

SLIDE NOTES

- Slide 2: The photos used in this project were taken during the above seminar in China.
- Slide 5: Han Chinese are called 汉族 (< 漢民族 *han minzu*).
- Slide 6: According to “Lu Xun, An Outsider's Chats about Written Language” appeared in *Hawai'i Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, edited by Victor H. Mair, Nancy S. Steinhardt, and Paul R. Goldin (University of Hawaii Press, 2005), the article describes:
- “Among the subjects that attracted Lu Xun's attention was the Chinese script. So deep were his feelings about the Chinese writing system that he was reported to have proclaimed shortly before his death, “*Hanzi bu mie, Zhongguo bi wang*” (If Chinese characters do not fade away, China will perish!).”
- Slide 7: Dating prior to the period of ‘oracle bone script’ (甲骨文 *jia gu wen*), at Yanghe in Euxian County, Shandong Province, there has been a discovery of pottery wine vessels (zun) bearing a stylized pictographic proto-character.
- Slide 8: *The *jiǎntǐzì* (简体字) is also called 简化字/简化字, *jiǎnhuàzì* in Chinese.
- Slide 9: A Chinese language scholar, John DeFrancis, who was a proponent of character simplification, promoted the simplified characters because it allows less educated to read Chinese.
- Slide 11: Some people argue that the access to better education is more relevant to the literacy of the Chinese people than simplification of the orthography. Simplified characters are useful for school education and daily communication, but it needs to be complimented by the willingness to advance the well-being of the Chinese people.
- Slide 12: Read the discussion on Chinese language reform: Chapter 7 “Beijing Language Reform and Guangdong Opposition” in *Power of Words: Literacy and Revolution in South China, 1949-96* by Glen Peterson.
- Slide 25: The *kǎishū* as *kaisho* (Jpn) 楷書 was imported to Japan.
- Slide 28: He was also associated with the May Fourth Movement (an anti-Imperialist movement grown out of students demonstration).
- Slide 29: Note many multi-stroke characters have not been simplified.
- Slide 31: “More Than You Want To Know About Simplified Characters” by David K. Jordan, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Univ. of California, San Diego (November 2010).
- Slide 39: *The visual interpretation is gone.

- Slide 41: A sign seen near a police station in Chong Qing.
- Slide 49: We, the Fulbright-Hays group, visited Fēi hóng qiáo (飞虹桥) “Flying Rainbow Bridge” in Putuo, Shanghai
- Slide 53: Our hotel in Hong Kong. The traditional Chinese characters are still used in Hong Kong.
- Slide 54: Seen at the Hong Kong International Airport
- Slide 56: This picture was taken in Harbin, China.
- Slide 59: Beijing Normal University we visited in July 2010
- Slide 71: The rise of literacy rate is attributable to the simplification of Chinese characters.

Since the simplified characters are now widely used by the mainland Chinese people since 1950s, it will continue to be used for many decades or centuries to come if the people embrace and find the system to be useful in their changing life. As in many other countries in the past, reading and writing were NOT necessarily expected to be acquired/learned by all people. The expectation for high literacy of a nation is rather recent in long history of Chinese history.

As we see the rapid rise of Chinese people’s general well-being and technological advancement, the Chinese writing system will adopt to the current of the time.

I believe the Chinese writing system, simplified or traditional, will continue to evolve gradually as they did in the past since each character tends to be intuitive and cognitive. And they have been used continuously in daily life for over 4 thousand years.

Since any language writing system is a tool to represent a language, it is useful for a word or Chinese character to be assigned with less ambiguous meaning. The Chinese people will solve the issues of ambiguousness in near future since language needs to be practical in day-to-day usage. After all the purpose of a language is to convey the meaning of all things.