

# A Corpus-Based Contrastive Study on Metaphors of “yan/Salt” in Chinese and English

YAN Ting<sup>[a],\*</sup>; ZHOU Junzi<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup>School of Foreign Languages, Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics, Hangzhou, China.

\* Corresponding author.

Received 4 April 2020; accepted 12 July 2020

Published online 26 August 2020

## Abstract

Salt, as one of the most indispensable factors in daily life, also plays a significant role in everyday language. Taking salt as the topic, this paper aims to summarize the similarities and differences between the metaphors of salt in Chinese and English, and to examine the reasons behind. This paper chooses BCC (Beijing Language and Culture University Corpus) and COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English), and then divides the first 1000 entries from corpus into several target domains based on the theory of metaphor. There are three major findings: metaphors of salt have four common target domains in both languages; the target domains in English is more abundant and positive than in Chinese; the differences between metaphors of salt in Chinese and in English mainly brought about by living environment, religious and cultural factors.

**Key words:** Salt; Metaphor; Corpus

Yan, T., & Zhou, J. Z. (2020). A Corpus-Based Contrastive Study on Metaphors of “yan/Salt” in Chinese and English. *Studies in Literature and Language*, 21(1), 77-83. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/sll/article/view/11802>  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/11802>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Salt, though important and common, is generally neglected by people. “Salty”, nevertheless, has recently been selected as one of the top 10 English online buzzwords, with its meanings of “somebody becomes so ashamed at something that gets angry”. Curious at this phenomenon, the author

intends to have a contrastive study of metaphors brought by salt in Chinese and English.

So far, most of scholars at home tend to put emphasis on contrastive study of taste words between English and Chinese. Zhang (2012) has *suan* ‘sour’ comparatively analyzed in terms of cognitive semantics; Li (2015) has investigated the metaphors of *xian* ‘salty’; Mo & Bai (2015) have explained a cognitive semantic study on the basic taste terms in English and Chinese by setting *tian* ‘sweet’ and *ku* ‘bitter’ as examples; Xu (2018) has semantically examined *tian* in the perspective of metaphor.

As for the topic *salt*, there are Chinese scholars who have elaborated on the role salt plays in Chinese culture, like Li & Wen (2013) and Wang (2017); Xiao (2014) has investigated the vocabulary and metaphors related to salt in Buddhism culture and Tian (2018) has the cultural spirit of salt in Chinese society analyzed. As for scholar abroad, Matthew Rowney writes an article exploring salt’s role in the *History of Mary Prince* and in the broader historical circumstances, discussing the relationship between salt, slavery, and capitalism’s growth. As for the contrastive analysis on metaphors of *yan* ‘salt’ in Chinese and salt English, few scholars home and abroad has probed into it.

This paper aims at answering two questions—what are the similarities and differences between the metaphors of salt in Chinese and English; What are the reasons behind those differences and similarities. To clarify these two questions, this paper will set its basis on the theory of metaphors, and use the method of corpus searching and cognitive analysis. The corpuses chosen are BCC and COCA.

The research procedure mainly includes three steps: First step is to search *yan* ‘salt’ as the keyword on BCC and *salt* on COCA; second step is to sum up the metaphors of salt in Chinese and English from the first 1000 entries in BCC and COCA respectively; the last step is to investigate the reasons behind by consulting a great quantity of relevant materials.

The second part of this paper will introduce the working mechanism of metaphor which will be the theoretical basis of this research. The third part is the corpus research and discussion which will analyze the differences and similarities of the metaphors of salt in English and Chinese. The fourth part will illustrate the reasons behind the differences of salt’s metaphor in English and Chinese. The last part will be the conclusion.

## 2. THE WORKING MECHANISM OF METAPHOR

Dating back to 2000 years ago in ancient Greek when Aristotle is alive, metaphor has long been defined as a kind of rhetorical device. Until the 1980s when George Lakoff and Mark Johnson published the book *Metaphors We Live by*, they break the traditional conception and suggest that metaphor is also a way of thinking which belonging to the cognitive domain.

In *Metaphors We Live by*, Lakoff and Johnson (1980) put forward the idea that “the essence of metaphor is understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another”. They also mention metonymy as a way of “allowing us to use one entity to stand for another” (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, p.36). Later, in *Women, Fire and Dangerous Things*, Lakoff (1986) holds the view that “each metaphor has a source domain, a target domain, and a source-to-target mapping” and “the metaphor is natural in that it is motivated by the structure of our experience.” According to him, “the source domain must be understood independent of the metaphor and has a regular correlation in our experience with the target domain.” (Lakoff, 1986, p.276) and “every detail of the metaphor is motivated by our physical functioning.” (Lakoff, 1986, p.277)

xinli	chongman	le	aiqing,	jiu	gen	Chongman	le
heart	fill with	PFE	love	then	and	fill with	PFE
shi	aiqing	bubian-de	sheng	<b>yan</b>	yyang.		
keep	love	unchanged	holy	salt	same		

The heart is filled with love, just like filled with the holy salt which is able to keep love unchanged.

爱情是生命的盐。

aiqing	shi	shengmingde	<b>yan.</b>
love	is	life’s	salt

Love is the salt of life. (Sian Weibo)

Examples in English:

(3) Lindsay. Lindsay, do you take this **salt** covenant as a symbol of spiritual marriage? As a symbol of commitment to God, church, and service?

(*Deliver Us from Evil*)

(4) I had remembered that at my parents’ wedding, they took **salt** together when they got married. In my head, this kind of felt like a spiritual marriage to Victor.

(*Analysis: Fresh new star is king of the sport*)

In both English and Chinese, being a preserver to maintain things as what they are can be a target domain of

## 3. CORPUS RESEARCHING AND DISCUSSION

According to Modern Chinese Dictionary, *yan* has two original meanings: the general name of table salt; chemical compounds consisting of metal ions and acid radical ions. Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary also offers *salt* two similar meanings: a white substance that is added to food to give it a flavor or to preserve it; a chemical formed from a metal and acid. After collecting and analyzing the first 1000 entries on the BCC and COCA, this paper sums up the most common target domains of *yan* and *salt*.

### 3.1 Similarities

In this part, the similarities of salt between Chinese and English will be discussed. All the examples are extracted from BCC and COCA.

#### 3.1.1 Preserver

It is a common sense that salt is a must for living beings to keep alive, and it has the ability to preserve food, change meat’s nature and stop the blight of mortality, which means salt plays a role of preserver. “It sustains life precisely as it preserves, purifies and seasons the food necessary to live.” (Leviticus, 2, p.13). Pickles and salted meat are household food in China. In West, it is written in the bible that the Lord, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by the covenant of salt (salt means “undestroyable”). Gradually the image of salt as preserver has penetrated into our daily language:

Examples in Chinese:

心里充满了爱情，就跟充满了使爱情不变的圣盐一样；所以这两个从刚开始生活就相爱的人能够永远心心相印，即使到了老年还能保持爱情的新鲜。

Examples (1), (3) and (4) all unfold before us salt as a symbol of a loyal love relationship which is supposed to be permanent. Example (2) compares love to salt which keeps live beings alive.

#### 3.1.2 Wealth and Fortune

In ancient China, for centuries, salt has represented for wealth. Chinese government regards selling salt as the most significant resource of state revenue because people who live in areas lacking salt are willing to import salt from China at a fairly high price as the earliest record of salt selling in *Guan Zi* points out. When comes to Tang Dynasty, half of government revenue is made out of salt selling and the nobles show off their wealth by providing their guests with pure salt, which is extravagantly luxurious back then.

In ancient Roman, salt is included in the soldiers' pay and provisions. Later a ticket used to exchange for salt called "salarium" is created and gradually "salarium"

evolves into the word "salary" which nowadays means the awards in the form of money people deserve to gain after a certain amount of work.

Examples in Chinese:

(5) (盐市的官绅) 豪华宴饮, 独揽盐利, 也只有在北洋军的地盘上才办得到, 北伐军来了, 可没那等方便事儿了!

haohua luxurious	yan food	yan drink	du sole	lan receive	yan salt	li, benefit	ye also
zhiyou only	zai on	beiyangjun-de Beiyang Amy's		dipan area	shang above	cai then	ban-dedao, do-able
beifajun the Northern Expeditionary Army			lai no	le, PFE	ke then	mei no	na that
deng kind	fangmianshier convenience	le! PFE					

Those bureaucrats enjoy luxurious feasts, and put all the benefits of business into their own pockets. But this can happen only on the area of Beiyang Amy. If the Northern Expeditionary Army comes, there is no such convenience for those bureaucrats to enjoy!

(Sima Zhong Yuan, Sandstorms)

(6) 女: 有房吗? 男: 没有! 女: 有车吗? 男: 没有! 女: 有存款吗? 男: 没有! 女: 那还来相亲! 男: 我有盐! 女: 老公!!!

nǚ: woman	you have	fang house	ma? SFP	nan man	meiyou! no	nǚ: woman	you have	che car
ma? SFP	nan: man	meiyou! no	nǚ: woman	you have	cunkuan deposits	ma? SFP	nan: man	meiyou! no
nǚ: woman	na then	hai still	lai come	xiangqin! blind date	nan: man	wo I	you have	yan! salt
nǚ: woman	laogong!!! husband							

Woman: Do you have any house? Man: No! Woman: Do you have any car? Man: No! Woman: Do you have any deposit money? Man: No! Woman: Then, why do you still come to this blind date? Man: I have salt! Woman: Husband! (Sina Weibo)

Example in English:

(7) Well, I asked him, would he publicly condemn what President Trump did with the existing judge, which any judge worth his salt should do? He refused. He said to me: "I am disheartened."

Interview With New York Senator Chuck Schumer)

(8) The Purple People Leader # Every top secret project worth its salt in intrigue has a code name. The iPhone's was Purple.

(The secret origin story of the iPhone)

Examples in Chinese:

(9) 听说易可贴来维持伤口, 可是天兔阻止了我的出行让我活活受喉风散在我伤口散盐!!!

Tingshuo it is said that	yiketian bandage	lai come	weichi maintain	shangkou, wound	keshi but	tiantu rabbit	zuzhi prevent	le SPF			
wode my	chuxing, trip	rang let	wo I	huohuo alive	shou suffer	houfengsan houfengsan	zai on	wo I	shangkou wound	sa scatter	yan!!! salt

It is said that bandages could keep my wound safe. But the rabbit stopped my trip, and made me suffer alive from the pain which was caused by scattering salt on my wound!!! (Sina Weibo)

(10) 弟子买盐回来, 禅师将一把盐放入一杯水中让他喝, 弟子说: 咸得发苦。禅师又把盐撒进湖里, 让他再尝湖水。弟子说: 纯净甜美。禅师说: 生命中的痛苦是盐, 它的咸淡取决于盛它的容器。身上事少, 自然苦少; 口中言少, 自然祸少。

dizi apprentice	mai buy	yan salt	huilai, back	chanshi Chan master	jiang let	yiba a handful of	yan salt
fangru put-in	yibei one-CL	shui water	zhong inside	rang let	ta him	he, drink	dizi apprentice
shuo: say	xian salty	de degree	faku, bitter	Chanshi Chan master	you again	ba let	yan salt

sa scatter	jin into	hu lake	li, inside	rang let	ta him	chang taste	hushui. lake-water	
dizi apprentice	shuo: say	chun pure	jing clean	tian sweet	mei. beautiful	Chanshi Chan master	shuo: say	
shengming life	zhong in	de of	tongku pain	shi is	yan, salt	tade its	xian salty	dan weak
qujueyu depend-on	cheng fill	ta it	de of	rongqi. container	shen body	shang on	shi thing	shao, little
ziran naturally	ku bitter	shao; little	kou mouth	yan word	shao, little	ziran naturally	huo misfortune	shao. little

After the apprentice brought the salt and came back, the Chan master put a handful of salt into a cup of water and asked the apprentice to drink. The apprentice said: it's so salty that it even becomes bitter. Then the Chan master scattered the salt into the lake, and again asked the apprentice to drink. The apprentice said: it tastes sweet and pure. The Chan master said: the pain in life is like salt. The degree of saltiness depends on the container. The less the burden is on the shoulders, the less pain will be in life; the less words one speaks, the less misfortune one will suffer from. (Sina)

#### Examples in English

(11) To add a gallon of salt to this gaping wound, the researchers think storms in the TRAPPIST-1 system “ can be 100 to 10,000 times stronger than the most powerful geomagnetic storms on Earth. “(TRAPPIST-1’s Fatal Flaw Could Ruin Our Hopes of Finding Life There)

(12) The process of proving it to myself anyway -- calling Arctic scientists, looking up historical weather data -- just felt like salt in the wound to someone who sometimes has strong emotional responses to chronicling climate change. (Slate Magazine)

#### Examples in Chinese:

(13) 当初你将八两银子财礼钱，娶我当家理纪，管着些油盐酱醋。

dangchu beginning	ni you	jiang make	baliang ba-CL	yinzi silver	cai wealth	li gift	qian, money	qu marry	wo I	dangjia take-	li manage	ji, discipline	guanzhexie manage	you oil	yan salt	jiang sauce	cu. vinegar
----------------------	-----------	---------------	------------------	-----------------	---------------	------------	----------------	-------------	---------	------------------	--------------	-------------------	----------------------	------------	-------------	----------------	----------------

At the beginning, bringing 400 grams of silver as the bride price, you married me and made me take care of your house and manage daily expense. (The Golden Lotus)

#### Examples in English:

(14) There you are, grinding through yet another hellacious day at your own personal **salt mine**, making one pile of paper smaller as another grows larger, when a colleague strolls up to you, to utter a seemingly harmless phrase. (*Ready, Aim . . . ; Cupid fires last-minute arrows*)

In conclusion, salt in Chinese and in English has four common target domains formed by people sharing common sense, biological facts and similar experiences. It can play the role of preserver, represent wealth, stand for greater pain and bring a feeling of monotonous.

### 3.2 Dissimilarities

So far, similarities between metaphors of salt in Chinese and in English has been discussed. This part will continue to analyze dissimilarities between metaphors of salt in Chinese and in English.

#### 3.2.1 Metaphors of Salt in Chinese

##### a. Poor Life

At a time when salt prevails and becomes common in every civilians’ daily life, it no longer stands for wealth and fortune. Instead it begins to be associated with the most basic livelihood protection in people’s cognitive system. The Chinese idiom *jiyanzishou* (齋盐自守) is

#### 3.1.4 Trivial and Tedious Things

Indispensable and common as salt is in our daily life, gradually Chinese people build a trivial and tedious image for it. Salt now can be referred to as the symbol of an ordinary real life condition where people are constantly disturbed by trifles.

In English, salt has a similar target domain. In the past, there are salt mines where salt miners work. Endlessly, in the dark underground salt mine, those workers repeat the action of digging, loading, digging and loading, which is so trivial and monotonous that salt mine brings people with the feeling of tediousness.

used to describe people who have no special desire for wealth or luxuries but persist in leading a poor life where they can only make ends meet.

#### Examples:

(15) 汉武帝元狩二年，四川成都府一秀士司马长卿，双名为相如，自幼父母双亡，孤身无倚，齋盐自守。

Hanwudi Emperor Wu	Yuanshouernian, Yuanshou two year	Sichuan	Chengdufu	yi
xiushi				
lowest degree conferred upon successful candidates under the civil service examination system				
Sima Changqing, Sima Changqing	shuangming double-character-name	wei	Xiangru,	zi
you	fumu	shuang	wang	gushen
childhood	parents	both	die	alone
wuyi, no-dependence				
jiyanzishou.				
insist on living a life of poor and indifferent				

In the second year of Yuanshou Year when Emperor Wu was on the throne, there was a talent man named Sima Changqing whose two-character name is Xiangru. His parents both died when he was a child. He lived alone without any dependence and insisted on living a life of poor and indifferent. (QingPing Shantang Scripts)

**b. Ominous Omen**

Physical feature of salt decides its unchangeable taste, because of which salt is always come together with its taste——*xian* ‘salty’——in people’s cognitive system. In

Chinese, the word *xian* ‘salty’ is a homophone with *xian* ‘leisure’. So the phrase *yan jiang kou* used to describe people who like to put their fingers in others’ pie and say something ominous which would unfortunately happen.

Examples:

(16) 正讲处，只听得呼呼风响，慌得那八九个老者，战战兢兢道：“这和尚盐酱口！说妖精，妖精就来了！”

zheng	jiangchu,	zhi	tingde	huhu	feng	xiang,	huangde	na	ba	jiuge	laozhe	zhanzhanjingjing	dao:
when	talking	only	hear	onomatopoetic words	wind	blow	panic	those	eight	jiu-CL	old man	trembling with fear	say
“zhe	heshang	yanjiangkou!			shuo	yaojing,	yaojing	jiu	lai	le!”			
this	monk	people who like to put their fingers in others’ pie			say	demon	demon	then	come	SPF!			

While talking, those old men heard the wind blowing. They trembled with fear and said: “This monk likes to put his fingers in others’ pie! Speak of the devil and the devil comes. (Wu Chengen, *Journey to the West*)

**c. Exaggeration**

As a kind of condiment, its original duty is to add more flavor to foods. Gradually, this phenomenon is transferred to describe the behavior that people exaggerate what is truth by adding something fictitious.

Examples:

(17) 这些干部可能是因为这样和那样的不满，或者是什么目的没达到，于是就调盐加醋，夸大其词，有的说上，没的捏上，让老百姓一起跟着瞎起哄。

zhexie	ganbu	kenneng	shi	yinwei	zheyang	he	nayang	de	buman,	huozhe	shi	shenme
these	cadre	may be	is	because	this	and	that	of	dissatisfaction	or	is	what
mudi	mei	dadao,	yushi	jiu	tiao	yan	jia	cu,	kuada	qi	ci,	
aim	no	achieve	hence	then	adjust	salt	add	vinegar	exaggerate	its	word	
youde	shuo	shang,	meide	nie	shang,	rang	laobaixing	yiqi	genzhe	xia	qihong.	
have	say	on	no	make-up	on	make	civilian	together	follow	blind	kick-up-a-fuss	

**3.2.2 Metaphors of Salt in English**

**a. Veterans**

Salt in English can also refer to experienced people who are skillful and quite familiar with one specific area. The original type are experienced sailors who are quite expertized at sailing on sea which contains a great amount of salt.

Examples:

(18) I told him that to me, Galveston is new. Fresh. **Salt** in the air instead of diesel and concrete. (Kimberly Garza, *Triquarterly*)

**b. Decent, Honest, Outstanding People**

“The just man is a light in the darkness” (Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9). “The followers of Jesus must be the salt of the earth and the light of the world shining before others and giving glory to God” (Matthew, 5, pp.13-16). In bible, Jesus, by praising his followers as “salt of the earth”, reveals before them their duty and responsibilities to purify things and people, protect them from decay and make contributions to the enhancement of humanity (Msgr, et al, 2014). Nowadays the phrase “salt of the earth” refers to decent, honest and outstanding people who are the backbone of the society and make great contributions to it.

Examples:

(19) Her parents were **salt** of the earth, both professors, he in a department related

to mine, she at a neighboring college as a psychologist. (Jules Chametzky, *The Massachusetts Review*)

(20) He was **salt** of the earth. Every fire chief’s dream.

He was always participating and he treated everybody with dignity. Our priority is to continue to honor and remember him every day and support his family. (Family of fallen firefighter Richard Sheltra opens up about his death)

**c. Elite Status**

At the Elizabethan Age, salt is quite rare. Every time a banquet is hold, there will be a bottle of salt set on the table. Seats above the salt bottle only distinguished guests are allowed to sit on while ordinary ones can only sit below the salt. Therefore, in English we have the phrase *above the salt* to describe people with a high status while *below the salt* with a low status.

Examples:

(21) Since you are now the holder of an ancient medieval barony, I suppose I shall have to let you sit above the **salt**. “Tysen didn’t laugh, but perhaps he did smile, just a bit. (*Scottish bride*, Catherine Coulter)

**d. Doubts and skepticism**

The phrase *take with a grain of salt* has several versions about its originality. The most famous one is that the phrase comes from a story regarding the discovery of a recipe for an antidote to a poison. In the antidote, one of the ingredients is a grain of salt. Threats involving the poison are thus to be taken *with a grain of salt* and therefore less serious. According to Cambridge Dictionary, *take with a grain of salt* generally means not to completely believe something that you are told, because you think it is unlikely to be true.

Examples:

(22) As with all rumors, nothing can be confirmed, so take every tidbit you hear with a big grain of salt. (*Mashable*, The iPhone 8 rumored to mash the best parts of the original and 4S ...)

(23) This sort of anecdotal evidence should be taken with a grain of salt. (Ben Adams, *What Is Fourth Amendment Contraband?*)

**e. Wisdom**

In Bible there reads “Salt’s vital significance explains its use in various sacrifices (Leviticus 2:13) and as an appropriate sign in sealing certain covenants (Numbers 18:19). It is for some sages a symbol of wisdom” (Colossians 4:6) Therefore salt also has a metaphor as wisdom in English.

Examples:

(24) So take these predictions with that rather large helping of **salt** in mind. (*The Potential Promises of DAPA*)

(25) Understanding crystallizes in my mind like **salt**. (Jay Werkheiser, Analog Science Fiction & Fact).

**1.2 Discussion and Conclusion**

So far, having illustrated all the similarities and dissimilarities between the metaphors of salt in Chinese and in English, this paper draws a conclusion that they have four common target domains, while Chinese and English have three and five specific domains respectively. The table 3-1 below categorizes all the domains according to their shade of meanings.

According the table, salt has three specific target domains in Chinese among which two of them are derogatory while five specific target domains in English among which only one is derogatory. Quantitatively, metaphors of salt are more abundant in English than in Chinese; Qualitatively, salt rendered with a more positive image by English- speaking people than by Chinese ones.

**Table 1**  
**Table for shade of meaning**

	Domains	Commendatory	Derogatory	Neutral
Similarities	Preserver	+		
	Wealth and Fortune	+		
	Greater Pain	+		
	Trivial and Tedious Things		+	
Chinese	A Poor Life			+
	Ominous Omen		+	
	Exaggeration		+	
Dissimilarities	Veterans	+		
	Decent, Honest, Outstanding People	+		
	English	Elite Status	+	
	Doubts and skepticism		+	
	Wisdom	+		

**4. REASONS**

Since the very nature of salt is the same in English-speaking countries as in Chinese-speaking countries, why would there be so many differences between its metaphors in Chinese and English people’s cognitive system? This chapter will answer this question by analyzing reasons from three major aspects—living environment, religious and cultural factors.

**4.1 Living Environment**

Most English-speaking countries are seaside lands where people live offshore and have more access to sea than Chinese. Because of people’s deep attachment to sea, the frequency of salt metaphors appearing in English also takes up a large percent and their meanings are always positive, like the phrase “an old salt” which means a skillful and experienced man.

What’s more, living offshore makes it possible for salt production, which associates people so closely with salt that it becomes a standard for people to divide social class in a banquet in class society like England.

While in ancient China, most people live in inland

areas, which cuts off their connection with sea, the result of which is that salt doesn’t penetrates as deep into Chinese as into English.

**4.2 Religion**

Religious factors also play an important role in bringing about the differences between metaphors of salt in Chinese and in English. Metaphors of salt in English are influenced to a great extent by Bible. “The followers of Jesus must be the salt of the earth and the light of the world shining before others and giving glory to God” (Matthew 5:13-16). By comparing his followers to the salt of the earth which is pure and white, Jesus intends to encourage his followers “to make substantial difference in being of service to others”. (Business Mirror, 2017) Later, this metaphors of salt are preserved and transferred from the domain of Christ’s discipline to daily life. What’s more, in Colossians, salt is said to be the symbol of wisdom, which is also retained in English.

In China, metaphors of salt are affected by Confucianism and Taoism which once prevailed in society. They both call for a poor life where people can only make their ends meet and have no desire for a higher

quality of life. Therefore, the metaphor of salt standing for a poor life appears in Chinese.

### 4.3 Culture

Culture is another factor that have effect on the differences between Chinese and English metaphors of salt. The ancient tales add to English some idioms containing metaphors of salt while homophone, the unique feature of Chinese characters, also enriches itself with some.

## CONCLUSION

This paper analyzes the target domains of salt from the perspective of cognition, based on data extracted from BCC and COCA. As for similarities, metaphors of salt in English and Chinese have four common target domains, namely, preserver, wealth and fortune, greater pain and trifles which are brought into languages mainly by common sense, biological facts and similar experiences shared by human beings. As for dissimilarities, the tendency is that the metaphors of salt in English are quantitatively more abundant and more positive in meaning than those in Chinese. The dissimilarities between metaphors of salt in Chinese and English are results of three factors—the differences of living environment, religion and culture between Eastern and Western world.

## REFERENCES

- Corona, D. (2009). Risky memory, preventive strategies and emancipatory resistance in *Cancellanda* by Marina Warner. *Textus*, (XXII), 305-322.
- Lakoff, G. (1986). *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things*. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (1986). *Metaphors We Live by*. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Msgr, et al. (2014). Your light must shine before others. *Business Mirror*, (c), 1-3.
- Starr, M. (2008). Salt and light. *McClatchy - Tribune Business News*, 1-4.
- Tian, Y. B. (2015). The analysis of salt's cultural spirit. *The Salt Culture in China*, 244-248.
- L, Y. R. (2015). A contrastive analysis and cognitive interpretation of "salty" metaphors in English and Chinese. *Language Application Research*, (3), 131-133.
- Mo, L. H., & Bai, J. H. (2015). A cognitive semantic study on the basic taste terms in English and Chinese—With "tian"/ "sweet" and "ku"/ "bitter" as examples. *Journal of South China University*, 16(5), 109-113.
- Wang, Y. F. (2017). A complicated history of salt in China. *Liaoning Daily*, 10(11).