

## TOPIC 2: ATTRIBUTIVES AND HEADS

A **modifier** is a descriptor of another word. For nouns, modifiers are called **attributives**.

An **attributive** is a word or phrase that describes the attributes of a **head**. A **head** is a noun (either the subject or object of a sentence).

Looking only at the **head** words helps us understand the gist of a sentence.

**Nested attributives** is a form of **recursion** where attributives contain other **attributives**. This will usually mean that the attributive itself contains a sentence.

A **dependency tree** enables identification of the head and attributive relationships for each word in a sentence. Modifiers are 'dependent' on their heads. **Dependency trees** require a combination of finding the main verb, subject and object; identifying theta-roles; separating attributes from heads; and distinguishing foreground from background information.

The main verb sits at the top of a **dependency tree**.

**Modifiers** sit directly under the head that they modify.

To refer to the same phrase several times, draw a line to show the connections.

Theta-roles and relations should be written in English, and all other elements should be in Chinese.

The **dependency tree** should incorporate all elements of the sentence.

**Verb-object collocations** are common objects that are paired with particular verbs.

**Table 2: Common verb-object collocations**

English	Chinese
To adopt measures	采取措施
To provide an environment	提供环境
To undertake testing	进行测试
To answer questions	回答问题
To hold a meeting	举行会议
Policy implementation	政策落实
Encounter difficulty	面临困难