

The Cartography of Evaluative Adverbs

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Evaluative adverb is a term referring to English words like *unfortunately*, *possibly* and *definitely*. They are typically derived from adjectives via morphological process and represent the speaker's subjective evaluation or judgement. Chinese words with similar status include subjective evaluative adverbs like *qushi* 'indeed', *pianpian* 'contrary to one's expectation' and *fanzheng* 'no matter what', and objective evaluative adverbs such as *cengjing* 'once' and *yijing* 'already'.

A common analysis for such words in the early days is to treat them as ordinary adverbs, with the function of heading an adverbial phrase that modifies the predicate or the clause (Huang and Liao 1979, Quirk et al. 1985). Such analyses are often adopted in formal syntax, treating these words as adjuncts to VP or S (Akmajian and Heny 1979). It is discovered in recent years that the function of such words is to provide evaluation for the proposition of the clause and they should not be treated as adverbial or adjunct in the usual sense.

The *pianpian* 'contrary to one's expectation' in (1), for example, stands for the speaker's evaluation of the proposition of the clause, indicating what has happened goes against his expectation and he is not too happy about the situation. The semantic contribution of *pianpian* to the clause is similar to that of a predicate but its syntactic status is not.

- (1) Xiawu pianpian mei xiayu.
afternoon contrary-to-expectation not rain
'Contrary to the expectation, it did not rain in the afternoon.'

The *cengjing* 'once in the past' in (2) represents the speaker's evaluation of the objective circumstances of the proposition with reference to its status in the time line, even though it is commonly analyzed as temporal adverbial modifying the predicate. The proposition in (2) is that Hong Kong is a small fishing village and the speaker concludes that such a status has come to an end before the reference time and no further impact could be obtained after the reference time.

- (2) Xianggang cengjing shi xiao yucun.
Hong Kong once be small fishing village
'Hong Kong was a small fishing village at certain time in the past.'

Neither *pianpian* nor *cengjing* has the syntactic properties of modifier for predicate. The proposal of this paper is to analyze *piapian* as the head of a subjective evaluative phrase Eval_{subj}P and *cengjing* as the head of an objective evaluative phrase Eval_{obj}P, both of which are layers of the Split CP as shown in (3).

- (3) [CP [ForceP [Eval_{subj}P [ModalepisP [Eval_{obj}P [TP]]]]]]

The cartography of these words provides a solid basis for a principled explanation for their syntactic behaviors, such as their co-occurrence with a fixed order as shown in (4). Some other phenomena related to their syntactic properties could also be

explained by the cartographic schema in (3), like why they cannot be negated and why they cannot appear after deontic or dynamic modals.

- (4) Xianggang pianpian cengjing shi xiao yucun.
Hong Kong contrary-to-expectation once be small fishing village
'Contrary to expectation, Hong Kong was a small fishing village at certain time in the past.'

The cartography hypothesis provides a very useful tool for syntactic analyses.

References:

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