

A Corpus-Based Study on Mood Combination Preference in Two-Clause Composite Sentences in Modern Chinese

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Abstract

Every clause is associated with a specific expressive intention and bears a specific mood: declarative, interrogative, imperative or exclamative. Different moods are combined with the juxtaposition of clauses. A compound sentence has a homogeneous mood combination between its constituent clauses, while the mood in a complex sentence is usually counted on its main clause with the mood in its subordinate clause(s) drowned. Clauses in a Chinese sentence, however, are independent in terms of mood; that is to say, the mood of the whole sentence is the combination of moods of each clause. Tendency for mood combination of two-clause composite sentences in modern Chinese is demonstrated as follows: 1) Homogeneous mood combinations greatly exceed heterogeneous ones; the “declarative + declarative” type outnumbers other types; and there are more combinations with a declarative mood than those without; 2) The more convincing the meaning of a particle indicates, the more frequently the corresponding mood appears in the first part of the combinations; and the mood realized by a modal adverb appears in the second part if another mood is not realized by a modal adverb; 3) A conjunction highly restricts the mood combination; and the frequency of mood combination in coordinate and causal clauses is approximately equal, much higher than that in adversative clauses.

Keywords: mood combination, declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamative

1. Mood and Mood Combination

The Latin and French based word “mode” entered English in the late Middle English period, meaning “measure, manner”, quite similar to “mood”. “Mode” is directly related to grammar, known as “manners” or forms of a verb. “Mood” was later used to replace grammatical “mode”, expressed inflectionally in distinct sets of verbal paradigms such as declarative, subjunctive, optative and imperative (Bybee & Fleischman, 1995, p. 2). But there is no inflectional change in Chinese verbs when declarative, interrogative, exclamative, imperative and other moods are involved in a sentence. Chinese language does have semantic distinctions of declarative, interrogative, exclamative, imperative and other moods, expressed by a tone, a word, a phrase, a clause or even a sentence. Mood is attached to a clause, focusing on the speaker’s mental states such as knowing, wanting, wishing and exclaiming. Mood in the traditional Chinese grammar has four major types: declarative, interrogative, imperative and exclamative, the same as those listed by Halliday (2000, p. 71) in “mood of clause”.

Mood combination refers to the juxtaposition of moods, usually in the context of a sentence. Every independent clause has a mood and the combination of clauses displays mood combination, which falls into two types: homogeneous combination and heterogeneous combination. Homogeneous combination is subdivided into four kinds: combination of all the declarative, interrogative, imperative clauses or exclamative clauses. Heterogeneous combination consists of such types as combination of at least one declarative plus at least one interrogative, at least one declarative plus at least one imperative, at least one declarative plus at least one exclamative, at least one interrogative plus at least one imperative, and etc. As such a large number of mood combinations are no easy job to handle in a single study, this paper only focuses on combinations of two moods homogeneously and heterogeneously. Theoretically speaking, there are four types of homogeneous mood combination and twelve types of heterogeneous mood combination in two-clause composite sentences in modern Chinese, which are listed in the following.

1.1 Four Types of Homogenous Mood Combination

1) declarative + declarative (Dec.+ Dec.)

- [1] Wǒ qù Běijīng, tā yě qù Běijīng.
我去北京, 他也去北京。
I go Beijing, he too go Beijing.
I'll go to Beijing, and he will go to Beijing too.

2) interrogative + interrogative (Int. + Int.)

- [2] Shì nǐ qù Běijīng ne, hái shì tā qù Běijīng?
是你去北京呢, 还是他去北京?
are you go Beijing PAR, still is he go Beijing?
Are you going to Beijing, or is he going to Beijing?

3) imperative + imperative (Imp.+ Imp.)

- [3] Nǐ qù Běijīng, érqiě bìxū jǐnzǎo qù Běijīng.
你去北京, 而且必须尽早去北京。
You go Beijing, and MOD as soon as possible go Beijing.
You go to Beijing, and you must go to Beijing as soon as possible.

4) exclamative + exclamative (Exc.+Exc.)

- [4] Běijīng duō hǎo ā, nǎr de kōngqì duō xīnxiān nǎ!
北京多好啊, 哪儿的空气多新鲜哪!
Beijing how wonderful PAR, there PAR air how fresh PAR!
How wonderful Beijing is, and how fresh the air there is!

1.2 Twelve Types of Heterogeneous Mood Combinations

5) declarative + interrogative (Dec. + Int.)

- [5] Wǒ qù Běijīng, nǐ yě qù ma?
我去北京, 你也去吗?
I go Beijing, you too go PAR?
I'll go to Beijing, (and) will you go to Beijing too?

6) declarative + imperative (Dec. + Imp.)

- [6] Wǒ qù Běijīng, nǐ yě bìxū qù.
我去北京, 你也必须去。
I go Beijing, you too MOD go.
I'll go to Beijing, (and) you must go to Beijing too.

7) declarative + exclamative (Dec. + Exc.)

- [7] Wǒ qù Běijīng, nǐ yě qù gāi duō hǎo a?
我去北京, 你也去该多好啊!
I go Beijing, you too go MOD how nice PAR!
I'll go to Beijing, and how nice it is of you to go too!

8) exclamative + declarative (Exc. + Dec.)

- [8] Qù Běijīng duō hǎo a, wǒ xiǎng qù.
去北京多好啊, 我想去。
Go Beijing how nice PAR, I want go.
How nice it is to go to Beijing, (and) I want to go (there).

9) exclamative + interrogative (Exc. + Int.)

- [9] Qù Běijīng duō hǎo a, nǐ qù ma?
去北京多好啊, 你去吗?
Go Beijing how nice PAR, you go PAR?
How nice it is to go to Beijing, (and) will you go (there)?

10) exclamative + imperative (Exc. + Imp.)

- [10] Qù Běijīng duō hǎo a, wǒmen yìqǐ qù ba!
去北京多好啊, 我们一起去吧!
Go Beijing how nice PAR, we together go PAR!
How nice it is to go to Beijing, (and) let's go together!

11) interrogative + declarative (Int. + Dec.)

[11] Nǐ nándào bú xiǎng qù Běijīng ma, wǒ xiǎng qù
你 难道 不 想 去 北京 吗, 我 想 去。
You MOD not want go Beijing PAR, I want go.

Don't you want to go to Beijing? (But) I want to go (there).

(N.B.: This is a composite sentence in Chinese, but its English counterpart is a sentence group consisting of two sentences. It is the same with Example 12 and 13.)

12) interrogative + imperative (Int. + Imp.)

[12] Nǐ nándào bú xiǎng qù Běijīng ma, nǐ bìxū qù.
你 难道 不 想 去 北京 吗, 你 必须 去。
You MOD not want go Beijing PAR, you MOD go.

Don't you want to go to Beijing? You must go (there).

13) interrogative + exclamative (Int. + Exc.)

[13] Nǐ nándào bú xiǎng qù Běijīng ma, qù Běijīng duō hǎo a!
你 难道 不 想 去 北京 吗, 去 北京 多 好 啊!
You MOD not want go Beijing PAR, go Beijing how nice PAR!

Don't you want to go to Beijing? How nice it is (of you) to go to Beijing!

14) imperative + declarative (Imp. + Dec.)

[14] Nǐ qù Běijīng ba, Běijīng zhǎo gōngzuò de jīhuì duō.
你 去 北京 吧, 北京 找 工作 的 机会 多。
You go Beijing PAR, Beijing seek job PAR opportunity more.

Go to Beijing, and you will find more job opportunities.

15) imperative + interrogative (Imp. + Int.)

[15] Nǐ qù Běijīng ba, nándào nǐ bú xiǎng qù Běijīng ma?
你 去 北京 吧, 难道 你 不 想 去 北京 吗?
You go Beijing PAR, MOD you not want go Beijing PAR

Go to Beijing, and don't you want to go to Beijing?

16) imperative + exclamative (Imp. + Exc.)

[16] Nǐ qù Běijīng ba, qù Běijīng duō hǎo a!
你 去 北京 吧, 去 北京 多 好 啊!
You go Beijing PAR, go Beijing how nice PAR!

Go to Beijing, and how nice it is (of you) to go to Beijing!

The research questions in the paper are:

- 1) What is the overall tendency of homogeneous and heterogeneous mood combination in two-clause composite sentences in modern Chinese?
- 2) Which mood appears most frequently in heterogeneous mood combinations?
- 3) Which mood combination outnumbers others? And what are the underlying factors?

2. Frequency of Mood Combinations

Halliday (2000, p. 104) held that a clause consists of "mood plus residue" and all the examples he analyzed are one-clause simple sentences, so there is no mood combination in English. Following Halliday's idea and testing English complex sentences, Peng (2000, p. 31) believed that all clauses have their own moods: the mood of conjoined clauses lies in the main clause if relative clauses are involved; whereas the mood of combined clauses is the combination of individual clauses if adverbial clauses are involved. Clauses in Chinese are generally believed to be more independent. "Every clause is associated with a specific expressive intention, and it bears a specific mood" (Xing, 2017, p. 168). Therefore, mood combination exists in Chinese language. In order to better demonstrate the frequency of mood combinations in modern Chinese, 3835 modern Chinese two-clause composite sentences were collected from the total of 860,000 Chinese characters of written texts. After a statistical analysis of the collated data, the major findings and explanation are as follows.

2.1 Homogeneous Mood Combinations Outnumbers Heterogeneous Ones

In terms of types of mood combination, homogenous combinations (4 types, 3229 examples, 86%) > heterogeneous combinations (12 types, 536 examples, 14%); in terms of material genres where mood combinations appear, novels (1487 examples, 38.8%) > plays (1141 examples, 29.8%) > newspapers (691

examples, 18.0%) > scientific texts (516 examples, 13.4%) (See Table 1, qtd. from Wan, 2016: 37).

Table 1. Comparison of homogeneous and heterogeneous mood combinations

Text genres Mood combinations	Newspapers	Scientific texts	Novels	Plays	Total	Frequency
Homogeneous	667	514	1294	824	3299	86.0%
Heterogeneous	24	2	193	317	536	14.0%
Sum (percentage)	691(18.0%)	516(13.4%)	1487(38.8%)	1141(29.8%)	3835	100%

Note. 1) The data in newspapers are 691 Chinese two-clause composite sentences (or 691 examples, similarly hereinafter) from the 200,000-Chinese-character texts of the 24 pages on *Renmin Ribao* (*People's Daily*), Nov. 23, 2010; 2) The data in scientific texts are 514 examples from the 200,000-character textbook in the first seven chapters of *Zhongguo Wenhua Dili Gaishu* (the 3rd ed., *An Outline of Chinese Cultural Geography*, ed. by Hu Zhaoliang et al, Beijing: Peking University Press, 2009); 3) The data in novels are 1294 examples from about 96,000 characters in Chapter 1, 4 and 9 of *Weicheng* (*Fortress Besieged*, by Qian Zhongshu, Beijing: People's Literature Publishing House, 2002) and about 120,000 characters in *Huo Zhe* (*To Live*, by Yu Hua, Shanghai: Shanghai Literature and Art Publishing House, 2004); 4) The data in plays are 824 examples from 137,000 characters in *Lei Yu* (*Thunderstorm*, by Cao Yu, trans. by Wang Zuoliang and A. C. Barnes, Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2001), and 107,000 characters in *Fengxue Ye Gui Ren* (*Latecomer in the Snow*, by Wu Zuguang, Beijing: People's Literature Publishing House, 2000).

2.2 "Dec. + Dec." Combinations Outnumber Other Mood Combinations

In terms of combination types, "Dec. + Dec." combinations outweigh others: "Dec. + Dec." (3129 examples, 94.8%) > "Imp. + Imp." (131 examples, 4.0%) > "Int. + Int." (29 examples, 0.9%) > "Exc. + Exc." (10 examples, 0.3%); In terms of material types where mood combinations appear, novels (1294 examples, 39.2%) > plays (824 examples, 25.0%) > newspapers (667 examples, 20.2%) > scientific texts (514 examples, 15.6%). Noticeably, there are only "Dec. + Dec." combinations in scientific texts, and there are no "Exc. + Exc." combinations in newspapers.

Table 2. Frequency of homogeneous mood combinations

Text genres Mood combinations	Newspapers	Scientific texts	Novels	Plays	Total	Frequency
Dec. + Dec.	606	514	1260	749	3129	94.8%
Int. + Int.	6	0	11	12	29	0.9%
Imp. + Imp.	55	0	20	56	131	4.0%
Exc. + Exc.	0	0	3	7	10	0.3%
Sum (percentage)	667 (20.2%)	514 (15.6%)	1294 (39.2%)	824 (25.0%)	3299	100%

As homogeneous mood combinations are obvious and popular, the study of heterogeneous moods combinations turns out to be more significant, thus the focus in the rest part of the paper.

2.3 Mood Combinations with Declarative Exceed Those Without Declarative

There are 6 types of mood combinations with "Dec." and 6 types of mood combinations without "Dec.". Those with "Dec." as shown in the statistics are above 7.0% with an occurrence of more than 50 examples in the corpus, while those without "Dec." are below 7.0% with an occurrence of are fewer than 50 examples.

Among the 6 types of mood combinations with "Dec. +", the total occurrence of "Dec. + Int.", "Dec. + Imp." and "Dec. + Exc." are 346 examples (54.0%), while the total occurrence of "Int. + Dec.", "Imp. + Dec." and "Exc. + Dec." are 237 examples (36.9%). Interestingly, "Dec. + Int." (34.0%) is far more frequent than "Int. + Dec." (2.6%).

3. Frequency of Mood Combinations in Different Contexts

Frequency of mood combinations varies from mood to mood realized in their respective clauses. Furthermore, frequency of mood combinations is conditioned by specific contexts.

3.1 Mood Combinations Realized by Clause-Final Particles

Chinese moods are largely realized by clause-final particles such as *ba* (吧, a particle used at the end of an

imperative clause either as a polite request or a consultative tone, or used at the end of an interrogative clause inclusively as a to-be-confirmed question, *ma* (吗, a particle used at the end of a question), *ne* (呢, a particle used at the end of a special, alternative or rhetorical question to indicate a question, or used at the end of a declarative clause to reinforce the assertion or play up the effect of exaggeration) and *a* (啊, an interjection attached to the end of a clause to express surprise or admiration <with a drawl>) (see the examples listed for the above-mentioned 16 types of mood combinations). Clause-final particles play a key role in determining the frequency of mood combinations.

The more convincing the meaning of a particle indicates, the more frequently the corresponding mood appears in the first part of the combinations; on the contrary, the more doubtful the meaning of a particle indicates, the more frequently the corresponding mood appears in the last place.

- [17] a. Hòuhuǐ méiyǒu yòng de, shuí yuànyì jìn zuò méiyǒuyòng de shìqǐng ne?
 后悔 没有用的, 谁愿意尽做没有用的事情呢?
 Regret no use PAR, who would like all do useless PAR things PAR?
 To regret is no use, and who would like to do all those useless things?
- b. Hòuhuǐ méiyǒu yòng le, shuí yuànyì jìn zuò méiyǒuyòng de shìqǐng ne?
 后悔没有用了, 谁愿意尽做没有用的事情呢?
 Regret no use PAR, who would like all do useless PAR things PAR?
 It is no use regretting, and who would like to do all those useless things?
- c. *Hòuhuǐ méiyǒu yòng ba, shuí yuànyì jìn zuò méiyǒuyòng de shìqǐng ne?
 后悔没有用吧, 谁愿意尽做没有用的事情呢?
 Regret no use PAR, who would like all do useless PAR things PAR?
 Isn't regretting useful? And who will do all those useless things?
- d. *Hòuhuǐ méiyǒu yòng ma, shuí yuànyì jìn zuò méiyǒuyòng de shìqǐng ne?
 后悔没有用吗, 谁愿意尽做没有用的事情呢?
 Regret no use PAR, who would like all do useless PAR things PAR?
 Is regretting useless? And who would like do all those useless things?

(N.B.: There should be two sentences in English. It is the case with Example 17c.)

After a comparison of Example 17a, 17b and 17c, moods of the second clause are all realized by the particle *ne*, which indicates the speaker's doubt, and they appear in the second part of their corresponding sentences. Moods of the first clause are realized by *de* (的, an auxiliary used at the end of a statement to indicate certainty) (Example 17a) and *le* (了, an auxiliary used at the end of a clause or a pause in the middle of a sentence to indicate a change or a new situation) (Example 17b), both of which indicate the speaker's conviction, and they appear in the front of the sentences. But when moods of the first half are realized by *ba* (吧) (Example 17c) and *ma* (吗) (Example 17d), both of which indicate the speaker's doubtful attitude, but such mood combinations are not acceptable.

When particles reveal the speaker's conviction to approximately the same degree, moods in the combination may swap. See Example 18.

- [18] a. Nín liú zhe zìjǐ yòng ba, wǒ zǒu le.
 您留着自己用吧, 我走了。
 You keep PAR self use PAR, I go PAR.
 You keep it to yourself, and I (may) go (now).
- b. Wǒ zǒu le, nín liú zhe zìjǐ yòng ba.
 我走了您留着自己用吧。
 I go PAR, you keep PAR self use PAR.
 I (may) go (now), and you keep it to yourself.

The same particle, when used in a mood combination, usually shows a different level of the speaker's conviction. The one with more conviction generally falls at the first half of the combination, and the one with less conviction is at the end of the combination. In Example 19, the first particle *a* reveals the speaker's exclamation, and the second *a* reveals his/her doubt. The first *a* is definitely more convincing, so the mood it indicates appears in the front.

- [19] Duō hǎo de gōngrén a, zhè kě zǎ bàn ne?
 多好的工人啊, 这可咋办呢?
 How good PAR worker PAR, this may how do PAR?
 How good the worker is! And what may be done?

When a mood is realized by one clause-final particle and another mood realized by two clause-final particles,

mood combination is not influenced, because it has nothing to do with the number but the convincing tone of the particles.

- [20] Zánmen zǒu ba, méi kànjiàn bà mā zhèng máng zhe ne ma?
 咱们走吧, 没看见爸妈正忙着呢吗?
 We go PAR, not see parents PRES-busy-ASP PAR PAR?
 Let's go now. And don't you see parents are busy working?

In Example 20, the particle *ba* (吧) realizes an imperative mood in a polite way with no sense of doubt; by contrast, *ne* and *ma* both indicate an interrogative mood and the doubtful tone is strengthened, so *ba* (吧) mood is first and *ne-ma* mood is the second. However, both *de* (的) and *le* (了) reveal the speaker's declaration, and this mood is a conviction, while *ne* (呢) is simply a doubt, so *de-le* (的了) mood goes the first and *ne* mood goes the second. See Example 21.

- [21] sāngtǎnà tiáohuái 1.2 yuán/gōnglǐ shì bù kěnéng de, xiàlì yǒuméiyǒu kěnéng ne?
 桑塔纳调回 1.2元/公里 是不可能 的, 夏利有没有可能 呢?
 Santana turn back 1.2 yuan/kilo is not possible PAR, Xiali have/have not possible PAR?
 (N.B.: Santana and Xiali are the brand names of Chinese-made cars.)

It is not possible for a Santana taxi to go back to the fee of 1.2yuan/kilo, (then) how about a Xiali taxi?

3.2 Mood Combinations Realized by Modal Adverbs

Modal adverbs have a remarkable influence on mood combination in that the mood realized by a modal adverb appears in the second part and the mood in the first part is not realized by a modal adverb. Mood order in Example 22 can be explained by the above rule of clause-final particle, and so can it be done by the rule of modal adverbs. The former mood is a declarative, and no modal adverb helps. The latter mood is definitely realized by the modal adverb *hébì* (何必, a modal adverb used in rhetorical questions), which endows a stronger feeling, thus appearing in the second part of the sentence.

- [22] Mā bú yuànyì, nín hébì qiǎngpò tā ne?
 妈不愿意, 您何必强迫她呢?
 Mum not willing, you MOD force her PAR?
 (Since) Mum is not willing to do, why do you force her?

When two moods are realized by two different modal verbs, the larger domain the modal adverb governs, the mood it expresses appear slater. The governing domain of a modal adverb can be easily ranked according to its place in a clause. There are 3 places of a modal adverb: MOD (,) + NP + VP; NP + MOD + VP; NP + VP+ (,) MOD (Duan, 1995, pp. 19–20). Modal adverbs in front of NP govern both NP and VP, thus having the largest domain. There are such words as *nándào* (难道, a modal adverb used to reiterate a rhetorical question), *dàyuē* (大约, an adverb meaning “probably, approximately”), *xìngkuī* (幸亏, a modal adverb meaning “luckily, fortunately”, used to indicate the favorable conditions for removing difficulties), *piānpiān* (偏偏, a modal adverb meaning “contrary to expectations”), *jiù* (就, a modal adverb meaning “in that case, then”, used to indicate a natural result under certain conditions or circumstances), *yéxǔ* (也许, a modal adverb meaning “maybe, probably”), *nánguài* (难怪, a modal adverb meaning “no wonder”), *xìng'ér* (幸而, a modal adverb similar to *xìngkuī* <幸亏> mentioned above), *fǎnzhèng* (反正, a modal adverb used to indicate the same result despite different circumstances), *míngmíng* (明明, a modal adverb meaning “obviously, plainly, undoubtedly”, usually followed by a turn in meaning of the latter part of the context), *qiàqià* (恰恰, a modal adverb meaning “exactly, precisely”), *zhǐhǎo* (只好, a modal adverb similar to “have to, cannot but”), *bùfáng* (不妨, a modal adverb meaning “might as well”), and etc. Other modal adverbs after NP only govern VP, thus having the less governing domain, such as *jiǎnzhí* (简直, a modal adverb indicating a tone of exaggeration, similar to “simply, at all”), *hécháng* (何尝, a modal adverb used in rhetorical questions to express “never”), *hébì* (何必), *kě* (可, a modal adverb meaning “but, yet, however”, used to indicate a turn in meaning), *qǐ* (岂, a modal adverb indicating a rhetorical question), *jiūjìng* (究竟, a modal adverb meaning “actually, exactly”, used in questions to press for an exact answer), *dàodǐ* (到底, a modal adverb used in a question for emphasis), *guǒrán* (果然, a modal adverb meaning “really, indeed, as expected”), *jūrán* (居然, a modal adverb meaning “unexpectedly, actually”), *jìngrán* (竟然, a modal adverb meaning “unexpectedly, actually”), *fǎndào* (反倒, a modal adverb meaning “instead, on the contrary”), *wèimiǎn* (未免, a modal adverb meaning “naturally, unavoidably”) and so on. When modal adverbs after VP govern none, and the moods they indicate appear at the end. See Example 23.

- [23] nín jiù zhí shuō ba, jiūjìng yào duōshǎo qián yòng?
 您就直说吧, 究竟要多少钱用?
 You MOD straight say PAR, MOD want how much money use?
 Say it out straightly, and how much money do you need?

If two modal adverbs are before NP, they have the same power of commanding, then the power of expressing the speaker's subjective attitude counts. Qi (2002, p. 220) reported the rank of these modal adverbs: those revealing the speaker's sudden realization such as *guǒrán* (果然), *nánguài* (难怪), *yuánlái* (原来, a modal adverb indicating a sudden realization of something, meaning "so, it turns out") > those revealing the speaker's determination like *dàgài* (大概, a modal adverb meaning "probably, most likely"), *yídìng* (一定, a modal adverb meaning "surely, necessarily") > those revealing the speaker's demand like *bìxū* (必须, a modal adverb used to add a weight to an order), *wùbì* (务必, a modal adverb meaning "must, have to") > those revealing the speaker's admittance such as *nénggòu* (能够, a modal auxiliary meaning "possible, probable"), *kěyǐ* (可以, a modal auxiliary indicating permission). In Example 24, the modal adverb *wùbì* (务必) shows the speaker's demand, while the modal adverb *yídìng* (一定) shows the speaker's determination. The determination is stronger than the demand, so the mood revealed by determination appears at the second half of the combination.

- [24] Wùbì bùnéng fàngsōng jǐngtí, yídìng yào jiānchíbúxiè de bǎ fǎnzǒusī dòuzhēng jìnxíng xiàqu
 务必 不能 放松 警惕, 一定要 坚持不懈 地 把 反走私 斗争 进行 下去。
 MOD not can relax alertness, MOD MOD persistent PAR PAR anti-smuggle continue down.
 (We) cannot relax our vigilance; (instead we) must persist on fighting against smuggling.

3.3 Mood Combinations in the Context of Conjunctions

Chinese clause/mood combination does not necessarily involve a conjunction. If a conjunction is used, mood combination is highly restricted. Example 25a is of "Dec. + Imp." mood pattern. When no conjunction is used, the clauses could be swapped to Example 25b, but the mood pattern changes into "Imp. + Dec.". Conjunctions are used in Example 25c, with the same meaning as Example 25a. Although the mood pattern is still "Dec. + Imp.", the order of the clauses could not be changed and its reversed mood pattern is not possible.

- [25] a. Wǒ shénme dōu bù zhīdào, nǐ qù wèn biérén ba!
 我 什么 都 不 知道, 你 去 问 别人 吧!
 I what all not know, you go ask others PAR!
 I don't know anything, so you'd better go to ask others.
 b. Nǐ qù wèn biérén ba, wǒ shénme dōu bù zhīdào.
 你 去 问 别人 吧, 我 什么 都 不 知道。
 You go ask others PAR, I what all not know.
 You'd better to go ask others, for I don't know anything.
 c. Yīnwèi wǒ shénme dōu bù zhīdào, suǒyǐ nǐ qù wèn biérén ba!
 因为 我 什么 都 不 知道, 所以 你 去 问 别人 吧!
 CON I what MOD not know, CON you go ask others PAR!
 I don't know anything, so you'd better go to ask others.
 d. *suǒyǐ nǐ qù wèn biérén ba, yīnwèi wǒ shénme dōu bù zhīdào.
 所以 你 问 别人 吧, 因为 我 什么 都 不 知道。
 CON you go ask others PAR, CON I what MOD not know.
 So you'd better go to ask others, I don't know anything.

If *yīnwèi* (因为) and *suǒyǐ* (所以) are used together, the mood attached to the clause introduced by *yīnwèi* (因为) must be either declarative or exclamative, the mood attached to the clause connected by *suǒyǐ* (所以) could be any of the four moods, so there are five types of mood combinations: "Dec. + Int.", "Dec. + Imp.", "Dec. + Exc.", "Exc. + Dec." and "Exc. + Int.". Example 26) is "Dec. + Imp.", and Example 27 is "Dec. + Int.". Among the five types, "Dec. + Int." and "Exc. + Dec." are more frequent, whereas "Dec. + Imp." and "Dec. + Exc." are less frequent.

- [26] yīnwèi shì zài gùchéng jiānyù lǐ, suǒyǐ nǐ yào jìn quánlì bāngzhù Wèi Déhuá tāmen bǎ zhè jiàn shì zuò hǎo. (Dec. + Imp.)
 因为 是 在 故城 监狱 里, 所以 你要 尽全力 帮助 魏德华 他们 把 这 件 事 做 好。
 CON is in old town prison in, CON you MOD try all strength help Wei Dehua them PAR this-CL thing do good.
 Because it is in the old town prison, you must try all you can to help Wei Dehua and his team get this done well.

- [27] Yéxǔ yīnwèi shìjiè tài yōngjǐ, suǒyǐ zàowùzhǔ nàme qìngba? (Exc. + Int.)
 也许 因为 世界 太 拥挤, 所以 造物主 那么 吝啬 吧?
 Perhaps CON world too crowded, CON Creator that stingy PAR?
 Perhaps the world is too crowded, so the Creator is that stingy?

If "*suǒyǐ...*, *shìyīnwèi...*" is used, in contrast to "*yīnwèi...*, *suǒyǐ...*", there are only three possible mood combinations with very little frequency: "Dec. + Exc." (Example 28), "Dec. + Int." and "Imp. + Dec." (Example 29).

- [28] Xiànyù jīngjì zhè ge tí mù zhīsuǒyǐ xīyīn rén, shìyīnwèi tā de fènliàng tài zhòngyào le.
 县 域 经 济 这 个 题 目 之 所 以 吸 引 人, 是 因 为 它 的 份 量 太 重 要 了。

County economy this-CL topic CON appeal people, CON its PAR function too important PAR.

The topic of county economy is appealing to people, because it is very important.

[29] Suóyǐ qǐng nǐ shōuhuí nǐ de chuāicè, yīnwèi nǐ wùjiě wǒ le!
所以 请 你 收回 你 的 揣测, 因为 你 误解 我 了!

CON please you take back your PAR guess, CON you misunderstand me PAST.

Please take back your judgment on me, because you have misunderstood me.

The conjunction *yīnwèi* (因为) can be used alone, and its location in the sentence plays a role in the type and frequency of mood combination. When *yīnwèi* (因为) is used in the middle of a mood combination, there are five types of mood combinations: “Dec.+ Int.”, “Dec.+ Exc.”, “Exc.+ Dec.” and “Imp. + Dec.” and “Int.+ Exc.”.

[30] Nǐ bú yào guòyú bēishāng, yīnwèi nǐ jíjiāng línchǎn. (Imp. + Dec.)

你 不 要 过 于 悲 伤, 因 为 你 即 将 临 产。

You not need over sad, CON you soon give birth.

Do not be over sad, because you will give birth soon.

[31] Lǐ jiān zěnmeyàng, yīnwèi tài hēi le. (Int. + Exc.)

里 间 怎 么 样, 因 为 太 黑 了。

In room how, CON too dark ASP.

How is the inside room? Because it is too dark (here).

(N.B.: This is a composite sentence in Chinese, but its English counterpart is a sentence group consisting of two sentences.)

When *yīnwèi* (因为) is used at the beginning of a mood combination, there are two types of mood combination. Comparatively speaking, mood combinations with *yīnwèi* (因为) in the middle are more frequent than those with *yīnwèi* (因为) at the beginning.

The conjunction *suóyǐ* (所以) can also be used alone. When it is in the middle of the combination, there are four types of mood combinations: “Dec + Int.”, “Dec. + Imp.”, “Dec. + Exc.”, “Exc. + Dec.”. When it appears at the beginning, there are two types of mood combinations with less frequency: “Dec. + Int.” and “Exc. + Dec.”.

[32] Nǐ jiù shì wéirén tài shízai le, suóyǐ nǐ jiù róngyì shòu rén piàn.

你 就 是 为 人 太 实 在 了, 所 以 你 就 容 易 受 人 骗。

You indeed behave too good-ASP, CON you then easy PAR people cheat.

You are indeed too honest and true to people, so you are easy to be cheated.

[33] Suóyǐ nǐ shì fùshìkāng bú shì fùshìshān, zěnmē bǎ zán zhōngguó rén dāngchéng rìběnrén yòng ne?

所 以 你 是 富 士 康 不 是 富 士 山, 怎 么 把 咱 中 国 人 当 成 日 本 人 用 呢?

CON you are Foxconn not are Mount Fuji, how PAR we Chinese treat Japanese use PAR?

So you are Foxconn Technology Group but not Mount Fuji, how can you treat us Chinese as Japanese?

It must be noted that *yóuyú* (由于, a conjunction meaning “because, owing to, thanks to”) is a synonym of *yīnwèi* (因为) but the clause connected by *yóuyú* (由于) completely repels heterogeneous mood combination. *yǐzhì* (以致, a conjunction similar to “so that, as a result that”, which is used at the beginning of the second part of a sentence to indicate the second part is the result of the first part, and *yīncǐ* (因此, a conjunction similar to “therefore, so”, indicating the result and) are synonyms of *suóyǐ* (所以), and they share mood combinations like “Exc. + Dec.”, “Dec.+ Exc.” and “Dec. + Int.”. Conjunctions *suóyǐ* (所以) and *yīncǐ* (因此) can go with “Dec. + Imp.”, but *yǐzhì* (以致) cannot. The frequency of mood combinations with *suóyǐ* (所以) is higher than those with *yǐzhì* (以致) and *yīncǐ* (因此).

[34] Tā de shēnqū shì nà yàng jù dà, yǐzhì/yīncǐ/suóyǐ dǎngzhù le zhěng gè de tiānkōng.

他 的 身 躯 是 那 样 巨 大, 以 致/因 此/所 以 挡 住 了 整 个 的 天 空。

His PAR body is so big, CON block-ASP whole PAR sky.

How big his body was! And (his body) blocked the whole sky.

[35] Píjiǔ hē le kěyǐ cuī nǎi, suóyǐ/yīncǐ/*yǐzhì nǐ yào duō hē yìdiǎn.

啤 酒 喝 了 可 以 催 奶, 所 以/因 此/*以 致 你 要 多 喝 一 点。

Beer drink-ASP can promote breast milk, CON you need more drink a bit.

Drinking beer can promote the production of breast milk, and you need to drink a little more.

The collected data conclude the relation between heterogeneous mood combinations and conjunctions as follows:

Table 3. Heterogeneous mood combinations and linking conjunctions

Use of conjunctions		less	medium	more
	type	more	medium	less
Mood combinations	frequency	high	medium	low

3.4 Mood Combination in the Context of Semantic Relations of Conjoined Clauses

Semantic relations of clauses roughly fall into three categories: coordinate complex sentences (coordinates), causal complex sentences (causals) and adversative complex sentences (adversatives). Different clause relations restrict different frequency of mood combination. Generally speaking, the frequency of mood combination in coordinates and causals is almost equal, much higher than that in adversative clauses.

Table 4. Frequency of mood combinations and semantic relations of clauses (1)

Heterogeneous mood combinations	Dec.+ Int.	Dec.+ Imp.	Dec.+ Exc.	Int.+ Dec.	Int.+ Imp.	Int.+ Exc.	Imp.+ Dec.	Imp.+ Int.	Imp.+ Exc.	Exc.+ Dec.	Exc.+ Int.	Exc.+ Imp.	Total
Coordinates	128	29	23	12	4	√	63	20	5	24	12	2	322
Causals	79	49	23	5	0	√	101	3	2	26	10	1	299
Adversatives	11	2	2	×	×	×	1	×	×	5	×	×	21

Note. “128”, “29” are numbers of cases in our data; “√” suggests no case in our data but possible cases in Chinese two-clause composite sentences; “×” indicates no case anywhere.

The above three categories can be divided into more subcategories. Coordinates include jaxtapositional, chronological, progressive and alternative. Causals include cause-effect, inferential, hypothetical, conditional and purposive. Adversatives include abrupt-adversative, concessive-adversative and negative-adversative. These relationships give a more specific picture of the frequency of mood combination in the context of different clausal relations.

Table 5. Frequency of mood combinations and semantic relations of clauses (2)

Heterogeneous mood combinations	Coordinates			Causals				Adversatives				
	Jaxtapositional	Alternative	Progressive	Chronological	Cause-effect	Inferential	Hypothetical	Conditional	Purposive	Abrupt	Concessive	Negative
Dec. + Int.	39	×	3	86	51	10	14	2	2	11	√	√
Dec. + Imp.	6	√	×	23	37	1	11	√	√	2	√	√
Dec. + Exc.	8	×	5	10	20	×	3	√	√	1	√	1
Int. + Dec.	5	×	1	6	5	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Imp. + Dec.	13	×	1	49	96	×	2	×	3	√	×	1
Exc. + Dec.	15	×	3	6	24	2	×	×	×	4	1	√
Int. + Imp.	×	×	×	4	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Int. + Exc.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Imp. + Int.	8	√	√	12	3	√	×	×	×	√	×	√
Imp. + Exc.	√	×	×	5	2	×	×	×	×	√	×	×
Exc. + Int.	8	×	×	6	10	√	×	×	×	√	×	×
Exc. + Imp.	1	×	×	1	1	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Total	103	0	13	207	248	13	30	2	5	18	1	2

Note. “39”, “3” and etc. are the numbers of cases in our data; “√” suggests no case in our data but possible cases in Chinese two-clause composite sentences; “×” indicates no case anywhere.

In coordinates, the most frequent mood combination is “Dec. + Int.”, while in causals, the most frequent mood combination is “Imp. + Dec.”. Table 5 shows the three most frequently used mood combinations are “Dec. + Int.”, “Imp. + Dec.” and “Dec. + Imp.” and the three least frequent ones are “Int. + Exc.”, “Int. + Imp.” and “Exc. + Imp.”. There are very few combinations of “Dec. + Int.” and “Exc. + Dec.” in adversative clauses. Here are some examples.

- [36] Qǐng nǐ búyào zǒu, liú zài wǒ shēnbiān xíng ma? (“Imp. + Int.” in a coordinate)
 请 你 不要 走, 留 在 我 身 边 行 吗?
 Please you not go, stay by me side ok PAR?
 Please don't leave me; stay with me, OK?
- [37] Jīhuì lái le, nǐ zhǔnbèi hǎo le ma? (“Dec. + Int.” in a coordinate)
 机 会 来 了, 你 准 备 好 了 吗?
 Opportunity come-ASP, you prepare well-ASP PAR?
 Opportunity has come, and are you well prepared?
- [38] Nǐn gánjīn xiě fèn shēnqǐng, wǒ míngtiān lái qǐ. (“Imp. + Dec.” in a coordinate)

您 赶紧 写 份 申请， 我 明天 来 取。

You without delay write CL application, I tomorrow come take.

Write an application as soon as possible, and I will come to get it tomorrow.

The relations between clause relationships and heterogeneous mood combinations are concluded in Table 6. Heterogeneous mood combinations are more likely to appear in Group A: juxtapositional, chronological and cause-effect sentences, while Group C of alternative, purposive, conditional, negative-adversative, concessive-adversative sentences generally seem to refuse heterogeneous mood combinations.

Table 6. Frequency of heterogeneous mood combinations and semantic relations of clauses (3)

		Group A	Group B	Group C
Semantic relations	coordinates	juxtapositional, chronological	progressive	alternative
	causals	cause-effect	hypothetical, inferential	purposive, conditional
	adversatives	×	abrupt	negative, concessive
Heterogeneous mood combinations	types	more	medium	less
	Frequency	high	medium	low
	clause order	exchangeable	restricted	fixed

4. Conclusion

Every clause in modern Chinese bears a mood, which basically falls into four types: declarative, integrative, imperative and exclamative. When clauses are conjoined to form a sentence, moods are accordingly combined. There are 16 possible combinations if two moods are involved, among which the heterogeneous mood configurations with “declarative” are more frequently used than those without “declarative”, and “declarative + interrogative/imperative/exclamative” is more frequently used than “interrogative/imperative/exclamative + declarative”.

Tendency for mood combination in modern Chinese is mainly shaped by the design features of moods. The more features the two moods share, the more easily they form a combination. Three features are identified as [+ certainty], [+ willingness] and [+ emotion]. “Certainty” refers to the speaker’s conviction of the sentence, “willingness” the speaker’s desire or hope and “emotion” the speaker’s psychological situation. The four moods bear the three features but differ from each other in the degree of the respective features, as shown in the Table 7.

Table 7. Design features and corresponding degrees of the four moods

	[+ certainty]	[+ willingness]	[+ emotion]
Declarative mood	strong	weak	weak
Interrogative mood	weak	weak	weak
Imperative mood	strong	strong	weak
Exclamative mood	strong	weak	strong

From Table 7, declarative mood is featured by [strong certainty], [weak willingness] and [weak emotion]; interrogative mood by [weak certainty], [weak willingness] and [weak emotion]; imperative mood by [strong certainty], [strong willingness] and [weak emotion] and exclamative mood by [strong certainty], [weak willingness] and [strong emotion]. Comparatively, declarative and interrogative moods share two features of [weak willingness] and [weak emotion], but differ in [certainty] with declarative mood being strong and interrogative mood being weak. By contrast, interrogative and imperative mood share one feature of [weak emotion], but differ in the other two: interrogative mood is featured by [weak certainty] and [weak willingness] whereas imperative by [strong certainty] and [strong willingness]. Therefore, the combination of declarative and interrogative moods is more frequent than that of interrogative and imperative moods. Other comparisons can be made in the same way.

The order of the moods in the combination is mainly determined by the context. The mood in the front part of the combinations continues its preceding topic, while the mood in the back part proposes a new topic. Interrogative/imperative/exclamative mood is generally used to initiate an interaction with the participant after a declaration or an explanation; accordingly, interrogative/imperative/exclamative mood usually appears after a declarative mood. When interrogative/imperative/exclamative mood appears in the front, it represses the function of being interactive, which is against its nature, so interrogative/imperative/exclamative mood rarely appears

before a declarative mood.

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Appendix A

Abbreviations used in the paper

Abbreviations	Complete expressions	Abbreviations	Complete expressions
3sg	3 rd person singular	AG	agent
ASP	aspect	CL	classifier
CON	conjunction	MOD	modal adverb
PAR	particle	PRES	present
PST	past		

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