

## Aspect or Manner?

### A Study of Reduplicated Adverbials in Mandarin Chinese

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#### Abstract

In this paper, we attested modifiers in Mandarin and their effects on the verbal complexes. In the past, the Aktionsart of verbs is often discussed within the verbal events. Here, we discuss how modifiers can change or modify the aspects of the verbal semantics by examining several (reduplicated) modifiers in Mandarin – [慢慢(的)V] [*mànmàn(de)V*] ‘slowly’; [好好(的)V] [*hǎohǎo(de)V*] ‘nicely’; and [快/趕快(的)V] [*kuài/gǎnkuài (de)V*] ‘quickly’. We found that 快快 *kuàikuài* ‘quickly’ highlights an endpoint, 慢慢 *mànmàn* ‘slowly’ focuses on the iterative small segments of the activity. The results showed that these adverbials, among other linguistic units, that mark a viewpoint change, would also mark aspects – iterative/stage and prospective.

#### 1 Introduction

Verbal aspects can be marked on the verb or by adjuncts such as durational phrase and endpoints (Dowty 1977, Smith 1997). The peripheral marking of verbal aspects seems to be well motivated in languages where verbs are already richly inflected with tense and agreement, as due to the need for other elements to share the information load (see examples in (1) from Smith (1997: 18; italic added)). However, what happens

in a language where verbs are known to be marked with aspect only? Would it still be necessary for peripheral marking of aspects in such languages? And if so, why?

- (1) (a) *Bill knew the truth.* (Stative)  
(b) *Suddenly Bill knew the truth.* (Achievement)  
(a') *Mary coughed.* (Semelfactive)  
(b') *Mary coughed for an hour.* (Activity)  
(a'') *Kim played a set of tennis on Friday.* (Accomplishment)  
(b'') *Kim always played a set if tennis on Friday.* (Habitual Stative)

Verbs in Mandarin are grammatically marked for aspects only. Aspects that are not marked by verbal complexes did not receive as much attention, other than the well-established cases involving durational phrases or measure of endpoint similar to English (Smith 1997). We observe, however, that there is an interesting collocational constraint between reduplicated adverbials and certain verbal aspects: For instance, 慢慢(的) *mànmàn(de)* ‘slowly’ can appear before semelfactive verbs, but not 好好(的) *hǎohǎo (de)* ‘nicely’, or 快快(的) *kuàikuài (de)* ‘quickly’. An example is given in (2).  
(2) (a) 慢慢閃爍 *mànmàn shǎnshuò* ‘to blink slowly’  
(b) ?好好閃爍 *hǎohǎo shǎnshuò* ‘to blink well’  
(c) ?快快閃爍 *kuàikuài shǎnshuò* ‘to blink quickly’

We will thus investigate the role of adverbials in verbal aspects in Mandarin. The modifiers investigated in this work are mostly reduplicated, but we also included two similar forms of ‘quickly’ (快快 *kuàikuài* and 趕快 *gǎnkuài*). Apart from

comparing the antonyms ‘slowly’ and ‘quickly’, we would also like to see the differences between ‘slowly’ (3a) and ‘nicely’ (3b), and the verbs that follow each one.

(3) (a) 在我們能走之前，一定  
 zài wǒmen néng zǒu zhīqián, yīdìng  
 先要 <慢慢爬>，我認為今天  
 xiān yào <mànmàn pá>, wǒ rènwéi jīntiān  
 我們只是剛開始爬行。  
 wǒmen zhǐshì gāng kāishǐ páxíng  
 ‘Before we can walk, (we) must first crawl  
slowly. I think today, we are just learning how to  
 crawl...’

(b) 訓練學生們要聽老師的話，  
 xùnmiǎn xuéshēng men yào tīng lǎoshī de huà,  
 <好好用功> 唸書。  
 <hǎohǎo yònggōng> niànshū. =>  
 ‘to advice and encourage students so that they  
 listen to their teachers, and study hard (work hard  
well in studying).

The reasons for selecting these adverbials were as follows: First, these adverbs are related in meanings. When you do something well (i.e., *hǎohǎo*), it could also entail doing it slowly (*mànmàn*), and vice-versa. At the meantime, if you want someone to do something (be it well or slowly), you wish that they would start it quickly (thus, *kuàikuài* and *gǎnkuài*). So, the quickly meaning could apply to the beginning of the action, as well as the process of it. Hence, this contradiction: A mother would ask a child to finish the food quickly by saying 趕快吃 *gǎnkuài chī* ‘eat quickly’ but she meant that the child would eat slowly (慢慢吃 *mànmàn chī* ‘eat slowly’) but finish, or start the next bite swiftly, referring to the speed of starting the subsequent bites. Here, we see an interesting modification of the modifiers on the events. The modifiers investigated in this work are related to one another but there are subtle differences in their implied aspect.

Second, each of these modifiers modifies the verbs by providing them a characteristic, as most adjectives and adverbials do. However, in this paper, we argue that some adverbials modify the aspectual meanings of the verbs, resulting in a change that we call the implicational aspect, that is, the implied aspects of the event have changed by the addition of the modifier. Third, the implicational aspects cannot be observed if only

the terms were inspected, as in (4) below. The contextual information must be present; and hence, the importance of using a corpus-based approach in this study. In (4), for example, we use the example 爬 *pá* ‘crawl’, which is an activity verb that has stages, to show the aspect and meaning expected from the combination..

(4) (a) 慢慢 *mànmàn* ‘Crawl slowly’ (Manner)  
 (b) 好好 *hǎohǎo* 爬 ‘Crawl well’  
 (c) 快快 *kuàikuài* 爬 ‘Quick, crawl now’  
 (d) 趕快 *gǎnkuài* ‘Quick, crawl now’

By looking at these verbal complexes, for (4a), we see only one-event of crawling. Yet, in many of our examples, we found not just a single-event but multiple-event reading in verbs modified by 慢慢 *mànmàn*. For (4b), the combination of 好好爬 *hǎohǎo pá* seems a little strange without the context since crawling is itself not a well-conducted behavior, saying that to do it well is a little odd here, unless it is referring to some activities such as rock climbing (in Mandarin, the same verb is used), which comes with a good standard. Lastly, 快快爬 *kuàikuài pá* and 趕快爬 *gǎnkuài pá* give the similar feeling as in (4b) in which a context is missing to understand these verb complexes well. Based on the above, we postulate our research questions as follows:

- How could a non-verb-based representation of verbal aspects be seen in a language where verbs are marked with aspects only?
- In what ways non-verbal peripheral markings such as adverbials in Mandarin could change the aspects of verbal complexes?
- How will verbal aspects/Aktionsart account for this phenomenon in Mandarin?

These three research questions will be answered using a corpus-based approach because the non-verb-based representation of verbal aspects are best represented in contexts. We also expect the types of verbs that go with each verb complex could be different in Taiwan and China, and we expect these uses to be more frequently found in Taiwan than in China. For these, we also included both Taiwan and China data.

## 2 Linguistic Theories

The traditional Aktionsart provided by Vendler (1957) suggested four different situation types,

namely state (*love, like*), activity (*run, swim*), accomplishment (*write a letter*), and achievement (*arrive, recognize*). The accomplishment is different from achievement from the punctuality of the action. Some verbs give an interpretation of a single event such as *cough* and *sneeze*, called semelfactive. In English and European languages, for instance, Dowty (1977) and Comrie (1976) had done a lot of research to show that verbal aspects are often marked by adjuncts and not on the verb. In Mandarin, we have Ross (1995), Huang et al. (2000), Lin (2002), Lee (2012), and Xu (2014), among many. The former used the Module-Attribute-Representation of Verbal Semantics (MARVS) (Ahrens et al. 1998; Huang et al. 2000), a model that aims to provide a framework for representing verbal semantics with a special focus on Mandarin Chinese, and the latter evaluated the situation types in Mandarin. In Chinese, since aspects are the most saliently grammatically marked verbal features, aspects that are not marked by verbal complexes did not receive as much attention. The role of non-verbal constituents such as modifiers as aspectual markers were not emphasized both in Smith (1997) and MARVS. So this study is one of the few to focus on adverbial and morphological marking of adjuncts, as possible grammatical cues for verbal aspects. We will illustrate our goals more specifically with the examples below.

We notice some changes in aspects that are not present in the original meanings of the modifiers. For example, in (5a), the increase of the oil price did not happen at a single time, but this iterative meaning, as seen in 慢慢爬 *mànmàn pá* ‘crawl slowly’ in (4a) as well, is not present in the verbal complex, nor in the verbal semantics of ‘crawl’. For (5b) and (5c), the lexical semantics of 急救 *jíjiù* ‘to perform first aid’ is a bounded stage, adopting the symbol (•^^•) from MARVS following Huang et al. (2000), with a bullet indicating the boundary, the caret indicating part of a stage, and a slash indicating part of a process. 下雨 *xiàyǔ* is an inchoative Process [•/////]. By adding the adverbial ‘quickly’, (5c) means to start raining ‘soon’. Whether the speed of raining is faster or slower does not change anything. What is needed is the start time of raining arrives earlier. (5b) is similar. It is possible that [快/趕快(的)V] [*kuài/gǎnkuài* (de)V] ‘quickly’ marks Prospective

Aspect, which was not reported as marked in Chinese. So this is a possible usage of [快/趕快(的)V] [*kuài/gǎnkuài* (de)V] as an aspect marker

- (5) (a) 中油 認為，當 各國 因 中東  
*zhōngyóu rènwéi, dāng gè guó yīn zhōngdōng*  
 戰爭 新 增加的 存油量 逐漸  
*zhànzhēng xīn zēngjiā de cún yóuliáng zhújiàn*  
 消耗 時，油價 還會 再 <慢慢 回升>。  
*xiāohào shí yóujià hái huì zài <mànmanhuishēng>*  
 ‘CPC believed that when the stock amount of oil  
 in every country which increased during the war  
 in the Middle East soon decreases, the oil price  
 will gradually increase.’ [iterative; slowly]
- (b) 俞大維 到 軍 醫院 時，發現 痛哭  
*yúdàwéi dào jūn yīyuàn shí fāxiàn tòngkū*  
 呻吟 的 產婦 王文治，立即 指示  
*shēnyín de chǎnfū wángwénzhì, lìjí zhǐshì*  
 <快快 急救>  
*<kuàikuài jíjiù >*  
 ‘When Dawei Yu arrived at the military hospital  
 and saw the pregnant lady Wenzhi Wang  
 moaning in pain, he instructed (the staff) to  
quickly perform first aid’
- (c) 王乾同 說，他的 祈雨 行動 不是  
*wángqiántóng shuō, tā de qíyǔ xíngdòng bù shì*  
 「作秀」，而是 祈望 老天 <趕快  
*zuòxiù érshì qíwàng lǎotiān <gǎnkuài*  
 下雨>，幫助 農民。  
*xià yǔ > bāngzhù nóngmín.*  
 ‘Qiantong Wang said that his praying for rain  
 wasn’t making a show, but it was to hope the sky  
 would quickly rain in order to help the farmers  
 (who were in need of rain to farm).’

This phenomenon, the non-verb-based representation of meaning, has not been fully explored. So far, a full research has yet to be found that could account for the possible explanation relating to aspects that are not marked by verbal complexes but by the modifiers. In this paper, we hope to address this issue.

### 3 Methodology

In order to search for the patterns of the (reduplicated) modifiers in both Taiwan and China use, the Corpus Query Language (CQL) was used to search for matching strings of (a) [慢慢(的)V] [*mànman(de)V*] ‘slowly’; (b) [好好(的)V] [*hǎohǎo(de)V*] ‘nicely’, and (c) [快/趕快(的)V]

[*kuài/gǎnkuài(de)V*] ‘quickly’, in the Gigaword Corpus 2.0 through the Sketch Engine.<sup>1</sup> Two sub-corpora were selected, namely the Central News Agency (CNA) for Taiwan data, and the Xinhua News Agency (XIN) for China data. The followings are two examples of commands used for the search.

(6)(a) [word="慢慢"][tag="V.\*"]

(b) [word="慢慢"][word="的"][tag="V.\*"]

The search research are shown in Table 1 below:

(7) (a) [*慢慢(的)V*]/[*mànmàn(de)V*] ‘slowly’

(abbreviated as ‘MM(de)V’)

(b) [*好好(的)V*]/[*hǎohǎo(de)V*] ‘nicely’

(abbreviated as ‘HH(de)V’)

(c) [*快/趕快(的)V*]/[*kuài/gǎnkuài(de)V*] ‘quickly’

(‘KK(de)V’ and ‘GK(de)V’)

[+V]	CNA (455,526,209)		XIN (250,124,230)	
	Tokens (% of concordance)	Per mil.	Tokens (% of concordance)	Per mil.
MM	3,352 (0.00074%)	7.36	973 (0.00039%)	3.89
HH	8474 (0.0019%)	18.6	2090 (0.00084%)	8.36
KK	110 (0.000024%)	0.24	55 (0.000022%)	0.22
GK	3,534 (0.00078%)	7.76	475 (0.00019%)	1.9
MMde	158 (0.000035%)	0.35	3 (0.0000012%)	0.01
HHde	538 (0.00012%)	1.18	5 (0.000002%)	0.02
KKde	2 (0.00000044%)	<0.01	0(0%)	0

Table 1: The Search Results in CNA and XIN

From the results in Table 1, we could see that HHV ‘nicely’ in the CNA had the highest frequency among all of the constructions (18.6 per million). The Taiwan use was higher than in all patterns. We then retrieved all the types of verbs (Vs) that appeared with each pattern. The system only allowed the download of the first 1,000 types, and that means some of the hapaxes were not retrieved if they appeared at the bottom of the list below 1,000. We then analyzed the shared patterns of the CNA and XIN data, i.e., the shared verbs (Vs) of the CNA and XIN data.

## 4 Results

Each of the keywords will be discussed separately below.

### 4.1 [*慢慢(的)V*]/[*mànmàn(de)V*] ‘slowly’

In Table 1, we show the frequency per 100 million (instead of per million as shown in Table 1). We also provide the rank of the respective list by highlighting the top five.

Word	CNA 100 mil (rank)	XIN per 100 mil (rank)
恢復 <i>huīfù</i> ‘to recover’	<b>0.19977 (1)</b>	<b>0.08396 (2)</b>
形成 <i>xíngchéng</i> ‘to form’	<b>0.10976 (2)</b>	0.02799 (9)
消失 <i>xiāoshī</i> ‘to disappear’	<b>0.09659 (3)</b>	0.02799 (10)
改變 <i>gǎibiàn</i> ‘to change’	<b>0.08342 (4)</b>	0.01199 (33)
建立 <i>jiànlì</i> ‘to set up’	<b>0.08342 (5)</b>	0.00400 (112)
回升 <i>huíshēng</i> ‘to rebound’	0.08122 (6)	0.02799 (11)
減少 <i>jiǎnshǎo</i> ‘to reduce’	0.07683 (7)	0.00400 (113)
調整 <i>tiáozhěng</i> ‘to adjust’	0.07683 (8)	0.00400 (114)
瞭解 <i>liǎojiě</i> ‘to understand’	0.06805 (9)	0.01199 (34)
有 <i>yǒu</i> ‘to possess’	0.06147 (10)	<b>0.04798 (5)</b>
增加 <i>zēngjiā</i> ‘to increase’	0.05927 (11)	0.00800 (57)
好轉 <i>hǎozhuǎn</i> ‘to become better’	0.05708 (12)	0.02799 (12)
解決 <i>jiějué</i> ‘to resolve’	0.05269 (13)	0.01199 (35)
走向 <i>zǒuxiàng</i> ‘to walk towards’	0.05049 (14)	0.03198 (8)
適應 <i>shìyìng</i> ‘to adapt’	0.04830 (18)	<b>0.08796 (1)</b>
進入 <i>jìnrù</i> ‘to enter’	0.04171 (21)	<b>0.05197 (4)</b>
好起來 <i>hàoqǐlái</i> ‘to become better’	0.01098 (70)	<b>0.06397 (3)</b>

Table 2: The shared patterns of ‘MMV’

From Table 2, we can see that the rank of the top five XIN verbs was greatly different from the CNA list. One could see that the top five verbs of the CNA were found within the 112<sup>th</sup> verb of the XIN. Conversely, the top five in XIN were found within the 70<sup>th</sup> verb of the CNA. We used this to compare if the two lists differed greatly.

From the list of verbs, we can see that most of the verbs denote events with a stage, represented with (^^^), often dynamic, atelic and durative. Xu (2014: 17), using MARVS, said that events with stages are “[n]ot found in Chinese” but the inchoative stage (•^^) and bounded stage (•^^•) are. With MM, most of the verbs in this list have inchoative stage (•^^) (適應 *shìyìng* ‘to adapt’, 恢復 *huīfù* ‘to recover’, 形成 *xíngchéng* ‘become’,

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sketchengine.eu/>

改變 *gǎibiàn* ‘to change’, 建立 *jiànlì* ‘to set up’, 好起來 *hàoliáilái* ‘to become better’). By adding 慢慢 *mànmàn* ‘slowly’ to these verbs, we created the iterative sub-events that were not present by the verbs alone – that is to adapt, to recover, to become, etc, are stages accomplished through iterative events.

From the examples below, we could see that some uses of these have the original meaning, i.e., slowly, nicely, and quickly, while some others have different implied meanings. The examples in (8) show an iterative/stage reading (other than taking a longer duration). (8a), in particular, should be clear. Recall watching space or sci-fi films, 慢慢移 *mànman yí* ‘move slowly’, actually means (at least in human perception) a series of very slow stops-and-gos, not just moving slowly. Similarly, (8b) has a repeated meanings – many different times.

(8) (a) 然後，機械臂把太空人和儀器設備  
*ránhòu jīxièbì bǎ tàikōngrén hàn yíqì shèbèi*  
<慢慢移> 向哈伯望遠鏡。  
<*mànman yí*> *xiàng hābó wàngyuǎnjìng*  
‘Then, the mechanical arm took the astronaut and the mechanical device and moved slowly toward the Hubble Space Telescope.’ slowly; one-time

(b) 因此將來林小弟弟需定期返院  
*yīncǐ jiānglái línxiǎodìdì xū dìngqī fǎn yuàn*  
接受心理評估和輔導，讓他  
*jiēshòu xīnlǐ pínggū hàn fūdǎo, ràng tā*  
<慢慢接觸> 小狗，克服心理障礙。  
<*mànman jiēchù*> *xiǎo gǒu kèfú xīnlǐ zhàngài*.  
‘Therefore, in the future Lin Little Brother will need to return to the hospital to accept psychological evaluation and counselling, to enabling him to slowly accept dogs, to overcome mental difficulty.’ Iterative at many times

Compared to 慢慢 *mànman* ‘slowly’, 慢慢的 *mànmàn de* ‘slowly’ has only three instances in XIN (慢慢的熏陶/增長/好起來). As for CNA, we found 158 instances. By comparing 慢慢 *mànman* and 慢慢的 *mànmàn de*, we found the following list of words that were only used with the latter. It was found that 慢慢的 *mànmàn de* also collocates with accomplishment verbs, which are dynamic telic and durative, but some stative verbs were also found (害怕 *hàipà* ‘to fear’, 模糊 *móhú* ‘to become blurry’). For these stative verbs, which are

often atelic and durative, 慢慢的 *mànmàn de* also provides a starting point for this state, thus a (•\_\_\_), often static, atelic and durative, with the stative event represented with a straight underline. For the others, most of the events are of the inchoative stage (•^^) (發病 *fā bìng* ‘to become sick’; 感染 *gǎnrǎn* ‘to be infected’; 腐化 *fǔhuà* ‘to decompose or to corrupt’); and stage (•^^^)( 餵食 *wèishí* ‘to feed’; 演 *yǎn* ‘to act (in a play) or to pretend’) or an endpoint marked by 到 *dào* ‘reach’ and 出 *chū* ‘out’ 化 *huà* ‘-ism’. With MMde, these expressions include iterative sub-events.

代替 <i>dàitì</i> ‘to replace’	害怕 <i>hàipà</i> ‘to fear’	開[飛機]到 <i>kāi(fēijī)dào</i> ‘to fly (the plane) and reach a certain place’	模糊 <i>móhú</i> ‘to become blurry’
民主化 <i>mínzhǔ huà</i> ‘democratize’	捏塑 <i>niēsuò</i> ‘to knead’	傳到 <i>chuándào</i> ‘to reach till’	餵食 <i>wèishí</i> ‘to feed’
成功 <i>chénggōng</i> ‘to succeed’	破壞 <i>pòhuài</i> ‘to destroy’	感染 <i>gǎnrǎn</i> ‘to be infected’	闖出 <i>chuǎngchū</i> ‘to fight and get the outcome’
找出 <i>zhǎochū</i> ‘to find out’	帶引 <i>dàiyǐn</i> ‘to lead’	演 <i>yǎn</i> ‘to act (in a play) or to pretend’	攘奪 <i>rǎngduó</i> ‘to rob’
波及 <i>pōjī</i> ‘to affect’	淪為 <i>lúnwéi</i> ‘to reduce and become’	腐化 <i>fǔhuà</i> ‘to decompose or to corrupt’	流到 <i>liúdào</i> ‘to flow to a certain plain
活 <i>huó</i> ‘to live’	發病 <i>fābìng</i> ‘to become ill’	輸 <i>shū</i> ‘to lose’	進來 <i>jìnlái</i> ‘to enter’ 擊敗 <i>jībài</i> ‘to beat’

Table 3: List of Verbs found with MMde only

(9) (a) 人民會 <慢慢的害怕> 與身邊  
*rénmín huì < mànman de hàipà > yǔ shēnbiān*  
的人談話，會考慮與什麼人談話  
*de rén tánhuà huì kǎolǜ yǔ shénme rén tánhuà*

‘People will become fearful slowly to talk to the people around them, and will consider whom they should talk to.’

(b) 如 驚弓之鳥，起初接近時還會  
*rú jīngōngzhīniǎo qǐchū jiējìn shí hái huì*  
 出爪傷人，經過<慢慢的  
*chū zhǎo shāng rén jīngguò < màn mǎn de*  
 餵食>「溝通」，才化解敵意。  
*wèishí > gōutōng cái huàjiě dǐyì*  
 ‘Like the horrified bird, at first they would use their claw to hurt people; after [we] slowly fed them and to communicate, the hostile feeling disappeared.’

(c) 部分的僑社，國家認同已經  
*bùfèn de qiáo shè guójiā rèntóng yǐjīng*  
 <慢慢的模糊>  
*< màn mǎn de móhú >*  
 ‘In most of the Overseas Chinese Association, their identity of nationalism has gradually become blurry.’

The examples in (9) in fact all refer to iterative events. (9a) and (9c) are similar to the processing of ‘withering’ 凋謝 *diāo xiè*. That is, people going through several iterative of gradual emotion change till they are truly afraid (9a); or several iterative of belief shifts that ends in losing the identity. In (9b) the iteration consists of many times of careful (and likely gradually closer) feeding.

#### 4.2 [好好(的)V][*hǎohǎo(de)*V] ‘nicely’

For the second pair, [好好(的)V]/[*hǎohǎo(de)*V] ‘nicely’, we found the results below.

Word	CNA per 100 mil (rank)	XIN per 100 mil (rank)
檢討 <i>jiǎntǎo</i> ‘to review’	<b>75.956 (1)</b>	2.799 (43)
休息 <i>xiūxi</i> ‘to rest’	<b>73.98 (2)</b>	<b>43.179 (3)</b>
照顧 <i>zhàogù</i> ‘to take care of’	<b>61.248 (3)</b>	8.796 (10)
思考 <i>sīkǎo</i> ‘to think’	<b>54.443 (4)</b>	2.799 (44)
處理 <i>chǔlǐ</i> ‘to deal with’	<b>52.686 (5)</b>	1.199 (84)
利用 <i>lìyòng</i> ‘to make use of’	50.711 (6)	6.797 (13)
把握 <i>bǎwò</i> ‘to grasp’	50.711 (7)	6.797 (14)
做 <i>zuò</i> ‘to do’	44.125 (8)	1.999 (56)

談 <i>tán</i> ‘to discuss’	35.124 (9)	2.399 (50)
努力 <i>nǔlì</i> ‘to work hard’	34.246 (10)	1.999 (57)
溝通 <i>gōutōng</i> ‘to communicate’	33.368 (11)	0.4 (137)
珍惜 <i>zhēnxī</i> ‘to appreciate’	29.417 (12)	17.191 (6)
考慮 <i>kǎolù</i> ‘to consider’	27.221 (13)	7.596 (11)
規劃 <i>guīhuà</i> ‘to plan’	26.563 (14)	1.199 (85)
經營 <i>jīngyíng</i> ‘to operate’	25.904 (15)	1.599 (71)
表現 <i>biǎoxiàn</i> ‘to perform’	22.172 (16)	3.598 (36)
學習 <i>xuéxí</i> ‘to learn’	21.294 (17)	<b>181.51 (1)</b>
讀書 <i>dúshū</i> ‘to study’	13.391 (28)	<b>19.19 (5)</b>
看看 <i>kànkàn</i> ‘to watch’	6.586 (49)	13.593 (7)
幹 <i>gàn</i> ‘to do’	2.854 (78)	<b>65.967 (2)</b>
練 <i>liàn</i> ‘to train’	1.756 (103)	11.194 (9)
總結 <i>zǒngjié</i> ‘to summarize’	0.439 (197)	<b>37.182 (4)</b>
改造 <i>gǎizào</i> ‘to transform’	0.439 (169)	11.994 (8)

Table 4: The shared patterns of ‘HHV’

Comparing to the previous Table 3, we can see that the top five verbs of CNA were found within the 84<sup>th</sup> verb of the XIN, while the top five in XIN being found within the 197<sup>th</sup> verb of the CNA, indicating their similarity was still low.

As for the verb types, most of the verbs are of activity verbs (談 *tán* ‘to discuss’; 幹 *gàn* ‘to do’) or with the event being either a state (\_\_\_\_) (休息 *xiūxi* ‘to rest’, 思考 *sīkǎo* ‘to think’, 學習 *xuéxí* ‘to learn’, 讀書 *dúshū* ‘to study’, and) or a stage (•^^•) (檢討 *jiǎntǎo* ‘to review’, 照顧 *zhàogù* ‘to take care of’; 處理 *chǔlǐ* ‘to deal with’, 總結 *zǒngjié* ‘to summarize’, etc.), in which HH means ‘well’ but with an advice or directive meaning. For HH, the meaning comes from evaluation judgement, thus it brings to focus to the endpoint – in (10a) 好好做人 *hǎohǎo zuòrén* ‘to behave oneself well [to live in a proper way]’ means that it hopes the endpoint will achieve this goal. That is, for HH to be true, the endpoint must have a result state that is consistent with expected result of the verb, for instance 好好休息 *hǎohǎo xiūxi* ‘rest well’ means that it is expected that the subject is well rested at the endpoint of activity.

Most of these verbs could be used with 一下 *yí xià* ‘once’ to mean the one-time semelfactive situations (10b). The top HHV 一下 *yí xià* ‘once’ in the CNA were 休息 *xiūxi* ‘to rest’, 輕鬆

*qīngsōng* ‘to relax’, 思考 *sīkǎo* ‘to think’, 考慮 *kǎolǜ* ‘to consider’, 放鬆 *fàngsōng* ‘to relax’, 反省 *fǎnxǐng* ‘to reflect’, and 檢討 *jiǎntǎo* ‘to review’, a list quite similar to the one above.

(10) (a) 今後 必須 注意 自己的 儀表 容態，要  
*jīnhòu bìxū zhùyì zìjǐ de yíbiǎo róngtài, yào*  
 小心 謹慎 <好好 做人>，不可 犯錯  
*xiǎoxīn jǐnshèn <hǎohǎo zuòrén >, bùkě fàncuò*  
 ，要 珍惜 自己的 生命 一直到老，  
*yào zhēnxī zìjǐ de shēngmìng yīzhí dào lǎo*  
 ‘From now on, (you) need to be alert of your  
 look, be cautious in conduct [to live in a proper  
 way], not to make mistakes, and need to  
 appreciate your life until you are old.’ [To  
 achieve the well status of V; implied continuous

(b) 一名 精疲力竭的 消防 隊員 說：「我  
*yī míng jīngpílìjié de xiāofáng duìyuán shuō: wǒ*  
 不要 吃飯，我 只想 趕快 回家，洗 個  
*bùyào chīfàn, wǒ zhǐ xiǎng gǎnkuài huí jiā, xǐ gè*  
 熱水 澡，躺 在自己的 床上  
*rè shuǐ zǎo, tāng zài zìjǐ de chuángshàng*  
 <好好 睡 一覺>。  
*<hǎohǎo shuì yī jué >*  
 ‘An exhausted firefighter said, “we don’t want to  
 eat, we just want to quickly go home, take a hot  
 bath, and lie on our bed and sleep a good sleep.’  
 [To achieve the well status of V, implied one-  
 time]

(c) 任何人 只要 覺得 有 必要，都可  
*rènhé rén zhǐyào juéde yǒu bìyào dōu kě*  
 向 住家 附近 消防隊 或 公園  
*xiàng zhùjiā fùjìn xiāofángduì huò gōngyuán*  
 管理員 借用 噴水帽，縮小  
*guǎnlǐyuán jièyòng pēnshuǐmào, suōxiǎo*  
 噴水量，<好好 涼爽 一下>。  
*pēnshuǐliàng, <hǎohǎo liángshuǎng yīxià >.*  
 ‘Anyone whenever you feel there is a need, (you)  
 could go the fire station nearby or the  
 administrator in the part to borrow the spray cap,  
 turn to the smaller volume, and enjoy the  
 cooling feeling once.’

In (10c) 好好涼爽一下 *hǎohǎo liángshuǎng yīxià* means that the subject is expected to enjoy a cool at the endpoint of the activity. This also explains why 壞壞(的) *huàihuài (de)* ‘badly’ is not attested. As the antonym of 好好(的) *hǎohǎo (de)*, it means that the expected result is not obtained, which is non-telic, non-resultative statement [without endpoint] hence a focus aspect is not possible.

Note that negation is Neg (不 *bù*) + 好好(的) *hǎohǎo (de)* and not 壞壞(的) *huàihuài (de)* ‘badly’.

As for HHdeV, there were 528 instances in the CNA but only 5 in the XIN. The top list in the CNA were 做 *zuò* ‘to do’, 談 *tán* ‘to discuss’, 檢討 *jiǎntǎo* ‘to review’, 休息 *xiūxi* ‘to rest’, 思考 *sīkǎo* ‘to think’, 珍惜 *zhēnxī* ‘to appreciate’, 考慮 *kǎolǜ* ‘to consider’, 反省 *fǎnxǐng* ‘to reflect’, and they shared similar features with the HHV pattern, and they all can be modified by 一下 *yīxià* ‘once’.

#### 4.3 [快/趕快(的)V] [ [kuài/gǎnkuài(de)V]

As for [快/趕快(的)V] [ [kuài/gǎnkuài(de)V], the following results were obtained. Table 5 shows those of KKV and Table 6 shows those of GKV. KKdeV and GKdeV have no instance found in XIN, while KKdeV has only two instances found in CNA.

Word	CNA per 100 mil (rank)	XIN per 100 mil (rank)
成長 <i>chéngzhǎng</i> ‘to grow’	0.439 (1)	1.199 (2)
走出 <i>zǒuchū</i> ‘to walk out from’	0.439 (2)	0.8 (3)
長大 <i>zhǎngdà</i> ‘to grow up’	2.634 (3)	5.597 (1)
救 <i>jiù</i> ‘to save’	0.22 (4)	0.4 (4)
跑 <i>pǎo</i> ‘to run’	0.22 (4)	0.4 (4)
覺醒 <i>juéxǐng</i> ‘to be awoken’	0.22 (4)	0.4 (4)

Table 5: The shared patterns of ‘KKV’

For [快快(的)V], [kuàikuài(de)V], the verbs in Table 5 were the only shared verbs in the two sets. We could see that most of the verbs have an endpoint (成長 *chéngzhǎng* ‘to grow’, 走出 *zǒuchū* ‘to walk out from’, 長大 *zhǎngdà* ‘to grow up’, 覺醒 *juéxǐng* ‘to be awoken’, 救 *jiù* ‘to save’) but one of them is an activity verb (跑 *pǎo* ‘to run’) with a stage, but with 快快 *kuàikuài*, it marks the starting point of the stage, thus, making (•^^). In (11), we see that *kuàikuài* marks the imminent telic point (to reach the end sooner, or start sooner) of the verb ‘to decide’ (11a) and ‘to end’ (11b) by trying to make it telic and focusing on its wished inchoative stage.

(11) (a) 也 聽到 很多 基層 黨員 的  
*yě tīngdào hěnduō jīcéng dǎngyuán de*

聲音，希望 <快快 決定> 市長  
*shēngyīn, xīwàng <kuàikuài juédìng> shìzhǎng*  
 參選人，  
*cānxuǎnrén*  
 ‘(We) also heard the voice of many grassroots  
 party members. (We) hope the candidate for  
 major will be decided soon.’

(b) 「假如 FBI 還不 <快快 終止>  
*jiǎrú FBI hái bù <kuài kuài zhōngzhǐ>*  
 調查行動」，駭客將以電子技術  
*diàochá xíngdòng hài kè jiāng yǐ diànzǐ jìshù*  
 全面 摧毀這個「連結 伺服器」Internet  
*quánmiàn cuīhuǐ zhè gè liánjié sīfú*  
 上 所有 網頁的 超級 電腦。  
*shàng suǒyǒu wǎngyè de chāojí diànnǎo.*  
 ‘If FBI still do not quickly end the investigation  
 operation, hackers will use electronic technology to  
 completely destroy all the supercomputers of the  
 websites in this Internet server connection.’

As for [趕快 V][*gǎnkuài*V], the top five of the  
 CNA verbs were not the same as those of the XIN.  
 As indicated in Table 1 previously, the instances  
 found in XIN were far more fewer than those in the  
 CNA. From the list of verbs for GKV, we found  
 that they are mostly accomplishment verbs, which  
 are dynamic telic and durative, as in the MMV lists.  
 This is reasonable as GKV is the opposite of MMV  
 (but not KKV). It is interesting that with the  
 addition of *gǎnkuài*, these verbs, like those in  
 MMV, also turn into inchoative stage (•^^^), where  
 the original endpoint has become uncertain.

Word	CNA per 100 mil (rank)	XIN per 100 mil (rank)
解決 <i>jiějué</i> ‘to resolve’	<b>16.025 (1)</b>	0.4 (55)
做 <i>zuò</i> ‘to do’	<b>15.367 (2)</b>	1.599 (16)
就醫 <i>jiùyī</i> ‘to see doctor’	<b>12.074 (3)</b>	0.4 (56)
回家 <i>huíjiā</i> ‘to go home’	<b>11.854 (4)</b>	2.799 (10)
恢復 <i>huīfù</i> ‘to recover’	<b>11.196 (5)</b>	0.4 (57)
到 <i>dào</i> ‘to reach’	10.537 (6)	<b>3.598 (2)</b>
離開 <i>líkāi</i> ‘to leave’	10.098 (7)	<b>6.397 (1)</b>
結束 <i>jiéshù</i> ‘to finish’	9.659 (8)	1.199 (24)
回來 <i>huílái</i> ‘to return’	7.683 (9)	<b>3.598 (3)</b>
成立 <i>chénglì</i> ‘to establish’	7.244 (10)	1.199 (25)
回到 <i>huídào</i> ‘to return to’	7.025 (11)	<b>3.198 (5)</b>
走 <i>zǒu</i> ‘to walk’	2.854 (20)	<b>3.198 (5)</b>
做好 <i>zuòhǎo</i> ‘to do well’	2.854 (21)	0.4 (60)

行動 <i>xíngdòng</i> ‘to act’	2.634 (22)	<b>3.198 (5)</b>
回去 <i>huíqù</i> ‘to return’	1.976 (33)	<b>3.598 (4)</b>
救 <i>jiù</i> ‘to save’	1.976 (35)	<b>3.198 (5)</b>
改 <i>gǎi</i> ‘to change’	1.537 (45)	<b>3.198 (5)</b>

Table 6: The shared patterns of ‘GKV’

(12) 希望 尚未 辦理 戶口 校正 的  
*xīwàng shàngwèi bànlǐ hùkǒu jiàozhèng de*  
 民眾， <趕快 辦理>， 以免 受罰。  
*mínzhòng, <gǎnkuài bànlǐ> yǐmiǎn shòufá.*  
 ‘(We) hope that the citizens who have not  
 corrected the household register corrections should  
quickly done so, so that you will not be penalized.’

Like *kuàikuài*, *gǎnkuài* has a similar function in  
 changing the atelic aspect of the verb to a telic one  
 by providing either an immediate start point (as in  
 快走 *kuài zǒu* ‘leave now!’), marking an  
 inchoative start point), or an earlier (expected)  
 endpoint (as in 趕快 恢復 *gǎnkuài huīfù* ‘recover  
 soon’, marking an earlier endpoint for the completion of  
 the recovery) (The verb 恢復 *huīfù* ‘recover’ itself does  
 not necessarily mark the endpoint of completion).  
 Therefore, it is possible that [快/趕快(的)V]  
 [ *[kuài/gǎnkuài(de)V]* the prospect aspect in  
 Mandarin. It is something new about Mandarin  
 aspect that was not discussed previously.

## 5 Discussion

We will now discuss some other peripheral  
 elements of the verbs. For these verbal complexes  
 we found, most of them were preceded by modal  
 markers such as 希望 *xīwàng* ‘wish’, 有必要 *yǒu  
 bìyào* ‘has a necessity’, 應該 *yīnggāi* ‘should’, 如  
 果不 *rúguǒ bù* ‘if not’, and 需要 *xūyào* ‘need’, all  
 of which indicate the matters not being resolved  
 and were hoped to be resolved soon.

(13) (a) 他 希望 能夠 <趕快 解決> 兩  
*tā xīwàng nénggòu <gǎnkuài jiějué> liǎng*  
 方的 爭議。  
*fāng de zhēngyì*  
 ‘He wished to be able to quickly resolve the  
 conflict between the two sides’

(b) 此事有 必要 費 時間 來 <慢慢  
*cǐ shì yǒu bìyào fèi shíjiān lái <mànmàn*  
 解決>  
*jiějué>*  
 ‘This matter (we) must spend time to resolve  
 with it slowly.’



(c) 垃圾和交通兩項重大難題，  
*lèsè hàn jiāotōng liǎng xiàng zhòngdà nántí*  
 如能夠 <好好解決>，可說是  
*rú nénggòu <hǎohǎo jiějué>*，*kě shuō shì*  
 施政已成功了一半  
*shīzhèng yǐ chénggōng le yībàn*  
 ‘Garbage and transportation are two difficult  
 issues, if they could be resolved in a good way,  
 the administration could be said to be half  
 successful.’

(e) 四十二歲的陳守慶感謝高雄  
*sìshíèr suì de chénshǒuqìng gǎnxiè gāoxióng*  
 醫學院的照顧，讓他重生，  
*yīxuéyuàn de zhàogù, ràng tā chóngshēng*  
 他希望身體 <趕快恢復>，  
*tā xīwàng shēntǐ <gǎnkuài huīfù>*  
 重回工作崗位。  
*chónguī gōngzuò gǎngwèi*  
 ‘The 42-year old Shouqing Chen thanked the  
 treatment he received at the Medical College of  
 Kaohsiung, which enabled him to be re-born. He  
hoped that his body could quickly recover so  
 that he could return to work.’

(f) 過去幾年台灣的民間投資欠缺  
*guòqù jǐ nián táiwān de mǐnjiān tóuzī qiǎnquē*  
 活力，今年可望 <慢慢恢復>。  
*huó lì jīnnián kě wàng <mànmàn huīfù>*  
 ‘In the past years, the local investment in  
 Taiwan lacked rigorousness. This year [we]  
hope that it will slowly recover.’

(g) 要注重營養，才能 <好好  
*yào zhùzhòng yíngyǎng cáinéng <hǎohǎo*  
 恢復>。  
*huīfù>*  
 ‘(One must) take care of nutrition, only then  
 (s/he) will recover fully.’

In (3b/13f) and (13c/13g), we can see 慢慢 *mànmàn* has a meaning now that is quite close deliberately so it should collocate with 好好 *hǎohǎo*, and also share very similar context with it. But 趕快 *gǎnkuài* in (13a) should not. 趕快解決 *gǎnkuài jiějué* ‘quickly solve something’ is similar to (12) in which an earlier starting point is wished, whereas 慢慢解決 *mànmàn jiějué* ‘to solve something slowly’ and 好好解決 *hǎohǎo jiějué* ‘to solve something well’ focus not just on the manner of verb, but also provide an iterative aspect

in both cases – the action to solve is not a single-event but a multiple one.

## 6 Conclusions and Limitations

Smith (1997: xiii) analyzed verbal aspects as viewpoint focus:

The aspectual meaning of a sentence conveys information of two kinds: a situation is presented from a particular perspective, or viewpoint; and the situation is indirectly classified as a state or an event of a certain type.

For Smith (1997), *John and Mary built a rock garden last summer* and *John and Mary were building a rock garden last summer* are of the same event, but with different aspectual viewpoints. The viewpoints “present all or part of the event”.

On the other hand, MARVS theories (Huang et al. 2000) provided a system of representation to account for viewpoint focus by lexical encoding complex eventive structure for verbs. The viewpoint theory of lexical encoding allows situations in a sentence to bring to focus particular sub-parts of the event structure, i.e. one situation may focus on the beginning endpoint and the sentence will have inchoative aspect, and another with the same verb may focus on the end point, and it will be perfective, etc.

Our analysis of reduplicated adverbials in this paper supports this viewpoint focus theory of aspectual systems. That is, adverbials, among other linguistic units, that mark a viewpoint change, would also mark aspects. We have shown in this paper that 快快 *kuàikuài* ‘quickly’ highlights an imminent telic point; 慢慢 *mànmàn* ‘slowly’ focuses on the iterative small segments of the activity. (A sooner telic point for withering is not plausible because of the nature of the verb.)

- (14) (a) 慢走 *mànzǒu* ‘take your time, don’t hurry (to leave)’  
 (b) 慢慢走 *mànmàn zǒu* ‘take care, walk slowly (step by step)’  
 (c) 慢慢凋謝 *mànmàn diāoxiè* ‘it takes small intervals of times and each interval brings the event closer to the goal’  
 (d) \*快快凋謝 *kuàikuài diāoxiè* ‘?to wither quickly’

Our account calls for reexamination of the aspects in Mandarin. A wide potential of an aspectual can be found with the use of peripheral marking in

Mandarin. For the reduplicated adverbials in Mandarin, we are faced with the challenge of having the ambiguity of manner (e.g., the literal ‘slowly’) and aspectual readings (e.g., the iterative/stage reading) available at the same time. We also found a prospective aspect in Mandarin ‘quickly’ adverbials. These adverbials mark the imminent telic point, i.e., to reach the end sooner, or start sooner. This finding deserves further investigation for prospective aspect is seldom discussed in Mandarin.

Interestingly, too, our findings also calls for reexamination of the durative aspect marker 正在 *zhèngzài*. These markers are typically considered as part of the verbal complex due to their typical vicinity to the verb, regardless of their linguistic status as adverbs. Our account suggests that it should be simply another example of adverbials changing viewpoint focus, hence marks aspects.

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