

Text Comparison Analysis of Mandarin *Haoyisi* and *Bu Haoyisi*

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ABSTRACT. *From textual perspective, this paper studies two Mandarin expressions --- Haoyisi and Bu Haoyisi. We investigate their syntactic functions in the text, and the textual features, textual functions, as well as textual contexts of the sentences that adopt the two expressions. First, from the perspective of syntactic functions, Haoyisi has typical features of an auxiliary, and Bu Haoyisi has typical features of an adjective. Second, they differ significantly in the textual features of the sentences that adopt them. Bu Haoyisi seldom uses second person pronouns as its subject and Haoyisi never appears in an imperative. Third, textual functions and textual contexts, Bu Haoyisi is grammaticalized into a discourse marker. It has the functions of indicating a turn-change and beginning a turn-bridge, which is used in various contexts.*

Keywords: Haoyisi; Bu Haoyisi; Discourse Features; Cohesion and Coherence; Context

1. **Introduction.** The subject of the paper concerns two commonly used Mandarin expressions--- *Hao Yisi* and *Bu Haoyisi*. The former means “not to be shy” or “not to be afraid of embarrassment (used in rhetorical questions)”, and the latter means one has to or can’t do something for the sake of saving face or when one is shy or embarrassed.

The research on these two expressions is very limited and only three related papers ^{[1]-[3]} are obtained. This paper studies the two expressions from the perspective of text. We conduct a comparative analysis on the two expressions from different angles, they are, syntactic functions in the text and textual features, textual functions as well as textual contexts of the sentences that adopt the two expressions. The following contemporary Mandarin examples are all from CCL (Corpus of Chinese Language) of PKU. We have sorted out 232 corpus examples containing *Haoyisi* and 2380 corpus examples containing *Bu Haoyisi*.

2. **The Syntactic Functions of *Haoyisi* and *Bu Haoyisi*.** *Haoyisi* and *Bu Haoyisi* have

syntactic differences. We conduct a comparative analysis on the aspects of syntactic functions and syntactic features.

Haoyisi is mainly used as an adverbial in a sentence, c.f. (1). It sometimes functions as a predicate alone in a sentence, c.f. (2). It is rarely used as an attributive. We have only detected one case in the corpus, c.f. (3).

(1) 黄健中总是提前在车前等着大家, 谁好意思晚来? (《人民日报》1994年1月)

Huáng jiànzhōng zǒngshì tǐ qián zài chēqián děng zhe dàjiā, shuǐ hǎoyìsi wǎn lái?

Huang Jianzhong is always waiting for all the other people in front of the car beforehand. Who will not feel embarrassed for coming late? (*People's Daily*, Jan, 1994)

(2) 他家条件那么艰苦, 管他要那么多钱, 你好意思, 我不好意思。(《读者》)

Tājiā tiānjiàn nàme jiānkǔ, guǎn tā yào nàme duō qián, nǐ hǎoyìsi, wǒ bùhǎoyìsi.

As his family is poor, I would be embarrassed to ask for so much money from him, even though you wouldn't. (*Readers*)

(3) 好意思的人都成功了。(徐大伟《情人节》)

Hǎoyìsi de rén dōu chénggōng le.

People who are not easily embarrassed would succeed at the end. (Xu Dawei, *Valentine's Day*)

Bu Haoyisi has rich syntactic functions---it can be an adverbial, attributive, predicate, object, complement. Cf. examples as follows:

(4) 他一向脸软, 总是不好意思拒绝别人的要求。(《报刊精选》1994年第6期)

Tā yīxiàng liǎn ruǎn, zǒngshì bùhǎoyìsi jùjué biérén de yāoqiú.

He is always too shy and too embarrassed to refuse other people's demands. (*Press Selections*, 1994.6)

(5) 她希望这位足智多谋的好军师能替她解答一个疑问, 便含着不好意思的微笑问: “大帅的年纪还很轻, 别的夫人难道就不会替大帅生儿子吗?” (姚雪垠《李自成》)

Tā xīwàng zhè wèi zúzhìduōmóu de hǎo jūnshī néng tī tā jiědá yí gè yíwèn, biàn hán zhe bùhǎoyìsi de wēixiào wèn: “Dàshuǐ de niánjì hěn qīng, biérén nǎo jiù bù huì tī dàshuǐ shēng érzi ma?”

She hoped that the wise military advisor would help her answer one question, so she asked him with an awkward smile, “The commander is still young. Can't the other wives give birth to babies for him?” (Yao Xueyin, *Li Zicheng*)

(6) 别人一笑他就不好意思了。(《报刊精选》1996年第3期)

Biérén yī xiào tā jiù bùhǎoyìsi le.

He gets embarrassed when laughed at. (*Press Selections*, 1996.3)

(7) 黄达宣觉得不好意思, 说: “军长, 你再别说了。”(《雪白血红》)

Huáng dáxuān juéde bùhǎoyìsi, shuō: “Jūnzhǎng, nǐ zài biéshuō le.”

Huang Daxuan felt embarrassed and said, “Commander, please don't say it anymore.” (*White Snow and Blood Red*)

(8) 冯永祥给江菊霞望得不好意思, 赔不是地说: “对, 谈正经的。”(周而复)

《上海的早晨》)

Féng yǒngxiáng gěi Jiāng júxǐ áwàng de bùhǎoyìsì, pǎibùshì de shuō: “Dù ì tǎn zhèngjīng de。”

Jiang Juxia was embarrassed by Feng’s stare. He apologized, “Yes, let’s get to business.” (Zhou Erfu, *Shanghai Morning*)

By making a comparative analysis on the 232 corpus examples containing *Haoyisi* and the 2380 corpus examples containing *Bu Haoyisi* from CCL of PKU, we have obtained the following results:

TABLE 1: SYNTACTIC FUNCTION COMPARISON BETWEEN *HAOYISI* AND *BU HAOYISI*

Syntactic Components	<i>Haoyisi</i>		<i>Bu Haoyisi</i>	
	Examples	Percentage (%)	Examples	Percentage (%)
Adverbial	1558	65.5	220	94.8
Predicate	540	22.7	11	4.7
Attributive	35	1.5	1	0.5
Complement	67	2.8	0	0
Object	180	7.5	0	0

The above table indicates the following findings: First, the two expressions have one character in common--both of them function as an adverbial in a sentence. Second, *Haoyisi* may play one of the three roles in a sentence, e.g., adverbial, predicate, and attributive, while adverbial being the most common case. Therefore, the main function of *Haoyisi* is an adverbial. On the other hand, *Bu Haoyisi* plays one of the five roles in a sentence, e.g., adverbial, predicate, attributive, complement, and object with somewhat equal chances of presence. The occurrence of the above phenomena is related to the part of speech and the semantics of the two expressions. *Haoyisi* is commonly accepted as an auxiliary in Mandarin. According to the common features of an auxiliary, *Haoyisi* is mainly used as an adverbial and sometimes used alone as a predicate. Our corpus investigation confirms this argument. *Bu Haoyisi* plays more syntactic roles and has more corpus examples than *Haoyisi*. This is because *Bu Haoyisi* as an adjective has two meanings and is commonly used in daily life. It has been regarded as a conventionalized expression.

3. The Discourse Features of *Haoyisi* and *Bu Haoyisi*. The discourse features of *Haoyisi* and *Bu Haoyisi* are mainly studied from three aspects: the following host verb of the two adverbial expressions, the subject features of the sentences that adopt them, and the syntactic distribution of the two expressions.

Let’s exam the following verbs of the two phrases first. For example:

(9) 大家生活也不容易，苦日子过了很长时间了，我刘邦的军队怎么好意思来骚扰大家呢？（易中天《刘邦胜利之谜》）

Dàjiā shēnghuó yě bù róngyì, kǔrìzǐ guò le hěn zhǎng shíjiān le, wǒ Liúbāng de jūnduì zěnmě hǎoyìsì lái sāorǎo dàjiā ne ?

No one's life is easy and everyone has been through hardship for a long time. How can my troops not feel embarrassed for harassing you? (Yi Zhongtian, *The Puzzle of Liu Bang's Success*)

(10) 她们年纪有老到二十四岁还不肯嫁人的, 有老到三十四十居然还好意思嫁人的。(沈从文《萧萧》)

Tāmen ni ánjì yǒu lǎodào èrshísì suì ihá búkěn jià rén de, yǒu lǎodào sānshísìshí jūrán hái hǎoyìsi jià rén de.

Some are as old as 24, but still don't want to get married. Some are already in their 30s and 40s, but not embarrassed to get married. (Shen Congwen, *Xiao Xiao*)

(11) 如此贴心的“无障碍”“设施”甚至令记者不好意思拿出自己那张平滑的名片。(《新闻稿》2004年9月)

Rúcǐ tiēxīn de “wúzhàng’ǎ” “shèshī” shènzhì lìng jìzhě bùhǎoyìsi náchū zìjǐ nà zhāng pínghuá de míngpiàn.

The accessible facilities are so intimate that even the reporters feels embarrassed for taking out their smooth name cards. (*Press Scripts*, Sept, 2004)

When *Haoyisi* is used as an adverbial in a sentence, it is usually followed by action verbs of emotions. For example, *Saorao* ('to harass') in (9) has a pejorative connotation. *Jiaren* ('to marry someone') in (10) has no pejorative connotation but a cultural connotation. In Chinese culture, men and women should get married when they are old enough. Staying single beyond the age limit is regarded as inappropriate. On the other hand when *Bu Haoyisi* plays the role of an adverbial, the following verbs are also action verbs, but they are mainly neutral verbs of no emotions, e.g. *Nachu* ('to take out').

Second, we'll have a look at the features of the subjects. Sentences containing *Haoyisi* have the following three kinds of personal pronouns as their subjects—first person singular and plural pronouns, second person singular pronouns, and third person singular pronoun. Sentences containing *Bu Haoyisi* mainly have the first person (singular and plural) pronouns, the third person male singular and plural pronouns, and *Renjia* as subjects. The second person pronouns are seldom used. For example:

(12) 大学生们说:“看到如此爱厂如家的领导, 我们哪里还好意思迟到、早退?” (《报刊精选》1994年第10期)

Dàxuéshēng men shuō: “Kàndào rúcǐ àichǎng rújiā de lǐngdǎo, wǒmen nǎli hái hǎoyìsi chīdào、zǎotui?”

The college graduates said, “Seeing how the leaders love the factory like their own homes, don't we feel embarrassed for arriving late or leaving early?” (*Press Selections*, 1994.10)

(13) 你怎么好意思说出这种话来, 提泰妮娅, 把我的名字和希波吕忒牵涉在一起侮辱我? (莎士比亚《仲夏夜之梦》)

Nǐ zěnmē hǎoyìsi shuōchū zhèzhǒng huà lái, tí tǎinīyà, bǎ wǒ de míngzì hé xībōlǚtè qiānshè zài yìqǐ wǔmè wǒ?

How can you say such a thing without feeling embarrassed, Te Tainia, putting my name and Hippolyta together to insult me? (Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*)

(14) 莫小贝：“都杀了这么多人了，他还好意思要机会？”（《武林外传》）
 Mòxiǎobèi: “Dōu shā le zhème duō rén le, tā hái hǎoyìsi yào jīhuì?”

Mo Xiaobei said, “He has killed so many people. Doesn’t he feel embarrassed to ask for another chance?” (*Wulin Rumored*)

(15) 我看见他和史春芳一起逛公园，像年轻的情侣似的，我都不好意思上前打招呼。（邵燕祥《永远的微笑》）

Wǒ kànjiàn tā hé Shǐ chūnfāng yīqǐ guāngōngyuán, xiàng niánqīng de qínglǚ shìde, wǒ dōu bùhǎoyìsi shàngqián dǎzhāohu.

Seeing him walking in the park with Shi Chunfang like young lovers, I felt embarrassed to walk up to greet them. (Shao Yanxiang, *The Long-lasting Smile*)

(16) 孩子在人前喊她时，她总有点不好意思，但若旁边没人，她就会高兴地脆生生地应一句：“哎。”（小蒙《她是李铁映、刘太行的保育员》）

Háizi zài rén qián hǎn tā shí tā zǒng yǒudiǎn bùhǎoyìsi, dàn ruò pángbiān méirén, tā jiù huì gāoxìng de cuìshēng shēngdì yīng yī jù: “āi。”

When called by her child in front of other people, she would feel somehow embarrassed. But when no one was around, she would be happy to respond with a crisp response “Yes.” (Xiao Meng, *She Was the Nanny of Li Tieying and Liu Taihang*)

By making a comparative analysis on the corpus examples containing *Haoyisi* and the corpus examples containing *Bu Haoyisi* from CCL of PKU, we have obtained the following results:

TABLE 2 SUBJECT USAGE COMPARISON BETWEEN *HAOYISI* AND *BU HAOYISI*

Subject Features	<i>Haoyisi</i>		<i>Bu Haoyisi</i>	
	Examples	Percentage (%)	Examples	Percentage (%)
First Person Pronouns	356	15	89	38.4
Second Person Pronouns	76	3.2	57	24.5
Third Person Pronouns	1948	81.8	86	37.1

The above table has the following indications: 1. all the three person pronouns may be used as the subjects of the two expressions. 2. Sentences adopting *Haoyisi* use almost the same number of first person pronouns and third person pronouns as subjects. They all outnumber sentence examples that use second person pronouns as subjects. 3. Sentences adopting *Bu Haoyisi* use third person pronouns as subjects in most cases. There are fewer sentence examples using first person pronouns as subjects, and even fewer sentences examples using second person pronouns as subjects.

We speculate that *Haoyisi* is usually used in rhetorical questions which implicates

accusations. The person to blame should be the speaker himself or a person who is absent. Frequently blaming others is not only inconsistent with our social values, but also against our cultural decorum. *Bu Haoyisi* is used to describe someone doing something shyly or embarrassingly. It is used to express humility or self-accusation. Humility is a virtue in Chinese culture, so it's a good expression when making a comments about others. Third person pronoun is frequently used in this situation. Self-accusation is certainly pointing to the subject himself and first person pronoun should be used. In all those situations, the second person pronouns are least used.

Now we will look at the syntactic distributions of *Haoyisi* and *Bu Haoyisi*. The former is more frequently used in rhetorical questions and exclamatory sentences. For example:

(17) 这样的丑事，谁好意思向政府方面提？（周而复《上海的早晨》）

Zhè yàng de chǒushì, shuí hǎoyìsì xiàng zhèngfǔ fāngmiàn tí ?

For such a foolish act, who will not feel embarrassed for bringing it up to to the government? (Zhou Erfu, *Morning of Shanghai*)

(18) 用偷来的东西送给心爱的人，他也真好意思！（《中国式离婚》）

Yòng tōulái de dōngxi sònggěi xīnài de rén, tā yě zhēn hǎoyìsì !

He didn't feel embarrassed at all for giving a stolen item to someone he loves as a gift. (*Chinese "Divorce"*)

Bu Haoyisi is rarely used in declarative sentences. When used in indicative mood, it is in negation sentences. For example:

(19) 胡梦安当着卫兵、当着他市党部的同事面前，没好意思像猴子样的蹿跳起来，他反而挺着胸膛，直着颈脖，静静地看了道静一眼。（杨沫《青春之歌》）

Hú mèngān dāngzhe wèibīng、dāngzhe tā shì dǎngbù de tóngshì miànqián, méihǎoyìsì xiàng hóuzi yàng de cuān tiào qǐlái, tā fǎnr ér tǐng zhe xiōngtáng, zhí zhe jǐng bó, jìng jìng de kàn le dào jìng yìyǎn 。

In front of the guards and colleagues from his municipal party branch, feeling embarrassed, Hu Meng'an did not jump up like a monkey. Instead, he held his back upright, erected his neck, and took a look at Dao Jing quietly. (Yang Mo, *Song of Youth*)

Bu Haoyisi is often used in a statement which talks about the subject's or other people's embarrassment. It is rarely used in exclamatory sentences, interrogative sentences or imperative sentences.

By comparing sentences containing *Haoyisi* and sentences containing *Bu Haoyisi* from CCL of PKU, we have obtained the following results:

Table 3 has the following indications: First, the similarity of the two expressions is that both of them may be used in declarative sentences and interrogative sentences, but rarely in exclamatory sentences. Second, there is a big difference of sentence category distribution. *Haoyisi* may be used in all the four types of sentences. *Bu Haoyisi* never appears in imperative sentences. They also differ in the questions that they appear in--- *Haoyisi* is largely used in rhetorical questions, but *Bu Haoyisi* is more used in yes-or-no questions. As for the proportion of different sentence forms, *Bu Haoyisi* is most commonly used in declaratives, but *Haoyisi* is most commonly used in rhetorical questions.

TABLE 3: USAGES OF SENTENCES CONTAINING *HAOYISI* AND SENTENCES CONTAINING *BU HAOYISI*

<i>Haoyisi</i>			<i>Bu Haoyisi</i>		
Category	Example	Percentage (%)	Category	Example	Percentage (%)
Interrogative Sentence	44	1.8	Rhetorical Question	173	74.6
Exclamatory Sentence	10	0.5	Exclamatory Sentence	11	4.7
Declarative Sentence	2283	95.9	Declarative Sentence	48	20.7
Imperative Sentence	43	1.8			

4. **The Textual Function of the Discourse Marker *Bu Haoyisi*.** “A text is a kind of work with certain verbal communicative purposes and functions to convey complete information, semantic coherence, and continuity.”^[4] “A text should convey the complete and linked information contents to achieve the full meaning of the expression and smooth communication. Some words are needed to make the meaning of the text coherent.”^[5] *Bu Haoyisi* is grammaticalizing into a discourse marker. The semantics of this expression is vanishing and its textual function is becoming increasingly powerful. *Haoyisi*, on the other hand, has no textual functions. For that reason, only the textual function of the discourse marker *Bu Haoyisi* is analyzed in the following text.

A discourse marker has various functions in different contexts, for it can only serve its role in a certain context.^[6] *Bu Haoyisi* as a discourse marker also has different functions in different contexts: they express apology when disturbing someone, show euphemistical politeness when rejecting someone, show guilt when saying or doing something wrong, and express modesty when being praised. For example,

(20) 不好意思，打扰了，只耽误你一分钟想和你说几句话。（《中国北漂艺人生存实录》）

Bùhǎoyìsi, dǎrǎo le, zhǐ dānwu nǐ yī fēnzhōng xiǎng hé nǐ shuō jǐ jǔ huà。

I feel embarrassed to interrupt you. I just want to have a word with you. (*China Life Record of Artists in Beijing*)

(21) 不好意思，我帮不了你这个忙。（《读者（合订本）》）

Bùhǎoyìsi, wǒ bāng bùliǎo nǐ zhège máng。

I feel embarrassed, but I can't help you out. (*Readers (One-Volume Edition)*)

(22) 不好意思，让你们久等了。（张平《十面埋伏》）

Bùhǎoyìsi, ràng nǐmen jiǔděng le。

I feel embarrassed to keep you waiting. (*Zhang Ping, Ambush All Around*)

(23) 他说：“事先没联系联系，唐突地就登门了，真不好意思。”（梁晓声《冉之父》）

Tā shuō: “Shìxiān méi liánxi liánxi, tángtū de jiù dēngmén le, zhēn bùhǎoyìsi。”

“I feel embarrassed to drop you by without making an appointment beforehand.” said he. (Liang Xiaosheng, *Ran's Father*)

(24) 不好意思，我一个人做不了什么，有两位提督的协助，事情才能成功的。（田中芳树《银河英雄传说》）

Bùhǎoyìsi, wǒ yīgè rén zuò bùliǎo shénme, yǒu liǎng wèi tídū de xiézhù, shìqing cáinéng chénggōng de.

I feel embarrassed to ask the two gentlemen here to do me such a favor. I can't get it done without your assistance. (*Legend of Milky Way Heros*)

“The textual function of discourse marker means that the author tries to combine the discourse units related so that a context comes into being with the discourse marker.”^[7] The discourse marker *Bu Haoyisi* has the function of uniting the texts together. It makes the text semantically coherent and helps the hearer to understand the intention of the speaker timely so that a smooth communication may continue. It has several functions as follows.

First, hinting function.

“Verbal communication is a process in which the speaker enciphers the information whereas the listener deciphers it, although not all information the hearer gets in different occasions may be deciphered. In the meantime, people always hope to have the maximum understanding effects with the minimum efforts every time they are communicating.”^[8] A discourse marker is considered to be a supportive tool to achieve this goal. In verbal communication, the speaker gives a hint to the audience by saying *Bu Haoyisi*. With that hint the audience may adjust his or her reasoning and understanding of the information in time. For example,

(25) 对了，第六十六位杨业的太太佘赛花也是一位有名的女将军。不好意思，故事又要倒回去了。（田中芳树《中国武将列传》）

Duì le, dì liùshí liù wèi Yángyè de tàitai Shé sàihuā yěshì yī wèi yǒumíng de nǚ jiāngjūn. Bùhǎoyìsi, gùshi yòu yào dào huí qù le.

Incidentally, She Saihua, the wife of the 66th warrior---Yang Ye, was also an eminent woman general. Sorry we have to flash back the story. (Yoshiki Tanaka, *Collected Biographies of Chinese Warriors*)

(26) 不好意思，我们只想吃火锅，小菜就不要了。（《人民日报》1996年11月）

Bùhǎoyìsi, wǒmen zhǐ xiǎng chī huǒguō, xiǎocài jiù bù yào le.

We feel embarrassed to say that the hot pot is enough for us. We don't need any side dishes. (*People's Daily*, Nov, 1996)

Bu Haoyisi in all the examples above may be seen as a discourse marker which serves the function of hinting. In (25) for example, the speaker abruptly switches the topic in the narration. In order to make the topic-switch not abrupt and to make his logic clearer for the audience to follow, the speaker uses the discourse marker *Bu Haoyisi* to give the hearer a hint. The audience takes the hint and follow the speaker's thought to flash back the story. In (26), the text begins with the *Bu Haoyisi*. By doing this, we may deduce that the guest interrupted the waiter by saying *Bu Haoyisi* when the waiter was recommending a great dish. And the waiter immediately understood the guest's intention---no more dishes.

Second, the function of turn-switching

In the process of communication, the turn-switching enables the communication to continue. When there is a turn switching, the speaker may use the discourse marker to pass more effective hints to the hearer. The hearer conducts the turn-switching in time and continues the conversation. When he finishes his part, he will use another discourse marker to give hints for another turn-switching. When *Bu Haoyisi* is used at the end of a speech, it indicates that the speech comes to an end and the speaker is waiting for the hearer to begin another turn-switching which enables the continuation of the conversation.

(27) 他说：“事先没联系联系，唐突地就登门了，不好意思啊。”我说：“什么，没什么，战友嘛。”（梁晓声《冉之父》）

Tā shuō: “Shìxiān méi liánxi liánxi, tángtū de jiù dēngmén le, bùhǎoyìsi a。” Wǒ shuō: “Méi shénme, méi shénme, zhànyǒu ma。”

He said, “I am sorry to drop by without making an appointment in advance.” I replied, “That’s all right, we are comrades-in-arms.” (Liang Xiaosheng, *Ran’s Father*)

(28) 这位乘客在递钱的同时笑着说了一句：“都是零的，真不好意思。”售票员也笑着应道：“没关系，我正要钢镚儿呢！”（梁晓声《感觉日本》）

Zhèwèi chéngkè zài dìqián de tóngshí xiào zhe shuō le yí jù: “Dōushi lǐng de, zhēn bùhǎoyìsi。” Shùpiào ànyuán yě xiào zhe yīngdào: “Méiguānxi, wǒ zhèngyào gāng bēng er ne!”

While handing the fare to the conductor, the passenger said with a smile, “I am sorry that they are all coins.” The conductor replied with a smile, “Never mind, we are low on changes.” (Liang Xiaosheng, *Feeling Japan*)

In (27), “he” concluded his speech with the discourse marker *Bu Haoyisi*, which gave the listener hints. The listener evaluated his speech positively and the turn-switch was successful. In (28), the passenger felt sorry because his fares were coins and he ended his talk with the discourse marker *Bu Haoyisi*. The conductor did the turn-switch and comforted the passenger by saying “our small changes are low.”

Third, cohesion function of a discourse

In the course of communication, in order to better organize his own language and to avoid the information vacancy caused by interruptions, the speaker often uses discourse markers to get more time and make his speech coherent. For example,

(29) 赵长春一边在手中的文件上打着横杠一边招呼他：“老陈呀！不好意思，你先在沙发上稍微坐坐，我这里马上就好！”（汉风《向西》）

Zhào chángchūn yībiān zài shǒuzhōng de wénjiàn shàng dǎ zhe hènghàng yībiān zhāohu tā: “Lǎo chén ya! Bùhǎoyìsi, nǐ xiān zài shāfā shàng shāowēi zuò zuò, wǒ zhèlǐ mǎshàng jiù hǎo!”

While making marks in the documents Zhao Changchun greeted him by saying, “Chen, I’m sorry. Please sit on the sofa for a while. I’m coming in a moment! (Han Feng, *Westwards*)

(30) 那你还是把它们搁回去吧，不好意思，请放回它们原来的架子，谢谢。（乔安妮 凯瑟琳 罗琳《哈利·波特》）

Nà nǐ hái shì bǎ tāmen gē huí qù ba, bùhǎoyìsi, qǐng fàng huí tāmen yuán lái de jià zi,

xièxie。

Then you should put it back. I'm sorry. Please put them back on the shelf. Thank you. (J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter*)

Fourth, the bridging function when starting a topic

In the process of communication, for the starter of the conversation in particular, in order to start discussing a certain topic reasonably and to avoid the abruptness caused by a direct speech, he often uses certain discourse markers to introduce the topic to be discussed and make the conversation smooth. The discourse marker *Bu Haoyisi* has this bridging function of starting a topic. It is often used in the initial position of a sentence. For example,

(31) 他问一位中年人：“不好意思，华鹰饭店在哪里？”（《报刊精选》1994年第9期）

Tā wèn yī wèi zhōngniánrén: “Bùhǎoyisi, Huáyīng fàndiàn zài nǎlǐ?”

He asked one middle-aged man, “Excuse me, where is Huaying Hotel?” (*Press Selections*, 1994 .9)

(32) 这一男一女吃完了面，走出了小店，男的对那个女孩说：“不好意思，第一次请你吃饭就这样。”（《故事会》）

Zhè yī nán yī nǚ chīwán le miàn, zǒuchū le xiǎodiàn, nán de duì nàge nǚhái shuō: “Bùhǎoyisi, dìyīcì qǐng nǐ chīfàn jìu zhè yàng.”

They walked out of the small restaurant after finishing off their noodles. The man spoke to the girl, “I am sorry that I invited you to such a small place for our first meal.” (*Story Collections*)

In (31), “he” as the starter of the conversation wanted to ask the way to Huaying Hotel, but in order to avoid the abruptness, he used the discourse marker *Bu Haoyisi* to start the conversation. In (32), the man started the conversation with the discourse marker *Bu Haoyisi*, which gave the girl adequate time to listen and recollect. She had enough time to think about and understand what the man was going to say.

5. Conclusions. Mandarin *Haoyisi* and *Bu Haoyisi* are interesting. Morphosyntactically speaking *Bu Haoyisi* is the negative form of *Haoyisi*, yet semantically speaking *Haoyisi* has become the negative form of *Bu Haoyisi*. The two expressions seem to be an antonymic pair, yet they have the above differences in frequency, syntactic functions, and textual distributions. Furthermore, *Bu Haoyisi* has evolved into a discourse marker in Contemporary Mandarin, yet *Haoyisi* has not. Based on CCL, this paper has only described the two expressions in detail. We will discuss the factors that contributed to the differences in our next publication.

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