In Mandarin Chinese (MC), both ditransitive and transitive verbs can appear in double object construction (DOC). There are two kinds of transitive verbs being examined here, namely compound verb and consumption verb. This research investigates how Pylkkänen’s (2008) analysis of applicative with MC. I present evidence that ditransitive verbs and compound verbs should take the High Applicative (HA) approach, and transitive consumption verbs fit with the Low Applicative (LA) approach better.

**Background**

Pylkkänen’s proposal on double object construction (2008):

- **High Applicative:**
  - The HA attaches the Appl above the verb and demonstrates the relation between the IO and the event.

- **Low Applicative:**
  - The LA attaches the Appl below the verb and focuses on the relation between the DO and the IO.

**Double object construction in Mandarin Chinese**

There are four structures for sentences with two explicitly stated objects (DO and IO):

1. S + V + DO + (Prep) IO
2. S + (Prep) IO + V + DO
3. S + V + IO + DO
4. S + (Prep) IO + V + DO

**Research Question**

What types of transitive verbs can form compound verbs?

What types of transitive verbs can have a potential direction?

Will different types of transitive consumption verbs have distinct relationships between between the DO and IO? If so, which structure fits better?

**Verbs in Double Object Construction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound verb (HA)</th>
<th>Compound verb: verb (some transitive verbs) + get (to imply a direction of transfer):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The argument capacity extends to three. (Paul &amp; Whitman, 2010)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8a- b) An example of a compound verb: <em>wo xie GEI ni yi long xin</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8b) <em>wo xie ni yi long xin</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The verb <em>xie</em> in sentence (8b) cannot take three arguments, while <em>GEI</em> introduces the IO.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion & Future Studies**

In MC, HA appears in DOC with some ditransitive verbs and compound verbs, while LA fits better with transitive consumption verbs.

**Future studies:**

- What types of transitive verbs can form compound verbs?
- What types of transitive verbs can have a potential direction?
- Will different types of transitive consumption verbs have distinct relationships between between the DO and IO? If so, which structure fits better?

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**References**