On the Different Interpretations of Chinese $\text{NP}_1 \text{ de } \text{NP}_2$

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Abstract

Judged by the syntax, the Chinese $\text{NP}_1 \text{ de } \text{NP}_2$ phrase is simple in structure, but the relation between $\text{NP}_1$ and $\text{NP}_2$ is actually complex. In this article, we looked into the causes of an $\text{NP}_1 \text{ de } \text{NP}_2$ phrase’s different interpretations, both from syntax and semantics angles. Considering syntax relations, there are three kinds of relations: subject, object and attribute between $\text{NP}_1$ of $\text{NP}_1 \text{ de } \text{NP}_2$ and verbs, but sometimes there is an appositive or a modifier between $\text{NP}_1$ and $\text{NP}_2$. Considering the semantic relations, because $\text{NP}_2$ may be regarded as a mark-noun, it also may be regarded as a non-mark-noun, there are multiple explanations of significance of $\text{NP}_1 \text{ de } \text{NP}_2$. We also analyzed the different semantic directions of verbs and nouns from a mantic perspective.