

**Caritive Constructions in the Languages of the World,
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CARITIVE MARKER 无 WÚ IN CHINESE

0. Chinese grammar: basic information

Chinese almost entirely lacks inflection. Categories are frequently not expressed by any grammatical means. Chinese is chiefly a head-final language.

The basic word order is SVO, but SOV can be also found. It frequently uses serial verb constructions, which involve two or more verbs or verb phrases in sequence. Chinese prepositions behave similarly to serialized verbs in some respects, and they are often referred to as coverbs.

In Chinese, the concept of words and the boundaries between them is not always transparent. Morphemes are mostly monosyllabic. Ancient Chinese words consist of single syllables, but in Modern Chinese many words are formed by compounding two or more monosyllabic morphemes. These may be either free or bound. Many disyllabic words are produced by adding the affix to a monosyllabic word or morpheme.

1. Clausal constructions expressing caritive meaning

Type B according to [Stolz et al. 2007]:

- NEG + 带 *dài* ‘carry, bring’,
- NEG + 有 *yǒu* ‘have’,
- NEG + 用 *yòng* ‘use’.

Mostly serial or biclausal constructions:

(1) 王钢没带伞来的。

<i>Wáng Gāng</i>	<i>méi</i>	<i>dài</i>	<i>sǎn</i>	<i>lái</i>	<i>de</i> .
Wang Gang	NEG	carry	umbrella	come	PART
‘Wang Gang came with no umbrella’.					

(2) 没有刀切不了面包。

<i>Méi</i>	<i>yǒu</i>	<i>dāo</i>	<i>qiē-bù-liǎo</i>	<i>miànbāo</i>
NEG	have	knife	cut-NEG-RES	bread
‘(You) can't cut bread without a knife’				

(3) 王钢王钢没用开瓶器打开了瓶子。

<i>Wáng Gāng</i>	<i>méi</i>	<i>yòng</i>	<i>kāipíngqì</i>	<i>dǎkāi-le</i>	<i>píngzi</i>
Wan Gang	NEG	use	opener	open-PFV	bottle

‘Wang Gang opened the bottle without using the bottle opener’

? Copredicate: 跟 *gēn* ‘follow’

NEG+跟 *gēn* ‘follow’ ≠ caritive meaning

(4) 我跟你们去少林寺干么?

Wǒ gēn nǐmen qù Shàolínsì gànma?
1Sg COM 2Pl go Shaolin_temple what_for

‘What shall I do with you in Shaolin Temple??’

(5) 我不跟你们去吃晚饭了!

Wǒ bù gēn nǐmen qù chī wǎnfàn le!
1Sg NEG COM 2Pl go eat dinner MOD

‘I won't go to dinner with you’

(6) 王钢和新媳妇没跟车回来。

Wáng Gāng hé xīn xífù méi gēn chē huílái.

Wang Gang and new wife NEG COM car come_back

‘Wang Gang and his new wife didn't come back with the car.’

2. Caritive marker 无

2.1. Etymology

- Material from [Kryukov, Huan 1978; Nikitina 1982; Gurevich 1974]:

(7) 景公有馬。

Jǐng gōng yǒu mǎ
Jin gong have horse
‘Jin-gong had a horse’. (THH)

(8) 人無毛羽。

Rén wú máo yǔ
Man CAR fur feather

‘Human beings have no fur no feather’. (THH)

- Both 無 *wú*, 亡 *wáng* had a meaning ‘have no’, used as antonym to 有 *yǒu* ‘have’:

(9) 亡尤

Wáng yóu
CAR trouble
‘have no trouble’ (KXIII)

(10) 海洋無疆。

Hǎiyáng wú jiāng
Ocean CAR bound
‘Oceans are boundless’ (KXIII)

- 無 *wú* as a pronoun:

(11) 事無大小。

Shì wú dà xiǎo
Thing nothing big small
‘Nothing is big or small’. (THH)

(12) 無敢酣

Wú gǎn hān
 Nobody dare drink
 ‘No one dares to drink’. (KXIII)

- 無 wú used in prohibitive constructions:

(13) 黃鳥黃鳥無集于桑
 Huángniǎo huángniǎo wú jí yú sāng
 Oriole oriole PROH gatherAPPL mulberry
 ‘Oriole, oriole, do not gather in the mulberry’. (KXIII)

- Used as a negative marker in 無有 wú yǒu:

(14) 無有資糧
 Wú yǒu zīliáng
 CAR have provision
 ‘(I) have no provision (for you)’. (ГИС)

2.2. Derivational affix 无 wú in Modern Chinese

One of the most productive affix. According to [Lü Shuxiang 1979] has a status of quasiprefix.

- Comes with morphemes of many classes.

CAR + N: 无名 wúmíng ‘unknown’ (CAR + ‘name’)

CAR + V: 无聊 wúliáo ‘boring’ (CAR + ‘chat’),

CAR + A: 无常 wúcháng ‘changeable’ (CAR + ‘common’),

CAR + Num: 无二 wúèr ‘unique’ (CAR + ‘two’),

CAR + Personal Pronoun: 无我 wúwǒ ‘selfless’ (CAR + ‘I’);

CAR + Q.Pronoun: 无几 wújǐ ‘few’ (CAR + ‘several’);

CAR + CLF: 无匹 wúpǐ ‘no match’ (CAR + ‘pair’.).

- No restrictions on animacy of the noun:

(15) 天下必有几个无妻之客”。

Tiānxià bì yǒu jǐ gè wúqī zhī kè
 World sire have several CLF CAR_wife ATTR guest

‘There must be several unmarried guests in the world’

(16) 同事们正在努力推广的无痛分娩技术。

Tóngshì-men zhèngzài nǔlì tuīguǎng de
 Colleague-PL PROGR try promote ATTR

wútòng fēnmiǎn jìshù.
 painless childbirth technology

‘The painless childbirth technology that colleagues are trying to promote’

2.3. Semantics

- companion: 无师 wúshī ‘have no teacher’

(17) 模仿是“口耳之学”...甚至还能无师自通。

Mófǎng shì “kǒu ěr zhī xué”... shènzhì
 Imitation COP mouth ear ATTR study even

Hái néng wúshī zì tōng
Just MOD CAR_teacher self understand

‘Imitation is the study of through mouth and ear...(you) can do it even without a teacher’

- tool: 无轨电车 wúguǐ diànchē ‘(lit. ‘no rail electric car’)

(18) 当年这种无轨电车行进速度比较慢

Dāng nián zhè zhǒng wúguǐ diànchē
That year DEM CLF CAR_rail tram
Xíngjìn sùdù bǐjiào màn
Move speed comparatively slow

‘At that time, this kind of trolleybus was relatively slow’.

- constant possession: 无家 wújiā ‘homeless’

(19) 天真的童心难以排斥无家的孤独。

Tiānzhēn de tóng xīn nányǐ páichì
Naïve ATTR child heart hardly exclude
wújiā de gūdú.
CAR_home ATTR loneliness

‘Innocent childlike innocence is hard to exclude the loneliness of no home’.

- Temporary possession: 无照 wúzhào ‘unlicensed’

(20) 人行道上，无照摊贩乱摆乱卖

Rénxíngdào-shàng wúzhào tānfàn luàn
Sidewalk-LOC CAR_license vendor chaos
bǎi luàn mài
arrange chaos sell

‘On the sidewalk, unlicensed vendors sell random staff’

- family relations: 无母 wúmǔ ‘motherless’;

(21) 令我自幼就成了个无母之人

Lìng wǒ zì yòu jiù chéng-le
CAUS 1Sg from childhood already become-PFV
gè wúmǔ zhī rén
CLF CAR_mother ATTR man

‘left me motherless since I was a child’

- a part of body: 无头 wútóu ‘headless’;

(22) 巨大的无翼鸟在新西兰，最近占有了哺乳类的位置。

Jùdà de wúyì niǎo zài Xīnxīlán,
Giant ATTR CAR_wing bird PREP New_Zealand
Zuìjìn zhànyǒu-le bǔrǔlèi de wèizhì.
Recently occupy-PFV mammal ATTR position

‘The giant wingless bird in New Zealand recently occupied the position of a mammal’.

- A part of entity: 无轮 *wúlún* ‘wheelless’;

(23) 这些龙舟近于在水云中游行的无轮车子

Zhè xiē lóngzhōu jìn-yú zài shuǐ yún-zhōng
 DEM CLF dragonboat close-APPL PREP water cloud-LOC
Yóuxíng de wúlún chēzi
 parade ATTR CAR_Wheel car

‘These dragon boats look like wheelless cars parading in water clouds’.

- Mean of transportation: 无马 *wúmǎ* ‘horseless’

(24) 这也是他们举办“无车日”的主要因由。

Zhè yě shì tāmen jǔbàn “wúchē rì” de
 DEM also COP 3Pl held CAR_car day ATTR
zhǔyào yīnyóu.
 Main reason

‘This is also the main reason why they hold the "Car Free Day"’.

- Related entity: 无烟 *wúyān* ‘no smoke’

(25) 人们又寻找无烟、无声和安全的发动机。

Rén-men yòu xúnzhǎo wúyān, wúshēng
 Man-Pl again seek CAR_smoke CAR_sound
hé ānquán de fǎdòngjī.
 And safe ATTR engine

‘People are looking for smokeless, silent and safe engines’.

- A piece of clothes: 无衣 *wúyī* ‘без одежды’

(26) 庶民为无衣过冬而愁。

Shùmín wéi wúyī
 Common_people PREP CAR-clothes
guò dōng ér chōu
 pass winter CONJ worry

‘The common people are worried about the winter without clothes’.

- parameter: 无味 *wúwèi* ‘no flavor, no smell’

(27) 汽车排放的一氧化碳是无色无味的剧毒气体

Qìchē páifàng de yīyǎnghuàtàn shì
 Car emit ATTR carbon_monoxide COP
Wúsè wúwèi de jùdú qìtǐ
 CAR_color CAR_smell ATTR poisonous gas

‘Carbon monoxide emitted by cars is a poisonous gas with no color and no smell’.

- content: 无水酒精 *wúshuǐ jiǔjīng* ‘anhydrous alcohol’;

(28) 巴西科技人员改造了这种汽油发动机的喷射系统,使其可以用无水酒精做燃料。

Bāxī kējì rényuán gǎizào-le zhè zhǒng
 Brasil technician modify-PFVDEM CLF
Qìyóu fādòngjī de pēnshè xìtǒng, shǐ qí
 Gasoline engine ATTR inject system COP 3Sg
kěyǐ yòng wúshuǐ jiǔjīng zuò ránliào.
 MOD use CAR_water alcohol make fuel

‘Brazilian technicians have modified the injection system of the gasoline engine to use anhydrous alcohol as fuel’.

- Reason/condition: 无故 *wúgù* ‘no reason’;

(29) 不能出现无故中途停止

Bù néng chūxiàn wúgù zhōng tú tíngzhǐ
 NEG MOD appear CAR_reason middle way stop
 ‘Can’t stop midway for no reason’

- Related circumstances 无光 *wúguāng* ‘matte’;

(30) 把无光化妆品涂在脸上

Bǎ wúguāng huàzhuāngpǐn tú-zài liǎn-shàng
 ACC CAR_matte cosmetics apply-APPLface-LOC
 ‘Apply matte cosmetics to the face’

- exception 无我 *wúwǒ* ‘selfless (*lit.* without me)’.

(31) 无我的境界是什么?

Wúwǒ de jìngjiè shì shénme?
 CAR_1Sg ATTR border COP what
 ‘What is the border of selflessness?’

- Headless usage only with attributive marker 的 *de*:

(32) 事体是我自做得不是了, 却是出于无心的。

Shìtǐ shì wǒ zì zuò dé bù shì le,
 Matter COP 1Sg self make ATTR NEG COP MOD
què shì chū-yú wúxīn de.
 Yet COP come_out-APPL CAR_heart ATTR
 ‘The matter is that I did it myself, but it was unintentional’.

2.4. Functions in clause

- Attributive: often with 的 *de*:

(33) 他一时为自己无意的创作迷醉了。

Tā yīshí wèi zìjǐ wúyì de
3Sg.M short_time PREP self CAR_intention ATTR
chuàngzuò mízuì-le
work fascinate-PFV

‘He was fascinated by his unintentional creation for a while’.

- Depictive secondary predicate:

(34) 她无奈去做了一名老师。

Tā wúnài qù zuò-le yī míng lǎoshī
3Sg.F CAR_regret go do-PFV one CLF teacher

‘She had no choice but to become a teacher’.

- non-depictive sentenional adjunct:

(35) 谁游乐无度,谁没空学习。

Shéi yúlè wúdù, shéi méi kōng xuéxí
Who play CAR_measure who NEG sapre-time study

‘Who has no time to play, who has no time to learn’.

- adjunct:

(36) 她已经无奈地接受了失去家园的事实。

Tā yǐjīng wúnài de jiēshòu-le
3Sg.F already CAR_regret ATTR accept-PFV
Shīqù jiāyuán de shìshí
Lose home ATTR fact

‘She has reluctantly accepted the fact of losing her home’

- predicate (/a part of predicate):

(37) 全部物理学定律都变成无用。

Quánbù wùlǐxué dìnglǜ dōu biànchéng wúyòng
Whole physics law all become CAR_use

‘All the laws of physics become useless’.

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