

**Paper's title:** The added topic-shift Markers in the Chinese translations of Buddhist scriptures: A Sanskrit-Chinese Comparative Analysis of *the Lotus sutra*

**Abstract:** Based on a Chinese- Sanskrit comparative analysis of *the Lotus sutra* and a comparison among its different Chinese translations of Dharmarakṣaṣ and Kumārajīva, this paper reports a structural feature of topics in the Chinese translations of Buddhist scriptures. Topic markers such as “*ershi* (尔时)” “*jin(zhe/ri)* (今者/今日)” “*fuci/cifu* (复次 / 次复)”, and “*(fu)you* (复有 / 复)” were always added at the beginning of a sentence to initiate a new topic even though there was no counterpart in the original text, a practice increasingly favored by the translators because it made obvious boundary between sentences or clauses. As a topic-prominent language, Chinese has an intrinsic demand for projecting the topic in discourse. Adding topic-shift markers in the translations highlights the typological property of Chinese.

**Author's name:** JIANG Nan

**Affiliation:** Institute of Foreign Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

**Contact information:** Jian Guo Men Nei Avenue 5, Beijing 100732, China

**Academic qualification:** Ph.D. in Buddhist Chinese and Historical Chinese Linguistics, Dept. of Chinese Language & literature, Peking University.

**Monograph:** A Comparative Study on the Grammar of the Sanskrit and Chinese versions of *the Lotus Sutra*, to be published via the Commercial Press, 2011.

**Representative Articles:** The declarative construction “S, N *shi* (是)” in the Chinese Buddhist scriptures, *Chinese Language* 1, 2010.

An argument on the syllabic complement in the Chinese Buddhist scriptures, *Studies in Language and Linguistics* 4, 2008

**Accomplishments:** nominated twice as “ *Young Scholar Award* ” of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-15, IACL-17)