Program, this thesis focuses on syntactic structures and semantic features of *de*-constructions. We concentrate our discussion on two types of *de*-constructions: [XP *de*] and [XP *de* YP], the former is derived from the latter by ellipsis or deverbalization. The nominal feature of the YP is assigned by the null element 'n' which possesses strong [+N] feature. Since 'n' and '*de*' are functional heads with [+N] feature in the Chinese *de*-construction, the nominal feature of the whole construction is determined by 'n' and '*de*'.

摘要

“的”字結構是現代漢語中使用頻率很高的一種短語結構。“的”字結構是名詞性結構，通常在句子中充當主語和賓語，不可以作謂語或被副詞修飾，也不能帶時體標記等。近年來，學者們對“的”字結構的中心語展開了激烈的討論（李豔惠，2008；石定栩，2008；熊仲儒，2005；Ning, 1996, etc.）。本論文旨在喬姆斯基的最簡方案理論框架下，研究“的”字結構的句法結構和語義特徵，並重點討論兩類“的”字結構：[XP *de*] 和 [XP *de* YP]。本論文認為前者是通過省略或者名詞化由後者派生而來。同時，本論文同意 Ning (1996) 的主張，將“的”字分析為漢語中一個特殊的功能語類，並是其所在結構的中心。通過運用 DP 假說和中心語定律，本論文將探討的焦點集中在“的”字的特徵分析和“的”字結構的生成過程。在石定栩(2008)研究的基礎上，本文做出以下假設：認為在中心語“的”後還存在一個功能空語類“n”，此成分具有 [+N] 特徵，它和“的”後短語結合，並使其具有名詞性特徵，形成最大投射的 nP 作中心語“的”的補語。而整個“的”字結構的名詞性是由“的”和“n”的名詞性決定的。所以，“n”和“的”都是“的”字結構的中心語。

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