

Historical Evolution of “Motivation” of Chinese Characters and Debate about “Simplified or Traditional”

中国文字“理据性”的历史演进及“简繁”之争



J. Yang

To be Discussed 即将讨论

- 我们“闲言少叙，书归正传”
- 我們“閑言少叙，書歸正傳”
- Let's lose no time to
- get down to our business.

Cześć!



Topics to be Discussed 即将讨论的题目

I. 概述: 语言与符号

Overview: Language and Sign

II. 关于简体字之争

Debate about Simplified Characters

III. 汉字: 理据性? 任意性?

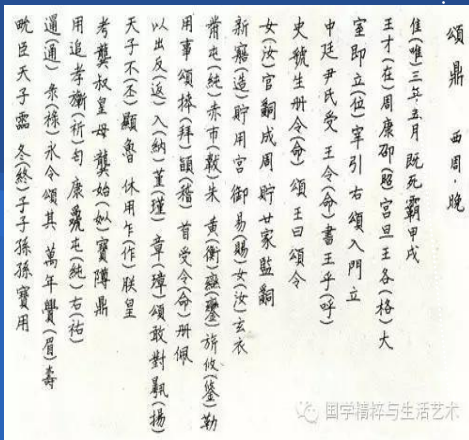
Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

IV. 结论: 汉字何去何从

Conclusion: Future Development

V. 会说话的事实

Facts Speak Louder than Words



目录 Table of Contents

目录 Table of Contents

I.概述:语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign	5
II.关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters	16
III. 汉字: 理据性? 任意性? Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?...	42
IV. 结论: 汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development	52
V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words.....	63
写在后面的话 My Words at the End	103
参考文献 Bibliography	107
结束 End	109

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign

- 亚里士多德（公元前384～前322）在其《工具论·解释篇》中说道：“言语是心境的符号，文字是言语的符号”
- Aristotle (384 B.C. - 322B.C.) said in his “On Tool: Explanation”: "Speech is the sign of mood, and word is the sign of speech."

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign

费尔迪南·德·索绪尔（1857.11.26—1913.3.22）对于语言学的巨大贡献巨大，就在于他使得语言研究的对象越来越清晰，并且使之成为一门科学。

Ferdinand de Saussure
Ferdinand de Saussure
(1857.11.26—1913.3.22) contributed greatly to linguistics in that he made clear the object of study for linguistics as a science.

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign

索绪尔语言学基于“符号差异决定意义”的观点，后者又基于“符号之间的联系是任意的”这一观点。

Saussure's linguistics is based upon the viewpoint that "differences between signs determine sense", and the latter is based upon the viewpoint that "connections between signs are arbitrary".

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign

- 语言和文字是两种不同的符号系统，后者唯一存在的理由是在于表现语言。
 - -- 费尔迪南·德·索绪尔
- Language and text are two different sign systems, and the only reason for the latter to exist is to express the language.
 - -- Ferdinand de Saussure

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign

索绪尔认为语言是一种符号系统，符号由“能指”（Signifiant）和“所指”（Signifie）组成。“所指”即概念，“能指”即声音的心理印迹，或音响形象。语言符号有两个特性：

1. 符号的任意性；

2. 符号构成的线性序列，即言语只能一前一后排列。



I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign



Saussure considers language to be a symbolic system, and symbols consist of “Signifiant” and “Signifie”. “The signified” refers to the concept, and “signifier” refers to the psychological imprinting of sound, or the sound image.

Language sign has two characteristics:

1. The arbitrariness of the symbol;
2. The linear sequence of symbols, that is, the words can only be arranged one after the other.


I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign


- 索绪尔还强调：
 1. 语言始终是每个社会成员时刻都在使用的系统，说话者只是被动地接受，因此具有很大的持续性；
 2. 语言符号所代表的事物和符号本身的形式，将随时间的推移而有所改变，因此语言是不断变化和发展的。
- Saussure also stressed:
 1. Language is always the system used by every member of the society, and is only passively accepted by the speaker, so it has great continuity;
 2. The forms of the things represented by the language signs and the signs themselves will change over time, so the language is constantly changing and developing.

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign

- 显然，在语言产生之初，简单语言符号的产生常常都是有理据的、象似的，但是仍不排除任意性的作用；后来有理据的词无法满足人们生存和发展的要求，人们开始任意地连接声音形象和概念，并约定俗成获得语言符号，此时任意性起主导作用，当然象似性在音义关系中对语言符号的产生起着不可否认的作用。
- Obviously, at the beginning of the languages, simple linguistic signs, coming from sound imitation, natural exclamation and morphological stimulation, took a strong feature of iconicity, while arbitrariness still existed to a little extent. With time passing by, the primitives had to create more linguistic signs to meet their needs of survival and development, so that they arbitrarily related the sound patterns and concepts to conventionalize them as linguistic signs adopted in the whole society. During this period of time, arbitrariness played a more important role, while iconicity of course still functioned as phenomena of phonaesthesia designate.

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign

- 
- 从以上得出重要结论：
 - 任意性和理据性是语言符号的两大重要客观属性。

- 
- Conclusion of significance from the above:
 - **Arbitrariness and motivation are two fundamental objective characteristics of the linguistic sign.**

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign



- 我们的问题一是：

- 索绪尔关于语言符号的理论适用于汉语语言吗？



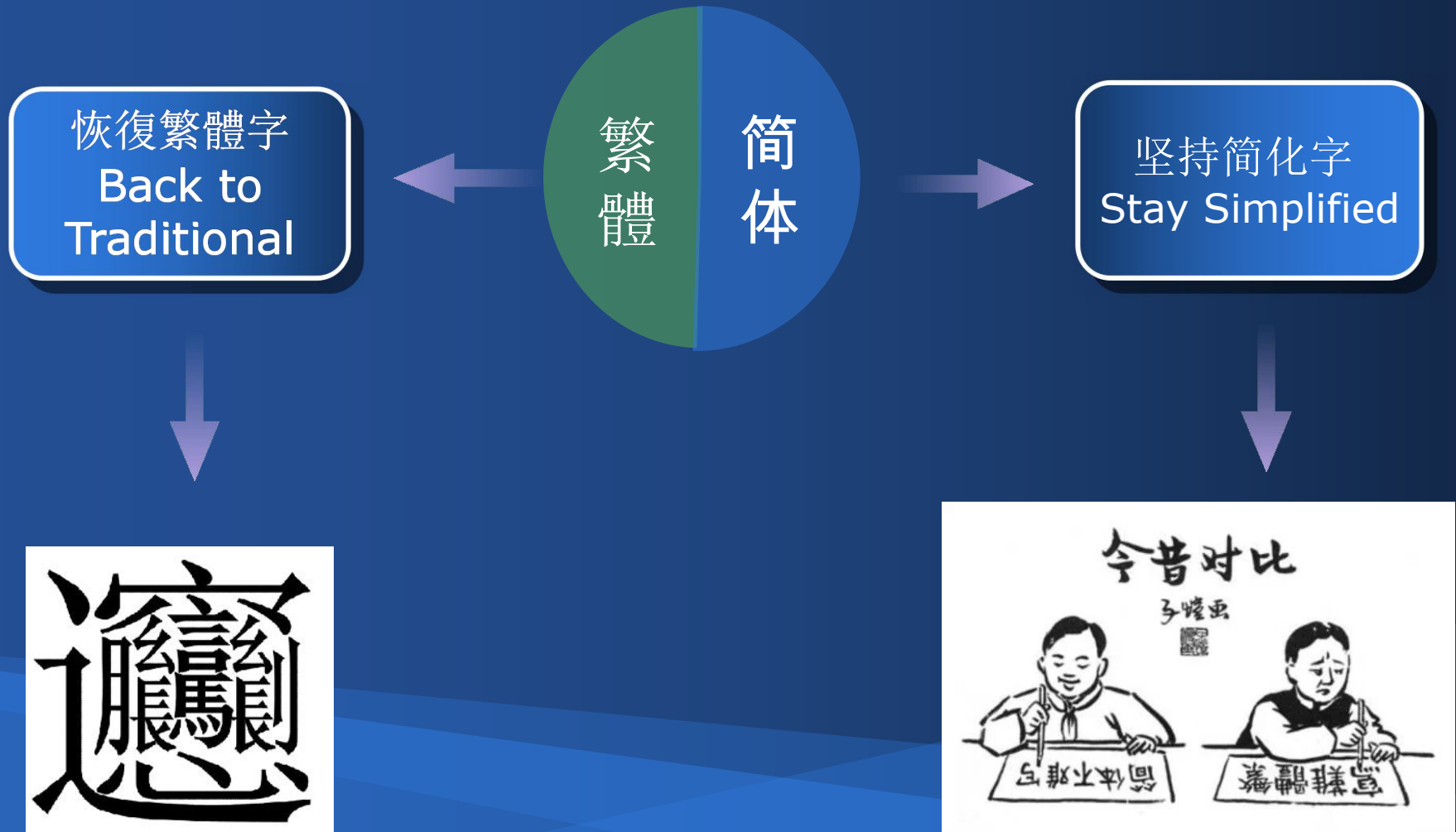
- Our first question is:

- **Can Saussure's linguistic theory be applied to Chinese Language?**

I. 概述：语言与符号 Overview: Language and Sign

- 我们的问题二是：
 - “文字是语言的符号，语言是思想的符号”的语言符号理论适用于中国的汉字系统吗？
-
- Our second question is:
 - **Can such linguistic sign theory that “Text is the sign of language and language is the sign of thought” be applied to Chinese character system?**

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters



(biang: a kind of noodle in Shannxi province, China)



(Contrast: Complicated characters were so hard in writing but now the simplified are much easier.)

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

- 简繁之争的爆发：
- “最终汉字被简化，几乎实行拉丁化。于是，我们与传统文化失之交臂，于是上过十几年学的我们多数成了坐在电视机前听少数能读懂古书的人讲书的文盲”。
- -- 张朋朋



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

- The outbreak of debate between "Simplified or Traditional":
 - “The Chinese characters were eventually simplified and almost latinized. Thus, we have lost contact with traditional culture at the moment. And thus most of us who have studied for more than a decade have become illiterate people who just sit in front of TV screens and listen to the few people who can read ancient books.”
 - -- Zhang Pengpeng

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

- “一个世纪过去了，历史证明：“文字表语说”是废除汉字的一种学说，是废除“古文”和“文言文”的一种学说，是中断中国传统文化的一种学说，是使汉语和汉字变得难教、难学的一种学说。”
-- 张朋朋
- “A century has passed and the history has proven that the “Theory of Text as Sign of Speech” is a doctrine for the abolition of Chinese characters. It is a kind of doctrine that abolishes “ancient written Chinese” and “classical Written Chinese”, it is a kind of doctrine that breaks traditional Chinese culture, and it is a theory that makes Chinese characters difficult to teach and difficult to learn.”
-- Zhang Pengpeng

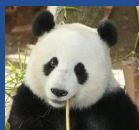
II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

“在对外汉语汉字教学方面，根据“文字表语说”编写的教材是“语文一体”的，教学模式是“文从语”的，汉字不被作为一个独立的视觉符号系统来教，结果，“语”和“文”相互阻碍，汉语和汉字被外国人认为是世界上最难学的语言和文字。”

—— 张朋朋

“In teaching of Chinese as a foreign language, the teaching materials compiled according to the “Theory of Text as Sign of Speech” are “speech and text integrated into one”, and the teaching mode is “characters following speech”. Chinese characters are not taught as an independent visual sign system. As a result, “The “language” and “text” interfere with each other. Chinese and Chinese characters are considered by foreigners to be the most difficult language and texts to be learned in the world.”

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters



杨建华对此背景的注释：

- 解构主义的先驱 雅克·德里达 (Jacques Derrida, 1930.7.15 – 2004.10.8) 同雅克·拉康 (Jacques Lacan, 最有争议的法国精神分析学家, 1901–1981) 等法国哲学家一样特别关注拓扑学 (Topology) 理论特别是扭结理论 (knot theory, 即“三界结”理论) (这些哲学家的理论也由此被认为“神秘”), 通过对文字和语言的比较研究, 揭示出文字与书写的内在性与外在性的拓扑学性质, 并由此对传统的语言文字理论, 特别是对亚里士多德的“言语是心境的符号, 文字是言语的符号”和索绪尔的“能指和所指” (Signifier/signified) 的传统语言学概念进行“颠覆”, 以“解构”其形而上学的二元对立的语音中心主义, 以张扬差异与多样性。德里达的“文字独立于语言”的理念对中国的文字学研究产生巨大的影响, 直接导致“字本位”等思潮的兴起。详见德里达《论文字学》 (De la grammatologie, Paris, Minuit, 1967)

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters



Note about the background by Yang Jianhua:

Jacques Derrida (1930.7.15–2004.10.8), the pioneer deconstructionist, paid special attention, in the same way with French philosophers such as Jacques Lacan (the most controversial French psychoanalyst, 1901-1981), to Topology Theory, especially to Knot Theory (namely, the "Triple Knot Theory") (thus these philosophers' theories are considered as "mystery"), and through textual and linguistic comparisons, reveals the topological nature of internality and externality of words and writing, thus "subverting" the traditional linguistic and literal theory,



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters



- especially for Aristotle's "Speech is the sign of mood; words are the signs of speech" and Saussure's traditional linguistic concept of "signifier/signified", so as to "deconstruct" its metaphysics of binary opposition voice centerism, in order to publicize differences and diversity. Derrida's concept of "words are independent of language" has a tremendous influence on the study of Chinese philology, which directly lead to the rise of ideological trends such as theory of "Character-based Standard System". For detail see Derrida "On Philology" (De la grammatologie, Paris, Minuit, 1967)

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

近来激烈的争论
Recent Agressive Debate

汉字简化
是历史的大趋势

Simplification of
Chinese characters
is historical trend.

汉字要走拼音
的改革道路

Charaters must
be reformed
in the way
of Pinyin.

廢除簡化字
恢復繁體字
Abolish Simplified
characters and
restore
traditional
characters

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

繁體字（臺灣名稱：正體字）

Complicated or Traditional Characters (in Taiwan)

1. 無關掃盲 Nothing to do with learning

事實是臺灣和香港始終使用正體字，教育程度也不低。而且，漢字分爲“標準字”和“俗體字”，雖然在書寫時人們有時會使用俗體字，但是漢語教學還是應該“標準化”。



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

繁體字 (臺灣名稱：正體字)

Complicated or Traditional Characters (in Taiwan)

1. 無關掃盲 Nothing to do with learning

The fact is that traditional characters have been used in Taiwan and Hong Kong all the time, where people are well educated. Besides, we have both “standard characters” and “popular characters” which are sometimes used in daily writing, but Chinese learning and teaching should stick to “standardization”.



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

繁體字（臺灣名稱：正體字）

Complicated or Traditional Characters (in Taiwan)

2. 自古正體 Traditional characters since ancient time

中國有數千年文明史，自古以來使用正體字傳承歷史文化。簡體字剝奪了閱讀古籍的權益，而且“簡體”是對“繁體”的污化。



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

繁體字 (臺灣名稱：正體字)

Complicated or Traditional Characters (in Taiwan)

2. 自古正體 Traditional characters since ancient time

China has a history of civilization for thousands of years.

Since ancient times, the use of regular traditional characters has been passing the history and culture.

Simplified characters deprive of the rights to read ancient books, and “Simplified” is a stain of “Traditional”.



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

繁體字 (臺灣名稱：正體字)

Complicated or Traditional Characters (in Taiwan)

3. 字有字理 Each character has its own motivation

每個正體字都有其存在的理據，而簡體字則破壞了字理，無法理喻。例如，親不見，愛無心，產不生，廠空空，麵無麥，兒無首，開關無門... 而驚的簡體“惊”卻是心旁有京城! ...



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

繁體字 (臺灣名稱：正體字)

Complicated or Traditional Characters (in Taiwan)

3. 字有字理 Each character has its own motivation

Each regular character has its motivations for its existence, while simplified characters break the rationales, unreasonable.

For example, affection (親) without meeting 见 (亲), love (愛) without heart 心 (爱), borne (產) without produce 生 (产), factory (廠) is empty (厂), flour (麵) without wheat 麥 (面), son (兒) without head (儿), open and close (開關) without door 門 (开关) ... and fear (驚) has capital city on the side of fear (惊)!...



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

简体字 Simplified Character

1. 工具：易学易用 Easy to learn and use as tool

汉字是书写的工具，应该简单实用。汉语常用汉字仅仅2500个（覆盖阅读99%），因为复杂成为难学的语言之一。繁体“書”“畫”“畫”难写难认，简体“书”“画”“昼”就好写好认。更多如

“雷 bìng 龍 dá 馬 biāo 原 yuán 驚 lóng 龐 cū
鷓 lě 鬱 yù 鬻 cuàn 鬻 nàng”

就更难写难认啦！



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

简体字 Simplified Character

1. 工具：易学易用 Easy to learn and use as tool

Chinese character is writing tool and should be simple and practical.

There are only 2500 commonly used Chinese characters (99% coverage), whose complexity makes Chinese one of the hard-to-learn languages. Traditional 書(book), 畫 (painting) and 晝 (day time) are very hard to write and recognize, while their simplified 书, 画 and 昼 are easy enough to write and distinguish. More like

“靄 bìng 龔 dá 羸 biāo 羸 yuán 鷲 lóng 羸 cū 鷓 lě 燻 yù
嬰 cuàn 龔 nàng” are even more difficult to write and recognize!



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

简体字 Simplified Character

2.历史：由繁至简 “Complicated” to “simplified” in history

从古老的甲骨文经历了金文、篆书、隶书、楷书的演变史，汉字也经历了由繁至简的过程：由图画到线条再到笔画，由笔画多到笔画少，由结构复杂到越发简单。特别是“隶变”更是汉字的历史性改革，这是汉字的符号化变革。因此在古代便开始出现简化字，如“厂”“广”等。特别在一些古代书法中，据统计简化字竟然有三分之一。即使在台湾（臺灣），也会偶见简繁混合体“台灣”。



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

简体字 Simplified Character

2. 历史：由繁至简 “Complicated” to “simplified” in history

From ancient Oracle bone script to bronze inscriptions, then to seal script, then to clerical script, and then to regular script, Chinese characters have also undergone a process from “complicated” to “simplified”: from drawings to lines to strokes, from more strokes to less strokes, and in structures to more and more simple stroke. In particular, “clerical script reform” is the historic change of Chinese characters. This is a symbolic change of Chinese characters. Therefore, simplified characters such as 厂 (factory) and 广 “wide” began to appear in ancient times. Especially, in some ancient calligraphy works, according to statistics, there are actually one-third of simplified characters. Even in Taiwan (台湾) (臺灣), we sometimes see the complex of 台灣 (Taiwan).









II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

- 一句话，汉字演变以秦国篆隶为界分为古文字和今文字两段，演变的规律则是“简化、声化、规范化”，形式上最根本的变化则是“笔画拉直”，从此正式开始其符号化演变进程。
- In one word, the evolution of Chinese characters is divided into two parts: the ancient text and the present text with seal script and clerical script as dividing line. The law of evolution is "Simplification, Sounding and Standardization". The most fundamental change in form was the "straightening of strokes" and began the evolution process towards symbolization since then.

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

- 以“马”为例来看看早期的象形字演进到今天的简化过程：

-  (商代金文) —  (甲骨文) —  (西周金文) —  (春秋金文)
- —  (战国文字) —  (小篆) — 馬 — 马。

- 可以看出，图形逐渐变为线条、笔画越来越少。



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

Take “**马** horse” as an example to see how the early pictographs evolved into today’s simplified character:



(bronze inscription in Shang Era)



(oracle bone)



(bronze inscription in Western Zhou Era)



(Spring & Autumn Era)



(Warring States Era)



(small seal script) - 馬 - 马。

It can be seen that the graphics gradually become lines and there are less and less strokes.

II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

简体字 Simplified Character

3. 简化：保持字理 Simplification: Keep Motivation

世界上所有的文字都在不断演变过程中，或快或慢，而演化的本质则是简化，简化过程即是由图画向符号化发展。任何文字盖莫如此。

尽管汉字从古代的“隶变”便已经开始其理据性的弱化，汉字简化更是弱化了其字理，然而这是历史的大趋势。不过，不论繁体还是简体，汉字的构成依然依据“六书”的造字（及用字）原则，即象形、指事、会意、形声、假借、转注。尤其是大部分汉都属于形声字，非常有利于汉字的简化而保持汉字的理据性。



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

简体字 Simplified Character

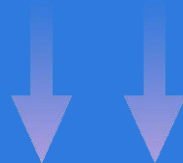
3. 简化：保持字理 Simplification: Keep Motivation

All the languages in the world are constantly evolving, either fast or slow, and the nature of evolution is simplification. The simplification process is the development from drawing to symbolization.

This is what any text does.

Chinese characters began to weaken their motivation when the ancient “clerical script reform” occurred; the simplification of Chinese characters has also weakened further their motivation.

However, this is the historical trend.



II. 关于简体字之争 Debate about Simplified Characters

简体字 Simplified Character

Yet, regardless of traditional or simplified, the composition of Chinese characters is still based on the “six categories of forming Chinese characters”, principle of building characters (and using characters), namely, pictograms, ideograms, ideogrammic compounds, phono-semantic compounds, rebus and transformed cognates. Particularly, most of characters are phono-semantic compounds ones, which has advantages for the simplification of characters and maintaining the rationality of Chinese characters.



III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？

Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

1

世界上所有的语言和文字都属于索绪尔阐述的语言符号系统

2

汉语和汉字也属于索绪尔阐述的语言符号系统

3

汉字具有与表音文字不同的理据



III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？ Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?



1

All the languages and words in the world belong to Saussure's linguistic sign system



2

Chinese and Chinese characters also belong to Saussure's linguistic sign system

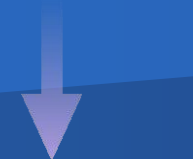


3


Chinese characters have different motivations from phonogram words

III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？

Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

- 1. 世界上所有的语言和文字都属于索绪尔阐述的符号系统
 - 在前面，我们得出重要结论：任意性和理据性是语言符号的两大重要客观属性。因此，我们可以说，世界上所有的语言和文字都属于索绪尔阐述的符号系统，都具有任意性和理据性双重性质。
 - 当然，任意性并不是随意的，而是任意和约定俗成的结合。而约定俗成则构成符号的理据。对于拼音文字，其理据便是文字对应语言的语音。有的语音对应语音的理据性比较强，甚至不需要音标系统直接根据单词读音如波兰语，有点则对应语音的理据性比较弱，需要音标的帮助确定发音如英语。
- 

III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？ Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

- **1. All the languages and words in the world are of Saussure's linguistic sign system**
 - We have already come to the important conclusion that arbitrariness and motivation are two fundamental characteristics of the linguistic sign. Therefore, we may say that all the languages and words in the world are of Saussure's linguistic sign system and both have the nature of arbitrariness and motivation. Of course, arbitrariness is not arbitrary, but a combination of arbitrariness and conventional.
- 

III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？

Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

- However, the conventions constitute the rationale of signs. For phonographic words, the rationale is the pronunciation of the corresponding language. Some languages have strong motivations to corresponding pronunciation, and even the words can be pronounced directly without the help of phonetic symbol system such as Polish, while some languages have weaker motivation for the corresponding pronunciation, thus requiring the help of phonetic symbols to determine the pronunciation such as English.

III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？ Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

■ 2. 汉字也属于索绪尔阐述的符号系统

- 汉字的演变是个繁简之间变化的过程，因此汉字虽然具有很强的理据性，却仍然具有任意性，只是其任意性（繁简变化）是在其理据性基础之上，即造字用字原则的“六书”。正因为汉字仍属于符号性质，因此与汉语不同语系的日语、韩语等“借用”汉字以后，仍然可以很好地为这些迥异的语言作为书写工具服务。

III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？

Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

- **2. Chinese characters are also of Saussure's linguistic sign system**
- The evolution of Chinese characters is a process of change between
- “complicated” and “simplified”. Therefore, although Chinese characters
- have strong motivations, they still have arbitrariness, but their arbitrariness
- (changing between “complicated” and “simplified”) is based on their motivations, that is, the “six categories of forming Chinese characters”, the principle of character formation and usage. Just owing to the fact that Chinese characters are of linguistic signs, they could still serve well as writing instruments for such quite different and strange languages as Japanese and Korean languages when these languages “borrowed” characters from Chinese language.

III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？

Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

■ 3. 汉字具有与拼音文字不同的理据

- 汉字有着完全独特的字理和发展方向。汉字除具有表音文字的表音理据（尽管不如表音文字的表音理据强烈和直接）外，还具有其他文字不具备的表形、表义的理据，即“形、义、音”三位一体的字理。
- 这是因为，汉字的单字记录的是语素，所以汉字是语素文字（语素也叫词素，是最小的语音和语义的结合体）（波兰文、英文等的字母记录的是音素或音位，所以是音素文字，而日文的假名记录的则是音节，所以日文是音节文字）。此外这也与汉字是自源文字（相对借源文字而言）所具有的优势有关。
- 由此，汉字在形义理据及形义视觉认知感受方面较之表音文字具有更大优势和魅力，通过汉字的形义视觉认知感受进行诗意的语言呈现。现在人们逐渐认识到，这正是汉字独具的文字优势和科学性。从计算机的快速输入和文章的篇幅短也可以看出汉字具有的优势。



III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？

Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?

- **3. Chinese characters have different motivations from phonogram words**
- Chinese characters have completely unique motivations and direction
- of development. In addition to the phonogram rationales of phonogram words (although not as strong and direct as the phonogram rationales of phonogram words), Chinese characters also have the phenomenological and semantic motivations that other language texts do not have, namely, the trinity of "shape, meaning and sound". This is because single Chinese character records morphemes. Therefore, Chinese characters are of morphemes (morphemes are also known as word morphemes, which are the smallest combination of phonetics and semantics) (Polish, English, etc. record elements of speech or phonemes, so they are phonetic texts,



III. 汉字：理据性？任意性？

Chinese: Motivation? Arbitrariness?



- while Japanese kana records syllables, so Japanese is a syllable text). In addition, this is also related to the advantage that Chinese characters are of self - derivation text (as opposed to other-source texts). As a result, Chinese characters have more advantages and charms in terms of form and meaning and visual perception of form and meaning than phonogram words, and the poetic language is presented through the visual perception of Chinese characters.
- Now people come to realize that this is the unique textual advantage and scientific nature of Chinese characters, which can also be seen from the faster Chinese input of computer and the shorter length of articles in Chinese.

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

1. 汉字必须坚持“形、义、音”三位一体的理据性，不能走拼音的改革道路
1. Characters must keep the rationales of "shape, meaning and sound", and cannot be reformed in the way of Pinyin (latinization).

2. 繁体字和简体字都是汉语的记录符号，都承载着数千年的中华文化。
2. Both traditional characters and simplified characters are linguistic signs for writing with Chinese culture of thousands of years.

3. 繁体字与简体字各司其职；汉字简化是历史的趋势
3. Traditional and simplified Chinese characters perform their respective duties; simplification of Chinese characters is historical trend

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- **1. 汉字必须坚持“形、义、音”三位一体的理据性，不能走拼音的改革道路**
- 1) 作为世界上唯一的一种语素文字，汉字是人类历史上唯一历经数千年延续至今保持着“形、义、音”三位一体的古老的理据性文字，这也是汉字的“超时代性”和“超时空性”优点。显然不必要也不应该放弃这个巨大优势而改革为表音文字；
- 2) 中国是个大国，汉语有8大方言之多（更有无数的次方言），方言之间语音差别之大以至互相难以沟通，可以说汉字的与中国传统文化共存亡、同发展。汉字的“形、义、音”三位一体的理据和自古以来的“书同文”才使得不同方言区的人们尽管语音不同，却在读写方面没有任何障碍和困难，维系着民族的统一。

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- **1. Characters must keep the rationales of "shape, meaning and sound", and cannot be reformed in the way of Pinyin (latinization)**
- 1) As the only morpheme text in the world, in human history Chinese characters are the only ancient words maintaining the trinity of "Shape, Meaning, and Sound" of the trinity till today, which have lasted for thousands of years. This is also the "over-era" and "over time & being" of Chinese character advantage. Obviously, it is not necessary and not right to give up this great advantage and reform Chinese characters into phonogram words ;



IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development



- 2) China is a big country. There are 8 leading dialects in Chinese (even endless sub-dialects), and the difference in phonetic pronunciation between dialects is huge so much so that it is difficult to communicate with each other. It can be said that Chinese characters and Chinese traditional cultures are coexisting and developing together with each other. The rationales of the trinity of "Form, Meaning, and Sound" of Chinese characters and the "simultaneous writings with the same characters" since ancient times made reading and writing in different dialect areas of no obstacles or difficulties, maintaining the unity of the nation despite their different pronunciations.

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- **2. 繁体字和简体字都是汉语的记录符号，都承载着数千年的中华文化。**
- 文字保持形义理据并具有形义的视觉认知感受是需要付出代价的，其代价便是文字形体的繁化。为了克服字形的复杂化就需要对文字进行简化，而简化则往往带来一定的理据性的降低。繁体字更多体现着汉字的诗性和美感，简体字则可以更好地发挥作为工具的功能。因此在书法、艺术等领域见到更多繁体字，而在日常学习工作中更多使用的是简化字。

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- **2.Both traditional characters and simplified characters are linguistic signs for writing with Chinese culture of thousands of years.**
- It has to pay for the characters to maintain the semantic meaning and the sense of visual cognition, and the cost is the complication of characters; while in order to overcome the complexity, the characters need to be simplified, and the simplification often brings about a certain reduction of motivation. The traditional characters reflect more the poetry and beauty of Chinese characters; while the simplified characters can better serve as a tool. Thus, we see more traditional characters in the fields of calligraphy and arts, and more simplified words in daily learning and working.

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- **3.繁体字与简体字各司其职；汉字简化是历史的趋势**
- 1) 作为数千年古籍的载体并具有沉重的历史感和艺术感，繁体字将在古籍整理和艺术领域获得更好维护和发扬；
- 2) 汉字简化和发展还将不断进行；重视字理，但不过分强调字理，不以“字本位”阻止汉字的继续发展和简化。当然简体字的理据性会不断弱化；

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- 3) 制定更为科学严谨的简化原则，以六书为基础，同时不拘泥于久远的“六书”，“六书”也需要演进：
 - • 以形声字为主，逐步增加形声字比例；
 - • 修改现有简化字中不合理部分；
 - • 根据历史发展修改不适应的字，已经有过先例，如古代石头的“砲”改写为火药的“炮”；
 - • 继续简化过于复杂的汉字，进一步减少汉字笔画；
 - • 按照比较可行的汉字梳理方式，即将汉字分为三类：古代汉语专用词如“聿、薨、珏、祢、罍”等，现代汉语专用词如“氢、氧、啤、镭、汞”等，以及古今通用词如“学、间、前、好”等，梳理汉字系统；
 - • 汉语教学中“读写”以简化字为主，繁体字以“认知”为主，即“用简识繁”。

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- **3. Traditional and simplified Chinese characters perform their respective duties; simplification of Chinese characters is historical trends**
- 1) As a carrier of ancient records of thousands of years with a heavy sense of history and arts, traditional characters will be better maintained and promoted in ancient book re-organization and in the fields of arts;
- 2) The simplification and development of Chinese characters will continue to be carried out; Emphasize rationales, but do not over-emphasize the motivation. The theory of “character-based motivation” should not prevent the continuing development and simplification of Chinese characters. Of course, the motivation of simplified characters will continue to be weakened.



IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- 3) Develop a more scientific and rigorous simplification principle, based on the “six categories of forming Chinese characters” , and at the same time should not be confined to the “six categories of forming Chinese characters”, which also need evolution;
 - Mainly in the form of phonograms, gradually increase the proportion of phonograms;
 - Correct the unreasonable part of existing simplified characters;
 - There are precedents for changing out-of-date characters based on historical development. For example, “砲”, the ancient artillery of the stone was rewritten as “炮”, the "gun" of gunpowder;
 - Continue to simplify overly complicated Chinese characters and further reduce numbers of strokes of Chinese characters;

IV. 结论：汉字何去何从 Conclusion: Future Development

- • Sort out Chinese characters system in accordance with the comparatively feasible way of classifying Chinese characters, namely the three groups of Chinese characters: special ancient Chinese characters such as “聿, 薨, 珏, 祢, 罍” etc., special modern Chinese characters such as “氢hydrogen, 氧oxygen, 啤beer, 镭radium, 汞mercury” etc., as well as shared ancient and modern terms such as “学study, 间interval, 前front, 好dobry” etc.;
- • In Chinese language teaching and learning, in “reading and writing” simplified characters play the main role, while traditional characters are mainly used for “cognition”, that is to say, “use the simplified and recognize the complicated”.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ I. 汉字必须坚持“形、义、音”三位一体的理据性，不能走拼音的改革道路

- 我们知道，西方语言和文字是依靠词汇和西方的语法两大系统同时表达语义的，而汉语则主要依靠词汇系统表达语义，没有完整的西方语言的语法系统（即字词的形态变化，*zi'c*如“性”、“数”、“格”、“时”、“体”、“态”、“式”、“级”等），而汉语词汇一个重要特点是“四声”（也是外国人学习汉语的难点之一），即“四声”在区别词义方面意义重大，由此造成汉语的同音字格外地多。请看下面两个极端的每个字读音完全相同的古文短文为例，足以说明问题。（更多参见“只有一个读音的文言文”一文）

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

I. Characters must keep the rationales of "shape, meaning and sound", and cannot be reformed in the way of Pinyin (latinization).

Western languages and words rely on vocabulary and western grammar systems to express semantics at the same time, while Chinese relies mainly on lexical systems to express semantics, and there is no complete western language grammar system (namely, no word or character morphological change such as "gender", "number", "case", "tense", "aspect", "voice", "mood", "degree" etc.), and an important feature of Chinese vocabulary is "Four Tones" (which is also one of the difficulties for foreigners to learn Chinese), namely, "Four Tones" is of great significance in distinguishing meanings. This has led to an unusually large number of homonyms in Chinese. Please read the following two Classic texts as extreme example to illustrate the issue; the pronunciation of each character is completely the same. (For more, see "Texts with only one pronunciation")

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

- 1. 每个字读音都是“ji”
- The pronunciation of each character is “ji”:
 - 《季姬击鸡记》
 - 季姬寂，集鸡，鸡即棘鸡。
 - 棘鸡饥叽，季姬及箕稷济鸡。
 - 鸡既济，跻姬笈，季姬忌，
 - 急咭鸡，鸡急，继圾几，季姬急，
 - 即籍箕击鸡，箕疾击几伎，伎即齏。
 - 鸡叽集几基，季姬急极屣击鸡，
 - 鸡既殛，季姬激，即记《季姬击鸡记》。
- 白话文翻译：
 - 季姬感到寂寞，罗集了一些鸡来养，是那种出自荆棘丛中的野鸡。
 - 野鸡饿了叫叽叽，季姬就拿竹箕中的小米喂它们。
 - 鸡吃饱了，跳到季姬的书箱上，季姬怕脏，忙叱赶鸡，鸡吓急了，就接着跳到几桌上，季姬更着急了，就借竹箕为赶鸡的工具，投击野鸡。竹箕的投速很快，却打中了几桌上的陶伎俑，那陶伎俑掉到地下，竟粉碎了。
 - 季姬争眼一瞧，鸡躲在几桌下乱叫，季姬一怒之下，脱下木屐鞋来打鸡，把鸡打死了。
 - 想着养鸡的经过，季姬激动起来，就写了这篇《季姬击鸡记》。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 2. 每个字读音都是“shi”

■ The pronunciation of each character is “shi”:

■ 《施氏食狮史》

■ 石室诗士施氏，嗜狮，誓食十狮。施氏时时适市视狮。

■ 十时，适十狮适市。是时，适施氏适市。氏视是十狮，恃矢势，使是十狮逝世。

■ 氏拾是十狮尸，适石室。石室湿，氏使侍拭石室。石室拭，氏始试食是十狮。

■ 食时，始识是十狮，实十石狮尸。试释是事。

■ 白话文：

■ 有个住在石屋子里的姓施的诗人，特别喜欢狮子，发誓要吃十只狮子。

■ 施诗人常常到市场上看狮子，十点，正好有十只狮子到了市场。这时，正好赶上施诗人到市场。

■ 施诗人看了这十只狮子，倚仗弓箭的力量，使这十只狮子死去。施诗人捡起这十只狮子，到了石屋子，石屋子湿了，施诗人派仆人擦拭石屋。

■ 石屋子擦干了，施诗人才试吃这十只狮子。吃的时候，才发现这十只狮子，其实是十只石狮子的尸体。

■ 试着解释这件事!

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

II. 汉字“理据性”演变举例说明

汉字简化是历史的趋势

1. “文”

1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文			篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体	
										
乙 6820	甲 2684	旋鼎	井人钟	秦公钟	说文解字	汉帛书	张猛龙碑	欧阳玄	蔡襄	印刷字库

2) 造字本义：名词，远古时代刻画在岩壁、甲骨上的图画性表义符号，即最早的象形汉字。

3) 点评

“文”这个汉字在现代虽然没有繁体和简体的区别，却也有其演变史，反映着汉字的演变历史。可以看到，即使在甲骨文时期，也曾有过简化的演变过程，在金文时期也曾有过简化的演变过程，说明简化是历史的趋势，是人们书写记事的需要，也是文字的符号本性所决定的。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 1. “文”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文			篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体	
										
乙 6820	甲 2684	旂鼎	井人钟	秦公钟	说文解字	汉帛书	张猛龙碑	欧阳玄	蔡襄	印刷字库

■ 2) Original meaning: noun, the ancient pictorial symbol depicted on the rock wall and oracle bones, ie. the earliest pictographic Chinese character.

■ 3) Comment:

■ Although there is no distinction between traditional and simplified in modern time, the Chinese character “文” has its evolution history and reflects the evolution of Chinese characters. It can be seen that even during the oracle period, there was a simplified evolutionary process. In the period of the “Jinwen” period, there was a simplified evolutionary process. It shows that simplification is a historical trend, a need for people to write notes, decided by the symbolic nature of character.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 2.“用”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书		楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体
前 4·6	商尊	江小仲鼎	说文解字	马王堆帛书	武威简	元倪墓志	黄庭坚	祝枝山	印刷字库

■ 2) 造字本义：木块箍扎成的木桶。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “用”字的原始本义已经发生了很大变化，由此可见“用”这一类汉字是没有必要过于强调其“理据性”的，因为其“理据性”已经失去或基本失去其“理据性”基础，即理据性极度弱化，而符号性大大增强。其原始理据性仅存在于古籍之中。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 2.“用”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书		楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体
前 4·6	商尊	江小仲鼎	说文解字	马王堆帛书	武威简	元倪墓志	黄庭坚	祝枝山	印刷字体

■ 2) The original meaning: wooden barrels tied into wooden barrels.

■ 3) Comments:

■ The original meaning of the word “用” has changed a lot. It can be seen that there is no need to overemphasize its “motivational” of character in the category of “use”, because its “motivation” has lost or basically lost its basis of “motivation”, that is, the motivation is extremely weakened, and the symbolism is greatly enhanced. Its original motivation existed only in ancient books.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 3.“字”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体
𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	字	字	字	字	字
暂缺	字父已解	忍其基	说文解字	石门颂	寇颂墓志	欧阳询	月仪帖	印刷字库

■ 2) 造字本义：动词，女子落户夫家，生养后代。子，表示小孩。

■ 3) 点评：

“字”这个汉字的原始本义已经发生了很大变化，由此可见“字”这一类汉字是没有必要过于强调其“理据性”的，因为其“理据性”已经丧失或基本失去其“理据性”基础，即理据性极度弱化，而符号性大大增强。其原始理据性仅存在于古籍之中。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 3.“字”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体
𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	字	字	字	字	字
暂缺	字父已𠄎	𠄎其基	说文解字	石门颂	寇潜墓志	欧阳询	月仪帖	印刷字库

■ 2) The original meaning of: verb, women settled in husband's family, gave birth to offspring. 子, indicating a child.

■ 3) Comments:

■ The original meaning of the word “字” has undergone great changes. It can be seen from this that "motivation" of such sort of Chinese characters as “字” does not need to be emphasize too much because its “motivation” has lost or almost lost its “basis of "motivation", that is, the motivation was extremely weakened, and the symbolism is greatly enhanced. Its original motives existed only in ancient books.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 4.“页”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
									利用草书字形局部简化
乙 8848	卯墓	说文解字	曹全碑	高贞碑	唐寅须局部	明人	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：名词，人的头部、脸部。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “页”这个汉字的原始本义也已经发生了很大变化，由此可见“页”这一类汉字是没有必要过于强调其“理据性”的，因为其“理据性”已经失去或基本失去其“理据性”基础，即理据性极度弱化，而符号性大大增强。其原始理据性仅存在于古籍之中。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 4.“页”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
									利用草书字形局部简化
乙 8848	卯基	说文解字	曹全碑	高贞碑	唐寅须局部	明人	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) Original meaning: noun, person's head, face.

■ 3) Comments:

■ The original meaning of the character “页” has also undergone great changes. It can be seen from this that "motivation" of such sort of Chinese characters as “页” does not need to be emphasize too much because its “motivaton” has lost or almost lost its “basis of "motivation", that is, the motivation was extremely weakened, and the symbolism is greatly enhanced. Its original motives existed only in ancient books.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 5.“書-书”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
										利用草书字形整体简化
屯 2392	獸簋	頌鼎	说文解字	楼兰简	元倪墓志	钟繇	王羲之	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：动词，手执毛笔，写字画画。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “书”这个汉字也是整体进行简化，“简化”掉的是过于复杂的部分（即用筷子蘸水的部分，况且现代人们写字也无需用筷子蘸水）。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 5.“書-书”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
										利用草书字形整体简化
屯 2392	獸簋	頌鼎	说文解字	楼兰简	元倪墓志	钟繇	王羲之	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) Original meaning: verb, holding brush, writing and drawing.

■ 3) Comments:

■ The Chinese character “书” is also simplified as a whole. What is “simplified” is the overly complicated part (ie, the part in which chopsticks are utilized to dip water, and modern people do not need to write with chopsticks to dip water).

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 6.“畫-画”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书	楷书		行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
											采用俗体楷书字形 (删减字件“聿”)
後下 4·11	宅簠	吴方彝	说文解字	汉帛书	颜真卿	颜真卿	欧阳询	怀素	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：用毛笔描绘地图，显示地界。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “画”这个汉字和上面的“书”同样也是整体进行简化，“简化”掉的是过于复杂的部分（即“聿”，手执毛笔部分，毕竟用手执笔来画是不言而喻的，有“画蛇添足”之虞，因此完全可以省略）。再者，“画”这个简体字早在楷书时期就已经出现了，可见古人也在寻求简化的途径。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 6.“畫-画”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书	楷书		行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
											采用俗体楷书字形 (删减字件“聿”)
後下4·11	宅簋	吴方彝	说文解字	汉帛书	颜真卿	颜真卿	欧阳询	怀素	印刷字库	印刷字库	

- 2) Original meaning: verb, draw a map with a brush and show the boundaries.

■ 3) Comments:

- The Chinese character “画” is also simplified as a whole. It is an overly complex part of the “simplification” (ie, “聿”, which means holding the brush to write. After all, it is self-evident that one should hold a brush to paint, and there is an "overwhelming" ambiguity, so it can be omitted). Moreover, the simplified Chinese character "画" appeared as early as the period of the seal script, showing that the ancients were also seeking ways to simplify characters.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 7.“畫-昼”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文	篆文		隶书	楷书		行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
											利用草书字形个局部简化。
暂缺	口墓	籀文	说文解字	汉帛书	颜真卿	颜真卿	黄庭坚	米芾	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：日出时提笔记下新的一天。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “昼”这个汉字与上面的“画”的简化演变过程何其相似。与“画”同样，“昼”也是整体进行简化，“简化”掉的是过于复杂的部分（即“聿”，手执毛笔，表示记录的部分，毕竟用手执毛笔来记录其实是多此一举的，因此完全可以省略）。再者，“昼”这个简体字也早在楷书时期就已经出现了，可见古人也在不断寻求简化的途径。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 7.“畫-昼”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案	
									利用草书字形个局部简化。	
暂缺	口晝	籀文	说文解字	汉帛书	颜真卿	颜真卿	黄庭坚	米芾		印刷字库

- 2) Original meaning: Take note with a brush for a new day at sunrise.
- 3) Comments:
- What the similarity is between the simplified Chinese character “昼” and “画”. Like “画”, “昼” is also simplified as a whole, and what is “simplified” is an overly complicated part (ie, “聿”, which means holding the brush to write. After all, it is self-evident that one should hold a brush to paint, and there is an "overwhelming" ambiguity, so it can be omitted). Moreover, the simplified Chinese character "昼" appeared as early as the period of the seal script, showing that the ancients were also seeking ways to simplify characters.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 8.“厰-厂”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体	简化方案
			缺	厂	厂		厂	用简单字形 “厂”合并 复杂字形 “厰、厰”。
缺		厰	缺	厰	缺	缺	厰	
缺	缺	缺	厰	厰	厰	厰	厰	

■ 2) 造字本义：崖面凸出、崖底可供人居住的石崖。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “厂”这个汉字的原始本义已经发生了很大变化，由此可见“厂”这一类汉字是没有必要过于强调其“理据性”的，因为其“理据性”已经失去或基本失去其“理据性”基础。此外，“厂”与“厰”合并后，采用古已有之的“简体”“厂”亦无可厚非。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 8.“厰-厂”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体	简化方案
𠩺	𠩺	𠩺	缺	厂	厂	厂	厂	用简单字形 “厂”合并 复杂字形 “厰、厰”。
缺	𠩺	厰	缺	厰	缺	缺	厰	
缺	缺	缺	厰	厰	厰	厰	厰	

■ 2) The original meaning: cliff that protrudes from the hill and people can inhabit the cliff bottom.

■ 3) Comments:

■ The original meaning of the word “厂” has changed a lot. It can be seen that “motivation” of this type of Chinese characters like “factory” does not need to be emphasized too much, because its “motivation” has lost or almost lost its basis of motivation. In addition, after the merger of “厂” and “厰”, the use of the “simplified” “厂” that already existed in ancient times should be reasonable.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 9.“親-亲”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
𠂔	𠂔	親	親	親	親	視	親	亲	删减字件“见”
暫缺	克钟	说文解字	乙瑛碑	北海王造像	柳公权	智永	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：动词，探视狱中受监的家人。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “亲”这个汉字的原始本义也已经发生了很大变化，由此可见“亲”这一类汉字是没有必要过于强调其原始“理据性”的，其偏旁“见”被省略无可厚非，毕竟现代现代意义的“亲”并未与“见”捆绑在一起不可分离。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 9.“親-亲”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
𠂔	𠂔	親	親	親	親	親	親	亲	删减字件“见”
暫缺	克钟	说文解字	乙瑛碑	北海王造像	柳公权	智永	印刷字库	印刷字库	

- 2) Original meaning: verb, visit the prisoners of the family in prison.
- 3) Comments:
- The original meaning of the “亲” has also undergone great changes. It can be seen that there is no need to overemphasize the original “motivation” of the Chinese character “亲”. It is understandable that the part of “见” is omitted. After all, “亲” in modern sense is not tied up with “见”.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 10.“頭-头”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



金文	篆文	隶书		楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
頭	頭	頭	头	頭	頭	頭	頭	头	采用俗体隶书字形： 另造“大”（人）加 两点的指事字。
蔡侯鼎	说文解字	礼器碑	马王堆帛书	王羲之	唐寅	怀素	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：名词，容纳脑组织的脑袋，头颅。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “头”这个汉字，其简体“头”正是汉字从象形到符号分界的汉“隶书”所采用的，用以取代“繁體”的“頭”，而“頭”的本义则留给了右半部“頁”（见上面第4条）。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 10.“頭-头”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



金文	篆文	隶书		楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
頭	頭	頭	头	頭	頭	頭	頭	头	采用俗体隶书字形： 另造“大”(人)加 两点的指事字。
蔡侯鼎	说文解字	礼器碑	马王堆帛书	王羲之	唐寅	怀素	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) Original meaning: noun, head which contains brain, skull

■ 3) Comments:

- The Chinese character "头" is just the simplified "头" which was used from pictographic to symbolic demarcation to replace "traditional "頭"", and the original meaning of 頭"" is left to the right half 頁"" (see article 4 above).

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 11.“陽-阳”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
									另造会义字
前 5·42	裘季子白盘	说文解字	礼器碑	敬使君碑	王羲之	宋克	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：名词，山地受光的南坡。易，表示日光照耀。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “阳”这个汉字原义为阳光照耀的山坡面，繁体“陽”右边的“易”表示日光，因此用“日”代替之并无不妥，与原来繁体“陽”的六书构字原则相同。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 11.“陽-阳”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
									另造会义字
前 5·42	夔季子白盘	说文解字	礼器碑	敬使君碑	王羲之	宋克	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) Original meaning: noun, the sun-lighted southern slope of the mountain. 易, which means sun shines.

■ 3) Comments:

■ The original meaning of the Chinese character “阳” is the sun-lighted slope of the hill, and “易” on the right part of traditional “陽” represents sunlight. Therefore, it is not inappropriate to replace it with “日”, for both “阳” and “陽” were formed with the same principle of character-forming.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 12.“陰-阴”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
								另造会义字
□伯璽	说文解字	华山庙碑	王献之	黄庭坚	陆游	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：名词，山地背阳的潮湿北坡。

■ 3) 点评：

■ “阴”这个汉字原义为山之背阳面，繁体“陰”的“既是声旁也是形旁”的“侪”，“表示天空多云、没有阳光、有雨情”。而简体字“阴”则用“月”取代“侪”，与“阳”正好相对，且符合中国传统的“阴阳”之说，可谓妙手偶得。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 12.“陰-阴”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
								另造会义字
□伯璽	说文解字	华山庙碑	王献之	黄庭坚	陆游	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) Original meaning: Noun, the humid northern slope of the mountain.

■ 3) Comments:

■ The original meaning of the Chinese character "阴" was the back side of the mountain. “會” of traditional "陰" "is both sound is and shape part of the" 陰", indicates "the sky is cloudy, there is no sunshine, and there is rain." “會” is replaced by “月” in simplified Chinese character “阴”, which is just opposite to “阳”, just in line with the Chinese traditional theory of “阴 and 阳” wonderfully.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 13.“龍-龙”

1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书		行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
										删减“立”、“月”， 并利用草书字形 简化其余部分。
乙 3797	龙母尊	说文解字	鲁峻碑	魏灵藏造像	颜真卿	董其昌	怀素	印刷字库	印刷字库	

2) 造字本义：中生代一种头上长角、大口利齿的巨型爬行动物。

3) 点评：

“龙”这个汉字在象形和金文时期还是比较简单的，只是在篆文变得复杂，既描绘出龙的身也描绘其头与头上的角。其实省略其头与角部分仍能体现龙作为巨大的爬行动物的特点，完全具备区别性，因此在楷书中便已经重新简化为“龙”，与现代使用的“龙”别无二致。此外，更多汉字的简化亦同理，比如“爱”无需说明是爱是用“心”在爱而非其它（愛），吃饭的“吃”更无需写出“牙齿”“舌头”等，尽管常识是吃饭需要牙齿舌头的……

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 13.“龍-龙”

1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
									删减“立”、“月”， 并利用草书字形 简化其余部分。
乙 3797	龙母尊	说文解字	鲁峻碑	魏灵藏造像	颜真卿	董其昌	怀素	印刷字库	

2) Original meaning: a Mesozoic giant reptile with a long horn on its head and large teeth.

3) Comments:

The Chinese character “龙” was relatively simplified during the Pictographic and Jinwen periods, but it became complicated in Zhuan, depicting both the dragon body and the head and the horns on its head. In fact, though its head and corners were omitted, it can still reflect the dragon's characteristics as a giant reptile, and it is completely different from others. Therefore, it has been re-simplified as “龙” in the edict period, and it is no different from “龙” used in modern times. In addition, the simplification of more Chinese characters is the same. For example, “love” does not need to explain that persons love with “heart” but not with other organs (愛), and it the same with “吃”. There is no need to write “teeth” and “tongue” to write “吃”, Despite common sense is that eating needs teeth, tongue ...

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 14.“幾-几”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体	简化方案
缺	缺	缺	几	几	几	几	几	几	用简单字形“几”合并复杂字形“幾”。
缺	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	幾	幾	幾	幾	

■ 2) 造字本义：名词，小凳子。

■ 3) 点评：

“几”这个汉字在使用中更多与数量有关（除非说“茶几”），因此其实际使用与其“小凳子”的意义相去甚远。“幾”与“几”相似，实际使用的字义已经不是其原始本义，两者都表示“很少”的意思，既然所代表的意义差不多，当然可以合并，使用简单的“几”。为什么不可以呢？为什么非要使用难写又费时的繁体“幾”呢？比起“几”，“幾”的优势何在呢？

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 14.“幾-几”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文		篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	标准宋体	简化方案
缺	缺	缺	几	几	几	几	几	几	用简单字形“几”合并复杂字形“幾”。
缺	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	幾	幾	幾	幾	幾	

■ 2) Original meaning: noun, stool.

■ 3) Comments:

- The Chinese character “几” is more relevant to quantity in use (unless referring to “tea table”), so its actual use is far from the meaning of “small stool”. “幾” is similar to “几”, whose actual meaning is no longer its original meaning. Both represent the meaning of “very few.” Since the meanings represented are similar, of course, they can be merged using a simple “几” Why not? Why do we have to use hard-to-write and time-consuming traditional “幾”? Compared with “几”, what are the advantages of “幾”?

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 15.“龜-龟”

■ 1) 字形演变历史



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
									采用俗体楷书字形（删减字件：两个“田”一个“田”）
甲 984	龟父丙鼎	籀文 说文解字	桐柏庙碑	李壁碑 颜真卿	赵孟頫	孙过庭	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) 造字本义：乌龟

■ 3) 点评：

- “龟”这个汉字的简化很典型，其简化过程并没有任何所谓“理据性”的改变，保持着原有造字原则，变化的只是龟的背部甲盖的形象由细腻描绘改为简洁描绘而已，其实并无本质区别，只是书写的复杂与简易而已，因此早在楷书便已经有了现代的简体“龟”。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 15.“龜-龟”

■ 1) Historical evolution of the character form



甲骨文	金文	篆文	隶书	楷书	行书	草书	繁体标宋	简体标宋	简化方案
									采用俗体楷书字形（删减字件：两个“田”一个“田”）
甲 984	龟父丙鼎	籀文 说文解字	桐柏庙碑	李壁碑 颜真卿	赵孟頫	孙过庭	印刷字库	印刷字库	

■ 2) Original meaning: tortoise

■ 3) Comments:

- The simplification of the character “龟” is very typical. The simplification process does not involve any change in the so-called “motivational” nature. It maintains the original principle of character creation. The only change in the image of the tortoise’s back is to change from a delicate depiction to a simple depiction. In fact, there is no essential difference. It is only complicated and simple way to write. Therefore, as early as in the regular script, there existed a modern simplified “龟”.

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

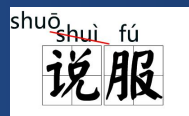
- II. 语言和文字的诞生只是为了更好地交流，归根结底它们的属性还是“工具”和符号，因此也要适应社会发展。当然，约定俗成不是随意的，语言也需要保持一定的稳定和纯洁。
- 下面举若干例看汉字的由于任意性和约定俗成而“认可”的“将错就错”：“无理据”读音改变和“无理据”字义改变。（更多参见“无理据”的“将错就错”一文）
- II. The birth of language and text is only for better communication. In the final analysis, their attributes are "tools" and symbols, and thus they must adapt to social development. Of course, the convention is not arbitrary, and the language needs to maintain certain stability and purity.
- Next are some examples of "Keeping Mistakes" of "Non-motivation" accepted owing to arbitrariness and conventions: "non-motivation" changes in pronunciation and "non-motivation" changes in meaning.
- (For more, see " "Keeping Mistakes" of Non-motivation ")

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

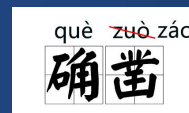
■ 1.字的读音“无理据”改变

■ 1) 【说shuì服】改成“说shuō服”

■ 【说客】由shuì kè现改读shuō kè



■ 2) 【确凿zuò】现在改读确凿záo



■ 3) 【坐骑jì】也改读“坐骑qí”



■ 4) 【应(yīng)届】，新读音为：应(yìng)届；

■ 5) 【下载(zài)】，新读音为：下载(zǎi)；

■ 6) 【甲壳(qiào)】，新读音为：甲壳(ké)

■ 【躯壳(qiào)】，新读音为：躯壳(ké)

■ 7) 【叶公好龙】里的“叶 yè”原本读作“叶 shè”；

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

- 8) 【忍俊不禁】里的“俊 jùn”原先的规范读音应该是“qùn”。
- 9) 【芥蓝】的拼音在《现代汉语词典》第五版中是（gài lán），但因为生活中基本没人这么说，所以改成了“jiè lán”；
- 10) 【色se】的读音，现在很多人都以为“色 shǎi”是方言，但在老版《辞海》里，颜色、掉色、褪色本来就应该读作“shǎi”。
- 11) 【呆板】本应读（ái bǎn），后来据说是“为了尊重大众的习惯”，从1987年开始，“呆板”这个词的读音更改为（dāi bǎn）
- 12) 【荨qián麻疹】现在改读为“荨xún麻疹”，不过，荨麻这种草本植物还是应该读作“荨qián麻”。

dāi^{ái} bǎn
呆板

xún^{qián} má zhěn
荨麻疹

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 2.词义、字义的“无理据”改变

■ 1) 【空穴来风】

- 原本是有理有据的意思，指“消息和传说不是完全没有根据的”，如今则更多地被当作“毫无依据”使用。

■ 2) 【不到黄河不死心】

- 原语为“不到乌江不死心”。乌江是西楚霸王项羽自刎之地，不知什么缘故，后来将乌江传成了黄河。

■ 3) 【名列前茅】

- 其实正确的写法应是“名列前旄”。“旄”是古代用旄尾装饰的旗帜，这种旗子在军队中为前军所执，所以称为“前旄”，与茅草的“茅”没有任何关系，“名列前茅”完全是以讹传讹。

■ 4) 【有眼不识金镶玉】

- 其原语为“有眼不识荆山玉”，典出自“和氏璧”的故事：春秋时楚人卞和在荆山中发现一块未经雕琢的璞玉；他认定是美玉便献给楚王，结果被诬“欺君”而被砍去了双足。
- 后经匠人雕琢，才知确实是美玉，遂名“和氏璧”。在流传过程中，“荆山玉”被讹传为“金镶玉”。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 5) 【打破砂锅问到底】

- 这一俗语原本为“打破砂锅甕到底”，意为砂锅被打破后其裂纹会一裂到底。后来被谐音讹传为“打破砂锅问到底”，表示遇事刨根问底、穷追不舍。

■ 6) 【天要下雨，娘要嫁人】

- 原语为“天要下雨，粮要解营”。古时农民收粮时遇阴雨天气，粮食发芽，官府却限三天交晒干的新粮，于是，“天要下雨”与“粮要解营”便成了一种矛盾。
- 后来，人们遇到无可奈何的事时便说“天要下雨，粮要解营”。不知何时，便传成了“天要下雨，娘要嫁人”了，与原义差之千里。

■ 7) 【衣冠禽兽】

- 这是个贬义词，多用来骂人。而其原词却是个典型的褒义词。
- 古时，官员的袍服上都绣有飞禽猛兽图案，用来区别文官、武官的级别，大体上是文官绣禽，武官绣兽，而且等级森严，不可篡绣，人们从官员袍服上所绣之物一眼能辨认出其官级。

■ 8) 【无奸不商】

- 原是“无尖不商”，是说古时候开粮行，卖谷米是用升或斗量的，商人卖谷米每次都把升和斗堆得尖尖的，尽量让利，以博得回头客，所以叫无尖不商。
- 也可解释为：商场如战场，必须有拔尖的智慧，才能成功。如果是“奸”字，那世上做生意的没一个好人了，未免过于偏颇。

V. 会说话的事实 Facts Speak Louder than Words

■ 9) 【两肋插刀】

- 其来历是《隋唐演义》中秦琼为救朋友，染面涂须去登州冒充响马，路过两肋庄时，在岔道想起老母妻儿，犹豫片刻，一条路去历城，一条路去登州，一条路回家门，最终还是为朋友，视死如归去了登州。
- 两肋庄岔道体现出秦琼的深重义气，被人们传为“两肋岔道，义气千秋”，而今却因误传成了在肋上插刀。

■ 10) 【空穴来风】

- 成语源自楚国人宋玉的《风赋》，文中有“积句来巢，空穴来风”句子。后来在白居易诗中使用过此语：“朽株难免蠹，空穴易来风”，说腐朽的树木难免招来虫子蛀咬，空的洞穴容易引来风吹。
- 按此解释，“空穴”和“来风”是一因一果，若做比喻，应比做说法有根据、有来由。结果，后来被篡改成了捕风捉影的意思

■ 11) 【七月流火】

- 现在也从“天气转凉”增加了“天气炎热”的意思。

1. 我为什么对汉字的“简繁之争”产生兴趣？

近年来，在中国掀起的关于汉字的“简繁之争”愈加激烈，甚至已经上升到中华民族传统文化的继承高度，提案曾被提交至全国政协甚至全国人大。

汉字简繁之争也扩展至海外。特别是对于海外的对外汉语教学也必不可免地产生影响。值得一提的是，这次空前的争论高潮，正是缘起对外汉语教学。因此，作为对外汉语教学的教师，必然会对此倍加关注。

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写在后面的话 My Words at the End

- 1. What caused my interest on the "controversy" issue about "simplified or traditional Chinese characters"?
- In recent years, the "controversy" about "simplified or traditional Chinese characters" in China has become increasingly fierce. It has even risen to the high level of the succession of Chinese nation's traditional culture. The draft resolution once was even submitted to the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and even the National People's Congress.
- The controversy has also spread to overseas. In particular, the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language outside China will inevitably experience impact. It is worth mentioning that the unprecedented climax of this debate was first caused in the field of Chinese teaching as a foreign language outside China. Therefore, as a teacher of teaching Chinese as a foreign language, it is bound that we should pay close attention to this.

■ 2. 我对传统的繁体字和简化字都是有感情的

- 我的学习生涯是从传统的繁体汉字开始的，在小学最早学习的就是繁体的传统汉字、传统的“四角号码”检字、传统的国语注音和反切注音等，可见我对其的感情之深。然而，后来学习了简化字和汉语拼音之后，又体会到传统汉字之美和简化字之便捷，所谓“鱼和熊掌不可兼得”。因此窃以为，目前对于简繁汉字的“孰去孰留”，还是应该“各司其职，各得其所”。而汉字的简化则是历史的趋势。

写在后面的话 My Words at the End

2. I have passionation on both traditional and simplified Chinese characters.

My school learning career started with traditional Chinese characters. What I learned at the very beginning in the elementary school were complicated traditional Chinese characters, traditional “four-corner codes” as index, traditional Chinese phonetic sympols and "Fanqie" (a traditional method of indicating the pronunciation of a chinese character by using two other chinese characters), and so forth. However, when I learned the simplified Chinese characters and Pinyin, I came to realize the beautifullness of traditional Chinese characters and the convenience of the simplified characters, namely so-called "you can't have your cake and eat it too". Therefore, it is believed by my personal idea that the “stay or leave” of Simplified and Traditional Chinese Characters should follow “performing their respective duties and enjoying their respective positions”. And the simplification of Chinese characters is historical trend.

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结束 The End

Dziękuję za uwagę

公元二〇一八年五月
于波兰卢布林约翰·保罗二世天主教大学

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