

# Nominal Emphasization in Chinese: The [*hao yi* CL NP] Construction

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Nominal emphasis is used to express the speaker's evaluation of the emphasized noun, such as *a complete idiot*. The talk proposes that Chinese expresses the conception by a special construction in the form of [*hao yi* CL NP] (**NEC**). *Hao* is analyzed as an adnominal emphaser base-generated in the DP periphery, selecting an indefinite nominal. The new category of *hao* is supported by a noteworthiness evaluation relative to a particular speaker and the modification scope over the whole DP, which is evidenced by no selection restriction on the head noun, no requirement of gradable adjectives or nouns, and the tolerance of other degree words. These properties cannot be explained if treating *hao* as the evaluative adjective *hao* 'good' and the degree intensifier *hao* 'very.' The nominality of NEC is revealed by having similar uses as nominal indefinites. Theoretically, the syntax of NEC reveals that the cartographic approach should allow functional projections generated above D in the DP periphery.