

## 0.1 Overview

### 0.1.1 The name and status of non-argument complements

In the School Grammar, 补语 or (non-argument) complement in a clause means anything that is licensed and selected by the verb yet does not fill a typical argument slot. In The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language, arguments are also called as complements, so we emphasize *non-argument* in the title of this chapter.

The non-argument complements are indeed complements. Consider, for example, the following examples of quantity complements (see Section ?? for more details):

- (0.1) a. 我打了他[一下]。  
 b. 我打了他[一巴掌]。  
 c. 我打了他[一拳]。  
 d. \*我打了他[一口]。  
 e. 我咬了他[一下]。  
 f. 我咬了他[一口]。  
 g. \*我咬了他[一巴掌]。  
 h. \*我咬了他[一拳]。

From the facts above we conclude that the verb licenses the quantity complement. Should a quantity complement appears, its measure word cannot vary arbitrarily. The verb 打 allows 下, 巴掌 or 拳 as the measure word of its quantity complement, but it rejects 口. On the other hand, the verb 咬 only accepts 下 and 口 and rejects 巴掌 or 拳. It is ungrammatical to use a complement that is not licensed by the verb, though they may not be obligatory. This is just like complements in NPs in English.

Sometimes a complement is not only *licensed*, but also *required*, just like an argument, but it is by no means nominal, nor is it a clause (which can be thought as nominal in some sense). Consider the following examples about location complements (see Section ??):

- (0.2) a. 我住在北京。  
 b. \*我住。

### 0.1.2 Interplay between non-argument complements and other constituents

Non-argument complements involve highly complicated grammatical phenomena. Sometimes a non-argument complement precedes the object, as is in the case of result complements (see Section ??):

- (0.3) 熊<sub>subject</sub> [ ]<sub>verb stem</sub> [U]<sub>result complement</sub> [ ]<sub>perfect aspect</sub> [ ]<sub>object</sub>  $\Theta$  But for quantity complements (see Section ??), the inverse order is the case:

- (0.4) 熊<sub>subject</sub> [ ]<sub>verb stem</sub> [ ]<sub>perfect aspect</sub> [ ]<sub>object</sub> [ $\Psi$ ]<sub>quantity complement</sub>  $\Theta$  In the following sections, the interplay between non-argument complements and objects is included.

It can be easily seen that pre-verbal adverbials have no non-trivial interaction with complements:

- (0.5) 我<sub>subject</sub> [ ]<sub>time adverbial</sub> [(aW $\Omega$ )]<sub>place adverbial</sub> [0]<sub>manner adverbial</sub> [S]<sub>verb, perfect</sub> [ ]<sub>object</sub>  $\Gamma''$  complement On the other hand, compositional using of non-argument complements is much more limited:

- (0.6) a. 那头熊拍了他[一巴掌]<sub>quantity complement</sub>  $\Theta$  4 [U]<sub>result</sub>  $\Theta$   
 b. \*那头熊拍晕了他一巴掌。

Some compositional using is indeed possible:

- (0.7) 那头熊打[中]<sub>TODO</sub> [\$!]<sub>quantity complement</sub>  $\Theta$

### 0.1.3 Classification of non-argument complements

## 0.2 Direction complements

## 0.3 Result complements

A result complement

做完

## 0.4 Potential complements

看得懂

## 0.5 Location complements

- (0.8) a. 他住在北京。  
b. 我蹲在厕所里。

## 0.6 Quantity complements

The **quantity complement**, also considered as a subset of time expressions (and not listed in complements) by some ?, sec. 7.2-7.4, is usually filled by a

Quantity complement

## 0.7 Interaction between different types of complements

One possible way to make two non-argument complements appear together is via the following construction:

- (0.9) 那头熊[一巴掌]拍晕了他。

where the quantity complement is promoted to a pre-verbal position. In this construction no more manner adverbial can appear:

- (0.10) \* 那头熊[用力地]<sub>manner adverbial</sub>[Γ]<sub>promoted quantity complement</sub>UΘ

while other adverbials can still appear:

- (0.11) 那头熊[昨天]<sub>time adverbial</sub>[(qffbffj)]<sub>place adverbial</sub>ΓUΘ So it seems the fronted quantity complement is in complementary distribution with the ordinary manner adverbial. Note that the quantity complement cannot be promoted to the pre-verbal position if it is the only non-argument complement:

- (0.12) \* 那头熊一巴掌拍了他。