

中國漢字系統中簡化

現在中國的書寫系統中簡體字和繁體字都有。毛澤東為了政治的原因要簡化漢字。一九五二年中國政府開始打印簡體字，其中有一些字使用的是書法的字，有些是應用新規則改的字。還有很多的字沒更改，這些字還是原來的繁體字。

中國政府有三個漢字簡化的規則。第一個規則是原字簡化（政府減少字的筆劃）：飛成為了飞，第二個是部分簡化：進成為了进，或者第三是繁體字全部更換：個成為了个。中國政府用這三個規則簡化了差不多八千六百個字。簡體字的筆劃比較少，所以比較容易記住，學寫字也比較容易。

我覺得這是太大的變更。漢字簡化差不多完全忽略了五千年的歷史。我也覺得簡體字失去了繁體字的意義。我不明白繁體字的意義的時候，我可以用繁體字的部分找到字的基本意義。可是不明白簡體字的時候，要看哪一部份呢？下次再要簡化的時候，又會丟掉什麼？

The Simplification of Chinese Characters

The Chinese writing system is made of simplified and traditional characters. Mao Zedong wanted to simplify characters for political reasons. In 1952 the Chinese government started printing simplified characters. Some of them are calligraphy characters, or others had new rules applied to them. Many of the characters were not changed, these characters are the same as the traditional characters.

There are three ways used by the government to simplify the characters. The original character is simplified (the government reduced the number of strokes) 飛 became 飞, parts of the character are simplified: 進 became 进, and completely replacing the old character with a new one, 個 became 个. Using these rules the Chinese government has made about 8600 simplified characters. Simplified characters have fewer strokes in order to make them easier to remember.

I think this is an overwhelming change in the Chinese culture. By simplifying the characters almost 5000 years of history are completely ignored. I also think that simplified characters lose all the meaning of the traditional characters. When I cannot read a traditional character I use the pieces of the character to find the basic meaning of the character. I cannot do that with a simplified character. What will be lost in the next simplification?

Vocabulary

書寫系統	shūxiě xìtǒng	Writing System	成為	chéngwéi	To become
毛澤東	Máo Zédōng		部分	bùfen	Part
開始	kāishǐ	To begin	全部	quánbù	Entire
簡化	jiǎnhuà	To simplify	更換	gēnghuàn	To replace
政治	zhèngzhì	Political	記住	jìzhu	To remember
政府	zhèngfǔ	Government	變更	biàngēng	Change
打印	dǎyìn	To print	完全	wánquán	Entirely
筆	bǐ	Strokes	忽略	hūlüè	To ignore
書法	shūfǎ	Calligraphy	歷史	lìshǐ	History
規則	guīzé	Rules	失去	shīqù	To lose
應用	yìngyòng	To apply	意義	yìyì	Meaning
更改	gēngǎi	To change	明白	míngbai	To understand
相同	xiāngtóng	The same	找到	zhǎodào	To find
原	yuán	Original	基本	jīběn	Basic
減少	jiǎnshǎo	To reduce	丟掉	diūdiào	To lose