

Review of: "Geach's "Good" and "Bad", Attributive After All"

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Typological facts may provide more support for "good"'s attributive property. In Chinese, while good is used predicatively, it is usually accompanied by complementary constituents. For instance, when expressing "this knife is good", it is "zhe(this) ba(measure word) dao(knife) hen(very, necessary for sentences being complete) hao(good) yong(use)". Apparently, yong(use) indicates function of dao(knife). Similarly, "this car is good" is "zhe(this) liang(measure word) che(car) hen(very, necessary for sentences being complete) hao(good) kai(drive)", in which kai(drive) also indicates function of che(car). The complementary constituents yong(use) and kai(drive) fairly explains that hao(good) is open for more details for it is just attributive, just as "square of a number" is open for different numbers. One may object to the instance, for hao(good) above could also be regarded as adverbs. Notwithstanding, hao(good) is incapable of being predicative solely. There are at least two points which should be noticed in sentence "zhe(this) liang(measure word) che(car) shi(particle) hao(good) de(particle)". First of all, it uses stress, which is marked. Secondly, hao(good) in it actually carries more meaning other than good, which means, it is no longer good, but has its own meaning, being polysemic. This also relates with another suggestion for this paper. It could be noticed that when an adjective is a polyseme, different sense may have dependent attributive or predicative behaviors. Besides, it could be illustrated more when trying to say that "the logical distinction is based on an adjective's modifying behavior and not on an adjective's inferential character".