

Delimitative and Tentative Meaning of Verbal Reduplication in Disposal Ba Construction

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Abstrak: Ada banyak penelitian mengenai konstruksi disposal ba. Sebagian besar meneliti mengapa suatu objek harus dipindahkan ke depan kata kerja, dan apa saja unsur lain di belakangnya. Salah satu unsur lain tersebut adalah reduplikasi verbal. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membukakan kepada pembaca teks Cina tentang bagaimana menentukan makna reduplikasi verbal pada konstruksi ba. Li & Thompson (1981), Zhuo (2005) menyarankan makna delimitatif dan tentatif. Masalahnya adalah bagaimana cara membedakan makna-makna tersebut? Penulis menggunakan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Li & Thompson (1981) dan Zhuo (2005) untuk memastikan makna mana yang disampaikan. Data diambil dari 5 novel dan 3 drama dari situs www.millionbook.com, www.kanunu8.com, dan www.juben68.com. Penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif serta mempertimbangkan koteks dan konteks di mana konstruksi ba muncul. Hasil yang diperoleh menunjukkan bahwa terdapat kombinasi makna delimitatif dan tentatif dalam konteks tertentu. Manfaat penelitian ini adalah agar pembaca dapat mengetahui dan menentukan makna delimitatif dan tentatif reduplikasi verbal pada kalimat ba.

Kata Kunci : disposal; konstruksi ba; makna reduplikasi verbal

Abstract: There is much research done concerning the disposal ba construction. Much of them examined why an object should be transposed to in front of the verb, and what kind of other elements behind the verb are. One of the other elements is verbal reduplication. The research aim is to guide the readers of Chinese texts on how to determine the meaning of verbal reduplication in ba construction. Li & Thompson (1981), and Zhuo (2005) suggested delimitative and tentative meaning. The problem is how we can distinguish those meanings? The author uses the theory presented by Li & Thompson (1981) and Zhuo (2005) to ascertain which meaning is conveyed. The data was from 5 novels and 3 dramas from the situs www.millionbook.com, www.kanunu8.com, and www.juben68.com. The author uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach by considering the co-text and context in which the construction of ba appears. The result obtained indicate that there is a combination of delimitative and tentative meaning in certain contexts. The benefit of this research is that the reader can know and determine the delimitative and tentative meanings of verbal reduplication in ba construction.

Keywords: disposal; ba construction; verbal reduplication meaning

INTRODUCTION

According to Wang (1947:160-161), the disposal form states how a person is handled, manipulated, or dealt with; how something is disposed of; or how an affair is conducted. Many kinds of research have examined the disposal sentence, specifically the grammar of disposal 把 ba construction. There is one element that is rarely used in disposal 把 ba construction, namely verbal reduplication (Li & Thompson, 1981: 489-490). Interestingly, verbal reduplication has its meaning if it is placed in the 把 ba construction. The author has found previous research that examines the meaning of verbal reduplication.

Li (1996:104-111) classifies verbal reduplication into two, the meaning of verb reduplication in continuous (持续性动词 *chíxù xìng dòngcí*) and discontinuous verbs (非持续性动词 *fēi chíxù xìng dòngcí*). Reduplication in continuous verb shows the relativity of the period of action, depending on the meaning contained in the verb itself. Reduplication in discontinuous verbs contains a brief meaning and states the frequency or intensity. Furthermore, Jiang (2000:70) says that verbal reduplication has the same meaning as '一下 *yíxià*' means 'in a short while. Meanwhile, Wen (2017:256) agrees that verbal reduplication means 'trial'.

According to Li & Thompson (1981:232-234), verbal reduplication in 把 ba construction contains delimitative meaning. The delimitative meaning refers to doing an action 'a little bit' or for a short period. Delimitative means 'to try' and is used to show gentle requests (Li & Thompson, 1981:236). On the other hand, according to Zhuo (2005:154) verbal reduplication in 把 ba construction has a tentative meaning. The tentative meaning refers to the action or activity that may not be fully worked out or developed and that no result is expected. Since the final result of the action or activity is not defined, the activity and its actions are seen as a whole and are tentatively referred to as suggestions, requests, and offers. Tentative meaning also contains well-meant advice. By the nature of tentativeness, the speaker avoids accusations of intruding and politely leaves the choice to the recipient who decides whether to accept the suggestion or not (Zhuo, 2005:163).

The problem is how to distinguish these meanings? The research aim is to guide the readers of Chinese texts on how to determine the meaning of verbal reduplication in 把 ba construction. The author uses the above theory to ascertain which meaning is conveyed by considering the co-text and context through studies on drama dialogues and novel narration. The benefit of this research is that the reader can know and determine the delimitative and tentative meanings of verbal reduplication in ba construction.

METHOD

This research is conducted using the qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Denzin and Lincoln (1994) state that qualitative research involves an interpretive and naturalistic approach. Qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. The qualitative method involves the use of qualitative data, such as interviews, documents, and respondents' observations, to understand and explain social phenomena. Types of qualitative methods are action research, case study, ethnography, grounded theory, and content analysis. Primary data sources comprise observation, interviewing, and questionnaires. Through the analysis with the qualitative method, the author aims to carry out an in-depth analysis of the meaning of the data. The research results will be presented descriptively to clearly describe the meanings contained in each sentence. The analysis conducted by the author is based on the theory of delimitative

meaning and tentative meaning proposed by Li & Thompson (1981) and Zhuo (2005). The data was from 5 novels and 3 dramas from the situs www.millionbook.com, www.kanunu8.com, and www.juben68.com. The author chooses data from several sources so that the data obtained can be more varied and relevant to the current linguistic situation. There are 176 sentences that contain the construction ba, of which there are 9 sentences that contain verbal reduplication. The research method used by the author is as follows:

1. Collect ba sentences containing verbal reduplication.
2. Analyze the data by considering the co-text and context where ba construction appeared.
3. Group the data based on the meaning contained.
4. Summarizing all data in the analysis results.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The author will analyze 9 data which will be grouped into 3 categories. The 9 data that have been selected are data containing verbal reduplication. The data is obtained from the drama's dialogues and the novel's narration on a Chinese rubric site. The author tries to find the core meaning of delimitative meaning which is (1) doing an action 'a little bit'; (2) doing an action in a short period; (3) trying. On the other hand, several important points of tentative meaning are as follows (1) contains suggestions; (2) contains well-meant advice.

Delimitative Meaning

- (1) 老板翻了翻抽屉，没有五十的。他不耐烦地转身去包里找钱，回头塞了陈念一大把。陈念认真数数，九十八块八毛，她把十块和二十块的纸币看了看，又检查五十块的，水印，盲点……钱币太旧，陈念费了一会儿时间，身后的顾客哼地嘲笑：“看这么久，下次随身带个验钞机吧。”

Lǎobǎn fān le fan chōuti, méiyǒu wǔshí de. Tā bù nàifán dì zhuàn shēn qù bāo lǐ zhǎo qián, huítóu sāi le Chén Niàn yī dà bǎ. Chén Niàn rènzhēn shù shu, jiǔshíbā kuài bā máo, tā bǎ shí kuài hé èrshí kuài de zhǐbì kàn le kan, yòu jiǎnchá wǔshí kuài de, shuǐyìn, mángdiǎn……qiánbì tài jiù, Chén Niàn fèi le yīhuǐ'er shíjiān, shēnhòu de gùkè hēng de cháoxiào: “Kàn zhème jiǔ, xià cì suǐshēn dài gè yàn chāo jī ba.”

[The business proprietor rummaged through the drawer, and there were no fifty yuan. He turned around impatiently to find money in his bag and then stuffed Chen Nian a lot. Chen Nian counted carefully, ninety-eight and eighty cents. She looked at the ten and twenty yuan bills, and then checked the fifty yuan, the watermarks, blind spots... the coins were too old, and Chen Nian took a while. The customer behind sneered: “It's been too long, next time you bring a money detector with you.”] (<https://www.kanunu8.com/book2/11123/212433.html>)

At that time Chen Nian was counting the change that the business proprietor gave after buying a loaf of bread. Verbal reduplication in sentence (1) 她把十块和二十块的纸币看了看 ‘She looked at the ten and twenty yuan bills’ refers to the act of observing that can be done in a short time and does not use a lot of energy. The next narration proves that Chen Nian only had a short time because there were still many other shoppers waiting in line to pay behind him. From these

characteristics, it can be said that verbal reduplication in this sentence contains a delimitative meaning which refers to doing an action 'a little bit' or for a short period.

- (2) 她颤得更厉害了点儿，嗡嗡道：“有点儿痒呢……”嗓音里透出一丝怯怯的紧张。“抱歉，又忘了你有痒痒肉。”他收回手，把她的围巾往上提了提。甄暖又有些歉疚，她哪儿都有痒痒肉。

Tā chàn dé gèng lihai le diǎn er, wēng wēng dào: “Yǒudiǎnr yǎng ne……” sāngyīn lǐ tòu chū yī sī qiè qiè de jǐnzhāng. “Bàoqiàn, yòu wàng le nǐ yǒu yǎngyang ròu.” Tā shōuhuī shǒu, bǎ tā de wéijīn wǎng shàng tí le ti. Zhēn Nuǎn yòu yǒuxiē qiànjiù, tā nǎ'èr dōu yǒu yǎngyang ròu.

[She trembled a little bit more, and buzzed: "It's a bit itchy..." There was a timid nervousness in her voice. "Sorry, I forgot that you had itchy flesh again." He retracted his hand and lifted her scarf. Zhen Nuan is a little guilty, she has itchy flesh everywhere.] (<https://www.kanunu8.com/book2/11125/212506.html>)

While conversing, Shen Yi gave Zhen Nuan a scarf so she wouldn't catch a cold. However, Zhen Nuan felt that her neck was very itchy because of the scarf, so she showed uncomfortable body gestures and also said her body was itching. Verbal reduplication in the sentence 他收回手，把她的围巾往上提了提 'He retracted his hand and lifted her scarf indicates an action that does not use a lot of energy and can be done in a short time. Therefore, the verbal reduplication in the sentence above has a delimitative meaning, which refers to doing an action 'a little bit' or for a short period.

- (3) 姚师傅：得了吧！我的曹老！您前两天不是还说要是有了钱，先把咱的大奔修一修。不是我这人乌鸦嘴，专拣难听的说。

Yáo shīfù: Dé le ba! Wǒ de Cáo Lǎo! Nín qián liǎng tiān bùshì hái shuō yàoshi yǒu le qián, xiān bǎ zán de dà bēn xiū yi xiū. Bùshì wǒ zhè rén wūyā zuǐ, zhuān jiǎn nántīng de shuō.

[Master Yao: Come on! My Cao Lao! Didn't you say two days ago that if you have money, you want to fix our Mercedes-Benz first. I'm not a crow's mouth, who can say bad luck.] (<http://www.millionbook.com/xd/b/bishuming/shenm/007.htm>)

Before they separated, Cao Lao told Bi Dao about his plan to spend money in old age. For a moment, Cao Lao remembered his dark and regretful past. Master Yao who noticed the change on his father-in-law's face immediately said 先把咱的大奔修一修 'you want to fix our Mercedes-Benz first'. Master Lao didn't mean to suggest Cao Lao fix the car, he was just trying to divert the conversation. He only spoke the words that came to his mind. Thus it can be concluded that the verbal reduplication in a sentence (3) contains a delimitative meaning, which is to try.

Tentative Meaning

- (4) 再说，和以前的兵相比，你们就算是享了大福了。我那兄弟还是打这座城时死的呢！怎么了？怎么也不怎么！我弟媳妇至今还睡在小土房里，小伙子，来吧。咱们一块把这屋拾掇拾掇。让这像皮人靠窗根底下凉快凉快去。

Zàishuō, hé yǐqián de bīng xiāng bǐ, nǐmen jiùsuàn shì xiǎng le dàfú le. Wǒ nà xiōngdì háishì dǎ zhè zuò chéng shí sǐ de ne! Zěnméi? Zěnméi yě bù zěnméi! Wǒ dì xífù zhìjīn hái shuì zài xiǎo tǔ fáng lǐ, xiǎohuǒzi, lái ba. Zánmen yīkuài bǎ zhè wū shíduo shíduo. Ràng zhè xiàng pí rén kào chuāng gēndǐ xià liángkuai liángkuai qù.

[Besides, compared with the previous soldiers, you even enjoyed a great blessing. My brother died when he hit this city! What's wrong? It does matter. My sister-in-law still sleeps in the small earthen house, young man, come on. Let's clean up the house together. Let this skinny person cool down by the window.] (<http://www.millionbook.com/xd/b/bishuming/zhuang/009.htm>)

After arriving at the place that Mr. Li pointed out, Sang Pingyuan refused to stay the night because he thought the room was a morgue. After Mr. Li explained that the room was a former warehouse, not a morgue, Sang Pingyuan began to soften, but still grumbled. Verbal reduplication in the sentence of 咱们一块把这屋拾掇拾掇 'Let's clean up the house together is a suggestion and has good intentions. Mr. Li didn't mean to trouble Sang Pingyuan or make him uncomfortable because have to spend the night there. Mr. Li meant that Sang Pingyuan and his family would still be able to sleep properly without spending a lot of money. The act of cleaning has good intentions. But the decision was left to Sang Pingyuan, although Mr. Li hoped the young man would follow his advice. Therefore, it can be concluded that verbal reduplication in sentence (4) contains a tentative meaning in the form of containing suggestions and well-meant advice.

- (5) 队长 : 郑易啊，我听说你的事了，你这新人得学会讲证……
Duìzhǎng : Zhèng yì a, wǒ tīng shuō nǐ de shì le, nǐ zhè xīnrén deì xuéhuì jiǎng zhèng……
[Team Leader: Zheng Yi, I have heard of your problem, as a beginner should learn to explain evidence...]
郑易 : 队长。北野不是雨衣人。我恳求您把卷宗再压一压。
Zhèng Yì : Duìzhǎng. Běiyě bùshì yǔyī rén. Wǒ kěnxīu nín bǎ juǎnzōng zài yā yì ya.
[Zheng Yi : Sir, Beiyu is not that raincoat man. I beg you to hold the document, Sir.]
队长 : 你没有资格及充分理由。
Duìzhǎng : Nǐ méiyǒu zīgé jí chōngfèn lǐyóu.
[Team Leader: You do not have sufficient qualifications and arguments.] (<https://www.kanunu8.com/book2/11123/212458.html>)

Zheng Yi investigates to find evidence stating that Beiyu is not a suspect in the case he is working on. However, the team leader said that the meeting to discuss

the case would end early, so the evidence file had to be sent to the court immediately. For Zheng Yi to delay collecting evidence, he said 我恳求您把卷宗再压一压 'Please hold the document, Sir'. The act of withholding documents is conveyed as a suggestion. The suggestion is the speaker's hope that the real perpetrator can be caught and there will be no other victims in the future. Verbal reduplication does not emphasize the number of documents withheld, but rather the speaker's intention to withhold. Thus, it can be concluded that the verbal reduplication in the sentence above contains a tentative meaning, that is containing suggestions and well-meant advice.

(6) X 经理 : 好了别嘀咕了, 都进来开会了, 既然大家人来齐, 十九大领悟提一提, 展望公司新机遇, 各位把规划集一集! 最后我来做整理, 正好我有想法在心底!

X jīnglǐ : Hǎole bié dígū le, dōu jìnlái kāihuì le, jìrán dàjiā rén lái qí, shíjiǔ dà língwù tí yì tí, zhǎnwàng gōngsī xīn jīyù, gèwèi bǎ guīhuà jí yì jí! Zuìhòu wǒ lái zuò zhěnglǐ, zhèngǎo wǒ yǒu xiǎngfǎ zài xīndǐ!

[Manager X : Okay, don't mumble, all of you came to the meeting. Now everyone is here, the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China will bring it up and look forward to new opportunities for the company. Let's put together your plans! Finally, I will do the sorting, just because I have an idea in my heart!]

(<https://www.juben68.com/win8/3362.html>)

The drama script starts immediately with manager X's words. Manager X asks each departmental representative to draw up and put together a plan that is in line with the vision of the 19th Chinese Communist National Congress. The main purpose of the plan is to improve the life quality of the people and advance the company. To get plans from each department, Manager X said 各位把规划集一集! 'Let's put together your plans!' The act of putting together a plan has good intentions. But the decision is left to each department representative, even though manager X hopes they will follow his advice. The act of collecting plans does not refer to the number of plans that are collected or the speed at which they are collected but is a suggestion. Until the end of the story, whether the suggestion is carried out or not, is not known. From the lack of clarity on whether the suggestion is implemented or not, it can be concluded that the verbal reduplication in the sentence above has a tentative meaning, that is containing suggestions and well-meant advice.

Combination of Delimitative and Tentative Meaning

(7) “你是我请来的客人, 回去的路费哪能让你自己掏, 真要走, 你就拿上吧。”阿宁把钱往前推推。小髻手像火烫了似的往回缩。

“Nǐ shì wǒ qǐng lái de kèrén, huíqù de lùfèi nǎ néng ràng nǐ zìjǐ tāo, zhēn yào zǒu, nǐ jiù ná shàng ba.” Ā Níng bǎ qián wǎng qián tuī tui. Xiǎo jì shǒu xiàng huǒtàng le shì de wǎng huí suō.

["You are the guest I invited. How can you pay for the journey home? If you want to go, you can take it." A Ning pushed the money forward. Xiao Ji's hands retracted like fire.] (<http://www.millionbook.com/xd/b/bishuming/zhihbm/005.htm>)

A Ning has a cousin named Xiaoji. Xiaoji left her hometown to work as a maid at A Ning's house. One day, Xiaoji made a mistake and made her want to go back to her hometown. A Ning understands and gives money as Xiaoji's fare back to her hometown. Verbal reduplication in the sentence 阿宁把钱往前推推 'A Ning pushed the money forward' indicates an action that is not exhausting and can be done in a short time. On the other hand, the act of pushing has good intentions. This action did not refer to the amount of money that was given, but rather A Ning's intention to give Xiaoji money to cover Xiaoji's travel expenses and pay for a little of her living needs because she was no longer working. Thus, it can be concluded that the verbal reduplication in this sentence contains both delimitative and tentative meanings refers to doing an action 'a little bit' or for a short period, and also contains well-meant advice.

(8) 梅倩 : 林警官! 这呢!

Méi Qiàn : Lín Jǐngguān! Zhè ne!

[Mei Qian : Officer Lin! This is it!

林景 : 孩子, 你先把这情况跟我说说呗!

Lín Jǐng : Háizi, nǐ xiān bǎ zhè qíngkuàng gēn wǒ shuō shuo bei!

[Lin Jing : Girl, tell me about the situation first!]

梅倩 : 林警官, 是这样的。我帮你约了校园贷的总头目到这里见面, 说你是我同学, 出现了点经济问题想要找他借钱, 然后后面就看您的了!

Méi Qiàn : Lín Jǐngguān, shì zhèyàng de. Wǒ bāng nǐ yuēle xiàoyuán dài de zǒng tóumù dào zhèlǐ jiànmiàn, shuō nǐ shì wǒ tóngxué, chūxiànle diǎn jīngjì wèntí xiǎng yào zhǎo tā jiè qián, ránhòu hòumiàn jiù kàn nín dele!

[Mei Qian : Officer Lin, it's like this. I helped you to make an appointment with the head of the campus loan to meet here, saying that you are my classmate and have some financial problems and want to borrow money from him, and after that it's up to you!]

(<https://www.juben68.com/win8/19921.html>)

Lin Jing is a police officer who is on a mission to destroy an illegal student loan organization. These illegal organizations have very high-interest rates that make it difficult for students who are less well off to pay their debts. This mission was carried out by Lin Jing assisted by a student and also a victim of the organization named Mei Qian. Verbal reduplication of Lin Jing's sentences, 孩子, 你先把这情况跟我说说呗! 'Girl, tell me about the situation first!' indicates an action that is done in a short time and without using a lot of energy. Moreover, the sentence indicates a suggestion too. The act of explaining is intended so that their mission can run smoothly and the perpetrators of the crime can be caught on the spot. Thus, it can be concluded that the verbal reduplication in the sentence above is a combination of delimitative and tentative, which refers to an action 'a little bit' or for a short period and contains suggestions and well-meant advice.

- (9) 郑爽 : 是啊! 党的关怀不能忘, 乡亲们的情意不能丢, 只要你能脱贫致富, 这就是你最好的回报
- Zhèng Shuǎng : Shì a! Dǎng de guānhuái bùnéng wàng, xiāngqīnmén de qíngyì bùnéng diū, zhǐyào nǐ néng tuōpín zhìfù, zhè jiùshì nǐ zuì hǎo de huíào
- [Zheng Shuang : That's right! The party's concern should not be forgotten, nor should the goodwill of the villagers be lost. As long as you can get out of poverty and become rich, this is the best reward you can give.]
- 王翠花 : 一定! 一定!
- Wáng Cuihuā : Yīdìng! Yīdìng!
- [Wang Cuihua : Absolutely! Certain!]
- 郑爽 : 哎! 对了, 嫂子我一会儿还要去五组张二爹家去看看, 你过来, 抓紧时间把这衣裳试试。
- Zhèng Shuǎng : Āi! Duìle, sāozi wǒ yīhuìr hái yào qù wǔ zǔ zhāng èr diē jiā qù kàn kàn, nǐ guòlái, zhuājǐn shíjiān bǎ zhè yīshang shì shì.
- [Zheng Shuang : Hey! Sister-in-law, by the way, I want to take a look at Zhang Er's house in the group of five. Come here, hurry up and try on this dress.]
- (<https://www.juben68.com/win8/3579.html>)

Zheng Shuang is a village head who is tackling the problem of poverty along with other party members and village cadres. The most serious impact of this problem is that many people die, mainly due to untreated chronic diseases. Wang Cuihua's husband is one of the residents affected by this problem. Verbal reduplication of Zheng Shuang's sentences, 你过来, 抓紧时间把这衣裳试试 'Come here, hurry up and try on this dress' indicates an action that is not exhausting and can be done in a short time. On the other hand, the act of trying on clothes is a suggestion. The reduplicated verb emphasizes the speaker's intention to try to make the clothes he buys comfortable and useful. This is good advice and intent, but whether it is done or not, it is left to the interlocutor. From these characteristics, it can be concluded that the verbal reduplication in the sentence above contains a delimitative + tentative meaning, which refers to an action 'a little bit' or for a short period and contains suggestions and well-meant advice

CONCLUSION

Disposal sentence or also called a ba sentence is a sentence that is often used in Mandarin. The uniqueness of this structure makes many researchers explore and update the existing findings. In this research, the author tries to describe the meaning contained in the verbal reduplication in the ba sentence. From the 9 data that have been analyzed, it can be proven that verbal reduplication in the sentence ba contains delimitative and tentative meanings proposed by Li & Thompson (1981) and Zhuo Jing (2005). Based on the 9 data that have been analyzed, the writer concludes that the 3 delimitative data refer to an action 'a little bit' or for a short period. On the other hand, the 3 tentative data refer to a suggestion and contain well-meant advice. Apart from delimitative and tentative data, there is also data that means a combination of the two. The results of this research are expected to bring new information to all Chinese learners in Indonesia. Therefore, the author feels it is necessary to conduct further research on this topic to investigate other possibilities from a different point of view through other types of research.

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