Sentence Pattern 48

The so-called “shi...de” pattern is another case wherein something already mentioned or obvious from context is habitually omitted. For instance, in a story about the Marx brothers or the Van Trapp family of singers, “Tāmen shì hěn yōu mingde rén,” has a redundant element because everyone in the conversation knows full well that the Marx brothers are humans, and so are the members of the Van Trapp family. But this sentence pattern has two special functions: (1) It is frequently used to correct misinformation voiced by someone else. (2) Its use generally indicates, since somebody can be characterized as, e.g., a graduate of some university, that event must have already happened. So it gives some of the same information that putting a sentence into past tense does in the English language.

This structure has many practical uses. It can indicate a kind of passive idea when, e.g., a book is described as one that that Hemingway wrote, it can be used to give prominence in a sentence to the element that immediately follows 是, and it can give essentially the same information as is given in English by putting the main verb of a sentence in past tense.

SENTENCE = NOUN_subject shì PREDICATE de.
SENT = Ng shì PRED de.

Example: Wǒ bú shì qián tiān láide, wǒ shì zuó tiān lái de.
I did not come the day before yesterday, I came yesterday.
Tā shì dà xué bì yède.
She is a college graduate. (She has graduated from college.)

Examples:
不對。我不是會說日語的，我是會說英語的。
Bú duì. Wǒ bú shì huì shuō Rì yǔ de, wǒ shì huì shuō Yīng yǔ de.
No. I'm not the one who knows how to speak Japanese, I'm the one who knows how to speak English. (= I can't speak Japanese, I speak English.)
Pattern 49 (see Pattern 21)

One of the frequently used coverbs is ěi. Literally it means “to give somebody something as a present,” or just “to give,” but it can also be used when one is doing something for somebody as a favor.

\[ \text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \ ěi \ \text{NOUN}_{\text{indirect object}} \ \text{NOUN}_{\text{direct object}} \]
\[ \text{SENT} = N_s \ ěi \ N_{id0} \ N_{do} \]

Example: Māma ěi wǒ xī yīfù.
Mama washed (my) clothes for me.

Examples:
爸爸替他理頭髮。

Sentence Pattern 50

A sentence involving an adverb of capacity along with a transitive verb and a direct object takes the form

\[ \text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \ \text{TRANSITIVE VERB} \ \text{NOUN}_{\text{direct object}} \]
\[ \text{SENT} = N_s \ TV \ N_o \ TV \ dé \ \text{PRED} \]

Example: Tāmen xiě zi xiě dé kuài.
They write quickly.
Example
我弟弟寫字寫得很亂。
Wǒ dìdi xiě zì xiě de hěn luàn.
My little brother scribbles badly.

Sentence Pattern 51

Another coverb that is frequently used to make sentences is dui4, which means “to direct oneself toward,” to address (someone).” 对 means to direct oneself toward some object to perform some action, e.g., "She spoke to me," or "They were not very good to their visitors."

SENTENCE = NOUN_subject COVERB NOUN_object PREDICATE

SENT = N0 COVERB N0 PRED

Example: Jǐng chá dui dà jiā shuō: Qíng mà shàng huí jiā qù!
The policeman said to everyone: Please return home immediately!

Example
千萬不要對王老不禮貌！
Qiān wàn bù yào duì Wáng lǎo bù lǐ mào!
For Heaven's sake do not be impolite to Don Wang!
Sentence Pattern 52
A sentence can compare the capabilities of two subjects. The second subject mentioned is generally the better known of the two because it can then serve as a standard for comparison.

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \text{ ITV dé bǐ NOUN}_{\text{standard}} \text{ RESULT} \\
\text{SENT} = N_s \text{ ITV dé bǐ } N_{\text{standard}} \text{ RESULT}
\]

Example: Tā pǎo dé bǐ wǒ kuài.
She runs faster than I do.

Example
他比我說得好。

Sentence Pattern 53
The word yī meaning “to the” in expressions indicating direction from some point is used in many sentences, often in conjunction with zài.

\[
\text{place} = \text{noun}_{\text{reference place}} \text{ yī } \text{noun}_{\text{compass direction}}
\]

example: Děi Guó zài Fǎ Guó yī dòng.
Germany is located to the east of France.

Example
他的汽車很貴。三十萬塊錢以上。
校长很老，一定五十歲以上。
屁股頭的IQ不高。一定一百分以下。
吃飯以前應該洗手。

Tā de qì chē hěn guì. sān shí wàn yī shàng. 
Xiào zhǎng hěn lǎo. yì dīng wǔ shí suì yī shàng. 
Pí gū tóu de IQ bù gāo. yì dīng yī bǎi fēn yī xià. 
Chī fàn yǐ qián yīng gǎi xǐ shǒu.
sentence pattern 54
Sentence = N, Verb dé／bù result NOUN\text{destination} NOUN\text{complement}
Example: Tā pǎo bù shàng shān lái.
         He is unable to run up the mountain (to where we are).

Example
小鳥飛不過大海。  Xiǎo niǎo fēi bù guò dà hǎi.  
我爸爸一定回得了家。  Wǒ bàba yì dìng huí de liǎo jiā.  
我們家可能買得上那所房子。  Wǒmen jiā kě néng mǎi dé shàng nà suǒ fángzǐ.  
你飛得過高山回基地嗎?

Sentence Pattern 55
Another aspect marker: guo. The aspect marker le coming after a verb gives a positive answer to the implicit question, “Did you do it?” The aspect marker guo coming after a verb gives a positive answer to the implicit question, “Have you done it (within a specified or implicit time period)?”

Example: Nǐ chīguò zǎo fàn ma?  
         Have you eaten breakfast (today)?
         Tāmen qùguò Běi Jī ma?  
         Have they (ever) been to the North Pole?

Example
你以前看過巴金寫的那本書嗎?  Ni yǐ qián kàn guò bā jīn xiě de nà běn shū ma?  
誰看過月球的另外一面?  Shéi kàn guò yuè qiú de lèi yi mian?  
你們聽過非洲音韻沒有?  Nǐmen tīng guò fēi zhōu yīn yùn méi yǒu?  
她沒有去過我家。
Sentence Pattern 56
Causation can be expressed by sentences that seem redundant in English, having the structure “Because..., therefore....”

\[ \text{SENTENCE} = \text{yīn wèi } \text{SENTENCE}_1, \text{ suǒ yǐ } \text{SENTENCE}_2 \]
\[ \text{SENT} = \text{yīn wèi } \text{SENT}_1, \text{ suǒ yǐ } \text{SENT}_2 \]

Example: Yīn wèi tā bìng le, suǒ yǐ tāmèi yǒu lái shàng kè.
Because he got sick, (therefore) he did not come to attend class.

Example
因為媽媽那天回不了家，所以姐姐替她做飯。
因為錢不夠，所以我們只好吃白菜。
因為黑龍會很厲害，所以大家都很怕他們。

Yīn wèi māmā nà tiān huí bù liǎo jiā, suǒ yǐ jiějie tì tā zuò fàn.
Yīn wèi qián bù gòu, suǒ yǐ wǒmen zhǐ hǎo chī bái cài.
Yīn wèi hēi lóng huì hěn lihai, suǒ yǐ dà jiā dōu hěn pà tāmen.
Sentence Pattern 57

Using yǐ with (be)fore and aft(er) to indicate ideas of time sequence:
Yǐ qián is, literally, “to the fore,” so it can translated as “before,” and yǐ hòu is,
literally, “to the aft,” so it can be translated as “after. These expressions coordinate with
zài in the structure of a sentence, and one says the word-for-word equivalent of, “I eat-
the-meal-before wash hands.” These expressions function as movable adverbs, so they
may come before or after the subject of the sentence. “Zài” is frequently omitted.

SENTENCE = NOUNsubject (zài) event yǐ qián/hòu PREDICATE
          = (Zài) event yǐ qián/hòu, NOUNsubject PREDICATE
SENT = Ns (zài) event yǐ qián/hòu PRED
       = (Zài) event yǐ qián/hòu, Ns PRED

Example:  Tā zài tóng xuémen lái yǐ qián xiān zuò le fàn.
          Zài tóng xuémen lái yǐ qián, tā xiān zuò le fàn.
          He cooked a meal before his schoolmates arrived.

Example

在你回家以前請給你父母打一個電話。Zài nǐ huí jiā yǐ qián qǐng gěi nǐ fù mǔ dă yīge
diàn huà.

媽媽叫我吃飯以後一定要刷牙。
Māmā jiào wǒ chī fàn yǐ hòu yī dìng yào shuā
yá.

看了那個電影以後，我覺得很悶。
Kànle nàge diànyǐng yǐ hòu, wǒ jué dé hěn
mèn.