

16.2.1 Indirect Object Adversely Affected

The indirect object (see chapter 10) can represent the one adversely affected in a *bèi* sentence. Example (44) is a nonpassive sentence in which *wǒ* 'I' is the indirect object:

- (44) tāmen wèn — le wǒ xǔduō wèntí
they ask — PFV I many questions

They asked me many questions.

The passive counterpart of (44) is (45), in which *wǒ* 'I' is adversely affected:

- (45) wǒ bèi tāmen wèn — le xǔduō wèntí
I BEI they ask — PFV many question

I was asked many questions by them (as a harassment).

Very few verbs that take both an indirect object and a direct object can occur in the *bèi* construction with the indirect object being adversely affected, however. The reason is that most of the verbs taking a direct and an indirect object cannot have an adverse meaning either explicitly or implicitly. A few other verbs that do occur in passive sentences with the adversely affected indirect object include *tōu* 'steal', *qiǎng* 'rob', *duó* 'snatch', *yíng* 'win'. Here is an example with *tōu* 'steal':

- (46) tā bèi péngyǒu tōu — le qián
3sg BEI friend steal — PFV money

S/He was robbed of (his/her) money by a friend.

16.2.2 The *bèi* Noun Phrase Can Be Inanimate

The noun phrase immediately following *bèi* cannot refer to something that is being used by a person or an animate being to carry out an action; in other words, the *bèi* noun phrase cannot be an instrument noun phrase:³

- (47) *mén bèi yàoshi dǎ — kāi LE
door BEI key make — open PFV/CRS

Inanimate noun phrases that can effect action on their own can occur as *bèi* noun phrases in the passive construction, however, as long as an adverse situation can be

inferred. The following examples illustrate this phenomenon:

- (48) qìqiú bèi fēng chuī — zǒu LE
balloon BEI wind blow — away PFV/CRS

The balloon was blown away by the wind.

- (49) bōli bèi huǒ shāo — huà LE
glass BEI fire burn — melted PFV/CRS

The glass was melted by the fire.

- (50) nèi — jian yīfu bèi shuǐ
that — CL clothing BEI water

chōng — zǒu LE
wash away PFV/CRS

That dress was washed away by the water.

- (51) wūdǐng bèi xuě gài — zhu LE
roof BEI snow cover — firm PFV/CRS

The roof was covered by snow.

16.3 *bǎ* and *bèi*

Bǎ and *bèi* can occur in the same sentence (see chapter 15 for a discussion of *bǎ*):

- (52) wǒ bèi tā bǎ wǒ — de
I BEI 3sg BA I — GEN
dǎzìjǐ dǎ — pò LE
typewriter hit — broken PFV/CRS

What happened to me was that my typewriter was broken by him/her.

As this example illustrates, the *bǎ* noun phrase must occur after the *bèi* noun phrase, and this is for a logical reason: the one who disposes of the typewriter is the