

# EALL TALK SERIES

## “Chinese Adjective-Noun Combinations are Words”

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Moore Hall 258

Chinese adjective-noun combinations ([A N]’s) are word-level expressions constructed in an autonomous word formation component of the grammar. I propose a monomorphemic constraint on the adjective of [A N]. Together with evidence from a potential naming function, lexical gaps, and the tests of adverbial modification, conjunction reduction, and XP substitution, this constraint supports the wordhood of Chinese [A N]. Neither anaphoric accessibility nor the restrictions on the ordering of adjectives are reliable criteria for establishing the status of Chinese [A N]. The various properties of Chinese [A N] are accounted for under the framework of Construction Morphology (Booij 2010).



Xu Bing, *Magic Carpet*, 2006. Courtesy National Arts Council, Singapore, via *ArtAsiaPacific*, Issue 58 (2008).  
(The image is not directly related to the talk.)

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