Chinese Adjectives Are Unrestricted
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Like almost all other Chinese lexical categories, the Chinese adjective has its simplest (pure, “pure”) meaning only. Chinese adjectives are unrestricted adjectives; hence, they need a degree adverb, a measure phrase, reduplication morphology, (contrastive) focus, or the sentence final particle le when you want to restrict them. Chinese and English adjectives in fact are the same in the semantic nature; they only differ from each other in how to have their degree argument restricted. This typological difference has itself realized in two different ways: First, English has the phonologically null degree morpheme pos, which English often uses to restrict the degree argument of adjectives, but Chinese does not have the phonologically null degree morpheme pos. Second, both Chinese and English can use degree adverbs or measure phrases to restrict the degree argument of adjectives, but Chinese further uses reduplication morphology, (contrastive) focus, or the sentence final particle le as a language-specific way to restrict the degree argument of adjectives.