

乾隆973 中、英 雙語字典

Qian ≡ Long 973 Bilingual Dictionary

Chinese English

中華語文津梁

Communication with Chinese Language

文五、對中國文字繁、簡的省思 Article #5 “Rethinking of Chinese Characters – Traditional & Simplified”

本文摘自乾隆華文信函教材“認識學習華文特色 15 函”中之第十四函：認識中華文字之繁化與簡化，第九節。

中國歷史悠久，文化深邃，至今文言白話，常人已成斷代，但文字形音義不變，則學者仍可自行探索中文，若字隨音變，則為自棄文化。Chinese has a long history and profound culture. Modern Chinese society mainly uses the vernacular style of writing-“I write what I said, 我手寫我口”. This trend turns classical shortcomings into difficulty, not popular any more. Classical is opposed vernacular mainly reflected in two aspects “syntax and vocabulary”. For ordinary people has become a periodization (of history). For learners of Chinese literature, the classical training is indispensable. It is necessary to go through the proper training before one can understand the meaning, and write the Classical style. But traditional Chinese characters keeps their shape, phonetic and semantic meaning as those in Han & Tang dynasties, so that students could still study all the classics without any difficulty. If the change of Chinese characters only adopt those phonetic rules, that is abandoning their cultural roots and cause a Cultural Fault 文化斷層. It will be a terrible lost. 嘗見日韓二國，對華文俗稱漢字^[1]，已有同形異義之爭^[2]，如 1991 年南韓成立“國家漢字研討會”，迄今已開會十餘次！華文史為中國週邊國家所用，絕無統一之說，2007 年會中所提“簡體字與繁體字和諧共處”的觀點，僅為中臺港澳而言，這不應包括其他國家。Chinese characters to Korean and Japanese are commonly referred as Han-Zi 漢字. They have already created homonymy problems. In 1991 South Koren started “National Chinese Conference”, and it has held yearly. Chinese language used to be the official language to communicate with the entire region around China. In 2007, the key issue of this conference was to standardize and unify the traditional and simplified Chinese characters. It is an internal affair among China, Hongkong, Macau and Taiwan because we are under one Chinese culture. Rests of the region just adopt it. 如對繁體字大陸廢止，日韓拾取據為己有，若然百年後恐有「中華文字成外來語」、抑或「中華文字源自韓日之說」出，茲為未雨綢繆計，以附註短文^[3]為例，可見一斑，重對繁簡字之思考：China’s simplification processes eradicate 2,235 characters, should Korean and Japanese picked up those left. Maybe, there will be a saying that Chinese originated from Japanese or Korean in the future! Hereby for the rainy day account, do not let it happen. The attached short parpgraph^[3] shows the impact of the simplified characters. The following topics are for the consideration and discussion:

1. 原有繁體 39 個字禁止使用，其中多數皆昔人普識，古籍常見字，如今驟爾廢止，此令禁得今人，不及古人，今人受制於禁字，連同同音代替、合併，白字扶正，字形改造等故，逐使今之大學生不識古書，不知執古御今，誠文化之大損失也。There were 39 traditional characters commonly used in the classics and were part of general knowledge. So far, they are officially ceases and taken out from the Chinese fonts 字庫, but they are still in the classics. Together with the characters that lost from other simplification processes, such as: ^[4] 1) abolishing traditional characters by replacing the homonyms, 2) merging characters by sound but ignoring their meaning, 3) adopting colloquial-use or wrongful-use characters from different trades in the early time, 4) creating simpler characters as components for new characters, etc. worsen the gaps between Chinese classical and vernacular languages. Most college students in China cannot read traditional classics to learn those important values from our culture, such as humanities and apply them in the present to balance the current method of governance. That is even a bigger cultural lost than characters.

^[4] 同音代替，合併Merging a character into another one that sounds the same or similar or Merging several characters into a newly created and simpler character. 白字扶正Adopting those ancient characters were used to be in traditional Chinese system, but are simpler variants and with same pronunciation, such as 布for 佈. These simplified characters cause the confusing of meaning. 字形改造Replacing complicated components of common characters with simpler shapes - by creating new radical-radical or radical-phonetic compounds.

2. 查文字自古只有自然死字，自生增字，未有以政令硬性廢字者，故康熙字典乃得集字 47,035 個，中文大辭典亦得集字 49,888 個。Chinese characters system is a natural accumulation process. There are newly created characters and there are dead ones, but had never abolished the characters by government decree. So that Kang Xi 康熙 dictionary accumulated 47,053 characters, and The Encyclopedia Dictionary of Chinese Language accumulated 49,888.
3. 據統計，台灣高中學生識字 5,832 個，大學生識字 6,000-7,000 個，而古典經史子集：老子道德經 5,320 言，僅生字 825 個；論語 12,824 字，常用生字僅 845 個；宋訂十三經，共 589,283 字，生字僅 6,544 個，故認字 7000，研讀中華文化，一切日用，俱足矣，故曰：「中文字多，不是用多。」According to the statistics, currently high school students shall learn 5,832 Chinese characters and college are “6,000~7,000” characters. Those classics such as : Laotse's Tao Te Ching 道德經 included 5,320 words, only 825 characters, Analects of Confucius 論語 were 12,824 words, but 845 characters, Song dynasty's textbooks -13 Confucian Classics 十三經 contained 589,283

words, used 6,544 characters. The “7,000” will let you walk through the history and all your present daily use. No matter how huge the collection of Chinese characters is, but the commonly used are limited.

4. 至於所識 7,000 字中，可分口語字與語文字二類，二者教學用字，雅俗有別，先後有序；例如問青年人（老人）年齡，口語白話是：「你今年幾歲？」用語文則：「今年貴庚（高壽）？」The “7,000” could be divided into two groups - vernacular and literature language. They are in different sophisticate levels and in succession. For example, to ask other’s age as “How old are you?” “你今年幾歲(nǐ-jīn nián-jǐ suì) ?” is in vernacular language or spoken language. But in the literary or more sophisticate way will be as “今年貴庚？(jīn nián-guì gēng) or (高壽gāo shòu、芳齡fāng líng)” 故外國人學華語，應乎學習目的，對 7,000 字中字，亦應於教材中作適當配合、選擇（坊間常見 3000 字 1000 句之教材，只作交遊用，不能為厚植帶起興趣，治學基礎。）此即口話與語文之大別，有志中文者，不可不慎於始學也。Therefore, any foreigner learns Chinese should think about why do they want to learn? The contents of characters and words from this 7,000 should meet your program and be appropriate for students’ needs. (In the bookshops or internet, there are plenty of books or programs for conversation. They are only for entertaining or making friends, but they won’t be able to bring the students’ interest and improve their literacy at all). This is the fundamental difference between vernacular and literary literature. The educator should be more cautious in the beginning to plan the Chinese program, otherwise wasting the budgets and efforts.
5. 繁體字數一般學生辭典約載有一萬單字，簡化字表共有簡化 2,235 字，其中扣除草書楷化 1,445 字，只有 790 個字，如果再扣除俗體、異體字，所餘不過 540 字，以較學生字典，簡化字不過佔其中之 1/20，然簡體字大多為常用字，故可肯定說：簡化字是現代中國資訊傳播之工具字 - 為應用體。繁體字是中國自漢迄今之原字、母字，仍是中華文化主體。Common dictionaries for student-use contain approximate 10,000 traditional characters. The total simplified characters are 2,235 characters. To exclude 1) 1,445 simplified characters that changed cursive script text into regular text (only 790 are simplified characters), 2) colloquial-use and variant characters as in above Note ^[4], there are really only 540 simplified characters. To compare the whole simplified characters with student dictionaries, it is about 1/20 of the total characters. Since most of the simplified characters are common characters. They can be sure that simplified characters are the information and communication tool for modern China’s. It is the system for APPLICATION. Traditional characters are the original form since Han dynasity, 2000 year ago. It nurtures the development of Chinese culture and is still the main body of Chinese culture. 原字有形兼音義之本質，簡化字只是符號代字，已失形聲連繫之功，其

分化混同，已令人莫知辯正，而聲近相混，同聲代替，更零亂難知矣，故真心學習中文，仍需繁簡兩者並進，然從繁入簡易，學者若能「既知其繁體，以知其簡體」，不論為「兩識一用」，抑或「識繁用簡」，則治中華語文，方可古今相通，就不會因簡字之誤解而枉費功夫，貽害成果。China's simplification of character focuses on phonetics approach. It ignored all the semantic components, i.e. shape/graph, meaning. It symbolized all 2,235 simplified characters. The confusion caused by the differentiation and mixing up from thier originated sets of rule (六書Six Methods of forming Chinese characters) is difficult to recognize/Identify. Furthermore, by adopting those characters were used to be colloquial-use or wrongful-use in traditional Chinese system, but are simpler variants and pronounce e similar or same. This added more complication. If someone really plans to learn Chinese language, he or she should learn both traditional and simplified. But to start from the traditional characters then simplified is much easier. It links the present to the past without any gaps. And then it is easy to learn both simplified and traditional characters. He and she would be truly learning the Chinese language. So there is no mistake, and there is no wasting time.

6. 古人以行、草書為簡化字體，既形美，又寫快，不像簡化字作詩寫聯不宜，掛起來也不中看。故學習書法，亦當自繁體字入手。In the history, the semi-cursive and cursive scripts were already used as the simplified writing system which co-existed with the regular text. It is practical and artistic. But to write the cursive in standard script is only a sense of tool and can't never be used as couplet, horizontal tablet or scroll for calligraphy.
7. 提筆寫字，每能代表知識水平，一個有身份地位者，如出手寫字儘多「白字」、代替字，必會遭人訕笑，因為台灣小學四年級學生已識字 1,911 個，國中生更識字 5,114 個，二者皆能一眼判知正誤也。Handwriting usually represents one's level of knowledge and status. If an educated person constantly write errors or wrongly characters in his or her writting will be subject to ridicule. In Taiwan, a 4th grade student should learn 1,911 characters and a middle school student for 5,114 characters. Both of them can tell a character wheather is right or wrong in a glance.

總之，消除文盲之法不僅是簡化字體，簡化字隨經濟發展，現為世界各國所共識，但其失有二：（一）與傳統文化分歧，故簡化字體應從字的重新分析、定位正名，否則簡化字在不久的未來，將為中國歷史文化，再添一章如漢代之訓詁與考證的新難題；（二）輸入法仍局限於懂中文者用，而未能突破如英文輸入法般之易用與大眾化，故配合現今科技，與英文方輸入法接軌方為上策。故為了實用，既學中文會說，必須同時學字會寫，才是真能人高手。In summary, the simplification had its purposes to reduce the ill-literacy rate for the education. Simplified characters got its popularity

thru China's economic development, but it failed to cover two major basic needs. **First**, lack of the accuracy links to its original phonetic and semantic components which it causes ambiguity/confusion for its shape/graph, sound/pronunciation and meaning/usage. The simplification creates a gap in our culture continuity. It needs more efforts on education of the Chinese characters so as to be re-linked traditional and simplified together. Otherwise, another round of 訓詁 (xùn-gǔ, to interpret and make glossaries and commentaries on classic texts with ancient meanings of words) and 考證 (kǎo-zhèng, research to verify authorship, age, different editions, etc.) will occur again in the future as what has happened to classics from Han dynasty. **Second**, simplification supposes to meet and links to the development of modern technology – the main-stream Chinese inputting method should be more user-friendly and not just for Chinese only. So a real China expert should be able to read and write, he or she is the true 21st century's global citizen.

[1] (摘自乾隆 973 字典abstract from QL 973 dictionary)

漢字(hàn zì) – 日本人稱中國字為漢字，此說與中國專指漢碑書體言有大不同。Japanese name for Chinese characters. But in Chinese, it specifically refers to the calligraphy style of Han dynasty.

漢語(hàn yǔ) – 日本人稱中國語言為漢語。古日本自稱倭奴國，漢光武帝時日人進貢，受封賜國號金印及百物，日人遂凡百得自漢帝所賞，皆冠「漢」字，迄今成習，中國清末東渡經商求學者歸國，引日語自稱「漢人、漢字、漢語」等，殊失中文本義。奈以外人隨日本人積非成是，國人亦隨之人云亦云，自亂名實。Japanese name for Chinese language. Since Han dynasty, Japanese offered contribute to Emperor Guangwu (6 BC-AD 57) and Emperor conferred a title and seal to Japanese with rewards; Japanese entitled everything related to China with Han 漢. During end of Ching dynasty merchants and students went to Japan to do business or study. When they came back but still quote Chinese as Japanese, such as 漢人、漢字、漢語. Those people either don't know or confuse their original meaning of Chinese. A wrong repeated becomes right and most of people say what everyone says. Nowadays the actual name and reality of Han 漢 are truely in confusion or disorder.

[2] (摘自第十一封信 abstract from Letter XI)

日本古稱倭人，本無文字，日本文字中，唐以後竊中文作「同形、異義、別音」之挪用，非驢非馬，以為「東洋文化」，故見日文漢字不可逕作華字解，如其「便紙」非草紙，其「便急宅」，非流動廁所然。Japan's ancient name was Shidori. Originally they had no written language. Since Tang dynasty Japanese has started to steal from Chinese characters and used as Japanese, but they have different meaning and pronuciation. It is neither fish nor fowl. That is the "Japanese Culture". Hence to read the Chinese characters in Kanji should not directly intepret as Chinese does. 今其用字已達 1,985 個，皆「字同、音殊、義異」，觀其逐年增字率，不出十年必逾 2000 字，在此情形下，大陸不宜「禁用繁體字」，平白將楷字送日本人，充為日本字，故為保護民族祖先文化遺產之完整性與歷史責任，亟應再作修正，恢復楷書為「學術體」。So far they have stolen 1,985 Chinese characters. In this case, China should not prohibit on teaching traditional characters and give them to Japanese with no reason. Therefore, to protect our cultural heritage, China should be urgently to amend the National Common Language Law國家通用語言文字法 and resume the traditional characters in the education as "Academic Style".

^[3] (所有明體皆為簡化字，楷體字皆為繁體字。) All the square font characters are simplified and the standart script are traditional. The simplified are more than half in this paragraph.) 以下列短文為例，可見一斑。

诗经是我国第一部诗歌总集，共收入自西周初期至春秋中叶约五百年间的诗歌三百零五篇。最初称《诗》，汉代儒者奉为经典，乃称《诗经》。他开创了我国古代诗歌创作的现实主义的优秀传统。诗经“六义”指的是风、雅、颂、赋、比、兴，前三个说的是内容，后三个说的是手法。