通字方案

赵 元 任

A PROJECT FOR GENERAL CHINESE

YUEN REN CHAO

內 容 簡 介

通字以官話、吳語、粵語、閩語爲基礎，從常用字裏頭挑選二○八五個字，可以用來寫白話文，寫文言文。其中絕大多數字是正字，少數是同音替代。這是通字漢字，跟他相配的有通字羅馬字。這種羅馬字的拼法反映各主要方言的特徵：吳語的聲母，官話的元音，粵語的韻尾，吳語、粵語、閩語、官話的四聲，還有閩語古舌上音知徹澄三母讀塞音的特點。因此每個音節不止是一個音，差不多就是一個字(一個語素)。

出 版 説 明

　　本書是趙元任教授（一八九二年——九八二年）的遺著。原書用英文寫作，由編輯部譯成中文，用中英對照的方式出版。前四章英文初稿曾在美國哲學會一九六七年 478—482 頁發表，作者中譯文見歷史語言研究所集刊第五十本 425—429 頁。現在盡可能使用作者的中譯文，只根據英文改訂稿略有更動。至于舉例，詩文續例，表格與索引，都不必翻譯，也就無所謂中英對照，只要把小注，表頭與説明譯成中文就行了。第陸章第二節《韻母和音節類型（按中古韻類排列）》的小注集中排在表後 22—25 頁，也採用中英對照的方式。每條小注標明頁數和小注的次序，如" 16^1 "表示"16 頁注 ^{1} "。第柒章《通字漢字和羅馬字音節表》的小注也用中英對照的方式集中排在表後 58—67 頁。每條小注標明音節表的次序和小注的次序，如" $S1^1$ "表示"音節表 1 注 ^{1} "。

　　本書譯好準備排印時，趙元任先生遽歸道山，謹志哀悼。

<div align="right">商務印書館編輯部　　一九八二年三月</div>

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引　言

PART ONE   GENERAL REPORT

By General Chinese I shall mean a representative part of the Chinese language, which is to be selected as a convenient basis for the study and use of the language as a whole. In Chinese, I shall call it 通字, in the sense that such and such a character is 通 (i.e. etymologically identical) with another, as used in some dictionaries.

I   The Nature of General Chinese

1.1 Phonology — General Chinese may be compared with the idea of the so-called "overall pattern", in the Henry Lee Smith sense, of American English, which is a kind of least common multiple of all the dialects of English spoken in North America, except that in the case of Chinese dialects the base is much wider and the differences may be as far apart as French from Spanish or German from Dutch. In the preliminary sketch as outlined here, the geographical distribution will include approximately the main features of the initial consonants of the Wu dialects (e.g. Shanghai and Ningpo), the vowels of Mandarin, and the endings of Cantonese. It can however be pronounced in any dialect, as it is meant to be, by a relatively short list of rules of pronunciation. It may also be useful for students of phonology to pronounce the romanized forms more or less as an approximation to reconstructed forms of recent centuries, the precise date of which cannot be specified, as the dialects differ as to the antiquity of various features.

1.2 Vocabulary — In the (accompanying) Technical Report (Part Two), a draft syllabary of 2085 syllables will be proposed, of which about 80% have no homophones, so that *kai* means 'open' (開), *men* means 'door' (門), *cut* means 'bone' (骨), *lip* means 'to stand' (立), *lit* means 'chestnut' (栗), *lic* means 'strength' (力), *sam* means 'three' (三), etc. These syllables then are morphemes, or words with definite meanings, or clusters of meanings related by extensions. About 20% of the syllables are homophones under each of which there will be more than one morpheme, usually written with different characters, as in *Luu* 魯 'proper name', 鹵 'brine'; *gien* 乾 'male principle', 虔 'devout'; *cien* 肩 'shoulder', 堅 'solid'. The degree of homophony is so low that it will be possible to write text either in literary or colloquial Chinese with the same character for each syllable, without distinguishing 魯 from 鹵, etc. as shown in the accompanying texts below. (Cf. English *bear* 'to carry' or 'the animal', *in-* as 'inside' or 'not', *bow*, the last even phonetically ambiguous.) The above figures may be compared with the 3877 syllables of the dictionary *Kuangyün* (1007 A. D.) and the 1277 syllables of Standard Mandarin.

1.3 Style — General Chinese is to be used for both Mandarin colloquial and for the classical style, and with a few additions, probably less than 5%, for writing dialectal colloquial text. No limit is to be placed on the formation of compounds from the monosyllables.

第一部分　　序論

所謂通字 (General Chinese) 是爲了研究跟寫作的方便,取中國語言當中的一部分作全部的代表,中文名稱叫"通字",就是某字與某字在字源上相通的意思。中國字書裏常常有某字與某字"通"的説法。

壹　　通字的性質

1.1 音韻——通字可以跟美國英文裏 Henry Lee Smith 的所謂總模式(overall pattern)比,就是北美洲説的各種英語方言的一種最小公倍數,可是中國方言的基礎更廣,方言之間的差別象西班牙語跟法語或荷蘭語跟德語差得那麼遠就是了。在現在寫的這個初步大綱裏的地域上的分配,聲母大概包括吳語(例如上海寧波),韻母近於官話,韻尾大致跟着粤語。可是讀起來可以讀任何方音,因爲本來就是打算用比較不太長的讀音方法説明可以讀成任何方音。通字的拼法也可以給學音韻的學生把音韻學家構擬出來的近幾百年的字音大致給讀出來,但是没法説定是哪世紀的音,因爲各方音裏的各方面時代是很參差不齊的。

1.2 單音字表——在第二部分《本論》裏,我擬了一個二千零八十五個字的表,其中百分之八十是没有同音字的,例如 kai 是"開"的意思,men 是"門"的意思,cut 是"骨"的意思,lip 是"立"的意思,lit 是"栗"的意思,lic 是"力"的意思,sam 是"三"的意思,等等。所以這些音節或者是語素,或者是有一定解釋的詞,或者包括一些可以引伸連得起來的意義。這些音節裏大約百分之二十是同音的,就是每個音節代表不止一個語素,寫起來也寫不同的字。例如 luu 魯國、姓魯的"魯"跟鹽鹵、鹵水的"鹵"; gien 乾坤的"乾"跟虔誠的"虔"; cien 肩膀的"肩"跟堅固的"堅"。整個兒算起來同音字見次非常少,所以無論是寫文言或是寫白話,同一個音節老寫那個字是没有問題的。例如"魯"跟"鹵"不分,等等,見下文實例。(比方英文的 bear 又是"載重"又是"熊"的意思,詞頭 in- 又是"内"又是"不"的意思, bow "弓" [bou] 跟"鞠躬" [bau] 連讀音都不同。)二千零八十五個通字可以跟《廣韻》(公元一千零七年)裏的三千八百七十七個字音或現代北京音裏的一千二百七十七個字音相比。

1.3 體裁——通字可以不管官話白話或文言一樣用。也許再加上不到百分之五的字,就可以寫方言白話文。對於詞彙或從單字合成複詞完全没有限制。

1.4 Orthography — There will be a system of General Chinese Characters (GCC) and a General Chinese Romanization (GCR). The system of characters is based on the following principles:

(1) Legalize modern usage, such as 閘 for 牐 'canal lock', 閂 for 橝 'bolt'.

(2) Treat enlarged characters as extensions of the same linguistic form, as 返 'to return', enlarged from 反 *faan* 'to reverse, reversed'; 伸 'to stretch' from 申 *shen* 'to extend'; 源 'source' from 原 'plateau' and 元 *qiuan* 'primary'; 仁 'humanity, humanitarian' from 人 *ren* 'man'. In all these cases the primary character (unless it is a rare character) is chosen to stand for the group. Where there is a difference in pronunciation in the major dialects, then the characters will also be distinguished, e.g. 宣 *siuan* 'proclaim', but 喧 *xiuan* 'to be noisy', 古 *cuu* 'ancient', but 苦 *kuu* 'bitter'. When a character has more than one pronunciation with a difference in meaning or grammatical function, both forms will be used, the semi-circled form being regarded as a different character, e.g. 空 *kung* 'empty': 空ʾ *kuq* 'vacant, space, leisure'; 看 *konn* 'to look at' : ᵋ看 *kon* 'to watch'; 長 *dhyang* 'long' : ʿ長 *dyag* 'elder, grow'.

(3) It is anticipated that if 80% of the syllables are unique morphemes, it will probably not be a difficult next step to write the other 20% with only one and the same character for each syllable even if not etymologically related. This amounts to a 100% use of writing Chinese by "phonetic loan" which was one of the six traditional categories of formation of characters. The situation is that when the ancients wrote a character by sound regardless of meaning, it was a "loan character", while if a modern school boy writes one, he is punished for writing the wrong character!

If a list of 2085 characters are used, one character to a syllable, it happens that it comes quite close to the number of characters used in present-day Japanese newspapers, for which there is a standard list of 1850 characters, but with this important difference: while the Japanese characters list is admittedly only a part of the language (the rest of the language being written in kana), General Chinese is designed to write Chinese in general, without limitation as to style or vacabulary.

1.5 General Chinese Romanization (GCR) — The romanization for General Chinese will take into account distinctions of the major dialects, as stated above. The average length of a syllable as tried out in the present sketch, has been found to be 3.39 letters. By means of "zero" and "negative" symbols (e.g. no change for the Even Tone, *-g* instead of *-ng* for the Rising Tone and *-q* for the Going Tone), the "cost" of spelling all the tones comes to less than 1/3 of a letter per syllable. The chief feature of the romanization is that it is largely a transliteration of the words or morphemes and not merely sounds [see (3) above and sample text below].

II   Relation to Other Works on Chinese

2.1 The Teaching of Chinese Phonology — The teaching and study of historical Chinese phonology (with one or two notable exceptions) both in China and in the West has so far been

　　1.4 字體——通字有漢字跟羅馬字兩種寫法。前者簡稱 GCC（代表 General Chinese Characters 通字漢字），後者簡稱 GCR（代表 General Chinese Romanization 通字羅馬字）。關於漢字的規定根據下列幾個原則：

　　（1）承認現代通行的字體，例如寫"閘"不寫"牐"，寫"鬥"不寫"鬭"。

　　（2）把加了部首或偏旁的字作爲原字的引伸式，例如"返"是"反" faan 的引伸；"伸"是"申" shen 的引伸；"源"是"原"跟"元" qiuan 的引伸；"仁"是"人" ren 的引伸（所以古人説仁者人也）。在這些例子裏，多數總是拿没加偏旁的作爲通字。可是在多數方言裏不同音的時候通字也得要分辨，例如"宜" siuan 跟"喧" xiuan，"古" cuu 跟"苦" kuu 音義都不同。如果一個字不止一個音，意義或語法作用不同，那就兩個音都用，發圈的算是不同的字。例如"空" kung 跟"空�ʾ" kuq；"看" konn 跟"ᵪ看" kon；"長" dhyang 跟"ʿ長" dyag。

　　（3）現在預料大概百分之八十的單音節已經是語素了，下一步也許不困難了，就是把其餘的百分之二十不管在字源上同不同都寫一樣的字。這就等於完全用假借法寫中文的全體，假借是傳統的六書之一。所不同的就是古人不問意義就按着音寫字就美其名曰"假借"，可是現代的小學生按着音寫字就叫"寫白字"（文言稱爲"別字"）。

　　要是一個字一個拼法，現在擬的二千零八十五個字剛好跟現在日本新聞紙裏用的一千八百五十個字數目相仿，可是有個要緊的不同處：這個日本的字表只代表日語的一部分（其他部分用假名寫的），可是通字是預備寫普通的中文的，對於文體或詞彙完全没有限制的。

　　1.5 通字羅馬字（GCR）——如上文所説通字的拼法是把主要方音須分辨的各點都包括在内的。在現在擬的大綱裏每個音節平均大約是 3.39 個字母。因爲利用了**"零"跟"負"號**標調（例如平聲無調號，-ng 尾的上聲寫 -g，去聲寫 -q），結果每音節標調只需一個字母的三分之一。這種拼法的要點是每個音節是一個詞或語素的形式，不僅是標音[參閱上節第（3）段跟下文舉例]。

貳　　跟其他中文研究的關係

　　2.1 中國音韻的教學——除了一兩個特別的例外，中國音韻的教學在中外都是以公元六

done on the basis of the dictionary *Ch'iehyün* of 601 A.D. or of *Kuangyün* of 1007 A.D. While a small number of students specializing in Chinese phonology sooner or later, usually later, get to know the system, nothing is acquired by the usual student of Chinese, after having taken such a course, that is comparable to what a student of Old English may get by taking, say, a course in *Beowulf*. A system of General Chinese of the phase outlined here, with the aid of the romanization without new phonetic symbols or diacritics will make it possible for the non-linguistic student of Chinese to make part of his equipment a more "general" knowledge of the Chinese than can be obtained from the knowledge of any one single dialect, instead of having to be satisfied with a useless smattering of the names of books and lists of rhymes, as one usually carries away, if at all, after a course in historical Chinese phonology. Applications of a knowledge of General Chinese may also be found in the distinctions of the so-called sharp and rounded initial consonants in traditional Peking opera and in the reading and appreciation of the classical forms of poetry, which are still not only being read, but also being composed.

2.2 Basic Chinese — In analogy with Basic English, various proposals have been made in constructing a system of Basic Chinese, among them the list in Hung Shen's booklet (in Chinese) *On The Teaching and Using of* 1100 *Basic Chinese Characters*, Shanghai 1935. Judging from the naturalness of the resulting sample texts, Hung's list of 1100 seems to be very much less drastic than C. K. Ogden's list of 850, in other words, to attain the naturalness one finds in Basic English texts, one can get along with rather fewer than 1100.

In the present list of General Chinese, there is no motive for or attempt at limiting the vocabulary at all. It is meant to represent the language as a whole. If a word is part of the general vocabulary, e.g. 再 *zay* 'again', 想 *siag* 'to think', it would be an added burden for the common person to remember to refrain from using the words on the ground that 又 *yew* 'again' and 思 *si* 'to think' are close enough synonyms. (There is no 再 *zay* in Hung's list, and C. K. Ogden had no *wife*, which he did not.) As for the foreign student of Chinese, his interest will also demand that he learn those synonyms which he will come across all the time in his reading and talking.

2.3 Romanization Schemes — The work of les Pères Lamasse and Jasmin[1] who found romanized Mandarin unsuitable for classical Chinese or the dialects, consisted in using the maximum distinguishable syllabary on the basis of Bernhard Karlgren's reconstructed Ancient Chinese, thus introducing many distinctions which seem quite arbitrary from the point of view of all modern dialects. In the GCR outlined here, without going out of the way or far from distinctions already native to speakers of some of the great cultural dialects of today, it is possible to start with written forms which will already be meaningful. The slogan of the Romanisation Interdialectique is "one character one spelling." The slogan of GCR is "one word one spelling," or, more strictly, "one morpheme one spelling." We can say that *sim* is 'he-

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[1] La Romanisation Interdialectique, Ssup'ingkai, 1934, also in *Bulletin Université Aurore*, Serie III, Tome 7, No. 2, 1946, pp. 207—235, Dialectes Chinois et Romanisation.

零一年的《切韻》跟或一千零七年的 《廣韻》爲根據的。雖然有少數的專學音韻學的學生早晚
（多半是晚）把大綱學好了，可是一般學中文的學生學完了這一科，還是比不上學古英文的學生
從上了一科論 Beowulf 得到的知識。現在計畫的一套通字，只用了平常的羅馬字，也不用新
的音標或附加符號，可以使不在學着中國語言學的中文學生對於中國語言的知識，比只學了一
處方言，或只上了一科音韻學記得了一些書名跟韻部名稱較有用得多了。通字其他的應用，比
方知道了通字可以分辨傳統京戲裏所謂尖團的不同，可以閱讀欣賞文言詩，現在不但讀並且還
寫這種詩。

2.2 基本漢語——仿基本英語的辦法有過幾種基本漢語的計畫，例如洪深的《一千一百個
基本漢字的教學使用法》（上海一九三五年出版），從他編的例文寫得那麼自然看起來，他的一
千一百個字的限制，似乎沒有 C. K. Ogden 的八百五十個基本英語字的限制那麼利害。所
以要達到跟基本英語同樣自然的程度，大概不需一千一百個中國字就夠了。

在擬現在的通字表的時候完全沒有意思給詞彙加任何限制。這個表是代表語言的全部
的。比方"再" zay，"想" siag 是平常詞彙的一部分，那麼不要因爲"又" yew 的意義跟"再"接
近，"思" si 的意義跟"想"接近，就特別避免用"又"，"思"。（洪深的字表裏沒有"再"，Ogden 沒
有 wife。）至於學中文的外國學生，要他們學習那些同義詞是有好處的，他們讀書跟說話的時
候總會碰到那些同義詞的。

2.3 羅馬字拼法——Lamasse 神父跟 Jasmin 神父因爲覺得用羅馬字母拼了官話不宜於
拼文言或各處的方音，所以根據高本漢構擬的中國古音系統造了一套方音羅馬字[1]，這樣就加
入了一些從現代方言看沒法子分的分別。現在擬出的通字羅馬字 (GCR) 用不着超出現代幾
種主要方言裏已經有的那些語音區別以外，從拼法就已經看得出解釋來了。方音羅馬字的口
號是"一個字一個拼法"。通字羅馬字的口號是"一個（單音）詞一個拼法"，或者嚴格一點說是
"一個語素一個拼法"，那麼就可以說 sim 是"心"，zay 是"再"，dzae 是"在"，vu 是"無"，vut

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[1] Le Romanisation Interdialectique, 一九三四年四平街出版。又見《震旦學報》第三集第七卷第二期，
1946 年，207-235 頁，Dialectes Chinois et Romanisation.

art', *zay* is 'again', *dzae* is 'at', *vu* is 'have not', *vut* is 'thing', *ho* is 'river' or 'what', *xop* is 'to drink', *hop* is 'to close up' (hence 'a box'), and so on ad 2085.

2.4 Simplified Characters — The present scheme has nothing to do with the so-called simplified characters which have been promoted recently, except in so far as some of the simplified characters happen to be the same as those included here. Historically, the simplification of characters has been going on all the time, though at varying speeds at various times. The present happens to be one in which proposals for rapid changes are on a large scale. If and when there is a relatively stabilized set of simplified characters generally available in fonts in China and abroad, the set of General Chinese Characters can easily be readjusted by a manageable list of equivalents.[1]

III   Further Works on General Chinese

Following are some possible future activities in continuation of the present 1978 list of 2085 characters and syllabary.

(1) Revision of First Draft ——Opinions and suggestions have been sought among sinologists and linguists with a view to refine and revise the present scheme as sketched in the Technical Report. Among the questions to be raised will be the desirability of updating certain obsolescent distinctions, such as Anc. Chin. palatal stops from the affricates (still kept in the Min dial., e.g. in Fukien and Taiwan, 61 cases), the separation of the Rising from Going Tone for Anc. Chin. voiced stops (kept only desultorily in Cant., 68 cases), the separation of *ing* and *ieng* (kept only partially in Wu and Cant., 25 cases). The elimination of these distinctions will amount to a loss of 154 forms, which will reduce the total from 2085 to 1931. It will take extensive composition of texts and trial teaching to decide whether 2085 or 1931 or some other number will be the best to work with.

(2) Compilation of monolingual and bilingual dictionaries for reference and for teaching.

(3) Compilation of textbooks on historical phonology for Chinese as well as for non-Chinese students.

(4) Compilation of textbooks for studying the Chinese language (with accompanying recordings in "General" pronunciation).[2]

(5) Transliteration and adaptation of existing texts.

(6) Designing of typelists for linguistic survey based on General, rather than Ancient, Chinese. The list of Li Rong, Peking 1957 and 1963, is an approximation, but very much overmodernized for many of the dialects. On the other hand, George A. Kennedy's romanization of Anc. Chin., with which he tried once (c. 1944) to teach *Mencius*, like that of Lamasse and Jasmin, was too conservative.

Thus, in proposing the idea of a system of General Chinese, I claim nothing new. On

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[1] See sample text with simplified characters, p. 75.

[2] Some consultants have thought it unnecessary to set up any phonemic system for General Chinese.

是"物",ho 是"河"或"何",xop 是"喝",hop 是"合"(所以也是"盒"),這樣子一直到二千零八十五個通字。

2.4 簡體字——現在擬的通字大綱跟近來推行試用的所謂簡體字,完全沒有關係,除了有些簡體字碰巧跟根據總原則擬出來的通字一樣就是了。其實有史以來中國字是一直總在簡化着呐,只是有時快有時慢就是了。碰巧現在這時候有很多的大批的簡化提議就是了。如果哪一天簡體字式穩定下來在中外都有了簡體字的鉛字,那麼這一套通字很容易弄一個跟簡體字對照的表出來。[1]

叁　　通字的進一步的工作

在一九七八年修訂的二千零八十五個字跟音節表的基礎上,可以做底下一些工作。

(1) 修改初稿——關於現在暫擬的方式預備向漢學家跟語言學家徵求修改的意見。有一種問題就是有些現在已不通行的語音區別要不要廢除? 例如古音的舌面塞音與塞擦音的分別(閩語如福建跟臺灣能分辨六十一個例子),古音濁上去的分別(粵語偶爾分辨,六十八例),ing 韻跟 ieng 韻的分別(吳語粵語偶爾分辨,二十五例)。取消以上幾個分別,就少了一百五十四個字音,把二千零八十五減到一千九百三十一。是二千零八十五,還是一千九百三十一,還是一個別的總數最合適,最好得試編了許多文件,試教了許多課才可以得到一個最適宜的數目。

(2) 編中文跟中外文的字典詞典供參考跟教學用。

(3) 編制歷史的音韻學教科書給中外學生用。

(4) 編制學習中國語言的教科書(附"通字"錄音)。[2]

(5) 把現行的許多文件改寫或改編成通字式。

(6) 編方言調查的例字表,不按古音而用通字音。李榮在一九五七跟一九六三年編的表(北京)比較相近,但是對於有些方音太現代化了。反之,金守拙 G. A. Kennedy 的中古音羅馬字,他曾經在一九四四年前後用來教《孟子》,像 Lamasse 跟 Jasmin 的方案一樣,太保守了。

我預備一套通字並不覺得在這兒提倡什麼新的東西。反過來說,我覺得這是舊的,它已經

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[1] 看下文 75 頁用簡化字寫的例子。

[2] 我徵求過意見的人中間有人認為不必爲通字制定音位系統。

the contrary, I claim that it is old. It is already in the air, or rather, it is already in the land. Various activities seem to converge toward some such thing, if only implicitly. What I have tried to do is to integrate such activities into explicit consciousness. It is because General Chinese is general that it will be adequate for all general purposes.

IV   Sample Text

In GCR (通字羅馬字)	English Translation (英譯)
"Ta"	"Her"
Si Zuucuec Yee[1]	**Thinking of One's Own Country[1]**
Hu Shiec	Hu Shih
Nii sim-lii[1] ay ta[2],	In your heart[1] you love her[2],
Moc shot but ay ta.	Don't say you don't love her.
Iaw konn nii ay ta,	Seeing that you love her,
Tsiee deg ren hay ta.	Yet you let one hurt her.
Tag yeo ren hay ta,	If someone hurts her,
Nii ruho duey ta?	How will you meet her?
Tag yeo ren ay ta,	If someone loves her,
Caeq ruho dhae ta?	How will you treat her?

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[1] In order not to prejudice the case in favor of GCC (see next page) with a made-up text, an existing text has been chosen. It happens that in this example only character 里 *lii* does not automatically coincide with the ordinary form of the character 裏, which is doing rather better than the expected average. (Cf. further texts in the Technical Report, pp. 68ff.)

[2] Of the eight occurrences of *ta* 'her' the first five and the 7th refer to China and the 6th & 8th refer to other possible countries.

在空氣裏頭了，已經在全國的地面上了。已經有了好些動向都是對着這個走了，就不明説也無
形中向這個走了。我現在試擬的就是把各處各人的動向集合在一起，使他進入明顯的意識。
就是因爲通字是普通的性質，所以合乎一般普通的應用。

肆　舉例

In GCR（通字羅馬字）	通字漢字（In GCC）
"Ta"	"他"
Si Zuucuec Yee[1]	思祖國也[1]
Hu shiec	胡　適
Nii sim-lii[1] ay ta[2],	你心裏[1]愛他[2]，
Moc shot but ay ta.	莫説不愛他。
Iaw konn nii ay ta,	要看你愛他，
Tsiee deg ren hay ta.	且等人害他。
Tag yeo ren hay ta,	倘有人害他，
Nii ruho duey ta?	你如何對他？
Tag yeo ren ay ta,	倘有人愛他，
Caeq ruho dhae ta?	更如何待他？

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[1]　爲了不要特別編一段文字來表現通字的長處，所以選了一段別人已經寫好了的東西。碰巧在這一段東西裏只有一個"裏"字沒有用通字的"里"字，其餘的字完全都是通字已經有的字，這個比預料的平均分數碰巧好得多了。（更多例子見 68 頁以下《本論》部分。）

[2]　這"他"字一共見八次，頭五次跟第七次是指中國，第六第八次是指可能的別的國家。

PART TWO   TECHNICAL REPORT

In this technical report a system of initials, finals, with tones, will be outlined, so that it will be possible to form, on the basis of this outline, a complete syllabary of 2085 syllables with a corresponding set of characters chosen on the principles outlined below.

V   Principles and Methods

(1) Since General Chinese is designed for writing both classical Chinese and the modern dialects, the (mainly) monosyllabic morpheme, rather than the syntactical word, should be the unit we are concerned with here.

(2) Mandarin, Cantonese, Wu, and some features of Min, will be the main dialects to consider as our base. We shall use the modern forms if these have changed alike in those dialects, for instance 河 *ho* 'river', not *ha* or *hâ*, since there is no point in going back to an ancient pronunciation if all the major dialects have changed from *a* to *o* or the like (Mandarin /e/, that is, [ɤ], being an unrounded [o]).

(3) Since ancient voicing is implied in the initials, there will be no need to distinguish between the first and second tones (except for the few words like 媽 *mha*, 貓 *mhau, etc.*).

(4) Should Anc. Chin. Rising Tone with voiced stops and fricatives be kept as Rising, e. g. 坐 *dzoo* 'sit', but 座 *dzoh* 'seat'? If the answer is yes, We should follow *Kuangyün*. This is what we will do in the syllabary. (Note that the phenomenon of "全濁上聲變去聲" was already noticeable in Po Chü-i's *Song of the P'i-p'a*. e.g. 婦 ᶜ*b'iəu* rhyming with 故 *kuo*ᵓ.)

(5) A certain amount of homophony can be tolerated, as any system of language or writing can stand some homophony, if it is not excessive, e.g. 廉 for both 廉 and 簾, 番 for both 番 and 翻, 咸 for both 咸 and 鹹[1]. A few cases of homophony of opposites or near opposites will probably not be troublesome, given the context of use. For example, *lieu* for 流 'to flow' and 留 'to remain' seems to need differentiation. But *Chuang Tzu* has a passage saying 留動 而生物, and the commentary says that 留 can also be written as 流.

(6) Phonetic "primitives" are usually chosen in preference to enlargements, e.g. 方 for 方, 芳 and 果 for 果, 菓, 裹.

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[1] In Cantonese grocery stores the word for 'salted' is usually given as 咸.

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