

Some basic Chinese references for the study of pre-Han and Han language

Gao Shupan et al. eds. 1991. 高樹潘等編. 文言文虛詞大詞典. 武漢: 湖北教育出版社.

Gudai Hanyu yanjiushi, ed. 1999. 中国社会科学院 语言研究所 古代汉语研究室编. 古代汉语虚词词典. 北京: 商务印书馆.

He Leshi. 1988. 何樂士. 左傳的“政以治民”和“以政治民”句式. 中國語言學報 3.75-82, republished in He Leshi (2000:1-12).

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--. 2004. 《左传》虚词研究 (修订本). 北京: 商务印书馆.

--. 2004a. 先秦 [动·之·名] 双宾式中的“之”是否等于“其”. In He Leshi 2004, pp. 1-23.

--. 2005. 《史记》语法特点研究. 北京: 商务印书馆.

--, ed. 2006. 何乐士 编. 古代汉语虚词词典. 北京: 语文出版社

Huang Jingui. 1995. 黄金贵. 古代文化词义集类便考. 上海: 上海教育.

Lin Fengshan, Feng Qiang et al., eds. 2005. 林枫杉, 冯强 主编. 古汉语常用字字典. 长春: 吉林大学出版社.

NB: Dictionaries with this title, 古汉语常用字字典, are constantly being revised, updated and reprinted by various publishers in PRC, in both 繁 and 简 versions. (Of course, I think you should be reading pre-modern texts in 繁體 versions. Note that Wang Li's 『古代漢語』 seems always (?) to have been issued in “traditional characters”.)

Sun Liping, ed. 2003. 孙力平编. 古汉语语法研究论文索引 (1900-2000). 北京: 商务印书馆, to follow up on specialized problems in grammar and lexicon. More recent good work is often published in 中國語文, 古漢語研究 and a host of other journals.

Wang Fengyang. 2011. 王凤阳. 古辞辨 (增订本). 北京: 中华书局.

Both Wang Li and Zhang Shilu give very full lexical notes for the texts they present, so you really should not need a separate dictionary for the study of their materials. However, Wang Li's own dictionary can be recommended, if you wish to have a one-volume reference on your desk. (It's too big to carry around; hence the mention of the more compact 常用字字典 above.)

Note the three particle dictionaries, Gao (1991), Gudai Hanyu yanjiushi (1999), and He Leshi (2006), all of which I find very helpful. Gao and He's work contains 白话 translations of many of the examples cited, so the user can understand exactly how the editors understand the texts.

You will note that I'm a fan of He Leshi's scholarship on pre-Han and Han. She was not trained as a theoretical linguist, of course, but her work is very thorough, tackles difficult problems and, for the most part, reaches what I think are reasonable solutions, within the kind of descriptive framework she assumes.