

**СОЦИОЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ
И АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ ПРЕПОДАВАНИЯ
МОНГОЛЬСКИХ ЯЗЫКОВ**

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**SOCIOLINGUISTIC RESEARCH OF NATIONAL
MONGOLIAN ASCRIPT SKILLS**

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Abstract. Mongolians have been using the Mongolian script from ancient times through 1921 and since then by 1930s, the national Mongolian script was replaced because it was considered obsolete feudal script. In 1941 Mongolia officially switched to modified Latin alphabet, which was used for some time. However, two months later, this decision was cancelled and after 3 months later Cyrillic alphabet was introduced, the Mongolian script was no longer officially used. Mongolian script has been taught at the secondary schools since the mid-1980s and under the influence of democracy and transparency, the national idea of the public has revived and their desire is to use the national script as official literacy.

“Law on Mongolian Language” was approved in 2013 and it is implementing and this law stipulates that from 2025, official documents will be written in Cyrillic and Mongolian Sociolinguistic research of National Mongolian script skills was conducted through five age classification using with sociolinguistic method. For example, 17–24 years old, 25–35 years old, 36–45 years old, 46–55 years old, Over 55 years old. According to the survey writing and reading skills of Mongolian script was different and students' reading skills was 76.4%, writing accuracy 20.9% and adult's Mongolian script was dissimilar depended on whether they were taught Mongolian script at the secondary school. This research work will contribute to the development of language policy for future bilingualism.

Keywords: Mongolian script, ability, age classification, test, sociolinguistics.

Для цитирования

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Introduction: Mongolians have been using the Mongolian script from ancient times through 1921 and since then by 1930s, the national Mongolian script was replaced because it was considered obsolete feudal script. In 1941 Mongolia officially switched to modified Latin alphabet, which was used for some time. However, two months later, this decision was cancelled and after 3 months later Cyrillic alphabet was introduced, the Mongolian script was no longer officially used.

Mongolian script has been taught at the secondary schools since the mid-1980s and under the influence of democracy and transparency, the national idea of the public has revived and their desire is to use the national script as official literacy. Thus, in order to teach the Mongolian script to the public, the first “National Program on Mongolian script” was approved by the Mongolian Parliament with an appendix to Resolution No. 43 in 1995.

The program with seven-part was planned to run from 1995 to 2000 and aimed to “intensify the teaching of Mongolian script at all levels, both formal and informal”.

The “Mongolian Script National Program II” was approved by the Mongolian Government Resolution No. 196 of May 28, 2008, and it was implemented as a continuation of the previous program. The program defines “to organize Mongolian script training was included the basic education content and teach Mongolian script to the public”¹.

The current “Law on Mongolian Language” adopted in 2013 stipulates that official documents will be conducted in Cyrillic and Mongolian double scripts from 2025. Therefore, the “National Program of Mongolian Script” III was approved in March 2020. The purpose of the draft program is to implement 56 measures in 2020-2024 within the framework of 4 objectives.

“Law on Mongolian Language” was approved in 2013 and it is implementing and this law stipulates that from 2025, official documents will be written in Cyrillic and Mongolian. (=official proceedings will be conducted in Cyrillic and Mongolian). “National Program of Mongolian Script” III was approved in March 2020. It stated “according to the Law on Mongolian Language from 2025, state official documents will be conducted Cyrillic and national Mongolian scripts as well as (=further) transition preparation for the Mongolian script will be completed”. The program 56 measures in the sphere of 4 objectives will be implemented from 2020 to 2024.

Based on all this, Mongolian's writing skills of Mongolian scripts is to study, so this research work is presented.

Reliability and validity in quantitative research of actual ability of the Mongolian script have not been conducted before.

Research section. In 2007, the Mongolian Academy of Science conducted a sociological survey on literacy. As stated by 8.4% of the participants wanted to use the Mongolian script, 4.4% use the Latin alphabet, and 72.6% keep the Cyrillic alphabet as the official script². In the second survey, 64.9% of the survey participants responded

¹ Монгол бичгийн үндэсний хөтөлбөр II. Улаанбаатар, 2008. URL: legalinfo.mn

² Ширэн Б. Үсэг бичгийн талаархи бодлого. “Монгол улсын хэлний бодлого” Улаанбаатар, 2006. х. 159–163.

that public documents should be conducted in Cyrillic, 31% were in Mongolian script, and 3.7% were in Latin¹.

In this research, we used quantitative and qualitative methods² as well as observational methods to study the Mongolian's writing skills of Mongolian script by sociolinguistic methods. Age, gender, and education were considered to be significant for literacy, and the research was divided into 5 age groups. These include:

- 17–24 years old
- 25–35 years old
- 36–45 years old
- 46–55 years old
- Over 55 years old

In 2019, the survey was conducted on 800 people in the above 5 age classification, 49 of which did not meet the quality requirements, and the affected part (survey conducted in Bayankhongor aimag during the Mongolian Script Olympiad) 70 excluded, and 681 people participated.

1. Quantitative research was conducted and the results were calculated using SPSS software.

Two types of sources were used to calculate the actual capacity.

1.1. Reading text from Mongolian script and translating it into Cyrillic script. The purpose of this text was to test a person's ability to read Mongolian script and to translate the words they read into Cyrillic. The numbers of words read from a 70-word text in Mongolian script is shown in a 10-word package (Table 1). It represents the reading skills of 178 students in a variety of majors at universities and colleges. This group of survey participants is 17–25 years old, who have studied Mongolian script for 2 hours a week 6-9th grades at secondary schools (from 2018, Mongolian script was taught in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades for 1 hour per week) therefore it could be considered that their Mongolian writing skills are relatively stable. Looking ability calculation that 30 students who read 1-10 words were 6.9 while 54 students who read 61–70 words which are 30.3% of the total. 114 students read more than 50% of the total of 70 words which were 64% of total students, and reading ability was relatively stable.

Ability to read Mongolian script					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Per cent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	10 хүртэлх үг	30	16.9	16.9	6.9
	11–20	16	9.0	9.0	25.8
	21–30 үг	18	10.1	10.1	36.0
	31–40 үг	9	5.1	5.1	41.0
	41–50 үг	15	8.4	8.4	49.4

¹ Хэлний бодлогыг оновчтой болгох асуудал. (Ажлын хэсгийн илтгэл, дүгнэлт, социологийн судлагаа). Улаанбаатар, 2007. х. 21

² M. Meyerhoff. Introduction Sociolinguistics. 2006. N. Y. Routledge, 6 p.

	51–60 үр	36	20.2	20.2	69.7
	61–70 үр	54	30.3	30.3	100.0
	Total	178	100.0	100.0	

There is no one who has not read Mongolian script at all, but in terms of the percentage of words read incorrectly, 19.7% of 35 people who read up to 10 words read correctly, while 42 people who read 51–60 words showed the highest ability to read 76.4% of the total words.

Number of words read correctly from Mongolian script					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	10 until words	35	19.7	19.7	19.7
	11–20 words	18	10.1	10.1	29.8
	21–30	17	9.6	9.6	39.3
	31–40	15	8.4	8.4	47.8
	41–50	13	7.3	7.3	55.1
	51–60	38	21.3	21.3	76.4
	61–70	42	23.6	23.6	100.0
	Total	178	100.0	100.0	

1.2. According to the survey that tested the ability to translate the current official Cyrillic script into Mongolian, 86 out of 178 people wrote 1–10 words, and 126 out of 178 people wrote 1–20 words or 70.9% is written in Mongolian. In other words, 70.9% of the 70-words text wrote only 1–20 words, and 29.1% wrote the other words. So the writing ability for this group is about 30 percent.

Number of words translated into Mongolian					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	10 until words	86	48.3	48.3	48.3
	11–20 words	30	16.9	16.9	65.2
	21–30	19	10.7	10.7	75.8
	31–40	10	5.6	5.6	81.5
	41–50	6	3.4	3.4	84.8
	51–60	3	1.7	1.7	86.5
	61–70	3	1.7	1.7	88.2
	71–80	2	1.1	1.1	89.3
	81–90	7	3.9	3.9	93.3
	100-c over words	4	2.2	2.2	95.5
	11	8	4.5	4.5	100.0
	Total	178	100.0	100.0	

This table examines each of the above students' correct translations of Mongolian script and shows them in a table calculated by 10, showing that 137 out of 178 participants wrote 1–10 words and 155 people wrote 1–20 words correctly, which is 87.1%.

This shows that the ability to write the Mongolian script correctly is about 25%. From the point of view of quantitative research, it was rare to complete a sentence perfectly, and they wrote a word or two words that they knew and wrote it here and there.

Number of words correctly translated into Mongolian					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	10 until words	137	77.0	77.0	77.0
	11-20 words	18	10.1	10.1	87.1
	21-30	7	3.9	3.9	91.0
	31-40	7	3.9	3.9	94.9
	41-50	3	1.7	1.7	96.6
	51-60	1	.6	.6	97.2
	71-80	5	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	178	100.0	100.0	

In conclusion, participants of this age have a certain amount of reading ability in Mongolian script, but their ability to translate into Mongolian script is quite low, which can be seen from the fact that they do not perform the given task. The majority of this group has secondary school knowledge of Mongolian script and can only read Mongolian script.

1.3 In addition to the group of students surveyed above, this section includes a survey of adult Mongolian writing skills. This group is divided into 5 age groups and a total of 248 people were surveyed. People over the age of 55 were not counted because their Mongolian writing ability was 0.77%. The reason for this was that they have not been taught Mongolian script at all when they were in high school, and they belong to the period before the mid-1980s. However, there were few people who have learned Mongolian script voluntarily.

A similar study was conducted in this age group. The most talented age group was 26-35 years old and 83 people who read 20-40 words correctly, which is 33.5% of the total participants. The reason for this relatively high skill of this age group is that they are very active working-age and some of them have learned Mongolian script for the first time in secondary school. However, Mongolian script was taught to 36-45-year-olds at secondary schools, but not more than once a week and the usage of Mongolian script was also poor at that time.

		Number of words read correctly from the Cyrillic source of 70 words			
		20 until word	40 until word	60 until word	60-over word
		Count	Count	Count	Count
Classification of age	25 until age	22	5	0	25
	26-35 age	60	9	14	62
	36-45	20	6	1	16
	46-55	14	1	0	1
	55 over age	3	0	0	0

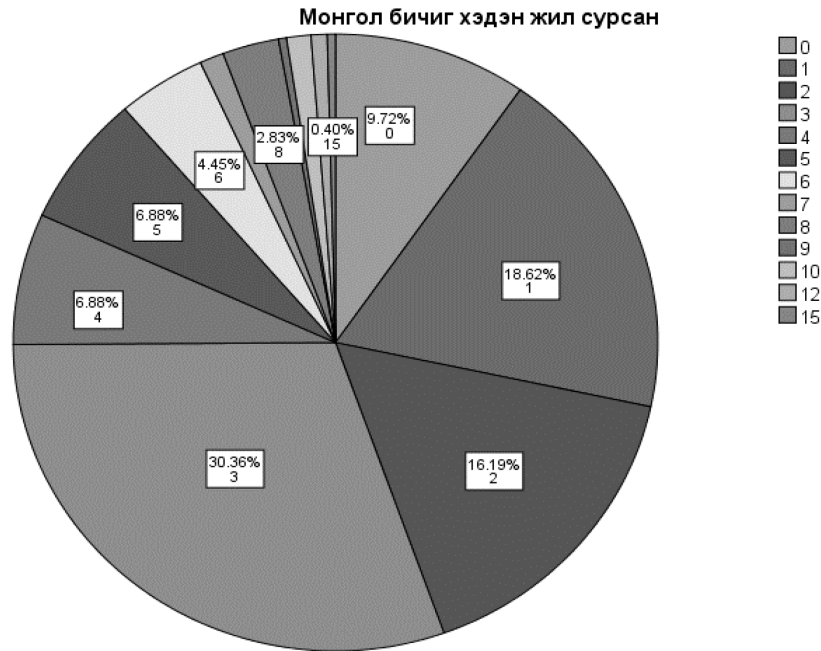
The table shows that 258 people participated in the Mongolian writing skills survey, and most of the people over the age of 55 did not write. Assuming that about

50 percent of the 118-word text, or up to 60 words, is written correctly by 7 people, the average correct spelling is 3.2%. 219 of the 258 people wrote correctly 20% of given texts or 1–20 words of which is 85%. This shows that the writing ability of the Mongolian script is more than 20%.

Count

		Number of words correctly translated from Mongolian						Total
		20 хүртэл үг	40 хүртэл үг	60 хүртэл үг	80 хүртэл үг	100 хүртэл үг	100-аас дээш үг	
ан-гил-сан нас	25 хүртэлх нас	45	6	0	0	0	1	52
	26–35 нас	116	3	6	5	6	8	144
	36–45 нас	39	2	1	1	0	0	43
	46–55 нас	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
	55–аас дээш нас	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total		219	11	7	6	6	9	258

1.4 Survey respondents on the period of learning the Mongolian script and the social environment; — What is the literacy you have to learn? — 55.6% of the participants said that they had to learn the Mongolian script, why are you learning the Mongolian script? They responded they have wanted to preserve national heritage and the Mongolian National script. It shows that the attitude of citizens towards Mongolian script is not bad. However, the following diagram shows that there is a lack of research on the learning period of the Mongolian script and the environment in which the Mongolian script is used. This can be seen from the fact that 67.4% of the participants answered that they have studied Mongolian script for 1–3 years or they have studied it at secondary school.



How do you use Mongolian script every day? 92.6% of the participants responded that they did not use it at all.

Whether Mongolian script is used every day					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	4	1.5	1.5	1.5
	Тийм	16	5.9	5.9	7.4
	Үгүй	249	92.6	92.6	100.0
	Total	269	100.0	100.0	

2. Qualitative research

Thirty-five Mongolian language teachers of the secondary schools have been involved with interview. Qualitative research, previously known as “reporting,” is a type of survey in which a sociologist penetrates the inner world of the respondent through direct conversations with the respondent, gaining a deeper understanding of the respondent's personal views and assessments of social phenomena. Teachers who teach Mongolian script at the secondary schools were selected because they are deeply recognizable. Our questions were about the teaching environment, class hours, and environment of the Mongolian. Thirty five Mongolian language teachers of the secondary schools have been involved with interview.

Their opinions on Mongolian script lessons are:

- 95% responded that teaching it at the secondary schools twice a week is not good enough, while 5% answered that it is possible to study well if the students try and do their best.

The participants were asked if there is an environment for using Mongolian script outside of the class. — They responded 100% that there is no environment. What kind of application environment can be created? — Let's create a Mongolian script application program to use in the online environment, and they suggested created the Mongolian script environment in a visible way.

- What is the secondary school's attitude towards Mongolian script lessons?

- All of participants responded that Mongolian script is not included in the main subjects of secondary schools, but mathematics, English and Mongolian are the main subjects. Teachers responded that they worked a calligraphy class to create an environment, but that it was informal.

- How well is the skill of the Mongolian script? Some teachers said that their skill of the Mongolian script has improved since they learned at home on their own in the evening and taught their students the next morning. Looking at the "my Mongolian script is not good enough" response it seems that there is a need to improve teachers' Mongolian script skills.

- From this, it can be concluded that the lessons taught by teachers are not enough to prepare highly skilled one of the Mongolian script.

Conclusion

1. It can be seen from the fact that the Mongolian script skills of today's Mongolians depend on their age was dissimilar. The students' reading skills were 76.4%, writing accuracy was 20.9%.

2. A lot of preparation is needed to conduct official documents in Mongolian and Cyrillic from 2025.

3. Mongolian script should be included in social relations

4. Further, it is recommended to develop a policy based on age differences in the development of legal documents.

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СОЦИОЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ ТРАДИЦИЙ

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Аннотация. Монголы использовали монгольскую письменность с древних времен до 1921 г. В 1930-м гг. национальное монгольское письмо было заменено и считалось устаревшей феодальной письменностью. В 1941 г. Монголия официально перешла на модифицированный латинский алфавит, который использовался некоторое время. Однако через два месяца это решение было отменено, а спустя 3 месяца была введена кириллица и монгольский алфавит официально больше не использовался. Монгольская вертикальная графика преподается в средних школах с середины 1980-х гг., и под влиянием демократии и прозрачности национальная идея возрождения монгольского алфавита отражает желание использовать национальный шрифт в качестве официального письма.

В 2013 г. принят «Закон о монгольском языке», предусматривающий с 2025 г. использование национальной графики в официальных и государственных документах. Социолингвистическое исследование навыков национальной монгольской письменности проводилось по возрастной классификации с использованием социолингвистического метода. Так, респонденты представляют пять возрастных групп: 17–24 года, 25–35 лет, 36–45 лет, 46–55 лет, старше 55 лет. Согласно опросу, навыки письма и чтения монгольского письма были разными, навыки чтения учащихся составили 76,4%, точность письма 20,9%, среди взрослых информантов владение навыками зависело от того, изучали ли они старописьменный язык в средней школе. Эта исследовательская работа будет способствовать разработке языковой политики для будущего двуязычия.

Ключевые слова: монгольская письменность; способности; возрастная классификация; тест; социолингвистика.

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