



ANALYSIS OF FORMS OF GREETING IN SPOKEN UZBEK AND CHINESE

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ABSTRACT

Each nation has its own unique language and culture, which reflects the culture of interpersonal communication, especially expressions of politeness. Politeness is an integral part of social interaction, which is clearly manifested in speech etiquette, forms of address, expressions of gratitude, apologies, and requests. This article analyzes the pragmatic similarities and differences in politeness.

Key words: speech etiquette, greetings, politeness, forms of address, colloquial and social expressions.

In both Chinese and Uzbek, politeness in spoken language (礼貌用语, lǐmào yòngyǔ) reflects respect and culture in society. Both languages have commonly used phrases to show courtesy and social respect. Below are some of them.

A key element of speech etiquette is greeting, which serves to establish initial contact, much like an address. Greeting customs in Uzbek are characterized by specific norms. The choice of greeting depends on the situation, age, and gender of the interlocutors and often determines the positive outcome of the interaction. Before exploring various forms of greeting in Uzbek etiquette, it is important to note that greetings reflect acknowledgment of the addressee's dignity.

Kinesics (bowing, nodding, shaking hands, kissing, patting on the shoulder) and verbal actions (oral greetings and phrases) are influenced not only by objective factors but also by subjective ones such as the socio-cultural and ethnographic development of a people.

For people who know each other well (friends, relatives, young people), Uzbek etiquette allows for greetings like "Assalomu alaykum" or "Salom." In some cases, a more respectful form may be used: "Qadamlaringizga hasanot, xush kelibsiz." Among youth, commonly used informal greetings include: "Salom!", "Qalaysan", "Привет", "Nima gaplar," etc. These are not used in formal speech but are popular among young people.

In Chinese, like in Uzbek, there are various forms of greeting — many of them are impersonal but can be complex due to added questions or wishes. The most basic form of politeness in China is greeting — 打招呼 (dǎzhāo hu). Neutral greeting forms in Chinese include: [你好] "Hello!", [您好] "Hello!" (respectful), [你们好!] "Hello!" (to a group), [大家好!] "Hello, everyone!" (informal).

Nowhere in the world is food treated with such respect as in China. Therefore, instead of a typical greeting, people often ask: "你好, 吃饭了吗?" — "Hello, have you eaten?" Strikingly, this is used not only among locals but also with foreigners. A typical answer would be: 是, 谢谢! 你呢? — "Yes, thank you! And you?". Other respectful and caring questions include: 身体好吗? — "How is your health?" 工作忙吗? — "Are you busy with work?".

When leaving the house, etiquette requires informing your family of your absence. Upon returning, a set greeting is used: 我回来了！— “I’m back.” In formal conversations, several greeting expressions are emphasized: 您好! — “Hello!”, 早上好! 上午好！中午好！晚上好！ — “Good morning”, “Good forenoon”, “Good noon”, “Good evening”. Upon the first meeting: 幸会幸会 xìng huì — “It’s an honor to meet you!”, 久仰久仰 jiūyǎng jiūyǎng — “I’ve heard a lot about you!”

After a long time or an unexpected meeting: 好久不见 hǎo jiǔ bù jiàn — “Long time no see”. In Uzbek: “Anchadan buyon ko’rishmagandik”, “Bormisiz bu olamda”. In the morning, people ask: 睡得好吗? — “Did you sleep well?”

Neutral and specific speech formulas *Table 1*

Phrases	Neutral speech phrases	Special speech formulas	
		Categories	Examples
Greetings	你好！ 早上好！	Informal greetings with loved ones of the same age	嗨 hi (in English) 我的天, 我看见谁了! “Oh my God, who do I see!” 生活怎么样 “How is your life?” 家人怎么样 “Are you okay?” 有什么新闻 “What's new?”
		Greeting people you know but are not close to	早上好! “Good morning!” 晚上好! “Good evening!” 去哪儿? “Where are you going?” 干啥去? “What are you doing?” 你吃了吗? “Have you eaten?”
		Greeting family members.	您好, 伯伯好! “Hello uncle (elder)” 您好,叔叔 “Hello, uncle (younger)” 你好,大舅 “Hello uncle (mother's brother)” 阿姨好 “Hello aunt (universal) ”
		Greetings in a formal setting: greetings during negotiations	您好! Hello! 大家好! Hello everyone! 很高兴有机会与您会面 ! I'm glad I had the opportunity to meet you! 热烈欢迎 we are welcome!



			我代表...欢迎大家If you allow me, I would like to say hello on behalf of...!
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Uzbek hospitality involves many expressions of courtesy from the host. The guest is usually invited to sit in a place of honor and offered food with phrases like “Marhamat, oling, yeb o’tiring” — which may confuse Chinese guests, who may take such offers literally. However, in Uzbekistan, such expressions are part of politeness. Chinese people, on the other hand, may eat or decline directly without discomfort.

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