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All structures great and small: on copular sentences with shì in Mandarin

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Stellingen

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All structures great and small: On copular sentences with *shì* in Mandarin
door Hang CHENG

1. Mandarin copula *shì* is situated high in the structure.
2. Mandarin predicational and specificational copular sentences share a unified base structure.
3. Mandarin equative copular sentences differ from predicational and specificational sentences.
4. Mandarin sentences with an individual-level predicate have no TP in the structure, in contrast to sentences with a stage-level predicate.
5. Pronominal copular elements across languages share a similar structure that is different from the structures containing verbal copular elements.
6. When analysing Mandarin data, the distinctions between copular and non-copular sentences should not be overlooked.
7. Research on Mandarin *shì* and relevant structures deserves more attention.
8. Contexts and discourse properties are crucial for understanding and correctly analysing a sentence.
9. We linguists should treat Zhangsan and Mary better when making up sentences.
10. “Everything is connected”; relationship is non-directional, and “relators” can project recursively.

(The first part is quoted from *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*, by Douglas Adams, published by Pocket Books, 1987.

The second part is adapted from *Relators and Linkers*, by Marcel Den Dikken, published by the MIT Press, 2006)