



Chinese Compliments

Chinese Compliment Responses

- Rejecting
 - Disagreeing and denigrating (*No, I'm older and uglier.*)
 - Expressing embarrassment (*Don't say that. I'm embarrassed.*)
 - Explaining (*No, I didn't watch my diet and I've gained some weight.*)
 - Thanking and denigrating (*Thank you, but the sweater is not that nice.*)
- Accepting
 - Thanking only
- Most responses to compliments in Chinese tend to be rejections, characterized by disagreement and self-denigration.
- The norm of Chinese society is to appear humble. Modesty is one of the most important constituents of self-image. As a result, Chinese speakers choose to lower themselves when responding to compliments, believing that appearing humble will help maintain and enhance their face and image.

Above passages from *Chen (1993)*, p. 55 [©].

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