The Discourse Flexibility of Zhao Yuanren [Yuen Ren Chao]'s Homophonic Text

He Hengxing

THE DISCOURSE FLEXIBILITY OF
ZHAO YUANREN [YUEN REN CHAO]'S HOMOPHONIC TEXT
He Hengxing

South China Normal University, Guangzhou

ABSTRACT

Chinese American linguist Zhao Yuanren [Yuen Ren Chao] 赵元任's homophonic Chinese text entitled "Shi shi shi shi shi 施氏食狮史" (or Story of stone grotto poet eating lions) (Zhao [Chao] 1960; 1980:149) is a peculiar text that is little explored. This paper, with a discussion of this text in terms of mode of discourse, reveals how flexible a homophonic text can be, and how mode of discourse can bend a discourse in its length, syntax, style, and structure. This study enriches the linguistic power and intelligence to Zhao [Chao]'s original homophonic text and offers some implications for the research of homophonic texts and discourses.

He Hengxing [hehengxing@m.scnu.edu.cn]; School of Foreign Studies (Waiguo Yuyan Wenhua Xueyuan), South China Normal University (Huanan Shifan Daxue), Guangzhou, 510631, P.R. China; 🆔 https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1435-7065

KEYWORDS

Discourse   **T**ext   **H**omophonic text   **D**iscourse flexibility

1．INTRODUCTION

Zhao Yuanren [Yuen Ren Chao] 赵元任, the father of modern Chinese, once wrote a homophonic Chinese article entitled "*Shi shi shi shi shi* 施氏食狮史" (Story of stone grotto poet: Eating lions)**.** (Zhao[Chao] 1960; 1980, 149)   Originally he did this kind of homophonic texts for the purpose of illustrating the uniqueness of the Chinese language in terms of the relation between oral and written systems, (Zhao [Chao] 1960; 1967, 319-322; 1968, 115-122; 1980, 150-151; Behr 2015; Zhang 2015) or to use Zhao[Chao]'s own words, "the fact of visual reading and the reality of the written language with an autonomous existence on its own account." (Chao 1968, 121)   To date, only a number of studies on this kind of discourse (i.e., Fang 1999; Yan 2005; Feng 2010; Zhang 2011; Wang 2013) are available. These studies mainly focus on either the unique features of the Chinese language (Zhang 2011), or the relation between Romanization/pinyinization and the Chinese language (Yan 2005, Feng 2010, Wang 2013), few are concerned with the other features of the discourse.

This paper argues that Zhao[Chao]'s text enjoys discourse flexibility. In terms of mode of discourse, it can be reworded, bringing certain change to its syntax, textual length, style, and discourse structure, which, the author of this paper believes, will benefit the language scholars in general.

2．DISCOURSE AND TEXT

In language analysis, many scholars use both the terms discourse and text, but sometimes they refer to them as quite different things. A case in point is Harris's "Discourse analysis" (1952a) and "Discourse analysis: A sample text" (1952b), in which by text he probably meant the final product in the form of presswork or oral work, and by discourse a bigger and more general concept involving the environment from which text could be derived.

Linguistic scholars generally follow his idea, with some deviations though. Leech (1983, 59), for instance, puts discourse and text at the wider and narrower ends of the line of linguistic communication, i.e.,

discourse – message – text. Halliday (2000, F48-F49, 390) and Halliday and Matthiessen (2014, 3) regard text both as product and process, but more as the latter, and text analysis as a necessary thing in the understanding of discourse whose register is determined by the factors of field, mode and tenor.

The term "text" is used in this paper after Harris to mean the final product in the form of presswork, whereas the term "discourse" after Harris and Halliday to mean a much broader concept with the environment included. And Zhao[Chao]'s homophonic article or text is to be studied within a wider concept of discourse, by merely looking at its variations in terms of mode of discourse, to show its discourse flexibility.

3．THE DISCOURSE FLEXIBILITY
3.1 The Discourse Flexibility in Wording

Linguistic communication means the use of language, which is realized in wording. And this paper argues that Zhao[Chao]'s homophonic text has flexibility in wording. As Zhao[Chao]'s homophonic text has a number of versions, this paper will analyze its latest version (reprint) that appears in Zhao[Chao]'s work of *Yuyan Wenti* (Language issues) (1980, 149). For discussion and reader's better understanding, what is presented below is its whole Chinese character text along with its pinyin text and English translation by the author of the present paper.[1]

(1)

(A) shí   shì   shī   shì   Shī   shì，
石   室   诗   士   施   氏，
stone grotto poet   Shi   surname,

shì   shī，   shì   shí   shí shī。
嗜   狮，   誓   食   十   狮。
addicted to   lion,   swear eat   ten lion.
'There once was a poet in a stone grotto whose surname was Shi. He was addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions.'

(B) shì   shí shí shì shì   shì shī。
氏   时   时   适   市   视   狮。
surname   often   go   market   see lion.
'He often went to the market to see lions.'

(C) shí   shí，   shì   shí   shī   shì   shì。
十   时，   适   十   狮   适   市。
ten   o'clock,   happen   ten   lion   arrive   market.
'At ten o'clock (one day), ten lions happened to arrive at the market.'

(D) shì   shí，   shì   Shī   shì   shì   shì。
是   时，   适   施   氏   适   市。
this   time,   coincidentally   Shi   surname   arrive   market.
'And just then, he coincidentally arrived there.'

(E) shì   shì   shì   shí   shī，   shì   shǐ   shì，
氏   视   是   十   狮，   恃   矢   势，
surname   see   this   ten   lion,   rely   arrow   power,

shǐ   shì   shí   shī   shì   shì。
使   是   十   狮   逝   世。
make   this   ten   lion   pass   away.
'He saw the ten lions, and made them pass away with the power of his arrows.'

(F) shì   shí   shì   shí   shī   shī，   shì   shí   shì。
氏   拾   是   十   狮   尸，   适   石   室。
surname   collect   this   ten   lion   body,   arrive   stone   grotto.
'He collected the bodies of the ten lions and made for his stone grotto.'

(G) shí   shì   shī，
石   室   湿，
stone   grotto   wet,

shì   shǐ   shì   shì   shí   shì。
氏   使   侍   拭   石   室。
surname   make   servant   wipe   stone   grotto.
'As the stone grotto was wet, he ordered his servant to wipe it dry.'

(H) shí   shì   shì，
石   室   拭，
stone   grotto   wipe,

shì   shǐ   shì   shí   shì   shí   shī   shī。
氏   始   试   食   是   十   狮   尸。
surname   begin   try   eat   this   ten   lion   body.
'When the room was wiped, he began to try eating the bodies of the lions.'

(I) shí   shí，   shǐ   shí   shì   shí   shī   shī，
食   时，   始   识   是   十   狮   尸，
eat   time,   begin   realize   this   ten   lion   body,

shí   shí   shí   shī   shī。
实   十   石   狮   尸。
actually   ten   stone   lion   body.
'When eating, (he) began to realize that they were actually the bodies of ten stone lions.

(J) shì   shì   shì   shì。
试   释   是   事。
try   explain   this   thing.
'Try to explain this thing.'

In terms of mode, (1) can be reworded for example as (2), without changing its content:

(2)

(a) Shī   shì，   shí   shì   shī   shì。
施   氏，   石   室   诗   士。
Shi   surname,   stone   grotto   poet.
'A man whose surname was Shi was a poet in a stone grotto.
'

(b) Shī   shì   shì   shī，   shì   shí   shí   shī。
施   氏   嗜   狮，   誓   食   十   狮。
Shi   surname   addicted to   lion,   swear   eat   ten   lion.
'He was addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions.'

(c) Shī   shì   shí   shí   shì   shì   shì   shī。
施   氏   时   时   适   市   视   狮。
Shi   surname   often   go   market   see   lion.
'He often went to the market to see lions.'

(d) shí   shí，   Shī   shì   shì   shì。
十   时，   施   氏   适   市。
ten   o'clock,   Shi   surname   arrive   market.
'At ten o'clock (one day), he arrived at the market.'

(e) shì   shí，   shì   shí   shī   shì   shì。
是   时，   适   十   狮   适   市。
this   time,   coincidentally   Shi   surname   arrive   market.
'And just then, ten lions coincidentally arrived there.'

(f) Shī   shì   shì   shì   shí   shī，   shì   shǐ，
施   氏   视   是   十   狮，   恃   矢，
Shi   surname   see   this   ten   lion,   rely   arrow,

shǐ   shì   shí   shī   shì   shì。
使   是   十   狮   逝   世。
make   this   ten   lion   pass   away.
'He saw the ten lions, and made them pass away with his arrows.'

(g) Shī   shì   shí   shì   shí   shī   shī，
施   氏   拾   是   十   狮   尸，
Shi   surname   collect   this ten   lion body,

shì   shí   shì。
适   石   室。
arrive   stone   grotto.
'He collected the the ten lions and made for his stone grotto.'

(h) shí   shì   shī，
石   室   湿，
stone   grotto   wet,

Shī   shì   shǐ   shì   shì   shí   shì。
施   氏   使   侍   拭   石   室。
Shi   surname   make   servant wipe stone grotto.
'As the stone grotto was wet, he ordered his servant to wipe it dry.'

(i) shí   shì   shì，
石   室   拭，
stone   grotto   wipe,

Shī   shì   shǐ   shì   shí   shì   shí   shī。
施   氏   始   试   食   是   十   狮。
Shi   surname   begin try   eat   this ten   lion.
'When the room was wiped, he began to try eating the lions.'

(j) Shī   shì   shí   shí，
施   氏   食   时，
Shi   surname   eat   time,

shǐ   shí   shì   shí   shī，
始   识   是   十   狮，
begin   realize   this ten   lion,

shí   shí   shí   shī。
实   十   石   狮。
actually   ten   stone   lion.
'When eating, (he) began to realize that they were actually ten stone lions.'

(k) shì   shì   shì   shì。
    试   释   是   事。
    try   explain   this   thing.
    'Try to explain this thing.'

The text (1) composed of 10 sentences is reworded as that or (2) of 11 sentences. As can be seen in (2), all sentences in (1) except the last one have experienced some kind of variation. And even (1J) or (2k) can be deleted in practice of story telling as a kind of rewording technique. Then, (2) is not the sole possible version of rewording of Zhao[Chao]'s text in question. Actually, there are many other possibilities. And these possibilities are discussed in some detail below in terms of syntax, textual length, style, and discourse structure.

3.2 The Discourse Flexibility in Syntax

Zhao[Chao]'s text of (1) has discourse flexibility in syntax in that it can have various syntactic variations, which, along with examples, are shown below.

(i) Addition of subjects. In (1I), there are no subjects in both the time adverbial clause and the main clause. Their subjects are implied in the previous text, and they are added in (1I1) as "Shī shì"(Shi surname) or "shì"(surname).

(1I1) (Shī) shì shí shí，shì shí shì shí shī shī，shí shí shí shī shī。
      ((施)氏食时，始识是十狮尸，实十石狮尸。)
      'When Shi (he) (tried) eating, (he) began to realize that they were actually the bodies of ten stone lions.'

(ii) Deletion of (partial) subjects. The subject in (1F) and part of the subject in (1D) can be deleted, as in (1F1) and (1D1).

(1F1) shí shì shí shī shī，shì shí shì。(拾是十狮尸，适石室。)
      '(He) collected the bodies of the ten lions and made for his stone grotto.'

(1D1) shì shí，shì shì shì shì。(是时，适氏适市。)
      'And just then, he coincidentally arrived there.'

(**iii**) Change of subjects. The subject of the first clause in (1G) can be changed into Shi (施), deleting the subject in the second clause, as shown in (1G1) below.

(1G1) shì shì shí shì shī，shǐ shì shì shí shì。(氏视石室湿，使侍拭石室。)
　　　'He found the stone grotto wet, and ordered his servant to wipe it dry.'

In addition, all the subjects of "shì" (surname) in (1B), (1E), (1F), (1G), and (1H) can be changed into "Shī shì" (Shi surname) or "Shī" (Shi). For instance, (1B) can be rewritten as (1B1) or (1B2).

(1B1) shī shì shí shí shì shì shì shī。(施氏时时适市视狮。)
　　　'He often went to the market to see lions.'

(1B2) shī shí shí shì shì shì shī。(施时时适市视狮。)
　　　'He often went to the market to see lions.'

(**iv**) Addition of verbs. In the last part of (1I), a verb of "shì" (be) can be added, as in (1I2). And a verb "shì" (try) can be added to the beginning of (1I), as in (1I3).

(1I2) shí shí，shǐ shí shì shí shī shī，shí shì shí shí shī shī。(食时，始识是十狮尸，实是十石狮尸。)
　　　'When (he tried) eating, (he) began to realize that they were actually the bodies of stone lions.'

(1I3) shì shí shí，shǐ shí shì shí shī shī，shí shì shí shí shī shī。(试食时，始识是十狮尸，实十石狮尸。)
　　　'When (he) tried eating, (he) began to realize that they were actually the bodies of stone lions.'

(**v**) Change of verbs. The verb phrase in the last clause in (1E) can be changed into "shì" (kill), as in (1E1). And both the second and third verbs can be changed and combined into one, as in (1E2).

(1E1) shì shì shì shí shī，shì shǐ shì，shì shì shí shī。(氏视是十狮，恃矢势，弑是十狮。)
　　　'He saw the ten lions, and killed them with his arrows.'

(1E2) shì shì shì shí shī，shǐ shì shì shì shí shī。(氏视是十狮，使矢弑是十狮。)
　　　'He saw the ten lions, and used his arrows to kill them.'

(vi) Addition of objects. In the adverbial clause in (1I), an object "shì shí shī shī" (the bodies of the ten lions) can be added, as in (1I4).

(1I4) shí shì shí shī shī shí，shì shí shì shí shī shī，shí shì shí shí shī shī。(食十石狮尸时，始识是十狮尸，实是十石狮尸。)
'When (he tried) eating the bodies of the ten lions, (he) began to realize that the ten lions were actually the bodies of ten stone lions.'

(vii) Deletion of objects. The object or "shì shí shī shī" (the bodies of the ten lions) of the second clause in (1I) can be deleted, as in (1I5).

(1I5) shí shì shí shī shī shí，shì shí shí shì shí shī shī。(食时，始识实是十石狮尸。)
'When (he tried) eating, (he) began to realize (that they were) actually the bodies of ten stone lions.'

(viii) Change of objects. The object of "shì shí shī shī" (the bodies of the ten lions) in (1F), (1H), and (1I) can be changed into "shì shí shī" (the ten lions), as in (1F2), (1H1), and (1I6).

(1F2) shì shí shì shí shī，shì shí shì。(氏拾是十狮，适石室。)
'He collected the ten lions and made for his stone grotto.'

(1H1) shí shì shì，shì shí shì shí shì shí shī。(石室拭，氏始试食是十狮。)
'When the room was wiped dry, he began to try eating the ten lions.'

(1I6) shí shí，shì shí shì shí shī，shí shí shí shī。(食时，始识是十狮，实十石狮。)
'When (he tried) eating, (he) began to realize that the ten lions were actually ten stone lions.'

(ix) Addition of adverbs. In the second clause in (1A), an adverb of "(shí) shì" (really) can be added, as in (1A1).

(1A1) shí shì shī shì shī shì，shí shì shì shī，shì shí shí shī。(石室诗士施氏，(实)是嗜狮，誓食十狮。)
'There (once) was a poet in a stone grotto whose surname was Shi. He was very much addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions.'

(x) Deletion of adverbs. The adverb of "shì" (just, coincidentally) in (1C) and (1D) can be deleted, as in (1C1) and (1D2).

(1C1) shí shí，shí shī shì shì。(十时，十狮适市。)
　　　'At ten o'clock (one day), ten lions arrived at the market.'

(1D2) shì shí，shī shì shì shì。(是时，施氏适市。)
　　　'And just then, he arrived there.'

(xi) Addition of modifiers. A modifier or adjective of "shī" (wet) can be added to the subject noun of "shí shì" (stone grotto) in (1H), as in (1H2). And a modifier of "shì shí shī" (the ten lions) can be added to the object noun of "shì" (market) in (1D), as in (1D3).

(1H2) shī shí shì shì，shì shì shì shí shì shí shī shī。(湿石室拭，氏
　　　始试食是十狮尸。)
　　　'When the wet stone grotto was wiped, he began to try eating the bodies
　　　of the ten lions.'

(1D3) shì shí，shì Shī shì shì shì shí shī shì。(是时，适施氏适是十
　　　狮市。)
　　　'And just then, he coincidentally arrived at the market where the ten lions were.'

(xii) Deletion of modifiers. The modifier of "shì shí" (the ten) in (1F), (1H) and (1I) can be deleted, as in (1F3), (1H3) and (1I7).

(1F3) shì shí shī shī，shì shí shì。(氏拾狮尸，适石室。)
　　　'He collected the bodies of the animals and made for his stone grotto.'

(1H3) shí shì shì，shì shì shì shí shī shī。(石室拭，氏始试食是十狮尸。)
　　　'When the stone grotto was wiped dry, he began to try eating the bodies of
　　　the lions.'

(1I7) shí shí，shǐ shí shī shī，shí shí shī shī。(食时，始识狮尸，实
　　　石狮尸。)
　　　'When (he tried) eating, (he) began to realize that they were actually the
　　　bodies of stone lions.'

(xiii) Addition of clauses. At the beginning of (1F), a clause can be added, as in (1F4) or (1F5).

(1F4) shì shì shì shì shí shí shì shì shì，shí shì shí shī shī，shì shí shì。(氏视是十狮实是逝世，拾是十狮尸，适石室。)
'He made sure that the ten lions were really dead, and then he collected the bodies of the ten lions and made for his stone grotto.'

(1F5) shì shí shī shí shì shì shì，shì shí shì shí shī shī，shì shí shì。(是十狮实是逝世，氏拾是十狮尸，适石室。)
'The ten lions were found really dead, and then he collected the bodies of the ten lions and made for his stone grotto.'

(xiv) Deletion of clauses. The adverbial clause at the beginning of (1I) can be implied in the previous sentence. Therefore, it can be deleted, as in (1I8).

(1I8) shǐ shí shì shí shī shī，shí shí shí shī shī。(始识是十狮尸，实十石狮尸。)
'(He) began to realize that they were actually the bodies of ten stone lions.'

(xv) Change of clauses. The first clause of (1I) can be changed into a main clause, as in (1I9).

(1I9) shì shì shí，shì shí shī shī，shí shí shī shī。(氏试食，始识狮尸，实石狮尸。)
'He tried eating, and began to realize that they were actually the bodies of stone lions.'

(xvi) Addition of sentences. At the end of the story and just before the last sentence, a sentence of the effect of the story can be added, as shown in (Z).

(Z)   shì shì shǐ shì shì shī shí shì shī shí shí shí shī shì。(是事使世士始识嗜狮食十石狮氏。)
'This event made people come to know Shi, a man who was addicted to lions, and who actually had eaten ten stone lions.'

(xvii) Deletion of sentences. Sentence (1G) can be deleted as it is not relevant to the main idea of the story at all. But in this case, the beginning clause in (1H) has to be deleted in the meantime.

(xviii) Change of sentences. Sentence (1E) can be changed into (1E3), (1E4), (1E5), (1E6), or (1E7).

(1E3) shì shì shì shí shī，shì shì shì，shì shì shí shī。(氏视是十狮，恃矢势，弑是十狮。)
'He saw the ten lions, and killed them by making use of the power of his arrows.'

(1E4) shī shì shì shì shí shī，shì shì shì shì shí shī shì shì。(施氏视是十狮，恃矢使是十狮逝世。)
'He saw the ten lions, and made them pass away with his arrows.'

(1E5) shī shì shì shì shí shī，shì shì shì shì shí shī shì shì。(施氏视是十狮，使矢使是十狮逝世。)
'He saw the ten lions, and used his arrows and made them pass away.'

(1E6) shī shì shì shì shí shī，shì shì shì shì shí shī。(施氏视是十狮，恃矢弑是十狮。)
'He saw the ten lions, and killed them with his arrows.'

(1E7) shī shì shì shì shí shī，shì shì shì shì shí shī。(施氏视是十狮，使矢弑是十狮。)
'He saw the ten lions, and used his arrows and killed them.'

(xix) Change of passive voice into active voice. The verb of "shì" (wipe) in the first clause of (1H) is of passive voice, and it can be changed into active voice, as shown in (1H4).

(1H4) shì shì shí shì，shì shì shì shí shì shí shī shī。(侍拭石室，氏始试食是十狮尸。)
'When the servant finished wiping the stone grotto, he began to try eating the bodies of the ten lions.'

(xx) Change of a phrase into a sentence. The noun phrase at the beginning of (1A) can be changed into a separate sentence as an introduction to the hero of the story, as shown in (1A2).

(1A2) shī shì，shí shì shī shì。shī shì shì shī，shì shí shí shī。(施氏，石室诗士。)
'A man whose surname was Shi was a poet in a stone grotto. He was addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions.'

(xxi) Change of sentence structures. The structure of Sentence (1E) discussed above is [SVO, VO, VOV], and its altered counterpart (1E3) has the structures of [SVO, VO, VO], (1E4) and (1E5) of [SVO, VOVOV], and (1E6) and (1E7) of [SVO, VOVO]. And the sentence structure of (1A) is [S, VO, VVO], and it can be changed into [SVC, AVO, VVO], as shown in (1A3).

(1A3) shī shì(S) shì(V) shí shì shī shì(C)，shí shì(A) shì(V) shī(O)，shì(V) shí(V) shí shī(O)。(施氏是石室诗士，实是嗜狮，誓食十狮。)
'A man whose surname was Shi was a poet in a stone grotto. He was very much addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions.'

(xxii) Omission and combination of clauses and clause elements. Sentences (1H) and (1I) can be changed into (1H5).

(1H5) shí shì shì，shì shǐ shì shí shì shí shī shī，shǐ shí shì shí shī shī，shí shì shí shí shī。(石室拭，氏始试食是十狮尸，始识是十狮尸，实是十石狮尸。)
'When the stone grotto was wiped dry, he began to try eating the bodies of the ten lions and began to realize that they were actually the bodies of ten stone lions.'

(xxiii) Change in clause relationship by re-punctuations. Punctuations sometimes matter in the understanding of clause relationship. For example, Sentence (1A) is ambiguous in clause relationship. It can be interpreted as consisting of two or three clauses, either as (1A4), or (1A5).

(1A4) shí shì shī shì shī shì(clause 1)，shì shī(clause 2)，shì shí shí shī(clause 3)。(石室诗士施氏，嗜狮，誓食十狮。)
'There (once) was a poet in a stone grotto whose surname was Shi. He was addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions.'

(1A5) shí shì shī shì shī shì shì shī(clause 1)，shì shí shí shī(clause 2)。(石室诗士施氏嗜狮，誓食十狮。)
'A poet in a stone grotto whose surname was Shi was addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions.'

But if the first comma is omitted, then there is only one interpretation, or that of (1A4). Besides, the two commas can be re-punctuated as two full stop, thus changing the whole sentence into three separate sentences, as indicated in (1A6).

(1A6) shí shì shī shì Shī shì(sentence 1)。shì shī(sentence 2)。shì shí shí shī(sentence 3)。(石室诗士施氏。嗜狮。誓食十狮。)
   'In a stone grotto was a poet whose surname was Shi. (He was) addicted to lions. (And he) swore to eat ten lions.'

(xxiv) Change in sentence complexity by rephrasing the sentence. Sentence complexity to be discussed below involves grammatical intricateness and lexical density. In the treatment of (1H) and (1I) as (1H5), for instance, the grammatical intricateness alters. Originally, they are two separate sentences. (1H) is a sentence with two clauses in paratactic and extensive relationship, i.e., [1+2] in Halliday's technical terms (2000: 220), as shown in (1H6). Whereas (1I) has three clauses in hypotactic relationship (enhancement between first and second clauses, and idea between second and third clauses), i.e., [α×[β 'γ]], as shown in (1I10).

(1H6) shí shì shì[1], shì shǐ shì shí shì shí shī shī[+2]。(石室拭，氏始试食是十狮尸。)
   'The stone grotto was wiped dry, and he began to try eating the bodies of the ten lions.'

(1I10) shí shí[α], shǐ shí shì shí shī shī[×[β]], shí shí shí shī shī [['γ]]。(食时，始识是十狮尸，实十石狮尸。)
   'When (he tried) eating, (he) began to realize that they were actually the bodies of ten stone lions.'

But after the treatment, they become one sentence with the clause relationship of [[1+2+3[α×β]]].

(1H7) shí shì shì[[1]], shì shǐ shì shí shì shí shī shī[[+2]], shí shí shì shí shī shī[[+3]][[[α]]], shí shí shí shī shī[[[×β]]]。(石室拭，氏始试食是十狮尸，始识是十狮尸，实是十石狮尸。)
   'When the stone grotto was wiped dry, he began to try eating the bodies of the ten lions and began to realize that they were actually the bodies of ten stone lions.'

And the lexical density of (1I) is 3.3, while that of (1I11) is 3.

(1I11) shì shí，shǐ shí shī shī，shí shí shī shī。(氏食，始识狮尸，实石狮尸。)
   'He ate, and began to realize that they were actually the bodies of stone lions.'

3.3 The Discourse Flexibility in Textual Length

Zhao[Chao]'s text can be shortened, depending on how much detail is conveyed and related to the main theme of the story. For instance,

(3) shī shì, shì shī, shì shí shí shī。shí shí, shí shī shì shì, shì shì shì shì shì shī。shì shì shì shì shì shì shì shī shì shì, shì shí shí shì。shì shì shí shì shí shī shī, shì shí shì shí shí shī shī。(施氏，嗜狮，誓食十狮。十时，十狮适市，适氏适市视狮。氏恃矢使是十狮逝世，拾适石室。氏试食是十狮尸，始识是十石狮尸。试释是事。) (51 characters with punctuations not included)
'A man whose surname was Shi was addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions. At ten o'clock (one day), ten lions arrived at the market, and he happened to be there to see lions. He made use of his arrows to make the ten lions pass away, and collected them and made for his stone grotto. He tried eating the bodies of the ten lions, and began to realize that they were actually ten stone lions. Try to offer an explanation to this.'

To the extreme, Zhao[Chao]'s text can be rewritten to be as short as consisting of no more than 13 words, or even of just a few words. For instance,

(4) shī shì shī, shì shí shī。shì shì shí, shí shī shí shí。(施嗜狮，弑十狮。室试食，识尸实石。) (13 characters)
'Shi was addicted to lions, and killed ten lions. He tried eating them in his room (when he) found their bodies were actually stones.'

(5) shī shì shī, shì shí shī。shì shì shí, shí shí shí。(施嗜狮，弑十狮。室试食，识实石。) (12 characters)
'Shi was addicted to lions, and killed ten lions. He tried eating them in his room (when he) found they were actually stones.'

(6) shī, shì shī。shì shí shī。shì shì shí——shí shí! (施，嗜狮。弑十狮。室试食——实石！) (11 characters)
'Shi was addicted to lions, (he) killed ten lions, and (he) tried eating (them) in his room —(when he found they were) actually stones!'

(7) shī, shì shī。shì shí shī。shì shì shí——shí! (施，嗜狮。弑十狮。室试食——石！) (10 characters)
'Shi was addicted to lions, (he) killed ten lions, and (he) tried eating (them) in his room —(when he found that they were) stones!'

(8)   shī shì shī，shì shí shī。shì shì shí——shí！(嗜狮施，弑十狮。
室试食——石！) (10 characters)
'Shi, who was addicted to lions, killed ten lions. (He) tried eating (them)
in his room —(when he found that they were) stones!'

(9)   shī shì shī，shì shí shí，shì shī shí shí。(施弑狮，室试食，识
尸实石。) (10 characters)
'Shi killed ten lions. He tried eating them in his room (when he) found
they were actually stones.'

(10) shī shì shī，shì shì shí，shí shí shí。(施弑狮，室试食，识实石。)
(9 characters)
'Shi killed lions and tried eating them in his room (when he) found they
were actually stones.'

(11) shī，shì shì shí shì shī，shí shí shí。(施，室试食弑狮，识实石。)
(9 characters)
'Shi, (when) in his room trying eating the lions he had killed, found they
were actually stones.'

(12) shī，shì shī。shì shī。shì shí——shí！(施，嗜狮。弑狮。试食——
石！) (8 characters)
'Shi was addicted to lions, (he) killed lions, and (he) tried eating —(when
he found that they were actually) stones!'

(13) shī，shì shī。shì shí，shí shí shí。(施，弑狮。试食，识实石。) (8
characters)
'Shi killed lions. (He) tried eating, and found (they were) actually stones!'

(14) shī，shì shī。shì shí，shì shí。(施，弑狮。试食，是石！) (7 characters)
'Shi killed lions. (He) tried eating, (and found they) were stones!'

(15) shī，shì shī。shì shí——shí！(施，弑狮。试食——石！) (6 characters)
'Shi killed lions. (He) tried eating —(when he found that they were
actually) stones!'

On the other hand, Zhao[Chao]'s text can also be lengthened. For
instance,

(16) shí shì shī shì shī shì，shì shī，shì shí shí shī。shī shì
shí shí shì shì shì shī。shí shí，shì shí shī shìshī shì shí
shí shì shī shì。shì shí，shì shī shì shì shì shì。shī shì
shì shì shí shī，shì shì shì shī shì shì shì shí shī shì shì。
shī shì shí shí shí shì shì shī shī，shì shí shì。shī shì
shì shí shì shī，shì shí shì shì shì shì shī shí shì。shí

shì shì shì shī shí shì, shī shì shì shì shí shì shì shí shí
shī shī。shī shì shì shí shì shì shí shí shī shī shí, shì
shí shì shì shí shí shī shī, shíshì shí shì shī shī。shì shì
shì shì。(石室诗士施氏，嗜狮，誓食十狮。施氏时时适市视狮。十时，适
十狮适施氏时时视狮市。是时，适施氏适是市。施氏视是十狮，使矢恃矢势使
是十狮逝世。施氏拾是十逝世狮尸，适石室。施氏视石室湿，使石室侍始拭湿
石室。石室侍拭湿石室，施氏始食是市拾十狮尸。施氏试食是市拾十狮尸时，
始识是市拾十狮尸，实是十石狮尸。试释是事。) (132 characters)

'There (once) was a poet in a stone grotto whose surname was Shi. He was addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions. He often went to the market to see lions. At ten o'clock (one day), just as luck would have it, exactly ten lions arrived at the market where he often went. Just then, he happened to reach there. He saw the ten lions, and made use of the power of his arrows to make the ten lions pass away. He collected the bodies of the ten dead lions, and made for his stone grotto. He found his stone grotto was wet, and ordered his stone grotto servant to wipe the wet stone grotto dry. His stone grotto servant wiped the wet stone grotto dry, and he began to try eating the bodies of the ten lions he had collected from the market. When he tried eating the bodies of the ten lions he had collected from the market, he began to realize that the bodies of the ten lions he had collected from the market were actually the bodies of ten stone lions. Please offer an explanation of this.'

In (16), 39 Chinese characters are added to the original text in (1).

3.4 The Discourse Flexibility in Style

Zhao[Chao]'s text has the discourse flexibility in style. What follows is one such aspect, patterns of wording. For instance, Zhao[Chao]'s text can be reworded in the patterns given below.

(17) the 2222222222 word pattern:
shī shì, shì shī。shì shì, shì shī。shí shī, shì shì, shì shí,
shí shī, shí shí。(施氏，嗜狮。适市，弑狮，拾尸，适室，试食，
识尸，实石。) (20 characters)

'In a stone grotto was a man with the surname of Shi. He was addicted to lions. He went to the market and killed lions. He collected the bodies of the lions, made for his grotto and tried eating, only to find they were actually stones.'

(18) the 3333333333 word pattern: word pattern:
shí shì shī, shì shī shī, shì shí shī。shì shī shì, shì shì shī。
shí shī shī, shì shí shì, shì shí shī, shì shí shī, shí shí shī。
(石室施，嗜狮尸，誓食狮。适狮市，弑十狮。拾狮尸，适石室，试食

尸，始识尸，实石狮。) (30 characters)

'In a stone grotto was Shi. He was addicted to eating the bodies of lions, and swore to eat ten lions. He went to the market and killed ten lions. He collected the bodies of the lions, made for his stone grotto and tried eating the bodies of the lions, only to find they were actually stone lions.'

(19) the 444444444 word pattern:

shí shì shī shì，shì shí shī shī，shì shí shí shī。shí shì shì shī，shì shì shí shī。shí shí shī shī，shì shī shí shì，shì shí shī shī，shì shí shī，shí shí shī。(石室施氏，嗜食狮尸，誓食十狮。适市视狮，弑市十狮。拾十狮尸，适湿石室，试食狮尸，识实石狮。) (36 characters)

'In a stone grotto was a man with the surname of Shi. He was addicted to eating the bodies of lions, and swore to eat ten lions. He went to the market and saw lions and killed ten lions. He collected the bodies of the ten lions, made for his wet stone grotto and tried eating the bodies of the lions, only to find them stone lions.'

(20) the 55555555 word pattern:

shí shì shī shì shī，shì shí shí shī shī，shì shí shí shī shī。 shì shì shì shí shī，shì shì shí shí shī。shí shì shí shī shī， shì shí shì shì shí，shí shī shí shí shī。(石室诗士施，嗜食实狮尸，誓食十狮尸。适市视十狮，弑市十实狮。拾市十狮尸，适石室试食，识狮实石狮。) (40 characters)

'In a stone grotto was a poet with the surname of Shi. He was addicted to eating the bodies of real lions, and swore to eat the bodies of ten lions. He went to the market and saw ten lions and killed the ten real lions. He collected the bodies of the ten lions in the market, and made for his stone grotto and tried eating, only to find the lions were actually stone lions.'

(21) the 66666666 word pattern:

shí shì shī shì shī shì，shí shì shì shí shī shī，shì shí shí sh í shī shī。shì shì shì shì shí shī，shì shì shì shí shí shī。sh í shì shì shí shī shī，shì shī shí shì shì shí，shì shí shī shí shí shī。(石室诗士施氏，实是嗜食狮尸，誓食十实狮尸。适市适视十狮，弑市视十实狮。拾是市十狮尸，适湿石室试食，始识狮实石狮。) (48 characters)

'In a stone grotto was a poet with the surname of Shi. He was very much addicted to eating the bodies of lions, and swore to eat the bodies of ten real lions. He went to the market at the right time and saw ten lions, and killed the ten real lions he had seen there. He collected the bodies of the ten lions at the market, and made for his wet stone grotto and tried eating, only to find the lions were actually stone lions.'

(22) the 77777777 word pattern:

shí shì shī shì shì shī shì，shí shì shì shí shí shī shī。shì sh
ì shí shí shí shī shī，shì shí shì shì shì shí shī，shì shì shì
shì shí shí shī。shì shí shì shì shí shī shī，shì shí shí shì
shì shí shī，shì shí shī shí shí shī shī。(石室诗士是施氏，实
是嗜食实狮尸。氏誓食十实狮尸，适时适市视十狮，矢弑市视十实狮。
氏拾是市十狮尸，适湿石室试食尸，始识尸实石狮尸。) (56 characters)
'In a stone grotto there was a poet with the surname of Shi. He was very
much addicted to eating the bodies of real lions. He swore to eat the bodies
of ten real lions. He went to the market at the right time, saw ten lions there,
and killed the ten real lions with his arrows. He collected the bodies of the
ten lions there, and made for his wet stone grotto to try eating them, only to
find the bodies were actually the bodies of stone lions.'

(23) the 1234567 word pattern:

shī，shì shī，shì shī shì，shì shì shí shī。shí shī shì shí shì，
shì shí shì shí shí shī，shì shí shī shí shí shī shī。(施，嗜狮，
适狮市，弑市十狮。拾狮适石室，试食是十狮尸，始识尸实石狮尸。)
(28 characters)
'Shi was addicted to lions, went to the lion market, and killed ten lions there.
He collected the lions, made for his stone grotto, and tried eating the bodies
of the ten lions, only to find the bodies were actually those of stone lions.'

(24) the 7654321 word pattern:

shí shì shì shī shì shī shì，shí shì shí shí shī shī，shì shí
shí shī shī，shì shì shì shī，shì shí shī，shì shí——shí。(石
室是诗士施氏，实嗜食实狮尸，誓食十狮尸，适市视狮，弑十狮，
食尸——石。) (28 characters)
'In a stone grotto was a poet with the surname of Shi. He was very much
addicted to eating the bodies of real lions. He swore to eat the bodies of
ten lions, went to the market to see lions, and killed ten lions, and tried
eating the bodies —(only to find they were) stones.'

(25) the 335335335 word pattern:

shí shì shì，shì shí shí shī shī。shì shī shì，shì shì shì shí
shī。shì shí shī，shì shí shì，shì shí shí shí shī。(石室氏，
嗜食狮，誓食十狮尸。适狮市，视十狮，矢弑是十狮。氏拾尸，适
石室，试食识石尸。) (33 characters)
'A man in a stone grotto was addicted to eating lions. He swore to eat the
bodies of ten lions. He went to the lion market, saw ten lions, and killed
the ten lions with his arrows. He collected their bodies, made for his stone
grotto, and tried eating them, only to find they were stone bodies.'

3.5 The Discourse Flexibility in Discourse Structure

Suppose Zhao[Chao]'s text is divided into 21 components given below,

(26) ①shí shì shī shì (石室诗士 stone grotto poet) ②Shī shì (施氏 Shi surname)，③shì shī(嗜狮 addicted to lions)，④shì shí shí shī (誓食十狮 swear to eat ten lions)。⑤shì shí shí shì shì shí shī(氏时时适市视狮 surname often went to the market to see lions)。⑥shí shí(十时 ten o'clock)，⑦shì shí shī shì shì (适十狮适市 just ten lions reached the market)。⑧shì shí (是时 just then)，⑨shì Shī shì shì shì(适施氏适市 just Shi surname reached the market)。⑩shì shì shì shí shī(氏视是十狮 surname saw these ten lions)，⑪shì shì shì (恃矢势 relied on the power of the arrows)，⑫shǐ shì shí shī shì shì (使是十狮逝世 made these ten lions pass away)。⑬shì shí shì shí shī shī (氏拾是十狮尸 surname picked up the bodies of these ten lions)，⑭shì shí shì (适石室 made for the stone grotto)。⑮shí shì shī (石室湿 stone grotto wet)，⑯shì shǐ shì shì shí shì (氏使侍拭石室 surname made the servant wipe the stone grotto)。⑰shí shì shì (石室拭 the stone grotto was wiped)，⑱shì shǐ shì shí shì shí shī shī (氏始试食是十狮尸 surname began to try eating the bodies of these ten lions)。⑲shí shí (食时 when eating)，⑳shǐ shí shì shí shī shī，shí shí shí shī shī (始识是十狮尸，实十石狮尸 began to realize the bodies of these ten lions were actually the bodies of ten stone lions)。㉑ shì shì shì shì (试释是事 try to explain this thing)。

Then, it is possible to re-arrange these components in a number of different ways with affecting the theme of the story, for instance,

(27) ㉑①②③……⑳
(28) ①②③……⑳

Zhao[Chao]'s text generally consists of two major parts, the story and the interactional text (the last sentence). In other words, the second part, or the interactional text, is outside the story text. Therefore, this part can be put at the beginning of the story followed by a colon, as in (27). Or this part can be omitted, giving full space to the story text, as in (28).

(29) ②①③……㉑
(30) ③①②④……㉑
(31) ③②④……㉑

(32) ①②③⑤④⑥……㉑

(33) ①②③④⑤⑥⑨⑧⑦⑩……㉑

(34) ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨⑩⑪⑫⑬⑭⑱⑲⑳㉑

(35) ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨⑩⑪⑫⑬⑭⑮⑯⑰⑱⑳㉑

In (29), ② is put at the initial position, followed by a comma. In (30) and (31), ① and ③ are used as modifiers of ②. In (32), ④ and ⑤ reverse their positions so that the cause and effect relationship between them is changed. Originally, Shi's swear of eating ten lions is the cause, and his frequent visits to the market to look for lions is the effect, but in the changed version, Shi's frequent visits to the market to look for lions and his swear of eating ten lions might form a cause-effect, or a coordinative relationship. In (33), ⑦ and ⑨ change their positions, which might produce a better discourse structure than the original one. In (34), ⑮, ⑯, and ⑰ are omitted, as these clauses depict the environment of the story, and their omission has no great influence on the theme of the story. In (35), ⑲, an adverbial whose verb is merely the repetition of the previous clause, is left out, but in this case, ⑱ should by followed by a comma.

In addition, in combination with re-organization and re-punctuation of the sentences, Zhao[Chao]'s text can have a number of different discourse structures, one of which is shown in (36) below.

(36) ①②③，④，⑤。⑥，⑨；⑧，⑦。⑩，⑪⑫。⑬，⑭，⑱，⑲，⑳。㉑。

4．POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

It can be clearly seen from the discussions above why Zhao[Chao]'s text can have several versions. Why is it that Zhao[Chao]'s text can have all this flexibility?

It is held in this paper that the flexibility is partially attributed to what Prof. Lü Shuxiang 吕叔湘 (2002, 458-473) calls the syntactic flexibility of the Chinese language. Prof. Lü identifies three factors that lead to the flexibility of the Chinese language, i.e., omission, shift of syntactic position of elements, and polysemy of verb-complement structure. What is relevant here are the first two.

First of all, some of the flexibility examples discussed above can be explained in relation to the omission, and its opposite case, addition, of certain elements in the sentences. In the original text or (1) or (26), shí shì (man with the surname of Shi, as in ②) in is partially mentioned or omitted throughout the story, using only one Shi, except in the fourth sentence (as in ⑨), where it is given in full, perhaps to achieve better cohesion with the subject "ten lions" in the previous sentence. (2) is a case with the addition of this omission. What is related to this include (i) addition of subjects, (ii) deletion of (partial) subjects, (iii) change of subjects, (iv) addition of verbs, (vi) addition of objects, (vii) deletion of objects, (viii) change of objects, (xi) addition of modifiers, (xii) deletion of modifiers, (xiii) addition of clauses, (xiv) deletion of clauses, (xv) change of clauses, (xxii) omission and combination of clauses and clause elements, discussed in Section 3.2.

As far as the subject is concerned, the most extremist omission could be given as follows. If the subject, or the "ten lions", is turned into an object, along with some treatment of ⑮ and ⑰, the whole text can be even changed into one with just one subject in the initial sentence, as shown in (37) below.

(37) ①shí shì shī shì (石室诗士 stone grotto poet) ②Shī shì (施氏 Shi surname)，③shì shī (嗜狮 addicted to lions)，④shì shí shí shī (誓食十狮 swear to eat ten lions)。⑤shí shí shì shì shì shī (时时适市视狮 often went to the market to see lions)。⑥shí shí (十时 ten o'clock)，⑨shì shì (适市 reached the market)。⑧shì shí (是时 just then)，⑦shì shì shí shī shì shì (适视十狮适市 happened to see the ten lions reach the market)。⑪shì shī shì (恃矢势 relied on the power of the arrows)，⑫shǐ shì shí shī shì shì (使是十狮逝世 made these ten lions pass away)。⑬shí shì shí shī shī (拾是十狮尸 picked up the bodies of these ten lions)，⑭shì shí shì (适石室 made for the stone grotto)。⑮shì shí shì shī (视石室湿 found the stone grotto wet)，⑯shǐ shì shì shí shì (使侍拭石室 made the servant wipe the stone grotto)。⑱shǐ shì shí shì shí shī shī (始试食是十狮尸 began to try eating the bodies of these ten lions)。⑲shí shí (食时 when eating)，⑳shǐ shí shì shí shī shī，shí shí shí shī shī (始识是十狮尸，实十石狮尸 began to realize the bodies of these ten lions were actually the bodies of ten stone lions)。㉑ shì shì shì shì (试释是事 try to explain this thing)。

Furthermore, shiftability of the elements of the sentence accounts for the syntactic flexibility of Zhao[Chao]'s text discussed above. (xix) change of passive voice into active voice, (xx) change of a phrase into a sentence, and (xxi) change of sentence structure, as discussed in Section 3.2, are the result of the shiftability of the relevant elements in the sentences.

The third factor that helps to explain the flexibility of Zhao[Chao]'s text is organizational freedom. That is, sometimes the writer has certain freedom in organizing the given elements, optional and obligatory. This freedom helps him able to play with the language, deviating the use of the elements in structuring the story while maintaining the theme of the story. (ix) addition of adverbs, (x) deletion of adverbs, (xvi) addition of sentences, (xvii) deletion of sentences, (xxiii) change in clause relationship by re-punctuating, and (xxiv) change in sentence complexity by rephrasing the sentence fall into this type.

The fourth factor is the freedom of semantic re-configuration. That is the writer can have certain freedom in expressing what he wants to mean. For instance, instead of using a certain word, he can use another word or phrase. Two such cases are (v) change of verbs and (xviii) change of sentences discussed in Section 3.2.

The fifth factor is the pragmatics. In fitting the story to the reality, the writer might prefer to use the last sentence, as in (1) and (27). But in other cases, perhaps he would like to omit the last sentence, or use the story only, as in (28), to suit the purpose of telling a story.

The sixth factor is the freedom of word selection. Because all the sounds in the text are the same except tones, there is no restriction on their arrangement, and there is no need to worry about which and which will cause conflict. What the writer has to struggle with is how to select words and make all of them into a coherent and meaningful and proper discourse for the reader to digest. And as often is the case, he can even go beyond the discourse itself to find other words to make his new text, as shown in (Z).

And the flexibility in textual length, style and discourse structure is often the consequence of all these six factors. In turning the whole discourse into a short one as (23), for instance, the writer does not have to worry about the choice of sounds in the re-writing, and he can go beyond the original text to find a synonym (with the same sound) "kill" for

"make … pass away" (Factor 6), and this is semantically reworded (Factor 4), as shown in the third clause of (23), where the added word "market" is the result of shift from the previous sentence (Factor 2). All subjects in sentences other than the first one as well as many other elements have been omitted (Factor 1). The increase in the number of words in each separate unit is under the writer's control of the organization of the discourse (Factor 3). And the last sentence in the original text (1) can be deleted, which shows the writer's purpose of language use (Factor 5).

5．IMPLICATIONS

The discussions of the discourse flexibility of Zhao[Chao]'s homophonic text have the following implications.

First, with a group of the same sounds, we can construe a variety of homophonic texts. The variations in syntax, semantics, and pragmatics in Zhao[Chao]'s text of (1), as shown in (2) and others, indicate this possibility. This offers us an interesting interpretation of Zhao[Chao]'s work, which will help us better appreciate the magic of homophonic discourse. What is more, there is a great potential to construe other kinds of homophonic texts using the sound of shi. In addition to the use of the characters involved in the creation of Zhao[Chao]'s text of (1), it is possible to go beyond and make use of other characters that carry the same pronunciation of shi to make more similar homophonic texts. Besides, Zhao[Chao]'s homophonic text can be re-written in many various ways. As a result of the first and second implications, it is possible to reproduce Zhao[Chao]'s work of (1) in many other different forms. Fourth, Zhao[Chao]'s homophonic text can be further studied in terms of characterology, semantics, syntax, pragmatics, and so on. As can be seen from the above-mentioned analysis, characterology, semantics, syntax, pragmatics, and so on, are related to the flexibility of Zhao[Chao]'s text. But to go into depth, these things warrant further studies. Sixth, the discourse flexibility of homophic texts enjoys some features different from that of non-homophonic texts. This study offers a perspective on language and discourse flexibility, which might be of interest to language researchers who care about the related factors, esp. the structuring of

language. Seventh, other homophonic texts can also be re-written in various forms and studied from different perspectives. Zhao[Chao] and others have also produced other homophonic texts, such as *Ji ji ji ji ji* (*The Story of Hungry Chicks that Huddled on the Machine*), and *Yi yi* (*Ms Yi*). The present study can serve as a fresh impetus for the studies of the relevant literature. Eighth, the variations of Zhao[Chao]'s homophonic text provided in the present paper add to the linguistic magic and fun of Zhao[Chao]'s original homophonic text. Ninth, homophonic discourse involves such factors as sociology, phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, literature, and so on. The present study offers some data for, and special perspectives on, further studies in these areas of language.

6．CONCLUSION

    Zhao[Chao]'s homophonic text is discourse flexible in that in terms of mode of discourse, it has certain flexibility in syntax, textual length, style, and discourse structure. This conclusion may shed light on the study of Zhao's and others' homophonic texts. Meanwhile, this finding may help us better understand the potential of (Zhao[Chao]'s) homophonic text and the Chinese language. And it is also likely to display the discourse flexibility of (Zhao[Chao]'s) homophonic text in terms of tenor of discourse and field of discourse in the future, so as to let us see the whole picture of the flexibility of this kind of text. And this study, of a very narrow topic of phones though, may also contribute to the study of general linguistics, as it can be taken as a case of abnormal language use for us to reflect on the normal use of language, such as what makes this discourse possible in Chinese but not in English or any other language.

NOTES

    1. For the reason of using English translation by the author of the present paper, that though Zhao Yuanren (Yuen Ren Chao)'s English version is already available (Zhao[Chao] 1977, 223), the author finds it necessary to make some changes to the translations of the story, including: (i) The old pinyin version of Shih is replaced by the new pinyin version Shi;

(ii) To give readers a sense of a "story" in translation, the beginning sentence by Zhao[Chao]'s translation "Stone Grotto poet Shih by name was fond of lions and swore he would eat ten lions." is reworded by the author as "There once was a poet in a stone grotto whose surname was Shi. He was addicted to lions, and swore to eat ten lions."; (iii) Translations are preferred which are better suited to the contextual behavior of the hero of the story, e.g., "was addicted to" is used by the author instead of Zhao[Chao]'s "was fond of" for "嗜" to indicate the peculiarity of the man; (iv) Shorter or better cohered expressions are preferred for the same characters with varied translations, e.g., "誓食" can be either "swore he would eat..." (by Zhao[Chao]) or "swore to eat" (by the author); "氏"in"氏时时适市视狮" can be "The man", "He"(Zhao[Chao]), "The poet"(the author), and the like; "十时，适十狮适市。" can be "When, at ten o'clock, he went to the market, it happened that ten lions went to the market" as by Zhao[Chao], or "At ten o'clock (one day), ten lions happened to arrive at the market" (by the author); (v) Others. The new translations provided in this paper are generally aimed at an alternative kind of match between the diction and the story context from the perspective of a reader and translator.

REFERENCES

BEHR, Wolfgang. 2015. G. Sampson, "A Chinese phonological enigma": Four comments. *The Journal of Chinese Linguistics* 43(2):719-723.

CHAO, Yuen Ren (赵元任). 1960. Chinese language. In *Encyclopaedia Britannica: A New Survey of Universal Knowledge*, vol. 5: Cast Iron to Cole, 567-571. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

_____. 1967. Chinese. In *Collier's Encyclopedia with Bibliography and Index*, vol. 5, 318-322. New York: Crowell, Collier and Macmillan.

_____. 1968. Language and life: Wider sense of "Language". In *Language and Symbolic System* by Chao Yuen Ren, 115-122. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

_____. 1977. Four stories in quasi homophones (1st Tones unmarked). In *Chinese Linguist, Phonologist, Composer and Author,* with an Introduction by Mary Haas, An Interview conducted by Rosemany

Levenson, Appendix B: II, 223-225. Berkeley, CA: Bancroft Library, Reginal Oral History Office, University of California. Also available at http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb8779p27v&brand=cal..., accessed Oct. 13, 2017.

_____. 1980. *Yuyan Wenti* 语言问题 (Language issues). Reprint with a brief new preface by the author. Beijing: Shangwu yinshuguan 商务印书馆. Originally presented in 16 lectures (pub. Guoli Taiwan Daxue Wenxueyuan, 1960).

FANG, Hongxi 房鸿熹. 1999. Zhao Yuanren he "Shi shi shi shi shi" 赵元任和 "施氏食狮史" (Zhao Yuanren and "Story of stone grotto poet eating lions"). *Yaowen jiaozi* 咬文嚼字 4:15.

FENG, Shouzhong 冯寿忠. 2010. Zhao Yuanren "Shi shi shi shi shi" yu hanyu pinyinhua wenti 赵元任 "施氏食狮史"与汉语拼音化问题 (Zhao Yuanren's "Story of stone grotto poet eating lions" and the Romanization of the Chinese language). *Jiangsu Jishu Shifan Xueyuan Xuebao* 江苏技术师范学院学报 1:35-39.

HALLIDAY, Michael Alexander Kirkwood. 2000. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (Gongneng Yufan Daolun). 2nd (1994). Reprinted by the publisher in China with guided reading in Chinese by Hu Zhuanglin 胡壮麟. Beijing: Waiyu Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu Chubanshe 外语教学与研究出版社 (Licensed by Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. for disctribution in mainland territory of PRC only).

HALLIDAY, Michael Alexander Kirkwood and C. M. I. M. Matthiessen. 2014. *Halliday's An Introduction to Functional Grammar,* 4th ed. London: Routledge.

HARRIS, Zellig Sabbettal. 1952a. Discourse analysis. *Language* 28 (1):1-30.

_____. 1952b. Discourse analysis: A sample text. *Language* 28(4):474-494.

LEECH, Geoffrey Neil. 1983. *Principles of Pragmatics*. London: Longman.

LÜ, Shuxiang 吕叔湘. 2002. *Lü Shuxiang Quanji: Hanyu Yufa Lunwen Xuji* (di 3 juan) 吕叔湘全集（第三卷）：汉语语法论文续集 (The complete works of Lü Shuxiang, vol. 3: Collected papers on Chinese grammar (continued)). Shenyang: Liaoning Jiaoyu Chubanshe 辽宁教育出版社.

WANG, Kaiyang 王开扬. 2013. Zhao Yuanren sanduan tongyinzi "qiwen" de yuyanxue chanshi － Jinian Zhao Yuanren xiansheng danchen

120 zhounian 赵元任三段同音字"奇文"的语言学阐释——纪念赵元任先生诞辰 120 周年 (A linguistic explanation of Zhao Yuanren's three "exceptional articles" in homonyms:– In memory of Mr. Zhao Yuanren's 120th birthday). *Xiandai Yuwen* 现代语文 no.1 (Late January 2013):4-11+163.

YAN, Hongming 晏鸿鸣. 2005. "*Shi shi shi shi shi*" buneng zhengming hanzi buyi pinyinhua "施氏食狮史"不能证明汉字不宜拼音化 ("Story of stone grotto poet eating lions" cannot prove the unsuitability of Chinese characters being pinyinized). In Yuyan Xuexi 语言学习 section of *Yuwen Jiaoxue Yu Yanjiu* 语文教学与研究 (Zonghe Tiandi 综合天地 ed.) no.10 (2005):86.

ZHANG, Chenyun 张辰昀. 2011. Cong "Shi shi shi shi shi" kan hanzi de tezheng 从"施氏食狮史"看汉字的特征 (Analysis of the characteristics of Chinese characters from the perspective of "Story of stone grotto poet eating lions"). *Hubei Dier Shifan Xueyuan Xuebao* 湖北第二师范学院学报 no.5(2011):24-26.

ZHANG, Juling 张巨龄. 2015. Zhao Yuanren wei shenmo xie '*Shishi shi shi shi*' 赵元任为什么写"施氏食狮史" (Why did Zhào Yuánrèn write 'The story of Mr. Shi eating lions'). *Guangming Rrbao* 光明日报 2015.1.11, (p.8): http://epaper.gmw.cn/gmrb/images/2015-01/11/08/2015011108_pdf.pdf

ZHAO, Yuanren. *See* Chao, Yuen Ren 赵元任.

赵元任同音文的话语灵活性

何恒幸

华南师范大学, 广州

提要

华裔美籍语言学家赵元任题名为"施氏食狮史"的汉语同音文是鲜为人们探究的一篇奇文。本文从话语方式角度对其进行了讨论,揭示了同音文的灵活性以及话语方式对话语的长度、句法、风格与结构的改变。本研究丰富了赵氏同音文的语言力度与智慧,并为同音文及话语研究提供了一些启示。

关键词
话语 **语**篇 **同**音文 **话**语灵活性