



**Development of the *Lingua Franca*
of China Proper
in the Past Millennium**

By Sam WONG, Tak Sum 黃得森

HUMA, HKUST

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Introduction

● China

- ☞ Long History
- ☞ Chinese Language
- ☞ Various dialects existing at Present
- ☞ *Lingua Franca* (Common language)
 - Communication between people living in different regions of the China proper.
 - Now in China: Modern Mandarin
 - Overseas: Cantonese (NY), Sze Yup dialects (NAm)
 - Modern Mandarin as LF: not very long

This Section

- Existence of *Lingua Franca* in the Past
- Development of *Lingua Franca*
 - ☞ The Dark Ages
 - ☞ Nanking Mandarin
 - ☞ The Rise of Péking Mandarin
 - ☞ Péking Mandarin as the Ultimate Champion
- Conclusion

Did *Lingua Franca* Exist Historically?

- *Standard Language* from the West?
- Practically, it did exist!
- Any historical documents?

《論語·述而》 Analects

- Book VII:
- What the Master used the *elegant language* for: the *Odes*, the *Book of History* and the performance of the rites.
- 孔穎達疏：“孔曰：雅言，正言也。”
 - ☞ *Elegant language* refers to the correct language
- 阮元《與郝懿行論〈爾雅〉書》
 - ☞ 正言者，猶今官話也。
 - ☞ The *correct language* is similar to the Mandarin at present.”
- *Elegant Language* 雅言
 - ☞ A language, *or* dialect rather, with high prestige
 - ☞ Standard language in north China’s central plain in that era

子所雅言詩書
執禮皆雅言也

Did *Lingua Franca* Exist Historically?

- *Elegant Language* 雅言
 - ☞ Dialect used in the area around the capital city during the West Zhōu Dynasty.
 - ☞ Archaic Yellow River-Luòyì phonological system
 - ☞ 李葆嘉：上古河洛音系 (Li 2003: 180)
- *Common Language* 通語
 - ☞ 揚雄《方言》
- History of *lingua franca* traced back to the era of Confucius.
- National Language ≠ *Lingua Franca*
 - ☞ Language used by the **ruling class**
 - ☞ Yuán 元: Mongolian; North Wèi 北魏: Sien-pi 鮮卑
 - ☞ Now: Chinese 漢語

子所雅言詩書
執禮皆雅言也

The Development in the Past Millennium

- The Dark Ages
- The Nanking Mandarin
- The Rise of Péking Mandarin
- Péking Mandarin as the Ultimate Champion

The Dark Ages

- Not much documentation at around 11th c.
- Rhyming dictionaries
 - ☞ Standard of rhyming for composing poems in Civil Service Examination System
- Luòyáng Dialect 洛陽
 - ☞ Pronunciation enthusiastically learnt by the literati
 - ☞ Cultural centre since Táng Dynasty

Luòyáng Dialect 洛陽

- 陸遊 《老學庵筆記》卷六

- ∞ 陸遊 (1125-1209)

- ∞ “中原，惟洛陽得天地之中，語音最正。”

- ∞ The pronunciation is the most correct at that time.

- Alternative readings in modern dialects

- ∞ Pékinese

- ∞ literal reading (learnt from PD) colloquial reading

- ∞ 薄弱 bó [bɔʔ] 薄紙 báo [bɔuʔ]

- ∞ 血型 xuè [ɕyɛʋ] 流血 xiě [ɕiɛ ʋ]

- ∞ c.f. skirt (layer of Old Norse) shirt

- ∞ Small amount of alternative reading in Luòyáng Dialect

Ming Dynasty

● *Quonhoa*

- ☞ Quoted by 魯國堯
- ☞ *De Christiana Expeditione apud Sinas Suscepta ab Societate Jesu*: a missionary diary of China written by Trigault Nicolas
- ☞ There was a general language called *Quonhoa* used in the court and forensic court in all provinces through the empire.
- ☞ Used among the gentry class and understood even by women
- ☞ *lingua franca* exists!

Nanking Mandarin

● 楊福綿(1995)

- ☞ First European-Chinese dictionary: *Dizionario Portoghese-Cinese*
- ☞ A dialect in the Jiānghuái 江淮 region

● 魯國堯(1985)

- ☞ Nanking dialect
- ☞ From mid-16th c. (or earlier)
- ☞ A eunuch had given a little boy bought from Nanking as a gift to teach Father Didaco the purity of the Nanking dialect on the way to Péking to have an audience with the Ming emperor.

The First Record Ever Found

- *Arte de la Lengua Mandarin*

- ☞ Literally, *Grammar of the Mandarin Language*

- ☞ Published in 1703 by Francisco Varo

- ☞ Natural gift of speaking Mandarin well

- Natives in Nanking

- Others from Mandarin-spoken region

- ☞ 魯國堯 (2007)



Nanking Dialect

- Jiānghuái 江淮 Mandarin

- ✎ Some features from the dictionaries and textbooks not found in modern Nanking dialect

- Why Jiānghuái Mandarin?

- ✎ 李葆嘉(1996)

- ✎ Culturally correct pronunciation

- ✎ Formed by immigrants during south migration from central plain 靖康南渡

- ✎ Dialect chosen for reading classics

The Rise of Péking Mandarin

- Some scholars think that Pékinese has been the *lingua franca* for six hundred years.
 - ✎ Contradict with the evidence shown above
- How and when did Péking Mandarin rise?

The Rise of Péking Mandarin

- In 1874, the first envoy of Japan staying in China reported to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
 - ☞ “滿清建國後，苦於漢人吱唔不規則，另定北京話，使滿漢官吏一體遵用……始以官吏能京話方能上堂。”
 - ☞ Péking Mandarin was promulgated by the Manchurian government
 - ☞ Not Agreed by literacy with “barbarian” government
 - ☞ Not yet seized any position from Nanking Mandarin
 - ☞ Wade and Hiller 2002: 5

College of the Correct Pronunciation

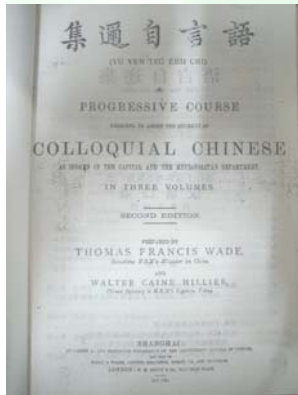
正音書院

- 1728 A.D. (Regime of Yōngzhèng 雍正)

- ☞ 俞正燮《癸巳存稿》：“雍正六年，奉旨以廣東、福建人多不諳官話，著地方官訓導，廷臣議以八年為限，舉人、生員、貢、監、童生不諳官話者，不准送試。”
- ☞ Students without the ability of speaking Mandarin were not allowed to participate in the civil service examinations.
- ☞ Main purpose: Eradicate malpractice by the clerk (legal executives) due to the inability of communication between the officials (non-local) and the public. (Yeung 2000)
- ☞ Initial achievement not so effective → not support by 乾隆
- ☞ Make positive contribution but failed to reach the aim

The Rise of Péking Mandarin

● 語言自邇集 Yü Yen Tzū Êrh Chi



- By Wade and Hillier written in 1886
- The First textbook for teaching Pékinese
- Preface: Envoy found that southern Mandarin was too out-dated to be used to communication with the court
- Improve diplomacy: learn *the language of the court*, which is important than any other languages in China

● Education of Chinese language in Japan turned to northern Mandarin from 1874

● In mid-19th c., northern Mandarin became the *lingua franca* among the officials

Péking Mandarin as the Ultimate Champion

- “Cantonese was beaten by Pékinese by only one vote (Dr Sun Yat-Sin 孫逸僊) when deciding by ballot, which dialect was to be the national language in the parliament.”
- Tiny amount of Cantonese literature
- Written language
- A beautiful hearsay...

Péking Mandarin as the Ultimate Champion

- Manchurian government

- ☞ Declared Péking Mandarin as national language in June 1911
- ☞ Set up this subject in schools in 1916
- ☞ National Revolution in 1911

- After the National government was set up

- ☞ Ministry of Education
- ☞ Pronunciation of 6 500 Chinese characters was standardised by voting
- ☞ This dialect was spoken by nobody in life!
- ☞ Old Mandarin Reading 老國音 – doomed to failure

	一
<input type="checkbox"/>	[i]
<input type="checkbox"/>	[iɪʔ]
<input type="checkbox"/>	[jɛt]

Pékin

- See
- Arg

Initial	↵	↵	↵°	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵
Medial	↵	↵	↵°	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵
Final	↵	↵	↵°	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵
Latin	n	k	g	h	b	p	s	š	t
Initial	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵
Medial	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵
Final	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵
Latin	l	m	c	j	y	r	f	w	ng
Ligatures	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵
	ba	ke	be	bi	ki	bu	gu		
Letters used for writing Chinese sounds									
Initial	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵	↵
Final		↵°	↵°						
	c	cī, cǐ	j; jǐ	jǐ	ž	sí			

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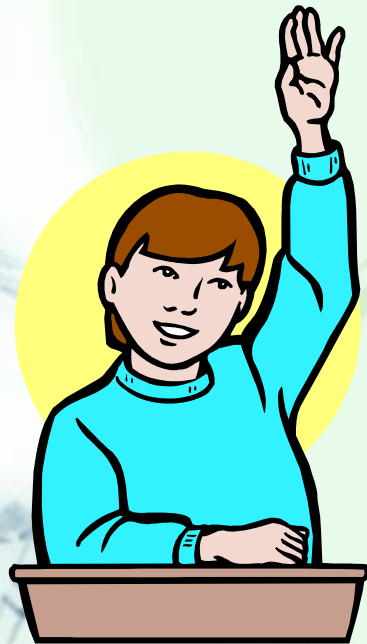
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Péking Mandarin as the Ultimate Champion

- Colloquial Pékinese was chosen as the standard
- Péking Mandarin/Pǔtōnghuà was promoted in China proper
- Certain level of competence

Conclusion

- The *lingua franca* of china proper is always “mandarin”
 - ☞ Influence of huge economic and political power established for a long time
- Reference point moved
 - ☞ Warfare, or replacement of dynasty
 - ☞ Luòyáng → Nanking → Péking



Thank you!

Q&A

Contact:

cswts@ust.hk

cs04wts@alumni.ust.hk

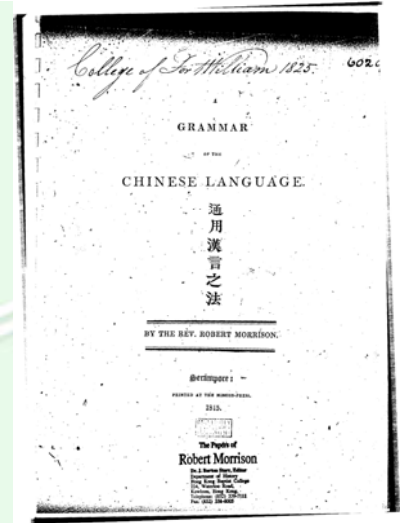
wong_taksum@hotmail.com

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More than that...

- A Grammar of the Chinese Language

∞ By Morrison 1815



The Chinese define the phrase *kwān-hwá* thus,

爲	wei are	聲	shing the tone and	言	yān	} languages;	用	yung use	公	kōng universally	各	kò	Every
正	ching right.	音	yin pro- nunciation	語	yǔ		之	chí the	通	tōng throughout	省	sōng province	

i. e. 'The proper and general language of the empire.'

amongst themselves. The dialect of Macao is different from that of Canton, and the mandarin dialect of Nanking is different from that of Peking; hence any one orthography must of necessity be imperfect.