

The Case for Chinese

Zheng-sheng Zhang

San Diego State University

International Education Week

City College, 11/14/2016

4:00 pm Bldg. AH room 508

Why Chinese?

It is useful

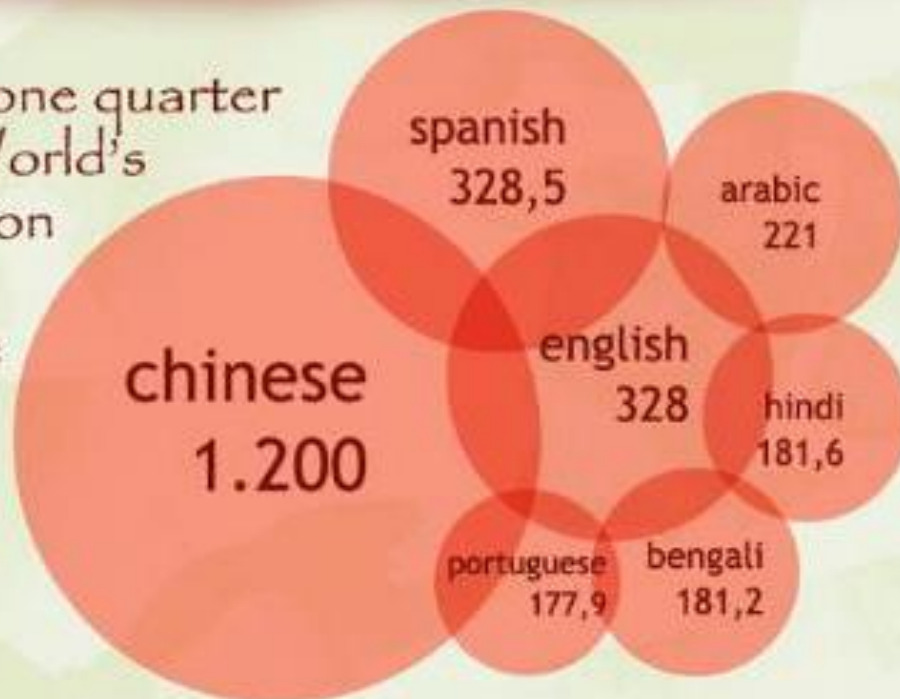
It is enchanting

It will blow your mind!



Why Learn Chinese?

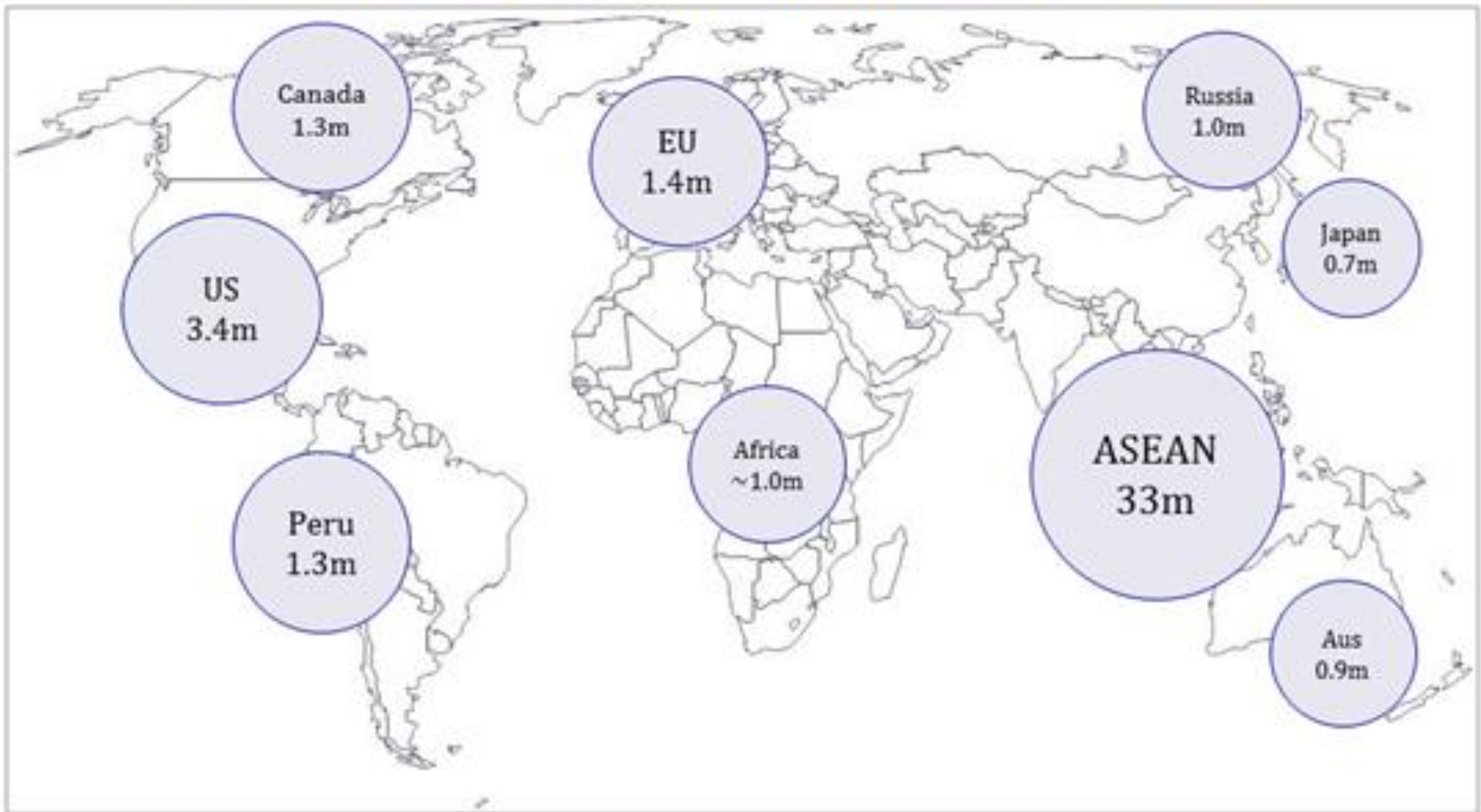
Almost one quarter
of the World's
population
speaks
Chinese



Most Spoken languages
in the world: million of native speakers

Source: Ethnologue

Key Population of Overseas Chinese by Location



US has 2nd Largest Chinese Diaspora

Economic facts



The fastest growing major economy in the World for the past quarter of a century.

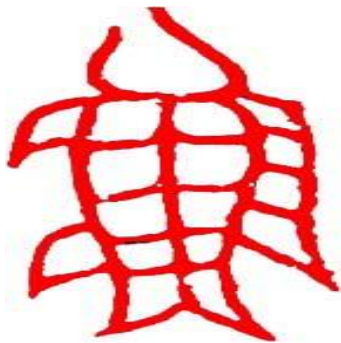
Growth rates averaging

10% over the past 30 years

China is US's top trading partners



Only Major Non-Alphabetic Script in Use



论语 LUN YU

子曰

学而时习之

不亦悦乎

有朋自远方来

不亦乐乎

人不知而不愠

不亦君子乎



Confucius from 500 BC can still be read

mā

妈

mother

má

麻

fibre

mǎ

马

horse

mà

骂

curse

ma

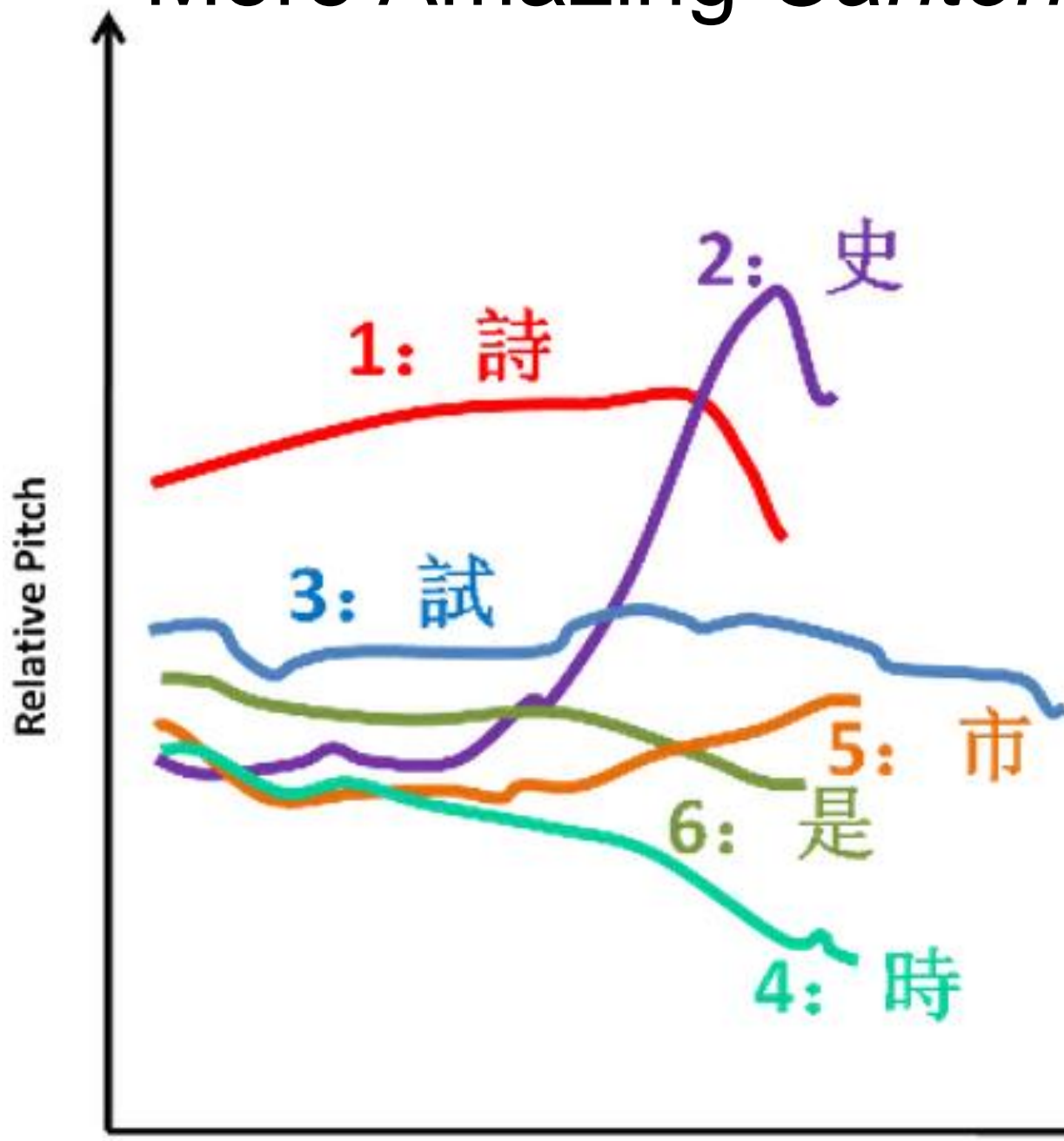
吗

question
mark



Don't you dig it?

More Amazing *Cantonese*



What Can Tone Change Signal (Cantonese)?

tong _ 'sugar' → tong / 'candy'

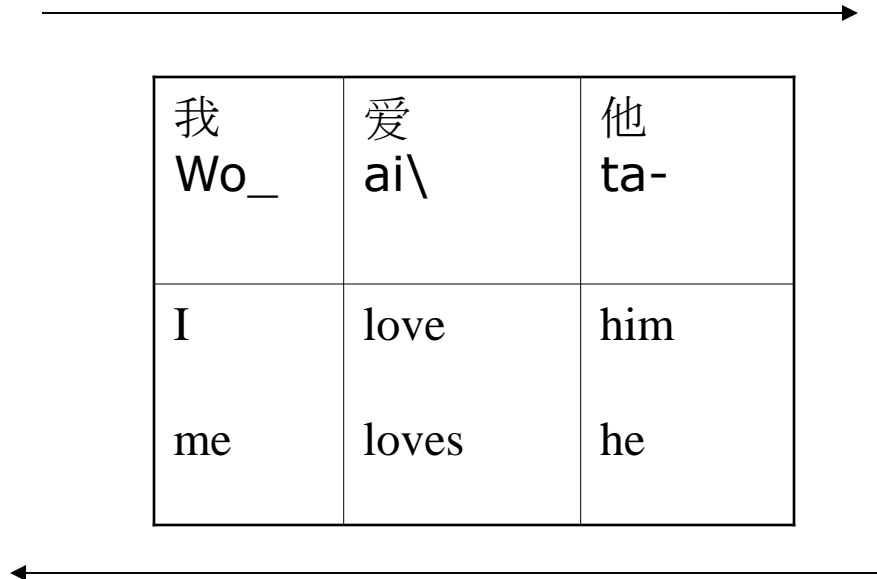
wong _ 'yellow' → wong/ 'egg yolk'

leu _ 'female' → leu/ 'daughter'

Sonorous Syllables

	a	o	e	i	er	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng	ong	i	ia	iao	ie	iu	ian	in	iang	ing	iong	u	ua	uo	uai	ui	uan	un	uang	ueng	ü	üe	üan	ün
	a	o	e		er	ai		ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng		yi	ya	yao	ye	you	yan	yin	yang	ying	yong	wu	wa	wo	wai	wei	wan	wen	wang	weng	yu	yue	yuan	yun
b	ba	bo				bai	bei	bao		ban	ben	bang	beng		bi		biao	bie		bian	bin		bing		bu												
p	pa	po				pai	pei	pao	pou	pan	pen	pang	peng		pi		piao	pie		pian	pin		ping		pu												
m	ma	mo	me			mai	mei	mao	mou	man	men	mang	meng		mi		miao	mie	miu	mian	min		ming		mu												
f	fa	fo				fei		fou	fou	fan	fen	fang	feng											fu													
d	da		de			dai	dei	dao	dou	dan	den	dang	deng	dong	di		diao	die	diu	dian			ding		du		duo		dui	duan	dun						
t	ta		te			tai	tei	tao	tou	tan		tang	teng	tong	ti		tiao	tie		tian			ting		tu		tuo		tui	tuan	tun						
n	na		ne			nai	nei	nao	nou	nan	nen	nang	neng	nong	ni		niao	nie	niu	nian	nin	niang	ning		nu		nuo			nuan				nü	nüe		
l	la		le			lai	lei	lao	lou	lan		lang	leng	long	li	lia	liao	lie	liu	lian	lin	liang	ling		lu		luo			luan	lun			lǚ	lüe		
g	ga		ge			gai	gei	gao	gou	gan	gen	gang	geng	gong										gu	gua	guo	guai	gui	guan	gun	guang						
k	ka		ke			kai	kei	kao	kou	kan	ken	kang	keng	kong										ku	kua	kuo	kuai	kui	kuan	kun	kuang						
h	ha		he			hai	hei	hao	hou	han	hen	hang	heng	hong										hu	hua	huo	huai	hui	huan	hun	huang						
z	za		ze	zi		zai	zei	zao	zou	zan	zen	zang	zeng	zong										zu		zuo		zui	zuan	zun							
c	ca		ce	ci		cai		cao	cou	can	cen	cang	ceng	cong										cu		cuo		cui	cuan	cun							
s	sa		se	si		sai		sao	sou	san	sen	sang	seng	song										su		suo		sui	suan	sun							
zh	zha		zhe	zhi		zhai	zhei	zhao	zhou	zhan	zhen	zhang	zheng	zhong										zhu	zhua	zhuo	zhuai	zhui	zhuan	zhun	zhuang						
ch	cha		che	chi		chai		chao	chou	chan	chen	chang	cheng	chong										chu	chua	chuo	chuai	chui	chuan	chun	chuang						
sh	sha		she	shi		shai	shei	shao	shou	shan	shen	shang	sheng											shu	shua	shuo	shuai	shui	shuan	shun	shuang						
r			re	ri				rao	rou	ran	ren	rang	reng	rong										ru	rua	ruo		rui	ruan	run							
j															ji	jia	jiao	jie	jiu	jian	jīn	jiang	jing	jiong										ju	jue	juan	jun
q															qi	qia	qiao	qie	qiu	qian	qin	qiang	qing	qiong										qu	que	quan	qun
x															xi	xia	xiao	xie	xiu	xian	xin	xiang	xing	xiong										xu	xue	xuan	xun

Distinctly Different Grammar



我 Wo_	爱 ai\	他 ta-
I me	love loves	him he

No inflections (person, number, tense etc.)

No nominal endings (case, number, gender etc.)

Palindrome Poem

(make sense read in either direction)

枯眼望遥山隔水，
往来曾见几心知。
壶空怕酌一杯酒，
笔下难成和韵诗。
迷路 阻人离别久，
讯音无雁寄回迟。
孤灯夜守长寥寂，
夫忆妻兮父忆儿。

Last line: Husband miss wife father miss son (←→)

Word Order Difference

English: I have a good friend who likes to gamble.

Chinese: I have a like to gamble good friend.

Unusual Word Formation: Reduplication

verbal:

gaoxing ‘happy’ → gaoxinggaoxing ‘have some fun’ (ABAB)

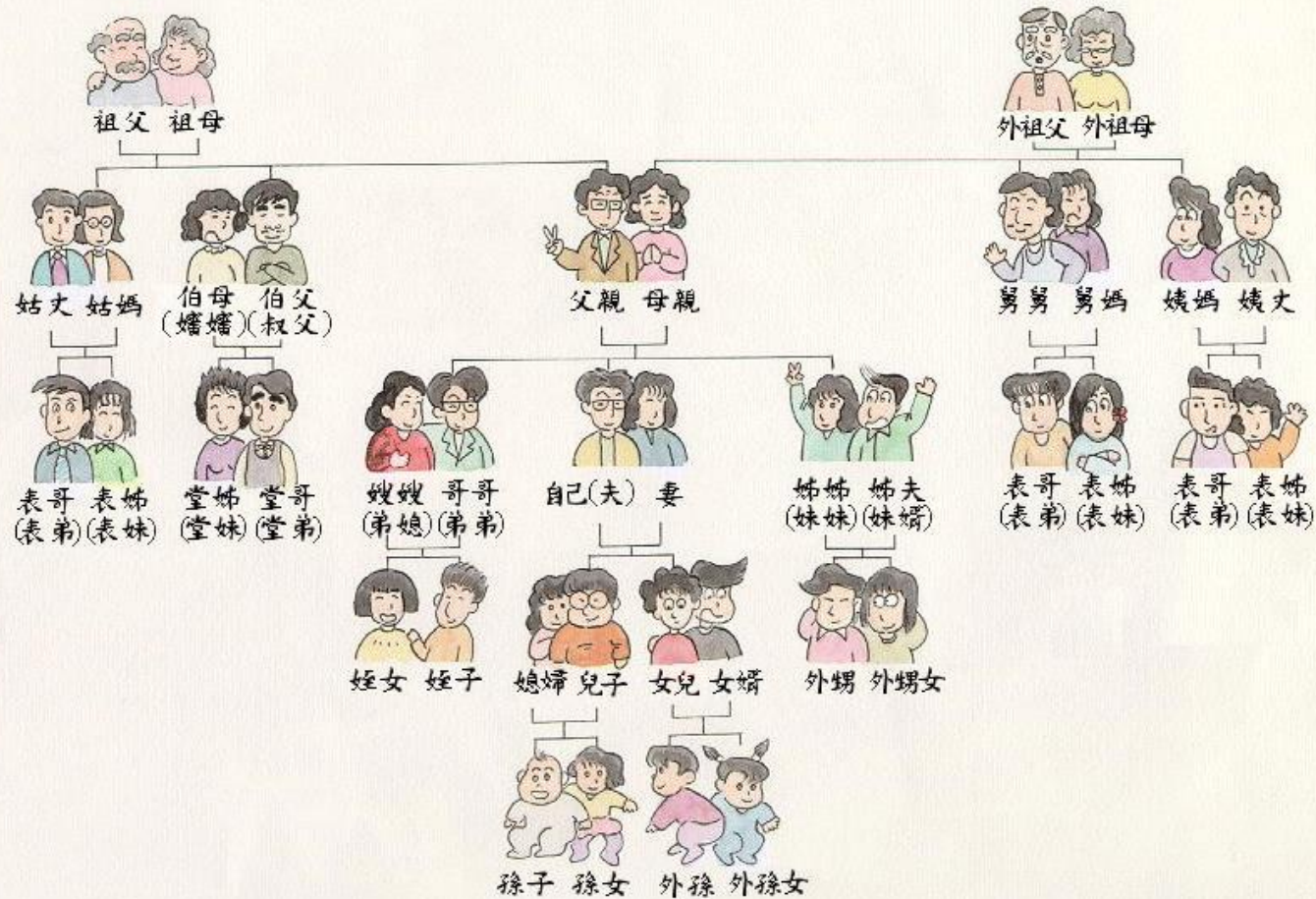
adjectival:

gaoxing ‘happy’ → gaogaoxingxing ‘very happy’ (AABB)

nominal:

ren ‘person’ → renren ‘every person’

Chinese kinship terms: 52



English: 17

Eating Metaphors in Chinese

eat bitter	→	suffer hardship
eat fragrant	→	be popular
eat vinegar	→	be jealous
not vegetarian	→	not be messed with



Buy one get three free! Sinosphere!

Traditional Chinese

 漢字文化圈
ㄏㄢˋ ㄓˋ ㄨㄣˊ ㄏㄨㄚˊ ㄑㄩㄢˊ


Simplified Chinese

 汉字文化圈
hàn zì wén huà quān

Sino-Korean

 漢字文化圈
한 자 문 화 권
han ja mun hwa gwon

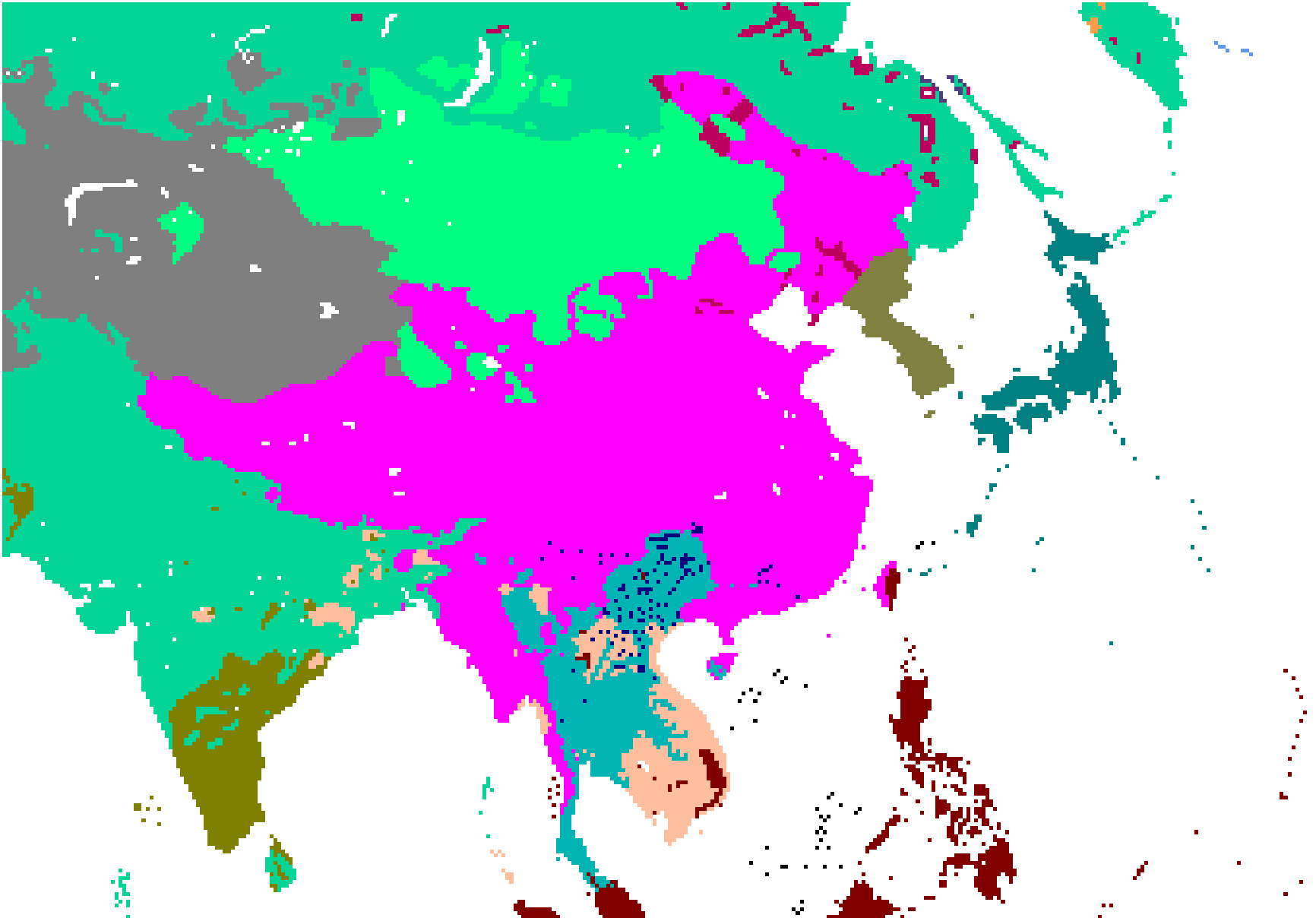
Sino-Vietnamese

 綏文化符漢
vòng văn hóa chữ hán

Sino-Japanese
(Sino=Chinese)

 漢字文化圈
かん じ ぶん か けん
kan ji bun ka ken

The Languages of Sino-sphere (not Genetically Related)



Borrowing of script

Borrowing of words

(even when characters are no longer used)

Sharing of culture

(personal names, festivals, foods)

Japanese writing=

kana + Kanji

Kana: Japanese alphabet

Kanji: Chinese characters

十一年同五十六年と二度の式年大祭も
も売却しながらも盛大斉行することが
し昭和四十年から松喰虫の被害が広ま
松を経費をかけついやりしては伐採のみ
林の声高まり、残る松山を思ひきり伐
る事に決定。たまたま翌平成二年は今
年、更には皇紀二千六百五十年と云ふ
げての祝賀の年に当るので、この記念

Sino-Japanese loans as living fossils reflecting older Chinese pronunciation

六	roku (liu in Mandarin, luk in Cantonese)
国	roku (guo in Mandarin, gok in Cantonese)
学	gaku (xue in Mandarin, hok in Cantonese)

VEGETABLE GYOZA

Mandarin: jiaozi
Cantonese: gaozi

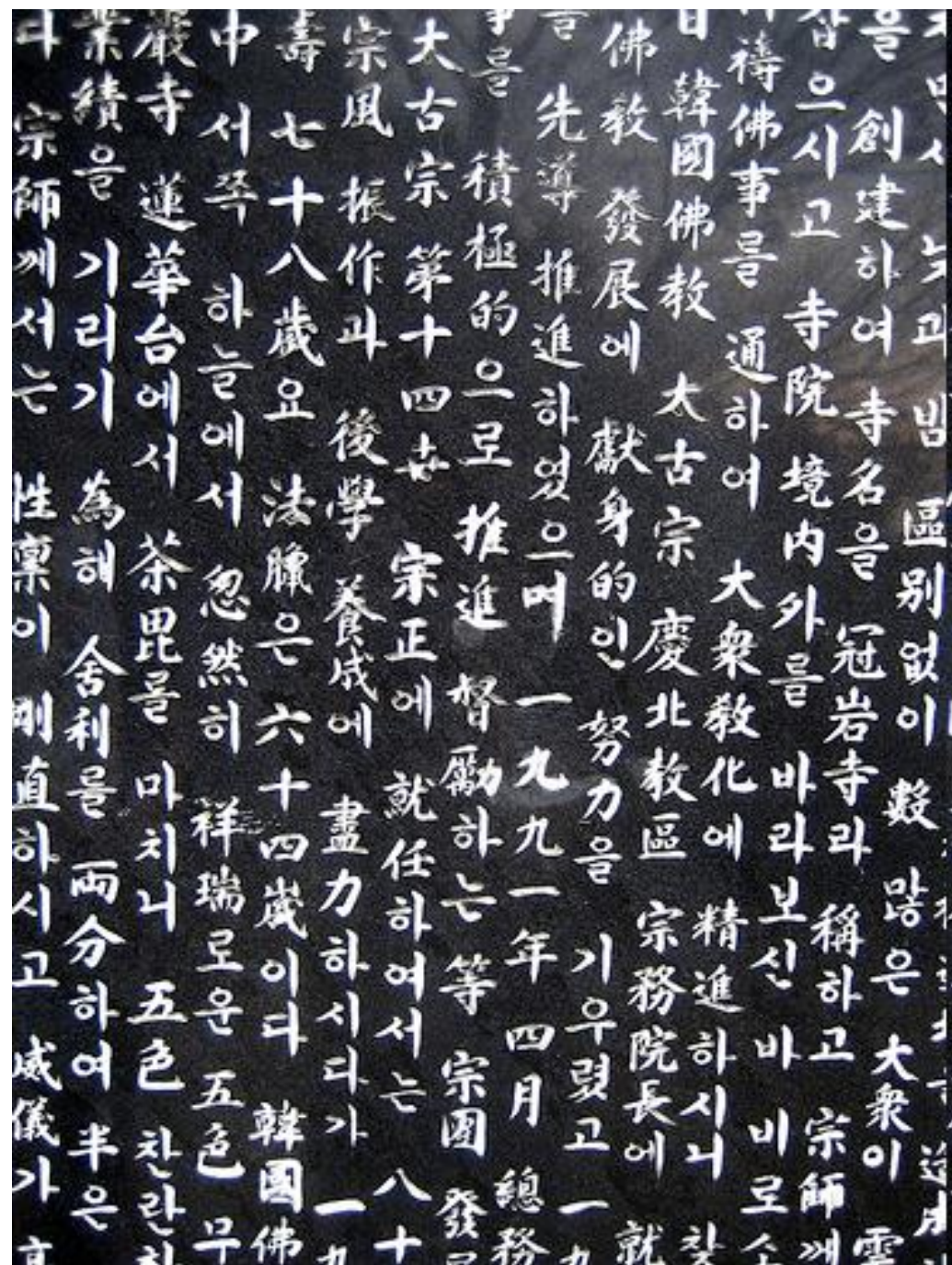


Korean writing (historical)=

Hangul + Hanja

Hangul: Korean alphabet

Hanja: Chinese characters



을 創建하여 寺名을 冠岩寺라 稱하고 宗師께
삼으시고 寺院境内外를 바라보신 바 비로소
日韓國佛教 太古宗 慶北敎區 宗務院長에
佛敎發展에 獻身的인 努力을 기우렸고
先導 推進하였으며 一九九一年四月 總務
大古宗第十四宗 宗正에 就任하여서는 八十
宗風 振作과 後學 養成에 盡力하시다가
壽七十八歲요 法臘은 六十四歲이다 韓國佛
中서쪽 하늘에서 忽然히 祥瑞로운 五色 雲
嚴寺 蓮華臺에서 茶毘를 마치니 五色 찬란한
業績을 기리기 爲해 舍利를 兩分하여 半은
다 宗師께서 性稟이 剛直하시고 威儀가



Samsing (Cantonese); sanxing (Mandarin)
meaning=three stars



北京现代

Xiandai (Mandarin) vs. Hyundai (Korean)
meaning=contemporary

GANGNAM STYLE



gongnam (Cantonese); jiangnan (Mandarin)
meaning=south of the river

A photograph of three chestnuts in the background and three rice balls in the foreground. The chestnuts are dark brown and glossy, while the rice balls are white with yellow and orange fillings. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Happy Mid-autumn Festival

中秋节快乐

추석 잘 보내세요



same word
 different meaning

馒头/mantou

(North China: no filling)

(Shanghai: with filling)



Structure of Names Chinese / Korean pronunciation

高弼立	고필립	gāo bì lì	go pilip
趙英美	조영미	zhào yīng měi	jo yeongmi
高恩相	고은상	gāo ēn xiāng	go eunsang
高恩珍	고은진	gāo ēn zhēn	go eunjin
高恩率	고은솔	gāo ēn shuài	go eunsol
高恩靜	고은정	gāo ēn jìng	go eunjeong

The Vietnamese case

Historical use of Chinese characters

Invented characters using Chinese parts



mẹ tôi thường ăn chay ở chùa mọi chủ nhật

媿 僻 常 餛 齋 於 寧 每 主 日

媿 (mẹ) 媽媽、母親。 mother

僻 (tôi) 我。 I

餛 (ăn) 吃。 eat

寧 (chùa) 寺、廟。 temple

Chinese characters + Vietnamese characters

CAFE

PHẬT PHÚC NOODLE BAR

Authentic Vietnamese Food



发福 Fat Fuk (Cantonese)

开张宏发 'Good luck grand opening'

Hoi Cheong Hong Fat (Cantonese)



Structure of Names

Tanya Winn

學 玉 青

Huỳnh Ngọc Thanh

Mooncake Festival



In Vietnam, mooncakes are known as *bánh trung thu* (literally "Mid-Autumn cake") and may contain a variety of fillings, such as savory roasted chicken, [mung beans](#), coconut or [durian](#).



Dungan (Northwest Mandarin) Not Written in Chinese Characters





Хуэйзү зэ Сетьшон

回族在线

huizucn.com

Участницы международного конкурса
" Мисс дунганка 2009 "



Dungan Version

Soviet 聯邦的 (Union's)
英雄(Hero)

Mansuzi

Vanahun 的 ('s)
Museum 房子(House)

Russian Version:

House-Museum

Hero

Soviet Union

Mansuzi

Vanahuna



Щинэди Пынюнму!

*Гунщи ниму: Щин Нянь
долэ! Панвон шынчи гончён,
жяща пиннан, сынхуо йюкуэ!*

心爱的朋友们:
恭喜你们, 新年到了!
盼望身体刚强
家下平安, 生活愉快!