

Original Research Article

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Research on the Functions of the Aesthetic Characteristics of Chinese Language and Script in College Chinese Teaching

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Abstract: This paper explores the aesthetic characteristics of the Chinese language and script and their functions in College Chinese teaching. The Chinese language and script possess the beauty of phonology, form, and connotation. Phonological beauty is manifested through the musicality of tones (level and oblique) and rhyming; formal beauty is reflected in diverse typefaces and rigorous structures; and connotative beauty embodies rich philosophies and emotions. In College Chinese teaching, these aesthetic characteristics can enhance students' aesthetic literacy and cultivate their perceptions; stimulate learning interest and enrich their experience; strengthen cultural inheritance awareness and promote integration; and facilitate linguistic expression and cognitive development. These features are of great significance for improving the quality of College Chinese teaching and fostering student literacy.

Keywords: Chinese language and script; Aesthetic characteristics; College Chinese teaching; Teaching functions

Introduction

College Chinese teaching occupies an important position in the higher education system, aiming to comprehensively improve students' linguistic literacy and humanistic spirit. As the core carrier of Chinese culture, the aesthetic characteristics of the Chinese language and script are uniquely charming. Phonologically, the level and oblique rhythms act like a musical score playing emotional melodies; formally, diverse fonts and exquisite structures display visual beauty; and connotatively, profound meanings and philosophical imagery speak of

cultural codes. Deeply studying these functions helps break through traditional teaching limitations, making the process vibrant and aesthetic. This enables students to better appreciate the beauty of language, thereby inheriting culture and providing strong support for the innovation of College Chinese teaching.

1. Aesthetic Characteristics of Chinese Language and Script

1.1 Phonological Beauty

The phonological beauty of Chinese is like a melodious musical movement. Its unique system endows the



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language with strong musicality. Chinese has four tones (level, rising, departing, and entering), and the variation between level (ping) and oblique (ze) tones can subtly express different emotions and meanings. For instance, in classical poetry, the coordination of tones creates a rhythmic cadence. In the line "In the vast desert, a single plume of smoke rises straight; over the long river, the setting sun is round," the tonal contrast and harmonious rhythm allow the reader to visualize the magnificent scenery and feel the poet's intended atmosphere. Rhyming is another key manifestation. From the ancient Classic of Poetry to Tang and Song poetry, rhyming makes literary works more melodious and enhances artistic appeal. Furthermore, the clever use of reduplicated words (diezi), alliteration (shuangsheng), and assonance (dieyun)—such as in "Searching, seeking, cold and lonely, miserable and afflicted"—vividly expresses a poet's inner solitude while enhancing the language's rhythm.

1.2 Formal Beauty

The formal beauty of Chinese characters is a marvel among world scripts. Their structures are rich and varied, with strokes of different shapes creating a unique aesthetic. From the ancient elegance of Seal script to the "silkworm head and wild goose tail" of Clerical script, the dignified Regular script, the fluid Running script, and the unrestrained Cursive script, each style reflects a distinct artistic flair. Seal script lines are rounded and mysterious, carrying historical weight; Clerical script is archaic yet lively; Regular script is rigorous and stable; Running script is as natural as flowing clouds; and Cursive script is bold and passionate. Moreover, the rigorous structure of characters, where strokes correspond and are spaced appropriately, reflects a sense of harmony [1]. The "Eight Principles of Yong" demonstrate the infinite charm of character forms through stroke combinations, embodying the Chinese people's profound understanding of balance, symmetry, and harmony.

1.3 Connotative Beauty

Connotative beauty is one of the most profound aesthetic qualities of the Chinese language. Characters possess deep cultural roots; often, a single word can encapsulate profound philosophy, emotion, or imagery, possessing aesthetic value beyond its literal meaning. Take the "Three Friends of Winter" (Pine, Bamboo,

and Plum) as an example: they are not just three plants, but symbols of resilience, nobility, and unyielding character. In literature, the pine's vigor, the bamboo's modesty, and the plum's defiance of snow represent high moral character, inspiring people to persevere in adversity. Similarly, "Mountain and Water" (Shanshui) describes more than nature; it embodies reverence for nature and the pursuit of tranquility. Words like "Benevolence" (Ren), "Righteousness" (Yi), "Propriety" (Li), "Wisdom" (Zhi), and "Trustworthiness" (Xin) constitute the core values of Chinese culture. This beauty allows people to gain spiritual nourishment and aesthetic pleasure by grasping the rich cultural connotations and philosophies within the language.

2. Functions of Aesthetic Characteristics in College Chinese Teaching

2.1 Enhancing Aesthetic Literacy

2.1.1 Cultivating Aesthetic Perception Ability In College

Chinese teaching, these aesthetic characteristics provide excellent materials. When reading beautiful prose or poetry, such as Xu Zhimo's *Saying Goodbye to Cambridge Again*, students perceive phonological beauty through the harmonious rhythm and connect with the poet's nostalgia. When appreciating calligraphy, from Yan Zhenqing's Regular script to Wang Xizhi's Running script, students grasp formal beauty. Through analyzing deep meanings—such as the term "New Year's Sacrifice" (Zhu Fu) in Lu Xun's work, which implies profound sympathy for women's tragic fates—students experience connotative beauty and enhance their ability to perceive internal aesthetics.

2.1.2 Shaping Aesthetic Conceptions

The aesthetic characteristics of language carry the unique values of the Chinese nation. Guiding students to understand these is significant for shaping correct aesthetic views. Classical poetry's pursuit of "artistic conception" (Yijing), like Wang Wei's depiction of frontier scenery, reflects subtle and far-reaching aesthetic tastes. Various literary styles—from the magnificence of Han Fu to the delicateness of Song Ci—teach students to appreciate different levels of beauty, reject vulgarity, and form elegant tastes that influence their life values.

2.2 Stimulating Learning Interest

2.2.1 Strengthening Learning Motivation

Aesthetic charm acts as a key to student interest. When students learn about the evolution of pictograms like "Mountain" (Shan) or "Sun" (Ri) through oracle bone script, they feel the wisdom of ancestors and develop a desire to explore further^[2]. Beautiful rhythms and vivid imagery in ancient poetry make language learning an enjoyable pursuit rather than a dry task. This perception encourages students to read more, explore the mysteries behind characters, and actively participate in discussions.

2.2.2 Enriching the Learning Experience

Aesthetic characteristics inject vitality into teaching. Teachers can design creative activities, such as chanting ancient poems to feel phonological beauty or role-playing classic literature to experience characters' emotions. These activities transform students from passive recipients to active participants, providing them with multi-dimensional experiences in emotion and aesthetics, thereby improving the quality of College Chinese teaching.

2.3 Strengthening Cultural Inheritance Awareness

2.3.1 Inheriting Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture

The aesthetic value of the Chinese language is intertwined with traditional culture. In teaching, excavating these values helps students identify with their national traditions. Ancient documents like The Analects display logic and wisdom through concise language. Poetry styles, such as Li Bai's boldness or Du Fu's poignancy, showcase a vast cultural world. Immersed in these classics, students feel cultural pride and consciously shoulder the mission of inheriting traditional culture.

2.3.2 Promoting Cultural Exchange and Integration

In the era of globalization, the unique charm of the Chinese language stands out on the world stage. Focusing on these aesthetic characteristics enables students to better spread Chinese culture. For example, mastering rhetorical devices like rhyming and parallelism allows students to make Chinese cultural expression more attractive in international exchanges, building a solid bridge for cross-cultural communication.

2.4 Promoting Language Expression and Cognitive Development

2.4.1 Improving Language Expression Ability

Learning aesthetic characteristics significantly improves expression. By appreciating works like Preface to the Prince of Teng's Pavilion, students master parallelism and fluid rhythms. Using imagery and symbolism—such as "The candle has a core/heart and regrets the parting; it sheds tears for the person until dawn"—makes expression more profound and artistic^[3]. Students integrate these techniques into their writing and speaking, making their language more accurate, vivid, and infectious.

2.4.2 Cultivating Innovative Thinking Ability

Phonological beauty stimulates auditory association, while formal beauty triggers visual imagination (e.g., the character "Mountain" looking like a peak). Connotative beauty expands the depth of thought. Encouraging students to interpret language creatively—such as analyzing a poem from multiple angles—trains them to break away from conventional thinking and propose unique perspectives, laying a foundation for future innovation.

Conclusion

The aesthetic characteristics of the Chinese language and script are like a brilliant pearl in College Chinese teaching. Through deep excavation, teaching becomes a feast of aesthetics and culture. It enhances literacy, ignites passion, strengthens inheritance awareness, and promotes cognitive development, helping students express themselves precisely and think innovatively.

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