Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar
Preface /xiii
Abbreviations /xv

I. Introduction /3
   1. Historical Outline /3
   2. Sound /4
      (a) Fāngqiè 反切 /5
      (b) Tones /6
   3. Symbol /7
   4. Syllable and Word /8
   5. Morphology /10

II. Some Basic Principles of Classical Chinese Syntax /12
   1. Word Classes /12
   2. Subject and Predicate /13
   3. Word Order /14

III. Noun Predication /16
   1. Verbless Noun Predication /16
      (a) Questions /16
      (b) Pronouns and Particles with Verbless Noun Predicates /17
      (c) Verbless Comparisons with Yóu 猶 /18
      (d) Omission of Yě 也 /18
      (e) The Aspect Particle Yǐ 已 after Verbless Noun Predicates /19
      (f) Other Meanings of Yě 也 /20
   2. The Copula Verb Wéi 為 /20
   3. The Copula Yuē 曰 /21
   4. The Preclassical Copula Wéi 唯 /22

IV. Verbal Predicates /23
   1. Classes of Verbs /23
   2. Adjectives /24
   3. Nouns Used as Verbs /25
   4. Intransitive Verbs /26
   5. Transitive Verbs — Active and Passive /27
   6. Verbs of Motion and Location — Intransitive and Transitive /28
7. The Verbs *Yōu 有* ‘have; there is/are’ and *Wú 無* ‘not have; there is/are not’ /30

8. Transitive Verbs with Two Objects /31

9. Passive Constructions /35

V. Compound Verbal Predicates /39

1. Coordination /39

2. Clause Objects — Verb Phrases as Objects of Transitive Verbs /39

3. Pivot Constructions — The Causative /40

4. Verb Phrases as Complements to Adjectives /42
   (a) Adjectives That Make a Following Verb Passive /42
   (b) Other Adjectives That Take Verb Phrases as Complements /44

5. Verbs in Series /44
   (a) The Construction in General — The Particle *Ér 而* /44
   (b) *Dé (érf) 得 (而), Shuài (ér) 率 (而),* etc. /46

6. Coverbs /47
   (a) Transitive Verbs Corresponding to Prepositions /47
      (i) *Yī 以* ‘take, use; with, by means of’ /47
      (ii) *Yòng 用* ‘use; with’ /50
      (iii) *Yū 與* ‘accompany; give; with; and’ /50
      (iv) *Wei 為* ‘for, on behalf of, for the sake of’ /51
      (v) *Zì 自, Yóu 由, Cónɡ 從* ‘follow from’ /52
   (b) Coverbs of Place /53
      (i) *Yú 于* ‘go; to, at’ /53
      (ii) *Yú 於* ‘in, at, to, from, than, etc.’ /53
      (iii) *Hū 乎* /54
      (iv) Locative complements /54
      (v) Omission of the coverb in locative complements /55
      (vi) Pronominal substitutes *yuán 爱* and *yān 焉* /56
      (vii) *X zhī yú 之* 遇 *Y* /56
   (c) Descriptive Complements with *Rú 如* and *Yóu 犹* /57
   (d) Coverbs as Subordinating Conjunctions /57

VI. Numerical Expressions /58

1. As Predicates /58
2. As Complements /58
3. As Modifiers of Nouns /59
4. *Yòu 有* ‘and’ /60

VII. Noun Phrases and Nominalization /61

1. Coordination and Subordination of Nouns /61
(a) Coordination /61
(b) Subordination /61

2. Nominalization /62
   (a) Unmarked Nominalization /62
   (b) Marked Nominalization by Inserting Zhī 之 /64
   (c) Zhē 者 /66
   (d) Suō 所 /68

VIII. Topicalization and Exposure /69
   1. Exposure of an Element That is Not the Subject /69
   2. Exposure of the Subject /71
   3. Zé 则 Marking Exposure /72
   4. X zhī yú 之於 Y /73
   5. Other Particles Marking Topicalization or Contrastive Exposure /73
      (a) Yě 也 /73
      (b) Wéi 唯 /74
      (c) Zhē 者 /74
      (d) Fú 夫 /74
      (e) Ruò fū 若夫 /75

IX. Pronouns and Related Words /76
   1. Personal Pronouns /76
      (a) First Person /76
      (b) Second Person /77
      (c) Third Person /78
      (d) Reflexive Personal Pronoun /83
      (e) Personal Pronouns with Negative Particles /84
   2. Demonstratives /85
      (a) Shi 是 /85
      (b) Cǐ 此 /86
      (c) Bǐ 彼 /86
      (d) Sī 斯 /88
      (e) Zī 莜 /88
      (f) Shi 實, Shi 宦 /89
      (g) Shi 時 /89
      (h) Fú 夫 /89
      (i) Ėr 爾 /90
      (j) Ruò 若 /90
   3. Interrogatives /91
      (a) (i) Shuí 誰 /91
(ii) Shú 熟 /92 
(iii) Chóu 稔 /93 
(b) (i) Hé 何 /93 
(ii) Xi 戌 /95 
(iii) Hú 胡 /95 
(iv) Hé 跃 /95 
(v) Hé 貢 /95 
(c) (i) Yān 焉, ān 安 /96 
(ii) Wū hú 惡乎, wū 惡, wū 鳥 /96 

4. Indefinite Pronouns /97 
   (a) Tuō 他 /97 
   (b) Mōu 某 /97 
   (c) Rén 人 /97 

X. Adverbs /99 
1. Adverbial Use of Nouns /99 
2. Adjectives as Adverbs /100 
3. Verbs as Adverbs /101 
4. Numerical Expressions as Adverbs /101 
5. Expressive Adverbs in Rán 然, Rú 如, etc. /102 

XI. Negation /103 
1. P/w Negatives /103 
   (a) Bù 不 /103 
   (b) Fōu 否 /103 
   (c) Fú 弗 /104 
   (d) Fēi 非 /106 
   (e) Pò 巨 /106 
   (f) Hé 财 /107 
2. M/w Negatives /107 
   (a) Wū 无, wū 無 and wū 无 /107 
      (i) Wū 無 as prohibitive particle /107 
      (ii) Wū 無 ‘not have.’ See Section IV.7 
   (b) Wù 吾 ‘do not’ /108 
   (c) Wáng 亡 /109 
   (d) Wǎng 罔 /109 
   (e) Mò 莫 /109 
   (f) Wèi 未 /109 
   (g) Wèi 微 /110 
   (h) Mǐ 萌 /110
XII. Aspect, Time, and Mood /112

1. Verbal Aspect — Preverbal Particles /112
   (a) Ji 既 /113
   (b) Wèi 未 /114
   (c) Preverbal Yì 已 /115

2. Sentential Aspect — Sentence Final Particles /116
   (a) Yì 已 /116
   (b) Yè 也 /118
   (c) Yì 已 (Yè yīl 也已, Yè yī yīl 也已矣) /118

3. Time Words /119
   (a) Time Expressions in Topic Position /119
   (b) Cháng 常 /119
   (c) Céng 曾 /119
   (d) Jiàng 將 /120
   (e) Qì 且 /121
   (f) Fāng 方 /121
   (g) Shǐ 始 /121
   (h) Chū 初 /122

4. Modality /122
   (a) Qí 其 /123
   (b) Dài 殆, Shū jí 庶幾 /124
   (c) Gài 輔 /124
   (d) Wú 毋, Wú 無, and Wù 勿 /124
   (e) Níng 靜 /125

XIII. Adnominal and Adverbial Words of Inclusion and Restriction /126

1. Words of Inclusion /126
   (a) Zhū 諸 ‘all; members of the class of’ /126 ,
   (b) Fán 凡 ‘all’ /127
   (c) Jíe 皆, Jǔ 舉 ‘all’ /127
   (d) Jǔ 俱 ‘both, together’ /129
   (e) Gè 各 ‘each’ /130
   (f) Měi 毎 ‘every (time), always; whenever’ /130
   (g) Words of Verbal Origin /131

2. Restriction /131
   (a) Wéi 唯 ‘only’ /131
      (i) Introducing the subject or an exposed element /131
(ii) Introducing a noun predicate /132
(iii) In adverbial position restricting the predicate /132
   (b) Dú 獨 ‘only’ /133
   (c) Other Similar Words /133
   (d) Restriction by Final Particles /134
3. Some, None /134
   (a) Huò 或 ‘some one; some’ /134
   (b) Mò 莫 ‘no one; none’ /136
4. Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronominal Adverbs /136
   (a) Zì 自 ‘oneself’ /136
   (b) Xiàng 相 ‘each other, mutually’ /136
   (c) Shēn 身 ‘body, person, self’ /137
   (d) Jiāo 交 ‘in exchange, mutually’; Hù 互 ‘mutually’/137
XIV. Imperative, Interrogative and Exclamatory Sentences /138
1. Imperative Sentences /138
   (a) Unmarked /138
   (b) Qíng 請 ‘I beg of you; please’ /138
   (c) Prohibition. See XI.2
   (d) Modal Qí 其 in Imperative Sentences. See XII.4a.
2. Interrogative Sentences /139
   (a) Simple Questions /
      (i) The final particle Hū 乎 /139
      (ii) Yě hū 也乎, yú 與 (點), yé 邪 (邪) /139
      (iii) Zhū 諸 /140
      (iv) Fǒu 否. See XI.1b.
      (v) Interrogative pronouns. See IX.3
   (b) Rhetorical Questions /140
      (i) Negative questions requiring affirmative answers /140
      (ii) Qí 其 in rhetorical questions /142
      (iii) Qí 豈 /142
      (iv) Yōng 庸, Jù 誹, Qū 截, Yōng jù 庸遽, etc. /144
      (v) Wú 無 in rhetorical questions /144
      (vi) Fú 夫 ‘is it not’ /145
      (vii) Rhetorical questions with interrogative pronouns /145
      (viii) Kuàng 况 ‘how much the more’ /146
3. Exclamatory Sentences /146
   (a) Zài 哉 /146
   (b) Inversion of Subject and Predicate /147
XV. Complex Sentences /148

1. Parataxis and Hypotaxis /148

2. Conditional Clauses /149
   (a) Parataxis /149
   (b) Subordination by a Particle in the If-Clause /150
      (i) Ruò 若, Rú 如, Ér 而 /150
      (ii) Shī 使, Líng 令, etc., ‘supposing’ /151
      (iii) Gōu 荀 /152
      (iv) Chéng 誠, Xīn 信 /153
   (v) Jí 即 /153
   (vi) Fēi 非 /154
   (vii) Wēi 微 /154
   (c) Subordination by a Particle in the Main Clause /154
      (i) Zé 則 ‘then’ /154
      (ii) Sī 斯 ‘then’ /155
      (iii) Jí 即 ‘then’ /155

3. Concessive Clauses /156
   (a) Suī 雖 ‘although, even if’ /156
   (b) Suī ... ér ... 雖 ... 而 ... /157
   (c) Fēi ... ér ... 非 ... 而 ... /157
   (d) Zòng 縱 /158

4. Temporal Clauses /158
   (a) Verbs in Series /158
   (b) Aspect Particles in the First Clause /158
   (c) Jí 及 ‘when’ /158
   (d) Simultaneity — Dāng 当, Fāng 方, ... shí 時 /160
   (e) Topic Phrases /161
   (f) Ér hòu 而後, Rán hòu 然後 /161

5. Cause, Reason /161
   (a) The Coverb Yǐ 以 /161
   (b) Gù 故 ‘reason’ /162
   (c) Explanatory Noun Predicate after Main Clause. See VII.2a.ii and XII.3c)

Notes /163
Sources of Examples /169
Bibliography /171
Index of Chinese Vocabulary Items /175
General Index /189
construction 以，which as a verb means ‘use’ and as a copverb (or preposition) is used for the instrument, fills the role of passive transitive verb complement to 为. That is, the meaning of instrument is extended to include agency: ‘the king may be used to’ → ‘the king may be the agent to.’

Like nouns (example 28), adjectives require the copula verb 为 after 为 可以.

... could [Ox Mountain] be (i.e., remain) beautiful [when its trees were all cut down to supply wood for the nearby city]? (Mèng 6A/8)

2. Adjectives

Adjectives must be classed as verbs in Classical, as well as Modern Chinese, since they form predicates without a copula or final 也，are negated by 不，and take the aspect markers 为 可 and 未. Nevertheless, as their behaviour with 为 可 shows (see previous section), they differ from intransitive verbs in their syntax and have certain resemblances to nouns.

As the traditional English name implies, adjectives are typically found, not as predicates, but as modifiers of nouns. This is also true in Chinese — 高山 ‘high mountain’ versus 山高 ‘the mountain is high.’ As a syntactical form, however, this can be regarded as simply a special case of the general rule that verbs and verb phrases can modify nouns (see Section VII.1b), e.g., 流水 ‘flowing water.’ Monosyllabic adjectives and monosyllabic verbs used attributively in this way are commonly directly followed by the noun they modify, but adjectival phrases of more than one syllable are generally followed by the particle of noun modification, 之.

34. Ruò fú háo jié zhī shì ... 若夫豪傑之士
As for heroic knights ... (Mèng 7A/10)

Comparative degree is expressed by the copverb 于，which takes on the special meaning ‘than.’

35. ... ze wú wàng mín zhī duō yú lín guó yě 則無望民之多於鄰國也
... then do not hope that your people will be more than [those of]
the neighbouring countries. (*Mêng* 1A/3)

The copula verb *wéi* 為 can be used with an adjective to give a superlative sense.

36. Wù jiē rán, xīn wéi shèn 物皆然，心為甚
Things are all like that and the heart is most so. (*Mêng* 1A/7)

A general characteristic of adjectives is that they can be made into transitive verbs either in a causative sense or in a denominative sense — *měi zhī* 美之 ‘make it beautiful’ or ‘call it beautiful’ — simply by moving the subject into the object position after the verb and supplying another subject as agent.

37. Wáng qíng dà zhī 王請大之
I beg Your Majesty to make it great. (*Mêng* 1B/3)

38. Sōu, bù yuǎn qiān lǐ ěr lái 叟，不遠千里而來
You have come, sir, not regarding 1,000 lǐ as too far. (*Mêng* 1A/1)

(This regular transformational use of *yuǎn* 遠 ‘far’ to mean ‘call far, regard as far’ must be distinguished from the derived verb *yuàn* 遠 ‘keep at a distance, avoid,’ with change of tone. See example 287.)

Apart from these causative and denominative constructions, which apply to adjectives in general, some predicate adjectives can be followed by nouns which look like objects but which are semantically like oblique cases in a language like Latin or prepositional phrases in English. One of these is *ān* 安 ‘peaceful, content.’

39. Bāi xìng ān zhī 百姓安之
The common people were peaceful under him. (*Mêng* 5A/5)

Note that *ān* 安 can also be used transitively in a causative sense in the normal way.

40. ... zé bù néng ān Zīsī 則不能安子思，
... then he could not make Zīsī content. (*Mêng* 2B/11)

3. Nouns Used as Verbs

Like adjectives, nouns can be used as verbs in a causative sense.

41. Gù Tâng zhī yú Yīyīn, xué yǎn ěr hòu chén zhī 故湯之於伊尹，學焉而後臣之
Thus Tâng’s [behaviour] towards Yīyīn was to learn from him and afterwards make him his subject. (*Mêng* 2B/2)