

认知中国系列



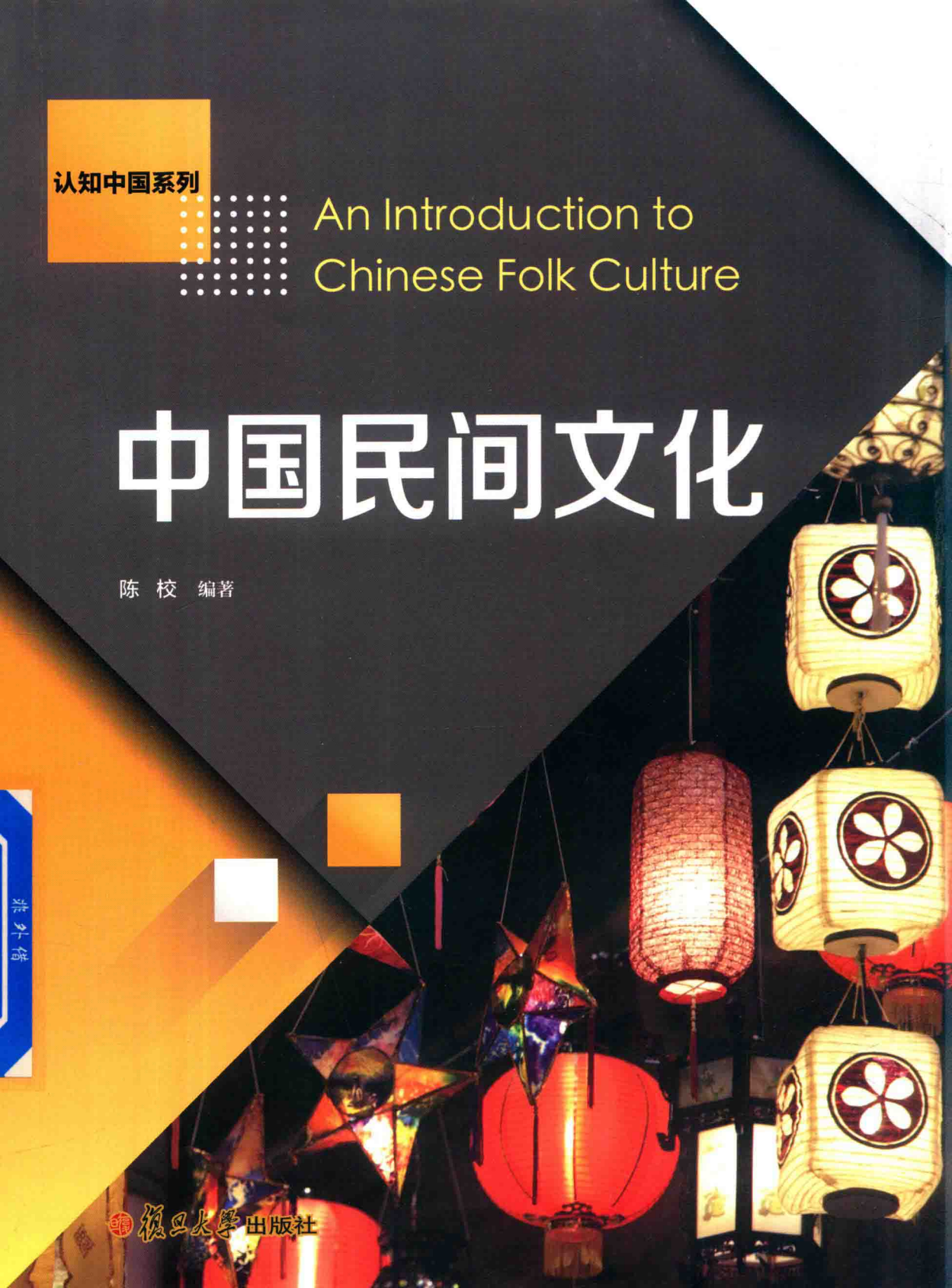
An Introduction to
Chinese Folk Culture

中国民间文化

陈 校 编著

复旦大学出版社

第十卷



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

中国民间文化(英文)/陈校编著. —上海: 复旦大学出版社, 2017. 8
(认知中国系列)
ISBN 978-7-309-13116-1

I. 中… II. 陈… III. 中华文化-英文 IV. K203

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2017)第 171753 号

中国民间文化
陈 校 编著
责任编辑/庄彩云

复旦大学出版社有限公司出版发行
上海市国权路 579 号 邮编: 200433
网址: fupnet@fudanpress.com <http://www.fudanpress.com>
门市零售: 86-21-65642857 团体订购: 86-21-65118853
外埠邮购: 86-21-65109143 出版部电话: 86-21-65642845
杭州日报报业集团盛元印务有限公司

开本 787 × 960 1/16 印张 11.25 字数 198 千
2017 年 8 月第 1 版第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-309-13116-1/K · 621
定价: 35.00 元

如有印装质量问题, 请向复旦大学出版社有限公司出版部调换。
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总序

推动人类历史和世界文明向前发展的动力主要在于不同的人类群体及其文化之间的相互碰撞,而自真正的世界历史出现之后,在人类社会各类交往中最具关键意义的,大概就要算东西方文化之间的交往了。

中国人有一句古话,叫做“他山之石,可以攻玉”,所以,作为东方人的我们,自上世纪70年代末改革开放以来,便取其精华去其糟粕地吸纳了大量以欧美为主的西方文化。但中国,作为拥有5000年历史的文明古国,向世界全方位展示其深厚历史底蕴及现当代文明的机会却一度寥寥无几。

近年来随着国内经济的腾飞,随着北京奥运会及上海世博会等国际大型活动的举办,中国逐渐向世界展示出了其作为新兴经济大国的雄厚实力,其方方面面也益发受到世界各国的关注,尤其是中国悠久的历史 and 灿烂的文明更是引人瞩目。因此,组织各领域专家编写一套包括经济、外交、民俗等在内的认知中国系列丛书,方便外籍人士认知并了解中国现当代文明,实为契合时机之举。本系列丛书的作者均在所涉领域浸淫多年,他们学有所长且思维敏锐,见解不凡,因此本套书也使得以适中的篇幅传递中国文化中最核心的知识和最值得思考的观念成为可能。这样的丛书编撰方式也使其呈现出其独有的实用性与鲜明特色,更加适宜于培养外籍来华人士接触中国及其文明的兴趣,也宜于国内各高等院校的留学生相关专业的教学。

我们衷心希望本套丛书的出版能为外籍读者打开了解中国这一文明古国之门,增进外籍人士,尤其是青年学生对中国及其文明的深层次了解,同时还有可能为他国的中国文明研究的发展和深化,提供特别的动力。

当然,我们深知出于种种原因,本套丛书必然会有缺点与疏漏,因此诚恳期待所有关心热爱本套丛书的读者能够积极参与丛书建设,不吝赐教,提出你们宝贵的建议与批评。

王蔚
于上海佘山

前言

所谓一方水土养一方人。由于自然环境和社会背景的不同,各个国家或民族在长期的历史发展过程中,形成了不同的行为模式和生活习惯,这就构成了特有的民间文化。中国是一个有着悠久历史的文明古国。要全面、完整、清晰地认识中国文化,就必须对中国民间的文化有所了解。本书选取了中国民间文化中较为普遍且深具特色的几个方面加以分析介绍。鉴于中国幅员辽阔、民族众多,笔者在选材时以主体民族汉族的民俗为主。

全书共分为十个章节,涵盖了姓名、传统家庭、人生礼仪、传统节日、宗教信仰、神秘文化、饮食文化、文体活动、社交礼仪、特色动植物等内容。每一章又从各个层面对主题加以展开,介绍了不同民间文化的起源、传说、发展、影响以及相关仪式和活动等。每章末推荐课外阅读书目,以进一步提供脉络,拓展知识面。

笔者认为本书有以下几点特色。

一、试图从外国人的视角出发,内容介绍深入浅出,通俗易懂。为了便于外国学生理解消化,本书从章节选择到知识点介绍都尽量符合其知识构成和认知能力;二、从趣味性入手,力求语言平实,内容风趣,避免深奥苦涩,配有大量精美图片和课堂趣味练习,摘录了受人欢迎的民间传说和文学作品片段,目的是使读者能够直观地感受中国人的日常生活,轻松愉快地领略中国民间文化的奥秘与魅力;三、与时俱进,采纳最新的背景材料,注重民间文化发展趋势中的继承、改良和创新;四、在每一章节前都设置了前言为行文做铺垫,特别注重借鉴中国古代名著,如《红楼梦》《西游记》等,希望读者能够在了解民间文化的同时了解中国传统文化。

本书从策划到构思,从设计到编写,都是站在较高的角度为外国人介绍中国民间文化,希望通过十章的内容能以崭新、务实的视角为大家展现这本书的脉络和内容。本书的初衷是为如何更好地介绍中国民间文化提供一种新思路、新视角,为传播中国文化做出一份努力,避免成为百科全书或者教科书。至于这一初衷是否实现以及在何种程度上实现,有待于社会的检验。

本书以英文为主。英文章节配以气息浓厚的插图,突出了知识性、趣味性和可读性。同时,每章配有简短的中文前言和英文摘要,旨在便于中外读者先行浏览,从整体上把握本书内容。本书的英文译述和中文译述都严格遵循语言简练、

结构明晰、形式活泼的宗旨。可供外国游客、国际导游、翻译爱好者、外国留学生等使用。

由于水平有限,本书难免存在缺点甚至错误,恳请广大读者予以批评指正。本书在成书的过程中,上海大学博士生张潇文协助做了大量的材料整理工作,特别致以感谢;上海政法学院硕士生张寒等也给予了一定的帮助,潘彤璐等赴德国美茵茨大学文化研习的同学们帮助搜集了资料,周怡、杨立颖、阿拉法特及几位留学生朋友协助做了部分校对工作,在此一并致谢;上海政法学院王蔚教授作为丛书的主编给予了指导,复旦大学出版社庄彩云老师为本书顺利付梓贡献了智慧,也特别给以鸣谢;编著成书的过程中,笔者参考了大量中国民间文化方面的著作和网站,在此也谨向相关作者和版权所有者表示诚挚的谢意。

陈校

2017年8月写于佘山脚下

Contents

Chapter one	How to Choose a Proper Chinese Name for Yourself	1
Section One	You May Have Four to Five Chinese Names	2
Section Two	Chinese Names and Their Structures	6
Section Three	Hundreds of Surnames	9
Section Four	To Choose a Name for Yourself	14
Chapter Two	How Many People Are There in a Chinese Family	16
Section One	Family Relations by Blood and by Marriage	17
Section Two	Chinese Family: Family, Clan and Nation	20
Section Three	Modern Chinese Families	25
Section Four	Famous Families	26
Chapter Three	Life Journey of a Regular Chinese	33
Section One	Birth Rite	34
Section Two	Grown-Up Rite	37
Section Three	Marriage Rite	41
Section Four	Longevity Celebration	44
Section Five	Chinese Traditional Funeral	46

Chapter Four	On Which Days You Don't Need to Work	49
Section One	Spring Festival	50
Section Two	Lantern Festival	54
Section Three	Qingming Festival	57
Section Four	Dragon Boat Festival	59
Section Five	Chinese Valentine's Day—Qixi Festival	62
Section Six	Mid-Autumn Festival	64
Section Seven	Double Ninth Festival	67
Chapter Five	How Many Gods Are There in Chinese Culture	70
Section One	Buddhism in China	71
Section Two	Chinese Taoism	77
Section Three	System of Gods in <i>Journey to the West</i>	78
Section Four	Gods That Relates to Daily Life in China	81
Chapter Six	Secrets about China That You Need to Know	86
Section One	Fortune Telling	87
Section Two	Divination	92
Section Three	Huangli	95
Section Four	Mysterious Chinese Fengshui	97
Chapter Seven	Chinese Table Culture	102
Section One	Chinese Food Culture	103
Section Two	Chinese Wine Culture	114

Section Three	Chinese Tea Culture	118
Chapter Eight	Featured Cultural Activities in China	125
Section One	Tai Chi	126
Section Two	Chinese Operas	128
Section Three	Lion Dance and Dragon Dance	137
Section Four	Paper Cutting and Chinese Knot	140
Chapter Nine	How to Deal with Chinese People	146
Section One	Communicative Etiquette of Chinese People	147
Section Two	The Culture of “Face”	149
Section Three	Cultural Taboos	153
Chapter Ten	Representative Animals and Plants in China	157
Section One	Chinese Zodiac	158
Section Two	Legendary Dragon	161
Section Three	Representative Chinese Animals and Plants	165

Chapter One

How to Choose a Proper Chinese Name for Yourself

每个人都有姓名。姓名,由“姓”和“名”组成,也称名字。人的姓名,是人类区分个体,给每个个体特定的名称符号。正由于有了姓名,人类才能正常有序的交往,因此每个人都有属于自己名字。各个民族对人的命名都有很多的习惯。这种习惯受历史、社会、民族等很多文化因素的制约,每个人的名字通常都有一定的含义。

姓,是血统的标志。中国人的姓的起源可以追溯到人类社会的母系氏族制时期。姓是作为区分氏族的特定标志符号。姓和氏,是人类进步的两个阶段,是文明的产物。秦朝以前,姓和氏是含义不同、各有所指的两个单音词。后来,在春秋战国时期,姓氏合一,不再区分,姓与氏都是姓,代表个人及其家族的符号。最早的时候,人们是有姓无名的,见面的时候就是互相点点头打招呼,这个在白天没有问题,可是到了晚上怎么办呢?互相看不见,打招呼就需要互相称呼一下,于是出现了“名”。“名”由“夕”和“口”组成,意思是晚上开口打招呼。在中国,名字不仅是一个代表个体的符号,还包含着父母的愿望甚至社会意义、政治意义。举个例子,如苏轼和苏辙,他们的名字中都是“车”字旁,且富有深刻含义。

如今,越来越多的中国年轻人喜欢给自己起英文名字,这易于外国人称呼,也显得更加时尚。相反,许多外国人开始给自己起中文名字。独特有个性的中文名字会给人留下深刻的印象。下面,让我们来认识一下中国的姓名文化!

Introduction

Four Beauties refer to four prettiest women in ancient China, and their names are Shi Yiguang (施夷光), Wang Qiang (王嫱), Ren Hongchang (任红昌) and Yang Yuhuan (杨玉环). Though these are their real names, they are normally addressed

by people as Xi Shi (西施), Wang Zhaojun (王昭君), Diaochan (貂蝉) and Yang Guifei (杨贵妃). Besides their original names, why are they being addressed in that way, where do those names come from, and why do they have more than two names? In addition to those names mentioned above, they also have nicknames such as Chenyu (沉鱼), Luoyan (落雁), Biyue (闭月) and Xiuhua (羞花). What are the stories behind these nicknames? To answer these questions, it is necessary for you to understand the name-related culture in China.

Section One You May Have Four to Five Chinese Names

In western society, names are composed of three parts: given name, middle name and family name, while in China, traditional names may include four to five parts, including family name, given name, courtesy name, and art name.

It is said that **Chinese surnames** were originated from the prehistoric matrilineal society. The Chinese character “姓” is composed of “女” and “生”, which means “female” and “birth” respectively. To show respect for women, many Chinese surnames include the character “女”, which means female. However, in patrilineal times, with the decline of women’s social position, the father’s surname became more important in the whole family, and children began to inherit their father’s surname instead of their mother’s. Apart from Xing(姓), there is another character that stands for surname in Chinese, which is Shi(氏). Xing(姓) and Shi(氏) both existed in the Han Dynasty (BC. 206-220), but Shi(氏) was gradually replaced by Xing(姓) as time goes by. So now in China the surname is Xing(姓), very few people use the character Shi(氏). A Chinese surname is for the public and belongs to the whole family. In old times a person could be widely respected just because of his surname, and this was particularly true for those who come from a notable family, hence he couldn’t change his name, especially his surname. If he did change his surname, it maybe either because he had committed a serious crime and as a result was deprived of his original one, or he wanted to leave his family and started a new life. For those people who share the same surname, they think that they share the same ancestors despite the lack of an actual blood relation between them. There are approximately thousands of family names that are used in China.

Nowadays about 100 family names are commonly used, which cover almost 87% of the total population. The most popular three surnames in China are Li(李),

Wang(王) and Zhang(张). Some Chinese people have compound surnames, consisting of two Chinese characters, like Ouyang(欧阳), Shangguan(上官), Sima(司马), Zhuge(诸葛). Now there are about 80 compound surnames existing in China.

The **Given name** follows the family name. Originally in China, Mingzi (given name) is composed of two parts, Ming(名) and Zi(字). Ming(名) refers to the normal given name, which is usually given to the child by his parents when he is born. In ancient China, given names, especially for girls', could only be known to family members, and she would be addressed only by her family name. Zi(字), which can also be referred to as **courtesy name** or style name, is a name bestowed upon a person at adulthood in addition to his or her given name, which is a tradition in East Asian cultures, including China and China-influenced countries such as Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. A Zi(字) will replace one's given name when one turns the age of twenty—mostly in terms of male—as a symbol of adulthood and respect. It could be given either by the parents or by the first personal teacher on the first day of family school. One may also adopt a self-chosen courtesy name. Normally, Zi(字) is somehow related to Ming(名), and it should be an explanation or supplement of Ming(名). However, because of the complexity, Zi(字) is gradually being phased out. In modern China, most people (>98%) do not have Zi(字), and those who have and use Zi(字) are mostly artists, writers, poets and philosophers, now Mingzi(名字) basically equals with Ming(名).



Mao Zedong (毛泽东)

Take Chairman Mao as an example, his surname (xing) is Mao(毛); his given name (Ming) is Zedong(泽东), and because he was born in 1890s, when style name (Zi) was still popular in China, his Zi(字) is Runzhi(润之).

It is notable that a courtesy name is not to be confused with an **art name** (hào, Chinese: 号), another frequently mentioned term for an alternative name in Asian culture-based context. As its name reveals, an art name is usually associated with art and is more of a literary name or a pseudonym that is more spontaneous compared to a courtesy name. In some cases, the art name can be changed. An artist may adopt different art names at different stages of his career and the art name is used to mark significant changes in his life. Art names were frequently used by artists, writers,

poets, and philosophers in ancient China, while nowadays very few people have art names.



Li Bai

Li Bai (701-762), a great poet in the Tang Dynasty. His surname (Xing) is Li (李), given name (Ming) is Bai(白), his courtesy name (Zi) is Taibai(太白), and his art name is Qinglian Jushi(青莲居士).

Exercise: Check out the art names of the following poets.



Bai Juyi



Li Qingzhao



Su Shi

The **Nickname** is a familiar or humorous name given to a person or thing instead of or as well as the real name, and it is more common in modern society. Nicknames given by different people can have different meanings and purposes. For example, a

nickname given by parents is a term of endearment, which shows the affection towards the child, like Lele (乐乐) or Choudan(臭蛋); while a nickname given by friends can either be a term of amusement, which shows the familiarity between them, like Yanjinger (眼镜儿), or a term of contempt, like Feizhu (肥猪). Sometimes, nicknames can also be used as complimentary remarks, like the nicknames for the Four Beauties: Chenyu (沉鱼), Luoyan (落雁), Biyue (闭月), Xiuhua (羞花).

Exercise: After reading this section, can you find out the complete names, including family names, given names, art names and even nicknames for the following figures?



Four Great Beauties



Guan Yu(关羽)



Kong Zi(孔子)

Section Two Chinese Names and Their Structures

Though westerners and Chinese all have family names and given names, they are ranged in totally opposite orders.

As to the **order** of ordinary Chinese names, the family name comes first, and then follows the given name. A boy called Ming (明) and belonging to the Zhang (张) family is called “Zhang Ming” in Chinese culture, while in west it would be formally Ming Zhang. A Chinese is only to be called in that way when he is travelling abroad. Again taking Chairman Mao as an example, his family name is Mao (毛), and his given name is Zedong (泽东), so his full name is Mao Zedong (毛泽东) in Chinese.

When names are used to **address** somebody, the ways used in China and western society are the same. It is considered to be polite and respectful to address a Chinese by his/her surname, followed by honorific titles like 先生 (xiān sheng) (Sir)/女士 (nǚshì) (Madam) or the job position. Normally Zhang Ming would be formally referred to as Mr. Zhang, not Mr. Ming, while among friends he would be casually referred to as Zhang Ming. Like westerners, people with close relationships can directly address each other by their given names, but there is an interesting phenomenon in China. It is very rare for people with a one-character name (monosyllabic, which will be introduced later in this chapter) being referred to only by his/her given name, except by his/her lover. But when the person's given name is made up of more than two characters (disyllabic), it is OK for him/her to be addressed only by given names by his/her friends. For example, Zhang Ming is rarely addressed by his friends as “Ming”, while it is normal for a person named Zhang Mingming to be addressed as “Mingming” by his friends.

Exercise: A man named Wang Qiang (王强) is a professor working in a university, how should he be addressed by his students/colleagues/friends/wife?

The **structure** of Chinese names could be a little unique. Typically a full Chinese name consists of two or three syllabus/characters, with each syllable having a particular tone and being written as a single Chinese character. Most Chinese surnames are monosyllabic (one character), which are called “Danxing” (单姓). In

Chinese, “Fuxing” (复姓), which means two-character (disyllabic) surnames also exist in China, but they are not that commonly seen as the monosyllabic surnames. Generally speaking, a child is always entitled to the surname of his father. However, it is getting increasingly popular in China to have surnames of both their parents’ in children’s names. For given names, both monosyllabic and disyllabic are commonly used in China, with the latter one being more popular. There are several structural patterns for Chinese names:

1. A monosyllabic surname + a disyllabic given name ■ + □□
e. g. Li Zhiguo (李志国)
2. A monosyllabic surname + a monosyllabic given name ■ + □
e. g. Zhang Ming (张明)
3. A disyllabic surname + a monosyllabic given name ■■ + □
e. g. ZhuGe Liang (诸葛亮)
4. A disyllabic surname + a disyllabic given name ■■ + □□
e. g. Lvqiu Luwei (闾丘露薇)

Among these four patterns, the first one is the most commonly used. The number of people whose names are made up of a monosyllabic surname and a disyllabic given name accounts for 85% of the total population. But apart from these ordinary patterns, there are also special cases in the structures. A person may have both of their parents’ surnames, as in the example of Zhang Wang Sheng (章王晟), It is very hard to tell whether his family name is Zhang or Zhang Wang. Another case is more common in Hong Kong. A girl is sometimes required to add the surname of her husband in front of her name after marriage. Take Fan Xu Litai (范徐丽泰) as an example, her original name was Xu Litai, but after marrying a man whose family name is Fan, her name becomes Fan Xu Litai.

In China, especially in ancient times, there are strict rules that have to be followed when a baby is named. In other words, there are **model names for generations** in different families. Usually, the model names can be divided into three types:

(1) The first syllable/character of the given name is settled for each generation
Take the writer’s case as an example:

Chen **Jingtong** (陈敬同)

Chen **Zhaozhu** (陈招助)

Chen **Xianxiao** (陈先校)

Chen **Zhaoxie** (陈招协)

Chen **Xianjian** (陈先建)

From this list, it is clear that the first character of each generation is settled. In the first generation, the settled character is Jing, in the second generation the settled character is Zhao, and in the third generation, the settled character is Xian.

(2) The last syllable/character of the given name is settled

In the novel *A Dream of Red Mansions*, the Jia family has strict rules in naming, and for girls, they have their last character in given names settled as Chun (春).



Jia Yuanchun (贾元春)

Jia Yingchun (贾迎春)

Jia Tanchun (贾探春)

Jia Xichun (贾惜春)

(3) Part of the character is settled for each generation

Different from females, the naming methods of males in the Jia family of the novel *A Dream of Red Mansions* are much more complicated. Instead of settling a certain word in the given names of females, only a part of the character is settled in the given names of the males.

1st Jia Yan (贾演) Jia Yuan (贾源)

2nd Jia Daihua (贾代化) Jia Daishan (贾代善) Jia Dairu (贾代儒)
Jia Daixiu (贾代修)

3rd Jia Fu (贾敷) Jia Zheng (贾政) Jia Jing (贾敬) Jia She (贾赦)
Jia Min (贾敏)