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# Metaphors and culturally unique idioms of eating and drinking in Mongolian

Tana Wu 

School of Linguistic Sciences and Arts, Jiangsu Normal University, Xuzhou, China

Email: [twu403@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:twu403@aucklanduni.ac.nz)

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## Abstract

This paper investigates the cognitive mechanisms underlying eating and drinking metaphors in Mongolian and discusses complex linguistic features of some culturally unique idioms relating to *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’, which are interpreted from a sociocultural perspective, along with the help of world knowledge. Metaphorical extensions of *id-* and *uu-* fall into three subcategories: (1) agent-oriented extensions, highlighting the consumer’s role in the source domain of eating and drinking; (2) patient-oriented extensions, focusing on destructive effects on the patient in the source domain; (3) extensions involving both agent and patient orientations, describing the agent’s sensation and “destruction” of the patient at the same time. Based on the Mongolian Web Corpus (mnWac16) and an extensive online dictionary (mongoltoli.mn), it is found that patient-oriented extensions tend to be more connected with EAT verbs in Mongolian, denoting a range of extensions like overcoming of the patient, spending material wealth, psychological torment or destruction, corrosion caused by external factors, etc., while agent-oriented extensions are more likely to involve DRINK verbs, denoting ‘smoking’, receiving material wealth (e.g., earning money) and absorption of such liquids as ink or oil. Overall, *id-* has a broader extension than *uu-*, and there are some overlaps involving both agent and patient orientations in terms of living on material wealth and physical exploitation. Some common usages pertaining to metaphorical extensions of consumption verbs are found cross-linguistically.

**Keywords:** metaphor; *id-* ‘eat’; *uu-* ‘drink’; Mongolian; idioms

## 1. Introduction

Eating and drinking are basic activities in any culture and are universally represented in language and thought. In many of the world’s languages, EAT and DRINK verbs are polysemous with metaphorical extensions. A wide range of cross-linguistic studies have investigated the metaphorical extensions of these verbs from the cognitive linguistic perspective (Agyepong et al., 2017; Kiryu, 2008; Newman, 1997; Taljard & Bosman, 2014, etc.). In Mongolian, *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ are the most commonly used consumption verbs. The aim of the present paper is to explain

metaphorical extensions of these verbs from the cognitive linguistic perspective by adopting Newman's (2009) experiential view of eating and drinking metaphors across languages. Culturally unique (culturally specific) idiomatic expressions or chunks involving *id-* 'eat' and *uu-* 'drink' verbs which go beyond Conceptual Metaphor Theory are also briefly discussed from a sociocultural perspective.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the theoretical basis of this study, namely Conceptual Metaphor Theory and the experiential view of eating and drinking metaphors pertaining to it. Section 3 briefly summarizes the existing literature on consumption verbs cross-linguistically. Section 4 outlines the corpus-based data-extraction method used for the current analysis, while clarifying the defining criteria of eating and drinking idioms in Mongolian and the classification of relevant corpus data. Section 5 analyses metaphorical extensions of Mongolian ingestive predicates based on Newman's (2009) experiential view of eating and drinking metaphors across languages. Section 6 discusses unique idiomatic expressions involving EAT and DRINK verbs in Mongolian which cannot be explained by Conceptual Metaphor Theory. Section 7 presents the findings of this study and points out limitations of the paper and directions for future research.

## 2. Theoretical basis

### 2.1. Conceptual metaphor theory

There exist various approaches to the understanding of metaphor, that is, (a) the Aristotelian approach, which defines metaphor from the perspective of poetics and rhetoric as transference, that is, naming one thing in terms of another; (b) the traditional linguistic approach, by which metaphor is generally understood as a figure of speech; (c) the pragmatic approach in which metaphor is seen as a special speech act, considering that metaphors not only stimulate emotions but also perform speech acts such as producing wonder and puzzlement (Mac Cormac, 1985);<sup>1</sup> (d) the interaction approach, namely the meaning of a metaphor is produced through an interaction between two elements of the metaphor, that is, the tenor and the vehicle, with the former referring to "the underlying idea which the metaphor expresses" and the latter meaning "the basic analogy that performs the function of carrying or embodying the tenor" (Richards, 1936, cited in Zeng, 2013, p. 9);<sup>2</sup> (e) the cognitive approach, which emphasizes the conceptual (or cognitive) metaphor "as a central tool of [the] cognitive apparatus" (see Zeng, 2013, pp. 5–14).

In line with the cognitive approach, metaphor is defined here as a mapping between two conceptual domains (a source domain and a target domain) in accordance with Cognitive Metaphor Theory (abbreviated as CMT henceforth) as suggested by Lakoff (1987), Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and Lakoff and Turner (1989). Cognitive domains (or human conceptual systems in a different terminology) are largely metaphorically structured (Langacker, 1997). Conceptual mapping (also known as

<sup>1</sup>Metaphor is seen by relevance theorists as "an economical way of producing a large amount of contextual effects by implication." (Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez, 1997, p. 172).

<sup>2</sup>The similarity between the tenor and the vehicle is known as the "ground" (Zeng, 2013, p. 9). See also Black (1993) who further develops Richards' (1936) interaction view of metaphor by elaborating both the process and result of the interaction between the two components of metaphor.

“metaphorical projection”, Lakoff, 1987, p. 268) is seen as a corresponding relationship that is used to link constituent elements between these two domains in a systematic way.

There is a body of works on metaphor in Cognitive Linguistics that follow and develop the conceptual metaphor views of Lakoff and Johnson (1980). For example, Barcelona (2012, p. 3) contends that metaphor is the cognitive mechanism through which one experiential domain is partially projected onto a different experiential domain, as a result of which the second domain is partially understood in terms of the first one. In a similar vein, Zeng (2013, p. 11) argues that a conceptual/cognitive domain is a sort of human experience, which is coherently organized; the source domain is a basic human experience on which we develop metaphorical extensions of meaning, while the target domain is a more abstract human experience which we aim to understand.

Nevertheless, recently there is a scholarly debate regarding the cognitive plausibility of CMT in terms of mental processing during the production or interpretation of metaphors in a language. Scholars disagree on the generalizing power of conceptual metaphor in knowledge processing or the crucial role that it plays in human cognition. For instance, based on the evidence of cultural-historical psychology, Glebkin (2015) argues that conceptual blending is not the key to the mystery of human evolution and cognition and that conceptual blending should not be considered to be a basic instrument for the creation of new knowledge. Likewise, Steen (2017, p. 14) maintains that conventional metaphors do not require online meaning construction via cross-domain mapping from one conceptual domain to another, as their entrenched metaphorical meanings are directly accessible.

While acknowledging the existing scholarly contentions around mental processing of metaphors, the current study tries to avoid the theoretical debates regarding this issue and aims to demonstrate the applicability of CMT practice to the analysis of metaphors pertaining to Mongolian consumption verbs. Some data which go beyond the scope of CMT are interpreted from a cultural perspective.

## 2.2. *An experiential view of eating and drinking metaphors across languages*

Cognitive linguistics theory explores how human cognition shapes language (Agbo, 2011, p. 8). Based on theoretical assumptions of cognitive linguistics, experiential reality, especially a human perspective, plays a crucial role in the explanation of linguistic phenomena (Newman, 1997, p. 214).

Newman (1997) argues that the concepts of eating and drinking are based on basic human experiences and function as source domains for metaphorical extensions in English. The target domain is a relatively abstract conceptual structure that is based on the source domain; it includes the emotional domain, the intellectual domain, and the psychological domain. The human body, body parts, and associated processes are understood as conceptually basic experiences and function as source domains (images) for various metaphors, because the human body plays a unique role in everyday life. Eating and drinking are basic acts that involve our bodies; for this reason, the relevant concepts of these acts serve as sources of metaphorical extension in many languages (Newman, 1997, p. 213).

Moreover, our bodily experiences of eating and drinking actions have an internal structure involving different processes, and some processes (components/facets) of eating and drinking acts motivate different metaphorical extensions of EAT and

DRINK verbs (Lakoff, 1987; Newman, 1997, 2009). According to Newman (1997) and Newman and Aberra (2009, p. 255), the basic bodily experience of eating involves the following components: (1) intake of food into the mouth; (2) mastication of the food which involves mainly teeth, tongue, and roof of the mouth; (3) swallowing of the masticated food; and (4) sensory experiences on the part of the consumer. In comparison, the event of drinking involves the following components: (1) intake of liquid into the mouth; (2) swallowing of the liquid, and (3) (usually positive) sensory experiences on the part of the consumer. Apart from these facets of actual acts of eating and drinking, it is important to recognize the crucial function of both eating and drinking, that is, to supply nourishment for the body and the accompanying sensory effect of (normally) enjoyable gustation, that is, the pleasant impression of taste for both eating and drinking; the experiences of hunger and thirst which precede the acts of eating and drinking should also be acknowledged in understanding typical kinds of eating and drinking acts (Newman, 1997, p. 215).<sup>3</sup>

This paper follows the theoretical assumptions of metaphor proposed by Lakoff (1987) and Lakoff and Johnson (1980). Concepts of eating and drinking function as source domains, which provide the basis for metaphorical extensions of the two Mongolian verbs *id-* 'eat' and *uu-* 'drink' (typically used together with nonedible or non-drinkable entities, as is observed cross-linguistically). These extensions can be conceptualized as different target domains such as (1) acquiring material objects (e.g., embezzling tax money), (2) the breathing domain (e.g., smoking cigarettes), (3) the emotional domain (e.g., experiencing unpleasantness), and (4) the psychological domain (e.g., bullying someone) in Mongolian. Since different components (facets) of eating and drinking acts play a role in motivating metaphorical extensions of *id-* and *uu-*, different metaphorical mappings caused by each of these components will be discussed in Section 3.

### 3. An overview of cross-linguistic studies of consumption verbs<sup>4</sup>

The concepts of 'eating' and 'drinking' as source domains for metaphorical extension have been studied in such languages as English, Chinese, Korean, Hausa, and Igbo. Typically, the conceptual domain of eating and drinking serves as the source domain, and the target domains vary (Agbo, 2011; Croft, 2009; Hook & Pardeshi, 2009; Jaggar & Buba, 2009; Newman, 1997; Newman & Aberra, 2009; Pramodini, 2010; Song, 2009; Yamaguchi, 2009; Zeng, 2013). Research on eating and drinking metaphors in Mongolian is rather limited (Wu, 2019).

The following literature review centers around the entire volume of Newman (ed.) (2009), given its significant contribution to the study of consumption verbs. The figurative and grammaticalized extensions of 'eat' and 'drink' predicates in these works are explained in the pre-linguistic, experiential realities of eating and drinking. Selected additional references, especially those concerned with the perspective of agent-oriented and patient-oriented metaphorical extensions of consumption verbs in the same experiential framework, are also discussed.

<sup>3</sup>Since human beings prefer to eat food with a pleasant taste, "there is an experiential bias towards enjoyable gustation" (Newman, 1997, p. 215).

<sup>4</sup>The terms 'consumption verbs' and 'ingestive verbs' are used interchangeably in this paper.

### 3.1. Lexico-grammatical and metaphorical usages of EAT and DRINK

The volume entitled *The Linguistics of Eating and Drinking* (Newman (ed.), 2009) comprises 11 papers which, taken together, constitute an extensive study of EAT and DRINK verbs cross-linguistically. It discussed the form and function of ingestive verbs across languages and the theoretical orientations taken are either functional, cognitive, or typological. Topics in the volume cover the semantic characterization of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ predicates, metaphorical extensions of these verbs, clausal properties of these predicates and so forth. In Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, these studies are put into several categories according to their themes and are discussed along with some examples.

Selected additional works which adopt the same theoretical approach as Newman (ed.) (2009) are remarked upon in Section 3.1.2.

#### 3.1.1. Lexicalization, grammaticalization, and transitivity of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’

The literal use and morphosyntax of ingestion verbs are worthy of attention cross-linguistically. In languages like Kalam (Papuan) and Warlpiri (Australian), there is a unitary concept of eating and drinking; no concrete lexeme meaning only ‘eat’ or ‘drink’ is available and the generic verbs *n̄b-* and *ngarni-* are, respectively, used to roughly denote the meanings of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ in Kalam and Warlpiri (Wierzbicka, 2009, p. 72, p. 81). In Manambu (Papua New Guinea) the same verb *ke-* is used to cover the notions of ‘eating’, ‘drinking’, ‘smoking’, ‘sucking’, and ‘breastfeeding’; the object arguments (e.g., types of food or drink consumed) of these verbs can be used to disambiguate the semantics of these verbal predicates (Aikhenvald, 2009, p. 92). In Korean, *mek-* is a superordinate term that encompasses both ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ meanings (Song, 2009).

In Athapaskan languages, there is a classificatory verb system in which verb stems of consumption are distinguished in accordance with the manner of consumption or the physical attribute of a relational participant (Theme or Patient), that is, whether it is round/compact, flat/flexible, animate or a sticklike object. There are 15 verb stems of consumption reported in Navajo (Athapaskan, North America), for example, *-kaah* ‘consume/drink from open container’ and *-t’aah* ‘consume/drink from closed container’. (cited in Rice, 2009, p. 120; Young & Morgan, 1987, pp. 251–263; p. 875).

Lexical items which correspond to ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ are prone to grammaticalization in some languages. Whereas the ‘eat’ verb may denote completion (finality) of a situation; in comparison, ‘drink’ may denote a sense of continuity and repetitiveness. Note the following example from Chepang (Tibeto-Burman, Nepal):

- (1) *ləw noh-jeʔ jeʔ-jeʔ*  
 right take-eat>COMPL eat-eat>COMPL  
 ‘Take it then and eat it up!’ (Caughley, 1982, p. 97, cited in Newman, 2009, p. 8)

In (1) the second *-jeʔ* in the verbal form *jeʔ-jeʔ* is used as a grammaticalized verbal suffix that denotes a perfective meaning. In Hausa, *shaa* ‘drink’ denotes a grammaticalized meaning of ‘(do) often; frequently’, as is illustrated in (2):

- (2) *naa shaa gayàa makà.*  
 1SG.PFV drink tell 2M.SG.IO  
 ‘I’ve told you so many times.’ (Jaggar & Buba, 2009, p. 244)<sup>5</sup>

A number of studies point to the fact that ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ verbs are not typical transitive predicates (cf. Newman, 2009, pp. 1–26). For example, the causativization patterns of these verbs behave just like that of intransitive verbs in some languages. In Berber (Afro-Asiatic), the causative prefix *ss-*, which is normally only allowed for intransitive verbs, is used to causativize ingestive verbs (cited in Amberber, 2009, p. 51; Guerssel, 1986, p. 36). Likewise, Næss (2009, pp. 27–43) argues that ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ verbs are cross-linguistically atypical as transitive predicates, because in a prototypical transitive clause structure, Agent and Patient arguments are maximally semantically distinct, but ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ verbs have an “affected agent” in some languages,<sup>6</sup> namely the consumer is an agent who is at the same time affected by the activity of consuming. She provides a large amount of evidence that demonstrates the atypical usage of ingestive verbs as transitive predicates.

### 3.1.2. *Figurative extensions of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’*

Apart from the literal usage of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ verbs, Newman’s (2009) volume also concentrates on the discussion of figurative extensions of these verbs cross-linguistically. It is argued that metaphorical and metonymic extensions of consumption verbs in several languages are built on the facets of experiential reality introduced in Newman (1997). Two sources are involved in figurative extensions of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ constructions across languages, that is, (1) the consumer’s sensation when someone is ingesting; (2) the destruction (or disappearance) of the entity which is consumed (Newman, 2009, p. 1). The figurative extensions of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ are thus categorized into three main categories: (1) internalization, (2) destruction, and (3) affected agent. In the following the cross-linguistic figurative extensions of these verbs are briefly discussed with some examples, keeping in mind that it is almost impossible to summarize all usages of consumption verbs cross-linguistically.

In Hausa (Chadic/Afroasiatic) *ci* ‘eat’ and *shaa* ‘drink’ allow a wide range of metaphorical extensions. The former mainly denotes “overcoming” of a patient, typically with an animate agent, while the latter denotes the meaning of “undergo”, usually with an experiencer subject that is nonagentive. The act of eating is higher in transitivity than that of drinking (Jaggar & Buba, 2009).

The honorific status of ‘eat’ verbs is important in establishing certain metaphorical expressions in Japanese. It is part of the Japanese cultural orientation that some figurative (metaphorical) EAT and DRINK verbs denote adverse (negative) states which are related to unhappiness. Yamaguchi (2009, p. 176) argues that the use of *kuu* and *kurau* (‘eat’ forms) is restricted to the male register, either indicating coarse vulgar speech or suggesting intimacy between the speaker and the interlocutor. In contrast, *taberu* ‘eat’ is honorifically neutral. *Kurau* is used in place of *kuu* when describing such an “unusual way of eating and drinking” as that of a wild animal,

<sup>5</sup>The glosses in (1) and (2) are slightly modified. In (1) the original gloss for *-je?* is ‘Ev’, which is short for an ‘expressive’ suffix in Caughley (1982), but it is glossed as SUFFIX in Newman (2009), p. 8.

<sup>6</sup>According to Næss (2007), the affected agent refers to participants having the semantic features of being volitional, instigator and affected.

carrying a unique derogatory meaning; it can also occur with the agent when it denotes a metaphorical meaning of ‘receive’ or ‘accept’. (Yamaguchi, 2009, p. 177).

The extension of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ to the senses of ‘inhale’ and ‘smoke’ is widespread cross-linguistically. Note the following examples:

- (3) Manambu (a New Guinean language)  
*yaki kə<sup>7</sup>-na-wum.*  
 tobacco consume-ACT.FOC-1SG.NPST<sup>8</sup>  
 ‘I am smoking tobacco; I have smoked.’ (lit. ‘I am consuming tobacco; I have consumed tobacco.’) (Aikhenvald, 2009, p. 92)
- (4) Enga (a language of the East New Guinea Highlands)  
*múti nengé*  
 tobacco eat  
 ‘smoke cigarette/tobacco’ (Lang, 1975, p. 178, cited in Newman, 2009, p. 9)
- (5) Puluwat (an Austronesian Oceanic language)  
*wún*  
 ‘to drink, smoke, take medicine’ (Elbert, 1972, p. 210, cited in Newman, 2009, p. 10)

Note, too, that in Mandarin ‘eat’ has an extended meaning of ‘take medicine’, where its use could still be related to the earlier ‘drink’ sense of Classical Chinese *chī* (Newman, 2009, p. 10):

- (6) Mandarin (Sino-Tibetan)  
*chī yào*  
 eat medicine  
 ‘take medicine’ (lit. eat medicine) (Newman, 2009, p. 10)

A number of studies other than Newman (ed.) (2009) also adopt agent-oriented and patient-oriented perspectives on metaphorical extensions of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ across languages which, respectively, correspond to the categories of ‘internalization’ and ‘destruction’ described by Newman (1997). Sometimes both perspectives might be relevant to the extended meanings of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’.

The verbs *dí* ‘to eat’ and *nóm* ‘to drink’ serve as rich sources of metaphorical extensions in Akan (Niger-Congo) (Agyepong et al., 2017). The extensions of these verbs are discussed under two broad themes, that is, agent-oriented extensions and patient-oriented extensions in accordance with Newman (2009). Extensions based on internalization (agent-oriented) are categorized into four kinds, namely: (1) gaining of possession (the use of *dí* ‘to eat’ in *á-dí né pàpá ádé* ‘inherited his father’s fortune’ and *dí-ì àdánmúdé* ‘took a bribe’); (2) absorption (the use of *nóm* ‘to drink’ in the sense of ‘absorb’ co-occurring with *súúdéé* ‘dye’, *ńsúó* ‘water’ and *àngwá* ‘oil’); (3) inhaling (the use of *nóm* ‘to drink’ in the sense of ‘smoke’ or ‘inhale’ co-occurring with *ébuá* ‘pipe’ or

<sup>7</sup>In Manambu, the same verb *kə-* is used to cover the notions of ‘eating’, ‘drinking’, ‘smoking’ and ‘breakfasting’ (Aikhenvald, 2009, p. 91).

<sup>8</sup>The original gloss for *-wum* is SGBAS.NP, where SG refers to singular and BAS.NP is an abbreviation of ‘basic cross referencing set non past’. Subject in Manambu is always cross-referenced on the verb (Aikhenvald, 2009, pp. 91–92).

*mfrámá* ‘air’); and (4) emotional and sensual internalization (either pleasant or unpleasant; *dí* ‘to eat’ co-occurs with such pleasant experiences as *àgóró* ‘game’ and *dé* ‘joy’, meaning ‘play’ or ‘rejoice’; *dí* ‘to eat’ co-occurs with such unpleasant experiences as *yáw* ‘pain’ and *awèrèhòó* ‘sorrow’; in terms of sexual intercourse, *dí* ‘to eat’ means ‘have sex’) (Agyepong et al., 2017, pp. 68–72). Extensions based on destruction (patient-oriented) are divided into physical destruction, psychological destruction and waste. Extensions of physical destruction contain injuring and conquering, in which both *dí* ‘to eat’ and *nóm* ‘to drink’ are used in the sense of ‘beat’ or ‘punch’. Extensions of psychological destruction involve the use of the verb *dí* ‘to eat’ only, whereas both *dí* ‘to eat’ and *nóm* ‘to drink’ are used in the meaning of ‘waste’ as a form of destruction.

Taljard and Bosman (2014) include a solid discussion on the metaphorical extensions of ‘eat’ in Afrikaans (Germanic) and Northern Sotho (Bantu), adopting the same kind of agent-oriented versus patient-oriented perspective. It is found that there are remarkable similarities between the two languages in terms of eating metaphors, as EAT verbs are used in these languages not only to cover the agent-oriented extensions in the senses of ‘intellectual satisfaction’, ‘intellectual activity’ and ‘uncritical acceptance of ideas’, but also the patient-oriented extensions in the senses of ‘destruction’ and ‘elimination’; the ‘conceding’ sense of EAT might be both agent and patient oriented in Afrikaans and Northern Sotho. Few differences attested are insignificant (Taljad & Bosman, 2014, p. 14).

In Igbo (Niger-Congo), the actor-oriented category contains the following extensions of ‘eat’: instilling discipline, enjoying the gains of enterprise, enjoying wealth or legacy and escaping danger. Actor-oriented extensions can be interpreted as “incorporating something into one’s personal or private life” as described by Newman (1997, p. 216) and “the property of the subject NP in the clause motivates the metaphorical extension”; that is, the role of the Agent is more important than that of the Patient in the clause when it comes to metaphorical expressions (Agbo, 2011, pp. 9–10).

Note the following examples:

- (7) *Àdá rì-rì<sup>9</sup> àhú úfú íhé ójóó ó mè-rè.*  
 Ada **eat-PST** **body pain** thing bad 3SG do-IND  
 ‘Ada suffered for her bad deeds (lit. Ada ate (body pain) for doing something bad).’ (Agbo, 2011, pp. 11–12)

Instilling discipline like ‘suffer for one’s bad deeds’ (lit. eating body pain) deals with human character flaws; therefore this concept requires the human agent to admit to the offence committed above all, which is internalization of an unpleasant experience.

- (8) *Há rì-rì úrù áhía há zù-rù.*  
 3PL **eat-PST** **profit** market 3PL buy-IND  
 ‘They profited from their trading in some goods (lit. They ate (the profit) from their trading).’ (Agbo, 2011, p. 13)
- (9) *Há rì-rì nná há ékpé.*  
 3PL **eat-PST** **father** 3PL **inheritance**  
 ‘They inherited their father’s wealth.’ (Agbo, 2011, p. 16)

<sup>9</sup>The suffixes *-rì* and *-rù* were originally glossed as TNS (tense) in Agbo (2011, pp. 11–17), but are here re-glossed as PST for clarity.



- (10) *Ādā ri-ri mbómbó mgbè ó òhù-rù ègwùgwù.*<sup>10</sup>  
 Ada eat-PST race when 3SG.SUBJ see-PST egwugwu  
 ‘Obi took to his heels when he saw egwugwu (lit. Obi ate (a race) when he saw  
 ègwùgwù).’ (Agbo, 2011, p. 17)

In contrast, the undergoer-oriented metaphorical extensions of ‘eat’ in Igbo include the target domains of mental pain, falling in love, loss of life, punishment and profligacy (Agbo, 2011, p. 31).

In Manipuri (Tibeto-Burman), *ca-* ‘eat’ is “a rich source of metaphorical extensions into a variety of cognate semantic domains” (Pramodini, 2010, p. 1). The meanings of *ca-* associate with consumption of nonedible items (e.g., torment), and some idiomatic expressions can be quite opaque semantically. In most commonly used eating metaphors, an animate or inanimate agent which functions as the subject overcomes (or controls) a patient or theme (Pramodini, 2010).

All the above studies follow the theoretical model of CMT to some extent. However, it is noteworthy that not all studies of consumption verbs support the view of CMT as proposed by Lakoff (1987), Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and Lakoff and Turner (1989). For instance, metaphors of ‘eat’ and ‘feed’ are also analyzed from the perspectives of frame semantics and constructions in Croft (2009). In this study, the eating process is divided into three phases (intake, process and ingestion) and the analysis of relevant *eat* and *feed* constructions in English challenges the Invariance Hypothesis proposed by Lakoff (1990). It is argued that the image schematic structure of the target domain also plays a role in metaphorical mapping even if it does not exist in the source domain (Croft, 2009, p. 26).

In general, languages differ in the extent to which ingestive verbs are used metaphorically. Ingestive verbs of some languages are highly figurative with a wide range of extensions, while others are comparatively limited in their metaphorical usages.

### 3.2. Mongolian consumption verbs

To date, there is little literature concerning the usage of Mongolian consumption verbs. The basic meaning of the verb *id-* ‘eat’ in Mongolian involves putting food into the mouth, chewing, and swallowing it, while the central meaning of the verb *uu-* ‘drink’ is to take liquids into the mouth and swallow them. Wu (2019) investigates both literal and metaphorical usages of Written Mongolian<sup>11</sup> eating and drinking expressions in her unpublished doctoral dissertation. Her research focused on discussing grammatical properties of eating and drinking expressions in Written Mongolian. The cognitive mechanisms underlying both metaphorical and metonymic eating and drinking expressions are discussed as a part of her thesis. According to Wu (2019), the semantics of *id-* ‘eat’ is more complex than that of *uu-* ‘drink’: the former has several extensions of meaning such as ‘take/accept (bribes)’, ‘exploit;

<sup>10</sup>ègwùgwù refers to “a scary, masked ancestral spirit” (Agbo, 2011, p. 16).

<sup>11</sup>Modern Written Mongolian is a different variety of Mongolian. It is written with the traditional Mongolian script and its grammar and lexicon is based on the Mongolian dialects of Inner Mongolia. Since it is a distinct written language, it requires a different Latin transliteration system based on the Mongolian orthography (see Wu, 2018).

oppress' and 'suffer; undergo,' etc., while the latter usually recognizes two extensions only: (1) 'take (medicine)' and (2) 'inhale, smoke'.

The clausal and lexico-semantic properties of Written Mongolian consumption verbs are summarized as below:

1. Ingestive predicates are either transitive or intransitive;
2. Different lexemes (*ᠵᠠᠵᠢᠯ*- 'chew', *ᠬᠡᠮᠬᠡᠯ*- 'break into pieces; chew', *ᠴᠠᠵᠠ*- 'bite', *ᠬᠡᠮᠡᠯᠢ*- 'gnaw, nibble, bite', *ᠠᠭᠤ*- 'absorb, suck'; *ᠰᠢᠮᠡ*- 'sip, suck'; *ᠰᠣᠷᠣ*- 'suck'; *ᠲᠠᠲᠠ*- 'suck, inhale', *ᠬᠣᠬᠣ*- 'suck the breast/breastmilk', *ᠮᠣᠯᠵᠢ*- 'nibble, gnaw', *ᠮᠡᠷᠡ*- 'nibble, gnaw', *ᠵᠠᠯᠶᠢ*- 'swallow, gulp, devour,' etc.) are used to denote such concrete aspects of the consuming act as chewing, biting, nibbling, sucking and swallowing;
3. Honorific concepts (with either respectful or pejorative meanings) are available for the action of consuming, with the verbal forms of *ᠶᠣᠣᠣᠯᠠ*- 'have a meal'(-resp.) and *ᠴᠢᠬᠢ*- 'stuff oneself, overeat,' respectively;
4. Mongolian consumption verbs have not grammaticalized into auxiliaries or other grammatical units.
5. EAT and DRINK verbs serve as a rich source for metaphorical and metonymic extensions.

Elaborating on Wu (2019), the current paper discusses the metaphorical usages of Mongolian consumption verbs with the help of a more extensive range of data, that is, an online corpus with a size of over 6 million words combined with an extensive dictionary, to facilitate our understanding of eating and drinking metaphors in Mongolian.

## 4. Methods

The corpus serving as the major data source of this paper is the Mongolian Web Corpus (abbreviated as WaC hereafter), also known as Mongolian Web Texts 2016 (mnWac16) which comprises 6,104,565 words. It's created in 2016 as a collection of sentences from the Internet. The Cyrillic Mongolian Alphabet is used in the corpus, while Latin transcription is adopted in this paper.<sup>12</sup>

### 4.1. Data extraction method

The corpus data were extracted by applying the Concordance tool of Sketch Engine tools (Dashboard | Sketch Engine) which provides examples of the search word used in context. The Mongolian WaC is an unannotated, unlemmatized corpus that does not indicate parts of speech or grammatical category of tokens. Therefore, it was necessary to extract all tokens with the stems *ид\** and *үү\** (i.e., *ид*- 'eat' and *үү*- 'drink') from the corpus and then manually remove all false positives. Since there were 5,212 tokens of *ид\** and 20,919 tokens of *үү\**, but download size is limited to 10,000 tokens and the work-around was required. So the original stem *үү* is searched

<sup>12</sup>The Mongolian Cyrillic letters are transcribed according to the following scheme: а - a, б - b, в - w, г - g, д - d, е - ye, ё - yo, ж - ž, з - z, и - i, й - i, к - k, л - l, м - m, н - n, о - o, ө - ö, п - p, р - r, с - s, т - t, у - u, ү - ü, ф - f, х - x, ц - c, ч - č, ш - š, ы - ii, ь - j, э - e, ю - yu, я - ya.

in combination with any of the letters вбгджклмнстухцця, that is, for уу, уув\*, ууб\*, ууу\*, ууд\*, and ууж\*, etc. to obtain all plausible orthographically correct or non-standard instances of the lemma *uu-* ‘drink’. The data was then manually classified into genuine tokens (‘basic meanings of *id-/uu-*’, ‘extended meanings of *id-/uu-*’) vs. ‘false positives’. For the 5,212 tokens of *ид\**, there were 3,863 false positives and 1,349 genuine tokens. Likewise, for altogether 16,726 tokens found for the different sequences representing *uu-* there were 15,813 false positives (including, e.g., a large number of polar question particles *uu?* rather than imperative verb forms *uu!*) and 912 genuine instances of DRINK. Frequency counts of tokens indicating extended meanings and basic meanings of *id-* and *uu-* are given in Section 4.3. Concordance lines that indicate the individual search results are combined and listed in a spreadsheet and are provided as an appendix. Next to this corpus, dictionaries (Sodobilig, 2006; mongoltoli.mn, henceforth abbreviated as MT) were used as Supplementary Materials for the extended senses of EAT and DRINK verbs, as was on occasion the author’s native intuition.

#### 4.2. Defining criteria of idioms

Before we sort out metaphorical extensions of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’, it is important to grasp the definition of idioms. This section clarifies the defining criteria of idioms, paving the way for the classification of our corpus data.

Broadly speaking, there are two approaches to the study of idioms. One is the traditional view of idioms as dead metaphors and the other is the conceptual metaphor approach applied to idioms. By “dead metaphors” is meant that the origin of metaphors is lost in the course of time; that is, they are frozen in form and noncompositional in meaning (Gibbs, 1993, p. 57).

Read and Nation (2004) point out that noncompositionality<sup>13</sup> and fixedness are the two common criteria that characterize idioms. By noncompositionality is meant “the meaning of the whole being different to the sum of the parts” (Wray, 2002, p. 56). Fixedness refers to the degree of flexibility in changing word order in the sequence, replacement of individual words, insertion or inflection of certain items (Read & Nation, 2004, p. 32). Overall, an idiom, in a traditional view, can be defined as “a lexicalised, reproducible word group in common use, which has syntactic and semantic stability, and may carry connotations, but whose meaning cannot be derived from the meanings of its constituents” (Gläser, 1998, p. 125).

However, based on recent studies, the majority of idioms are still quite “alive” in terms of their metaphoricity, being partially motivated (motivatable) from a cognitive perspective, so their figurative meanings can be explained by a conceptual metaphor theory (Gibbs, 1993, pp. 57–77). Furthermore, Gibbs (2007, p. 697) argues that idiomatic phrases constitute an indispensable part of the language which facilitates social interaction, textual coherence and, above all, reflects basic patterns of human thought, more than just being linguistic ornaments, which improves one’s speech style, so idioms are not fixed expressions or “dead” metaphors as traditionally

<sup>13</sup>Gries (2008, p. 12) considers “noncompositionality” to be one of the defining parameters of phraseologisms, where noncompositionality refers to the semantic noncompositionality. Sumiyoshi (2011), pp. 159–160) treats grammatical and semantic noncompositionality as two important criteria in the analysis of the phraseological unit “have until X to V”.

viewed. Boers (2014, p. 188, p. 192) also adopts a cognitive semantic approach to idioms and maintains that “not all idioms are by definition nondecomposable or opaque”; there are cross-linguistic differences among idiom repertoires in languages despite the fact that the conceptual metaphors may be represented consistently (congruently) in different languages. Corpus investigations have proven that idioms are commonly used in various genres, variable in form, playing crucial roles in discourse, thus their frequency in discourse tends to be underestimated in corpus-based automatic searches; on the other hand, research on large electronic corpora of such languages as Spanish and German disproves the folkloric claim that “English is exceptionally idiomatic” (Boers, 2014, p. 193).

In addition, Wulff (2013) takes a usage-based construction-grammar perspective and upholds the view that all complex constructions are idioms, therefore idioms should not be considered as peripheral language phenomena. The difference between idioms and other constructions lies in the fact that “effects of idiomatic variation are *best observable* (sic) in partially schematic complex constructions”; in the meanwhile, it is emphasized that more empirical research is needed to explore the variables which constitute idiomatic variation and their measurement (Wulff, 2013, p. 20). A multiple regression analysis of corpus and judgment data shows that idiomaticity of V NP-constructions may be judged in accordance with a variety of parameters, attaching importance to the morphological and lexico-syntactic variability of the verb. Moreover, tree syntactic and semantic features of the phrase are important factors in judging idiomaticity which denies the decisive role of compositionality in idiomaticity (Wulff, 2013, p. 18).

To sum up, the two approaches to the study of idioms do not compete with each other; both theories are needed to explore idioms in order to understand the mechanisms underlying their formation. Furthermore, given the complex nature of idioms, each individual idiom deserves a careful examination of its own (Gibbs, 1993, p. 74).

#### 4.3. Classification of corpus data

In line with the above theories of idioms discussed in Section 4.2, our corpus data are classified into the following three types: (1) Mongolian consumption verbs with literal meanings; (2) dead metaphors, namely Mongolian idiomatic expressions (conventionalized chunks) containing consumption verbs that retain literal meanings; (3) living metaphors which involve metaphorical extensions of Mongolian consumption verbs. The majority of corpus examples belong to the first type and will not be discussed in this paper. The last two types are analyzed in Sections 5 and 6 of this paper.

In the current study, dead metaphors involving Mongolian consumption verbs, namely idioms in a traditional view, are discussed from a sociocultural perspective in Section 6, while those living metaphors involving metaphorical extensions of Mongolian consumption verbs are analyzed from the perspective of CMT in Section 5.

In Table 1, the frequency counts concerning extended meanings refer to the subtotals of dead metaphors, including proverbs and living metaphors. The second column lists total token frequencies, which includes tokens with identical longer sentences (which might have been copied and pasted from a single source).

**Table 1.** Frequency counts of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ with basic meanings and extensions in Mongolian WaC

Data Categorization	Tokens of <i>id-</i> ‘eat’		Tokens of <i>uu-</i> ‘drink’	
	total	unique	total	unique
basic meaning	1168	977	744	629
extended meaning	179	139	85	27
of which 1) living metaphors	150	120	73	17
2) dead metaphors	29	19	12	10

The effective number of unique tokens that was included into analysis is given in the third column.

## 5. Metaphorical extensions of Mongolian ingestive predicates

Following Newman (1997, 2009), metaphorical extensions of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ in Mongolian are analyzed under the following three categories: (1) Agent-oriented extensions which highlight the role of the consumer in the source domain; (2) patient-oriented extensions which describe types of “destruction” (of the patient), stressing the effects on the consumed object (food or drink) in the source domain; and (3) extensions involving both agent and patient orientation, which describe both the sensation of the agent and destruction of the patient. These categories will be explicated below.

### 5.1. Agent-oriented extensions of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’

Some metaphorical extensions of *id-* and *uu-* are agent-oriented, as the properties of the agent are vital in the process of metaphorical mappings (Newman, 1997, p. 216).<sup>14</sup> The source domain of this type of metaphor mainly involves two components of eating and drinking acts, that is, (1) intake of food and drink into the mouth whereby a transition of food and drink from outside the body to inside the body is finished; and (2) swallowing which moves the food and drink from being in the mouth to being in the stomach and then to the intestines. Both components highlight the agent’s role in eating and drinking acts, serving as the basis for conceptualizing different kinds of events. The agent also plays a role in such aspects of eating and drinking as mastication, digestion, nourishment and enjoyable gustation which accompany both acts.

#### 5.1.1. Acquiring material objects

The source domain of food digestion relating to the verb *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ can be metaphorically mapped onto the target domain of acquiring material objects like *mönggö* ‘money’, *zoos* ‘coins’, *xeel* ‘bribe’, *tatwariin mönggö* ‘tax money’, *ulsin xörönggö* ‘state property’ and *gazar* ‘land’. Note the following examples:

<sup>14</sup>Newman (1997, p. 216, 2009, p. 8) describes such agent-oriented extensions of the concepts of eating and drinking as a process of “internalisation”, which refers to the agent’s act of incorporating something into his/her personal sphere.

- (11) *odoo cag-iin olonxi xulgar-uud-iig uls-iin xöröngö*  
 now time-GEN most villain/rogue-PL-ACC state-GEN capital  
*möngö id-sen nöxd-üüd ge-deg.*<sup>15</sup>  
 money eat-PST.PTCP comrade-PL say-HAB.PTCP  
 ‘Most contemporary villains are called comrades who **embezzled state property and money.**’ (wiktionary.org, WaC)
- (12) *tüün-ii yar<sup>1</sup>-san-aas üz-wel Osor barilga-d xeweeree*  
 that-GEN say-EST.PST-ABL see-COND.CVB PN construction-DAT still  
*bai-ž bai-gaad nodnin tömör\_zam-d or-žee*  
 be-IPFV.CVB be-CVB.PFV last.year railway-DAT join-INDIR.PST  
*öör-iin n<sup>1</sup> yari-x n<sup>1</sup> “möngö uu-dag”<sup>16</sup> ge-ne.*  
 oneself-GEN 3POSS say-FUT.PTCP 3POSS money drink-HAB.PTCP say-PRS  
 ‘Judging from what he said, when Osor was still in the construction [industry], he joined the railroad last year. He says he **“drinks money” [i.e., receives a high salary].**’ (MT)
- (13) *dee-r suu-cix-aad tatwar-iin möngö yaaž xuwaa-ž*  
 above-LOC it-COMPL-PFV.CVB tax-GEN money how divide-IPFV.CVB  
*id-ex be ge-sen-ees taria tari-ž*  
 eat-FUT.PTCP Q say-PST.PTCP-ABL grain plant-IPFV.CVB  
*bai-x n<sup>1</sup>, büteegdexüün xii-ž*  
 be-FUT.PTCP 3POSS>NMLZ product make-IPFV.CVB  
*bai-x n<sup>1</sup> zōw.*  
 be-FUT.PTCP 3POSS>NMLZ right  
 ‘It is better to plant grain and make products than to take a seat above and ask how to **divide and embezzle the tax money.**’ (ekhoron21.mn, WaC)

In (11) to (13), the verbs *id-* and *uu-* have the metaphorical meaning of ‘receive’ or ‘embezzle’. The source domain of eating (taking food into the body) is mapped onto the target domain of acquiring material objects, that is, putting entities into the sphere of possession of a person. Similar to the food consumed, material objects such as bribes and money become parts of the agent’s possession through the processes of intake and swallowing. In these examples the agent benefits through receiving the thematic patient; thus, a positive sensory experience on the part of the consumer is mapped onto a pleasant feeling associated with the new possession of items. In the meanwhile, material objects like money are arranged in a desired way for the consumer’s use, just like people’s pleasant digestion of food. On the other hand, ‘eat’ in the sense of ‘acquire; embezzle’ tends to be derogatory to some extent. It can be argued that the derogatory sense arises out of the concern for the negative effect incurred on the patient, resulting from the agent’s ‘embezzling’ or ‘acquiring’ action, just as food (patient) is destroyed while the eater’s (agent’s) stomach is fulfilled. In the source domain of the swallowing action, people transfer the visible material objects into something invisible; in the metaphorical embezzling process, whatever money or properties embezzled are gobbled up by the agent for their own benefit.

<sup>15</sup>With regard to the glossing of present and past tense forms and their evidential values, this paper follows Brosig (2015, 2018).

<sup>16</sup>Another interpretation of this utterance is that ‘he spent a lot of money’ (also cf. MT). The meaning adopted depends on the context.

The conceptual mappings between the source domain of eating/drinking and the target domain of acquisition of material objects are listed in Table 2, where the correspondences between the sub-components of both domains are illustrated. Notably, it is possible that certain sub-components of the source domain cannot be assigned corresponding subcomponents in the target domain. Likewise, the conceptual mappings between the source domain of eating/drinking and the target domain of inhaling are listed in Table 3.

5.1.2. Pleasant inhaling

In the Khorchin dialect of Mongolian, the verb ‘drink’ may be extended to denote the sense of ‘inhale’ or ‘smoke’. The verb ‘eat’ may denote the sense of ‘inhaling’ opium. In such usages, the agent usually experiences pleasant feelings of inhaling the patient. Note the following examples:

- (14) *tamxi uu-x/tat-ax*  
cigarette drink-FUT.PTCP/draw-FUT.PTCP  
‘smoke cigarettes’ (lit. drink/draw [from] cigarettes) (own knowledge)
- (15) *xar\_tamxi id-ex n<sup>i</sup> biye-d xor-toi.*  
opium/narcotics eat-FUT.PTCP 3POSS body-DAT harm-COM  
‘Taking/inhaling opium is harmful to the body.’ (own knowledge)

**Table 2.** Mappings between the domain of food digestion and the domain of acquisition of material objects

Source domain:	Target domain:
CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF EATING/DRINKING	CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF ACQUISITION OF MATERIAL OBJECTS
Hunger	need for material objects for existence
Intake of food	People acquire material objects into their possession.
Mastication	N/A
Swallowing	People transfer the visible material objects into something invisible.
Digestion	Material objects are arranged in a desired way and consumed.
Nourishment	Acquiring material objects contributes to one’s possessions.
Pleasant gustation	Obtaining or gaining material objects is beneficial for the consumer.

**Table 3.** Mappings between the eating/drinking domain and the inhaling domain

Source domain:	Target domain:
CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF EATING/DRINKING	CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF INHALING
Hunger	N/A
Intake of food	intake of certain items into the mouth
Mastication	N/A
Swallowing	intake of certain items into the body
Digestion	N/A
Nourishment	The consumed items have a soothing or numbing effect.
Pleasant (unpleasant) gustation	either pleasant or unpleasant sensation of inhaling or intake

## 5.1.3. Consuming/Absorbing

The source domain of eating can be metaphorically mapped onto the target domain of consuming such things as *xüč* ‘power’, *sanax oi* ‘memory’, and *xool/težeel* ‘food’ in Mongolian, in which process, these items are incorporated into the private sphere of or are consumed by the agent. Note the following examples:

- (16) *anxn-i caxilgaan kompyutyer-uud n<sup>i</sup> бүтэн өрөө-g*  
 first-GEN electric computer-PL 3POSS entire room-ACC  
*düürge-xeer xemžee-tei bai-san ba ene n<sup>i</sup> xeden*  
 fill-PTCP.likelyly size-COM be-EST.PST and this 3POSS several  
*zuun pyersonal kompyutyer-iin id-deg xüč-eer*  
 hundred personal computer-GEN eat- HAB.PTCP power-INS  
*ažilla-dag bai-žee.*  
 work-HAB.PTCP be-INDIR.PST  
 ‘The first electric computers were large enough to fill an entire room and they **were running with the energy that hundreds of personal computers would use.**’ (lit. wordpress.com, WaC)
- (17) *ter-eer 16 mg bait sanax\_oi-g xayagla-ž.*  
 that-SUBJ sixteen mebibyte memory-ACC label/address-IPFV.CVB  
*id-deg bai-san ba tüün-ii daraa gar-san 80386*  
 eat-HAB.PTCP be-EST.PST and that-GEN after appear-PST.PTCP 8,0386  
*DX n<sup>i</sup> 4 gbait sanax\_oi-g xayagla-ž čad-dag.*  
 PN 3POSS four gibibytes memory-ACC label-IPFV.CVB can-HAB.PTCP  
*bai-san bolowč MS-DOS sistyem n<sup>i</sup> 1 mgbait-aas*  
 be-EST.PST although PN system 3POSS one mebibyte-ABL  
*dee-š xayag-tai sanax\_oi-g ašigla-ž čada-x-güi bai-w.*  
 above-ALL label-COM memory-ACC use-IPFV.CVB can-FUT.PTCP-NEG be-PST  
 ‘It addresses and **takes up (lit. eats) 16 MiB of memory**, and the subsequent 80386 DX could address 4 GiB of memory, but the MS-DOS system could not use memory with more than 1 MiB.’ (wordpress.com, WaC)
- (18) *učir n<sup>i</sup> üne\_örtög n<sup>i</sup> ix, xünd,*  
 reason 3POSS price/cost 3POSS big heavy  
*mön težeel ix id-deg yum bai-na.*  
 also food a.lot eat-HAB.PTCP PTCL be-PRS  
 ‘Because (the computer’s) price is expensive, it is heavy, and it also **consumes a lot of food [=energy].**’ (wordpress.com, WaC)

As for consumption of gas to drive a car, the source domain of eating is metaphorically mapped onto the target domain of consuming *šataxuun* ‘fuel’ or *xool šataxuun* ‘food’. Note the following examples:

- (19) *šataxuun бага id-ne, mašinii\_zogsool-d zai бага ezel-ne,*  
 fuel little eat-PRS parking.lot-DAT space small occupy-PRS  
*üne xyamd, xen č xürg-eed ög-Ø*  
 price cheap who ADD.FOC see.off-PFV.CVB give-IMP



*ge-ž*                      *gui-x-güi*.  
 say-IPFV.CVB    ask/beg-FUT.PTCP-NEG  
 ‘(The car) **consumes little fuel**, takes up little parking space and is cheap, and; you do not have to ask anyone to see you off.’ (wikipedia.org, WaC)

- (20) *örgön carig zardal öndör* (60–80 *xuw<sup>j</sup>*)    *udaan, bas xünd, ter xer-eer*  
 wide gauge cost high (60–80 percent) slow also heavy that extent-INS  
 “*xool*” *\_šataxuun ix id-ne*.  
 feed/fuel much eat-PRS  
 ‘Wide gauges are expensive (60–80 percent), slow and also heavy, and to that extent **consume a lot of “food” [=fuel]**.’ (mongolrailway.net, WaC)

In (16) to (20), where the consumed items all belong to one unified category of natural resources such as food or fuel, only *id-* ‘eat’ (rather than *uu-* ‘drink’) is used to denote the extended meaning of ‘use up’. In such usages, the agent benefits from the act of consuming by internalizing the consumed items into its private sphere.

Sometimes the source domain of eating can be mapped onto a target domain of absorbing abstract things like *xaraal* ‘a curse’, that is, absorption of a ‘curse’ by the entity. Note the example below:

- (21) *xerwee teg-sen bol xaraal id-sen öngör-sön*  
 if do.that-PST.PTCP COND curse eat-EST.PST pass-PST.PTCP  
*dursamž ge-ž bai-x-güi*.  
 memory say-IPFV.CVB be-FUT.PTCP-NEG  
 ‘If [SUBJECT] had done like that, there would be no cursed memories of the past.’ (wordpress.com, WaC)

The metaphorical meaning of *uu-* ‘drink’ is much narrower than that of *id-* ‘eat’. The source domain of drinking can be metaphorically mapped onto the target domain of absorbing, only when the absorbed items are such liquids as ink or oil in Mongolian, as is shown below:

- (22) *bex uu-dag caas*  
 ink drink-HAB.PTCP paper  
 ‘paper that **absorbs (lit. drinks) ink** (when written on with an ink pen)’  
 (MT)
- (23) *dee-r n<sup>j</sup> uu-dag caas taw<sup>j</sup>-ž iliüüdel*  
 above-LOC 3POSS drink-HAB.PTCP paper put-IPFV.CVB excess  
*tos-iig aw-na*.<sup>17</sup>  
 oil-ACC take-PRS  
 ‘[You then] put an [oil-] absorbing sheet (lit. paper which drinks [oil]) on top to remove excess oil.’ (wikipedia.org, WaC)

In (22), the patient *bex* ‘ink’ is absorbed into the private sphere of the agent *caas* ‘paper’. Similarly, in (23), the patient *tos* ‘oil’ is absorbed by *caas* ‘paper’.

<sup>17</sup>The preceding context is: *Urgamlin tosig бага зereg халаагаад хөвөнд šingeež širxgiin daguu 10–15 минут тawina*. ‘Heat the vegetable oil a little, soak it in a cotton ball and leave it for 10–15 min.’

**Table 4.** Mappings between the eating/drinking domain and the consuming/absorbing domain

Source domain:	Target domain:
CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF EATING/ DRINKING	CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF ABSORBING
Hunger	N/A
Intake of food	intake of physical items into the body
Mastication	N/A
Swallowing	Physical items are absorbed into the body of the entity.
Digestion	N/A
Nourishment	N/A
Pleasant (unpleasant) gustation	N/A

The conceptual mappings between the source domain of eating and the target domain of consuming/absorbing are listed in Table 4.

#### 5.1.4. Experiencing unpleasantness

The metaphorical extension of *id-* may denote the meaning of ‘undergo; suffer from conflagration’, which represents an unpleasant experience of being burnt by a blazing fire. The agent’s unpleasant or painful experiences serve as the basis for metaphorical extensions of *id-*. Note the following example:

- (24) *ter neg tüümer id-sen xar\_xowd-iin yorool-d*  
 that one wildfire.blaze eat-PST.PTCP black hole-GEN bottom-DAT  
*xür-deg xereg ge-ed mölxö-w.*  
 reach-HAB.PTCP thing say-CVB.when crawl-PST  
 ‘He crawled, [thinking that] “it is a matter of reaching the bottom of a **black hole which was burnt by a blazing fire** (lit. a black hole which ate fire)”.’  
 (MT)

In (24), the *xar xow* ‘black hole’ is the agent which suffers from the action of *tüümer id-* ‘catch fire’. The conceptual mappings between the source domain of eating and the emotional domain are listed in Table 5.

#### 5.2. Patient-oriented extensions of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’

The second category of metaphorical extensions of *id-* and *uu-* is patient-oriented, which means this type of metaphor is motivated by the patient in the eating and

**Table 5.** Mappings between the eating domain and the emotional domain

Source domain:	Target domain:
CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF EATING	EMOTIONAL DOMAIN
Hunger & Thirst	N/A
Intake of food & liquid	N/A
Mastication	Some emotions strongly affect the experiencers.
Swallowing	People have to undergo negative emotions.
Digestion	N/A
Nourishment	N/A
Pleasant (unpleasant) gustation	unpleasant sensation for the experiencers

drinking process, that is, the effect of consuming on the items consumed plays a crucial role in giving rise to different extensions; and the striking feature which concerns food or liquid is that it changes from the state of being visible to being invisible after being taken into the body. In the case of eating, the source images for the destruction of the patient are as follows: (1) mastication of the food which involves mainly teeth, tongue and roof of the mouth and (2) swallowing of the masticated food. In contrast, the patient-oriented extension of drinking only involves the source image of swallowing without mastication. The patient-oriented extensions differ from those of agent-oriented extensions, as they highlight the destructive or transformative effect of the consuming act on the patient, whereas in agent-oriented extensions, the emphasis is on the eater's role of taking something into the body.

### 5.2.1. Physical/material destruction (killing or looting)

The metaphorical extension of *id-* may denote the meaning of 'destroy; kill'. In the following examples, the destructive effect of eating on the food consumed is emphasized in the source domain of eating:

- (25) *ee dee čī bid xoyor ing-ež xüüxd-üüd-iin-xee*  
 EXCLM PTCL 2PS 1PL two do.like.this-IPFV.CVB child-PL-GEN-RPOSS  
*tolgoi-g id-ex<sup>18</sup> učir-tai yum bai-x daa.*  
 head-ACC eat-FUT.PTCP reason-COM PTCL be-FUT.PTCP PTCL  
 'Hey, you and I are supposed to **kill our children** (lit. eat our children's heads) like this.' (MT)
- (26) *ted zam-d-aa šar\_cereg xemee-gč-iig elsüül-ž,*  
 they way-DAT-RPOSS yellow.soldier say-AGT.PTCP-ACC recruit-IPFV.CVB  
*buu šiidem-eer zewsegl-eed Elst-iin xamtral-iin ed*  
 weapons-INS arm-PFV.CVB Elista-GEN community-GEN goods  
*yum-s, ger baišin-g deeremde-n üld-sen-iig n<sup>i</sup>*  
 thing-PL house building-ACC loot-CVB remain-PST.PTCP-ACC 3POSS  
*šataa-ž odoo man-ai sum<sup>19</sup>-iin töw-iig*  
 burn-IPFV.CVB now 1PL-GEN sum-GEN centre-ACC  
*id-ex-eer ir-ž yaw-aa ge-ne.*  
 eat-FUT.PTCP-INS come-IPFV.CVB go-EST.PRS say-PRS  
 'On the way, they recruited the so-called Yellow Soldiers, armed them with weapons, looted the belongings of the community of Elista and burned what remained, and they are now said to be coming to **raid our sum center**.'  
 (L. Čoižilsüren. *Morin töwörgöön* 'The Clatter of a Horse', MT)
- (27) *Damba nam-aig end xudalda-n id-ex ge-ž*  
 PN 1SG-ACC here sell.out-CVB eat-FUT.PTCP say-IPFV.CVB  
*bai-gaa yum.*  
 be-IPFV.PTCP PTCL  
 'Damba is going to sell me out here and **kill me**.' (G. *Düinxeržaw. Arilšgüi mör* 'An indelible mark', MT)

<sup>18</sup>*Tolgoi id-* means 'kill a loved one' here. A similar expression in Khorchin Mongolian is *tolgoi xaz-* 'kill a loved one' (lit. to bite off the head) (own knowledge).

<sup>19</sup>*Sum* is a second-level territorial administrative unit of Mongolia.

In (25) and (27), the physical body of the patient is destroyed in the act of killing. In (26), the possessions and belongings of the *sum* ‘the administrative unit’ in question would be destroyed and there will be a loss of fortune due to a raid.

### 5.2.2. Mental (or psychological) destruction

5.2.2.1. *Verbal attack*. Another semantic extension of ‘eat’ is ‘behave in a bad temper or scold fiercely’. In (28), the patient is mentally tortured or destroyed by someone’s verbal attack caused by anger. Note the following examples:

- (28) *Tuyaa šalgaltan-d muu dūn aw-xad aaw eež*  
 PN exam-DAT bad result get-CVB.when father mother  
*n<sup>i</sup> tūūn-iig barag bar<sup>i</sup>-ž id-žee.*  
 3POSS 3SG-ACC almost catch-IPFV.CVB eat-PST  
 ‘When Tuyaa got a bad result in an exam, she was severely criticized by her parents (lit. ...Her parents almost **grasped and ate** her.’ (own knowledge)

In (28), *bar<sup>i</sup>ž id-* denotes a meaning of ‘verbally attack somebody’. Likewise, in MT this phrase is either explained as *sūrxii uursan nexež šaardan dawšlax* ‘attack with a strong rage’ or *tal talaas n<sup>i</sup> aašlan šaardax, baix suuxin argagūii bolgox* ‘make someone restless by putting him/her under duress’. The use of this idiomatic expression tends to imply that a certain situation is intense and people who are involved usually behave in a crazy manner. The source domain of *bar<sup>i</sup>ž id-* is the grabbing and devouring act of wild animals between each other; the target domain of ‘verbally attacking someone’ emphasizes the process of the criticizing act which sometimes involves hitting, thus the patient is mentally destroyed.

- (29) *tedgeer zaluu-s biye biyen-ee bar<sup>i</sup>-ž*  
 those young-PL body body-RPOSS eat-IPFV.CVB  
*id-ex-ees buc-ax-gūii bol-tl-oo uls\_tör-iin*  
 eat-FUT.PTCP-ABL return-FUT.PTCP-NEG be-CVB.until-RPOSS politics-GEN  
*zerleg maxči-d bol-ž torni-ž bai-na.*  
 wild predator-PL become-IPFV.CVB grow-IPFV.CVB be-PRS  
 ‘Those young people are becoming wild political predators until they do not hesitate to **verbally abuse each other/sabotage each other’s schemes** (lit. grasp and eat each other).’ (zapot.mn, WaC)

In (29) the patient undergoes psychological torment in the process of ‘being abused or sabotaged’. The patient *biye* ‘body’ is attacked and is mentally crushed in the process. This can be seen as metonymy, where *biye* stands for ‘the person who carries the body’. *Biye* ‘body’ may function as a secondary reflexive pronoun in Mongolian and other Mongol dialects (Sechenbaatar, 2003, p. 112). Janhunen (2012, p. 141) argues that the reflexive forms of the regular nominal *biye* in Mongolian can replace the oblique forms (accusative, dative, ablative and instrumental case forms) of the reflexive pronoun *öör-öö* ‘(one)self’, that is, *biye* ‘body’ > ‘(one)self’ in *biy-ee(n)*, *biye-d-ee(n)*, *biy-ees-ee(n)*, *biy-eer-ee(n)*; the reciprocal meaning arises when *biye* is reduplicated as in *biye biy-ee(n)* ‘each other’ (in reflexive form) and *biye biye-d-ee(n)* ‘to each other’ (in dative-reflexive).

5.2.2.2. *Psychological torture*. In the following examples, the patient undergoes psychological torture after being blamed or criticized by the agent. Note the following examples:

- (30) *bi* *öör-iig-öö* *buruutga-ž,* *uurla-ž,* *mön*  
 1SG self-ACC-RPOSS blame-IPFV.CVB get.angry-IPFV.CVB still/also  
*öör-iig-öö* *ömöör-öx* *tusam ene n<sup>i</sup>*  
 oneself-ACC-RPOSS defend-FUT.PTCP while this 3POSS  
*nam-aig* *dot-r-oos* *min<sup>i</sup>* *id-ež* *bai-san*  
 1SG-ACC inside-LOC-ABL IPOSS eat-IPFV.CVB be-EST.PST  
*tul* *žürx* *setgel-iin* *öörčölt-iig* *xüsemzle-n*  
 because heart mind-GEN change-ACC desire-CVB  
*zalbir-dag* *bai-laa.*  
 pray-HAB.PTCP be-DIR.PST  
 ‘While I blamed myself, got angry with myself and yet at the same time came to my defence, I prayed for a change of heart and mind since it **ate away at me** from my innermost.’ (lds.org, WaC)
- (31) *xerew* *xen\_negen* *tan-iig* *üg-eer* *id-ex,* *muu* *üg*  
 if whoever 2SG-ACC word-INS eat-FUT.PTCP bad word  
*xay-ax* *eswel*  
 throw-FUT.PTCP or  
*xuur-ax* *ge-ž* *orold-wol* *tan-ii* *uur\_xileng*  
 deceive-FUT.PTCP say-IPFV.CVB try-COND.CVB 2SG-GEN anger  
*xürt-ex* *yum.*  
 receive-FUT.PTCP PTCL  
 ‘If someone tries to **swear at you** (lit. eat you with words), slander or deceive you, you will get angry.’ (emegteichuud.mn, WaC)
- (32) *Mongol-čuud-iig* *ganc* *diil-sen-d* *xöör-ööd*  
 Mongolian-PL-ACC once defeat-PST.PTCP-DAT get.excited-PFV.CVB  
*bai-dag* *arab-uud-iin*  
 be-HAB.PTCP Arab-PL-GEN  
*am-iig* *tagl-až* *üg-eer* *id-ex* *saixan*  
 mouth-ACC cover-IPFV.CVB word-INS eat-FUT.PTCP nice  
*yum-tai* *bol-loo.*  
 thing-COM be-DIR.PST  
 ‘It gave people a good excuse to **criticize** (lit. eat with words) and cover the mouths of the Arabs who were excited about having defeated the Mongols once.’ (asuult.net, WaC)

In (30), the patient *bi* ‘I’ is psychologically tortured by his or her inner struggle. In (31), the patient *ta* ‘you’ undergoes a psychological torture resulting from the swearing or criticism instigated by the agent, that is, *xen negen* ‘whoever’ in this context. Likewise, in (32), the experience of being criticized by the agent, namely the Mongolians who advance the act of criticizing, tortures the minds of the patient, that is, those Arabs who were gloating over their previous victory.

The conceptual mappings between the source domain of eating and the target domains of material and mental/psychological destruction are summarized in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Mappings between the eating domain and material & psychological destruction domains

Source domain:	Target domain:
CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF EATING	MATERIAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION DOMAINS
Hunger	N/A
Intake of food	N/A
Mastication	Looting, killing and verbal attacks are violent and aggressive acts; people can either be physically or psychologically destroyed after undergoing physical or verbal attacks.
Swallowing	N/A
Digestion	People can undergo psychological or physical changes after being attacked.
Nourishment	N/A
Pleasant (unpleasant) gustation	Looting and killing may result in injury and suffering which is unpleasant for the agent to experience.

### 5.2.3. Spending material wealth

The source domain of eating and drinking can be metaphorically mapped onto the target domain of spending or wasting such things as money and time in Mongolian.<sup>20</sup> Note the following examples:

- (33) *xar mašin-iig xudalda-n aw-axad maš ix*  
 black car-ACC buy-CVB get-CVB.when very much  
*möngö id-sen n<sup>l</sup> l law todorxoi.*  
 money eat-PST.PTCP 3POSS>NMLZ LIM.FOC definitely clear  
 ‘Obviously, (he) **spent a lot of money** to buy a black car.’ (lit. His eating a lot of money when buying a black car is definitely clear.) (zaluu.com, WaC)
- (34) *getel möng-öö arwižuul-ax möngö id-ež*  
 but money-RPOSS accumulate-FUT.PTCP money eat-IPFV.CVB  
*uu-x<sup>21</sup> ge-sen bodlog-oor*  
 drink-FUT.PTCP say-PST.PTCL policy-INS  
*parlamiyent-iig žolood-ož bai-gaa biš ge-ž üü.*  
 parliament-ACC steer-IPFV.CVB be-IPFV.PTCP NEG say-IPFV.CVB Q.PLR  
 ‘But is not parliament driven by the policy of **wasting** (lit. eating and drinking) its accumulated money?’ (shuurhai.mn, WaC)

The conceptual mappings between the source domain of eating/drinking and the target domain of spending material wealth are listed in Table 7.

### 5.2.4. Being exposed to external factors

The verb *id-* ‘eat’ also denotes the metaphorical extension of ‘corroding; corrupting or eating into’, which is often used in the passive or causative voice. The target domains involve being exposed to items such as rust, worms, and sores. There is no figurative usage relating to the verb *uu-* ‘drink’ in such contexts. Note the following examples:

<sup>20</sup>MT mentions a collocation *cag uu-* ‘spend (drink) time’, but it is absent in the corpus.

<sup>21</sup>A slight difference can be observed between the metaphorical extension of *möngö id-* ‘eat money’ and *möngö uu-* ‘drink money’. *Möngö id-* ‘eat money’ denotes the meaning of ‘use public money for personal gain’, while *möngö uu-* ‘drink money’ is interpreted as ‘waste money; spend a lot of money’. (cf. MT).

Table 7. Mappings between the eating/drinking domain and the domain of spending material wealth

Source domain:	Target domain:
CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF EATING/ DRINKING	CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF SPENDING MATERIAL WEALTH
Hunger	N/A
Intake of food	N/A
Mastication	spending material wealth like money
Swallowing	Material wealth is destroyed.
Digestion	Wealth is spent or wasted so that it is no longer visible.
Nourishment	N/A
Pleasant (unpleasant) gustation	The agent has a sense of pleasure or regret after spending money or time.

- (35) *zagwar-iin saižruulalt 1994 on-d xii-gd-sen bögööd*  
 model-GEN improvement 1994 year-DAT do-PASS-EST.PST and  
*urd n<sup>j</sup>*  
 earlier 3POSS  
*üildwerle-sen zagwar-uud zewen-d ix-eer ide-gde-ž*  
 produce-PST.PTCP model-PL rust-DAT big-INS eat-PASS-IPFV.CVB  
*bai-sn-iig saižruul-ax arga\_xemžee aw-san.*  
 be-EST.PST-ACC improve-FUT.PTCP measures take-EST.PST  
 ‘Improvements of the model were made in 1994, and measures were taken to  
 improve (the problem that) **earlier models were heavily corroded by rust.**’  
 (wikipedia.org, WaC)

In (35), *id-* is used in the passive voice in the expression *zewend idegd-* ‘be corroded (eaten) by rust; be exposed to rust’ along with the agent *zew* ‘rust’. This is in line with the interpretation of *zew id-* ‘be exposed to rust’ given by MT. A similar usage listed by MT is *yar id-* ‘develop sores’ or ‘(skin) is corroded/damaged by sores’; however, no such usage is found in the corpus.

- (36) “*e-nom*” *n<sup>j</sup> tooson-d daragd-ax-güi, tödii l*  
 ebook 3POSS dust-DAT cover-PASS-NEG so.much LIM.FOC  
*oron\_zai ezl-ex-güi,*  
 space occupy-FUT.PTCP-NEG  
*nögöö nom\_sudr-iin caas-iig id-ež, zoogl-ogč öt\_xorxoi-d*  
 the.other book-GEN paper-ACC eat-IPFV.CVB dine-AGT.PTCP worm-DAT  
*ide-gd-ex-güi, medeel-iig xai-ž ol-oxod*  
 eat-PASS-FUT.PTCP-NEG information-ACC search-IPFV.CVB get-CVB.when  
*xyalbar, bagtaamž sai-tai zereg olon dawuu\_tal-tai bai-žee.*  
 easy capacity good-COM etc. many advantage-COM be-INDR.PST  
 ‘The “**ebook**” had many advantages; for example, it does not get covered in  
 dust; it does not take up much space; it is not **damaged by insects** which eat  
 and feast on the paper of other books; it is easy to search for information, and  
 it has a good capacity, etc.’ (blogmn.net, WaC)

In (36), the patient “*e-nom*” is not exposed to such external factors as worms or insects *öt xorxoi* ‘worms’; therefore, *id-* ‘eat’ in the passive voice is again used in its metaphorical sense to denote the meaning of ‘be corroded’, while the agent is *öt xorxoi* ‘worms’. However, *id-* in the previous attributive clause *nögöö nom sudrin*

*caasig idež zooglogč öt xorxoi* ‘worms which eat the paper of other books’ is used in its literal meaning.

The target domain of corrupting or corroding may also involve being exposed to such external factors as bribery, corruption, poverty, debts, lies and sly tricks. Note the following examples:

- (37) *xeel\_xaxuul<sup>j</sup>-d ide-gd-sen aldar\_ner goril-ogč-id*  
 bribe-DAT eat-PASS-EST.PST fame desire-AGT.PTCP-PL  
*ediin\_zasg-iin öndör ösölt-iin*  
 economy-GEN high growth-GEN  
*tuxai xudal medeedel ilgee-ž tör, ard\_tümen-ee*  
 about false information send-IPFV.CVB government people-RPOSS  
*xuuran\_mexel-ž bai-san.*  
 deceive-IPFV.CVB be-EST.PST

‘**Corrupted by bribery**, celebrity candidates (lit. fame desirers) were deceiving the government and the people by sending false information about high economic growth.’ (wikipedia.org, WaC)

In (37), *xeel xaxuul<sup>j</sup>d idegdsen* ‘corrupted by bribery or bribes’ involves the passive voice form of *id-* ‘eat’, in which *xeel xaxuul<sup>j</sup>* ‘bribes; bribery’ serves as the agent and *aldar ner orilogčid* ‘celebrity candidates’ is the patient; in other words, *xeel xaxuul<sup>j</sup>* “eats into” the minds of those who desire fame. In contrast, in Khorchin Mongolian, *xeel xaxuul<sup>j</sup> id-* ‘take bribes’ is used instead, where it might be a calque borrowed from Chinese idiom 吃賄賂 *chī huìlù* (< *chī* ‘eat’ + *huìlù* ‘bribe’); in this case, both *id-* and *chī* mean ‘take; accept’.

- (38) *2000–2004 on-ii xoorond awliga, xeel\_xahuul<sup>j</sup> cecegl-ež,*  
 2000–2004 year-GEN between corruption bribery flourish-IPFV.CVB  
*Mongol\_oron бүxel-d-ee awliga-d id-edg-sen yum.*  
 Mongolia whole-DAT-RPOSS corruption-DAT eat-PASS-EST.PST PTCL  
 ‘Corruption and bribery flourished between 2000 and 2004, and the whole of Mongolia was **corroded (lit. eaten) by corruption.**’ (wordpress.com, WaC)

- (39) *Mongol\_uls-iin DNB žil-ees žil-d ös-söör bai-dag, xarin*  
 Mongolia-GEN GDP year-ABL year-DAT grow-CVB be-HAB.PTCP but  
*Mongol\_xün-ii am<sup>j</sup>dral ödr-ös\_ödör-t yaduural-d*  
 Mongolian.people-GEN life day.by.day-DAT poverty-DAT  
*id-egd-seer bai-na.*  
 eat-PASS-CVB be-PRS

‘The GDP of Mongolia continues to grow year by year, but the lives of Mongolian people **are being eaten up by poverty** day by day.’ (wordpress.com, WaC)

In (38), the patient, *Mongol oron* ‘Mongolia’ was corroded by the agent, that is, *awliga* ‘corruption’; in (39), the patient *Mongol xünii am<sup>j</sup>dral* ‘Mongolian people’s lives’ is being eaten up by the agent, namely *yaduural* ‘poverty’. The conceptual mappings between the source domain of eating and the target domain of corroding are listed in Table 8.



**Table 8.** Mappings between the eating domain and the domain of corroding

Source domain:	Target domain:
CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF EATING	CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN OF CORRODING
Hunger	N/A
Intake of food	N/A
Mastication	eating into (or corroding) a physical object or an abstract thing
Swallowing	The physical object or the abstract thing experiences corrosion & corruption.
Digestion	The physical object or the abstract thing is transformed into something of a different nature.
Nourishment	N/A
Pleasant (unpleasant) gustation	N/A

### 5.3. Extensions of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ involving both agent and patient orientations

Some metaphorical extensions of *id-* and *uu-* can be seen as both agent-oriented and patient-oriented. They are motivated by: (1) the agent’s sensation and (2) the destruction of the patient in the process of eating (Newman, 1997, p. 228, 2009, p. 18).

#### 5.3.1. Breaking one’s promise

The source domain of eating is sometimes mapped onto the target domain of ‘breaking one’s promise’ which involves both agent and patient orientations. In this instance, the agent experiences an unpleasant feeling of having to swallow what one has always spat out of one’s mouth, that is, ‘words’ in this case; meanwhile, the patient, namely what was said before, was completely destroyed.

- (40) *xel-sen-ee*      *büü id-Ø*,      *xexer-sen-ee*      *büü zalgi-Ø!*  
 say-EST.PST-RPOSS NEG eat-IMP burp-EST.PST-RPOSS NEG swallow-IMP  
 ‘Do not forget what you said, **do not break your promise!**’  
 (lit. Do not eat what you said, and do not swallow what you burped!) (MT)

- (41) *tüün-ii üg-s-iig id-sen č Ix\_Britani-in*  
 that-GEN word-PL-ACC eat-PST.PTCP ADD.FOC Great.Britain-GEN  
*duučin ter, eswel xen\_negen xün*  
 singer that or someone person  
*tüün-ii biye-iin tal-aar yuu xel-ex-iig n<sup>j</sup> čuxal biš.*  
 that-GEN body-GEN side-INS what say-FUT.PTCP-ACC 3POSS important NEG  
 ‘Despite that [designer Karl Lagerfeld **ate his words** when he apologized for saying that Adele “is a little too fat,”],<sup>22</sup> the British singer does not care what he or anyone else has to say about her body.’ (youtube.com, WaC)

<sup>22</sup>The corpus-based sentence does not provide us with a full context, and the retrieved text does not seem to be online anymore. However, the overall context is reported at [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/adele-responds-to-karl-lagerfelds-fat-remark\\_n\\_1265252](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/adele-responds-to-karl-lagerfelds-fat-remark_n_1265252) (Adele Responds To Karl Lagerfeld’s ‘Fat’ Remark), 2012-02-09 retrieved on 2022-10-14. Note that the second clause of this example, starting from *Ix Britaniin*, appears to be grammatically ill-formed. One would, for instance, expect *duučin* ‘singer’ to be dative-marked, thus ‘for the singer’, so as to mark the perceiver of *čuxul biš* ‘not important’.

In (40), *xelsenee id-* ‘eat what you said’ can be interpreted as ‘eat one’s words’. In (41), *tüünii ügsiig idsen* ‘eat/retract his words’ is a calque borrowed from the English expression ‘eat one’s words’. In Khorchin Mongolian, *ügeen id-* ‘eat one’s words’ is used to denote the meaning of ‘go back on one’s words; break one’s promise’; it might be a calque borrowed from Chinese 食言 (*shí yán* < *shí* ‘eat’ + *yán* ‘words’).

### 5.3.2. Living on material or intellectual wealth

Extensions of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ are based on both the sensation of the agent and the destruction of the patient, when these verbs denote the meaning of ‘live on’. Objects such as *ül xödlöx xöröngö* ‘real estate’, *öw* ‘inheritance’, *ex oron* ‘homeland’, *ner* ‘reputation’ and *xödölmör* ‘labor’ may be consumed, and destructive effects of consumption on these patients are obvious. Meanwhile, the agent benefits from the action of ‘living on something profitable’. Note the examples below:

- (42) *ter üye-d l ü\_l\_xödlöx\_xöröng-iig yaaž id-ex-ee*  
 that time-DAT PTCL real.estate-ACC how eat-FUT.PTCP-RPOSS  
*med-sen xüm-üüs bai-san bol...*  
 know-PST.PTCP person-PL be-PST.PTCP if  
 ‘If only at that time there had been people who knew how to **live on real estate...**’ (MT)
- (43) *ta nar bol zugaal-j ceng-ež,*  
 2SG PL TOP idle.around-IPFV.CVB have.fun-IPFV.CVB  
*ex\_oron-oo uu-ž, id-sen xümüü-s.*  
 motherland-RPOSS drink-IPFV.CVB eat-EST.PST person-PL  
 ‘You are people who idle around, have fun and **live on your homeland.**’  
 (MT)
- (44) *xaan-ii öw-iig Xasar-iin ür či id-ne üü?*  
 Khan-GEN heritage-ACC PN-GEN offspring 2SG eat-PRS Q.PLR  
 ‘**As for the khaan’s heritage**, will you, Khasar’s offspring, live on/inherit (it)?’ (wikipedia.org, WaC)
- (45) *bügd l tatwar\_töl-ögč-d-iin möng-iig id-ež*  
 all LIM.FOC taxpayer-AGT.PTCP-PL-GEN money-ACC eat-IPFV.CVB  
*uu-ž bai-gaa šuu dee.*  
 drink-IPFV.CVB be-IPFV.PTCP PTCL PTCL  
 ‘Everyone is just living on taxpayers’ money (lit. eating and drinking taxpayers’ money).’ (ekhoron21.mn, WaC)
- (46) *zarim xüm-üüs eceg ex-iin-xee ner\_xünd-iig*  
 some person-PL father mother-GEN-RPOSS reputation-ACC  
*id-ež das-dag.*  
 eat-IPFV.CVB get.used.to-HAB.PRS  
 ‘Some people get used to **living on their parents’ reputation.**’ (own knowledge)
- (47) *ted xödölmör id-ež öör-iig-öö bayan bol-go-žee.*  
 they labor eat-IPFV.CVB oneself-ACC-RPOSS rich be-CAUS-PST  
 ‘**They lived on the fruits of their labor** and made themselves rich.’ (own knowledge)

5.3.3. *Conquering, defeating, or winning something*

Both agent- and patient-oriented extensions of ‘eat’ are seen in the context of a game, where the patient is destroyed and conquered, while the agent enjoys the sensation of being a winner. Note the following examples:

- (48) *üg-eer id-ex dairalcaan togloom*  
 word-INS eat-FUT.PTCP attack game  
 ‘an attack game in which (someone) defeats by words’ (lit. ‘word-eating attack game’) (MT)
- (49) *togloft-iin yawc-ad bers, tereg, temee, mor<sup>j</sup> xüü-nüüd*  
 game-GEN process-DAT queen rook bishop knight pawn-PL  
*id-egd-ež bai-xad toglot ürgelžl-en*  
 eat-PASS-IPFV.CVB be-CVB.when game continue-CVB  
*yaw-agd-saar bai-dag.*  
 go-PASS-CVB be-HAB.PRS  
 ‘When **the queen, rook, bishop, knight and pawn are taken** (lit. eaten) in the course of the game, the game continues.’ (e-surgalt.com, WaC)

Note that the metaphorical extension of *uu-* ‘drink’ does not denote any meaning of ‘destroy; kill’ or ‘conquer; win’ in Mongolian.

5.3.4. *Physical exploitation*

5.3.4.1. *Exhausting someone.* Extensions of *id-* and *uu-* can be based on the physical destruction of concrete objects such as *max* ‘flesh’ and *cus* ‘blood’. The destructive effect of eating on the patient is evident in these examples where those people who are exploited suffer physically, while the agent is the beneficiary of these actions. Note the following examples:

- (50) *max id-sen ažil*  
 flesh eat-EST.PST job/work  
 ‘[hard] work that exhausts my flesh’ (MT)
- (51) *ene xeden xüüxed min-ii max-iig yaaž id-deg-iig*  
 this several child 1SG.GEN flesh-ACC how eat-HAB.PTCP-ACC  
*mede-x-güii l dee.*  
 know-FUT.PTCP-NEG LIM.FOC PTCL  
 ‘(I) do not know how these few children [can] **exhaust me** [so much].’ (MT)

In both (50) and (51), the patient is physically exploited. Meanwhile, someone benefits as a result of its suffering. In (50), the person who arranges for the job benefits by getting the work done by others; in (51), *xüüxed* ‘children’ benefits as a result of the speaker’s suffering.

5.3.4.2. *Exploiting someone.* Extensions of *id-* and *uu-* may both denote the meaning of ‘exploitation’ in certain contexts. The metaphorical extension of *uu-* in the sense of ‘exploit’ involves physical destruction of *cus* ‘blood’ in the source domain of drinking blood.

In (50) to (51) above, metonymy seems to be involved as well, given that *max* ‘flesh’ is part of the human body, which stand for the humans who suffer by actions of eating with the extended meaning of ‘exhausting someone’ or ‘exploiting someone’. In these examples, the agent or instigator of such actions benefits from the exploitation. Note also the following example:

- (52) *xiin*      *xiin-ee*      *id-deg*      *xaranxui*      *niigem*  
 human    human-RPOSS    eat-HAB.PTCP    dark      society  
 ‘a dark society where humans **exploit (lit. eat) each other**’ (own knowledge)

In (52), the agent *xiin* ‘people’, normally feudal officials or lords who belong to the ruling class in the social hierarchy, benefit economically and socially, whereas the patient *xiin* ‘people’, the fellow human beings, who are the commoners or the ones who struggle at the bottom of the social hierarchy suffer physically or mentally. Thus, this can be seen as an example where both agent and patient are involved in the metaphorical extension of *id-* ‘eat’. Here *id-* is used in the same metaphorical sense of ‘exploit’ as that of *uu-*; the agent profits from the exploiting act, while the patient suffers. However, it should be noted that *id-* and *uu-* in these examples are not interchangeable (‘Eating blood’ is unacceptable in Mongolian). However, it is possible to say *max cus idež uu-* ‘exploit’ (lit. ‘eat flesh and drink blood’).

#### 5.4. Summary

To sum up, the metaphorical extensions of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ in Mongolian can be summarized, respectively, in Tables 9 and 10.

## 6. Conventionalized idiomatic chunks of eating and drinking in Mongolian

In Section 5, living metaphors which involve extensions of consumption verbs in Mongolian were analyzed from an experiential perspective. In this section, we will discuss conventionalized idioms of eating and drinking which are comparatively fixed in form and meaning; a sociocultural perspective is taken to explain their overall meanings and usages, although encyclopedic knowledge is also a factor which contributes to the understanding of idioms. The sociocultural perspective may to some extent interpret people’s behavior and mental processes by their social and cultural contact, including race, gender and nationality, while encyclopedic knowledge relies more on individuals’ knowledge about a large number of diverse subjects.

### 6.1. Culturally unique idioms of eating and drinking in Mongolian

There are some culturally unique idiomatic expressions relating to consumption verbs in Mongolian, which fall outside of the scope of CMT and display gradable features in semantic compositionality, as well as being flexible in grammatical form. Both sociocultural perspective and encyclopedic knowledge are needed to understand the meanings and usages of such idioms.

The majority of conventionalized idiomatic expressions in Mongolian which involve EAT and DRINK verbs keep their literal meanings. In terms of meanings

**Table 9.** Metaphorical extensions of verbal concepts relating to the verb *id-* ‘eat’*(i) Agent-oriented extensions:*

1. ‘embezzle (e.g., state property, tax money)’ (WaC)
2. ‘consume/absorb (feed, fuel, power, curse, etc.); take up (computer memory)’ (WaC)
3. ‘undergo (e.g., wildfires)’ (MT)

*(ii) Patient-oriented extensions:*

4. ‘kill or loot’ (MT)
  5. ‘abuse or criticize someone; behave in a bad temper or scold fiercely’ (WaC)
  6. ‘eat away at’ (e.g., jealousy) (WaC)
  7. ‘spend (money) (WaC)
  8. ‘(iron) rust; be corroded by (bribery, corruption), (poverty, lies and sly tricks) eat into/eat up’ (WaC)
- [*id-* is used in passive voice or causative voice]

*(iii) Both agent & patient orientations*

9. ‘go back on one’s words; break one’s promise’ (WaC; MT)
10. ‘eliminate or take opponents/pieces in a game’ (WaC; MT)
11. ‘live on (real estate, reputation, labour fruits); ‘inherit’ (one’s inheritance/property) (WaC; MT)
12. ‘exploit/ exhaust (one’s flesh)’ (MT)

**Table 10.** Metaphorical extensions of verbal concepts relating to the verb *uu-* ‘drink’*(i) Agent-oriented extensions:*

1. ‘inhale, smoke’ (pleasant sensation) (own knowledge)
2. ‘earn/make/receive (money)’ (MT)
3. ‘absorb (ink, oil)’ (MT; WaC)

*(ii) Patient-oriented extensions:*

4. ‘spend; waste (money, time)’ (WaC; MT)

*(iii) Both agent & patient orientations*

5. ‘live on (one’s homeland); taxpayers’ money’ (WaC; MT)
6. ‘exploit (one’s blood)’ (WaC)

and grammatical features, they show various degrees of semantic noncompositionality and formal fixedness. Note the following examples:

- (53) *id-ex*            *xool-toi*    *xüün*  
 eat-FUT.PTCP    food-COM    person  
 ‘a person with a livelihood’ (lit. a person, who has food to eat) (MT)
- (54) *us*            *uu-x*            *xuw<sup>1</sup>-tai*  
 water    drink-FUT.PTCP    destiny-COM  
 ‘lucky to survive’ (lit. has the destiny to drink water) (MT)

In (53) and (54), the verbs *id-* and *uu-* keep their literal meanings, whereas the overall meanings of these expressions are less transparent, denoting the metaphorical meaning of ‘living or surviving’. This idiom can be explained by one’s knowledge of life experience, in which food and water are essential for existence. In these examples, the overall meaning is relatively transparent and the form is relatively fixed. In Khorchin Mongolian, *xuw<sup>1</sup>-tai* can be replaced with *buyan-tai* ‘fortunate’ (<*buyan*<sup>23</sup> ‘fortune’ + *-tai* = COM) (own knowledge).

<sup>23</sup>*Buyan* ‘good deed’ is also used to refer to ‘fortune; bliss’ in Khorchin Mongolian.

- (55) *daws ix/baga id-sen xüm-üüs*  
 salt much/little eat-PST.PTCP person-PL  
 ‘much/little experienced person’ (own knowledge)

In (55), one’s encyclopedic knowledge is required again to explain the sense of this idiom. Normally, as a person grows older, he/she eats more salt which is an indispensable substance for one’s living. The amount of salt eaten reflects a person’s knowledge of the world to some extent.

- (56) *bUSD-iin am-aar budaa id-ex*  
 others-GEN mouth-INS rice eat-FUT.PTCP  
 ‘repeat or copy something after hearing from others’ (lit. eat rice through others’ mouths) (MT)
- (57) *belen budaa/xool id-ex*  
 ready meal eat-FUT.PTCP  
 ‘copy from others’ (lit. ‘eat ready-made food’) (own knowledge)

In (56) and (57), the act of copying is either compared to eating food with the mouth of another person or with eating ready-made food. In both cases, something is accomplished without making enormous efforts. Notably, *id-* keeps its literal meaning in these instances and the overall meaning is not deducible from the components. Such expressions are relatively fixed in form and either compositional or noncompositional in meaning. The variation of *belen budaa id-*, namely *budaa id-* which carries the same extended meaning of ‘copy’ is attested in the corpus, as is seen in (58):

- (58) *utas, Ipad, nöötbüük zereg xeregl-iig aw-č*  
 phone Ipad notebook such.as device-ACC take-IPFV.CVB  
*or-ox-iig xoriglo-son. učir n<sup>j</sup>*  
 enter-FUT.PTCP-ACC forbid-PST.PTCP because 3POSS  
*iim xeregl-üüd-ees šatr-iin nüüdel xar-ž, “budaa*  
 such device-PL-ABL chess-GEN move see-IPFV.CVB rice  
*id-ex” bolomž-toi*  
 eat-FUT.PTCP opportunity-COM  
*bai-dag yum.*  
 be-HAB.PTCP PTCL  
 ‘It is forbidden to bring in devices such as phones, iPads, and notebooks. Because it is possible to see chess moves from such tools and “eat rice” [=copy them (from there)].’ (miss.mn, WaC)

- (59) *uxaan ald-tal-aa uu-x*  
 sanity/consciousness lose-CVB (until)-RPOSS drink-FUT.PTCP  
 ‘drink [liquor] until you lose consciousness/sanity’ (MT)<sup>24</sup>

In (59) there is an implied object *arxi* ‘liquor’, which has an intoxicating effect on the human mind. A rhetorical device of exaggeration is used here, considering that the

<sup>24</sup>Wikionary provides a similar interpretation for this idiom, namely *xeterxii tx arxi uuž erüül uxaxanaa aldax* ‘drink too much and lose your sanity’. The idiom *uxaxanaa uux* ‘drink too much alcohol’ (< *uxaan* ‘sanity’ + -*aa* = RPOSS + *uu-* ‘drink’ +- *x* = FUT.PTCP) means the same (<http://mn.wiktionary.org/wiki/yux>).

person who is drunk might still keep one's sanity even if he or she gets drunk. The meaning of (59) is compositional and rather transparent.

- (60) *xool-toi-g-oo*                      *cug*                      *id-ex*  
 food-COM-ACC-RPOSS together eat-FUT.PTCP  
 'ignore and forget' (lit.: eat (something) together with food) (MT)

In (60) the overall meaning of this idiom is somehow deducible, given that people have to concentrate on what they eat for the sake of safety or pleasurable gustation so that other things can be easily ignored and forgotten.

- (61) *ter-eer*    *enexüü*    *arxag\_öwčn-öö*                      *edgee-x-iin*                      *tul-d*  
 3SG-SUBJ this.ATTR chronic.disease-RPOSS cure-FUT.PTCP-GEN therefore-DAT  
*olon*                      *žil-iin*                      *turš*                      *ödör\_bür*                      *em*  
 many year-GEN during every.day medicine  
*uu-ž*    *bai-gaa.*  
 drink-IPFV.CVB be-IPFV.PTCP  
 'He has been taking medication every day for years to cure this chronic disease.' (medeelne.mn, WaC)

The use of *uu-* with a sense of 'take medication' in (61) is conventionalized and it seems to be culturally specific. In Mongolian, *em* 'medicine' in whatever form (tablet, powder, or liquids) are drunk and not eaten.<sup>25</sup>

- (62) *noxoi id-meer*  
 dog eat-PTCP  
 '(things that are unsatisfactory and thus) only likely to be eaten by the dog' (MT)

The idiom in (62) is also conventionalized (cf. *noxoi id-Ø/id-eg* in Table 12). No related corpus example is found. According to MT, *noxoi idmeer* is interpreted as *yumiig golž čamlan noxoi idex yum* '(someone is) picky and things that are eaten by a dog'. This expression might be explained from a cultural perspective, as things that are not eaten by humans are normally fed to dogs in Mongolian culture. It implies that someone is dissatisfied with things and is picky.

- (63) "*bagalzuur*    *id-Ø*"<sup>26</sup>                      *ge-x*    *n<sup>j</sup>*                      *er,*                      *em*  
 throat eat-Ø say-FUT.PTCP 3POSS man woman  
*bol-ox*                      *xurim*                      *xii-x*  
 be-FUT.PTCP wedding hold-FUT.PTCP  
*ge-sen*                      *üg*                      *biz.*  
 say-EST.PST word PTCL  
 'The so-called "eating a throat" means holding a wedding to become husband and wife.' (blogmn.net, WaC)

<sup>25</sup>*Em uux* is interpreted as *šingen bolon šaxmal emiig balgaž zalgix zažilž idex* 'swallow or chew liquids and tablets' in wiktory. Likewise, MT provides a similar interpretation to *em uux* and treats it as a basic meaning of *uu-*. Thus, in this study it is counted among the basic meanings of *uu-*.

<sup>26</sup>There are a total of seven concordance hits for *Багалзуур ид\** (*bagalzuur id\**) in the corpus.

The idiom in (63) is obsolete. Traditionally, in Mongolian culture, there was a rite to strengthen the tribal bond between the wife's and the husband's families, in which the throat of a sheep is eaten at the wedding (MT). Note also the following examples:

- (64) *xečneen xonog eriün-ii šöl uu-x bol?*  
 how.many day.and.night chin-GEN soup drink-FUT.PTCP COND  
 'How many days will (I) **be scolded?**' (MT)

In (64) *eriünii šöl uux* is an idiom, which denotes the meaning of 'be scolded'. The corpus context of this example did not provide a useful clue for us to understand the meaning of the idiom. In MT, it is interpreted as *zagnuulax, aašluulax* 'be scolded'; likewise, according to Wiktionary, this idiom is explained as *xüneer zemlүүлэх, zagnuulax* 'be reprimanded or scolded by a person'.

- (65) *noxoi guraw xar-agd-tal uu-x*  
 dog three see-PASS-CVB.until drink-FUT.PTCP  
 'drink too much alcohol and lose your consciousness' (lit. drink until one dog is seen as three) (MT)
- (66) *uu-ž id-ex-ee (u)mart-ax*  
 drink-IPFV.CVB eat-FUT.PTCP-RPOSS forget-FUT.PTCP  
 'focus and work hard on something' (lit. forget to eat and drink) (MT)
- (67) *öws id-ež us uu-san yum šig*  
 grass eat-IPFV.CVB water drink-EST.PST PTCL as.if  
 'powerless, weak, exhausted' (lit. as if having eaten grass and drunk water) (MT)

The idioms in (65)–(67) are fixed in form but their meanings show various degrees of transparency. The meanings of the idioms in (65) and (66) are rather transparent based on world knowledge, whereas the meaning of (67) is semi-transparent and somewhat deducible, given that a person would eat the same food as a herded animal does for the sake of survival, but such sustenance does not suffice for a human to stay fit and healthy, thus the meaning of 'powerless'. The meaning of (67) is rather opaque without proper cultural context.

Other culturally unique conventionalized idioms which appear in the corpus are listed in Table 11.

In the examples in Table 11, the verb *id-* keeps its original basic meaning of 'eat', but the overall meaning of the chunks (except for examples 2 and 6) can be deduced from the individual components. Semantic transparency and formal fixedness of these idioms lie on a continuum.

Some idioms are relatively transparent in their meanings and their forms are variable: example 3 'eat too much' in Table 11 (see example 6 in Table 12, which means the same, that is, *yesön süwee böglertel id-* 'eat too much' < *yesön* 'nine' + *süw* 'aperture; orifice; hole' + *-ee* = RPOSS + *böglertel* 'fill' + *-tel* = CVB (until) + *id-* 'eat') and example 4 'to be very intimate' are exaggerated expressions whose meanings can be deduced to some extent based on common knowledge. Example 5 'will drink bitter wine of regret to one's satisfaction' can be seen as a poetic



**Table 11.** Conventionalized idioms of eating and drinking in Mongolian WaC

Word forms	Meanings	Frequency of occurrence
1. <i>xoyor idexgüi xooson xonoxgüi</i>	'eke out a living (lit. 'do not eat twice (but) not sleep with an empty stomach (either)')' (wiktionary.org)	5
2. <i>möög idex</i>	'feel humiliated; fail in love; be ashamed of something' (lit. 'eat mushrooms') (horiotoi.org)	1
3. <i>amaaraa gartal idex</i>	'eat too much (lit. 'eat until something comes out of one's mouth') (exaggeration)' (wiktionary.org)	1
4. <i>aman daxia xuwaaz idex</i>	'to be very intimate (lit. 'eat by sharing what is inside the mouth')'(exaggeration) (wiktionary.org)	1
5. <i>xaruusliin gašuun darsnaas xanatalaa uux bolno</i>	'regret completely (lit. 'will drink to satiety from the bitter wine of sorrow/regret')' (alliteration & metonymy) (horiotoi.org)	1
6. <i>xoyor cixnees xoiš orox yum (xar yaria.)</i>	'things to eat; food' (slang) (lit. 'things that enter after two ears') (wiktionary.org)	1

Note. In the concordance in example 1, two examples use the Arabic letter 2 instead of the Cyrillic script *xoöp*, that is, *xoyor*; one example occurs in reverse order *xooson xonoxgüi xoyor idexgüi*. The expression in example 6 is slang; based on MT, the context further says, '*xöörxii balar cagiin xün xoyor cixnees n' xoiš orox yum l oldwol cadaxaa medxgüi idež awaad tüüniigee žargalin deed gež üzdeg baižee.*' (lit. The poor primitive man, as long as (he) found something to come after his ears, (he) would eat it to his heart's content and considered it the highest happiness'. (B. Rinčyen, Zaan Zaluudai, wiktionary.org). It can be deduced that it is difficult for a primitive man to find food, where to protect 'two ears' (i.e., 'body') from danger is the primary concern for him; other items like food must have come after (lit. Food has to be put behind two ears/considered next). Thus, 'things that come after two ears' refer to 'things to eat' here.

expression where metonymy is involved; *xaruusliin gašuun dars* 'bitter wine of regret', stands for 'feelings of sorrows and regret' and alliteration between *xaruusal* 'regret' and *xanatal* 'till getting satisfied' is used to achieve a poetic effect. In comparison, other idioms are rather opaque in meanings while the forms are fixed or semi-fixed. Example 2 'be humiliated' has an opaque meaning and a fixed form and Example 1 'eke out a living' allows a variant form of *xoyor idel ügüi*, *xooson xonol ügüi* in Written Mongolian with the same meaning. It is hard to explain why the numeral *xoyor* occurs in this expression, making its meaning rather opaque.

## 6.2. A comparison with idioms of eating and drinking in Modern Written Mongolian

To give a broader view of culturally unique idiomatic expressions relating to consumption verbs, several usages given in an Inner Mongolian dictionary (Bürintegüs, 2001) are cited in Table 12. It is obvious that idioms of eating and drinking in Modern Written Mongolian share great similarity in usages with those found in Khalkha Mongolian, which show varying degrees of noncompositionality and fixedness. To be consistent in style, Written Mongolian is transcribed following the same scheme as Khalkha Mongolian and is converted to Khalkha spelling (cf. fn. 8).

The examples listed in Table 12 reveal that wild animals like horses and bulls (see examples 3, 4) or human being's behaviour patterns (see example 5) are used in idiomatic expressions pertaining to Mongolian consumption words to denote the

**Table 12.** Modern Written Mongolian idiomatic expressions containing consumption verbs with literal meanings (cited and translated from Būrintegūs 2001)

Word forms	Meanings
1. <i>noxoi id-Ø/id-eg</i>	'useless; pointless' (lit. 'Let the dog eat something.') (p. 457)
2. <i>noiriig n<sup>i</sup> noxoi awax</i>	'suffer from sleeplessness' (lit. 'A dog takes one's sleep.') (p. 456)
3. <i>uuž idexdeen urgiin mor<sup>i</sup>, urugš židgūügdeen xašan bux.</i>	'be fond of eating and drinking but be lazy to work' (lit. 'When eating and drinking, (one moves fast) like a specially trained horse used for lasso poles; when pulling forward, (one moves slowly) like a lazy bull.') (p. 250)
4. <i>idne gewel er bars, yawna gewel xašan bux.</i>	'be fond of eating and unwilling to work' (lit. 'When eating and drinking, (one moves fast like) a male tiger; when walking, (one acts like) a lazy bull.') (p. 251)
5. <i>angaž ideed alcaž xewt-</i>	'be idle and behave in an unseemly manner' (lit. 'eat with one's mouth wide open and lie in bed with one's legs spread') (p. 7)
6. <i>yesön süwee böglertel id-</i>	'eat too much' (lit. 'eat and drink until one's nine holes/apertures are filled up') (p. 1360)
7. <i>öglöö idwel oroi ügüi, ömd xiwel camc ügüi.</i>	'be poor' (lit. 'After eating in the morning, there will be no (meal for) evening; aafter making trousers, there will be no shirts.') (p. 337)

Note. Būrintegūs (2001, pp. 208–211, 249–251) lists more idioms relating to EAT and DRINK in Written Mongolian which denote the meaning of 'enjoy eating and drinking but lazy to work'.

meaning of 'being lazy and gluttonous'. Such vivid expressions can be analyzed as figurative idioms with comparatively transparent meanings and semi-fixed structures. In addition, exaggeration is an important means of forming figurative idioms in Mongolian; usually the meaning of such an expression is rather transparent (see examples 6 and 7). There are similar idioms to example 7 in Modern Written Mongolian, for example, *öglöö idbel üdeš ügüi, ömd xibel xantaaz ügüi*. 'After eating in the morning, there will be no (meal for) dusk; after making trousers, there will be no vest', which have the same meaning of 'be poor'. In example 2 the verb *awax* 'take' is replaceable by *idex*; *id-* would denote the extended meaning of 'take' in this case.

Apart from what is listed in Table 12, Būrintegūs (2001) also covers some calques of Chinese idiomatic expressions concerning Mongolian consumption verbs whose meanings are relatively opaque and whose structures are semi-fixed. Note the following examples:

- (68) a. 癞蛤蟆 想 吃 天鹅肉  
*lànháma xiǎng chī tiān'éròu*  
 toad wish.to eat swan.meat  
 'crave for what one is not worthy of' (lit. 'A toad wishes to eat swan meat.')  
 (Chinese Folk Saying)
- b. *lag\_melxii luun\_max id-ex-iig daral-mui.*  
 toad dragon.meat eat-FUT.PTCP-ACC desire-PRS  
 'have a wishful thinking' (lit. 'A toad desires to eat dragon meat.')  
 (Būrintegūs, 2001, p. 977)

Example (68a) is widely used on occasions when an ugly man wishes to marry a pretty girl. It is used to advise that someone should be practical and stop day-dreaming. The

component *tiānròu* ‘swan meat’ has an extended meaning of ‘something desirable’. In (68b), the *tiānròu* ‘swan meat’ is replaced with *luun max* ‘dragon meat’, but it does not alter the meaning of the whole chunk.

- (69) a. 哑巴 吃 饺子 心里 有数  
*yǎbā chī jiǎozi xīnli yǒushù*  
 mute eat dumplings in.the.heart count.the.number  
 ‘know something well in one’s heart’ (lit. ‘When mute people eat dumplings, they count the numbers in their mind.’) (Chinese Folk Saying)
- b. *yaaba xūn boow id-exed dot-or-aa too-toi.*  
 mute person pastry eat-CVB.when inside-LOC-RPOSS number-COM  
 ‘Do not despise people; everyone knows what they are doing.’ (Bürintegüs, 2001, p. 1334)

(69a) means that in one’s mind a person has a clear idea of what he or she is doing, so even the weakest people should be respected. In (69b), the *jiǎozi* ‘dumplings’ is changed into *boow* ‘pastries’ in Mongolian, which does not affect the overall meaning of the chunk.

There are more calques of Chinese idiomatic expressions which involve consumption verbs in Written Mongolian. A large proportion of such calques are from political texts and literary works (cf. Wu, 2019, pp. 201–203, 206–208 for a detailed analysis).

Calques of Chinese idioms relating to EAT verbs are common in Khorchin Mongolian. For example, *xurim id-* ‘eat a wedding banquet/ feast at a wedding’ (< *xurim* ‘wedding’ + *id-* ‘eat’) is a calque idiom derived from *chī hūnyàn* ‘eat a wedding banquet’ (< *chī* ‘eat’ + *hūnyàn* ‘wedding banquet’); *bayar id-* ‘eat a banquet’ (< *bayar* ‘joy’ + *id-* ‘eat’) derives from *chī xiyàn* ‘eat a wedding banquet’ (< *chī* ‘eat’ + *xiyàn* ‘wedding banquet’) (own knowledge).

### 6.3. Idioms or proverbs?

Note that there is not always a clear-cut borderline between idioms and proverbs, when the overall meaning of an expression is metaphorical. However, proverbs generally give advice to people to guide their actions and their meanings can be rather transparent. Note the following examples:

- (70) *uu-ž id-exd-ee xurdan, unt-až*  
 drink-IPFV.CVB eat-CVB.when-RPOSS fast sleep-IPFV.CVB  
*xewt-exd-ee mergen.*  
 lie.down-CVB.when-RPOSS alert  
 ‘gluttonous and lazy’ (lit. ‘quick when eating and drinking; alert when lying asleep’) (MT)
- (71) *uu-dag und-aa bagasga-Ø, unt-ax*  
 drink-HAB.PTCP drinks-RPOSS reduce-IMP sleep-FUT.PTCP  
*noir-oo boginosgo-Ø!*  
 sleep-RPOSS shorten-IMP  
 ‘work hard’ (lit. ‘Reduce the amount of drinks you drink, and shorten your sleep!’) (MT)

Proverbs in (70) and (71) are rather descriptive and transparent in meaning. However, some proverbs can be metaphorical in their meaning as shown below. Note the following example:

- (72) *Amyerik-čuud-iin xel-deg-eer am<sup>j</sup>dral čam-d lyemon ög-wöl*  
 America-PL-GEN say-HAB.PTCP-INS life 2SG-DAT lemon give-COND  
*tüü-geer-ee šüüs*  
 that-INS-RPOSS juice  
*xii-geed uu-Ø ge-deg šig xyamral-aas sain*  
 make-PFV.CVB drink-IMP say-HAB.PTCP like crisis-ABL good  
*tal-uud-iig xar-ax-iig orold<sup>j</sup>-yo.*  
 side-PL-ACC see-FUT.PTCP-ACC try-VOL  
 ‘As the Americans say, “If life gives you lemons, make lemonade and drink it!”  
 In this fashion, let us try to see the positive sides of a crisis!’ (wordpress.com,  
 WaC)

In (72), the American proverbial expression ‘when life gives you lemons, make lemonade’ is used as a calque in Mongolian. Here ‘lemons’ refer to ‘sourness or difficulty in life’, while ‘lemonade’ stands for something positive or desirable. Thus, this expression is used to encourage optimism and a positive can-do attitude in the face of adversity or misfortune.

Our focus in this paper is to analyze idioms, so proverbs are not discussed in any detail here and only several examples from Written Mongolian are listed in Table 13 for comparison (see MT and WaC for a wider range of usages of eating and drinking proverbs in Mongolian).

Note the following example which denotes the same meaning as example 2 in Table 13.

- (73) *id-sen erüü xuwxair-č id-üül-sen but urga-dag.*  
 eat-EST.PST chin wither-IPFV.CVB eat-CAUS-PST bush grow-HAB.PTCP  
 ‘Those who snatch others’ possessions will not end well. In contrast, those  
 who are deprived of their fortunes will thrive in the end.’ (lit. A jaw which  
 eats decays and a bush which gets eaten grows.)’ (dorgio.mn, WaC)

The wording of this proverb is almost the same with that of example 2 in Table 13, where *but* ‘bush’ replaces *dob* ‘knoll’, and *urg-* ‘grow’ replaces *xöxr-* ‘turn green’. This reveals the formal variability of proverbs to some extent.

## 7. Conclusions

The current study has investigated both metaphorical extensions of *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ and culturally unique idioms of eating and drinking in Khalkha Mongolian. Culturally unique idioms, proverbs and relevant calque expressions in Modern Written Mongolian are also given some attention to deepen our understanding of the complex nature of idioms in Mongolian.

Metaphorical extensions of the verbs *id-* ‘eat’ and *uu-* ‘drink’ in Mongolian are analysed on the basis of Conceptual Metaphor Theory. The study supports Newman’s (1997) experiential view that two sources are related to eating and drinking

**Table 13.** Modern Written Mongolian proverbs containing consumption verbs with literal meanings (cited and translated from Būrintegūs, 2001)

Word forms	Meanings
1. <i>am'd yawbal altan ayagaar aršaan/umdaa uuna.</i>	'Everything is possible and dreams are attainable.' (lit. 'If being alive, (one) will drink spring/drinks from a golden bowl.') (p. 62)
2. <i>idsen erüü xuwxairž, idüülseñ dow xöxrönö.</i>	'The righteous people will not always suffer; those oppressors will be punished eventually.' (lit. 'A chin which has eaten withers, a knoll that has been grazed bare turns green.') (p. 212)
3. <i>deer n' suunuu šoron deer, deeziiḡ n' idnüü xoron deer.</i>	'It is difficult to occupy a high position.' (lit. 'Talking about sitting on top, (it is) on a pointed edge of metal; talking about eating the first part of food, (it is) on poison.') (p. 1195)

Note. According to Būrintegūs (2001, p. 1195), the original expression for example 3 in Written Mongolian is *deger-e ni saḡun-a uu šoron deger-e, degeji yi ni ide-n-eüü qoron deger-e*. Sodobilig (2006, p. 730) lists a variation of this idiom which has the same meaning, namely *degeji idebel qoor iden\_e, deger\_e saḡubal šoro deger\_e saḡun\_a*.

metaphors cross-linguistically, namely, the consumer's sensation and the destruction of the consumed entity. Based on the Mongolian Web Corpus (mnWac16) and an extensive online dictionary (MT), the metaphorical extensions of *id-* and *uu-* were categorized into three subtypes, namely (a) agent-oriented extensions; (b) patient-oriented extensions and (c) equally agent- and patient-oriented expressions.

It was found that the majority of extensions of 'eating' in Mongolian are patient-oriented, covering such meanings as 'kill or loot', 'abuse or criticize someone', 'eat away at', 'spend (money) and (for iron etc. to) rust; corrode; eat into', whereas the majority of extensions of 'drinking' are agent-oriented, meaning 'inhale, smoke', 'earn/make/receive (money)' and 'absorb (ink)'. The commonly used agent-oriented extensions of 'eating' in Mongolian are 'embezzle (e.g., state property, tax money)', 'consume (feed, fuel, power, curse, etc.); take up (computer memory)' and 'undergo (wildfires, etc.)'. It is noteworthy that both verbs share similar meanings in terms of both agent and patient-oriented extensions, meaning 'live on' and 'exploit'. Occasionally, both verbs are used to denote the meaning of 'absorption' in agent-oriented extensions, with different patients involved ('ink; oil' for *uu-* and 'fuel; feed' for *id-*). Moreover, 'eating' denotes both agent and patient-oriented extensions of 'go back on one's words; break one's promise' and 'conquer or defeat opponents in a game' and 'inherit' (one's inheritance/property) which are not expressed by extensions of 'drinking'. Overall, *id-* denotes a wider range of meaning than that of *uu-* in Mongolian. Some cross-linguistic similarities can be observed in terms of metaphorical extensions of consumption verbs. EAT verbs tend to denote the meaning of 'conquer/overcome' in languages like Hausa and Manipuri. As Jagger and Buba (2009, p. 229) suggested, in Hausa *ci* 'eat' metaphors prototypically encode 'overcoming' of a patient by an animate agent, for example, in *mun cii sù* 'we beat (ate) them'; the nuance lies in the fact that Mongolian *id-* 'eat' denotes the meaning of 'take; eliminate' mostly in chess games, with an inanimate agent or a personified agent. Likewise, in Manipuri, an animate or inanimate agent functioning as the subject 'overcomes' a patient or a theme in eating metaphors (cf. Pramodini, 2010). In addition, as in Mongolian, in Akan, *dí* 'eat' is used in the extensions of psychological destruction and enjoying inheritance, while *nóm* 'drink' is used for the senses of 'absorption of oil' and 'smoking' (cf. Agyepong et al., 2017).

Several points regarding general grammatical and semantic properties of consumption verbs in Mongolian are summarized here. In terms of lexicalization, a few languages only have a unitary concept of eating and drinking, for example, in Manambu (Aikhenvald, 2009), but Mongolian possesses separate lexemes for both notions. Also, Mongolian ingestive verbs cannot be grammaticalized, unlike in Chepang (cf. Caughley, 1982). In contrast to a number of languages in which ingestive verbs are atypical transitive predicates (Næss, 2009), Mongolian ingestive verbs are typically used as transitive predicates, although intransitive uses of *id-* and *uu-* are also allowed after nominalization (cf. Wu, 2019, pp. 153–158). Similar to Japanese (Yamaguchi, 2009), certain Mongolian ingestive verbs denote either respectful or pejorative meanings, while we focused on honorifically neutral verbs in this paper. Mongolian ingestive verbs are relatively restricted in scale in terms of their metaphorical extensions, in comparison to other languages which demonstrated a vast range of metaphoricity. In addition, there are some culturally unique idioms of eating and drinking in Mongolian, which lie on a continuum in terms of noncompositionality and fixedness, that is, some idioms are more transparent in meaning and semi-fixed in form, while others are semantically less transparent and formally fixed. The explanations of these idioms involve sociocultural factors and world knowledge. Sometimes it is hard to draw a clear-cut boundary between idioms and proverbs. Proverbs pertaining to Mongolian consumption verbs and calque idioms borrowed from Chinese deserve further attention in future studies.

In summary, our current research furthers our understanding of the semantics and functions of ingestive verbs cross-culturally; in particular, the fact that patient-oriented extensions tend to be more connected with EAT verbs, while agent-oriented extensions are more likely to concern DRINK verbs in Mongolian seems to be a potentially important contribution to the field. The current study is not exhaustive in its investigation of metaphorical concepts of consumption verbs in Mongolian, since a wide range of separate lexemes which are used to denote aspects of ‘consuming’ in the language remain unexplored. Meanwhile, it would be interesting to explore how consumption verbs are used differently in different Mongolian dialects in future studies.

Our findings illustrated that Conceptual Metaphor Theory is useful for interpreting the metaphorical processing of a majority of eating and drinking metaphors in Mongolian. As in many other languages, the experiential reality related to the act of eating and drinking functions as a source for various metaphorical extensions. However, culturally specific expressions tend to go beyond the explanatory power of CMT.

## Abbreviations

ABL	ablative
ACC	accusative
ACT.FOC	action focus
ADD	additive
AGT	agentive
ALL	allative
ATTR	attributive
AUX	auxiliary

COM	comitative
COMPL	completive
COND	conditional
CVB	converb
DAT	dative
DIR	direct
EST	established
EXCLM	exclamation
FOC	focus clitic
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
IMP	imperative
IND	indicative
INDIR	indirect
INST	instrumental
IO	indirect object
IPFV	imperfective
LIM	limitative
LOC	locative
M	masculine
NEG	negation, negative
NMLZ	nominalizer
NPST	non past
PASS	passive
PFV	perfective
PLR	polar
PN	proper noun
POSS	possessive
PRS	present
PST	past
PTCL	particle
PTCP	participle
Q	question
RPOSS	reflexive possessive
SG	singular
SUBJ	subject marker
TOP	topic marker
VOL	voluntative
<	develop from
>	develop into
∅	zero
1	first person
2	second person
3	third person

**Supplementary Materials.** To view supplementary material for this article, please visit <http://doi.org/10.1017/langcog.2022.31>.

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**Data Availability Statement.** The corpus has been made available through *Mongolian text corpora | Sketch Engine*. The access policy of Mongolian WaC is 'trial', that is, available to both trial users as well as paying subscribers. The data are fully reproducible using this website. To facilitate readers' full accessibility to the data, the EXCEL files which contain the relevant corpus examples are published as an attachment to the paper. The repository link is shown below: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7254326>.

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