

# The Phenomena of Using Adjectives as Verbs and Using Nouns as Adjectives in Chinese

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## ABSTRACT

In Chinese, adjectives are sometimes used as verbs and nouns are sometimes used as adjectives, especially online. Usually, although the word occupies only one part of speech, it may be used as another part of speech, which may violate the syntactical rules but make sense to most people. In this paper, various examples of these two phenomena will be closely examined, tests are implemented to verify the original part of speech of the exact word that is used as a different part of speech, and many observations are made.

## Introduction

The most basic structure of Chinese sentences is subject + verb + object. Adjectives in Chinese can be put before a noun, with a *de* (的) between them, and adverbs can be put before a verb, with a different *de* (地) between them. Different words in Chinese are given in certain parts of speeches, and which part of speech the word occupies can be deduced through doing certain syntactic tests (which will be discussed in detail in later sections). However, it is observed that when people talk online, they tend to use a word that has a certain part of speech in the way of another part of speech, for example, using adjectives as verbs or nouns as adjectives.

Many elderly in China regard this way of talking as incorrect because the phenomena mentioned above violate the way of communication they are educated with. But younger people consider this to be convenient and efficient because when people talk online they do not have enough time to carefully consider the syntax thus likely to mess up the grammar. Therefore, in order to better understand these phenomena and hence able to better communicate with people online, and to have a more thorough understanding of Chinese syntax and why people talk like that, it is always beneficial to closely examine how people use words as a different part of speech. Hence, this paper aims to observe how people talk differently online compared with when they talk formally. It will mainly focus on two phenomena: using adjectives as verbs and using nouns as adjectives.

It appears that these phenomena are not unique to online communication, and it also happens in formal Chinese. Hence, in this paper, the phenomena mentioned above will be the main content to be discussed and some contrast between English and Chinese will be discussed.

## Data and Method

The first step is data collection. The data examined in this paper will mainly come from conversations between people online. The main sources will be conversations in forums, communities, or the comment sections in videos. Some sentences from published books or speeches or lines from poems will also be collected, acting as control groups or providing more evidence and granting more observations.

After this, the data will be cleaned in a way that will make it analyzable. The entire conversation will not be recorded; in this paper only parts of the conversation that form a complete sentence as in certain syntactical patterns occur will be dealt with. After this, the data will be presented as the following example:

- (1) Ta hen congming.  
He very smart.  
“He is very smart.”

In which the first row is the pinyin representation of the Chinese sentence that is being examined here. The second row is called a gloss, directly translating the first-row word by word, and listing the translation word by word. The third row is a good translation of the first row, usually considering the entire sentence as a whole.

Upon cleaning the data, numerous tests will be done to identify which part of speech the word being examined occupies. Various characters in Chinese can be used to test parts of speech.

The first character worth examining is “le”. “Le” in Chinese has several uses: it is classified as a sentence-final particle, or in another word, SFP. It can also be used to describe an action that is completed or achieved. E.g.

- (2) Meiti baodao-le na-ci shigu. <sup>1</sup>  
Media report-LE that-CL accident.  
“The media reported that accident.”

“Le” can be used to describe a change in the state. E.g.

- (3) Wo ku le. <sup>2</sup>  
I cry SPF.  
I have cried.

In which “le” indicates that in this very instance “I” cried, and the change of “my” state (from perhaps normal to crying) is completed. I have cried in the past, but I stopped crying at some point and am not crying now. Since it is describing an action, it has to be a verb before “le”.

We can only have: *verb* + “le”. It is not good if we have *adjective* + “le”. However, one possibility is that “zui” + *adjective* + “le”, which expresses the sense of “most *adjective*”, or in another word, a superlative, or “tai” + *adjective* + “le”, which expresses the sense of “excessively *adjective*”, or *adjective* + “si”/“ji” + “le”, which makes the adjective more extreme, “si” for negative adjectives and “ji” for positive adjectives. In these cases, the “le” is different from the “le” before a verb, although they are written and pronounced exactly the same. They have a different meaning and syntactic function, so they’re not actually the same “le” despite having the same character and pronunciation. The “le” after an adjective discussed in this paragraph can be classified as set structures, because only when “le” appears with an intensifying word can people put adjectives behind “le”.

Hence, we can use “le” to test whether a word is a verb and not an adjective by putting the word that we are testing into this sentence: *Noun* + *the word to be tested* + “le”. We can only do it with the verb “le”,

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Huang, C., Li, Y., & Li, Y. (2009)

<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://www.chineseboost.com/grammar/le-grammar-summary/>

the other “le” mentioned above that is followed by an extreme word and an adjective should not be used. If it’s good, then it’s a verb and never an adj. nor a noun nor an adverb.<sup>3</sup>

The second character is “de”. It has two different corresponding Chinese characters that are pronounced the same but written differently: 的 and 地. *A de (的) B* means: B belongs to A. In this case, the B has to be a noun. Verbs, adjectives, or adverbs are not allowed. Therefore “de” (的) can be used to test whether a word is a noun. If A is not a noun, it has to be an adjective. This can be used to test whether a word is an adjective or not. The other “de” (地) can be used to test whether a word is an adverb. When we use “de” (地), the sentence must follow: *Adverb + “de” + verb*.

There are three more characters that are available as tests. The first test is the “Shi” test. Nouns accept “shi” (noun/pronoun “shi” noun), while adjectives reject “shi” (\*noun/pronoun “shi” adjective). When using the “shi” test, it is essential to distinguish the copular “shi” from the emphatic “shi”. The copular “shi” is the “shi” used to do the test; the emphatic “shi” can only be used to emphasize some constituent after it, ex. “Ta shi hen lihai”. The “shi” in the previous example is an emphatic “shi”, and the example means “he/she is good”. The meaning of this sentence will not make any difference if the “shi” is removed from the sentence, and when people speak the sentence, the emphatic “shi” is usually stressed.<sup>4</sup> An example of the “shi” test is:

(4) Ta shi yingxiong.  
He be hero.  
“He is a hero.”

(5) \*Ta shi yingyong.  
He be heroic.  
“He is heroic.”

Sentence 4 is good, while sentence 5 is bad. “Shi” is always rejected by adjectives or adjective phrases, and usually, as the predicate of a clause, noun phrases typically requires “shi”, and nouns accepts “shi”.

The other test is the “hen” test. Adjectives accept “hen” (noun/pronoun “hen” adjective), while nouns reject “hen” (\*noun/pronoun hen noun). However, this is not always correct. To further discuss this test, the character “dui” needs to be introduced. Huang et al. (2009) were the first to note that adjectives can be used as transitive verbs. They note that the object must be marked with “dui”.<sup>5</sup> Ex.

(6) Wo **dui** tade qushi feichang shangxin.<sup>6</sup>  
I on his pass.away extremely sad.  
“I am extremely sad about his death.”

(7) \*Wo feichang shangxin tade qushi.<sup>7</sup>  
I extremely sad his pass.away.  
“I am extremely sad about his death.”

In which it is believed that the noun phrase after “dui” in examples 6 and 7 is the semantic object of the adjective “shangxin”. The “feichang” before “shangxin” is similar to “hen”. In English, an object always

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.chineseboost.com/grammar/le-grammar-summary/>

<sup>4</sup> Huang, C., Li, Y., & Li, Y. (2009)

<sup>5</sup> Huang, C., Li, Y., & Li, Y. (2009)

<sup>6</sup> Huang, C., Li, Y., & Li, Y. (2009)

<sup>7</sup> Huang, C., Li, Y., & Li, Y. (2009)

occurs to the right of all categories, but for a noun phrase, a semantically empty preposition “of” must be placed between the noun or adjective taking the object and the object itself. In Chinese, “dui” takes the job of “of”; it occurs both in the “preverbal position typical of prepositions,”<sup>8</sup> and is semantically empty, as when removing the “dui” from a sentence, and reorder the sentence under the correct syntax the meaning will not change dramatically. “Dui” accepts adjectives, but when one try to use “dui” with verbs, it’s usually bad, so “dui” can be used as a test to distinguish between adjectives and verbs.

“Hen” has a similar usage; it is usually used to describe adjectives, as it has the English translation of “very”. However, this is not unique to adjectives, ex.

- (8) Ni hen ai ta. <sup>9</sup>  
You very love him/her.  
“You love him/her very much.”

And in example 8, the object occurs without the use of “dui”, even without any grammatical help. So if one needs to apply tests to distinguish adjectives from verbs, “hen” is not enough while “dui” can accomplish the job. But when it comes to distinguishing adjectives from nouns, “hen” is a better test because it’s easier, and “hen” cannot be put together with nouns.

### Using Adjectives as Verbs

When Chinese people talk online, sometimes adjectives are sometimes used as verbs. E.g.

- (9) Wo fei le ni. <sup>10</sup>  
I abolished (adj.) SFP you.  
“I will disable you.”

In example 9, the character “fei” is used as a verb, because it is placed before a “le” while without “zui”, as mentioned in Section 2. However, originally the word “fei” should be an adjective, because when we apply the “hen” and “shi” test, we have

- (10) Ta hen fei.  
He/she very abolished (adj.).  
“He/she is very bad at working.”

This test works because only adjectives have degrees that can be modified, ex. good vs. very good.

- (11) \*Ta shi fei.  
He/she is abolished (adj.).  
“He/she is bad at working.”

and an example of “fei” used as an adjective is:

- (12) Fei ren.

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<sup>8</sup> Huang, C., Li, Y., & Li, Y. (2009)

<sup>9</sup> Huang, C., Li, Y., & Li, Y. (2009)

<sup>10</sup> Source:

[http://mbd.baidu.com/newspage/data/dtlandingwise?sourceFrom=reyi&nid=dt\\_4589424868660207739](http://mbd.baidu.com/newspage/data/dtlandingwise?sourceFrom=reyi&nid=dt_4589424868660207739)

Disabled person.  
“Disabled person.”

Therefore, the speaker tries to use an adjective as a verb in this sentence. He tried to threaten someone else by saying “I will disable you”, while the verb he uses when trying to convey the sense of “disable” is “abolished”. What’s interesting about this is that the speaker extended the meaning of “fei” from “abolished” (adj.) to “disabled” (adj.) by making the subject a person. And after “fei” he puts a “le”, indicating that the speaker is threatening that he will complete the action of disabling someone, instead of trying to disable someone, and this makes the tone more aggressive.

E.g.

- (13) Rang wo meili yixia.<sup>11</sup>  
Let me beautiful once.  
“Please make me beautiful with your service!”

In example 13, the word “meili” is used as a verb, because it is put after the “rang wo” in an imperative sentence, and the part of speech the word occupies in this sentence is a verb. However, originally the word “meili” is an adjective. The result of the “hen” and “shi” test is:

- (14) Ta hen meili.  
He/she very beautiful.  
“He/she is very beautiful.”
- (15) \*Ta shi meili.  
He/she is beautiful.  
“He/she is beautiful.”

and an example of “meili” used as an adjective is:

- (16) Meili de nvren.  
Beautiful DE girl.  
“Beautiful girl.”

Similar to example 9, the speaker tries to use an adjective as a verb here. The context of this sentence is a woman trying to ask a barber to make her a new haircut and make her more beautiful. She uses the adjective “meili”, which means “beautiful” as a verb “beautify”, which is convenient because the latter requires more characters in Chinese, and may make her tone more relaxed and casual.

The following example is a poem:

- (17) Qiuse lao wutong.<sup>12</sup>  
Autumn old tree.  
“Autumn makes the tree look old.”

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<sup>11</sup> Source: <https://punk.twku.net/index.php?topic=58.0>

<sup>12</sup> Source: <https://zhidao.baidu.com/question/182726998.html>

In example 17, the word “lao” is used as a verb, with the meaning of “making something look old”, because it is placed between two nouns “qiuse” and “wutong”. However, originally the word “lao” is an adjective, which means old. It accepts “hen”, while rejecting “shi” when trying to do the “hen” and “shi” test. An example of “lao” used as an adjective is:

- (18) Lao shu.  
Old tree.  
“Old tree.”

Here in this poem, the poet tries to say that the atmosphere of autumn makes the tree look old. Because in Chinese poems, lines must follow certain patterns so the number of characters is limited, hence the poet cannot directly use the verb phrase “make something look old” because that takes too many characters, while using the simple adjective “lao” which only takes one character to act as a verb. Furthermore, upon first reading this line of this poem, it is more difficult for Chinese people to understand, compared with other examples in this section. However, because they know this is a poem, they will consciously try to analyze this line, trying to see if there are words used as a different part of speech. Although it takes a longer time, it is still a good sentence for most people. However, some people may find poems hard to understand, hence they may find this sentence bad.

E.g.

- (19) Kuansong yaoqiu.<sup>13</sup>  
Loose (adj.) requirement.  
“Make the requirements less strict.”

In example 16, the word “kuansong” is used as a verb, which means “make something loose”, and in this sentence specifically, it means “make something less strict”. However, originally the word “kuansong” is an adjective, which means “loose”, because it accepts “hen” while rejecting “shi” when applying “hen” and “shi” tests. However, for this adjective, the tests are a bit different. See below:

- (20) Guiding hen kuansong.  
Limitations very loose.  
“The limitations are very lax.”
- (21) \*Guiding shi kuansong.  
Limitations is loose.  
“The limitations are lax.”

and an example of “kuansong” used as an adjective is:

- (22) Kuansong de yaoqiu.  
Loose DE requirement.

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<sup>13</sup> Source: [https://m.toutiao.com/w/1737748147874823/?traffic\\_source=&in\\_ogs=&utm\\_source=&source=weitoutiao&utm\\_medium=wap\\_search&original\\_source=&in\\_tfs=&channel=&enter\\_key\\_word=%E6%B1%89%E8%AF%AD%E6%8B%BC%E9%9F%B3%E7%AC%94%E9%A1%BA](https://m.toutiao.com/w/1737748147874823/?traffic_source=&in_ogs=&utm_source=&source=weitoutiao&utm_medium=wap_search&original_source=&in_tfs=&channel=&enter_key_word=%E6%B1%89%E8%AF%AD%E6%8B%BC%E9%9F%B3%E7%AC%94%E9%A1%BA)

“Lax requirements.”

The subject in this test is no longer the pronouns used in examples 18-21. Reasons are that “kuansong”, as an adjective, cannot be used to describe a person, instead can only describe how physically “loose” a room or space is, or how “lax” a limitation or regulation is.

Back to the example itself, this example is an imperative sentence, a catchy slogan to call for making certain requirements less strict. The adjective “kuansong” is used as a verb to begin the imperative sentence.

E.g.

- (23) Xinku wo yige, xingfu qianwan jia.<sup>14</sup>  
Hardworking (adj.) me one, happy numerous family.  
“By hardworking myself, I can make thousands of families happy.”

In example 23, two adjectives are used as verbs. The first adjective is “xinku”, which means “hard-working” or “tiring”. It accepts the “hen” test and rejects the “shi” test. However, it is used as a verb in this sentence, with the meaning of “making myself tiring”, or more straightforwardly, “by hardworking”. The second adjective is “xingfu”, which means “happy”. It accepts the “hen” test and rejects the “shi” test. However, it is used as a verb in this sentence, meaning “make somebody happy”.

Examples of “xinku” and “xingfu” are:

- (24) Xinku de gongzuo.  
Tiring DE job.  
“Tiring job.”
- (25) Xingfu de jiating.  
Happy DE family.  
“Happy family.”

This sentence, similar to the previous example, is a slogan. The speaker could have used more characters to not use the adjective, instead use a real verb to say this, but to make it more catchy, and symmetrical (five characters each phrase), two two-character words are used. Interestingly, although everybody knows these two words are adjectives, they can still understand the sentence.

Below is the last example in this section.

- (26) Bie lai fan wo.<sup>15</sup>  
Don't come annoying (adj.) me.  
“Don't annoy me.”

In example 23, “fan” is used as a verb. It means “annoy” here, while originally “fan” is an adjective with the meaning of “annoying” because it accepts “hen” while rejecting “shi” when doing the “hen” and “shi” tests. An example is:

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<sup>14</sup> Source: <https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1YJ411C7cQ/>

<sup>15</sup> Source: <https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/377745834>

- (27) Fan de ren.  
Annoying DE person.  
“Annoying person.”

The speaker here is trying to tell others not to annoy him. He puts an adjective after “lai”, which means “come and do something”, and he uses an adjective to fill in the space of a verb.

Based on all the examples discussed in this section, it can be observed that the meaning of a word will not change dramatically when it is used as a verb while originally an adjective. Although people do it frequently online, this phenomenon is also present in formal Chinese.

When closely examining the examples, it can be argued that when people use an adjective as a verb, they may not change the part of speech of this word; instead, they omit a few words. For example, “beautiful” in Chinese is “meili”, while “beautify” in Chinese can be written as “rang mouren meili”, the glossing being “make somebody beautiful”. One can make an adjective into a verb phrase by adding a few characters before the adjective. In these cases, the adjective is still used as an adjective but combined with a few other words the adjective forms a verb phrase.

What’s interesting about this is that the words that make an adjective into a verb phrase always occur behind the adjective, so it is reasonable that when people talk online, they are only trying to omit these words that make an adjective into a verb phrase, while not actually changing the part of speech of the word, because when talking online people usually look for convenience and efficiency, so fewer words in a sentence is preferred. This may also be the reason why the phenomenon of using adjectives as verbs is observed very frequently in imperative sentences.

What’s more, online communications may be fast; people don’t have enough time to carefully confirm the syntax of the sentence they are typing, only putting the important verbs or adjectives quickly. When they try to say something as “making something adjective”, the first word they will think of is the adjective, and there are possibilities that they may ignore the particles in the sentence that help make the adjective into a verb phrase, hence creating a sense that the adjective is used as a verb. But still, if one only examines the sentence itself, based on the syntax the adjective is indeed used as a verb, but the real intention of the speakers may be different from that.

## Using Nouns as Adjectives

This is more frequently observed in Chinese. People use nouns as adjectives in different ways. Some examine the property of the noun, while some just make up some new meanings, most of which come from recent events on the Internet. Look at the following examples:

- (28) Zhe jie ke hen shui.<sup>16 17</sup>  
This period lesson very water.  
“This period of lesson is so bad / the teacher is muddling along.”

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<sup>16</sup> Source: <https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/65664715>

<sup>17</sup> The original example is: “Zhe jie ke zhen shui.” It uses “zhen” instead of “hen”. Because in Chinese, these two words mean the same: “very”, and serve the exact same function in a sentence, “hen” replaces “zhen” in order to make it more understandable, and allow “hen” tests to be applied here.



In example 28, the character “shui”, which means water, is used as an adjective to describe something as “bad”, “fake” or “muddling”. However, originally the word is a noun. We can apply the “shi” and “hen” tests again to see:

(29) Zhe shi shui.  
This is water.  
“This is water.”

(30) \*Zhe hen shui.  
This is very water.  
“This is very water.”

However, it seems like “shui”, when having the meaning of “bad”, may accept the “hen”, therefore in order to make sure the original part of speech of “shui”, we use the “de” test. All the “de” tests mentioned later in this section will represent the 的 de instead of the 地 de.

(31) Ta de shui.  
He DE water.  
“His water.”

And this is good. “Shui” accepts “de”.

For example 28, the speaker tries to say that the lesson she took is very bad. It didn’t have substantial content, and the teacher is literally muddling. However, she didn’t use any other adjectives to describe that, instead turned to “shui”, which means “water” in Chinese. Seemingly, the lesson has nothing to do with “bad”. Clearly, the speaker here uses the noun water as an adjective not for the real meaning of the word; it is something beyond that. A long time ago, there was a notorious scandal that was widely spread throughout the Chinese Internet: “zhu shui rou” (water-injected meat). Many people sold water-injected meat as high-quality meat, bringing health care problems and swindling a lot of money out of people. After this scandal was reported online, people take the “shui” (water) from the “zhu shui rou” (water-injected meat) and give it the meaning of “fake” or “bad”. Interestingly, this is not present in English.

Aside from this, many people use celebrities’ names as adjectives to describe someone with traits similar to that celebrity. For example, one may say:

(32) Ni da qiu hen caixukun (name).<sup>18 19</sup>  
You play basketball very Caixukun.  
“You are very bad at playing basketball.”

Many people in China make fun of “Caixukun”, and used his name, which is obviously a noun, as an adjective to describe someone bad at doing something, especially playing basketball, because “Caixukun” was not good at playing basketball yet once tried to show off his skills during a TV show and got selected as the China NBA ambassador. In this sentence, the noun “Caixukun” accepts the “hen” test, therefore it is used as an adjective. Interesting, if one put just one more character “xiang” (like) into example 32:

(33) Ni da qiu hen xiang caixukun.

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<sup>18</sup> Source: <https://wen.baidu.com/question/816270257641643852.html>

<sup>19</sup> The original example has “zhen” instead of “hen”.

You play basketball very like Caixukun.  
“You play basketball very similar to Caixukun.”

Then “Caixukun” is no longer used as an adjective but as a noun, because one can say someone is similar to another person by using the phrase: “xiang + noun”. But in this example, the speaker removes the “xiang”, and directly puts “Caixukun” in a place where there should be an adjective. Although many people in the English online community may say the same thing about some celebrities, they will never make the celebrities’ names into an adjective.

The next example examines the noun’s different meanings within different contexts. See below:

- (34) Ta hen hu.<sup>20</sup>  
He/she very tiger.  
“He/she is very aggressive and/or strong.”

Originally, “hu” should be a noun that has the meaning of tiger, because it accepts “de” and “shi”. But in example 31 it is placed after “hen”, meaning it is being used as an adjective here.

Regarded as the king of all animals in China, “hu” symbolizes dominating power and great authority. However, it can either be positive or negative. In the sentence above, since it is used as an adjective, it may describe the “ta” as skillful and strong or ferocious and aggressive. The meaning of that may depend on the circumstances. We can have:

- (35) Ni zhege ren zenme zheme hu!  
You this person why so tiger!  
“Why are you so aggressive and arrogant!”

Which, obviously, says something negative about “ni”, while in

- (36) Ta da qiu hen hu.  
He/she play basketball very tiger.  
“He/she plays the basketball skillfully and bravely.”

It is somewhat more positive. In this example, the characteristics of tigers are being used to describe people. When the object has several different characters with different attitudes, understanding the sentence may require knowing the context.

All the examples mentioned above are not possible in English. However, the next example is both observable in Chinese and English.

- (37) Zhege ren hen laji.<sup>21 22</sup>  
This person very trash.  
?“This person is very bad.”<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Source: <https://www.zhihu.com/question/66081166/answer/1122042635>

<sup>21</sup> Source: <https://www.zhihu.com/question/408873251/answer/1397158947>

<sup>22</sup> The original example uses “hao” instead of “hen”.

<sup>23</sup> This may not be the best translation in English. A better translation can be “trash people”.

“Laji” in this sentence is used as an adjective because it is placed after the word “hen”, verifying that “laji” here is used as an adjective. However, when applying the “shi” and “de” test, “laji” accepts both tests, and rejects the “hen” normally.

So in example 37, “laji’s”, or trash’s, defined character is used here. Trash as a noun originally means something useless or dirty, yet people extend that meaning, and use it as an adjective to describe something as useless, troublesome, hopeless, or just simply bad, as used in this example. But people also say “trash person” in English, so this phenomenon is not unique to Chinese; many languages have that in their dictionaries.

Therefore, when a noun is used as an adjective, there can be various meanings possible. One needs to pay attention to the context to fully understand the meaning of this sentence. Sometimes, it’s like an “inside joke”, where people cannot understand certain expressions without knowing current events or certain knowledge, while sometimes it just takes the obvious character of an object and makes it into an adjective to describe someone or something similar to that object.

Although the noun is used as an adjective, which violates commonly accepted syntactical rules, there are ways to make it not only an adjective but also follow the rules, which is to add a “xiang”, which means “like” before the noun. Hence, the phrase “‘xiang’ + noun”, which means “like + noun”, can serve as an adjective phrase. But people are not willing to add an extra character, and, again, the reasons may be their attempt to talk “conveniently”.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the examples mentioned above, both the phenomena of people using adjectives as verbs and nouns as adjectives are common in Chinese when they are talking online. It’s true that people are doing these things because using a word as a different part of speech can help save time to type for it requires fewer characters to construct a complete sentence, but it is also something acceptable to most people, because it is supported by Chinese poems and slogans. These phenomena are not impossible to Chinese; they are just not commonly used formally, but very frequently occur when in the online environment.

Nowadays, with the wide spread of the Internet people are living in a very fast paced and changing world. Numerous things are happening every second, therefore the way people talk changes. Elderly may find the way people nowadays talk online difficult to understand, not only because they stick more to the rules but also because many examples mentioned above have something to do with very recent events on the Internet. When the world changes, the fashion changes, so people talk differently. Although the phenomena of people using adjectives as verbs and nouns as adjectives are not unique to online communications - formal Chinese sometimes also have these phenomena - when it happens online, people need more background knowledge to fully understand these sentences. In the future, the way the words are used online may change again, so we should always keep observing these phenomena and help everyone to be able to understand everything.

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