

On the Research of <the First Batch of Variant Character Rectification Table> under the Background of Language Standardization

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Abstract: In the history of Chinese characters, heterogeneous characters exist in large quantities, which is an important subject of language standardization. From the perspective of standardization of language and characters, this paper reviews the research on the definition, classification, causes and other problems of variant in the first batch of variant rectification table and sorts out the existing problems by using the research methods of combining science and sociology, narration and evaluation. At this stage, the theoretical study of variant is subordinate to the arrangement and specification of variant. The theoretical study of the first batch of variant consolidation tables only focuses on the table theory, without in-depth discussion of the fundamental problem of the meaning of variant, and ignores the ontological study of variant from the perspective of philology. This emphasis on practice over theoretical research confuses the boundary between academic and political issues.

Variant characters have appeared and always existed in the history of Chinese characters. Their emergence and development are natural and random, reflecting the creation of characters. However, the systematic arrangement and standardization of variant characters is not only a government action, but also an important aspect of the standardization of Chinese characters.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the arrangement and research of variant characters, as an important part of language standardization, are carried out in combination with the simplification of Chinese characters. New China's first and only word table on the arrangement and standardization of variant characters "the first batch of variant characters rectification table" is made under such a historical background.

Reviewing and reflecting on the process of the arrangement and research work of variant characters after the founding of the People's Republic of China, we can see that the arrangement and research work of variant characters, as an important part of the writing standard, has made remarkable achievements in regulating the use of characters in society and reducing the number of words. Therefore, we should think from the viewpoint of academic history, combing the relevant state departments issued with every word table, evaluation of scholars study the gain and loss, discusses different background di sorting, the concept of specification more leather, then summing up the experience of the writer to sort out and research after the founding of the, provide certain reference for the future of Chinese characters standardization research.

1. Research Methods and Specific Operations

1.1. Research Methods.

1.1.1. The method of combining the scientificity and sociality of Chinese characters

The sorting out and research of variant characters is an important part of the writing standard. Since its emergence, variant characters have been closely related to society and politics. Therefore, the scientific research on variant characters should not only base on the ontology of Chinese characters, pay attention to the natural rules of Chinese characters, but also recognize their sociality,

and try to put every problem back into the background of The Times to discuss. The objective arrangement of variant characters and the construction of academic history need to combine the scientificity and sociality of Chinese characters.

1.1.2. The method combining narrative and evaluation

He Jiuying pointed out: "narration and review are both research methods and writing methods." "It can be narrative before discussion, or narrative without discussion, or discussion without discussion, but no discussion without discussion." The important basis of judging whether an academic history paper has academic value lies in how to cut out the narrative part, or how to summarize it. However, narration and appraisal are not equivalent, the emphasis is on narration. "The narrative part may be long, and the review part may not stand the test of time. That is to say, discussions are gray, but facts are evergreen."

1.2. Specific Operation.

1.2.1. Collection and arrangement of data

Papers by the Chinese academy of social sciences language institute's editor in chief of the index of paper of Chinese linguistics (Ed.) (the commercial press, 1983), the index of paper of Chinese linguistics (b) (the commercial press, 1983), the index of paper of Chinese linguistics (1981-1990) (the commercial press, 2005) and the index of paper of Chinese linguistics (1991-1995) (the commercial press, 2003) as the foundation, and the "China net" in the academic journal network publishing pool in China excellent master degree dissertations full-text database, Ph.D. Thesis full-text database in China, Twelve databases, including full-text database of Chinese important conferences, full-text database of Chinese important newspapers and full-text database of Chinese patents, are indexed. The database of research papers on different characters is established from 1949 to 2018, and a total of 1206 articles are included, striving to include important papers related to different characters.

1.2.2. Data classification and sorting

Word table, in addition to specialise in terms of the arrangement form the first batch of the writer, the second batch of di arrangement form, the di arrangement form, the second di arrangement form and other relative word table, the writer also finishing work, but owing to the political environment at that time, these terms table has not released. We don't have a whole lot of information. In terms of papers, according to the time sequence, we will collect the related research papers of "the first batch of variant character rectification table" and classify them according to the research content and research views, and strive to objectively describe and summarize the author's views. Since there are a large number of papers on the study of variant characters and a large number of similar views, in the process of sorting, if the later published articles have the same or similar views as the published ones, they will directly narrate and review the earlier one.

2. Development and Adjustment of the First Batch of Correction Table for Different Characters

On December 22, 1955, the ministry of culture of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese character reform commission issued a joint notice on the release of >, the first batch of correction table for different characters. On December 23, 1955, the Chinese character reform commission and the ministry of culture jointly issued the "first batch of abnormal characters rectification table", in which 810 groups of abnormal characters were collected, with each group containing at least 2 characters and at most 6 characters, totaling 1,865 characters, and 1,055 abnormal characters were eliminated. This table has been in effect nationwide since February 1, 1956. At the same time, the ministry of culture and the society for cultural reform also issued a joint notice on the release of the first batch of > correction table for different characters, which pointed out that: "from the date of implementation, newspapers, magazines and books published nationwide shall stop using different characters in parentheses. An exception may be made where the original

characters are required for reprinting ancient books. General books have been made into a version or all the books have not been out of the end of the can no longer modify, such as rearrangement when the correction. The transcriptions of typewriters used by government organs, organizations, enterprises and schools shall be corrected step by step. The original brand name of the store is not restricted. Among the variant characters that are no longer in use, some are used as surnames. The original characters can be retained in newspapers and books without change, but only as surnames."

On March 23, 1956, in accordance with the opinions of all parties, the ministry of culture of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese character reform commission issued a notice to the cultural bureau of all provinces, cities and autonomous regions on the amendment of the words "ban" and "cuo" in the correction form of the first batch of variant characters:

1) "ban" the word is used as the Japanese name "ban" is still in the original word, namely the kobe [ban] is modified to tranship [ban];

2) Delete the word "file", which is file [committed] and change it to file [committed].

"Ban" and "cuo" were confirmed as standard Chinese characters. In this way, the number of abnormal characters eliminated in the first batch of abnormal characters rectification table was reduced from 1055 to 1053.

In the process of the constant adjustment of the first batch of abnormal characters rectification table, the second batch of abnormal characters rectification table, abnormal characters rectification table and the second abnormal characters rectification table have also completed the drafting work. But because of the political environment at the time, the lists were not published publicly.

3. Theoretical Research on Word Table

Around the development and revision of the word table, the relevant departments of the text reform have held a number of symposiums to solicit public opinions. Scholars have carried out extensive discussions on the sorting principles, methods and definitions of the first batch of variant characters, and the theoretical research on variant characters is more in-depth.

Xunzi xieyu says: "there are many good scholars, while cang jie is the only one who has initiated the tradition." The first sentence of the article, "many good writers", points out the diversity of characters. Characters are not created by one person in one place at one time. When the same idea is intended to be expressed by symbols in different times, different places, and different circumstances, there are many choices of ways to create characters, which are presented in various structural ways, thus forming the phenomenon of creating characters with the same sound, the same meaning, and different shapes. In the history of Chinese character studies, this phenomenon of repetition of writing symbols was first called "heavy text", and then different names were given to different sectors, such as "common character", "common style", "other style", "different style", "wrong writing".

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the definition of variant characters comes up with the simplification of Chinese characters and the arrangement of variant characters.

On July 16, 1952, Ding shaoyu's the same problem of allogeneic universal characters was published in ta kung pao, in which "allogeneic universal characters" was used for the first time to refer to the allogeneic relationship of Chinese characters. In October 1952, ding xilin published opinions on the arrangement and simplification of Chinese characters in Chinese language, in which he used "dissimilar characters" to refer to the allogeneic relationship of Chinese characters. In February of the same year, cao bohan published opinions on the arrangement and simplification of Chinese characters in the new construction, in which he used "parallel branch characters" to refer to the relationship between different characters. None of the three articles mentioned "variant characters". In December 1953, ding lu et al. published opinions on sorting and simplifying Chinese characters in the Chinese language, without mentioning "variant characters". We can infer that the use of "variant characters" to refer to the relationship between Chinese characters is after 1953. After the promulgation of the draft of 400 heterotypic characters to be abolished in 1954 and the first batch of heterotypic characters rectification table in 1955, "heterotypic characters" were widely used in relevant documents and papers.

The definition of variant characters has been clearly expressed in the first batch of variant characters rectification table, but the debate on this issue has been going on since the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Since the main target of lexicography and orthography is not the variant characters themselves, the theoretical discussion on the definition of variant characters has not attracted enough attention for a long time.

What is a real variant character? In 1952, ding xilin published an article "several opinions on sorting out Chinese characters' glyphs", which defined them as "having the same meaning and sound but different form". The definition of different characters proposed by ding xilin is reasonable, but he did not make a specific definition of "the same meaning", "the same sound" and "different form", so the concept is vague and lack of scientific nature. Later, jin mingsheng used "the same pronunciation and the same meaning but different form" to define the alien characters in the research on the rule of 400 alien characters remaining and abolishing ", which simply followed ding xilin's saying, but the definition of the alien characters is still unclear. In 1956, zhai jianxiong published an article on the *guangming* daily entitled "a little talk about different characters". ZhaiJianXiong notice on terms it is not enough to make the definition of fuzzy, therefore, he not only pointed out that "the writer is a kind of pronunciation and meaning with, only different word form", in the introduction to the writer of the division of scope also puts forward the "typical di is completely the same pronunciation but can call each other, meaning the same"; "Only part of the meaning is the same, can not be a different character theory"; "The words with the same meaning and slightly different pronunciation cannot be counted as different characters, but only the words with the same pronunciation and broad and narrow meanings are still regarded as different characters" and other specific viewpoints. Zhai jianxiong specified the pronunciation and meaning of different characters, and believed that the pronunciation and meaning of "typical different characters" must be exactly the same, and "atypical different characters" have the same pronunciation but broad and narrow meanings. This is actually influenced by the first batch of variant characters rectification table, which is the beginning of dividing the variant characters into full variant characters (typical variant characters) and partial variant characters.

Wang li pointed out in ancient Chinese that "the difference between different characters and ancient and modern characters is that two (or more) characters have exactly the same meaning and can be substituted for each other in any case." Then, he listed several cases of different characters: "the difference between ideograph and pictograph", "change the signifier with similar meaning", "change the phonetic symbol with similar sound", "change the position of each component". In his "the different position of the component" special mention, part of the word change is just writing, including the change, the change of ideogram and representation, such as the "flower" "苍" and so on. These examples show that wang li's definition of different characters not only includes the general meaning of "different characters", but also includes the slightly different strokes of "different writing". In addition, wang li explained the situation that does not belong to the category of variant characters: the first is that part of the meaning is relatively close, pronunciation is very similar, but can not be classified as variant characters; The second is the relationship of partial characters mixed and mixed, some are interlinked and some are not interlinked, can not be classified as variant characters; The third is that it is limited in general usage and cannot be included in this font. It can be seen that wang li's definition of different characters clearly excludes the function part of the overlap of different characters. Wang li's point of view has the greatest influence in the academic circle. In essence, he advocates "one word is abnormal", and he advocates investigating the variant characters from the perspective of pure philology, which can be said to be the typical representative of the narrow sense school.

Through the above analysis, it can be seen that wang li has defined the pronunciation and meaning of different characters, so as to make "yitong" concrete, which is the first time to define the function of different characters from the perspective of "different characters". Although wang li did not clearly point out in the book that the "pronunciation" of different characters should be exactly the same, it is clear from the examples in the text that he actually advocated "pronunciation". To this end, li guoying expressed different views in the definition and type of variant characters. He argues

that functional definitions do not capture the essence of things. If we only define the different characters from the functional aspect, it will be difficult to distinguish the different characters which overlap with the function part of the words in practice.

4. Summary

Looking back on the arrangement and research of different characters from the founding of the People's Republic of China to the period of reform and opening up, we can see that in this process of exploration and practice, the standardization of Chinese characters has achieved fruitful results. At the same time, there are some limitations that we have to face.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the theoretical research on variant characters is combined with the arrangement and standardization of variant characters. At this stage, the research on variant characters is mainly carried out around the country's character reform. That is to say, at this stage, the theoretical research on variant characters is subject to the arrangement and standardization of variant characters. Theoretical research mainly focuses on the achievements and problems of the first batch of variant characters rectification table, while ignoring the ontological research of variant characters from the perspective of philology. This kind of research, which emphasizes practice over theory, confuses the boundary between academic issues and political issues.

In the early stage of the sorting out of variant characters, it is mainly for the purpose of practicality. When people standardize Chinese characters "with full efforts, strive for the best, how fast and how easy to save", there will be a lot of misunderstanding in understanding and destroy the systematization of Chinese characters. "It is believed that simplified Chinese characters are the first step of reforming Chinese characters, and Chinese characters will be changed into pinyin characters sooner or later", "it is an inevitable phenomenon in reforming that Chinese characters have been destroyed in history, and some simplified characters destroy the Chinese character system", etc.

After sorting out and discussing in this stage, it can be seen that most of the problems in the first batch of variant characters rectification table are in the final analysis the definition of variant characters. No matter it is the scope of receiving characters, the principles and methods of processing or the relationship between the handwriting of the characters of both ancient and modern, as long as the problem of the definition of different characters is solved, these problems can be easily solved. However, in fact, since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the research on the existing problems of "the first batch of variant character rectification table" is all about table, not directly around the fundamental problem of definition.

Today, the development of allogeneic character table is important, but cannot ignore the theoretical research, otherwise the lack of theoretical basis in the application, often lead to a certain one-sidedness, even a mistake. At that time, under the great tide of character reform, the standard of Chinese characters was only applied and transitional, without a systematic and long-term vision. In addition, due to the influence of The Times, academic issues and political issues were confused, which also pointed out the direction of future research on the standardization of Chinese characters.

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