

චීන භාෂාවෙහි ‘得’ úchū b、deǔ භාවිතය

The Usage of ‘得’ úchū b、deǔ in Chinese Language

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Abstract

This ‘得’ úchū b、deǔ particle is one of the three 'de' pronunciations (minus tones) in Chinese language. In the research on this particle, the identification of the role of ‘得’ (de) makes it easy to understand. In this study, the feature of ‘得’ (de) particle, the context of ‘得’ (de) pattern, the features of complementary usages after ‘得’ (de), the usage of ‘得’ (de), its various occasions, in the process of translation the changes that must be subjected to are discussed. In the Chinese Language, ‘得’ (de) can be identified as a symbol. It can be used after a verb or adjective and before a complementary. Further, it acts like a conjunctive word between predicate / adjective and the complementary. The phrase which is formed using ‘得’ (de) at the end a verb or an adjective will complete the meaning by the complementary. The study of usage of ‘得’ (de) is not familiar in the many Languages such as Sinhala, Pali, Sanskrit, and English. Hence in the Chinese Language, ‘得’ (de) can be noted as an important usage.

Key Words: ‘得’ (de), complementary, adjective, Verb, Verb complementary, predicate

සාරසංක්ෂේපය

චීන භාෂාවෙහි de ශබ්ද ආකාර තුනෙන් එකක් (තානයක්)

රහිත) වන මෙම “得 (chū b、deǔ නිපාතය භාෂා අධ්‍යයනෙහිදී විශේෂයෙන් හඳුනා ගත යුතු නිපාතයකි. ඒ පිළිබඳ ගවේෂණයේදී එහි කාර්යභාරය විමසීම අවබෝධය පහසු කරයි. මෙම අධ්‍යයනයෙහිදී “得 (de) වාක්‍යවල ස්වරූපය, “得 (de) වාක්‍ය සන්දර්භය, “得 (de) නිපාතයට පසුව යොදන අනුපූරකවල ස්වරූපයල “得 (de) භාවිතයෙහි විවිධ ප්‍රාස්ථාවන්, “得 (de) වාක්‍යක් පරිවර්තනයේදී සිදු වන වෙනස්කම් යනාදිය සාකච්ඡා කෙරේ. චීන භාෂාවෙහි “得 (de) භාවිත වන ආකාරය අනුව සලකා බලන විට එය සංකේතයක් ලෙස හඳුනා ගත හැකිය. එය ක්‍රියා පදයකට හෝ නාම පදයකට පසුව යෙදෙමින් ද අනුපූරක පදයකට මුලින් යෙදෙමින් ද සම්බන්ධවාවී පදයක් ලෙස ක්‍රියා කරයි. ක්‍රියා පදයක් හෝ නාම විශේෂණයක් අගට “得 (de) යොදා සාදා ගන්නා “得 (de) අවසන් කොට ඇති වාක්‍යාංශය, පසුව යෙදෙන අනුපූරකය මගින් පූර්ණත්වයට පමුණුවනු ලැබේ. සිංහල, පාලි, සංස්කෘත, ඉංග්‍රීසි වැනි බොහෝ භාෂාවලට “得 (de) වාක්‍ය ඊතිය හුරුපුරුදු නොවේ. එම නිසා චීන භාෂාවෙහි ඉතා වැදගත් ව්‍යාකරණ භාවිතයක් ලෙස “得 (de) භාවිතය හඳුන්වා දිය හැකිය.

යතුරු පද: ‘得’ (de), පූරක, නාම විශේෂණ, ක්‍රියා අනුපූරක, ආධ්‍යාත

Introduction

In Chinese language, ‘得’ ūchū b、deǔ is one of the three pronunciations which is used with several specialties. The clear understanding of this usage makes it easy to understand the grammar and speech.

Even though it is difficult to find a definite meaning for ‘得’ (de) particle, it is expected to pay attention to the important areas of its usages. After using the ‘得’ (de), the verb or the word is transformed to another form. With this change, the complementary gets an opportunity to increase or change the meaning of the particular verb or word.

The research on this particle, the identification of the role of ‘得’ (de) makes it easy to understand the usage. Hence, the objective of this research is to study the role of ‘得’ (ch* b] de). The research problem is the usage of ‘得’ (de) sentence pattern, what the specialties are in it etc.

Research Methodology

The data for the study has been collected from the primary Chinese texts and the relevant monographs and in the field of Chinese Language.

Discussion

人 *úrónǚ* is the word for person, man in Chinese. In combining to a letter, it is used on the left side of the letters with a slight difference; root 亻 *ǔdānrónpángù*. The root for two persons; 彳 *chū (shuāngrónpáng)*, is changed again. And, ‘得’ (de) is such an occasion. Considering the shape of the letter 彳 *ǔchūù*, it is used as "chū b、de". This can be shown as follows,

人(*rón*) - person, man

亻 (*dānrónpáng*) → 们(*men*)、你(*nù*)、他(*t'*)、什么 (*sh5nme*)

彳 (*chū b、de*) → 得(*de*)

In many cases, it is used after a verb or an adjective to give explanation or information. As that explanation or information completes the particular verb or adjective, that can be introduced as a complementary.

" zDeZ is used after verbs or adjectives, connecting the complement."¹

你说得对。(*nù shuē de duī*.)

What you said is correct.

Here ‘correct’ is the complementary which completes the verb. Further, it can be explained as a situation which connects two meanings of two sentences, as

You said.

It is correct.

他做得饭很好吃。(tā zuè de fàn hǎo chū.)

The food prepared by him is very tasty.

Hence the usage of ‘得’ (de) can be structured as follows.

Adjective / Verb + ‘得’ (de) + Complementary

他听得懂。(tā tīng de dǒng.)

He has understood what he heard.

玛丽哭得眼睛都红了。(mǎlǐ kū de yǎnjúng dōu hóng le.)

Mali cried and eyes have become red.

The complementary which is used after ‘得’ (de) with a verb or adjective compare the meaning of the verb or adjective. And further, it describes the verb or adjective as a degree complement (Adjective) such as good, better, best, bad, speedy, slow, clean and unclean.

哥哥唱得很好。(gōgē chàng de hǎo hǎo.)

The singing of the elder brother is very good.

弟弟说得不好。(dūdi shuē de b.hǎo.)

The statement made by younger brother is bad.

妈妈起得不早。(māma qǐ de b. zǎo.)

Waking up of mother is late.

妈妈睡得也早。(māma shuī de yě zǎo.)

Going to bed of mother is also early.

写得快 (xiě de kuài)

The writing is speedy.

她胖得可爱。(tā pàng de kě'ài.)

Fatness of her is pretty.

A: 朋友, 你每天几点起床? (péngyou, nǐ měitiān jùdiǎn qǐchuáng?)

Friend, at what time do you wake up daily?

B: 六点起床, 你呢? (liù diǎn qǐchuáng, nǐ ne?)

At 6 o'clock and you?

A: 我五点起床, 我起得早, 睡得也早。(wǒ wǔ diǎn qǐchuáng, wǒ qǐ de zǎo, shuī de yě zǎo.)

I wake up at 5 o'clock, I wake up early and I go to bed early too.

In a complex or a compound sentence the usage of '得' (de) can be structured as follows.

Subject + Verb + Object + Verb + '得' (de) + Complementary (Adjective)

S. + V. + O. + V. + ‘得’ (de) + C

你说汉语说得很好。(nù shuē hàn yǔ } shuē de hǎo hǎo.)

You speak Chinese, speaking is very good.

我写汉字写得不好。(wǒ xiě hàn zì xiě de b, hǎo.)

I write letters, writing is bad.

姐姐唱歌唱得不太好。(jiějie chàng gē chàng de b, tài hǎo.)

Sister sings, singing is not so good.

你跳舞跳得很好。(nù tiàowǔ } tiào de hǎo hǎo.)

You dance, dancing is very good.

我妈妈游泳游得慢。(wǒ māma yóuyǒng yóu de màn.)

My mother swims, swimming is slow.

Subject + Object+ Verb + ‘得’ (de) + Complementary (Adjective)

S. + O. + V. + ‘得’ (de) + C

In a sentence with an object, the object comes before the verb as the second step. Here, the basic verb is omitted and only the verb with ‘得’(de) remains.

你汉语说得很好。(nù hàn yǔ } shuē de hǎo hǎo.)

Your speaking of Chinese is very good.

我汉字写得不好。(wǒ hànzì xiě de bù hǎo.)

My writing is not good.

姐姐歌唱得不太好。(jiějie gē chàng de bù tài hǎo.)

Elder sister's singing is not so good.

你舞跳得很好。(nǚ wǔ tiào de hěn hǎo.)

Your dancing is very good.

我妈妈泳游得慢。(wǒ māma yǐng yóu de màn.)

My mother's swimming is slow.

Here it is clear that the role of '得' (de) is to explain the degree or the quality of the process of the verb. '得' (de) sentences are suitable if we need to express an idea or to make an explanation.

Feature of complementary

Complementary is made with adjectives, phrases, verb complementary and other words. At this point, only the usage of adjective as a complementary is stated. Other usages will be identified under 'Various usage of '得' (de) '.

'得' (de) + Complementary

Complementary => How the action is performed?

他跑得很快。(tā pǎo de hěn kuài.)

His running is fast.

他踢足球踢得非常好。(tā tí zú qiú de tí de fēicháng hǎo.)

He plays football, his playing is very good.

Verb - '得' (de) + Complementary (Adjective)

(V + '得' (de) + C. (Adj.)

Verb - '得' (de) + Complementary (Adverb + Adjective)

(V. + '得' (de) + C. Adv. +Adj.)

In the Chinese Language, sometimes, adverbs are used to form adjectives.

V + '得' (de) + Adj.

踢得好((tú de hǎo)

Playing is good.

V. + '得' (de) + Adv. +Adj.

踢得非常好。(tú de fēicháng hǎo.)

Playing is very good.

S.+ V. + O. + V. + '得' (de) + Adv. +Adj.

他踢足球踢得非常好。(tā tú zúqiú de tú de fēicháng hǎo.)

He plays football and playing is very good.

Various usage of '得' (de)

As stated above, '得' (de) is a symbol which appears after a verb or an adjective and before a complementary. This complementary which occurs in the later part of the sentence gives an information or an idea regarding the verb or adjective

which can be seen previously. That complement can be a verb complementary which explains the state of completion of the verb or an adjectival phrase.

“තත්ත්වයක් හෝ ක්‍රියාවක් පිළිබඳව තවදුරටත් විස්තර කිරීමේදී ක්‍රියා පදයක් හෝ නාම විශේෂණ පදයක් තම අනුපූරකය ලෙස ක්‍රියා හෝ නාම විශේෂණ වාක්‍ය ඛණ්ඩයක් භාවිතා කරයි. එම අනුපූරකය විසින් ක්‍රියාවේ හෝ තත්ත්වයේ ස්වරූපය, ප්‍රතිඵලය, තත්ත්වය, ඇගයීම පිළිබඳව තොරතුරු සපයයි. මෙහි, 得 (de) යන්න ආධ්‍යානය/නාම විශේෂණ පදය සහ අනුපූරකය අතර සම්බන්ධකය ලෙස ක්‍රියාකරයි.”²

[In further explanation of a state or a verb, phrases can be used as the complementary of a verb or adjective. This complementary provides the information on the form of action or state, result, condition, evaluation. Here ‘得’ (de) acts like a conjunction between predicate / adjective and the complementary.]

- 1 Verb + ‘得’ (de) + Verb complementary
- 2 Adjective + ‘得’ (de) + complementary
- 3 Usage of ‘得’ (de) in comparative sentences.
- 4 Adjective + ‘得’ (de) + 很 (hǎn)
- 5 Verb / Adjective + ‘得’ (de) + sub sentence or reason.
- 6 Usage of ‘得’ (de) in interrogative sentences.
- 7 Usage of ‘得’ (de) in the past.

1 Verb + ‘得’ (de) + Verb complementary

By using ‘得’ (de), it is explained the ability to perform the action and, by using the verb complementary, different meanings are implied such as the action was completed

successfully, completely and so on. In other words, When we consider the whole meaning, it is understood that the subject can perform the action successfully or completely.

It is a special feature that can be seen here that the negative sentences can be expressed using the adverb 不 (bù). It gives the meaning that the action cannot be performed.

"'De' connects the possible complement, which can only be a single verb or adjective. The negative form is 'verb+ 不 + complement'."³

‘得’(de) Complement – Able (ability)

我买得到。(wǒ mǎi de dào.) I can buy it. (ability)

我听得懂。(wǒ tīngde dǒng.) I can understand what I hear.

我听得见。(wǒ tīngde jiàn.) I can hear. (ability)

他睡得着。(tā shuīde zhe.) He can go to bed. (ability)

他吃得完。(tā chīde wán.) He can complete eating.

我等得了。(wǒ děngde liǎo.) I can wait.

我吃得下。(wǒ chīde xià.) I can have meals.

我买得起。(wǒ mǎi de qǐ.) I can spend.

这里放得下。(zhèlǐ fàngde xià.) It can be kept / put here.

我站得住。(wǒ zhàn de zhù.) I can stand here.

我做得好。(wǒ zuò de hǎo.) I can do well.

我说得出来。(wǒ shuōdechǔlái.) I can speak clearly.

我拿得起来。(wǒ nádeqǐlái.) I can pick it up.

我站得起来。(wǒ zhànde qǐlái.) I can stand up.

不(b) Complementary – Unable (inability)

我买不到。(wǒ mǎibù dào.) I cannot buy it.

我站不起来。(wǒ zhàn bù qǐlái.) I cannot stand up.

2 Adjective + ‘得’ (de) + complementary

看电视的时候，妈妈难过得哭了。(kàn diànshǔ de shíhòu, māma nánguò de kǔ le.)

Mother cried sadly when she watched the T.V

我难过得忘了时间(wǒ nánguò de wàng le shíjiān.) I forgot the time as I was uncomfortable.

他累得不想吃饭。(tā lěi de bù xiǎng chīfàn.) He has no idea to eat as he is tired.

3 Usage of ‘得’ (de) in comparative sentences.

Usually comparative prefixes are used such as 比(bì), 有(yǒu), 没有(móuyǒu) to form comparative sentences. It is useful to study the behavior of ‘得’ (de) in such an environment.

3.1 A 比(bì) B + Adjective + 得多(de duō)

麦克比他高得多。(màikè bǐ tā gāo de duō.)

Michel is taller than him.

口语比语法难得多。(kǔyǔ bǐ yǔfǎ nán de duō.)

Speaking is more difficult than the grammar.

数学比历史难得多。(shǔxué bù lǐshù nán de duō.)

Mathematics is more difficult than History.

3.2 A 比(bù) B + verb 得 + Adjective

北京的冬天比上海来得晚。(běijīng de dōngtiān bù shànghǎi lái de wǎn.)

Winter is later in Beijing than Shanghai.

玛丽说汉语比我说得好。(mǎlǐ shuō hànǔ} bù wǒ shuō de hǎo.)

Chinese speaking of Mali is better than me.

The pattern with a slight difference

A+ Verb 得 + 比(bù) B + Adjective

北京的冬天来得比上海晚。(běijīng de dōngtiān lái de bù shànghǎi wǎn.)

Winter is later in Beijing than Shanghai.

玛丽说汉语说得比我好。(mǎlǐ shuō hànǔ} shuō de bù wǒ hǎo.)

Speaking of Chinese of Mali is better than me.

3.3 A+ Verb 得 + 有/没有(yěuǒmóiyěu) B (这么/那么) + Adjective

他唱歌唱得没有你好。(tā chàng gē chàng de móiyǒu nǐ zhè hǎo.) He sings, his singing is not good as yours.

她跳舞跳得没有玛丽这么好。(tā tiàowǔ tiào de yǒu mǎlǐ e hào.)

She dances; her dancing is not as good as Mali's.

The pattern with a slight difference

A+ 有/没有(yǒu/méiyǒu) B+ Verb 得 + (这么/那么) + Adjective

他唱歌没有你唱得这么好。(tā chàng gē méiyǒu nǐ chàng de zhè me hào.)

Your singing is sweeter, not his.

她跳舞没有玛丽跳得这么好。(tā tiàowǔ méiyǒu mǎlǐ tiào de zhè me hào.)

Her dancing is not nicer than Mali's.

4 Adjective + '得' (de) + 很 (hěn)

好得很(hǎo de hěn)

So much good.

清楚得很(qīngchǔ de hěn.)

So much of clarity. / So much of understanding.

5 Verb / Adjective + '得' (de) + sub sentence or reason.

看得一清二楚，乱得谁也进不去。(kàn de yí qīng èr chǔ, luàn de shéi yě jìn bù qù.)

Testing is fully transparent, no one can make argument.

6 Usage of '得' (de) in interrogative sentences.

Interrogatives can be formed by doubling an adjective or using 吗(ma) at the end of the sentence.

你住得远吗? (nù zh. de yuǎn ma?)

Do you live far away?

你住得远不远? (nù zh. de yuǎn b. yuǎn?)

Do you live far away or not?

他说得好吗? (tā shuē de hǎo ma?)

Is his speaking good?

他说得好不好? (tā shuē de hǎo b. hǎo?)

Is his speaking good or bad?

姐姐起得早吗? (jiějie qǐ de zǎo ma?)

Is waking up of sister early?

姐姐起得早不早? (jiějie qǐ de zǎo b. zǎo?)

Is waking up of sister early or not?

7 Usage of ‘得’ (de) in the past

In the form of sentences of ‘得’ (de), past tense indication can be used to convey that the action has been already performed.

我学习大学的时候汉语说得很流利。(wǒ xuéxué dàxué de shíhòu hànyǔ shuō de hěn liúli.) My Chinese speaking was so fluent when I was in the University.

我小时候日语学得很努力。(wǒ xiǎoshíhòu rìyǔ xué de hěn nǔlì.)

Studying Japanese in my childhood was so hard.

我小时候日语说得很流利。(wǒ xiǎoshíhòu rìyǔ shuō de hěn liúli.)

Speaking Japanese in my childhood was so fluent.

In addition to the above example for the usage of de sentences, it can be difficult to give word to word translation in English or Sinhalese.

You speak well. 你说好。(nù shuē hǎo.)

Although the translation of the English sentence should be indicated like this under the word to word translation. That translation is incorrect according to Chinese grammar. The reason, this 'de' pattern behaves in a different way in the Chinese Language. The correct translation will be as follows.

你说得好。(nù shuē de hǎo.) Your speaking is good.

The meaning of the sentence 'You speak well.' must be changed as 'Your speaking is good'. Thus in this pattern, it can't be translated under the word to word translation

Conclusion

When considering the way of 'de', it becomes evident that it's a bit complex but attractive sentence pattern. De is a symbol. Here, two sentences which are affiliated, or get completed in to one. The usage of 'de' after a verb or an adjective and then that particular verb or adjective being completed using a complement in a structured manner is the basic principle. There are many instances where 'de' is used with verbs. While using de is very much facilitative in translation work, in its applications, the study of diversity is an important grammatical and oral aspect.

Abbreviations :

Adj. = Adjective, Adv. = Adverb, C. = Complementary,
O. = Object, S. = Subject, V. = Verb

End Notes

1. 婧, 张., (ed.). (2008)' 语法精讲精练. Beijing: Beijing Foreign Languages Printing House. P. 125
2. 中伟, 吴., (ed.). (2010)' Modern Chinese Language – Text book. Beijing: Beijing Foreign Languages Printing House. P. 115
3. 婧, 张., (ed.). (2008)' 语法精讲精练. Beijing: Beijing Foreign Languages Printing House. P. 125

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