

A Reference Grammar of

Chinese

Edited by
Chu-Ren Huang
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A Reference Grammar of Chinese 中文参考语法

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Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	page xii
<i>List of tables</i>	xiii
<i>List of contributors</i>	xiv
<i>Preface</i>	xvi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xviii
<i>English–Chinese term list</i>	xix
<i>Chinese–English term list</i>	xxiv

1 Preliminaries 1

Chu-Ren Huang and Dingxu Shi

- 1.1 The Chinese language 2
- 1.2 A data-driven and corpus-based reference grammar 5
- 1.3 Chinese writing system 7

2 Syntactic overview 14

Dingxu Shi and Chu-Ren Huang

- 2.1 Morphemes, words, and word classes 14
- 2.2 Phrases, clauses, and sentences 42
- 2.3 Negation 52
- 2.4 Aspectual system 54
- 2.5 Comparisons and comparative constructions 57
- 2.6 Information-packaging constructions 58
- 2.7 Illocutionary force and sentence types 61
- 2.8 Deixis and anaphora 64

3 Lexical word formation 67

Jerome Packard

- 3.1 Introduction 67
- 3.2 Defining “word” in Chinese 67
- 3.3 Description of word components 68

- 3.4 Lexical word formation processes 72
- 3.5 Issues in Chinese word formation 74

4 Verbs and verb phrases 81

Y.-H. Audrey Li

- 4.1 Introduction 81
- 4.2 Properties of verbs 82
- 4.3 Verb types 91
- 4.4 Arguments 94
- 4.5 Other post-verbal constituents 104
- 4.6 Other types of objects 109

5 Aspectual system 116

Sze-Wing Tang

- 5.1 Definition of aspect 116
- 5.2 The perfective aspects 117
- 5.3 The imperfective aspects 130

6 Negation 143

Haihua Pan, Po Lun Peppina Lee, and Chu-Ren Huang

- 6.1 Scope of negation 143
- 6.2 The positions and scopes of negators 145
- 6.3 Sublexical negation 162
- 6.4 Negative answers to questions 163
- 6.5 Negative polarity items and negation 164
- 6.6 Metalinguistic negation 166

7 Classifiers 169

Kathleen Ahrens and Chu-Ren Huang

- 7.1 Definition of classifiers 169
- 7.2 Semantic properties of classifiers 170
- 7.3 Syntactic properties of classifiers 172
- 7.4 Overview of classifier types 174
- 7.5 Sortal classifiers 176
- 7.6 Measure words 191
- 7.7 Polysemous classifiers 195
- 7.8 Sortal classifier coercion of noun senses 197

8 Nouns and nominal phrases 199

Dingxu Shi

- 8.1 Distinctive properties of nouns and nominal phrases 199

- 8.2 Overview of noun classes and nominal phrases 200
- 8.3 The function of DET 206
- 8.4 The function of NUM–CL 212
- 8.5 Nouns and the N position 223
- 8.6 Pronouns 228
- 8.7 Apposition 238
- 8.8 Referential and non-referential use of nominal phrases 241
- 8.9 Proper names, proper nouns, and vocatives 244
- 8.10 Nominal phrases as propositions, predicates, or sentences 246
- 9 Relative constructions 256**
Stephen Matthews and Virginia Yip
- 9.1 Basic properties of relative clauses 257
- 9.2 Grammatical relations in relative clauses 263
- 9.3 Relative clauses without a grammatical relation 269
- 9.4 Relative clauses and topicalization 274
- 10 Adjectives and adjective phrases 276**
Shi-Zhe Huang, Jing Jin, and Dingxu Shi
- 10.1 Defining properties of adjectives 276
- 10.2 Two major subclasses of adjectives in Chinese: non-derived adjectives and derived adjectives 278
- 10.3 Functions and properties of adjectives and adjective phrases 287
- 10.4 Adjectives and verbs: a comparison 292
- 10.5 Special adjectives 多 *duo1* ‘many/much,’ 少 *shao3* ‘few/little,’ and 大 *da4* ‘big’ 292
- 11 Comparison 297**
Marie-Claude Paris and Dingxu Shi
- 11.1 Distinctive properties of comparative clauses in Chinese 297
- 11.2 Affirmative superiority comparison 298
- 11.3 Superiority comparatives marked with 比 *bi3* ‘than’ 299
- 11.4 Negative 比 *bi3* ‘than’ constructions 304
- 11.5 跟 *gen1* ‘with’ comparatives: comparison of equality and likeness 306
- 11.6 像 *xiang4* ‘like’: a partial variant of 跟 *gen1* ‘with’ 308
- 11.7 如 *ru2* ‘as’ equality comparatives 311
- 11.8 有 *you3* ‘YOU’ equality comparatives 312
- 11.9 越...越... *yue4...yue4...* ‘the more...the more...’ correlative comparative constructions 313

12 Adverbs 315

Yung-O Biq and Chu-Ren Huang

- 12.1 Distinctive properties of adverbs 315
- 12.2 Overview of adverbs 315
- 12.3 Types of functional adverbs 320
- 12.4 Frequently used adverbs 336

13 Prepositions and preposition phrases 353

Jingxia Lin and Chaofen Sun

- 13.1 Distribution and function of PPs 354
- 13.2 Differentiating prepositions from other lexical categories 358
- 13.3 Monosyllabic and disyllabic prepositions 366
- 13.4 Semantic classification of prepositions 371
- 13.5 Locative PPs 395

14 Sentence types 401

Weidong Zhan and Xiaojing Bai

- 14.1 Sentences and clauses 401
- 14.2 Overview of sentence classification 402
- 14.3 Declarative and exclamative sentences 408
- 14.4 Interrogative and directive sentences 414
- 14.5 Logic relations between clauses 427
- 14.6 Concessive complex sentences 436
- 14.7 Conditional complex sentences 438
- 14.8 Causative and purposive complex sentences 440
- 14.9 Strategies of clause linking 444
- 14.10 Compound sentences without overt marking 448

15 Major non-canonical clause types: *ba* and *bei* 451

Hilary Chappell and Dingxu Shi

- 15.1 The *ba* constructions 451
- 15.2 Passive constructions 467

16 Deixis and anaphora 484

Yan Jiang

- 16.1 Overview of deixis 485
- 16.2 Overview of anaphora 499

17 Information structure 518

Shu-ing Shyu

- 17.1 Topic and object preposing 523

- 17.2 Word order variations 540
- 17.3 Sentences involving 是 *shi4* 546
- 17.4 连 *lian2* ... 都/也 *dou1/ye3* 'even' sentences 567
- 17.5 只 *zhi3*, 只(有) *zhi3 (you3)*, and 只(是) *zhi3 (shi4)* 572

Appendix: Punctuation 577

Shui Duen Chan

- A.1 Boundary-marking punctuation marks 578
- A.2 Punctuation marks indicating the nature and function of expressions 584

Bibliography 591

Index 593

Figures

7.1 Taxonomy of classifiers	<i>page</i> 170
9.1 Classification of noun-modifying constructions	256
9.2 Template for noun-modifying phrases	256

Tables

1.1 Evolution of Chinese scripts	<i>page</i> 9
7.1 Linguistic characteristics of classifier subcategories	174
7.2 List of top ten container measure words	192
7.3 List of top ten approximation measure words	193
7.4 List of top ten standard measure words	195
10.1 Non-derived adjectives (NDAs) and their adnominal modification patterns	280
16.1 Types of deictic terms by lexical category	486
16.2 Types of deictic terms by meaning	487
16.3 Corpus frequency of second-person pronouns	491

Sentence types

Weidong Zhan and Xiaojing Bai

This chapter discusses sentence types. An overview of sentence properties is first given, followed by detailed descriptions of sentences, classified according to their communicative function and internal structure, respectively.

14.1. Sentences and clauses

A sentence is the largest syntactic unit with independent functions in the discourse. It consists of a main clause, which can have a complicated internal structure, and some peripheral elements, mainly sentence-final particles. A clause is comprised of a subject and a predicate. The subject is typically a nominal phrase, which represents some entity or entities, but it can also be a verb phrase or an adjective phrase. The predicate is predominantly a verb phrase or an adjective phrase, depicting the state or action of the entity or entities represented by the subject. The predicate does not display, in any specific form, agreement with the subject in terms of number, gender, and other grammatical categories. For instance, there is no distinction between the predicates in [1a] and [1b], even though the subject of [1a] is singular while the subject of [1b] is plural.

- [1] a. 那只鸟飞走了。
 na4 zhi1 niao3 fei1 zou3 le0
 that CL bird fly go LE
 ‘That bird has flown away.’
- b. 那些鸟飞走了。
 na4xie1 niao3 fei1 zou3 le0
 those bird fly go LE
 ‘Those birds have flown away.’

A prominent property of clauses in Chinese is that their constituents, especially the subject, may be omitted or, in the terminology of contemporary linguistics, appear in a zero form. When the subject of the second clause in [2] appears as a zero form, the whole sentence remains grammatical and has the interpretation of one with the subject position filled with a pronoun. The most likely reading of

[2], with a zero form or a pronoun in the subject position of the second clause, is that the 乌鸦 *wu1ya1* ‘crow’ is looking for water.

- [2] 有一只乌鸦口渴了, [它]到处找水喝。
 you3 yi1 zhi1 wu1ya1 kou3ke3 le0 ta1 dao4chu4
 YOU one CL crow thirsty LE it everywhere
 zhao3 shui3 he1
 seek water drink
 ‘A crow was thirsty. It looked for water everywhere.’

Another property is that a clause can be part of another clause without any change in constituent order. In [3], both 房价高涨 *fang2jia4 gao1zhang3* ‘house prices are soaring’ and 经济很繁荣 *jing1ji4 fan2rong2* ‘the economy is prosperous’ are clauses that can appear independently as sentences. When functioning in [3] as the subject and the object respectively, they do not show any marking or any variation.

- [3] 房价高涨说明经济很繁荣。
 fang2jia4 gao1zhang3 shuo1ming2 jing1ji4 hen3
 house_price rise show economy very
 fan2rong2
 booming
 ‘House prices are soaring, which suggests that the economy is booming.’

14.2. Overview of sentence classification

The classification of sentences can be based on either their communicative functions or their internal structures.

14.2.1. Sentence types and communication functions

According to their communicative functions, sentences can be classified into five types, as follows:

- 1 Declaratives: When a declarative sentence like [4a] is used, the speaker is characteristically making a statement that is believed to be an objective message, without much personal feeling being expressed.
- 2 Exclamatives: When an exclamatory statement like [4b] is used, the speaker is expressing some strong personal feeling to convey a forceful message to the listener.
- 3 Interrogatives: With an interrogative like [4c], the speaker asks for information from the listener, who is supposed to respond accordingly.

- 4 Directives: With a directive like [4d], the speaker typically issues a command asking for action from the listener.
- 5 Vocatives: With a vocative like [4e], the speaker gives a signal to the listener, suggesting that he is about to send or is ready to receive a particular message and the listener's response is expected.

- [4] a. 我看过这部电影。
 wo3 kan4 guo4 zhe4 bu4 dian4ying3
 I see GUO this CL movie
 'I have watched this movie (before).'
- b. 多好的人啊!
 duo1 hao3 de0 ren2 a0
 so good DE person A
 'What a good man!'
- c. 你是医生吗?
 ni3 shi4 yi1sheng1 ma0
 you be doctor MA
 'Are you a doctor?'
- d. 站住!
 zhan4 zhu4
 stand still
 'Stand still!'
- e. 老张。
 lao3 zhang1
 old ZHANG
 'Lao Zhang.'

14.2.2. Sentence types and internal structures

Sentences can be classified as simplex, complex, and compound, according to their internal structures and the syntactic relation between constituents. A simplex sentence consists of one clause only. A complex sentence has a main clause that has some other clause(s) embedded inside it. A compound sentence is made up of two or more clauses that are related to each other but are not embedded within each other.

A simplex sentence contains only one clause and part of it may appear in zero form. In the conversation in [5], one person uses a simplex sentence as a question, whereas the other person responds with another simplex sentence that appears as part of a clause. It should be understood that the subject of the reduced clause is 我 wo3 'I,' while the predicate has a progressive marker 在 zai4.

[5] Q: 你在干什么?
 ni3 zai4 gan4 shen2me0
 you ZAI do what
 'What are you doing?'

A: 复印讲义。
 fu4yin4 jiang3yi4
 copy handout
 'Copying the handouts.'

A clause can function as the subject, the object, or the adverbial, as well as the attributive of a nominal phrase or the object of a preposition in another clause. If a clause contains other clause(s) but is not contained in or coordinated with another clause, it is the main clause of a sentence and such a sentence is a complex one. The complex sentence in [3] has a subordinate clause as the subject and another one as the object, while the complex sentence in [6] has the clause 路上出了车祸 *lu4shang0 chu1 le0 che1huo4* 'have a car accident on the road' as the adverbial.

[6] 他们因为路上出了车祸不去上海了。
 ta1men0 yin1wei4 lu4shang0 chu1 le0 che1huo4
 they because en_route occur LE car_accident
 bu2 qu4 shang4hai3 le0
 NEG go SHANGHAI LE
 'Because there was an accident on the way to Shanghai, they won't go to Shanghai now.'

A sentence often contains a main clause and a sentence-final particle, which typically appears in exclamatives like [4b], interrogatives like [4c], sentences with a perfective predicate, or sentences indicating a change of state, as in [6].

The subordinate clause in a complex sentence may not be contained inside the main clause but instead may occur outside of it. Such a clause would look like part of a compound sentence that typically consists of coordinated clauses. These types of complex sentences and compound sentences share many features and a prominent one is the use of connective adjuncts. In the conditional sentence in [7a], the conditional clause is marked with 如果 *ru2guo3* 'if' to indicate a hypothetic state and the consequence is expressed in the main clause, which is marked with 那么 *na4me0* 'then.' In the compound sentence in [7b], the two coordinated clauses are marked with the connective adjunct pair 不但...还... *bu2dan4... hai2...* 'not only...but also...' Compound sentences can also be connected with coordinators, such as 或者 *huo4zhe3* 'or' in [7c].

- [7] a. 如果姐夫真的喜欢手套, 那么我就会送给他一双。
 ru2guo3 jie3fu1 zhen1de0 xi3huan1 shou3tao4
 if brother-in-law really like gloves
 na4me0 wo3 jiu4 hui4 song4gei3 ta1 yi1 shuang1
 then I thus will give_to he one CL
 'If my brother-in-law really likes gloves, I will give him a pair as a gift.'
- b. 他不但输光了所有的钱, 还输掉了所有的房子。
 ta1 bu4dan4 shu1guang1 le0 suo3you3 de0 qian2
 he not_only lose_clean LE all DE money
 hai2 shu1diao4 le0 suo3you3 de0 fang2zi0
 yet lose LE all DE house
 'He not only gambled away all his money but also all his houses.'
- c. 明天我去接你, 或者你今天下午过来。
 ming2tian1 wo3 qu4 jie1 ni3 huo4zhe3 ni3
 tomorrow I go pick_up you or you
 jin1tian1 xia4wu3 guo4lai2
 today afternoon come
 'I will [go to] pick you up tomorrow, or you can come this afternoon.'

14.2.3. Clauses with non-canonical constituent order

Although the basic constituent order in a clause is for the subject to appear before the predicate, for the object to appear after the verb, and for the adverbial to occur before the predicate, there are cases where some non-canonical order is used. Such clauses typically are embedded in other clauses.

14.2.3.1. Preposing and postposing

In addition to the well-known topic-comment constructions discussed in Chapter 17, a constituent can be moved from its usual position to the very beginning of a clause, and this often occurs in oral communication when the speaker rushes to give the most important information first and then adds the less important information. The effect of such preposing is often similar to postposing a constituent to the end of the clause.

The predicate appears before the subject in [8a(i)], as against the usual order in [8a(ii)], because the speaker feels chilly and wanted to convey his feeling directly and immediately. The speaker then realizes that some more information was needed and added the location. No matter whether the speaker preposes the predicate or postposes the subject as an afterthought, the communicative effect

is the same. In [8b(i)], the verb appears before the adverbial; in [8c(i)], the object verb phrase occurs before the main verb; and in [8d(i)], the resultative expression appears before the verb, in comparison to the default order shown in all the [8ii] sentences.

- [8] a. i. 怪冷的, 这儿。
 guai4 leng3 de0 zhe4er0
 pretty cold DE here
 'Pretty cold here.'
- ii. 这儿怪冷的。
 zhe4er0 guai4 leng3 de0
 here pretty cold DE
 'It's pretty cold here.'
- b. i. 下班了, 已经。
 xia4ban1 le0 yi3jing1
 knock_off_work LE already
 'Off work, already.'
- ii. 已经下班了。
 yi3jing1 xia4ban1 le0
 already knock_off_work LE
 '(I'm) already off work.'
- c. i. 去上班, 准备。
 qu4 shang4ban1 zhun3bei4
 go be_on_duty plan
 'Go to work, be ready to.'
- ii. 准备去上班。
 zhun3bei4 qu4 shang4ban1
 plan go be_on_duty
 '(I'm) ready to go to work.'
- d. i. 走不动了, 累得。
 zou3bu2dong4 le0 lei4 de0
 cannot_move LE tired DE
 'Can't move, [being] too tired.'
- ii. 累得走不动了。
 lei4 de0 zou3bu2dong4 le0
 tired DE cannot_move LE
 '(I'm) too tired to move.'

When a speaker is anxious to get an answer immediately, to prepose the predicate of an interrogative sentence, as in [9a], is a common way to do this in conversation. Another way to achieve the same effect is to repeat the subject at the end of the question, as in [9b].

- [9] a. 还去不去呀你?
 hai2 qu4 bu4 qu4 ya0 ni3
 yet go NEG go YA you
 'Then (will) you still going or not?'
 b. 你还去不去呀你?
 ni3 hai2 qu4 bu4 qu4 ya0 ni3
 You yet go NEG go YA you
 'Then (will) you still go or not?'

14.2.3.2. Parenthetical expressions

Parenthetical expressions are those inserted into a clause, interrupting the normal flow of information to add supplements indirectly related to the clause. It is found in both spoken and written genres. In [10a], the parenthetical expression 还没过门呢 *hai2 mei2 guo4men2 ne0* 'not married yet' is put between 他媳妇 'his wife' and the predicate 老吵架 *lao3 chao3jia4* 'fight a lot' to correct some potential misperception. In [10b], the parenthetical expression appears between the subject 他的顶头上司 *ta1 de0 ding3tou2 shang4si1* 'his immediate boss' and the predicate 把他抓了个正着 *ba3 ta1 zhua1 le0 ge4 zheng4zhao2* 'caught him on the spot' to provide additional information about the subject. The parenthetical expression 听说 *ting1shuo1* 'hear (someone) say' is placed between the subject and the predicate in [10c] and at the very beginning of the sentence in [10d] to indicate that the content of the sentence is hearsay. In [10e], the parenthetical expression is placed between the verb 承诺 *cheng2nuo4* 'promise' and its object 保守这个秘密 *bao3shou3 zhe0ge4 mi4mi4* '(he will) keep this secret' to give the promise a time limit.

- [10] a. 栓子跟他媳妇 -- **还没过门呢** -- 老吵架。
 shuan4zi0 gen1 ta1 xi2fu4 hai2 mei2 guo4men2 ne0
 Shuanzi and he wife yet_not marry NE
 lao3 chao3jia4
 always quarrel
 'Shuanzi and his wife, not married yet, fight a lot.'
 b. 他的顶头上司 --- **个多疑的人** --- 把他抓了个正着。
 ta1 de0 ding3tou2shang4si1 yi1 ge4 duo1yi2 de0
 he DE one's_direct_superior one CL suspicious DE

ren2 ba3 ta1 zhua1 le0 ge4 zheng4zhao2
 person BA he catch LE GE on_the_spot
 'His immediate boss, a suspicious man, caught him on the spot.'

- c. 语法考试听说很容易。

yu3fa3 kao3shi4 ting1shuo1 hen3 rong2yi4
 grammar test allegedly very easy
 'The grammar test, it is said, was quite easy.'

- d. 听说语法考试很容易。

ting1shuo1 yu3fa3 kao3shi4 hen3 rong2yi4
 allegedly grammar test very easy
 'It is said that the grammar test is quite easy.'

- e. 他承诺(有效期一天)保守这个秘密。

ta1 cheng2nuo4 you3xiao4qi1 yi1 tian1 bao3shou3
 he promise time_of_efficacy one day keep
 zhe4 ge0 mi4mi4
 this CL secret
 'He promised that he would keep this secret (for one day).'

14.3. Declarative and exclamative sentences

Both declarative and exclamative sentences make a statement to convey a message, but they differ in that an exclamative adds strong personal feelings to the message.

14.3.1. Declarative sentences

The basic constituents of a declarative sentence are a clause, simplex or complex, and a sentence-final particle, which appears when the clause describes a particular type of event. Declarative sentences in general have an unmarked even-falling intonation. The adverbials in the clause usually occur between the subject and the predicate, as in [11a(i)] and [11a(ii)], but temporal or modal adverbials may appear at the sentence-initial position, as in [11b(i)] and [11b(ii)].

- [11] a. i. 他当时戴着帽子。

ta1 dang1shi2 dai4 zhe0 mao4zi0
 he at_that_time wear ZHE hat

- ii. 当时他带着帽子。

dang1shi2 ta1 dai4 zhe0 mao4zi0
 at_that_time he wear ZHE hat
 'He was wearing a hat at that time.'

- b. i. 他也许是个聋子。
 ta1 ye3xu3 shi4 ge0 long2zi0
 he maybe be CL deaf_person.
- ii. 也许他是个聋子。
 ye3xu3 ta1 shi4 ge0 long2zi0
 maybe he be CL deaf_person
 ‘Perhaps he is deaf.’

Sentence-final particles appearing in declarative sentences are those that contribute to the proposition of the sentence and those that do not. The former typically mark the state of the proposition described by the clause, including 了 *le0*, 呢 *ne0*, and 来着 *lai2zhe0*, while the latter typically indicate the speaker’s attitude or intention to express some non-propositional meaning, including 着呢 *zhe0ne0*, 嘛 *ma0*, 啊 *a0*, and 哟 *yo0*.

The speaker in [12a] intends to inform the listener that “he has had dinner” has become a fact at the time of reference, which is most likely to be the time of speech. The 呢 *ne0* in [12b] indicates that the state of “having dinner” is current or is in progress at the time of reference. The 来着 *lai2zhe0* in [12c] signals that the event described in the clause is in a continuous state at some time before the time of speech.

- [12] a. 我吃过晚饭了。
 wo3 chi1 guo4 wan3fan4 le0
 I eat GUO dinner LE
 ‘I have had my dinner.’
- b. 他吃晚饭呢。
 ta1 chi1 wan3fan4 ne0
 he eat dinner NE
 ‘He is having his dinner.’
- c. 他正跟人下棋来着。
 ta1 zheng4 gen1 ren2 xia4qi2 lai2zhe0
 he right PREP people play_chess LAIZHE
 ‘He was playing chess with someone.’

The 着呢 *zhe0ne0* in [13a] not only contributes to the proposition of the sentence but also conveys the speaker’s intention. The speaker of [13a] tells the listener that the state of “being rich” persists at the time of reference and that the speaker is not shy saying this. The 嘛 *ma0* in [13b] emphasizes an obvious fact, which the speaker thinks the listener should have known, to encourage the listener to face

the challenge. The 啊 *a0* in [13c] reminds the listener of a possible problem. The 哟 *yo0* at the end of [13d] tells the listener to pay attention to the issue stated in the sentence, and if the listener does not, he will feel sorry afterward.

- [13] a. 这个人有钱着呢。
 zhe4 ge4 ren2 you3qian2 zhe0ne0
 this CL person be_rich ZHE_NE
 ‘This man is rich indeed.’
- b. 你不要灰心, 万事开头难嘛。
 ni3 bu4 yao4 hui1xin1 wan4shi4 kai1tou2
 you NEG will lose_heart everything begin
 nan2 ma0
 hard MA
 ‘Don’t be disheartened. Everything is definitely hard at the very beginning.’
- c. 你们肩上的担子很重啊。
 ni3men0 jian1 shang4 de0 dan4zi0
 you shoulder on DE carrying_pole_plus_load
 hen3 zhong4 a0
 very heavy A
 ‘The burden on your shoulders is heavy indeed.’
- d. 我说的可是明天就兑现哟。
 wo3 shuo1 de0 ke3shi4 ming2tian1 jiu4 dui4xian4
 I say DE actually tomorrow thus fulfill
 yo0
 YO
 ‘Tomorrow I will do what I said without delay.’

14.3.2. Exclamative sentences

The message conveyed by an exclamative sentence includes a statement of an event or state and some special features indicating the speaker’s strong emotion with regard to the event or state, which causes surprise, admiration, or even skepticism. These features can be intonational, lexical, or structural.

14.3.2.1. Intonational features

Exclamative sentences are marked by a stressed falling intonation. In contrast with declarative sentences, exclamative sentences are typically uttered louder, with certain elements stressed. The stressed elements are predominantly those bearing exclamative features, such as special adverbs and interrogative expressions. The

determinative 这 *zhe4* ‘this’ in [14] is another such element being stressed to express the speaker’s attitude.

- [14] 你这没有骨气的文人!
ni3 zhe4 mei2you3 gu3qi4 de0 wen2ren2
 you this NEG backbone DE scholar
 ‘You spineless scholar!’

14.3.2.2. Lexical features

Certain adverbs, interrogative expressions, sentence-final particles, and interjections can be used in an exclamative sentence to express the speaker’s feelings. In addition to adverbs like 太 *tai4* ‘too (much),’ 真 *zhen1* ‘really,’ and 好 *hao3* ‘very’ in [15a] and [15b], interrogative expressions like 多少 *duo1shao3* ‘how much,’ 多么 *duo1me0* ‘how,’ 多 *duo1* ‘what,’ 何 *he2* ‘what,’ and 怎 *zen3* ‘how’ are also used to mark exclamations. These interrogative expressions are used to indicate the speaker’s surprise or skepticism, as in [15c]–[15f].

- [15] a. 真了不起!
zhen1 liao3bu4qi3
 really amazing
 ‘Truly amazing.’
- b. 好一个“世外桃源”!
hao3 yi1 ge4 shi4wai4tao2yuan2
 such one CL Shangri-la
 ‘This is a true Shangri-la!’
- c. 多少个日日夜夜啊!
duo1shao3 ge4 ri4ri4ye4ye4 a0
 many CL night_and_day A
 ‘So many days and nights!’
- d. 多好的人哪!
duo1 hao3 de0 ren2 na0
 so good DE person NA
 ‘What a good man!’
- e. 这是何等的英雄气概啊!
zhe4 shi4 he2deng3 de0 ying1xiong2qi4gai4 a0
 this be how DE heroism A
 ‘What heroism!’

f. 怎一个“愁”字了得!

zen3 yi1 ge4 chou2 zi4 liao3de2
why one CL worry word terrible

'How a single word of "sorrow" could convey all (my) suffering!'

The most commonly used sentence-final particle in exclamative sentences is 啊 *a0*, as in [15c] and [15e]. Its actual pronunciation can be influenced by the syllable before it and the two are sometimes merged to form a new particle; hence, variations like 呀 *ya0*, 哇 *wa0*, and 哪 *na0*, as shown in [16].

[16] a. 原来是我喜欢的鱼呀!

yuan2lai2 shi4 wo3 xi3huan1 de0 yu2 ya0
turn_out be I like DE fish YA

'It's the kind of fish that I like!'

b. 好哇!

hao3 wa0
great WA

'Great!'

c. 难哪!

nan2 na0
hard NA

'Too hard!'

Interjections occurring in exclamative sentences include 唉 *ai1*, 哇 *wa1*, 啊 *a1*, 嗨 *hai1*, 呵 *he1*, etc. 唉 *ai1* expresses despair, as in [17a], while the other four depict excitement, as in [17b]. Interjections are used independently, followed by an exclamative sentence.

[17] a. 唉! 你太不幸了!

ai1 ni3 tai4 bu4xing4 le0
AI you too unfortunate LE

'Oh! I am so sorry for you!'

b. 哇! 真是太巧了!

wa1 zhen1 shi4 tai4 qiao3 le0
WA really be too coincident LE

'Wow! What a coincidence!'

14.3.2.3. Structural features

Exclamative sentences often contain a complete clause but they can also contain only part of a clause. The context will typically provide enough clues from which the listener can infer the necessary information.

A common pattern in exclamative sentences is to use a complicated nominal phrase in the form of 好(你)(一)个 NP *hao3 (ni3) (yi1) ge4 NP* ‘Good (you) (one) GE-CL NP’ to convey the speaker’s disapproval of, or accusation and anger against, the person it denotes. The pleonastic pronoun 你 *ni3* is optional and does not refer to any particular person. The classifier 个 *ge4* can be followed by either a noun phrase or a proper name. When a proper name is used, as in [18a] and [18b], the disapproval characteristic of the exclamative is clearly expressed, though not directly.

- [18] a. 好个贾雨村!
hao3 ge4 jia3yu3cun1
 such CL JIA_YUCUN
 ‘JIA Yucun, (such a damn fox)!’
- b. 好你个贾雨村!
hao4 ni3 ge4 jia3yu3cun1
 such you CL JIA_YUCUN
 ‘JIA Yucun, (such a damn fox)!’

Sometimes a non-canonical constituent order can be used to convey personal emotion. The predicate-subject clause in [19] is a typical case.

- [19] 太冷了, 这鬼地方!
tai4 leng3 le0 zhe4 gui3 di4fang0
 too cool LE this ghost place
 ‘Terribly cold. This damned place!’

Reduplication is another way to express the speaker’s strong emotion in an exclamative sentence. The reduplication can produce an identical copy, as in [20a], or it can produce a more complicated one, as in [20b].

- [20] a. 了不起! 了不起!
liao3bu4qi3 liao3bu4qi3
 amazing amazing
 ‘Amazing! Amazing!’
- b. 好一个公爵! 好一个风流的公爵!
hao3yi1ge4 gong1jue2 hao3yi1ge1 feng1liu2 de0
 what a duke what a gallant DE
gong1jue2
 duke
 ‘What a Duke! What a gallant Duke!’

14.4. Interrogative and directive sentences

When an interrogative or a directive is used, the speaker is making a request to the listener. For the former, information from the listener as feedback is expected, while for the latter, action or compliance from the listener is expected.

14.4.1. Interrogative sentences

Interrogatives can be classified as open or closed, depending on the type of answer expected. The answer to a closed interrogative is chosen from a closed set, and the answer is typically presented as an alternative in the interrogative sentence itself, as in [21a] and [21b]. An open interrogative, like those in [21c]–[21d], conversely, expects various answers that do not appear in the interrogative sentences.

- [21] a. 你是医生吗? [closed interrogative]
 ni3 shi4 yi1sheng1 ma0
 you be doctor MA
 'Are you a doctor?'
- b. 你是不是医生? [closed interrogative]
 ni3 shi4 bu2 shi4 yi1sheng1
 you be NEG be doctor
 'Are you a doctor or not?'
- c. 他今年几岁了? [open interrogative]
 ta1 jin1nian2 ji3 sui4
 he this_year how_much age
 'How old is he?'
- d. 他是干什么的? [open interrogative]
 ta1 shi4 gan4 shen2me0 de0
 he be do what DE
 'What does he do?'

Interrogative sentences have the same constituent order as declarative sentences, but they bear distinctive intonational, lexical, and structural features.

14.4.1.1. Intonational features

Interrogative sentences usually bear a rising intonation. The rising intonation at the end of an interrogative features expansion in pitch range and time duration. The intonational contrast between declaratives and interrogatives is shown in [22], with the pitch range of the interrogatives wider and their duration longer than those of declaratives, respectively.

- [22] a. i. 明天他们开学。
 ming2tian1 ta1men0 kai1xue2
 tomorrow they begin_term
 'Their new semester begins tomorrow.'
- ii. 明天他们开学?
 ming2tian1 ta1men0 kai1xue2
 tomorrow they begin_term
 'Does their new semester begin tomorrow?'
- b. i. 他们一起走。
 ta1men0 yi1qi3 zou3
 they together go
 'They go together.'
- ii. 他们一起走?
 ta1men0 yi1qi3 zou3
 they together go
 'Do they go together?'

14.4.1.2. Lexical features

Open interrogatives are typically variable questions marked by interrogative expressions. There are four types of interrogative expressions:

- 1 Interrogative nominal elements that typically replace nominal phrases in a clause, such as simple ones like 谁 *shui2* 'who' and 什么 *shen2me0* 'what' and complicated ones like 什么时候 *shen3me0 shi2hou0* 'what time, when' and 哪儿 *na3er0* 'where.'
- 2 Interrogative adjectives, such as 多少 *duo1shao3* 'how many/much,' 几 *ji3* 'how many,' and 怎么 *zen3me0* 'how,' which can function as modifiers or predicates.
- 3 Interrogative adverbs, such as 怎么样 *zen1me0yang4* 'how' and 怎样 *zen3yang4* 'how' for manner, means, state, or property; 怎么 *zen3me0* 'how' for means, property, or reason; 什么样 *shen2me0yang4* '(in) what manner, how' for state or property; 如何 *ru2he2* 'how' for manner or means; 为什么 *wei4shen2me0* 'why' for reason or purpose; and 多 *duo1* 'how' for questions of degree.
- 4 Interrogative determinative 哪 *na3* 'which' for the creation of complicated interrogative nominal phrases (see Chapter 8).

Sentence-final particles typically used in interrogative sentences include 吗 *ma0* 吧 *ba0*, and 呢 *ne0*. The first two are used in yes-no questions, but each has its own properties in terms of function, illocutionary force, and pragmatic requirement.

When a question with the particle 吧 *ba0*, like in [23a], is used, the speaker assumes something and is asking for confirmation. An auxiliary verb 应该 *ying1gai1* ‘should’ can be added to make the assumption stronger, as in [23b]. If the speaker uses a yes–no question with the particle 吗 *ma0* as in [23c], no such assumption is made.

- [23] a. 你是大三学生吧?
 ni3 shi4 da4san1 xue2sheng1 ba0
 you be college_third_year student BA
 ‘You are a junior, right?’
- b. 你应该是大三学生吧?
 ni3 ying1gai1 shi4 da4san1 xue2sheng1 ba0
 you should be college_third_year student BA
 ‘You should be a junior, right?’
- c. 你是大三学生吗?
 ni3 shi4 da4san1 xue2sheng1 ma0
 you be college_third_year student MA
 ‘Are you a junior?’

The sentence-final particle 吗 *ma0* can be added to an open question to turn it into a closed one. The speaker of [24a] is asking about a place where the listener spent his holiday, and the listener could give a city name like Shanghai as the answer. The speaker of [24b] is asking what the listener wants to eat, and the listener could name a food like noodles. When a particle 吗 *ma0* appears at the final position of [24a], the yes–no question in [25a] is created and the interrogative expressions inside the question will have the reading of universal quantifiers instead of variables. The speaker in [25a] is asking whether the listener went anywhere for the holiday and either a yes or a no is expected as the answer. The same could be said about [25b].

- [24] a. 春节你去哪儿玩了?
 chun1jie2 ni3 qu4 na3er0 wan2 le0
 the_Chinese_New_Year you go where play LE
 ‘Where did you go during the Chinese New Year?’
- b. 你吃什么?
 ni3 chi1 dian3 shen2me0
 you eat some what
 ‘What do you want to eat?’

- [25] a. 春节你去哪儿玩了?
 chun1jie2 ni3 qu4 na3er0 wan2 le0
 the_Chinese_New_Year you go where play LE
 ma0
 MA
 'Did you go anywhere during the Chinese New Year?'
- b. 你吃点什么吗?
 ni3 chi1 dian3 shen2me0 ma0
 you eat some what MA
 'Do you want to eat something?'

The particle 呢 *ne0* is an optional marker for open interrogative sentences. In [26a] and [26b], the interrogatives in group (ii) mean the same as their counterparts in group (i). The only difference is that interrogatives in group (i) sound less blunt and less confrontational. On the other hand, when 呢 *ne0* is added to a nominal phrase, as in group (iii), a variable question is created. Even when there is no interrogative expression in such cases, the sentence will yield a reading as if it were a full interrogative with a variable. [26a(iii)] can be understood as 'where is my dictionary?', while [26b(iii)] can be interpreted as 'how much is your hat?' Note that the actual meaning of such a question depends on the context and each question is naturally ambiguous, with many possible readings.

- [26] a. i. 我的字典在哪儿呢?
 wo3 de0 zi4dian3 zai4 na3er0 ne0
 I DE dictionary PREP where NE
- ii. 我的字典在哪儿?
 wo3 de0 zi4dian3 zai4 na3er0
 I DE dictionary PREP where
- iii. 我的字典呢?
 wo3 de0 zi4dian3 ne0
 I DE dictionary NE
 'Where is my dictionary?'
- b. i. 你的帽子多少钱呢?
 ni3 de0 mao4zi0 duo1shao3 qian2 ne0
 you DE hat how_much money NE
- ii. 你的帽子多少钱?
 ni3 de0 mao4zi0 duo1shao3 qian2
 you DE hat how_much money

iii. 你的帽子呢?

ni3 de0 mao4zi0 ne0
 you DE hat NE
 'How much is your hat?'

The particle 呢 *ne0* can be used in other sentences to produce a similar effect. The variable question in [27a] is a conditional sentence and the variable 几点 *ji3dian3* 'which hour, when' is the temporal adverbial of the consequence clause. If the consequence clause is taken out of [27a] but the 呢 *ne0* is directly attached to the conditional clause to create [27b], the new sentence is still a variable question with an interpretation similar to that of [27a], even though some other variable question readings are also possible.

[27] a. 如果我赶不回来,你们最迟会等到几点呢?

ru2guo3 wo3 gan3 bu4 hui2lai2 ni3men0 zui4chi2
 if I rush NEG back you latest
 hui4 deng3 dao4 ji3 dian3 ne0
 will wait PREP which o'clock NE
 'If I cannot rush back in time, till when would you wait?'

b. 如果我赶不回来呢?

ru2guo3 wo3 gan3 bu4 hui2lai2 ne0
 if I rush NEG back NE
 'What if I cannot rush back in time?'

The particle 呢 *ne0* can also be used in alternative questions, like in [28]. Note that although the answer to an alternative question should be chosen from a closed set that has been shown in the question itself, an alternative question is not the same as a yes-no question. The answer to [28a] is either 喝啤酒 *he1 pi2jiu3* 'drink beer' or 喝红酒 *he1 hong2jiu3* 'drink red wine,' while the answer to the yes-no question in [28c] is either 咱们吃 *zan2men0 chi1* 'we will eat' or 咱们不吃 *zan2men0 bu4 chi1* 'we will not eat.'

[28] a. 你们喝啤酒还是喝红酒呢?

ni3men0 he1 pi2jiu3 hai2shi4 he1 hong2jiu3 ne0
 you drink beer or drink red_wine NE
 'Do you drink beer or do you drink red wine?'

b. 他们今晚走还是明早走呢?

ta1men0 jin1wan3 zou3 hai2shi4 ming2zao3
 they tonight go or tomorrow_morning

zou3 ne0

go NE

'Will they leave tonight or will they leave tomorrow morning?'

- c. 咱们吃火锅吗?

zan2men0 chi1 huo3guo1 ma0

we eat hot_pot MA

'Are we having hot pot?'

14.4.1.3. Structural features

Interrogative sentences in Chinese typically have the same constituent order as their declarative counterparts do. There are, however, two types of interrogative sentences that have special structural and morphological features. One type is the so-called V-not-V alternative question in which the first verbal element in a clause is reduplicated with a negative form. The V part of the V-not-V can be the main verb, as in [29a], the modal auxiliary, as in [29b], or the adjective of an adjectival predicate, as in [29c].

- [29] a. 你同意不同意这种说法?

ni3 tong2yi4 bu4 tong2yi4 zhe4 zhong3 shuo1fa3

you agree NEG agree this CL saying

'Do you agree with this saying or not?'

- b. 你能不能吃辣椒?

ni3 neng2 bu4 neng2 chi1 la4jiao1

you can NEG can eat chili_pepper

'Can you eat chili pepper?'

- c. 干净不干净?

gan1jing4 bu4 gan1jing4

clean NEG clean

'Is it clean or not?'

When the V part is a disyllabic verb or adjective, the first V in the V-not-V can be just the first syllable, as in [30a] and [30b]. When the predicate is in an imperfective aspect, the "not" part of the V-not-V will be 没有 *mei2you3* 'not' or its shortened form 没 *mei2* 'not,' as in [30c].

- [30] a. 他们喜不喜欢游泳?

ta1men0 xi3bu4xi3huan0 you2yong3

they like_not_like swim

'Do they like swimming?'

- b. 你的女朋友漂不漂亮?
 ni3 de0 nü3peng2you2 piao4bu4piao4liang0
 you DE girlfriend pretty-not-pretty
 'Is your girlfriend beautiful?'
- c. 你们去没去过上海?
 ni3men0 qu4mei2qu4 guo0 shang4hai3
 you go_not_go GUO SHANGHAI
 'Have you ever been to Shanghai?'

Note that the answer to a V-not-V alternative question is derived from either the V part or the not-V part. The answer to a V-not-V alternative question is thus similar to that of a yes–no question, as shown in [31a] and [31b].

- [31] a. Q: 他们同意不同意?
 ta1men0 tong2yi4 bu4 tong2yi4
 they agree NEG agree
 'Do they agree or not?'
- A: 不同意。
 bu4 tong2yi4
 NEG agree
 'They don't.'
- b. Q: 他们同意吗?
 ta1men0 tong2yi4 ma0
 they agree MA
 'Do they agree?'
- A: 不同意。
 bu4 tong2yi4
 NEG agree
 'They don't.'

Another type of interrogative sentence with special structural features is the so-called tag question, or AB-not-B question, in which the predicate is repeated in its negative form as a tag, like the 不开车 *bu4 kai1che1* 'not drive the car' in [32a]. The tag part can also be just the negated verb, as in [32b], or simply the negative morpheme, as in [32c]. The negative morpheme in the tag can also be 没有 *mei2you3* or its shortened form 没 *mei2*, depending on the aspect borne by the verb, as shown by [32d] and [32e].

- [32] a. 你今天开车不开车?
 ni3 jin1tian1 kai1che1 bu4 kai1che1
 you today drive NEG drive
 'Will you drive the car today?'
- b. 你今天开车不开?
 ni3 jin1tian1 kai1che1bu4kai1
 you today drive_not_drive
 'Will you drive the car today?'
- c. 你今天开车不?
 ni3 jin1tian1 kai1che1 bu4
 you today drive NEG
 'Will you drive the car today?'
- d. 你今天吃过药没有?
 ni3 jin1tian1 chi2 guo4 yao4 mei2you3
 you today eat GUO medicine NEG
 'You took your medication today, didn't you?'
- e. 你今天吃过药没?
 ni3 jin1tian1 chi2 guo4 yao4 mei2
 you today eat GUO medicine NEG
 'You took your medication today, didn't you?'

Although the clause bearing the main interrogative feature can appear in different shapes if it is the main clause, such a clause typically has either the shape in [33a] or that in [33b] when it is embedded in a direct question. The V-not-V form in [33a] is inside the object clause but it is the whole sentence that should be interpreted as a V-not-V alternative question, namely, the V-not-V form in the embedded clause has a scope over the main clause. Similarly, [33b] should be interpreted as a direct question, even though the interrogative expression 什么 *shen3me0* 'what' is in its usual position inside an object clause.

- [33] a. 你看咱们去不去上班?
 ni3 kan4 za2men0 qu4bu4qu4 shang4ban1
 you see us go_not_go go_to_work
 'Do you think we should go to work?'
- b. 他说妈妈想吃什么?
 ta3 shuo1 ma1ma0 xiang3 chi1 shen2me0
 he say mother want eat what
 'What did he say mother wanted to eat?'

When the clause bearing the main interrogative feature is the main part of an indirect question, it will have either the shape in [34a] or that in [34b]. The V-not-V question form in [34a] is for indirect closed interrogatives, while the variable question form in [34b] is for indirect open interrogatives.

- [34] a. 奶奶问我去没去过天津。
 nai3nai0 wen4 wo3 qu4 mei2 qu4 guo4 tian1jin1
 grandma ask I go NEG go GUO TIANJIN
 ‘Grandmother asked me whether I had been to Tianjin.’
- b. 他们在打听谁会当主角。
 ta1men0 zai4 da3ting1 shui2 hui4 dang1
 they ZAI gather_info who will become
 zhu3jue2
 protagonist
 ‘They were trying to find out who would play the leading role.’

14.4.2. Directive sentences

With a directive sentence, the speaker asks the listener to perform or not to perform an action. The illocutionary force of directive sentences varies, covering commands, requests, suggestions, advice, etc. Directives have distinctive intonational, lexical, and structural features.

14.4.2.1. Intonational features

Directive sentences are marked by a stressed falling intonation. A forceful command or request is obviously louder than a declarative sentence when uttered. Commands and requests in written texts characteristically end with an exclamation mark.

14.4.2.2. Lexical items

Many directive sentences, especially those expressing commands and requests, have a sentence-final particle, which is typically 啊 *a0* or 吧 *ba0*. 啊 *a0* is often found in a command, like in [35a], to attract the listener’s attention and to give more persuasive force. 吧 *ba0* is found mainly in requests, like in [35b], to make the request softer so it sounds like advice or even a plea.

- [35] a. 快跑啊!
 kuai4 pao3 a0
 fast run A
 ‘Run!’

- b. 快走吧!
 kuai4 zou3 ba0
 fast go BA
 'Better hurry up!'

The pronunciation of the particle 啊 *a0* may be influenced by the preceding syllable and the two might merge to produce phonetic variations like 哇 *wa0* or 呀 *ya0*.

14.4.2.3. Structural features

Directive sentences are usually short, as they mainly occur in face-to-face conversation for a “the shorter, the better” communication effect. A few directive sentences take the form of a subject–predicate construction. The subject can be a second-person pronoun, as in [36a], a first-person plural pronoun, as in [36b], or an inclusive pronoun, like the 大家 *da4jia1* ‘all people’ in [36c]. In most cases, however, the subject does not show up, as in the cases of [36d] through [36g], since its referent is evident in the context. Such directive sentences consist of just a verb phrase, mainly with an activity verb, achievement verb, or accomplishment verb as the head. A few directive sentences are made of a single nominal phrase, as in [36h], typically as a request for an object.

- [36] a. 你要用笔记下! [Command]
 ni3 yao4 yong4 bi3 ji4 xia4
 you have_to use pen note down
 'You should write this down with a pen!'
- b. 咱们明天再谈吧! [Request]
 zan2men0 ming2tian1 zai4 tan2 ba0
 we tomorrow then talk BA
 'Let's talk about it tomorrow!'
- c. 大家(所有人)都坐下! [Command]
 da4jia1 suo3you3 ren2 dou1 zuo4 xia4
 everyone everyone all sit down
 'Sit down, everyone!'
- d. 站住! [Command/request]
 zhan4 zhu4
 stand still
 'Stop!'

- e. 别理他! [Command/advice]
 bie2 li3 ta1
 NEG be_heard he
 'Leave him alone!'
- f. 别着急, 慢慢找! [Advice]
 bie2 zhao2ji2 man4man4 zhao3
 not worry slow look_for
 'No need to hurry, take your time!'
- g. 请让我看看! [Request]
 qing3 rang4 wo3 kan4kan0
 please let I look
 'Let me have a look!'
- h. 纱布! [Command]
 sha1bu4
 bandage
 'Bandage!'

A directive sentence can also be made of a 把 *ba3* construction, as in [37].

- [37] a. 把书拿上来。
 ba3 shu1 na2 shang4lai2
 BA book bring up
 'Bring the book up here.'
- b. 把酒喝光。
 ba3 jiu3 he1 guang1
 BA wine drink nothing_left
 'Finish your wine.'
- c. 把窗户开一下。
 ba3 chuang1hu0 kai1 yi1xia4
 BA window open once
 'Open the window.'
- d. 把头抬高一点儿。
 ba3 tou2 tai2 gao1 yi1dian3er0
 BA head raise high a_bit
 'Raise your head a little bit higher.'

When the speaker and the listener both know the identity of the object to be acted upon, the 把 *ba3* 'BA' phrase does not have to be overtly mentioned. [38a] thus can have the same interpretation as [37a] does, while [38b] can have the reading of [37d], among other possibilities.

- [38] a. 拿上来!
 na2 shang4lai2
 bring up
 'Bring it up here!'
- b. 抬高一点儿!
 tai2 gao1 yi1dian3er0
 raise high a_bit
 'Lift it up a little higher!'

When the speaker and the listener both know the action, the verb in the VP in [38b] can be omitted. The directive in [39] can mean the same as [38b] does, even though it can also mean something else, such as standing at a higher place.

- [39] 高一点儿!
 gao1 yi1dian3er0
 high a_bit
 'A little higher!'

The 一点儿 *yi1dian3er0* 'a little bit' in these directive sentences represents a small amount, with the numeral 一 *yi1* 'one' as the only choice. The speaker uses such a directive to indicate that the request is on a small scale only. In some cases, even the 一 *yi1* 'one' can be left out. [40a] thus can be interpreted as [39], while the two directives in [40b] and [40c] mean the same thing.

- [40] a. 高点儿!
 gao1 dian3er0
 high a_bit
 'A little higher!'
- b. 仔细一点儿!
 zi3xi4 yi1dian3er0
 careful a_little
 'Be more careful!'
- c. 仔细点儿!
 zi3xi4 dian3er0
 careful a_little
 'Be more careful!'

Directive sentences may also be used to ask the listener not to do something or to stop doing something. This is mainly achieved by using “别 VP (了),” where 别 *bie2* 'do not' can be replaced by 不要 *bu4yao4* 'should not,' 不必 *bu4bi4* 'no need,' 不用 *bu4yong4* 'no need,' or 甬 *beng2* 'do not,' which is the contracted form of

不用 *bu4yong4*. 别 *bie2* ‘do not’ and 不要 *bu4yao4* ‘should not’ are typically used in commands and requests as a warning against certain actions. 不必 *bu4bi4* ‘no need’ is typically used in advice as a recommendation that certain action is not necessary. 不用 *bu2yong4* ‘no need’ and 甭 *beng2* ‘no need’ are typically used in suggestions as a clear proposal that there is no need to do the action.

- [41] a. 别碰!
 bie2 *peng2*
 do_not touch
 ‘Don’t touch it!’
- b. 别吃光了!
 bie2 *chi1* *guang1* *le0*
 not_do eat nothing_left LE
 ‘Don’t eat up all [of it]!’
- c. 千万别去!
 qian1wan4 *bie2* *qu4*
 absolutely do_not go
 ‘Don’t go! Never ever!’
- d. 你可别这么说!
 ni3 *ke3* *bie2* *zhe4me0* *shuo1*
 you surely do_not so say
 ‘You’d better not say so!’

Notice that “别 VP 了” can convey either a command or a wish. The directive 别吃光了 *bie2 chi1guang1 le0* thus can be a wish, meaning ‘I hope that it has not been eaten up,’ and it can also be a command, meaning ‘don’t eat all of it.’ The verb phrase should be stressed in the first reading, while 别 *bie2* ‘do not’ is stressed in the second reading.

别 *bie2* ‘do not’ is occasionally used alone. In the conversation in [42], Speaker B utters 别 *bie2* ‘do not’ after Speaker A makes a proposal in the form of a suggestion.

- [42] A: 咱们早点走吧。
 zan2men0 *zao3* *dian3* *zou3* *ba0*
 we early a_little go BA
 ‘Let’s leave earlier.’
- B: 别! 我还要等一位顾客呢。
 bie2 *wo3* *hai2yao4* *deng3* *yi1* *wei4* *gu4ke4* *ne0*
 don’t I still wait one CL guest NE
 ‘Don’t do that! I still need to wait for a customer.’

An interesting feature of “别 VP (了)” is that the VP part can be a passive one, such as the 被 *bei4* ‘BEI’ construction in [43].

- [43] 别被车子撞着了!
 bie2 bei4 che1zi0 zhuang4 zhe0 le0
 do_not BEI car hit ZHE LE
 ‘Don’t get hit by a car!’

14.5. Logic relations between clauses

In compound sentences and certain complex sentences, no clause is clearly embedded inside another and all clauses might be simply juxtaposed together without any marking. Such a sentence is potentially ambiguous, with many readings, and a common way to avoid ambiguity is to use coordinators, connective adjuncts, or connective prepositions to indicate the logic relationship between clauses.

14.5.1. Conjunctive and disjunctive relations

In both conjunctive and disjunctive relations, two clauses A and B are syntactically equal and relatively independent. However, conjunction requires that both statements be true or false at the same time, while disjunction does not, since in most cases, only one of the alternatives is true in a disjunctive relation.

The clauses in a conjunctive or disjunctive relation may not share any constituent, but each of them could have some constituent that refers to the same entity. It is quite common for the subject of all these clauses to refer to the same entity, and when this happens, the subject of the second clause and those after it typically do not appear overtly. Such a compound sentence will thus look similar to a clause with coordinated predicates.

14.5.1.1. Conjunctive relation

Four subtypes of conjunctive relation can be distinguished, which are now discussed.

CONJUNCTION OF EQUIVALENT CLAUSES Clauses in such a conjunction represent events or states of logically equal status. They are often marked with the coordinator 并且 *bing4qie3* ‘and,’ and their order is typically reversible. The two compound sentences in [44a] and [44b] thus have the same meaning.

- [44] a. 天天下雨, 并且气温偏低, 所以庄稼大部分失收。
 tian1tian1 xia4yu3 bing4qie3 qi4wen1 pian1 di1
 everyday rain and temperature deviate low

suo3yi3 zhuang1jia0 da4bu4fen0 shi1shou1
 so crops most lose_harvest
 ‘It was raining every day, and the temperature was on the low side.
 Most of the crops were thus lost.’

- b. 气温偏低, 并且天天下雨, 所以庄稼大部分失收。
 qi4wen1 pian1 di1 bing4qie3 tian1tian1 xia4yu3
 temperature deviate low and everyday rain
 suo3yi3 zhuang1jia0 da4bu4fen0 shi1shou1
 so crops most lose_harvest
 ‘The temperature was on the low side, and it was raining every day.
 Most of the crops were thus lost.’

If the two clauses linked by 并且 *bing4qie3* ‘and’ have an identical subject, the subject of the second clause characteristically will not appear, as in [45a]. Sometimes 并且 *bing4qie3* ‘and’ will not appear overtly either, as in [45b].

- [45] a. 工厂一直坚持生产, 并且不断改进工艺。
 gong1chang3 yi1zhi2 jian1chi2 sheng1chan3
 factory all_the_time insist_on produce
 bing4qie3 bu2duan4 gai3jin4 gong1yi4
 and unceasingly improve craft
 ‘The factory has been keeping [up] production, and improving its
 technology.’
- b. 工厂一直坚持生产, 不断改进工艺。
 gong1chang3 yi1zhi2 jian1chi2 sheng1chan3
 factory all_the_time insist_on produce
 bu2duan4 gai3jin4 gong1yi4
 unceasingly improve craft
 ‘The factory has been keeping [up] production, and improving its
 technology.’

The logic relation between clauses in this type of conjunction can also be marked with connective adjunct pairs, which typically have a syntactic role to play in the clause and contribute to the overall proposition of the clause. Connective adjunct pairs used in such conjunctions are mainly of three kinds:

- 1 既...又... *ji4...you4...* ‘not only... but also...’
 也...也... *ye4...ye4...* ‘also... also... both... and...’
 又...又... *you4...you4...* ‘again... again... both... and...’

- 2 一面...一面...*yi1mian4...yi1mian4...* 'at the same time...at the same time...'
 一边...一边...*yi1bian1...yi1bian1...* 'at the same time...at the same time...'
- 3 一方面...(另)一方面...*yi1fang1mian4...(ling4) yi1fang1mian4...* 'on the one hand...on the other hand...'

Connective adjuncts in group [1] and group [2] are adverbs, typically appearing between the subject and the predicate. Those in group [1] can appear in clauses with verbal or adjectival predicates, while those in group [2] appear in clauses with a verbal predicate only. Clauses marked by connective adjuncts in group [1] characteristically describe a state like that in [46a], a property like that in [46b], or an ability like that in [46c], while those marked by connective adjuncts in group [2] usually describe an ongoing action like that in [46d].

- [46] a. 他既没有工作, 又没有朋友帮忙。
 ta1 ji4 mei2you3 gong1zuo4 you4 mei2you3
 he also NEG job also NEG
 peng2you0 bang1mang2
 friend aid
 'He has neither a job nor a friend to help him.'
- b. 他的工作既辛苦, 又危险。
 ta1 de0 gong1zuo4 ji4 xin1ku3 you4 wei1xian3
 he DE job also hard also dangerous
 'His job is hard and dangerous.'
- c. 小提琴也会拉, 大提琴也会拉, 她还真是个天才。
 xiao3ti2qin2 ye3 hui4 la1 da4ti2qin2 ye3 hui4
 violin also can play cello also can
 la1 ta1 hai2 zhen1 shi4 ge4 tian1cai2
 play she still really be CL genius
 'She can play violin, she can also play cello. She is really a genius.'
- d. 他一面说话, 一面打字。
 ta1 yi1mian4 shuo1hua4 yi1mian4 da3zi4
 he on_one_hand talk on_one_hand type
 'He was talking while typing.'

Clauses marked by those in group [3] typically describe two sides of the same story, as in [47a] and [47b].

- [47] a. 一方面我们会为香港带来商机, 另一方面香港也为我们提供资金。
 y1fang1mian4 wo3men0 hui4 wei4 xiang1gang3
 on_one_hand we will PREP HONG_KONG
 dai4lai2 shang1ji1 ling4yi1fang1mian4
 bring business_opportunity on_the_other_hand
 xiang1gang3 ye3 wei4 wo3men0 ti2gong4 zi1jin1
 HONG_KONG also PREP we provide capital
 ‘On the one hand, we provide Hong Kong with business opportunity,
 and on the other hand, Hong Kong provides us with capital.’
- b. 北京一方面干旱缺水, 另一方面每逢大雨则又多处积水。
 bei3jing1 yi1fang1mian4 gan1han4 que1 shui3
 Beijing on_one_side dry lack water
 ling4yi1fang1mian4 mei3feng2 da4yu3 ze2 you4
 on_the_other_hand whenever heavy_rain then also
 duo1chu4 ji1shui3
 many_places stagnant_water
 ‘On the one hand, Beijing suffers from water shortage and drought,
 but on the other hand, many places will be flooded after heavy rain.’

Note that the pair 一方面... 一方面... *yi1fang1mian4... yi1fang1mian4*... ‘on the one hand... on the other hand’ differs in many aspects from the group [2] pairs 一面... 一面... *yi1mian4... yi1mian4*... ‘at the same time... at the same time...’ and 一边... 一边... *yi1bian1... yi1bian1*... ‘at the same time... at the same time...’, even though all three are metaphorically derived from the similar locative expressions 面 *mian4* ‘side,’ 边 *bian1* ‘side,’ and 方面 *fang1mian4* ‘side.’ The group [2] pairs are typically used as manner adverbials to describe doing two things at the same time. The pair 一方面... 一方面... *yi1fang1mian4... yi1fang1mian4*... ‘on the one hand... on the other hand...’ is typically used as a clause-oriented adverbial of evaluation.

CONJUNCTION OF CLAUSES WITH A TEMPORAL SEQUENCE Connective pairs like 一...就... *yi1... jiu4*... ‘as soon as... then...’ and connective adjuncts like 接着 *jie1zhe0* ‘then,’ 然后 *ran2hou4* ‘then,’ and 后来 *hou4lai2* ‘then’ suggest a sequential relation between the events described by the clauses in a compound sentence, like those in [48].

- [48] a. “妻子”原是短语, 后来变成了词。
 qi1zi3 yuan2 shi4 duan3yu3 hou4lai2 bian4cheng2
 wife use_to be phrase later change_into

le0 ci2

LE word

“妻子” used to be a phrase but became a word later on.’

- b. 食物经过消化, 然后变成营养被吸收。

shi2wu4 jing1guo4 xiao1hua4 ran2hou4 bian4cheng2

food pass digest and_then change_to

ying2yang3 bei4 xi1shou1

nutrition BEI draw

‘After food is digested, it becomes nutrients and is then absorbed.’

- c. 那屋里发出一声巨响, 接着跑出一个人来。

na4 wu1 li0 fa1chu1 yi1 sheng1 ju4xiang3

that house in occur one CL loud_sound

jie1zhe0 pao3 chu1 yi1 ge4 ren2 lai2

then run out one CL person come

‘There was a big bang in the house, and then a man dashed out.’

- d. 野鸭一到秋天, 就南移越冬。

ye3ya1 yi1 dao4 qiu1tian1 jiu4 nan2 yi2

mallard once arrive fall thus south move

yue4dong1

survive_the_winter

‘Once autumn comes, wild ducks migrate to the south.’

When a speaker uses the pair 一...就...*yi1...jiu4...* ‘as soon as... then...’ to indicate the logic relation between two clauses, he indicates that the event in one clause takes place immediately after that in another clause. When the speaker uses connective adjuncts like 接着 *jie1zhe0* ‘then,’ 然后 *ran2hou4* ‘then,’ or 后来 *hou4lai2* ‘then,’ no immediacy is implied and there could be an interval between the events described in the two clauses.

CONJUNCTION OF CLAUSES WITH A PROGRESSIVE SEQUENCE Clauses marked with connective adjunct pairs like 不但...而且...*bu4dan4...er2qie3...* ‘not only...but also...’ and 尚且...何况...*shang4qie3...he2kuang4...* ‘even...let alone...,’ or connective adjuncts like 况且...*kuang4qie3...* ‘and moreover...’ are of unequal status but the second clause typically describes an event or status that is more important to the speaker.

When the speaker in [49a] uses 不但...而且...*bu2dan4...er2qie3...* ‘not only...but also...,’ the second clause provides new information on the basis of the first. The speaker in [49b] is presenting an argument and the 尚且...何况...*shang4qie3...he2kuang4...* ‘even...let alone...’ indicates that he thinks the

second clause represents the main issue. Similarly, the speaker in [49c] considers the fact in the second clause more important.

- [49] a. 不但我的家人会为我高兴,而且所有中国人都会为我高兴。
 bu4dan4 wo3 de0 jia1ren2 hui4 wei4 wo3
 not_only I DE family will PREP I
 gao1xing4 er2qie3 suo3you3 zhong1guo2ren2 dou1
 happy and all Chinese all
 hui4 wei4 wo3 gao1xing4
 will PREP I happy
 ‘Not only will my family be happy for me, but all the Chinese people will also be happy.’
- b. 蚂蚁尚且贪生,更何况人呢。
 lou2yi3 shang4qie3 tan1sheng1 geng4 he2kuang4 ren2
 ants even indulge_life let_alone human
 ne0
 NE
 ‘Even ants want to stay alive, let alone humans.’
- c. 这种手机信号好,况且也不贵。
 zhe4 zhong3 shou3ji1 xin4hao4 hao3 kuang4qie3
 this CL cell_phone signal good besides
 ye3 bu2 gui4
 also NEG expensive
 ‘This type of cellphone has reliable reception, and moreover, it is not expensive.’

CONJUNCTION OF CLAUSES OF CORRELATIVE COMPARISON A special type of compound sentence can be used to indicate comparison and these sentences are marked with connective adjunct pairs like 越...越...*yue4...yue4...* ‘the more...the more...’ or 愈...愈...*yu4...yu4...* ‘the more...the more...’. The former is found in both oral communication and written texts, whereas the latter occurs mainly in written texts. Both 越 *yue4* ‘the more’ and 愈 *yu4* ‘the more’ are adverbials in the clause in which they appear, but the former sometimes can be used to compare three or more elements, as in [50b], while the latter is predominantly used for the comparison of two elements.

- [50] a. 我们越着急,他越开心。
 wo3men0 yue4 zhao2ji2 ta1 yue4 kai1xin1
 we more worry he more happy
 ‘The more anxious we are, the more pleased he will be.’

- b. 你准备得越充分, 开始得越早, 成功的机会就越大。
 ni3 zhun3bei4 de0 yue4 chong1fen4 kai1shi3 de0
 you prepare DE more full start DE
 yue4 zao3 cheng2gong1 de0 ji1hui4 jiu4 yue4 da4
 more early succeed DE chance thus more big
 ‘The better you are prepared and the earlier you start, the better
 chance you will have to succeed.’
- c. 水塔愈高, 水的压力愈大。
 shui3ta3 yu4 gao1 shui3 de0 ya1li4 yu4
 water_tower more tall water DE pressure more
 da4
 big
 ‘The higher a water tower is, the greater the water pressure it produces.’

14.5.1.2. Disjunctive relation

The clauses in a disjunctive compound sentence have equal syntactic status but not the same semantic status, because in most cases only one of the alternatives in a disjunctive relation can be true.

DISJUNCTION OF EQUIVALENT CLAUSES When a speaker uses this type of disjunctive, he believes that all clauses are logically equal but only one of them can be true, even though he does not make it clear which one should be true.

A common coordinator for such disjunctives is 或者 *huo4zhe3* ‘or.’ It can link two clauses together, as in [51a], but it can also link three or more clauses, as in [51b]. Like their counterparts in conjunctive relation, clauses in disjunctive relation may have some constituents in common and such constituents may not always show up overtly. When the subject of these clauses refers to the same entity, the subjects of the second and following clauses, if any, are typically not overt. This type of disjunctive relation can also be marked with connective adjunct pairs like 要么...要么... *yao4me0...yao4me0*... ‘either...or...’, as in [51c], 不是...就是... *bu2shi4...jiu4shi4*... ‘if not be...then will be...’, as in [51d] or 是...还是... *shi4...hai2shi4*... ‘it is...or it is...’, as in [51e].

- [51] a. 我们可以去苏州见你, 或者你可以来上海看我们。
 wo3men0 ke3yi3 qu4 su1zhou1 jian4 ni3 huo4zhe3
 we can go SUZHOU see you or
 ni3 ke3yi3 lai2 shang4hai3 kan4 wo3men0
 you can come SHANGHAI see we
 ‘We could go to Suzhou to visit you, or you could come to visit us in
 Shanghai.’

- b. 对不利于我们的观点, 或者掩埋之, 或者批判之, 或者干脆无视之。
 dui4 bu2 li4yu2 wo3men0 de0 guan1dian3
 PREP NEG favor we DE viewpoint
 huo4zhe3 yan3mai2 zhi1 huo4zhe3 pi1pan4 zhi1
 or bury it or critique it
 huo4zhe3 gan1cui4 wu2shi4 zhi1
 or simply ignore it
 'As to those views not favoring us, we may bury them, or criticize them, or simply ignore them.'
- c. 要么迫降, 要么弃机跳伞!
 yao4me0 po4jiang4 yao4me0 qi4 ji1 tiao4san3
 or forced_landing or idle plane parachute
 'Forced landing, or parachuting!'
- d. 我不是在咖啡馆, 就是在去咖啡馆的路上。
 wo3 bu4shi4 zai4 ka1fei1guan3 jiu4shi4 zai4 qu4
 I NEG be_at coffee_shop or be_at go
 ka1fei1guan3 de0 lu4shang0
 coffee_shop DE en_route
 'I might be in the coffee shop or on my way to the coffee shop.'
- e. 是爸爸更了解儿子, 还是妈妈更了解儿子?
 shi4 ba4ba0 geng4 liao3jie3 er2zi0 hai2shi4
 be father more understand son or
 ma1ma0 geng4 liao3jie3 er2zi0
 mother more understand son
 'Is it the father or the mother who knows more about their son?'

Note that 是... 还是... *shi4... hai2shi4...* 'it is... or it is...' typically appears only in interrogative sentences, either direct or indirect.

DISJUNCTION OF NON-EQUIVALENT CLAUSES There are typically two clauses in such a disjunctive compound sentence and the two clauses do not have the same status in terms of logic relation. There are two possibilities:

- 1 The two clauses represent two statements contradictory to each other and the speaker thinks that either one is true but the other is not or one is preferred over the other. Such a relation is typically marked with connective adjunct pairs like 与其...(还)不如... *yu3qi2...* (*hai2*) *bu4ru2...* 'rather than... it is better...' or 与其... 宁可... *yu3qi2...* *ning4ke3...* 'rather than... it is better...'

The former is found in both written and oral genres, while the latter is mainly used in written contexts.

- [52] a. 你与其为失败找借口, 不如努力为成功找办法。
 ni3 yu3qi2 wei4 shi1bai4 zhao3 jie4kou3 bu4ru2
 you rather_than PREP fail seek excuse rather
 nu3li4 wei4 cheng2gong1 zhao3 ban4fa3
 work_hard PREP success seek way
 ‘Rather than to look for excuses, it would be better for you to find a way to success.’
- b. 你与其这么写还不如不写。
 ni3 yu3qi2 zhe4me0 xie3 hai2bu4ru2 bu4 xie3
 you rather_than so write rather NEG write
 ‘Rather than for you to write in this way, it is better not to write anything.’
- c. 与其他去参加这次比赛, 不如我去参加。
 yu3qi2 ta1 qu4 can1jia1 zhe4ci4 bi3sai4
 rather_than he go participate this_time game
 bu4ru2 wo3 qu4 can1jia1
 rather I go participate
 ‘Rather than for him to attend the contest, it would be better for me to attend it.’
- d. 与其跪着生, 宁可站着死。
 yu3qi2 gui4 zhe0 sheng1 ning4ke3 zhan4 zhe0
 rather_than kneel ZHE live rather stand ZHE
 si3
 die
 ‘Better [to] die standing than live kneeling.’

Of the two pairs of connective adjuncts, 与其...(还)不如...*yu3qi2... (hai2) bu4ru2...* ‘rather than... it is better...’ is typically used in mild persuasion, while 与其... 宁可...*yu3qi2... ning4ke3...* ‘rather than... it is better...’ is often used in protest or as a strong statement of one’s preference.

- 2 The clauses in the disjunctive compound sentence represent two statements of which only one is true, and the speaker is making a strong claim about which one is true. The connective adjunct pairs that mark these two clauses are 不是... 而是...*bu4shi4... er2shi4...* ‘it is not... it is...’, as in [53a] and [53b], or 不

但(不/没有)...反而...*bu4dan4 (bu4/mei2you3)...fan3er2...* ‘not only (not)... but on the contrary...’, as in [53c].

- [53] a. 女主角不是演不好,而是不想演。
 nü3zhu3 bu4shi4 yan3 bu4 hao3
 female_lead NEG act NEG good
 er2shi4 bu4 xiang3 yan3
 rather NEG want act
 ‘It is not the case that the leading actress cannot perform, but it is that she doesn’t want to perform.’
- b. 不是我车速快,而是你闯红灯。
 bu4shi4 wo3 che1su4 kuai4 er2shi4 ni3
 NEG I vehicle_speed fast rather you
 chuang3hong2deng1
 run_a_red_light
 ‘It is not me that drove too fast, but it is you that ran the red light.’
- c. 骚乱不但没有停止,反而不断升级。
 sao1luan4 bu4dan4 mei2you3 ting2zhi3 fan3er2
 riot not_only NEG stop instead
 bu4duan4 sheng1ji2
 unceasingly escalate
 ‘The riot didn’t stop, but on the contrary, it escalated.’

Note that when the speaker uses the connective adjunct pair 不但(不/没有)...反而...*bu2dan4 (bu4/mei2you3)...fan3er2...* ‘not only (not)... but on the contrary...’ to mark the two clauses in a disjunctive relation, he is making a very clear statement that although the clause marked 不但不 *bu2dan4* ‘not only not...’ is supposed to be true, the clause marked with 反而 *fan3er2* ‘but on the contrary...’ is actually true.

14.6. Concessive complex sentences

When a speaker uses a concessive complex sentence, he characteristically presents two statements, one as the main clause and the other as the concessive adjunct. The clauses in such a sentence are typically marked with connective adjunct pairs like the 虽然...但是...*sui1ran2...dan4shi4...* ‘although...but...’ in [54a] and the 即使...也...*ji2shi3...ye3...* ‘even though...still...’ in [54b] and [54c]. Of these pairs 虽然 *sui1ran2* ‘although’ or 即使 *ji2shi3* ‘even though’ marks the

adjunct clause, while 但是 *dan4shi4* ‘but’ or 也 *ye3* ‘still’ marks the main clause. Although the truth of the adjunct clause seems to indicate that the main clause will be false, it actually does not detract from the truth of the main clause.

If the first clause in [54a] 房租这么低 *fang2zu1 zhe4me0 di1* ‘the rent is so low’ is true, it indicates that everyone should be able to afford it. Since [54a] is marked with the connective pair 虽然...但是... *sui1ran2... dan4shi4...* ‘although...but...’, it has a specific reading that there are still people who cannot afford the rent in spite of its all-time low. The sentences in [54b] and [54c] have the same type of interpretation.

- [54] a. 虽然房租这么低, 但是也有人交不起。
sui1ran2 fang2zu1 zhe4me0 di1 dan4shi4 ye3 you3
 although rent so low but also have
ren2 jiao1bu4qi3
 people cannot_afford
 ‘Although the rent is so low, some people still cannot afford it.’
- b. 即使房租这么低, 也有人交不起。
ji2shi3 fang2zu1 zhe4me0 di1 ye3 you3
 even_though rent so low also have
ren2 jiao1bu4qi3
 people cannot_afford
 ‘Even though the rent is so low, some people cannot afford it.’
- c. 即使房租再低些, 也还是有人交不起。
ji2shi3 fang2zu1 zai4 di1 xie1 ye3 hai2shi4
 even_though rent more low some also still
you3 ren2 jiao1bu4qi3
 have people cannot_afford
 ‘Even if the rent went lower, there are still people who could not afford it.’

Other connective adjuncts marking the concessive clause include 尽管 *jin3guan3* ‘though,’ 固然 *gu4ran2* ‘though,’ and 纵然 *zong4ran2* ‘though,’ and connective adjuncts marking the main clause include 却 *que4* ‘but,’ 可是 *ke3shi4* ‘but,’ 不过 *bu4guo4* ‘but,’ 然而 *ran2er2* ‘but,’ and 只是 *zhi3shi4* ‘but.’ Note that 然而 *ran2er2* and 只是 *zhi3shi4* typically mark the main clause alone without any marker on the concessive adjunct clause. The difference between [55a] and [55b] thus does not affect the concessive reading.

- [55] a. 这幅画固然不错,但是我没有钱买。
 zhe4 fu2 hua4 gu4ran2 bu4cuo4 dan4shi4 wo3
 this CL painting although good but I
 mei2you3 qian2 mai3
 NEG money buy
 ‘The painting is good, but I don’t have money to buy it.’
- b. 这幅画的确不错,只是太贵了。
 zhe4 fu2 hua4 di2que4 bu4cuo4 zhi3shi4 tai4
 this CL painting indeed good only too
 gui4 le0
 expensive LE
 ‘The painting is pretty good, only the price is too high.’

14.7. Conditional complex sentences

A conditional complex sentence predominantly consists of two clauses, a conditional adjunct clause that expresses a condition, real or imagined, and a main clause that explains the consequence of the condition. Conditional complex sentences are typically marked with connective adjunct pairs to indicate the logic relation between the two clauses, and they can be categorized into four subtypes according to their logical relation:

1 Sufficient condition

Connective adjunct pairs like 只要...就... zhi3yao4... jiu4... ‘as long as... then...’ and 一旦...就... yi1dan4... jiu4... ‘as soon as... then...’ are common ones to mark sentences of sufficient condition, in which if the conditional clause is true, the main clause will also be true.

2 Necessary condition

Connective adjunct pairs like 只有...才... zhi2you3... cai2... ‘only if... then...’ and 除非...才... chu2fei1... cai2... ‘unless... then...’ are commonly used to mark necessary condition sentences in which the main clause will not be true unless the conditional clause is true.

3 Hypothetical condition

Connective adjunct pairs like 如果/假使/假如...就... ru2guo3/jia2shi3/jia3ru2... jiu4... ‘if... then...’, 要是...就... yao4shi4... jiu4... ‘if... then...’, and 要不是...早就... yao4bu2shi4... zao3jiu4... ‘if not that... then...’ are markers for hypothetical conditions, in which the conditional clause expresses an imaginary situation while the main clause spells out

the consequence, and it is not possible for the conditional to be true and for the main clause to be false.

4 Exhaustive condition

Connective adjunct pairs like 无论/任凭/不管...都... *wu2lun4/ren4ping2/bu4guan3...dou1...* ‘no matter...all...’ and 无论/任凭/不管...也... *wu2lun4/ren4ping2/bu4guan3...ye3...* ‘no matter...also...’ are markers for exhaustive conditionals, in which the main clause will be true regardless of which option of the conditional is realized.

The sufficient condition in [56a] means that if the condition “you join us” is satisfied, the speakers will definitely start the project. It is also implied that among all the conditions, “you join us” is the easiest to satisfy. The necessary condition in [56b] means that only if “you join us” is satisfied will the speakers start the project, and it is also implied that among all the conditions, it is the hardest to satisfy. The sentence in [56c] has a hypothetical condition “you join us,” which the speakers hope will be realized, and what is being conveyed is that a project will be started if the condition is satisfied. The exhaustive condition in [56d] makes it clear that the project will start, regardless of whether the condition is satisfied or not.

- [56] a. 只要你参加,我们就启动这个计划。
zhi3yao4 ni3 can1jia1 wo3men0 jiu4 qi3dong4
as_long_as you join we thus switch_on
zhe4 ge0 ji4hua4
this CL plan
 ‘As long as you join us, we will start this project.’
- b. 只有你参加,我们才启动这个计划。
zhi3you3 ni3 can1jia1 wo3men0 cai2 qi3dong4
only_if you join we just switch_on
zhe4 ge0 ji4hua4
this CL plan
 ‘We will start the project only if you join us.’
- c. 如果你参加,我们就启动这个计划。
ru2guo3 ni3 can1jia1 wo3men0 jiu4 qi3dong4 zhe4
if you join we thus switch_on this
ge0 ji4hua4
CL plan
 ‘If you join us, we will start the project.’

- d. 无论你参不参加, 我们都要启动这个计划。
 wu2lun4 ni3 can1 bu4 can1jia1 wo3men0 dou1
 no_matter you join NEG join we all
 yao4 qi3dong4 zhe0 ge4 ji4hua4
 will switch_on this CL plan
 ‘Whether you join us or not, we will start this program.’

A conditional sentence typically does not distinguish what is being planned from what has actually happened. An exception is those marked with 要不是... *yao4bu2shi4*... ‘if not...’ in which the conditional clause describes a past event and the main clause presents a state or event that is counterfactual. The 律师鼓励 *lu4shi1 gu3li4* ‘being pushed by the lawyer’ in [57] is a past event, while 我真不想打这个官司 *wo3 zhen1 bu4xiang3 da3 zhe4ge4 guan1si1* ‘I did not want to go to the court’ describes something contrary to the fact. What the sentence conveys is that the speaker actually went to the court even though he had had some reservations about doing so.

- [57] 要不是律师鼓励, 我真不想打这个官司。
 yao4bu2shi4 lu4shi1 gu3li4 wo3 zhen1 bu4 xiang3
 if_not lawyer urge I really Neg want
 da3 zhe4 ge0 guan1si0
 do this CL lawsuit
 ‘If I had not been pushed by the lawyer, I would not have gone to the court.’

14.8. Causative and purposive complex sentences

Causatives and purposives are both complex sentences consisting of an adjunct clause and a main clause. The two clauses typically form a temporal sequence, with one describing an event or state happening earlier than that in the other. The main difference between these two types of sentences is that purposives involve some intentional behavior while causatives do not necessarily involve such an intention.

Causatives are marked with connective adjunct pairs, such as 因为... 所以... *yin1wei4... suo2yi3*... ‘because... therefore...’, as in [58a], 之所以... 是因为... *zhi1suo3yi3... shi4 yin1wei4*... ‘with such a result... it is because...’, as in [58b], or 既然... 于是/则/那就/那么/可见... *ji4ran2... yu2shi4/ze2/na4jiu4/na4me0/ke3jian4*... ‘given that... therefore...’, as in [58c]. A prominent feature of causatives is that the sentence can be marked with either a connective adjunct pair or half of the pair, as shown in [58d] and [58e].

- [58] a. 因为忙,所以我一直没有给他回信。
 yin1wei4 mang2 suo3yi3 wo3 yi1zhi2 mei2you3
 because busy so I all_the_time NEG
 gei3 ta1 hui2xin4
 PREP he reply
 ‘Because I have been busy, I have not given him a reply yet.’
- b. 比赛之所以输掉,是因为准备不充分。
 bi3sai4 zhi1suo3yi3 shu1diao4 shi4 yin1wei4
 game the_reason_why lose be because
 zhun3bei4 bu4 chong1fen4
 preparation NEG adequate
 ‘They lost the game because they did not prepare for it well.’
- c. 既然他还能骑马,可见他的病并不严重。
 ji4ran2 ta1 hai2 neng2 qi2 ma3 ke3jian4 ta1
 since he still can ride horse therefore he
 de0 bing4 bing4bu4 yan2zhong4
 DE ill not_at_all serious
 ‘Since he could still ride a horse, he should not be seriously ill.’
- d. 他们因志趣相投,很快就成了朋友。
 ta1men0 yin1 zhi4qu4xiang1tou2 hen3kuai4 jiu4
 they because have_common_interests soon thus
 cheng2 le0 peng2you3
 become LE friend
 ‘They soon became friends because of their common interests.’
- e. 鹿对灰色的识别力最强,所以能迅速逃避大灰狼的袭击。
 lu4 dui4 hui1se4 de0 shi2bie2li4 zui4 qiang2
 deer PREP gray DE recognition most strong
 suo3yi3 neng2 xun4su4 tao2bi4 da4 hui1 lang2 de0
 hence can rapid shirk big gray wolf DE
 xi2ji1
 surprise_attack
 ‘Because deer are sensitive to gray, they can quickly escape from gray wolves.’

The causative relation marked with 既然...可见...*ji4ran2...ke3jian4...* ‘since...therefore...’ is based on an indirect inference, while the causative relation marked with 因为...所以...*yin1wei4...suo2yi3...* ‘because...therefore...’ is based on a direct cause-effect correlation. The inference relation of the

former is sensitive to the temporal sequence of events, as well as to the order of presentation. The sentence in [59a] first presents “given the fact that the ground is wet” and then presents the inferred conclusion “it must have rained,” and such an order should normally not be reversed. If the speaker wants to present the story in a reversed order, a possible choice would be [59b], in which a hedge phrase 看来 *kan4lai2* ‘it looks like’ is used.

- [59] a. 既然地上是湿的, 可见昨晚肯定下过雨。
ji4ran2 di4shang4 shi4 shi1 de0 ke3jian4 zuo2wan3
 since ground be wet DE therefore last_night
ken3ding4 xia4 guo4 yu3
 must fall GUO rain
 ‘Since the ground is wet, it must have rained last night.’
- b. 看来昨晚下过雨了, 地上都湿了。
kan4lai2 zuo2wan3 xia4 guo4 yu3 le4 di4shang4
 looks_like last_night fall GUO rain LE ground
dou1 shi1 le0
 all wet LE
 ‘It might have rained last night, since the ground is wet.’

In comparison, the direct cause-effect relation marked with 因为...所以... *yin1wei4... suo2yi3...* ‘because... therefore...’ is typically not affected by the order of presentation. Both [60a] and [60b] are thus acceptable and have the same interpretation.

- [60] a. 因为昨晚下过雨, 地上是湿的。
yin1wei4 zuo2wan3 xia4 guo4 yu3 di4shang4 shi4
 because last_night fall GUO rain ground be
shi1 de0
 wet DE
 ‘Because it rained last night, the ground is wet.’
- b. 地上是湿的, 因为昨晚下过雨。
di4shang4 shi4 shi1 de0 yin1wei4 zuo2wan3 xia4
 ground be wet DE because last_night fall
guo4 yu3
 GUO rain
 ‘The ground is wet, because it rained last night.’

既然... *ji4ran2...* ‘given the fact that...’ can pair with the adverbs 也 *ye3* ‘as well,’ 就 *jiu4* ‘then,’ or 还 *hai2* ‘still’ to mark a causative relation. When a speaker uses 既然...也(就)... *ji4ran2... ye3(jiu4)...* ‘given the fact that... it’d be better

also ...' in [61a], he conveys two ideas with the main clause. On the one hand, he says that the listener should not pursue the case anymore, and on the other hand, he hints that there is an additional issue that the listener should also take care of. The speaker in [61b] uses 既然...还...*ji4ran2... hai2...* 'given that... still...' to indicate two things as well. On the one hand, he says that the listener should not take the examination, and on the other hand, he tells the listener that this should be given up a long time ago.

- [61] a. 既然已经和解, 也就不要再追究了。
ji4ran2 yi3jing1 he2jie3 ye3 jiu4 bu2yao4 zai4
 since already settle also thus do_not again
zhui1jiu1 le0
 find_out LE
 'Since it's already settled, just let it go.'
- b. 你既然把握不大, 还去考什么?
ni3 ji4ran2 ba3wo4 bu4 da4 hai2 qu4 kao3
 you since certainty NEG big yet go exam
shen2me0
 what
 'Since you have no confidence [in the result], why do you bother to take the exam?'

Purposives are typically marked with a preposition, such as the 为了... *wei4le0...* 'in order to achieve...' in [62a] and the 以免... *yi3mian3...* 'in order to avoid...' in [62b]. 以免... *yi3mian3...* 'in order to avoid...' has some variations in spoken genres, such as 免得... *mian3de0...* 'in order to avoid...' and 省得... *sheng3de0...* 'in order to avoid...'. Given their usage in different genres, it is appropriate to use 以免... *yi3mian3...* 'in order to avoid...' in [62b], which is a police warning, and it is also fine to use 省得... *sheng3de0...* 'in order to avoid...' in [62c], which is a casual exchange between close friends. However, it is not proper to switch the two prepositions, since that would constitute an inappropriate mixture of styles.

- [62] a. 为了不增加家里的负担, 她辍学了。
wei4le0 bu4 zeng1jia1 jia1li3 de0 fu4dan1 ta1
 PREP NEG add family DE load she
chuo4xue2 le0
 drop_out LE
 'In order to ease the burden on her family, she dropped out of school.'

- b. 严禁酒后驾车, 以免酿成交通事故。

yan2jin4 jiu3 hou4 jia4che1 yi3mian3
strictly_prohibit wine after drive_a_vehicle lest

niang4cheng2 jiao1tong1 shi4gu4
lead_to traffic accident

'To stay away from traffic accidents, don't drink and drive.'

- c. 你带本书在车上看吧, 省得闷得慌。

ni3 dai4 ben3 shu1 zai4 che1 shang4 kan4 ba0
you take CL book PREP car on see BA

mian3de0 men4de0huang1

so_as_not_to bored

'Take a book with you, so you won't feel bored on the train.'

14.9. Strategies of clause linking

The main function of coordinators, connective adjuncts, and connective prepositions is to indicate the logic relation between clauses in compound sentences and certain types of complex sentences. However, when such logic relation is clearly understood, these connective elements may not be obligatory and the interpretation of the sentence will depend on the context.

14.9.1. Connective words

In addition to coordinators, connective adjuncts, and connective prepositions, certain adverbs also have the function of indicating the logic relation between clauses in compound sentences and certain complex sentences, such as 也 *ye3* 'as well,' 又 *you4* 'again,' and 都 *dou1* 'all.'

A few other words or phrases are sometimes used to indicate the logic relation between these clauses. A typical example is 的话 *de0hua4* 'if,' which can be used as part of a complex nominal phrase like 你说的话 *ni3 shuo1 de0 hua4* 'the words you said,' but can also be placed immediately after a clause to indicate a hypothetical condition, as in [63a]. Interrogative pronouns like 谁 *shui2* 'who,' 什么 *shen2me0* 'what,' 怎么 *zen3me0* 'how,' and 哪儿 *na3er0* 'where' can help to establish the logic relation between clauses, as in [63b]. Even determinatives like the 那 *na4* 'in that case, then' in [63c] can be used as connectives to indicate a possible cause-effect relation.

- [63] a. 你不去的话, 我也不去。

ni3 bu4 qu4 de0 hua4 wo3 ye3 bu4 qu4
you NEG go DE if I also NEG go

'If you don't go there, I won't either.'

- b. 谁先做完, 谁先走。
 shui2 xian1 zuo4 wan2 shui2 xian1 zou3
 who early do finish who early go
 'Whoever finishes earlier leaves earlier.'
- c. 你听不懂, 那你就别在这儿碍事。
 ni3 ting1 bu4 dong3 na4 ni3 jiu4 bie2
 you listen NEG understand that you thus do_not
 zai4 zhe4er0 ai4shi4
 PREP here matter
 'If you don't understand it, then just stay away.'

14.9.1.1. Position of connective words

Coordinators and connective prepositions predominantly appear at the beginning of the clause they mark. Some connective adjuncts are adverbs and some of them are modal auxiliaries. As such, connective adjuncts can appear at the beginning of a clause, and some of them can appear between the subject and the predicate.

There are cases where a coordinator or a connective preposition apparently appears after the subject, as shown in [64], [65], and [66], but they characteristically have a different interpretation. The coordinator 不但 *bu2dan4* 'not only' in [64a] appears at the beginning of the first clause but appears between the subject and predicate in the first clause of [64b]. The difference represents the fact that the subject of the second clause in [64b] refers to the same person as the subject of the first clause does, while the subject of the two clauses in [64a] refers to different persons.

- [64] a. 不但你要去, 而且我也要去。
 bu4dan4 ni3 yao4 qu4 wo3 ye3 yao4 qu4
 not_only you will go I also will go
 'Not only you have to go there, I also have to.'
- b. 你不但要去, 而且要马上去。
 ni3 bu4dan4 yao4 qu4 er2qie3 yao4 ma3shang4 qu4
 you not_only will go and will at_once go
 'Not only you have to go there, but you also have to go immediately.'

14.9.1.2. Connective words with multiple functions

Some connective words are polysemous and can be used to represent different logical relations. The 就是 *jiu4shi4* in [65a] marks a concessive relation and means 'even if.' The same word indicates a contrastive relation in [65b] and means 'except for.' It marks a disjunctive relation in [65c] and should be understood as 'or.'

- [65] a. 就是天塌下来,他也不怕。
 jiu4shi4 tian1 ta1 xia4lai2 ta1 ye3 bu4 pa4
 even_if sky fall down he also NEG fear
 'Even if the sky is falling, he will not be scared.'
- b. 他什么都好,就是脾气坏了点。
 ta1 shen2me0 dou1 hao3 jiu4shi4 pi2qi4 huai4
 he what all good except_for temper bad
 le0 dian3
 LE a_little
 'Everything about him is fine except for his temper.'
- c. 到了北京,不是参观故宫,就是游览长城。
 dao4 le0 bei3jing1 bu4shi4 can1guan1 gu4gong1
 arrive LE Beijing NEG tour palace
 jiu4shi4 you2lan3 chang2cheng2
 or tour Great_Wall
 'What you will do in Beijing is to visit either the Forbidden City or the Great Wall.'

The pair 一...就...*yi1... jiu4...* 'as soon as... then...' in [66a] indicates a temporal sequence of events, whereas the pair in [66b] indicates a sufficient condition relation derived from the temporal relation.

- [66] a. 他一到办公室,就给学生打了一个电话。
 ta1 yi1 dao4 ban4gong1shi4 jiu4 gei3 xue2sheng1
 he once reach office thus PREP student
 da3 le0 yi1 ge4 dian4hua4
 make LE one CL telephone
 'As soon as he arrived at the office, he gave the student a phone call.'
- b. 水一到零度,就会结冰。
 shui3 yi1 dao4 ling2du4 jiu4 hui4 jie2bing1
 water once reach zero_degree thus will freeze
 'Once the temperature drops below 0°C, water freezes.'

Certain polysemous connective words may have the syntactic functions of more than one category. The 或者 *huo4zhe3* in [67a] is a coordinator that marks a disjunctive relation and should be understood as 'or.' The 或者 *huo4zhe3* in [67b] is an adverb with the meaning of 'perhaps.' The 尽管 *jin3guan3* 'even though' in [68a] is a connective adjunct marking a concessive relation, while the 尽管 *jin3guan3* 'just' in [68b] is an adverb, which functions as an adverbial but marks the logic relation between clauses.

- [67] a. 他去或者不去,都由他自己决定。
 ta1 qu4 huo4zhe3 bu4 qu4 dou1 you2 ta1
 he go or NEG go all PREP he
 zi4ji3 jue2ding4
 self decide
 'It is up to him to decide whether or not to go.'
- b. 他去得早,或者还有救。
 ta1 qu4 de0 zao3 huo4zhe3 hai2 you3 jiu4
 he go DE early or still have save
 'If he goes earlier, there might be hope of being saved.'
- [68] a. 尽管我很轻,还是把他惊动了。
 jin3guan3 wo3 hen3 qing1 hai2shi4 ba3 ta1
 even_though I very light still BA he
 jing1dong4 le0
 alarm LE
 'Even though my movement was light, he was alerted anyway.'
- b. 你有什么需要,尽管告诉我。
 ni3 you3 shen2me0 xu1yao4 jin3guan3 gao4su4 wo3
 you have what need just tell I
 'If you need any help, just let me know.'

The connective adjunct pair 既...也...*ji4...ye3...* 'either...or...' in [69a] marks a conjunctive relation. The 既...也...*ji4...ye3...* in [69b], on the other hand, is the shortened form of 既然...也...*ji4ran2...ye3...* which marks a causative relation and should be understood as 'given the fact that... therefore...'

- [69] a. 我们既反对保守,也反对冒进。
 wo3men0 ji4 fan3dui4 bao3shou3 ye3 fan3dui4
 we also oppose conservation also oppose
 mao4jin4
 rash_advance
 'We are against being either too conservative or too radical.'
- b. 事情既已败露,我也不再隐瞒了。
 shi4qing2 ji4 yi3 bai4lu4 wo3 ye3 bu4
 thing since already be_exposed I also NEG
 zai4 yin3man2 le0
 again hide LE
 'Given that it has been exposed, I don't have to hide it anymore.'

14.10. Compound sentences without overt marking

Although coordinators and connective adjuncts are commonly used to indicate the logic relation between clauses in compound sentences and certain types of complex sentences, there are cases where the logic relation is marked by other means. One possibility is to use clauses with identical structures and with corresponding lexical items to create a parallelism. The two clauses in [70a] have an identical structure with a linking verb 是 *shi4* ‘be’ as the head of the predicate. What is more, several lexical items in the two clauses are antonyms, such as 直线 *zhi2xian4* ‘straight line’ versus 曲线 *qu3xian4* ‘curve’ and 流畅 *liu2chang4* ‘smooth’ versus 婉转 *wan3zhuan3* ‘uneven,’ and they appear in corresponding positions. These clauses are thus in a conjunctive relation without any overt marking. The two clauses in [70b] describe two events with a clear temporal sequence, and they form a conjunction without overt marking.

- [70] a. 直线是流畅的美, 曲线是婉转的美。
zhi2xian4 shi4 liu2chang4 de0 mei3 qu1xian4
 straight_line be easy_and_smooth DE beauty curve
shi4 wan3zhuan3 de0 mei3
 be tactful DE beauty
 ‘While a straight line illustrates the beauty of free-flow directness, a curved line displays the grace of round-aboutness.’
- b. 孩子们讨论了一上午, 通过了一个决议。
hai2zi0men0 tao3lun4 le0 yi1 shang4wu3 tong1guo4
 children discuss LE one morning pass
le0 yi1 ge4 jue2yi4
 LE one CL decision
 ‘The children had spent the whole morning discussing it, and they made a decision.’

Another way to indicate the logic relation without a coordinator or connective adjunct is to use interrogative pronouns or their compounds in corresponding positions. The 谁 *shui2* ‘who’ in the first clause of [71a] represents whoever causes the pollution and should be understood as ‘anyone,’ while the 谁 *shui2* ‘who’ in the second clause refers back to the first 谁 *shui2* ‘who’ and should be understood as ‘he.’ The first clause is therefore a conditional clause and the second one is the main clause. The two clauses in [71b] form a sequential conjunction and such a relation is indicated by the two 什么时候 *shen3me0 shi2hou0* ‘what time,’ which should be interpreted as ‘any time when ...’ in the first clause and as ‘at that time’ in the second. Similarly, the 怎么样 *zen3me0yang4* ‘how’ in [71c] should be

understood as ‘any manner’ in the first clause and as ‘in that manner’ in the second. The two clauses form a conditional sentence.

- [71] a. 谁造成的污染, 谁负责治理。
 shui2 zao4cheng2 de0 wu1ran3 shui2
 who cause DE pollution who
 fu4ze2 zhi4li3
 be_responsible_for govern
 ‘If someone causes the pollution, he should do the cleaning up.’
- b. 钱什么时候到账, 我什么时候开工。
 qian2 shen2me0 shi2hou0 dao4 zhang4 wo3
 money what when reach account I
 shen2me0 shi2hou0 kai1gong1
 what when start_to_work
 ‘I will start the work when the money is in my account.’
- c. 我怎么说, 你怎么写。
 wo3 zen3me0 shuo1 ni3 zen3me0 xie3
 I how say you how write
 ‘You should write it in the same way as I say it.’

Since these compound or complex sentences are not marked by coordinators or connective adjuncts, it is possible for them to have more than one reading. The sentence in [72a] does not bear any overt marker and therefore can be understood in several ways, such as the causative in [72b] and the conditional in [72c].

- [72] a. 你不是我们的员工, 新股就没你的份。
 ni3 bu4shi4 wo3men0 de0 yuan2gong1 xin1gu3
 you NEG we DE employee new_stock
 jiu4 mei2 ni3 de0 fen4
 then NEG you DE share
 ‘You are not our staff member, hence you have no share in the new stock options.’
- b. 因为你不是我们的员工, 所以新股就没你的份。
 yin1wei4 ni3 bu4shi4 wo3men0 de0 yuan2gong1
 because you NEG we DE employee
 suo3yi3 xin1gu3 jiu4 mei2 ni3 de0 fen4
 so new_stock then NEG you DE share
 ‘Since you are not our staff member, you have no share in the new stock options.’

- c. 如果你不是我们的员工, 新股就没你的份。
 ru2guo3 ni3 bu4shi4 wo3men0 de0 yuan2gong1
 if you NEG we DE employee
 xin1gu3 jiu4 mei2 ni3 de0 fen4
 new_stock then NEG you DE share
 'If you are not our staff member, then you have no share in the new
 stock options.'

Sometimes such clauses are uttered without any pause and they will sound like one simple sentence, such as the ones in [73a] and [73c]. Sentence [73a] is ambiguous, with a number of readings, and one of them is [73b]. Similarly, [73c] has several possible readings and [73d] is one of them.

- [73] a. 钟不敲不响。
 zhong1 bu4 qiao1 bu4 xiang3
 bell NEG knock NEG ring
 'The bell will not ring unless it is struck.'
- b. 钟如果不敲, 就不响。
 zhong1 ru2guo3 bu4 qiao1 jiu4 bu4 xiang3
 bell if NEG knock then NEG ring
 'If the bell is not struck, it will not ring.'
- c. 他不哭不闹。
 ta1 bu4 ku1 bu4 nao4
 he NEG cry NEG whine
 'He is not crying or whining.'
- d. 他既不哭, 又不闹。
 ta1 ji4 bu4 ku1 you4 bu4 nao4
 he also NEG cry also NEG whine
 'He is neither crying nor whining.'