Globalisation of the Chinese Language: Facts and Fantasies

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October 25-26, 2014, CLTA, Indiana University
全球化與華語教學全球化發展的實踐

發展方向 - 華語文中心

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Two Definitions of Globalisation

• Globalisation of the instruction of the Chinese language
• Globalisation of the use of the Chinese language
Naming the $L_1$ Language

- ‘Chinese’ is OK
- 中国语
- 国语
- 汉语
- 华语
- 普通话
- 中文

美国中文教师学会, the Chinese Language Teachers Association
Naming the L$_2$ Chinese

• 对外汉语
  – Chinese as a Foreign Language
• 对外华语
• 国际汉语
  – International Chinese
  – Compare ‘International English’ ↓
International English

English language as a global means of communication in numerous dialects, and also the movement towards an international standard for the language. (Wikipedia)
国际汉语

国际汉语学院 (中山大学)
汉语国际教育硕士 (北京师大)
《国际汉语教师标准》 (国家汉办)

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国际汉语，是以其他语言为母语的国家或民族的人为对象的汉语教学。也称为汉语作为外语教学或者汉语作为第二语言教学。《国际汉语》编辑部
Standard of Chinese

以北京语音为标准音，以北方话为基础方言，以典范的现代白话文作品为规范。 (百度百科)
Promoting the Instruction

孔子学院 (Confucius Institute)，是中国国家对外汉语教学领导小组办公室在世界各地设立的推广汉语和传播中国文化与国学的教育和文化交流机构。最重要的一项工作就是给世界各地的汉语学习者提供规范、权威的现代汉语教材；提供最正规、最主要的汉语教学渠道。
全球“汉语热”带来全球“汉语教师荒”。据不完全统计，目前对外汉语教师缺口在500万以上，单靠国内高校对外汉语教学专业毕业生，远远满足不了如此庞大需求。所以，培训本土汉语教师是破解“汉语教师荒”的有效办法。 (汉办)
臺灣教育部
華語教師輸出計畫
Assessment

• 输出，输入, Dependence
• Annual Conference of the Chinese Language Teachers Association, USA
• 本土化, localisation
• Self-sustainability
全球汉语热是否意味
二十二世纪是汉语的世界？
汉语人口超过全球1/4

是否意味二十二世纪是汉语的世界？
Chinese as an International Language?

“To be considered an international language, a language cannot be linked to any one country or culture; rather it must belong to those who use it.” (Sandra McKay 2002)
English as an International Lg

- Zero
- Pidgin
- Creole
- As a foreign language
- As a second language
- As an international language
Means of Promotion

- Colonization: Antiquated!!
- Chinese political clouts strong enough?
- Chinese economy influential enough?
- Is the Chinese language, like English, a simple enough means for communication??
FSI Scale of Lg Difficulty

- **Category 1 (600 class hours)**
  IndoEuropean, ...

- **Categories 2 & 3 (1,100 class hours)**
  SouthEast Asian, ...

- **Category 4 (2200 class hours with second year of study in-country)**
  Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese
Properties of the English Language

• Typology: inflectional
• Conjugations and declensions: Weak In linguistics, declension is the inflection of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles to indicate number (at least singular and plural), case (nominative or subjective, genitive or possessive, etc.), and gender.
• (Loss of case markings)
• (Tense markings: simple and intact)
• Word order dependency: fixed
• Orthography: simple though not optimal
• Systematic Borrowing: Greek, Latin, French
Properties of the Chinese Language

- Typology: Analytic
- Conjugations and Declensions: None
- Word Order Dependency: Limited
- Orthography: Super difficult
- Systematic Borrowing: Classical Chinese
Remedies for Chinese?

- Lionization??
- Totally ideographic??
- Abandon classical Chinese elements??
Conclusion

• Globalization of the instruction of Chinese possible only with Chinese gov’t subsidies.
• Globalization of the use of Chinese is not theoretically or realistically possible.
THANK YOU