

On the Different Interpretations of Chinese “ NP₁ *de* NP₂ ”

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Abstract

Judged by the syntax, the Chinese “ NP₁ *de* NP₂ ” phrase is simple in structure, but the relation between “ NP₁ ” and “ NP₂ ” is actually complex. In this article, we looked into the causes of an “ NP₁ *de* NP₂ ” phrase’s different interpretations, both from syntax and semantics angles. Considering syntax relations, there are three kinds of relations: subject, object and attribute between “ NP₁ ” of “ NP₁ *de* NP₂ ” and verbs, but sometimes there is an appositive or a modifier between “ NP₁ ” and “ NP₂. ” Considering the semantic relations, because “ NP₂ ” may be regarded as a “ mark-noun, ” it also may be regarded as a “ non-mark-noun, ” there are multiple explanations of significance in “ NP₁ *de* NP₂. ” We also analyzed the different semantic directions of verbs and nouns from a semantic perspective.