



## Content Analysis of Wenzi Material in Xiandai Hanyu Shang Learning as a Reference for Teaching Materials

Ria Riski Marsuki<sup>✉</sup>, Dian Yuni Pamuji<sup>2</sup>, Almira Agwinanda<sup>3</sup>,

Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

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### Abstract

In learning Mandarin, there are four fundamental skills that students must master: writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Writing skills are taught from the first semester to the sixth semester through courses such as 初级汉语写作上 *chūjí hànyǔ xiězuò shàng* (Basic Mandarin Writing I) to 高级汉语写作下 *gāojí hànyǔ xiězuò xià* (Advanced Mandarin Writing II), which focus on writing practice. Additionally, 汉字 *hànzì* material is also taught in the course 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* (Modern Mandarin I), but the emphasis is more on theoretical aspects. In this course, students learn about the origins and development of Hanzi characters currently in use, including the methods of character formation. The course 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* focuses on three main topics: 语音 *yǔyīn* (Phonology), 文字 *wénzì* (Characters), and 词汇 *cíhuì* (Vocabulary). The reference book used, 现代汉语 *xiàndài hànyǔ* (Modern Mandarin), is written entirely in Mandarin without translations. This is one of the reasons why the researcher aims to develop teaching materials on 汉字 *hànzì* (Hanzi) for the 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* course, aligning them with the intended learning outcomes and the course duration. These three main topics must be covered within one semester.

<sup>✉</sup> Corresponding Author:  
E-mail: [riariskimarsuki@mail.unnes.ac.id](mailto:riariskimarsuki@mail.unnes.ac.id)

## INTRODUCTION

The Mandarin language learning program at the Mandarin Language Education Study Program, Semarang State University, emphasizes the mastery of four language skills: writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Some of the courses at each level include Tingli (listening), Yuedu (reading), Kouyu (speaking), Xiezu (writing), and Zonghe (comprehensive) (Sari & Anggraeni, 2020).

In addition to these four language skills, understanding culture is also essential. Naturally, language is inseparable from culture. Writing skills are taught starting from the first semester through the course 初级汉语写作上 *chūjí hànǔ xiězuò shàng* (Basic Mandarin Writing I) and continue through the sixth semester with the course 高级汉语写作下 *gāojí hànǔ xiězuò xià* (Advanced Mandarin Writing II). Furthermore, an understanding of 汉字 *hànzì* material is also incorporated into the Wenzhi material. Wenzhi is taught in the 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànǔ shàng* course.

现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànǔ shàng*, with the same title, written by Huang, covers three main topics: *yuyan* (language), *wenzi* (characters), and *cihui* (vocabulary). The 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànǔ shàng* book, both the *shang* and *xia* editions, is entirely in Mandarin without any translations, which makes it difficult for students to comprehend the reading content. Moreover, since the 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànǔ shàng* course is taught in the third semester, many 汉字 *hànzì* characters remain unfamiliar to the students. Therefore, the author intends to analyze the content that can serve as a reference for creating teaching materials for 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànǔ shàng*, particularly the *wenzi* material.

Most of the material used is taken from the book 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànǔ shàng*. However, there are some additional topics, specifically related to 汉字 *hànzì* radicals. These radicals are the smallest elements in 汉字 *hànzì* characters, used to group or refer to specific characters based on their general meaning or concept (Tjaturrini et al., 2021). Simply put, radicals can be considered the smallest parts of a Hanzi character that provide clues about its general meaning. By understanding radicals, it becomes easier to recognize or identify related 汉字 *hànzì* characters that share similar meanings.

In addition to radicals, there is also supplementary material related to common mistakes in 汉字 *hànzì* writing. This is important to help students be more cautious when writing 汉字 *hànzì* characters. Some writing errors in 汉字 *hànzì* do not always depend on how long someone has been learning, as Marsuki, R.M and Fatmawati (2024) note that such errors can still occur even among advanced students. Therefore, it is crucial for students to continue practicing writing and to get accustomed to writing in the correct stroke order from the very beginning of their writing lessons.

## METHODS

The method used in this study is a qualitative method, with a literature study approach. In the research by Fadli M. R. (2021), it is explained that the literature study method is a data collection method that involves understanding and studying theories from various literatures related to the research. The analysis method used is descriptive analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reference book used in the Xiandai Hanyu Shang course is the book 现代汉语 *xiàndài hànyǔ*, authored by Huang Borong (黄伯荣) and Liao Xudong (廖序东). The course title is identical to the book title. Specifically, in the Wenzhi material in the 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* book, the main topics are as follows:

### 1. Introduction to Han Characters (汉字概说)

Subtopics include:

- a. The Nature of Han Characters 汉字的性质
- b. The Origins of Han Characters 汉字的起源
- c. The Characteristics of Han Characters 汉字的特点
- d. The Functions of Han Characters 汉字的作用
- e. Exercises and Reflections 1 思考和练习一

### 2. Forms of Han Characters (汉字的形体)

Subtopics include :

- a. Predecessors of Modern Han Characters 现行汉字的前身
- b. Form of Modern Han Characters 现行汉字的形体
- c. Evolution of Han Character Forms 汉字形体的演变
- d. Exercises and Reflections 1 思考和练习二

### 3. Structure of Han Characters (汉字的结构)

Subtopics include:

- a. Structural Units 结构单位
- b. Stroke Order 笔顺
- c. Methods of Character Formation 造字法
- d. Exercises and Reflections 1 思考和练习三

### 4. Organization and Standardization of Han Characters (汉字的整理和标准化)

Subtopics include

- a. Issues in Han Character Reform 汉字改革问题
- b. Organization of Han Characters 汉字的整理

- c. Standardization of Han Characters 汉字的标准化
- d. Han Character Information Processing 汉字的信息处理
- e. Exercises and Reflections 1 思考和练习四

### 5. Use of Standard Han Characters (使用规范汉字)

Subtopics include:

- a. Mastering Reorganized Han Characters 掌握整理过的汉字
- b. Correcting Misspelled Characters 纠正错别字

Based on the main topics and subtopics explained in the *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* book, the author attempts to outline the content according to the skills that students are expected to achieve when studying 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng*, specifically the Wenzhi material. Although there are only four main topics in the 文字 *wénzì* material based on the 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* book, the explanation of each subtopic is lengthy and complex. Therefore, covering all of them in a short period, especially in a course that does not solely focus on 文字 *wénzì*, would be challenging. As a result, the author has divided the material into several important topics that align with the intended learning outcomes.

The following main topics will serve as a reference for developing teaching materials for the 文字 *wénzì* portion of the 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* course. These materials are not only derived from the 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* Shang book but also from various related books and articles. Additionally, some topics, particularly those related to the methods of 汉字 *hànzì* character formation, will include visual aids to ensure that the learning material is effectively communicated and well-understood by the students.

### Introduction to Han Characters

Subtopics include:

- a. Han Script
- b. Han Script and Han Characters
- c. Characteristics of Han Characters
- d. Exercises and Reflections

### Origins of Han Characters

Subtopics include:

- a. Primitive Stage
- b. Prehistoric or Archaic Stage
- c. Historical or Neo-Archaic Stage
- d. Modern Stage
- e. Exercises and Reflections

### **Structure of Han Characters**

Subtopics include:

#### a. Structural Units of Han Characters

- Strokes (笔画)
- Components (部件)
- Whole Characters (整字)

#### b. Stroke Order of Han Characters

#### c. Exercises and Reflections

### **Methods of Creating Han Characters**

Subtopics include:

#### a. Pictograms (象形)

#### b. Ideograms (指事)

#### c. Compound Ideograms (会意)

#### d. Phono-semantic Compounds (形声)

#### e. Derived Cognates (转注)

#### f. Borrowed Characters (假借)

#### g. Exercises and Reflections

### **Composition of Compound Han Characters**

### **Radicals (部首)**

### **Correcting Character**

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the data obtained above, several subtopics are outlined based on the main source book, 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng*. However, some subtopics were not included, and additional subtopics were added, such as radicals and common 汉字 *hànzì* writing errors. The total content of the Wenzhi material consists of seven main topics. This has been aligned with the learning outcomes that students are expected to achieve. It is hoped that this content can serve as a reference for the development of teaching materials for the 现代汉语上 *xiàndài hànyǔ shàng* course.

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