

Q. R.

國語羅馬字新讀本

QUOYU ROMATZY SIN DURBEEN

序論：“在邁進中的中國羅馬字”

A New Quoyu Reader

(in Tonalphabetic Romanization)

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY ON

“Progress in Romanization: Q. R. 1937-38”

✓ 周辨明 Chiu Bienming

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編寫 biansye

Dann sin tzeo bihsy jang jay sin pirday li.
— LUCAS V: 38.

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國立廈門大學

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF AMOY

CHANGTING, W. FUKIEN, CHINA.

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Meiyo ren baa sin ifug sz-ciah i-kuay lai, buu dzay giow ifug shank. Rosh jehyang, jew baa sindi szpohle, binqtsye swo sz-ciah lai-di nah kuay sindi, hant giowdi ye bu siang-cheng.

Ye meiyo ren baa sin tzeo juang dzay giow pirday li. Rosh jehyang, sin tzeo bih tziang pirday liehkai, tzeo bien low chulai, pirday ye jew huayle. Dann sin tzeo bihsu juang dzay sin pirday li.

—LUCAS v: 36-38.

沒有人把新衣服撕下一塊來，補在舊衣服上。若是這樣，就把新的撕破了，並且所撕下來的那塊新的，和舊的也不相稱。

也沒有人把新酒裝在舊皮袋裏。若是這樣，新酒必將皮袋裂開，酒便漏出來，皮袋也就壞了。但新酒必須裝在新皮袋裏。

——路加第五章卅六至卅八節

No man rendeth a piece from a new garment and putteth it upon an old garment; else he will rend the new, and also the piece from the new will not agree with the old.

And no man putteth new wine into old wine-skins; else the new wine will burst the skins and itself will be spilled, and the skins will perish.

But new wine must be put into fresh wine-skins.

—LUKE v: 36-38.

Suyluen

序 論

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY

Progress in Romanization:

Q. R. 1937-38

HANNTZY (漢字)

但是我可以告慰我們同胞的，便是我們抗戰克敵一定成功的把握。以前我早曾說過：敵人要中國祇有蠶食和鯨吞的兩種方法。我們不怕他來鯨吞，而怕他來蠶食。現在敵人用的却正是鯨吞的方法。——(80 characters, 702 strokes.)

Q. R. (Quoyu Romatzy 國語羅馬字)

— *Dannsh wo koyi gawwey womn tungbau di, biensh womn kangjann keh-dig, iding yo chéngong di baawoh. Yitsyan wo tzaó tséng shuo guoh: Digren yaw Jonquo jil yo tsán-shig hant ging-tun di leang-joung fangfaa. Womn bupah ta lai ging-tun, er pah ta lai tsán-shig. Ciendzay digren yongqi kio jengsh ging-tun di fangfaa.* — (51 words, 74 syllables, 246 letters)

é=er, á=ar.

G. R. (Gwoyeu Romatzyh 國語羅馬字)

Dannsh woo keeyi gawwey woomen toingbau de, biannsh woomen kang-jann keh-dyi iding yeou chernggong de baawoh. Yüchyan woo tzaó tserng shuo guoh: Dyiren yaw Jonggwo jyy yeou tsarn-shyr hann jing-tuen de leang-joong fangfaa. Woomen bupah ta lai jing-tuen, erl pah ta lai tsarn-shyr. Shianntzay dyiren yongde chiueh jengsh jing-tuen de fangfaa. — (51 words, 77 syllables, 279 letters.)

LATINXUA (拉丁化)

Dansh wo koji gauwei womn tungbau di, biansh womn kang-zhan ko-di, iding iou chengung di bawo. Ician wo zao ceng shuo guo: Dirhen iao Zhungguo zh iou can-sh xo ging-tun di liang-zhung fangfa. Womn bupa ta lai ging-tun, r pa ta lai can-sh. Xianzai dirhen yngdi kyo zhengsh ging-tun di fangfa.

—(51 words, 74 syllables, 227 letters.)

WADE'S SYSTEM

Tan-shih wo k'e-i kau-wei wo-men t'ung-pau ti, pian-shih wo-men k'ang-chan k'e-ti, i-ting yu ch'eng-kung ti pa-wq. I-ch'ien wo tsao ts'eng shuo guo: Ti-jen yao Chung-kuo chih yu ts'an-shih he ching-t'un ti liang-chung fang-fa. Wo-men bu-p'ah t'a lai ching-t'un, er p'a t'a lai ts'an-shih. Hsien-tsai ti-jen yung-ti ch'üeh cheng shih ching-t'un ti fang-fa. —(51 words, 80 syllables, 251 letters, 17 aspiration marks, 28 hyphens, with the tone-numbers left out.)

Apropos of the problem of the Romanization of Chinese, Professor Bernhard Karlgren holds that three entirely different systems are needed:

- A. A *philological system*, strictly phonetic, for scientific language study.
- B. A *sinological system*, for dictionaries, text-books, treatises on Chinese history, etc.
- C. A *popular system*, to be used by the Chinese themselves in creating a new colloquial literature and for use in newspapers, etc.

(See Karlgren: *The Romanization of Chinese*. The China Society, London. 1928)

Of the four specimens of Romanization given above, none belongs to the A system, as an A system does not directly concern us here. Wade, naturally, is a B system; and Q. R., G. R., and Latinxua are three versions of the C system.

The object of this article is not to discuss the pros and cons of Romanization in general. Some form of Romanization is admittedly the most practical mode of writing for a modernized and mechanized China—witness its obvious advantages in telegraphy, printing, typewriting, education, and international dealings—and so will eventually be adopted in China, at least as a system of writing parallel to the ideographic and idiotic characters.

Our present purpose is, rather, to examine minutely the relative merits of the three major attempts to arrive at a solution in the C system, as applied to Quoyu, that is, the National Spoken Language of China. It will be our endeavour to survey the general progress in Romanization and show the marks of improvement since the promulgation of G. R. by the Dahciyuen (大學院 Academia Sinica) in 1928; to single out the permanent features where common agreement has been reached; to point out the contributions which Q. R. has made, especially in 1937-38; and, finally, to indicate the resources still at our disposal for the building up of superior word-forms, which shall determine adequately the shape of the New Chinese Script for the generations to come.

1. Tonal Spelling

First of all, it is agreed that a Romanization in the C system may only employ the 26 letters of the Roman alphabet, and that with the minimum of diacritic marks and signs.

The tone which forms an integral part of word-meaning must necessarily be expressed. To do so it is now agreed that the innovation of "tonal spelling" should be applied. By tonal spelling is meant that spelling variants of words closely related in sound are made to serve as expressions of differences in tone. Just as in English we have *tail, tael, tale, tayl; mian, myan, mean, mien; foul, fowl; critic, critique; sou, sow, sew; bow, bough; his, hiss; in, inn*; so can we have in Chinese Romanization *mai, mae, may* 埋, 買, 賣; *dardaw* 達到, *daadaw* 打倒, *dah-dau* 大刀, *dahdaw* 大道; *wentzy* 文字, *wendz* 蚊子, where the variations in spelling indicate differences in tone, and therefore also differences in meaning. Both Q. R. and G. R. make use of tonal spelling and are therefore called *tonalphabetic* systems. The C system proposed by Karlgren himself uses also the tonalphabetic method. Latinxua, however, rejects the method, throwing the tone distinctions overboard. This, of course, has not redounded to the advantage of Latinxua, because to every *four* forms in tonal spelling there is only *one* form in Latinxua. In consequence, the degree of word-intelligibility tells against Latinxua, as the following examples will show:

	Q. R.				Lat.
	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3	Tone 4	All tones
媽麻馬罵	<i>ma</i>	<i>mar</i>	<i>maa</i>	<i>mah</i>	<i>ma</i>
希奇比例	<i>ci</i>	<i>kir</i>	<i>bī</i>	<i>ly</i>	<i>xi, ki, bi, li</i>
驅驢取去	<i>kv</i>	<i>lvr</i>	<i>tsū</i>	<i>kuy</i>	<i>ky, ly, cy, ky</i>
書讀五部	<i>shu</i>	<i>dur</i>	<i>wu</i>	<i>buh</i>	<i>shu, du, u, bu</i>
猜才採菜	<i>tsai</i>	<i>tsair</i>	<i>tsae</i>	<i>tsay</i>	<i>cai</i>
歸誰給費	<i>gui</i>	<i>shwei</i>	<i>gēi</i>	<i>fey</i>	<i>gui shui gei fei</i>
拋袍跑泡	<i>pau</i>	<i>paur</i>	<i>pao</i>	<i>paw</i>	<i>pau</i>

番煩返販	<i>fan</i>	<i>farn</i>	<i>faan</i>	<i>fann</i>	<i>fan</i>
先眠勉麵	<i>sian</i>	<i>myan</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>mien</i>	<i>sian, mian</i>
天田點店	<i>tian</i>	<i>tyan</i>	<i>dean</i>	<i>dien</i>	<i>tian, dian</i>
湯糖倘放	<i>tang</i>	<i>tarng</i>	<i>taang</i>	<i>fang</i>	<i>tang, fang</i>
通同統痛	<i>tong</i>	<i>tung</i>	<i>toung</i>	<i>tonq</i>	<i>tung</i>
三民主義	<i>san</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>juu</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>san min zhu i</i>
張王李趙	<i>Jang</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Lī</i>	<i>Jaw</i>	<i>zhang, wang, li, zhao</i>
彎完碗萬	<i>uan</i>	<i>wan</i>	<i>oan</i>	<i>wann</i>	<i>wan</i>
專門搗亂	<i>juan</i>	<i>men</i>	<i>dao</i>	<i>luon</i>	<i>zhuān men dao luān</i>
英雄好漢	<i>ing</i>	<i>ciung</i>	<i>hao</i>	<i>hann</i>	<i>ing xyng hao xan</i>
陰陽上去	<i>in</i>	<i>yang</i>	<i>shaang</i>	<i>kuy</i>	<i>in iang shang ky</i>
諸如此類	<i>ju</i>	<i>ru</i>	<i>tse</i>	<i>ley</i>	<i>Zhu rhu c lei</i>

The examples above are sufficient to show the general scheme whereby tones are differentiated. Note that:

- a) the basic form is in Tone 1;
- b) *-r*, *w-*, *y-* are characteristics of Tone 2;
- c) double vowels, *ae*, *ao*, *ea*, *oa*, *oung*, *ü* are characteristics of Tone 3;
- d) *-h*, *-y*, *-w*, *-nn*, *-ng*, *-ien*, *-uen*, *-uon* are characteristics of Tone 4.

Latinized, resting content with Tone-1 forms, may truly be said to be "monotonous," and as such is necessarily an inferior, because inadequate, system.

2. Scrapping the Aspiration Mark.

All C systems agree, further, that the aspiration mark should be dispensed with, and that useful letters like *b*, *d*, *g*, *r*, *c*, ousted by most B systems, should be reinstated. The

result is that :

instead of Wade — *p, p'; t, t'; k, k'; ch, ch'; ts, ts'; j, hs;*
 we have Q. R. — *b, p; d, t; g, k; j, ch; tz, ts; r, c.*

So that:	Wade		Q. R. or G. R.
班	<i>pan</i>	becomes	<i>ban</i>
潘	<i>p'an</i>	"	<i>pan</i>
丁	<i>ting</i>	"	<i>ding</i>
聽	<i>t'ing</i>	"	<i>ting</i>
工	<i>kung</i>	"	<i>gong</i>
空	<i>k'ung</i>	"	<i>kong</i>
眞	<i>chên</i>	"	<i>jen</i>
陳	<i>ch'ên</i>	"	<i>chén, chern</i>
曾	<i>tséng</i>	"	<i>tzeng</i>
層	<i>ts'êng</i>	"	<i>tséng, tserng</i>
人	<i>jên</i>	"	<i>ren</i>
現	<i>hsien</i>	"	<i>cien (shiann)</i>

By scrapping the aspiration mark, the letters of the Roman alphabet become more equitably distributed, and the words themselves can be better distinguished one from the other. It is therefore a valuable improvement. In the specimen passage of only 51 words, we have thereby been able to get rid of the 17 disuniting aspiration marks found in Wade.

3. The *gi-ki-ci/tzi-tsi-si* Differentiation.

Where the Wade system writes *chi-ch'i-hsi*, the initials *ch, ch', hs* are really descended from two sources. Those consonants have been either the older *gi-ki-ci* (幾欺希) or the older *tzi-tsi-si* (積妻西), which have fallen together in modern

Pekinese. This distinction between two series of palatalized consonants, occurring only before the palatal vowels *-i* and *-ü*, has all along been made in the traditional Chinese phonetic systems, and, in fact, is still preserved intact in other Chinese dialects today. Practical linguisticians realize, therefore, that it is useful to keep the distinction in the written word, although in the actual pronunciation the distinction need not be strictly maintained. Accordingly, Q. R., Latinxua, the Postal system as applied to Chinese geographical names, French and German sinologists, including Karlgren the Swede, all recognize this *principle of the gi-ki-ci/tzi-tsi-si differentiation*. G. R., unfortunately, follows Wade in ignoring this principle, and by so doing retains "the heel of Achilles of the whole Wade system," as Karlgren very aptly observes. Compare the following examples:

	Q. R.	Lat.	G. R.	Wade
京	<i>ging</i>	<i>ging</i>	<i>jing</i>	<i>ching</i>
精	<i>tzing</i>	<i>zing</i>		
輕	<i>king</i>	<i>king</i>	<i>ching</i>	<i>ch'ing</i>
清	<i>tsing</i>	<i>cing</i>		
興	<i>cing</i>	<i>xing</i>	<i>shing</i>	<i>hsing</i>
星	<i>sing</i>	<i>sing</i>		
簡	<i>gean</i>	<i>gian</i>	<i>jean</i>	<i>chien</i>
翦	<i>tzean</i>	<i>zian</i>		
權	<i>kván</i>	<i>kyan</i>	<i>chyuan</i>	<i>ch'üan</i>
全	<i>tsván</i>	<i>cyan</i>		
血	<i>cüe</i>	<i>xye</i>	<i>sheue</i>	<i>hsüeh</i>
雪	<i>süe</i>	<i>sye</i>		

It will have been noticed that *g* and *c*, occurring before palatal *-i* and *-ü* together with their variants, can only assume the so-called "soft" values as in English *gist*, *gent*, *gym*, *cinema*, *cent*, *cymbal*, but occurring before *-a*, *-o*, *-u*, must take on the "hard" values as in English *gain*, *gone*, *gun*, *cat*, *cot*, *cut*. Such is the general international usage. Latinxua in assigning to *c* the value "tz" as in *can* 蠶, has grossly tampered with the international practice.

From these examples it is obvious that by applying the *gi/tzi* principle, the international spelling of such names as *Anking* 安慶, *Chungking* 重慶, *Ginling* 金陵, *Tientsin* 天津, *Shansi* 山西, *Kiangsi* 江西, etc. can be preserved. There will be no need to write such tiresome forms as *Anching*, *Chung-ching*, *Tienchin*, *Shanhsi*, *Chiangsi*, etc. What is more, for words of the *gi/tzi* class, Q. R. and Latinxua have double the number of forms that are available in G. R. and Wade. That, again, is a notable advance.

4. The Retroflex *-i*.

Accruing from the *gi/tzi* differentiation, *-i* is released for use as the retroflex vowel in words of 知吃詩日 type (Wade *-ih*) —important discovery in 1937 to be credited to Q. R. This new function of the simple *-i* is naturally of very great convenience to Romanization, because Latinxua's reckless device of doing without a retroflex vowel, G. R.'s tiresome overdose of *-y*, and even Karlgren's suggestion of the clumsy *-ī*, can thereby all be obviated. In fact, Wade's *-ih* can now be retained for Tone 4. Examine the following:

	Q.R.	G.R.	Lat.	Wade
知	<i>ji</i>	<i>jiy</i>	<i>zh</i>	<i>chih</i>
直	<i>jir</i>	<i>jyr</i>		
紙	<i>jil</i>	<i>jyy</i>		
質	<i>jih</i>	<i>jyh</i>		
吃	<i>chi</i>	<i>chy</i>	<i>ch</i>	<i>ch'ih</i>
遲	<i>chir</i>	<i>chyr</i>		
恥	<i>chil</i>	<i>chyy</i>		
斥	<i>chih</i>	<i>chyh</i>		
詩	<i>shi</i>	<i>shy</i>	<i>sh</i>	<i>shih</i>
時	<i>shir</i>	<i>shyr</i>		
史	<i>shil</i>	<i>shyy</i>		
適	<i>shih</i>	<i>shyh</i>		
日	<i>(rih)</i>	<i>ryh</i>	<i>rh</i>	<i>jih</i>

5. The Tone-4 *-y*.

The letter *y*, being relieved of its overloaded duties, may now be used exclusively as a final to indicate Tone 4. This, in turn, dispenses with many a superfluous Tone-4 *-h*, found in G. R. Compare, e. g.:

	愛	歲	記	去	字
Q. R.	<i>ay</i>	<i>suey</i>	<i>gy</i>	<i>kuy</i>	<i>tzy</i>
G. R.	<i>ay</i>	<i>suey</i>	<i>jih</i>	<i>chiuh</i>	<i>tzyh</i>

6. The *tz-tsz-sz* Group

The use of *-y* as a sign of Tone 4, furthermore, simplifies the formation of the *tz-tsz-sz* 資疵司 group (Wade *-ü*). Here, again, Latinxua ignores the syllabic vowel altogether, making

3 simple consonants do the work of 10 possible forms. G. R. sticks to *-y* as the syllabic vowel and holds on to its unwieldy spelling. Q. R., only, strikes the happy mean by introducing simple variations. Compare the following:

	Q. R.	G. R.	Iat.	Wade
資	<i>tz</i>	<i>tzy</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>tzũ</i>
子	<i>tze</i>	<i>tzyy</i>		
字	<i>tzy</i>	<i>tzyh</i>		
疵	<i>tsz</i>	<i>tsy</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>tz'ũ</i>
詞	<i>tsr</i>	<i>tsyr</i>		
此	<i>tse</i>	<i>tsyy</i>		
次	<i>tsy</i>	<i>tsyh</i>		
司	<i>sz</i>	<i>sy</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>szũ</i>
死	<i>sze</i>	<i>sy y</i>		
四	<i>szy</i>	<i>syh</i>		
羅馬字	<i>Romatzy</i>	<i>Romatzyh</i>	<i>Romaz</i>	<i>Lo-ma-tzũ</i>
意思	<i>ihsz</i>	<i>yihsyh</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>i-szũ</i>
師資	<i>shitz</i>	<i>shytzy</i>	<i>shz</i>	<i>shih-tzũ</i>
第一次	<i>dy-i tsy</i>	<i>dih-i tsyh</i>	<i>di-ic</i>	<i>ti-i tz'ũ</i>

7. *v* functioning as a Vowel.

The letter *v*, of all the 26, is idle, as not one among the Romanization schemes has been able to assign to it a functional value. But *v*, being the historical counterpart of *u*, is like *u* in form. It is convenient, therefore, to make this unused letter function as a vowel. Thus Q. R. overrides the general European practice by allotting to *v* the value of “*ũ*” (as in

German). The unlauted *ü* itself, moreover, still retains its German value, but is reserved for Tone 3 only. In this manner the four forms — *v*, *ü*, *yu*, *uy* — become variants of one and the same sound as applied variously to different tones. The following table shows how Q. R. has vastly improved upon G. R. in the treatment of the *ü*-rime group:

	Q. R.	G. R.	Lat.	Wade
于	<i>v</i>	<i>iu</i>	} <i>y</i>	
魚	<i>-vr</i>	<i>-yu</i>		<i>yü</i>
語	<i>-ü</i>	<i>-eu</i>		<i>-ü</i>
玉	<i>-vh</i> }	<i>-iuh</i>		
預	<i>uy</i> }			
冤	<i>van</i>	<i>iuán</i>	} <i>yan</i>	<i>yüán</i>
元	<i>ván</i>	<i>yuan</i>		<i>-üán</i>
遠	<i>-üán</i>	<i>-euán</i>		
院	<i>-ven</i>	<i>-iuann</i>		
曰	<i>ve</i>	<i>-iue</i>	} <i>ye</i>	<i>yüeh</i>
(學)	<i>-ver</i>	<i>yue</i>		<i>-üeh</i>
(血)	<i>-üe</i>	<i>-eue</i>		
月	<i>-veh</i>	<i>-iueh</i>		
盪	<i>vn</i>	<i>iun</i>	} <i>yn</i>	<i>yün</i>
云	<i>yún</i>	<i>yun</i>		<i>-ün</i>
允	<i>-ün</i>	<i>eun</i>		
運	<i>-vnn</i>	<i>-iunn</i>		
國語	<i>Quoyu</i>	<i>Gwoyeu</i>	<i>Guoy</i>	<i>Kuo-yü</i>
選	<i>süán</i>	<i>sheuan</i>	<i>syan</i>	<i>hsüán</i>
勸	<i>kven</i>	<i>chiuann</i>	<i>kyan</i>	<i>ch'üán</i>
羣	<i>kyún</i>	<i>chyun</i>	<i>kyn</i>	<i>ch'ün</i>
君	<i>gvn</i>	<i>jiun</i>	<i>gyn</i>	<i>chün</i>

Note that in the table above a hyphenated form does not become an independent syllable until it is attached to an initial consonant. Unhyphenated forms may be independent syllables, with or without an initial consonant. For a hyphenated form to become an independent syllable, it is necessary that the head *-v* or *-ü*, in all tones except Tone 1, be expanded into *yu-*. Whence we get the following table of independent syllables of the *ü*-group:

Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3	Tone 4
<i>v</i>	<i>yur</i>	<i>yu</i>	<i>yuh, uy</i>
<i>van</i>	<i>yuán</i>	<i>yuan</i>	<i>yuen</i>
<i>ve</i>	<i>yuer</i>	<i>yue</i>	<i>yueh</i>
<i>vn</i>	<i>yún</i>	<i>yun</i>	<i>yunn</i>

Note, further, that *y* by itself or when in contact with *i*, has the phonetic value of [i] as in *yr* 疑, *y* 義, *yi* 椅. But in the combination *y+u*, or *u+y*, *y* is assimilated into the value of *ü*, as in *yu* 語, *uy* 預.

8. Evolution of Compact Forms.

An important feature of Q.R. is the shortening up of words wherever and whenever it can be done neatly. The following are some of the devices employed:

a) By taking full advantage of all possible spelling variants accepted in international usage. E. g.:

ian, yan, can, ien
uan, win, oan, uon
un, wen, oen, uen