

A study of the restrictions on the co-occurrence of Chinese adverbs: Their relation with focus, aspect, and modality

Tomomi Ishii

This paper discusses the restrictions on co-occurrence of Chinese adverb and focus, aspect, modality. this paper explain property of Chinese adverb, and point out new opinion about Chinese adverb that has complex feature.

In chapre2, explained about co-occurrence of Chinese adverb and focus. There are two type of interrogative sentence that ask whether or not some statement is true in Chinese, one is “諾否疑問文”, the other is “正反疑問文”. This two interrogative sentence have different restrictions of co-occurrence when these sentence co-occur with Chinese adverb “也”. See the sentence below.

(1)a.你 也 去 吗?

You too go MA(interrogative)

[Do you go too?]

b.*你 也 去 不 去?

you too go BU(negative) go

(1)a is “諾否疑問文”. This interrogative sentence can co-occur with “也”. (2) is “正反疑問文”. This interrogative sentence can't co-occur with “也”. This is caused by different feature of focus.

In chapre3, tried making a study about co-occurrence of adverb and future aspect. In this chapter, deal with “快要~了”、“就要~了” that express future aspect. See the sentence below.

(2)a.我 已经 快要 出国 了。

I already soon leave LE(aspect of past)

[I already leave the country soon.]

b.*我 已经 就要 出国 了。

I already soon leave LE(aspect of past)

(3)a.他 马上 就要 回国 了。

he immediately soon leave LE(aspect of past)

[I already leave the country soon.]

b.*他 马上 快要 回国 了。

he immediately soon leave LE(aspect of past)

In (2), “快要~了” can co-occur with adverb “已经”, but, “就要~了” can't co-occur. In (3), “就要~了” can co-occur with adverb “马上”, but, “快要~了” can't co-occur. Thus, when “快要~了”、“就要~了” co-occur with adverb, phenomenon of co-occurrence is different. This is caused by different feature of perspectives.

In chapre4, examined co- occurrence of modality adverb “太”, “好” and auxiliary verb “想”, “愿意”. See the sentence below.

(4)a.我 太 想 吃。

I very want eat

[I want to eat very much]

b.?我 太 愿意 吃。

I very want eat

(5)a.我 好 想 看。

I very want watch

[I want to watch very much.]

b.*我 好 愿意 看。

I very want watch

In (4), “想” can co-occur with “太”, “愿意” can't co-occur. In (5), “想” can co-occur with “好”, “愿意” can't co-occur. Thus, phenomenon of co-occurrence is different. It is caused by different feature of modality.

This paper point out new opinion about Chinese adverb that express focus, aspect, modality by analysis of co-occurrence with element of focus, aspect, modality.