

A Retrospective Psychological Evaluation of the Logical Contradictions in Writing Systems Containing Japanese Kanji and Chinese Characters

Ashvin Ranjan

Abstract

Japanese kanji and Chinese characters have long been a source of contention for those learning and writing Japanese and Chinese. This paper will prove that writing systems that include such characters create logical contradictions and as such cannot exist.

1 Introduction

The Chinese¹ language uses a somewhat logographic system, with unique characters or sets thereof denoting words. Japanese uses characters from the traditional Chinese writing system, however, it uses them along with two other phonetic alphabets, because they hate people learning their language. Within the Chinese writing system itself, there are differences, as mentioned before there is the traditional writing system, which is known for carpal tunnel². As such, in contemporary times, most people use the simplified system of writing, except for the Japanese and Taiwanese (for the sake of simplicity, any further statements with exceptions will be denoted by †).

We have devised a test check to if Japanese kanji and Chinese characters contain any contradictions. Speakers of either language will be given a set of real and fake characters and told to identify the fakes. If a real character is identified as fake more than the fake characters, then it must be fake. However, if a real character is fake, then that means that the language has a logical contradiction, meaning that it does not exist.

¹Out of respect for the reader, any and all 冰淇淋 jokes have been cut.

²Why do I have to write 曇 instead of 云

2 The Test

The test is comprised of the following image:

蟬霍今羽亞
丐劉發卵疊
橈斤專因乾
漣砖藺叁互

Figure 1: Test given to experiment participants

The answer key is shown below, with the fake characters highlighted in red:

蟬霍今羽亞
丐劉發卵疊
橈斤專因乾
漣砖藺叁互

Figure 2: Test with fake characters highlighted

The test was also accompanied by the following text[†]:

You will be given an image with 20 characters.
Please choose which characters, if any, you believe
to be fake without the use of a dictionary.

3 Results

Initial reactions to the test did not vary much, as most participants reacted with “wtf” or some variation thereof. Several commented on the fact that all of them may be fake, with reactions such as “i would not put it past you to say that they’re all fake tho” and “why do i feel like all of them are fake”.

The following results were received from the test, they have been converted to hexadecimal values, with the binary representation referring to whether any given square is fake or not fake, 0. The MSB represents the top-left character and the LSB represents the bottom-right:

2EC47 00032 60A31 D2876 FFD75 70BD5 081F0³
44013 40953 08C03

We are now able to chart this onto a table with the probability that a number was selected, note that red numbers are the fake characters⁴:

0.2	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4
0.3	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.3
0.2	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.5
0.8	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.7

Figure 3: Percentage selected for each given character

4 Analysis

As we are able to see here, the most chosen character was the bottom left character, which is indeed fake. However, given that this does not conform with my existing argument, we will disregard this as an outlier.

After disregarding all viewpoints which disagree with me[†], we are able to see that two real characters, 𠄎 and 𠄏, were selected 70% of the time, while the two

³ この結果は私の下手な日本語のせいかもしれないかもしれません。

⁴ Numbers rounded to however many significant figures I feel like, you can’t stop me.

remaining fake characters were only selected 60% of the time. Now, to prove our argument with our data, we must define the following axioms:

Axiom 1 (同 Axiom). *Japanese kanji and Chinese characters are the exact same.*

This is completely[†] indisputable^{†5}.

Axiom 2 (母語 Axiom). *Native speakers are the arbiters of truth in a language.*

Given that native speakers are always[†] fully literate in their language, they must be correct on everything.

Axiom 3 (Consistency Axiom). *Languages are constant. They are unable to change in any way.*

Source: College Board.

We now get to the crux of the argument:

Theorem 1. *Japanese kanji and the Chinese writing systems are fundamentally unstable. and should be removed*

Proof. We are able to see that the people who are literate in Japanese and Chinese characterize some real characters as fake more often than they categorize fake characters as fake. This means that given axiom 2, those characters are fake, and this is consistent across their languages due to axiom 3. This consistency is shared across both Japanese kanji and Chinese characters due to axiom 1. This creates a contradiction, as the characters are now both real and fake. Therefore both systems must not exist. □

5 Conclusion

Given the above analysis, we are able to see that the writing system of Chinese and the use of kanji in Japanese should be retired, as they are contradictory. For Chinese, I recommend that all peoples learn another language, such as American. For Japanese, I suggest that pure ひらがな with spaces be instated.

6 Acknowledgments

Special thanks to all those who had to suffer through the test that was given.

⁵ 幽霊文字 and Japanese-only simplified characters are not real I don’t want to hear it stop talking.