

# *Contrastive Analysis of Blessings in Chinese and Mongolian News Discourse*

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**Abstract:** Blessing language refers to a statement of good wishes to people. As a linguistic and cultural phenomenon, blessings are not only good wishes for others, but also important expressions of emotional communication and social interaction. With blessings, people can express goodwill and care for others and convey good expectations and wishes for their life, work or specific occasions. Blessings are also often reflected in news articles from China and Mongolia, according to different speech contents, the blessings used are also slightly different. Therefore, this thesis selects the news speeches of Chinese and Mongolian for one year as the corpus, then analyses the blessings in the corpus. By exploring their similarities and differences, it can better understand the mutual cultural thinking and values, which is hoped to provide some helpful help to Chinese and Mongolian students in language learning. It has found that the main reason for the differences is that China and Mongolia have different cultures, thinking and beliefs.

## 1. Introduction

As a common language communication between the Chinese and Mongolian people, blessing is a universal language phenomenon. Whether it is public speech, festival celebration or in daily life, blessings carry important significance. With the rational use, it can express best wishes to the people and various events vividly and concretely. In the press speeches of China and Mongolia, appropriate blessings will be selected according to the content of the speeches, and blessings will be given to the people and things involved. This thesis aims to analyze and compare the blessings in the news speeches of China and Mongolia from the perspective of linguistics, so as to find their similarities and differences.

## 2. Definition of blessings in Chinese and Mongolian

### 2.1. Definition of blessing in Chinese

Chen Jianmin (1991) pointed out in "Blessings in Chinese" that people often use the best words to wish safety, longevity and luck by expressing good wishes and mutual concern.

Xu Guizhi (2007) said in the article "Zhu Song" Speech Act Research in Modern Chinese "that:" Zhu Song "includes" wish "and" congratulations "," wish "is expressed in a certain way, good wishes and sincere hopes for oneself or others that have not yet happened, have not yet come to fruition or continue forever, that is, good wishes and sincere hopes for things that have not happened. "Congratulations" are expressed in a certain way by showing a kind attitude and a happy mood about what has happened to oneself or others.

### 2.2. Mongolian blessing definition

In Mongolian folk oral literature, the lyric poems wishing the people a happy future life are called "Ерөөл". In Mongolian, there are two types of Ерөөл in the Mongolian language: ерөөл үг (congratulatory speech), and бэлгэ дэмбэрлийн үг (auspicious greeting). Ерөөл үг can be sung and exist in the form of poems. The basic types include three types, small congratulations composed of 2-6 words and two core words, medium congratulations composed of 2-3 lines or 2-3 paragraphs, or long poems composed of multiple lines. On the other hand, the бэлгэ дэмбэрлийн үг is a line or lines of blessings with the meaning of a good wish, usually composed of -аарай, -тугай and -г.

Ч.Содном pointed out in "Бэлгэ дэмбэрлийн үгсээс" that the auspicious greeting was first related to the thinking of the ancients, who believed that words had magical power, and that the use of positive words could make work more productive.

In the book Ерөөл магтаал, it is pointed out that blessing is a popular type of Mongolian folk oral literature, which is characterized by praising something and wishing for something good in the future.

Mongolian scholar Ц.Цэрэндорж pointed out that blessing is to strengthen all beautiful things and express the symbolic meaning of praying for beautiful things, so there are differences between space, time and scene, which are composed of words, images and structures, so as to express the meanings and ideas that correspondingly.

Scholar Д.Галбаатар pointed out that blessing was a lyrical poem, which symbolized a happy life and future, whose content was to realize the people's dream of a happy life.

To sum up, the definitions of blessings by Chinese and Mongolian scholars are very similar by representing good wishes and expectations for beautiful things and life in the future.

## 3. Related Research

In recent years, the study of blessings has attracted the attention of many scholars, among which the comparative study of Chinese blessings and other countries is also increasing. For example: Gao Weiqi (2023) "A Comparative Study of Chinese and French Wishing Languages and Discussion on Related Teaching Issues" carried out a comparative study of wishing languages in Chinese and French. The study found that: (1) Chinese wishing languages can be divided into blessings and congratulations according to the semantic characteristics of markers, while French wishes can be divided into daily wishes and formal occasions from a pragmatic point of view. (2) The differences between Chinese and French explicit markers of wishes are mainly reflected in the syntactic distribution, valence and sentence structure of wishes, while Chinese and French implicit markers of wishes mostly appear with the appearance of commonly used fixed expressions. (3) In addition to

the common topics of wishes for the New Year, work/study, and birthday, Chinese wishes also involve two types of wishes for children and grandchildren and wishes for the motherland, while French wishes include expressions with religious colors. In the special communication situation of celebrating birthdays, their understanding of animals and plants with longevity images is not exactly the same. (4) The Chinese blessings produced under the background of "Five Blessings" culture and Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism reflect the concept of collectivism, and the French blessings produced under the background of French romance and religion reflect the concept of individualism and privacy.

Liu Yufei (2023) found the characteristics of Zhu Ode speech acts in Chinese and Russian textbooks through comparison in the thesis "A Comparative Study of Zhu Ode Speech Acts in Chinese and Russian Textbooks and Suggestions for Chinese Language Teaching in Russia". 1. Discourse structure. There are three core elements in the eulogy behavior in Chinese and Russian textbooks-the subject of eulogy, the object of eulogy, and the content of eulogy. Chinese and Russian generally have the content of congratulations, omitting the subject of congratulations, with great differences between the two languages in the looming of the object of congratulations. 2. Language form. Most of the two languages have the language form of eulogizing speech act. In the explicit sign eulogies, different sign words express different emotions and attitudes in Chinese by expressing different tones in Russian; in the implicit sign eulogies, Chinese and Russian use different means to express eulogies. Chinese uses lexical and syntactic means, while Russian only uses syntactic means. Meanwhile, the looming of markers and the choice of modifiers are all related to the communicative situation.

Among them, Jiang Zhicheng (2016) "A Comparative Study of the New Year Speech Texts of Chinese and Thai Leaders" made a comparative analysis of the blessings in political discourse, pointing out that in New Year's greetings, most of the blessings in Chinese greetings are in the form of four-character structures, with a large number of blessings rich in cultural meaning and zodiac culture in the Spring Festival greetings; in Thai New Year's greetings, blessings will appear in the form of sentences, and national leaders will pray to the Buddha to bless the royal family, hoping that the virtue of the royal family can benefit the people. There are four main reasons for this phenomenon, namely, different national political systems and social backgrounds, different ways of thinking, different cultures and different religious beliefs.

In the above-mentioned related research, in addition to the comparison of blessings between the two countries, it studies the teaching of blessings, and puts forward relevant suggestions. However, there are few comparative analysis of the use of blessings in the news speeches.

#### **4. Comparative Analysis of Chinese and Mongolian Materials**

This thesis selects the news speeches of China and Mongolia for one year as the corpus, among which the Chinese corpus is selected from (People's Daily Online) and the Mongolian corpus is selected from (president.mn), so as to extract and analyze the blessings in the Chinese and Mongolian corpus, to explore their similarities and differences.

##### **4.1. Blessings from Chinese corpus**

In China's public news speeches, appropriate blessings are often selected to express according to the different events and objects blessed. This choice not only reflects the profound connotation of culture, but also demonstrates respect and care for different occasions and audiences. On important national celebrations, festivals and other occasions, blessings with far-reaching meanings are usually used, e.g., "the country is prosperous and the people are safe". In daily life and social activities, blessings of "good health" and "family reunion" will be used to express good wishes for

the happiness of the people's families.

For example

1. I wish the motherland prosperity and peace! I wish the world peace, beauty, happiness and tranquility! I wish you all a happy new year and all the best!

(2023, New Year's message)

2. I wish you all family reunion, good health, auspicious Year of the Rabbit and all the best!

(2023, Spring Festival group meeting)

3. I wish the motherland prosperity and the world peace and tranquility! I wish you all good and warm seasons, smooth and healthy!

(2024, New Year's message)

4. I wish you all good health, smooth work, happy family and auspicious Year of the Dragon!

(2024, Spring Festival group meeting)

There are not only four-word blessings in the speech, but also blessings in the form of sentences.

For example:

1. I wish the third "Belt and Road" International Cooperation Summit Forum a complete success!

(2023, the third "Belt and Road" International Cooperation Summit Forum)

2. Congratulations on the successful holding of the BRICS Business Forum in South Africa!

(2023 Closing Ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum)

It can be seen from the above examples that four-character words are widely used in New Year's greetings and blessings at Spring Festival group meetings, blessing the motherland, the world and everyone respectively. Taking the New Year's greetings in 2023 and 2024 as an example, in the blessings to the "motherland", words describing "the prosperity of the country" are often used, which means that the country will flourish in the new year. Words such as "peace and tranquility" are common in the blessings of the "world", which entrust people's expectations for world peace and stability. The blessings used for "everyone" are inseparable from "body" and "life", such as "smooth and healthy". This blessing comes from "Yili · Township Drinking Ceremony", which has the characteristics of growth, health and life in the double meaning.

At the Spring Festival group meeting, people usually wish good health and family reunion. "Family reunion" has originated from ancient Chinese traditional culture, which means that the whole family gathers together, regardless of men, women and children, to celebrate important festivals or festive moments together by emphasizing the cohesion and unity of the family. These blessings not only express the good wishes for individuals and families, but also reflect the care and blessings for the whole society. In addition, at the Spring Festival group meeting, everyone will be blessed according to the zodiac of the year, e.g., "Auspicious Year of the Rabbit" or "Auspicious Year of the Dragon", which not only reflects the characteristics of traditional Chinese culture, but also has interesting and vivid depiction. In other conferences and forums, blessings are usually given to specific blessings in the form of sentences, which are more formal. The use of blessings not only has cultural connotations, but also reflects the warmth and encouragement of people's hearts, and promotes social unity and harmony.

## 4.2. Mongolian corpus Blessings

The blessing of Mongolia firstly appeared at the end of the 15th century. The content of blessing is closely related to people's lives, with strong national characteristics and life atmosphere. Mongolian blessings vary with different life situations and blessing objects, and new content is added from time to time, with a certain degree of flexibility and arbitrariness.

For example:

1. Мөнх тэнгэрийн хүчин дор Монгол Улс мандан бадрах болтугай!

May Mongolia prosper under the blessing of eternal heaven.

(2023, 2024, New Year's greetings)

2. Эх оронд минь ээжийн бүүвэйн дуу үргэлж цангинаж, элбэрэлт сайхан ээжүүд минь аз жаргал, амар амгалангаар бялхаж байх болтугай!

I wish my motherland will always ring the mother's lullaby, and wish my beautiful mothers happiness and peace.

(2023, Mother Medal Ceremony)

3. Монгол судлал үеийн үед хөгжин дэлгэрэх болтугай!

May Mongolian studies be passed down from generation to generation.

(2023, the 12th International Conference of Mongolian Scientists opens)

4. Мөнх хөх тэнгэр хүн төрөлхтөн биднийг өнө мөнхөд ивээх болтугай.

I wish you a long life and bless mankind forever.

(2023, published by the United Nations General Assembly)

5. Их хурлын үйл ажиллагаанд өндөр амжилт хүсье.

I wish the conference a complete success.

(2023, the 8th Mongolian Teachers Conference opens)

6. Чуулга уулзалтад амжилт хүсье.

I wish the meeting a success.

(2023, Developing Green Electronic Trade, Export Speech)

It can be seen from the above example sentences that Mongolian blessings appear in the form of sentences and are not limited in length, and the length of sentences varies according to different blessings. The two sentence patterns that appear in the example are as follows:

1. The sentence pattern "-тугай" is the third-person wish and hope type, expressing wishes and hopes for the third person. This form is mostly used in formal occasions of congratulations (blessings) and slogans.

2. "-д" in the sentence pattern "-д амжилт хүсье" is called "Dative locative case" in grammar, which means "giving, right, for, and to". In Mongolian, it must be added after the blessing object and blessing event. It expresses the blessing of "to whom" and "to what". Among them, "амжилт" means "achievement", and the verb "хүсэх" can be regarded as "hope, wish, expectation" and other meanings. In addition to the verb, "ье" in the first person means to decide, intend, or intend to carry out an action. Therefore, "амжилт хүсье" means "wish success". To sum up, the sentence pattern "-д амжилт хүсье", which means who and what the first person blesses, is often used in blessings. This form is suitable for both daily life and formal occasions. The use of "-тугай" is more formal than the use of "-д амжилт хүсье".

In the Mongolian blessings, "Мөнх тэнгэр" (Changshengtian) often appears. As the most noble Tengger in the minds of Mongolians, Tenggeli (Тian-тэнгэр) has been deeply integrated into Mongolian traditional beliefs and carries extremely important significance. Therefore, Мөнх тэнгэр" often appears in various forms of news speeches. With the use of "Тian-тэнгэр", it not only prays for blessings to the longevity sky, but also conveys good wishes and expectations to the people. Therefore, "Мөнх тэнгэр" has become one of the indispensable elements in Mongolian press speeches.

## 5. Similarities and differences between Chinese and Mongolian news blessings

From the comparative analysis of Chinese and Mongolian news blessings, this thesis draws the following two conclusions.

1. Similarities and differences in sentence patterns and words. Four-character blessings are often used in Chinese news speeches, and four-character blessings appear in the form of fixed phrases or



idioms, e.g., good health and family reunion. In formal occasions and written language, it is often expressed in the form of sentences. The Mongolian news speech blessings are mainly in sentence form, with different lengths, which can be four, six, or even longer words. Chinese and Mongolian blessings have fixed or relatively stable patterns in terms of words and sentence patterns. The length of the sentence depends on the object of blessing and the formality of the communication occasion. Therefore, there are similarities in sentence patterns and words between Chinese and Mongolian news speeches.

2. Similarities and differences in customs and beliefs. Most of the blessings in Chinese news speeches come from traditional customs, while most of them come from traditional beliefs in Mongolia. In Chinese history, the development of blessings is closely related to the evolution of Chinese culture. From the thought of "harmony between man and nature" in the Han Dynasty, to the prosperity of the Tang Dynasty, to the folk beliefs in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, blessings have continuously absorbed various cultural elements and gradually formed a complete discourse system. With the passage of time, these words have gradually evolved into fixed blessings, broadcast among the people, as blessings in daily life. Tracing back to the history of Mongolia, the Mongolian people think that the sky contains all the visible and invisible energy. They began to worship the sky as a visible phenomenon like the earth and water, then changed from the worship of the visible sky to the worship of the invisible sky. Therefore, the longevity sky is higher than the blue sky and the earth in the general sense, which determines the origin of all phenomena and movement development laws of nature, society, and thinking. Under the influence of this traditional belief of the Mongolian people, "МӨНХ ТЭНГЭР" often appears in the blessings of Mongolian news speeches, which means that the country is prosperous and the people are healthy. The concept of "МӨНХ ТЭНГЭР" does not appear in the blessings of Chinese news speeches, because of the differences in beliefs and customs between China and Mongolia.

## 6. Summary

The study finds that the expression of blessings in news speeches of China and Mongolia has unique characteristics. In Chinese, blessings often appear in the form of concise, implicit, and artistic four-character patterns, e.g., "everything goes well", "peace and beauty", while in Mongolian, blessings are in the form of complete sentences based on Changshengtian elements. Both Chinese and Mongolian blessings have a long history. Due to the differences in customs and beliefs, the blessings used are also slightly different. Therefore, the differences in blessing sentences and words in news speeches are mainly derived from the differences in thinking modes, cultural traditions and belief systems.

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