MUNI
ARTS

ARTS023 Chinese

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Overview of Chinese language

1. Section of THE CHINESE TIME: Please find out (through Google Translate) how to express "last week" and "next week" in Chinese. Also find out (also through Google Translate) what the individual components mean.

2. Section of THE CHINESE TIME: Find out the definition of "grammatical tense" online.

3. Section of TONE: Find out the definition of "lexical tone".

4. Section of PLURICENTRICITY: Find out where Standard Chinese is spoken.

Overview: linguistic facts

Sinitic (Sino-Tibetan language family)
Chinese and Mandarin?
Mandarin being a form of Chinese (a standard variety).
Mandarin spoken as an official language in:

China (incl. Hong Kong, Macau); Beijing
Singapore; Singaporean
Taiwan; Taiwanese

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJj5BWB1ai0
Also used in various parts of the world (lg of the diaspora).

Thailand	9,392,792 (2012)[2]
Indonesia	8,010,720 (2011)[1]
Malaysia	6,712,200 (2021)[3]
United States	5,143,982 (2018)[4]
Singapore	2,675,521 (2020)[5]
Myanmar	1,725,794 (2011)[1]
Canada	1,715,770 (2021)[6]
Australia	1,390,639 (2021)[7]
Philippines	1,350,000 (2013)[8]
South Korea	1,070,566 (2018)[9]

Dialects

Proportions of first-language speakers[24]
  Mandarin (65.7%)
  Min (6.2%)
  Wu (6.1%)
  Yue (5.6%)
  Jin (5.2%)
  Gan (3.9%)
  Hakka (3.5%)
  Xiang (3.0%)
  Huizhou (0.3%)
  Pinghua, others (0.6%)

Grammar

Chinese as an analytic language (very little inflection).

Inflection: word formation through modification of word form (tense, case, person, number, gender, etc.)

Show class notes

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kI9gM8OL1EKaOuWquGqoCp64iwtAegzPXh6VgR-_1qw/edit?usp=sharing

Vague language…

The Chinese TIME

Grammatical: (lack of) tense marking

Cultural: metaphorical understanding of TIME

How would you communicate without tense?

- In-class Task 1: Try to write a short passage (3-4 sentences) of what you did yesterday/last week/last month, without using tense.

- In-class Task 2: Try to communicate indirectness (which is a tense-related phenomenon) without using tense. Can you come up with a way?

Time, tense and narrative viewpoint

- Dancygier, Barbara, Wei-lun Lu and Arie Verhagen (eds.). 2016. *Viewpoint and the Fabric of Meaning: Form and Use of Viewpoint Tools across Languages and Modalities*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

- Lu, Wei-lun. 2019. Time, tense and viewpoint shift across languages: A Multiple-Parallel-Text approach to "tense shifting" in a tenseless language. *Cognitive Linguistics* 30.2: 377-397.

Case 1: Tense and Narrative Viewpoint

- Tense in narratives extensively studied in SAE languages.
- Past as narrator's and (historical) present as character's consciousness (Fleischman 1990; Fludernik 2012).

STR in a glimpse

"From now on I will do the job myself!"

N: *"Wei-lun: 'From now on I will do the job myself!'"*

Narrator: distant, less involved in narration; little trace of narrator in narration.

Direct discourse.

N: *"Wei-lun shouted that from then on, he would do the job himself."*

Narrator: distant, less involved in narration; little trace of narrator in narration.

Indirect discourse.

N: *"Wei-lun shouts that from now on, he will do the job himself."*

Narrator: proximal (even embedded), more involved in narration.

Free indirect discourse (FID).

Tense marking as an important tool in STR.

Comparing STR (FID) across languages

- STR (FID) research done in single languages (using monolingual texts).
- No way to compare FID across lgs with *methodologically controlled* commensurability.
- Use of Multiple Parallel Texts (Multi-ParT; Knotková & Lu, 2020; Lu & Verhagen, 2016; Lu et. al, 2018; Lu, 2019; Lu, 2020; Lu et. al, 2020).
- Useful for studying how multiple users of target lg (TL) render an ideational content with a stylistic effect from source lg (SL).
- One text in SL and its multiple renditions in TL.
- Stability and variation of user choices within TL (in producing *same* content, *same* effect).

Research issue

- Tense shifting (past/present) being a hallmark of FID (among other lexico-grammatical cues).
- TIME being an important dimension in the encoding of narrative distance.
- Chinese being a language without systematic tense marking.
- Question: Does Chinese operate on narrative distance using TIME?

Hypothesis 1

If Chinese cares as much about TIME as English does in managing narrative vpt, in passages where the English switches between tenses, we see elements that invoke TIME in the Chinese corresponding passage.
In cases where multiple translations exist, the phenomenon should be consistent.

I ==went== to school ==yesterday==.
我==昨天==去==了==學校。

Hypothesis 2

Chinese has a productive aspectual system, where the perfective aspect is reported to play a role of expressing past events (Lin 2012; Liu 2014).
If we are able to identify constructions that invoke TIME in Chinese, PFV should be an important part of it.
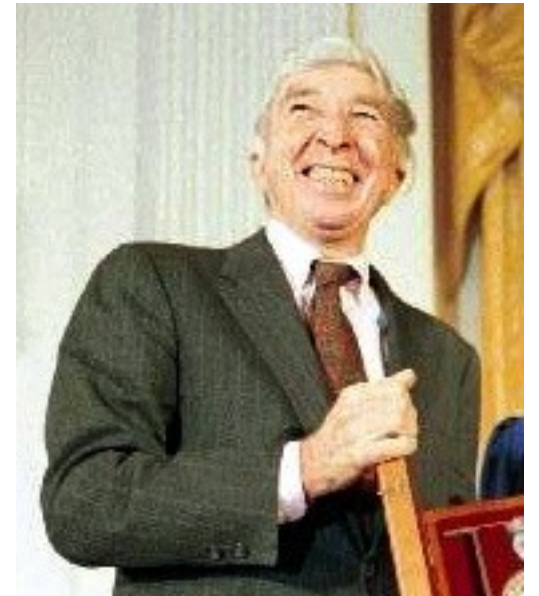
Material choice

Published Commercial Translations.

Great Expectations (ST) and its 9 Ch translations.
David Copperfield (ST) and its 5 Ch translations.
"A&P" (ST) and its 2 Ch translations.

Random choice of 1 passage from each ST.

Results

Out of the 16 Chinese passages (2 + 9 + 5), only 1/16 uses a temporal adverbial construction.

Only 2/16 passages have PFV, but where the English passage involves the *present* tense.

Chinese does not care about TIME in managing narrative vpt.

The perfective aspect not used for managing vpt, at least not the way past tense is used in English.

Sample FID feature (in SL): tense shifting

From Chapter 9 of *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens and its 9 published Chinese renditions.

(1) *If the funeral* ==had== *been yesterday, I* ==could== *not recollect it better. The very air of the best parlour, when I* ==went== *in at the door, the bright condition of the fire, the shining of the wine in the decanters, the patterns of the glasses and plates, the faint sweet smell of cake, the odour of Miss Murdstone's dress, and our black clothes. Mr. Chillip* ==is== *in the room, and* ==comes== *to speak to me*.

Renditions in TL: Reduplica

Out of the 9 renditions, 9 use reduplication.
Reduplication has a function of *intensifying* the perceptual content (Liu 2012; Melloni and Basciano 2018), which creates narrator involvement.
In addition to simple full reduplications (AA), other types of reduplications are identified:

AABB (e.g. 清清楚楚)
ABAC (e.g. 各式各样 and 有声有色)

我	一		走进	那间	最好	的	客厅,
wǒ	yī		zǒu-jìn	nà-jiān	zuì-hǎo	de	kètīng
I	as soon as		walk-enter	that-CL	best	LK	best parlor

屋	里	的	气氛		就	迎面
wū	lǐ	de	qìfēn		jiù	yíng-miàn
house	in	LK	atmosphere		PRT	towards-face

扑来:		旺旺		的	炉火,	瓶	中
pū-lái		wàng-wàng		de	lúhuǒ	píng	zhōng
spring-come		blazing-RED		LK	fire	bottle	in

闪闪		发光	的	葡萄酒,	杯盘
shǎn-shǎn		fāguāng	de	pútao-jiǔ	bēipán
shine-RED		radiate	LK	wine	dishes

的	式样,	糕饼	的	微微		甜	香,
de	shìyàng	gāobǐng	de	wéi-wéi		tián	xiāng
LK	style	cake	LK	faint-RED		sweet	aroma

默德斯通	小姐	衣服	上	的
mòdésītōng	xiǎojiě	yīfú	shàng	de
Murdstone	Miss	clothes	on	LK

气味,	以及	我们	穿	的	黑色
qìwèi	yǐjí	wǒ-mén	chuān	de	hēisè
smell	and	we	wear	LK	black

Sample FID passage (2)

From Chapter 56 of *Great Expectations* and its 5 published Chinese renditions.

(2) *The whole scene starts out again in the vivid colours of the moment, down to the drops of April rain on the windows of the court, glittering in the rays of April sun. Penned in the dock, as I again stood outside it at the corner with his hand in mine, were the two-and-thirty men and women; some defiant, some stricken with terror, some sobbing and weeping, some covering their faces, some staring gloomily about. There had been shrieks from among the women convicts, but they had been stilled, a hush had succeeded*.

Perceptual deixis in TL

A perceptual deictic element consistently found in all translations: 在我（的）眼前; 5 out of 5.

Puts the narrator onstage (as an OoC); high degree of narrator involvement.

现在，	所有	这一幕		又	栩栩如生
xiànzài	*suǒyǒu*	*zhè-yī-mù*		*yòu*	*xǔ-xǔ-rú-shēng*
now	all	this-one-scene		again	lively-RED-like-life
地	出现	在	我	眼前。	4月
dì	*chūxiàn*	*zài*	*wǒ*	*yǎn-qián...*	*sìyuè*
LK	appear	LOC	my	eye-front	April
温暖	的	阳光	伏	在	法庭	的
wēnnuǎn	*de*	*yángguāng*	*fú*	*zài*	*fǎtíng*	*de*
warm	LK	sunlight	lie	LOC	count	LK
窗户	上，	可	同时，		也	有	4月
chuānghù	*shàng*	*kě*	*tóngshí*		*yě*	*yǒu*	*sìyuè*
window	LOC	but	meanwhile		also	have	April
晶莹	的	雨点	打	在	上面。
jīngyíng	*de*	*yǔdiǎn*	*dǎ*	*zài*	*shàngmiàn*
crystal	LK	rain drop	hit	LOC	LOC

Summary

Multi-ParT helps identify variation of vpt strategies across lgs:

Overall absence of TIME adverbials and of PFV in Ch.
Ch: Reduplication (AA, AABB, ABAC)
Ch: Perceptual deixis 在我（的）眼前
En: tense shifting

Multi-ParT turns up the stability across the users

Reduplication 9/9
Perceptual deixis 5/5

Implications for cross-linguistic FID research

FID: varying degrees of narrator involvement in discourse
Varying degrees of subjectivity in the construal of the narrator (SoC)
Achieved via diff linguistic means in diff lgs (EN: tense; CN: reduplication)

Tense marking as *obligatory*;   reduplication as *optional*
Vpt *per sentence*;   less obvious demarcation of vpt
Switching/mixing of vpts;   unspecified/context-dependent vpt

Language-specific vpt arrangement and perspectivization of the same(!) narrated content.

Case 2: Biblical texts

- RI: How does the conventionalized toolkit of CN allow its various users to render an FID effect in narration?

- Multiple published translations of the Bible.

- 5 versions used:
  - Chinese Union Version 和合本, Revised Chinese Union Version 修訂和合本, Chinese Contemporary Bible 當代譯本, Chinese Standard Bible 中文標準譯本, Chinese New Version 中文聖經新譯本.

- Passage chosen: 路加福音 *Luke* 19:1-10 (Yamazaki 2006, in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 125:1).

Finding 1: [V] – [V] reduplication

- Character's vpt:
  - 他　　　　要　　　　<u>看看</u>　　　　　　耶穌　　是　　　怎樣　　　　　的　　　　人… (RCUV)
  - *Tā*　　　　*yào*　　　*kàn-kàn*　　　　*yēsū*　　*shì*　　*zěnyang*　　　*de*　　　*rén*
  - He　　　　MOD　　　see-RED　　　　Jesus　　LK　　how　　　　　LK　　　man

- Compare:
  - 他要<u>看</u>耶穌是怎樣的人… (constructed from RCUV)
  - 他　　　　要　　　　<u>看</u>　　　　　　　耶穌　　是　　　怎樣　　　　　的　　　　人… (RCUV)
  - *Tā*　　　　*yào*　　　*kàn*　　　　　　*yēsū*　　*shì*　　*zěnyang*　　　*de*　　　*rén*
  - He　　　　MOD　　　see　　　　　　Jesus　　LK　　how　　　　　LK　　　man

- Verbal reduplication as a tentative aspectual construction, expressing 'briefly or a bit'. Pragmatically, it introduces Zaccheus's mental state (of uncertainty).

- Elaborated in the Greek and English versions as an infinitive (e.g. *wanted <u>to see</u>/was trying <u>to see</u>*) in irrealis mood.

- 5/5 versions.

Finding 2: AABB reduplication (from AB)

- Character's vpt:
  - 他　　　　　就　　　　　急忙　　　　下來,　　　　　　　歡歡喜喜　地　　　　接待　　　　耶穌。(RCUV)
  - *Tā*　　　　*jiù*　　　　*jímáng*　　*xià-lái*　　　　　*huān-huān-xǐ-xǐ*　*di*　　　*jiēdài*　　*yēsū*
  - He　　　　PRT　　　　hurried　　come down　　　happy-RED　　　　LK　　　receive　　Jesus

- Compare:
  - 他　　　　　就　　　　　急忙　　　　下來,　　　　　　　歡喜　　　　地　　　　接待　　　　耶穌。(constructed from RCUV)
  - *Tā*　　　　*jiù*　　　　*jímáng*　　*xià-lái*　　　　　*huān-xǐ*　　*di*　　　*jiēdài*　　*yēsū*
  - He　　　　PRT　　　　hurried　　come down　　　happy　　　　LK　　　receive　　Jesus

- Intensifying the emotion of the character.

- In other lgs as an adverbial (*joyfully* or *gladly*).

- 5/5 versions.

- 撒該連忙爬下來，興高采烈地帶耶穌回家。(CCB)

- N1-V1-N2-V2, where N1-V1 and N2-V2 are synonymous.

Summary

- Multi-ParT helps identify stylistic strategies (character-based vpt) in CN:
    - CN: Reduplication
        - VV: uncertainty (irrealis)
        - AABB: (intensification of character emotion)

- Multi-ParT turns up the stability across users (influential versions).
    - VV: 5/5 (100%)
    - AABB: 5/5 (100%)

The tenseless nature of Chinese

- Consequence (class fill in):
  - Viewpoint representation as vague
  - Reduplication as an alternative strategy.

Metaphorical understanding of TIME in CH
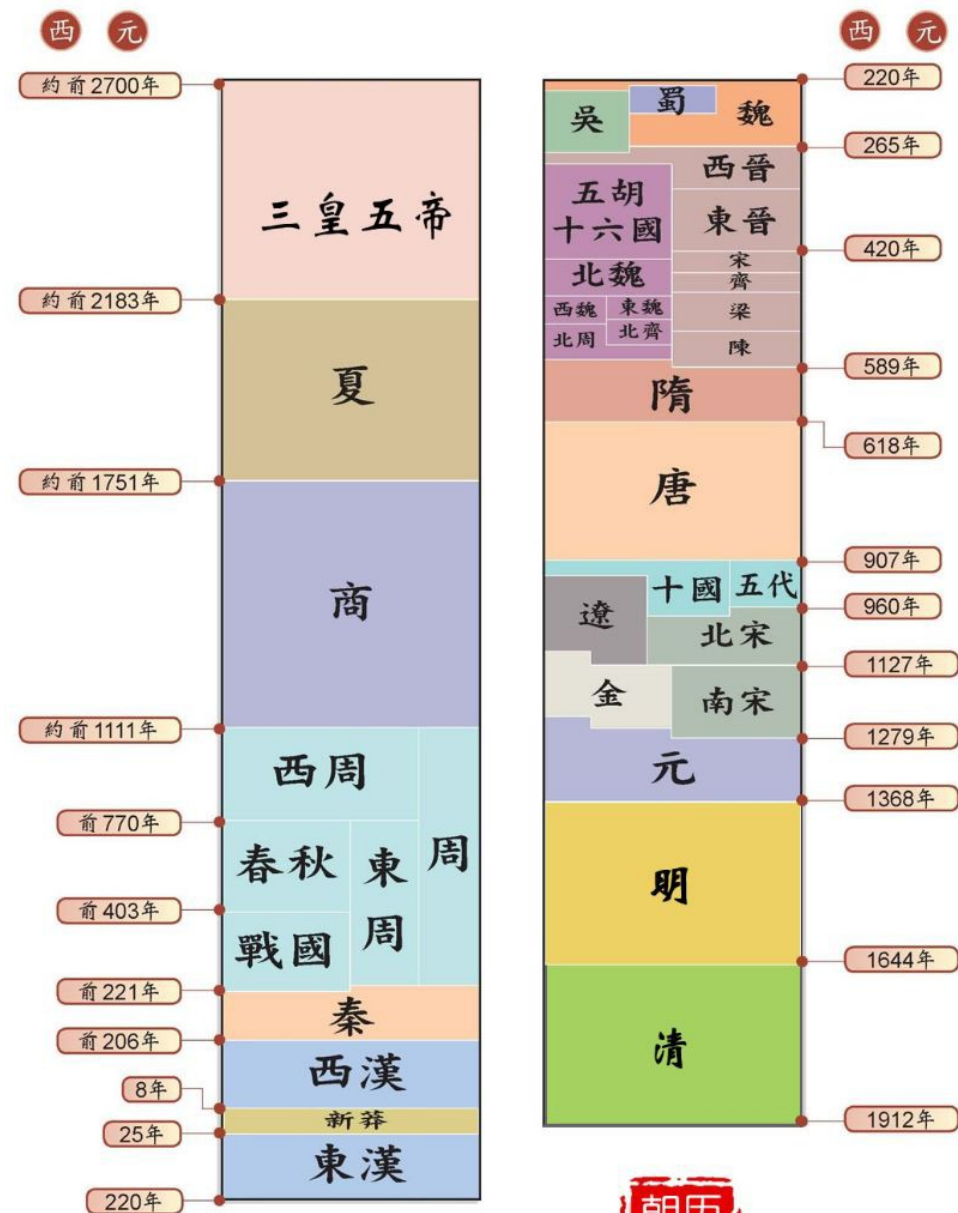
Phrases
Last week
This week
Next week

Understanding TIME using UP-DOWN

- English: *last month, next month*
- Chinese:
- 上個月 *shàng-ge-yuè* 'up-CL-month',
- 下個月 *xià-ge-yuè* 'down-CL-month',
- Czech: *minulý měsíc*(?)

- English: *first half of the year, second half of the year*
- Chinese:
- 上半年 *shàng-bàn-nián* 'up-half-year',
- 下半年 *xià-bàn-nián* 'down-half-year'
- Czech: *první polovina roku*(?)

中國歷史朝代演進圖

西 元

約前2700年 | 三皇五帝
約前2183年 | 夏
約前1751年 | 商
約前1111年 | 西周
前770年 | 春秋 東周
前403年 | 戰國 周
前221年 | 秦
前206年 | 西漢
8年 | 新莽
25年 |
220年 | 東漢

西 元

220年 | 吳 蜀 魏
265年 | 五胡十六國 北魏 西魏 東魏 北周 北齊 | 西晉 東晉 宋 齊 梁 陳
420年 |
589年 | 隋
618年 | 唐
907年 | 遼 十國 五代 北宋
960年 |
1127年 | 金 南宋
1279年 | 元
1368年 | 明
1644年 | 清
1912年 |

朝历

On reasoning about TIME

- Fish race experiment ([Boroditsky 2001](#)):
- Task: Below you will see a picture and a statement. Based on the picture, please decide whether the statement is true.

You will see a picture and a statement. Raise your left hand if the statement is true. Raise your right hand if the statement is false. Be as fast as you can.

The white fish will lose.

You will see a picture and a statement. Raise your left hand if the statement is true. Raise your right hand if the statement is false. Be as fast as you can.

The white fish will lose.
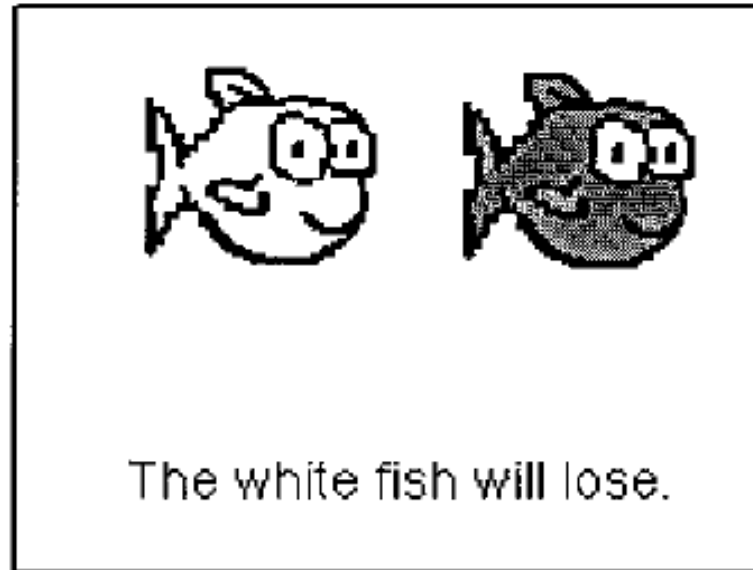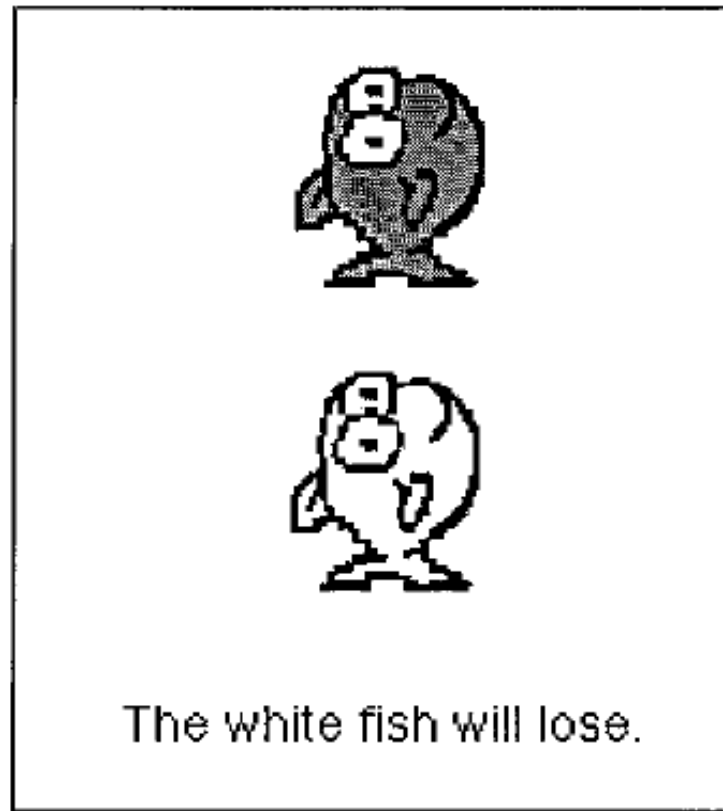
Mandarin-English bilinguals

- Mandarin Chinese as L1, English as L2.

- Strong vertical bias for CN-EN bilinguals who started English late.

- Learning EN gives those CN speakers a "horizontal bias".

- Learning a different language does make one reason about TIME differently.

- Lera Boroditsky's TED talk (recommended!)

Summary of Chinese TIME

- Tenseless
  - Analytic
  - Grammatical consequence

- Up-down temporal orientation
- Metaphorical (SPACE > TIME)

Next week

3. Section of TONE: Find out the definition of "lexical tone".
4. Section of PLURICENTRICITY: Find out where Standard Chinese is spoken.

Tonal language

What is a lexical tone?

Tone is the use of pitch in language to distinguish lexical or meaning – that is, to distinguish words.

(East) Asian tonal languages: Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, among others.

4 lexical tones in Chinese (marked by diacritics over vowel):

High tone (*mā*)

Rising tone (*má*)

Dipping/low tone (*mă*)

Falling tone (*mà*)

Tonal tongue twister

Tongue twister with tonal variation:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CoJJz5VA6kt/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D

Māma	*qí*	*mǎ*
Mom	ride	horse
Mǎ	*màn*	
Horse	slow	
Māma	*mà*	*mǎ*
Mom	scold	horse

""

Mandarin Chinese spoken and script used

Standard Chinese spoken as an official language in:
- China (incl. Hong Kong, Macau)
- Singapore
- Taiwan

Used by the United Nations as one of the official languages.
The simplified version.

Writing system

Evolution:

Traditional version used till end of WWII.

In 1950s, 1960s, the Chinese communist gov. started simplification process, resulted in the current system.

- Used also in Singapore and Malaysia.

Traditional version has remained:
- Taiwan
- Hong Kong
- Macau

Varieties of Chinese used in Western countries

Cantonese (+ trad. script) for earlier arrivals (1984, 1989)

Standard Chinese (+ simp. script) for later arrivals

United States	Chinese American, American-born Chinese	5,025,817	
Canada	Chinese Canadian, Canadian-born Chinese	1,769,195	
France	Chinese French	600,000	
United Kingdom	British Chinese	433,150	
Russia	Chinese people in Russia	28,943	
Italy	Chinese people in Italy	288,923	
Spain	Chinese people in Spain	197,390	
Germany	Chinese people in Germany	145,610	
Netherlands	Chinese people in the Netherlands	94,000	

Manners of simplification (selected)

Omitting entire components:

廠 → 厂; 廣 → 广; 飛 → 飞; 習 → 习; 滅 → 灭; etc.

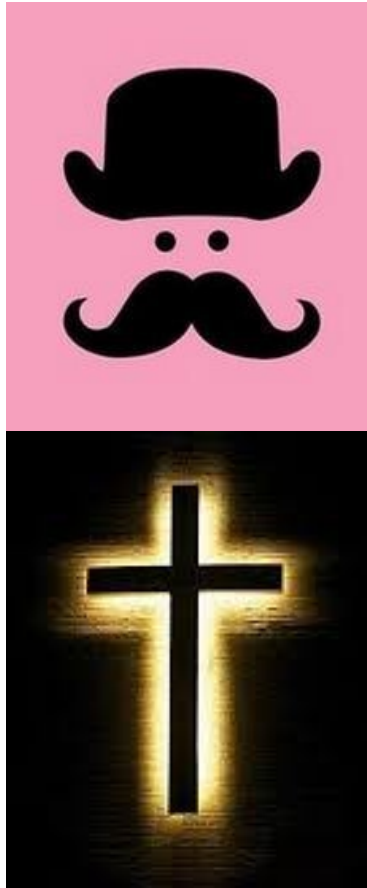Further morphing a character after omitting some components:

婦 → 妇; 麗 → 丽; 歸 → 归; etc.

Preserving the basic outline or shape of the original character:

繼 → 继; 龜 → 龟; 齒 → 齿; 奪 → 夺; etc.

More examples: Chinese Numbers

- 8
- 八
- Think of MUSTACHE in terms of EIGHT. Conceptual association motivated by imaginstic similarity (based on the writing system)

- 10
- 十
- Think of CROSS in terms of TEN. Conceptual association motivated by imaginstic similarity (based on the writing system)

- Writing system helps people understand the world!

Language in Cultural Conventions

- 春

- Homophony of 到 *dào* "arrive" and 倒 *dào* "reverse"

- "Spring arrive"

- Homophony of 魚 *yú* "fish" and 餘 *yú* "remain"

- "Every year we have so much that remain."

- Linguistic basis of cultural convention and reasoning.

Language in New Year's Food

- Homophony of 糕 *gāo* "cake" and 高 *gāo* "high"
- "Every year we go up (in career)"

- Homophony of "dumplings" and "change of the midnight hours"

- Linguistic influence of how people think about food.

Summary (fill in with class)

- Chinese as a Tonal language

- Variation of Chinese (esp. writing system)

- Writing system

Questions? Comments?

Next week

- Please review the basic geographical information about Korea.
- Please watch this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aDPpssj0h0