

A RESTRUCTURING APPROACH TO TWO STRUCTURES FOR CHINESE PURPOSIVES

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1. Introduction

This paper investigates the syntax of two types of purposives in Chinese. Chinese has a serial verb construction, the canonical form of which is as in (1).

- (1) Zhangsan mai-le yi-ge hanbao chi.
Zhangsan buy-PERF.PAST one-CL burger eat
'Zhangsan bought a burger to eat (and ate it).'

In the literature this construction is referred to as *purposive* (e.g., Lin & Liao 2009; Tang 1990; Tsai 1995), as semantically the phrase headed by the second verb (verbP₂ hereafter) is analyzed as a purpose of the matrix predicate.

Chinese also has applicative constructions (Liu 2012; Sun 2009). Liu (2012) claims that Chinese has both high and low applicatives, and moreover that low applicatives in Chinese consist of two subtypes: goal applicatives (2a), and source applicatives (2b).

- (2) a. Zhangsan song-le Lisi yi-ben shu.
Zhangsan send-PERF.PAST Lisi one-CL book
'Zhangsan sent Lisi a book.'
- b. ta tou-le Lisi liang-tai diannao.
he steal-PERF.PAST Lisi two-CL computer
'He stole two computers from Lisi.'

In this study I analyze the combination of purposives with goal and source applicatives. Purposives in Chinese can combine with these two subtypes of low applicatives, as demonstrated in (3) and (4). I call these two constructions 'goal purposive' and 'source purposive' respectively.

- (3) wo song-le John yi-ben shu kan.
I send-PERF.PAST John one-CL wine drink
'I sent John a book to read.'
- (4) wo tou-le John yi-ping jiu he.
I steal-PERF.PAST John one-CL wine drink
'I stole a bottle of wine from John to drink and drank it.'

These two constructions, while being superficially identical, demonstrate substantially distinct properties. First, while both goal and source purposives involve obligatory control over the logical subject of the second verb, in goal purposives the applied object is interpreted as the subject of the second verb, whereas in source

purposives the matrix subject is interpreted as the subject of the second verb. Secondly, the second verb in goal purposives cannot, but the second verb in source purposives can, be modified by agent-oriented adverbs. Thirdly, while the PERF.PAST marker *le* can never occur at the end of goal purposives, it can occur at the end of certain source purposives.

This study adopts Wurmbrand's (2001) analysis and explores a restructuring approach to goal vs. source purposives and their asymmetrical properties. I argue that goal purposives in Chinese can be analyzed as lexical restructuring infinitives and source purposives as reduced non-restructuring infinitives. Specifically, the infinitive is represented by VP in goal purposives and by *v*P in source purposives. The asymmetrical properties between goal and source purposives follow from the different syntactic structures of the projection associated with the second verb in these two constructions.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews Wurmbrand's analysis of lexical restructuring and infinitive classification. Section 3 presents my analysis of Chinese goal vs. source purposives. Section 4 concludes.

2. Wurmbrand (2001): restructuring and graded classes of infinitives

Wurmbrand (2001) suggests that infinitives fall into four classes: lexical restructuring infinitives, functional restructuring infinitives, reduced non-restructuring infinitives, and full clausal non-restructuring infinitives. Wurmbrand argues that restructuring infinitives project VPs, reduced non-restructuring infinitives project *v*Ps or TPs, and full clausal non-restructuring infinitives project CPs. In this section, I introduce the two types of infinitives that are relevant to this study: lexical restructuring infinitives and reduced non-restructuring infinitives.

2.1 Properties of lexical restructuring infinitives

Lexical restructuring infinitives, in Wurmbrand's analysis, demonstrate the following properties: first, they are represented by VPs; and second, they lack PRO subject, and show obligatory control in interpreting the infinitival subject.

Wurmbrand claims lexical restructuring infinitives lack *v*P, and her major evidence is the long passive effect in German. In German, the passive of a restructuring predicate ('try', for example) affects the argument structure of the embedded infinitival predicate: the embedded object becomes the subject of the higher clause. The contrast between (5a-b) demonstrates this.

- (5) a. weil Hans [den Traktor zu reparieren] versuchte
 since John the tractor-ACC to repair tried
 'since John tried to repair the tractor'
 (Wurmbrand 2001: 17)

- b. dass [der Traktor]_i [t_i zu reparieren] versucht wurde
 that the tractor-NOM to repair tried was
 'that they tried to repair the tractor'
 (Wurmbrand 2001: 19)

In (5a), the embedded object DP ‘the tractor’ is marked with accusative case. In (5b), notably, ‘the tractor’ moves to the clausal subject position, bears the nominative case, and is in agreement with the higher auxiliary *wurde* ‘was’. According to Wurmbrand, this indicates that there is no accusative case-assigning position in the infinitive; that is, lexical restructuring infinitives are VPs, not *v*Ps.

Lexical restructuring verbs in German are inherently incompatible with a tensed infinitive or embedded negation. Moreover, complementizers and *wh*-specifiers are not allowed in lexical restructuring. Based on these observations, Wurmbrand argues that lexical restructuring infinitives in German do not project TP, NegP, or CP.

Wurmbrand argues that a PRO is present in non-restructuring infinitives, but absent in lexical restructuring infinitives. In German, in non-restructuring constructions, embedded anaphors can occur even when there is no potential binder in the higher predicate (6a); in lexical restructuring infinitives, however, when there is no potential binder in the higher predicate, an embedded anaphor is impossible (6b).

- (6) a. wurde beschlossen [PRO_i sich_i den Fisch mit Streifen vorzustellen]
 it was decided PRO_iSELF_i the fish with stripes-ACC to-imagine
 ‘They decided to imagine what the fish would look like with stripes.’
- b. *weil {sich} der Fisch {sich} vorzustellen versucht/begonnen wurde
 since {SELF} the fish-NOM {SELF} to-imagine tried/ begun was
 ‘since they tried/begun to recall the image of the fish’
 (Wurmbrand 2001: 232)

According to Wurmbrand, the contrast between (6a-b) indicates that PRO is absent in restructuring but present in non-restructuring infinitives.

Wurmbrand notes that all predicates that take a lexical restructuring infinitive complement are “obligatory control predicates and prohibit any form of non-obligatory control” (2001: 245). She argues that lexical restructuring infinitives have to be obligatory control infinitives as they are represented with VP and no PRO subject is projected—the interpretation of the infinitival subject, therefore, must be decided by the semantic content of the selecting verb.

2.2 Properties of reduced non-restructuring infinitives

I now introduce the three properties of reduced non-restructuring infinitives. First, non-restructuring infinitives project PRO. (6a) is an impersonal passive based on non-restructuring infinitive (as long passive does not occur). Notably, in this construction, an embedded anaphor can occur. Wurmbrand claims that PRO binds this embedded anaphor. Given the general assumption that external argument is licensed by *v*, the availability of PRO in (6a) provides evidence that non-restructuring infinitives project (minimally) a *v*P.

Second, reduced non-restructuring infinitives show non-obligatory control, as demonstrated by (7).

- (7) weil sie der Hans_h PRO_{h+x} gemeinsam zu überraschen beschloss
 since her-ACC the John_h PRO_{h+x} together to surprise decided
 ‘since John decided that he and somebody else would surprise her together’
 (Wurmbrand 2001: 277)

The third property of reduced non-restructuring infinitives is that they can have independent tense specification and negation, as illustrated in (8a) and (8b) respectively. This indicates that reduced non-restructuring infinitives can project TP and/or NegP.

- (8) a. Dass ihn der Hans [(morgen) zu reparieren] beschlossen hatte
 that him/it-ACC the John-NOM [(tomorrow) to repair] decided had
 ‘that John had decided to repair it tomorrow’
- b. weil ihn der Hans [nicht mehr zu bevorzugen] beschlossen hatte
 since him-ACC the John-NOM not anymore to privilege decided had
 ‘since John decided not to privilege him anymore’
 (Wurmbrand 2001: 276)

3. Analysis of goal vs. source purposives

In this section I argue that Chinese goal and source purposives are restructuring infinitives and reduced non-restructuring infinitives respectively. In 3.1, through the availability of agent-oriented adverbs in verbP₂, I demonstrate that *v*P is not projected in verbP₂ of goal purposives, but is projected in verbP₂ of source purposives. In 3.2 I discuss the control properties of goal vs. source purposives. Section 3.3 discusses embedded TP/AspP. In 3.4 I demonstrate that no NegP or CP is projected in verbP₂ in both goal and source purposives.

3.1 Presence/absence of embedded *v*P

My argument that *v*P is not projected in verbP₂ of goal purposives but is projected in verbP₂ of source purposives invokes the property of agent-oriented adverbs that they are *v*P modifiers—I assume that the availability of agent-oriented adverbs reflects whether *v*P is projected.

3.1.1 Goal purposives: agent-oriented adverbs are impossible in verbP₂

One property of Chinese goal purposives is that agent-oriented adverbs can never occur in verbP₂ (9).

- (9) ta gei-le John yi-ge pingguo (*mianqiangde/*zhendingde) chi.
 he give-PERF.PAST John one-CL apple reluctantly/ calmly eat
 Intended meaning: ‘He gave John an apple to eat reluctantly/calmly.’

The morpheme *ziji* is the reflexive pronoun in Chinese can also be used as an agent-oriented adverb, and it is clear that while *ziji* can occur in the matrix predicate (verbP₁) (10a), it is not allowed in verbP₂, as in (10b).

- (10) a. wo ziji gei-le John yi-ben shu kan.
I self give-PERF.PAST John one-CL book read
'Only I (but nobody else) gave John a book to read.'
- b. wo gei-le John yi-ben shu (*ziji) kan.
I give-PERF.PAST John one-CL book self read
Intended: 'I gave John a book to read himself (not with anyone else).'

Based on the impossibility of agent-oriented adverbs and adverbial *ziji*, I argue that no ν P is projected in verbP₂ of goal purposives.

3.1.2 Source purposives: agent-oriented adverbs are possible in verbP₂

Agent-oriented adverbs and adverbial *ziji* can occur in verbP₂ of source purposives (11).

- (11) a. wo xiang zhu John yixie mian zhendingde chi.
I want cook John some noodle calmly eat
'I want to cook some of John's noodles to eat calmly first.'
- b. zhiyu wanfan, wo xiang zhu John yixie mian ziji chi.
as for dinner I want cook John some noodle self eat
'As for dinner, I want to cook some of John's noodles to eat myself.'

Given this possibility of agent-oriented adverbs and adverbial *ziji*, I assume that ν P is projected in verbP₂ of source purposives.

The above analysis indicates that verbP₂ in goal purposives is represented with VP and verbP₂ in source purposives is represented with (minimally) ν P. This property, on the one hand, provides evidence that goal vs. source purposives are lexical restructuring and reduced non-restructuring infinitives respectively; on the other hand, the different sizes of verbP₂ in goal and source purposives in turn nicely captures asymmetrical properties.

3.2 Control properties of goal and source purposives

Goal and source purposives demonstrate both similarities and differences with regard to the interpretation of the subject of V₂. On the one hand, they both involve obligatory control. In goal purposives, the applied object is interpreted as the subject of V₂ (12a); in source purposives, the controller is the external argument (12b).

- (12) a. wo gei-le John yi-ben shu kan.
I give-PERF.PAST John one-CL book read
'I_i gave John_j a book for PRO_{*i/j/*k} to read.'
- b. wo_i tou-le John_j yi-ping jiu [PRO_{*i/*j/*k} he (-le)].
I steal-PERF.PAST John one-CL wine drink (-PERF.PAST)
'I stole a bottle of wine from John to drink and (I) drank it.'

Note that while both involve obligatory control, goal and source purposives differ in that the matrix DP that functions as the controller of the infinitival subject is different (as indicated in (12) above).

From the above introduction, we can see that goal purposives in Chinese demonstrate the same obligatory control property as lexical restructuring infinitives in German, thus providing support to my claim that goal purposives are restructuring infinitives.

Source purposives, however, need some further explanation before they can be fitted into this restructuring framework. Source purposives in Chinese demonstrate different control property from reduced non-restructuring infinitives in German in that the latter involve non-obligatory control. This discrepancy raises the question of whether we can argue that source purposives are reduced non-restructuring infinitives. I argue that this does not constitute counterevidence to my claim. Wurmbbrand claims that in obligatory control of PRO, the controller of the infinitival subject is determined semantically/lexically by the control predicate, and also claims that in the absence of PRO, the interpretation of the infinitival subject is necessarily determined by the semantics of the selecting predicate—obligatory control, therefore, is a defining property of restructuring infinitives.

However, Wurmbbrand claims that while restructuring infinitives entail obligatory control, this is a one-way correlation and obligatory control does not entail a PRO-less infinitive. In other words, there exist infinitives that contain PRO and nonetheless demonstrate obligatory control. Given that Wurmbbrand's classification of infinitives is mainly according to the size of infinitives, not their control properties, I assume that this control property of source purposives does not constitute counterevidence for the analysis of source purposives as reduced non-restructuring infinitives, but just a cross-linguistic variation.

3.3 Goal and source purposives: no TP/AspP is projected in verbP₂

In this section I pursue two tasks: first, I demonstrate that no TP/AspP is projected in verbP₂ of both goal and source purposives; second, I demonstrate that an InnerAspP is projected in source purposives.

3.3.1 Goal purposives: no TP/AspP in verbP₂

A property of goal purposives is that no tense/aspect marker can occur in verbP₂, as demonstrated in (13). I assume that TP/AspP is not projected in verbP₂ of goal purposives.

- (13) a. wo gei-le John yi-ben shu (*zuotian) kan (*-le).
 I give-PERF.PAST John one-CL book yesterday read -PERF.PAST
 * (i) 'I gave John a book so that he read it yesterday.'
 * (ii) 'I gave John a book and he read it yesterday.'
- b. wo gei-le John yi-ben shu kan (*-guo).
 I give-PERF.PAST John one-CL book read -EXP
 *(i) 'I gave John a book so that he has already read it.'
 *(ii) 'I gave John a book and he has already read it.'

- c. wo gei-le John yi-ben shu *zai- kan.
 I give-PERF.PAST John one-CL book PROG- read
 *(i) ‘I gave John a book so that he is reading it now.’

3.3.2 Source purposives: no TP/AspP in verbP₂

Source purposives, like goal purposives, do not allow clausal tense/aspect markers in verbP₂, as shown in (14), in which the appearance of tense/aspect marker in verbP₂ results in ungrammaticality.

- (14) a. wo tou -guo John yi-ping jiu he (*-guo).
 I steal-EXP John one-CL wine drink-EXP
 *‘I stole a bottle of wine from John, which I have already drunk.’
- b. wo zai- tou John yi-ping jiu (*zai-) he.
 I PROG- steal John one-CL wine PROG- drink
 *‘I am stealing a bottle of wine from John and I am drinking it.’

From the impossibility of tense/aspect markers, I assume that no TP/AspP is projected in verbP₂ of source purposives.

3.3.3 Source purposives: InnerAspP in verbP₂

One property of source purposives, which constitutes another major contrast against goal purposives, is that when the matrix predicate bears the past tense and has a PERF.PAST marker *le* immediately following it, a second *le* can optionally appear at the end of source purposives, but never goal purposives. Below I provide examples of both a goal purposive (15) and a source purposive (16) to demonstrate this contrast.

- (15) wo zuotian gei-le John yi-ping jiu he (*-le).
 I yesterday give-PERF.PAST John one-CL wine drink-PERF.PAST
 Intended: ‘Yesterday I gave John_i a bottle of wine to drink and he_i drank it.’
- (16) a. wo zuotian tou-le John yi-ping jiu he.
 I yesterday steal-PERF.PAST John one-CL wine drink
 ‘Yesterday I stole a bottle of wine from John to drink and drank it.’
- b. wo zuotian tou-le John yi-ping jiu he -le.
 I yesterday steal-PERF.PAST John one-CL wine drink-PERF.PAST
 ‘Yesterday I stole a bottle of wine from John to drink and drank it.’

Chinese has two *le*’s: the verbal *le* and the sentential *le*. Now a question to ask is: is the clause-final *le* in (16b) licensed within verbP₂, or is it a sentential *le* that takes scope over the whole clause? In what follows, I argue that the *le* appearing at the end of source purposives as in (16b) is licensed within verbP₂, and this *le* heads an InnerAspP projected within verbP₂.

My argument that the *le* in question is licensed within verbP₂ is as follows. First, the clause-final *le* in source purposives is licensed within verbP₂ is that whether it can appear

or not is sensitive to the boundedness of the event denoted by V_2 . When V_2 is an accomplishment or achievement verb denoting the default boundedness, such as *cang* ‘hide’, the PERF.PAST marker *le* at the end of a source purposive is obligatory, as shown in (17).

- (17) wo zuotian tou-le John yi-ge beizi cang *(-le).
 I yesterday steal-PERF.PAST John one-CL cup hide-PERF.PAST
 ‘Yesterday I stole a cup from John to hide/break and I hid/ broke it.’

In contrast, when V_2 is an activity verb denoting (the default) unboundedness, *le* cannot appear at the end of a source purposive. In Chinese, *chuan* ‘wear’ is an activity verb (Chen, 1988). When *chuan* is V_2 in a source purposive, clause-final *le* cannot occur, as shown in (18).

- (18) wo tou-le John yi-jian waitao chuan (*-le).
 I steal-PERF.PAST John one-CL overcoat wear-PERF.PAST
 ‘I stole an overcoat from John to wear and I wore it.’

Interestingly, when we convert the unbounded event of ‘wearing’ by modifying it with the temporal adverbial “three days”, the PERF.PAST marker *le* is obligatory, as in (19).

- (19) wo tou -le John yi-jian waitao chuan *(-le) san tian.
 I steal-PERF.PAST John one-CL overcoat wear-PERF.PAST three day
 ‘I stole an overcoat to wear and I wore it for three days.’

These examples indicate that the appearance/absence of the clause-final *le* is determined by (the aspect value of) verbP_2 , and has nothing to do with V_1 (or verbP_1). Based on this observation, I argue that the clause-final *le* in source purposives is licensed within verbP_2 , and does not scope over the whole clause. Given that the above discussion indicates that clausal TP/AspP is not projected in verbP_2 of source purposives, I assume that *le* heads an InnerAspP rather than a clausal TP/AspP within verbP_2 .

3.4 Goal and source purposives: no NegP or CP is projected in verbP_2

Wurmbrand shows that there is no NegP or CP in lexical restructuring infinitives and reduced non-restructuring infinitives in German. In this section, I demonstrate that this is also the case for Chinese goal and source purposives; that is, no NegP or CP is projected in verbP_2 of goal or source purposives.

3.4.1 Goal and source purposives: no NegP in verbP_2

One property of goal and source purposive is that verbP_2 cannot be negated separately, as shown in (20).

- (20) a. wo gei-le John yi-ben shu (*meiyou/*bu) kan.
 I give-PERF.PAST John one-CL book not read
 Intended meaning: I gave John a book but he did not/ will not read.

- b. wo tou-le John yi-ping jiu (*meiyou/*bu) he.
 I steal-PERF.PAST John one-CL wine not drink
 Intended: I stole a bottle of wine from John but I did not drink it.

(20a-b) demonstrate that the appearance of the negation morpheme *meiyou/bu* in verbP₂ results in ungrammaticality. Based on these observations, I conclude that NegP is not projected in verbP₂ of either goal or source purposives.

3.4.2 Goal and source purposives: no CP in verbP₂

In both goal and source purposives, no *wh*-question can be constructed in verbP₂, as shown in (21a-b).

- (21) a. ni gei-le John yi-ben shu *zhenmo/*zainali/*shenmoshihou kan?
 you give-PERF John one-CL book how/ where/ when read
 Intended: ‘You gave John a book, when/where/how would he read it?’
- b. ni tou-le John yi -ben shu *zhenmo/*zainali/*shenmoshihou kan?
 you steal-PERF John one-CL book how/ where/ when read
 Intended: ‘You stole a book from John, and when/where/how would you read it?’

Based on the fact that *wh*-phrases are not allowed in verbP₂ of either goal or source purposives, I assume that verbP₂ in these two constructions does not project CP.

4. Concluding remarks

In this paper, I reported the properties of goal vs. source purposives in Chinese, and provided an analysis of these properties from a restructuring approach. I argued that goal purposives could be analyzed as lexical restructuring structures and source purposives as reduced non-restructuring structures. I assume that the restructuring approach to goal and source purposives in Chinese provides an appropriate framework to demonstrate that verbP₂ is of different sizes in these two structures, and the analysis proposed in the present study captures most of the asymmetrical properties of these two constructions naturally.

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