

Exploring Classroom Design and Pedagogical Strategies: Overcoming the Challenges of Rapid Vocabulary Recognition among Beginner Learners of Chinese



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Problem Statement: This paper spotlights a significant obstacle for beginner Chinese learners: the swift recognition of vocabulary, particularly Chinese characters. It posits that this difficulty not only hampers their reading and writing capabilities but also diminishes their enthusiasm and confidence in learning Chinese.

Literature Review: The study conducts a thorough examination of existing literature to understand the roots and remedies of this challenge. It focuses on various factors, including limited exposure to the language, interference from learners' native scripts, confusion caused by characters with similar appearances, inadequate memory strategies, a lack of personalized learning approaches, the absence of appropriate textbooks, and minimal technology utilization in teaching.

Existing Solutions: The paper evaluates current methodologies for teaching Chinese characters. It highlights approaches like the Component-Oriented Net-Weaving Approach, engaging in handwriting exercises, incorporating educational games, and selecting vocabulary that resonates with the learners' local context.

Proposed Teaching Activity: The paper introduces a novel teaching activity designed to facilitate the learning of Chinese characters through visual aids. It involves using images to represent words that share common character components. The structure, objectives, and anticipated benefits of this activity are elaborately discussed, underscoring its potential effectiveness in enhancing character recognition skills. (196 words)

Biography:

Jiaxin Shen is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Chinese while serving as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In her role as a TA, she is actively involved in teaching courses CHN 126 and 246 throughout the academic year. Her academic interests primarily lie in teaching pedagogy and educational policies. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Management, and she has also earned a Master's degree in Education and Leadership with honors from Arizona State University. Plus, Jiaxin enjoys spending quality time with her cats and delving into the study of astronomy in her leisure time. (99 words)