

Elementary
Chinese

基础

[jī]

[chǔ]

汉语

[hàn]

[yǔ]

第一册

[Level 1]

贝镇标 博士
Dr. Poey Tiang Peow

AUGUST
P U B L I S H I N G

基础汉语

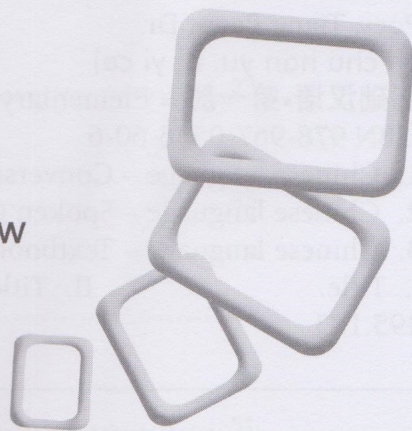
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Preface

Learning Mandarin has become increasingly necessary than ever before and it is not only because that it is one of the most popular and widely spoken languages in the globe with over one billion people speak it but also due to the constantly growing business significance of the language. Almost two third of the people in the world are frequently using Chinese products and services, there are more and more interactions with the Chinese business community, and there are increased involvement of some business dealings.

Mandarin is a very rich language with vernacular literature and carries a great tradition and literature. Learning it gives tremendous pleasure if there are appropriate tools and presents in a brilliant manner. This book is a Mandarin course for the beginners who do not have any idea about the language. The course focuses on developing basic skills in communication, primarily on listening and speaking. It helps the learner to understand reading and writing and to connect the students with his surroundings in using the language. At the end of the course, students can use the language in daily life.

This teaching material contains a total of 14 lessons; in which each lesson consists of text paragraph, dialogue for basic conversation, new words, learning focus etc. The beginners would also be able to enjoy the teaching tool with a few idioms and quizzes. The objectives of this book are to expose the learner to the correct pronunciation, to understand simple conversations in Mandarin, to the appropriate expressions according to the situations, and to provide simple reading materials. Moreover, the topics and the lessons are very practical as they give emphasis in helping the learner in dealing with conversation in different circumstances.

This book uses teaching course with English translation as well as Pinyin words with which the beginner would be able to learn on how to read Chinese characters and continue learning further. It will be helpful for those who had never learned Mandarin or Chinese languages.

Introduction

It is a well-crafted book for the beginners of Mandarin language where all the relevant lessons are covered. Although the language is quite different from most other ones, the presentation would help the student to get a clear idea about the fundamentals. It could be a good beginning for people who wish to study the language further.

The book has been divided into fourteen lessons, and each part is self-contained yet they are interrelated. The lessons are unified by maintaining the flow, and there is a sequence for the lessons. Simple Mandarin characters are mentioned in the beginning, and the continuity is kept for the convenience of the learner.

There has been an earnest effort to make the work classic and unique. It is designed in such a way that anyone with basic knowledge of English can learn Mandarin and practise it. The effectiveness of the book always depended on the way the student perceives it, approach the lessons and make use of the exercises.

The book describes in a simple manner and an easy to understand method is followed. The way the lessons are arranged in the book helps the reader easily to identify the significant points. Continuous revisions of the lessons are necessary to memorise the portions of lessons already covered.

New words and usages are presented one by one and it helps to develop a deeper understanding of them. There are always chances for confusion while learning the words and the phrases. And so are the dialects. The reader has to make use of the exercises to avoid this error.

Writing exercises are also necessary to develop the learning skills, and the learner is advised to do exercises while they follow the book. Each character is important in learning the language because writing the characters of Mandarin makes the learner perfect. It is necessary to practise writing skills also to sharpen the memory skills.

Idioms are unavoidable in all languages as they play important roles in expressing the feelings and conveying the right messages. The right use of them makes the language more beautiful and attractive. Therefore, the emphasis is given in understanding them too.

The reader can make use of 'Google-Translate' to clear doubts when they read and practise the book. 'Pinyin' is another tool where the learner can understand how to typing the Mandarin characters. This book may not be comparable with other learning materials existing in the market because different authors have different approaches for teaching. Here, Dr Poey Tiang Peow has applied 'an easy to learn method' that is particularly suitable for people from South-East Asian nations. The books are highly useful for the learners from Malaysia and the region around it as the culture of the land is adopted in descriptions.

The book can be a great advantage of reference for people who wish to travel and interact with Chinese dominated areas. The author has exercised his calibre to produce the right output.

Acknowledgement

I am a Lecturer in Mandarin at the Centre for Languages and Pre-university Academic Development (CELPAD), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in Malaysia. My teaching and learning experiences with the scholars and intellectuals, as well as the students have given me the inspiration to write a book for the beginners. I started thinking differently. It has altered me, and I repositioned by myself. Because in the University, the members of the CELPAD, Faculty or Kulliyah along with the students work hard and read more to gain additional knowledge and wisdom.

People in the campus are engaged in highly creative activities of generating additional value. I too was enthused, and it gave me the momentum to work and write a book. The academic environment in the University has always been an element of motivation as most of the scholars I met are continuous learners. And some of them are more popular because of their intellectual and literary talents.

I derived unlimited support from my centre to accomplish this task. It has mainly been because of the feeling that Mandarin would be a very difficult language for the Muslims particularly the Malaysian. There is no base in it as there are millions of Muslims in China, and some other parts of the world speak the language.

I am thankful to the Dean of CELPAD, Assistant Professor Datin Dr. Engku Haliza Engku Ibrahim for the support and care provided to me. There is a group of senior students who assisted me in compiling the lessons and proofreading. Nuranis Fadhilah Bt Mohamed Shuhaimy; NurFa'izah Hanis Binti Kasin; and Faiz Nurekhsan Bin Daud from IIUM helped me in completing the book successfully. I may extend my special gratitude to them, and I wish all of them to be successful in their life in all aspects.

About the Author

Dr. PoeyTiangPeow is currently a Lecturer in Mandarin at the Centre for Languages and Pre-university Academic Development, International Islamic University Malaysia. As a Chinese Language expert and scholar, he has been teaching the language for more than 20 years. He was a graduate from Chinese Studies Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences from University of Malaya, Malaysia.

He had published two books entitled the Standards for Being a Good Student and Child, namely Dizigui from the perspectives of Chinese Culture; The Importance of Inter-Religious Dialogue to Promote World Peace; and a number of Research Papers in Chinese Language.

His mission in life is to continue to be continuous learner and impart knowledge to others as well as to share information. More than two decades of teaching, training and counseling experiences made him more perfect in the concerned area. He has developed a Chinese language learning programme for non-Chinese speaking community.

I am thankful to the Dean of CLPAD, Assistant Professor Datin Dr. Engku Haliza Engku Ibrahim for her support and care provided to me. There is a group of senior students who assisted me in compiling the lessons and proofreading. Muamir, Fadlan, Et, Mohamed Shuhaimy, Nurfauzah Haniffa, Nur Hafsyah and Faez Nurfarhan Bin Omid from IUM helped me in compiling the book successfully. I may extend my special gratitude to them, and I wish all of them to be successful in their life in all aspects.

OVERVIEW OF CHINESE ORACLES

Chinese characters have a long history of evolutions. Records of formal Chinese writings dated back more than 3300 years to the Shang and Zhou Dynasties. The development and spread of Chinese writing, driven by progress and growing requirements of society and the introduction of brush and ink, set the stage for the gradual evolution of the unique art of Chinese writing. Oracle Characters are known as JiaGuWen 甲骨文 had widely used in Shang 商 Dynasty from 1766 BC to 1122 BC in China.

The earliest extant examples of Chinese writing are the inscriptions that appear on so-called oracle bones which are animal bones and turtle shells' writing and on bronze vessels' writing. The kings of the Shang Dynasty used oracle bones in important divination rituals. Some scholars have pointed out that in the prevailing social, one who can read and write Chinese oracle has been given special social status. It is because Chinese Oracle has the important function of ritual and political roles at that time.

Learning Chinese Oracle will help us to understand and master the modern Chinese characters easily. Below are some Chinese characters, created from Pictograms 象形 xiàngxíng, which means "form imitation", and stylized drawings of the objects they represent. In other words, the Chinese character's form looks like the object itself.

这是一本为汉语初学者精心设计的书，涵盖了所需学习的课程。全书共分为十四堂课，每堂课即是独立，也是相互联系的。课程通过统一性的顺序结构，让简单的汉字作为学习的开始和延续，帮助读者在非汉语学习环境下能更好地开展独立自主的学习。

本书课程简单的编排方式，让读者易于理解并更快识别课程的重点；不断的复习课程内容是必要的，以加强学习记忆。

这本书适用于想到大中华区域旅行或进行交流的人，提供很好的参考。

It is a well crafted book for the beginners of Chinese language where all the relevant lessons are covered. The book has been divided into fourteen lessons and each part is self-contained yet they are interrelated.

The book is designed in a simple manner and an easy to understand method to follow. The way the lessons are arranged in the book helps the reader to identify the significant points easily. Continuous revisions of the lessons are necessary to memorise the lessons covered.

This book can be a great reference for anyone who wish to travel to the Chinese dominated areas and interact with Chinese people.

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