



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

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<i>Module Code:</i> SICH6018	<i>Student number:</i> 2304995
<i>Module title:</i> Exegesis	
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i>	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Provisional mark:</i> NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the final examination board.	

AI Acknowledgement

☐ I have not used AI in my assignment

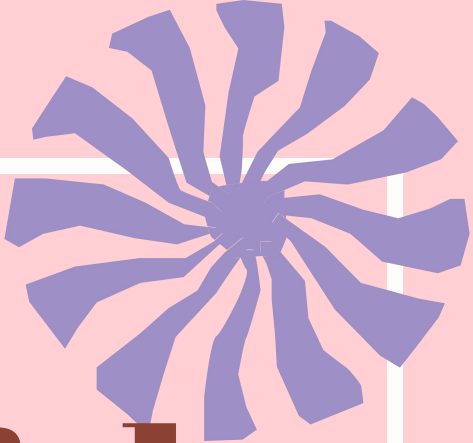
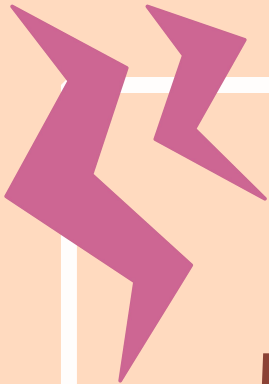
I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI agenerated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

☒ I have used AI in my assignment

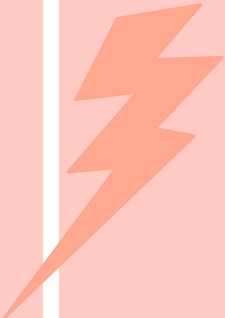
I acknowledge the use of 豆包 (Doubao) on 21/11/2025 to draw some pictures and correct my grammatical errors. I used the prompt(s):

1. 請幫我修改這篇文章的語法錯誤，並逐條告訴我應該怎麼改正。 Please help me correct the grammatical errors in this article and inform me of the revisions one by one.
2. 請幫我繪製一張同源詞家族的圖片。 Please help me create a diagram of cognate words.

I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated text as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used before, and after the use of AI tools which I may be asked to provide in evidence.



The Cognate Word Family with 「立」 as Phonetic Component



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Module codes: SIC6018

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Student ID : 2304995

Date : 25 Nov. 2025



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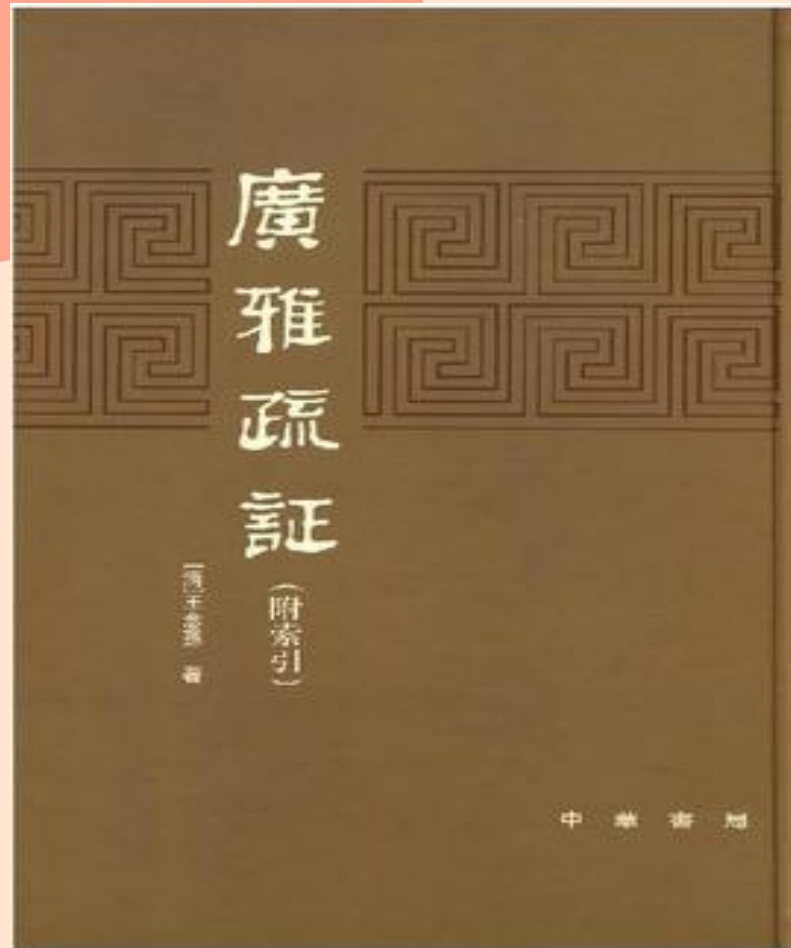
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1

Introduction



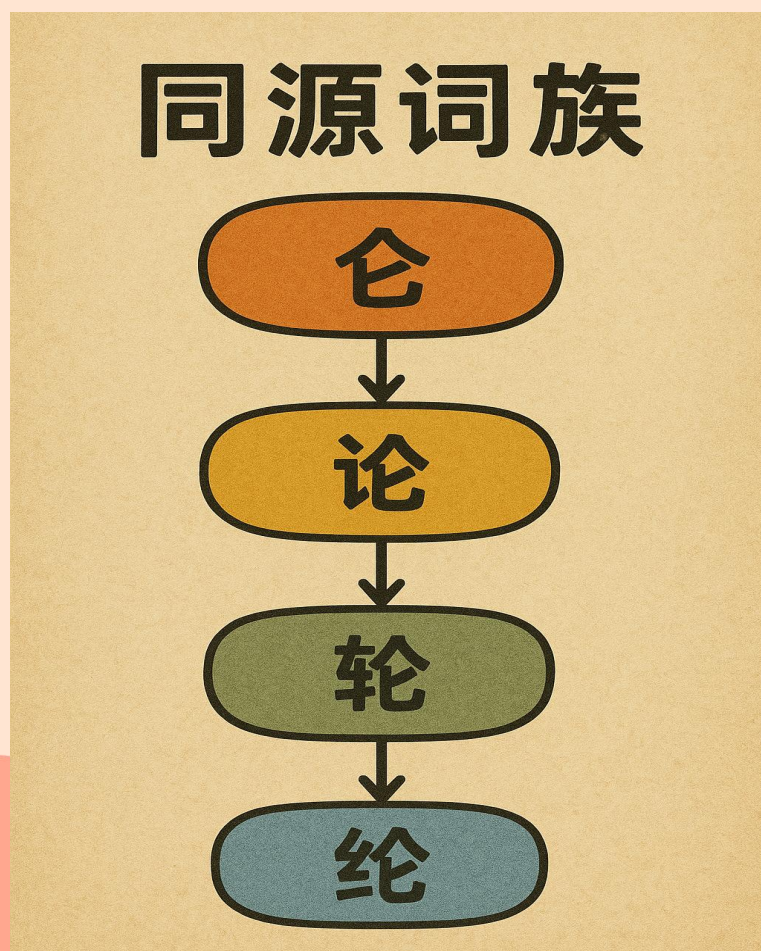


According to *Dictionary of Cognate Words*: “Characters that are similar in both pronunciation and meaning, similar in pronunciation but identical in meaning, or similar in meaning but identical in pronunciation are called cognate words.”¹

Ancient Usage of 位, 莅 and 立 :

As recorded in *Guangya shuzheng* (*Commentary and Verification on the Guangya*) : “li 莅 (“to arrive” and “to visit and inspect”) means wei 位(position).”²

Their cognate relationship from three aspects: phonetic analysis, the evolution of character forms, and semantic connection.



https://chatgpt.com/backend-api/estuary/content?id=file_00000000159471f4806a82d4815d6186&ts=489977&p=fs&cid=1&sig=73ab641f31643e4ce3f62fa3c4825f00a13f175f8ab5c44a05915ee9fe9e748b&v=0

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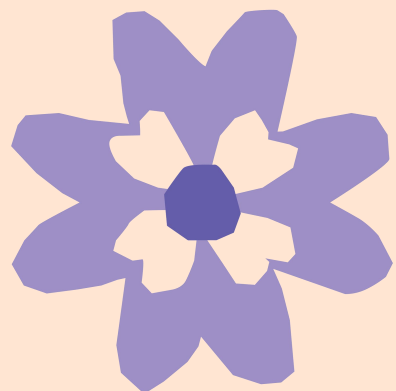
1.Wang Li, *Tongyuan Zidian* 同源字典 (Beijing: Zhonghua Shuju), 2014, P1.

2Wang Niansun and Zhong Yuxun, *Gangya Shuzheng* 廣雅疏證 (Beijing: Zhonghuashuju Press), 1983, p157.

2

The Cognate Relationship in phonetic





Shuowen Jiezi notes that 立 serves as the phonetic component of 位.

位 serves as the phonetic component of 莅. This indicates a clear phonetic lineage among these characters.

立 [*gljəp]³

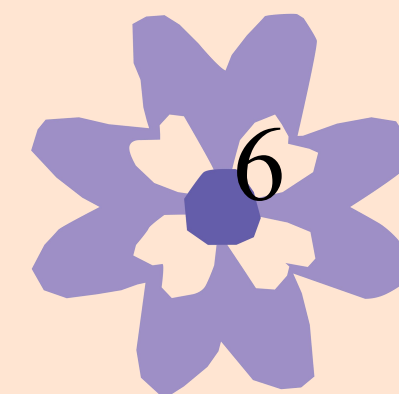
Ji rhyme group

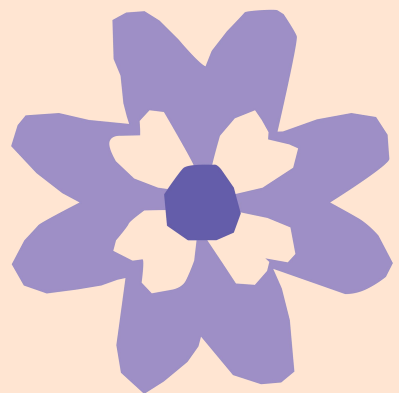
位 [*gwjəbh]⁴

莅 [*ljiəbh]⁵

Based on Li Fang-kuei's reconstruction system, the Old Chinese pronunciations of 立, 位, and 莅 are highly similar.

3. Hanzi Gujinyinziliaoku 漢字古今音資料庫 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ccr#>> [accessed 21 November 2025]
4. Hanzi Gujinyinziliaoku 漢字古今音資料庫 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ccr#>> [accessed 21 November 2025]
5. Hanzi Gujinyinziliaoku 漢字古今音資料庫 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ccr#>> [accessed 21 November 2025]





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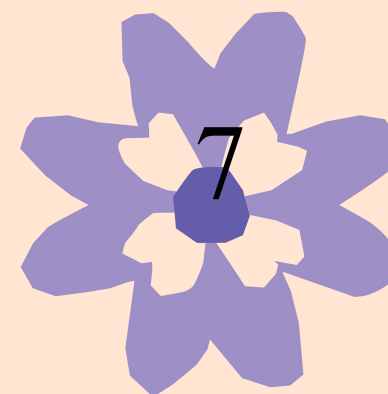
立 [*gljəp]³

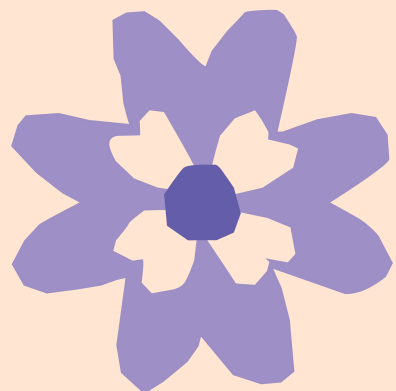
位 [*gwjəbh]⁴

莅 [*ljəbh]⁵

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3. Hanzi Gujinyinziliaoku 漢字古今音資料庫 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ccr#>> [accessed 21 November 2025]
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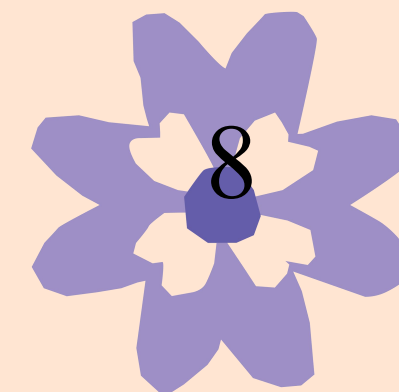
立 [^{*}gljəp]³

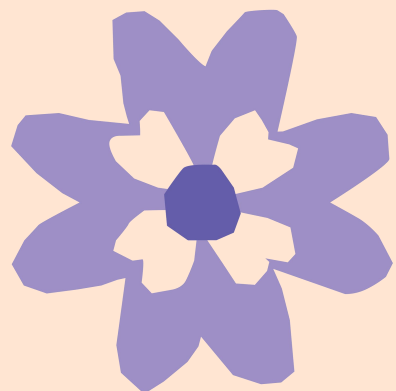
位 [^{*}gwjəbh]⁴ → a rounded
dorso-velar

莅 [^{*}ljəbh]⁵

Based on Li Fang-kuei's reconstruction system, the Old Chinese pronunciations of 立, 位, and 莅 are highly similar.

3. Hanzi Gujinyinziliaoku 漢字古今音資料庫 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ccr#>> [accessed 21 November 2025]
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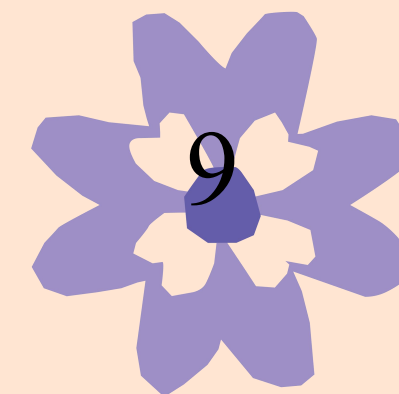
立 [^{*}gljəp]³

位 [^{*}gwjəbh]⁴

莅 [^{*}ljəbh]⁵ → an apico-alveolar

Based on Li Fang-kuei's reconstruction system, the Old Chinese pronunciations of 立, 位, and 莅 are highly similar.

3. Hanzi Gujinyinziliaoku 漢字古今音資料庫 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ccr#>> [accessed 21 November 2025]
4. Hanzi Gujinyinziliaoku 漢字古今音資料庫 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ccr#>> [accessed 21 November 2025]
5. Hanzi Gujinyinziliaoku 漢字古今音資料庫 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ccr#>> [accessed 21 November 2025]

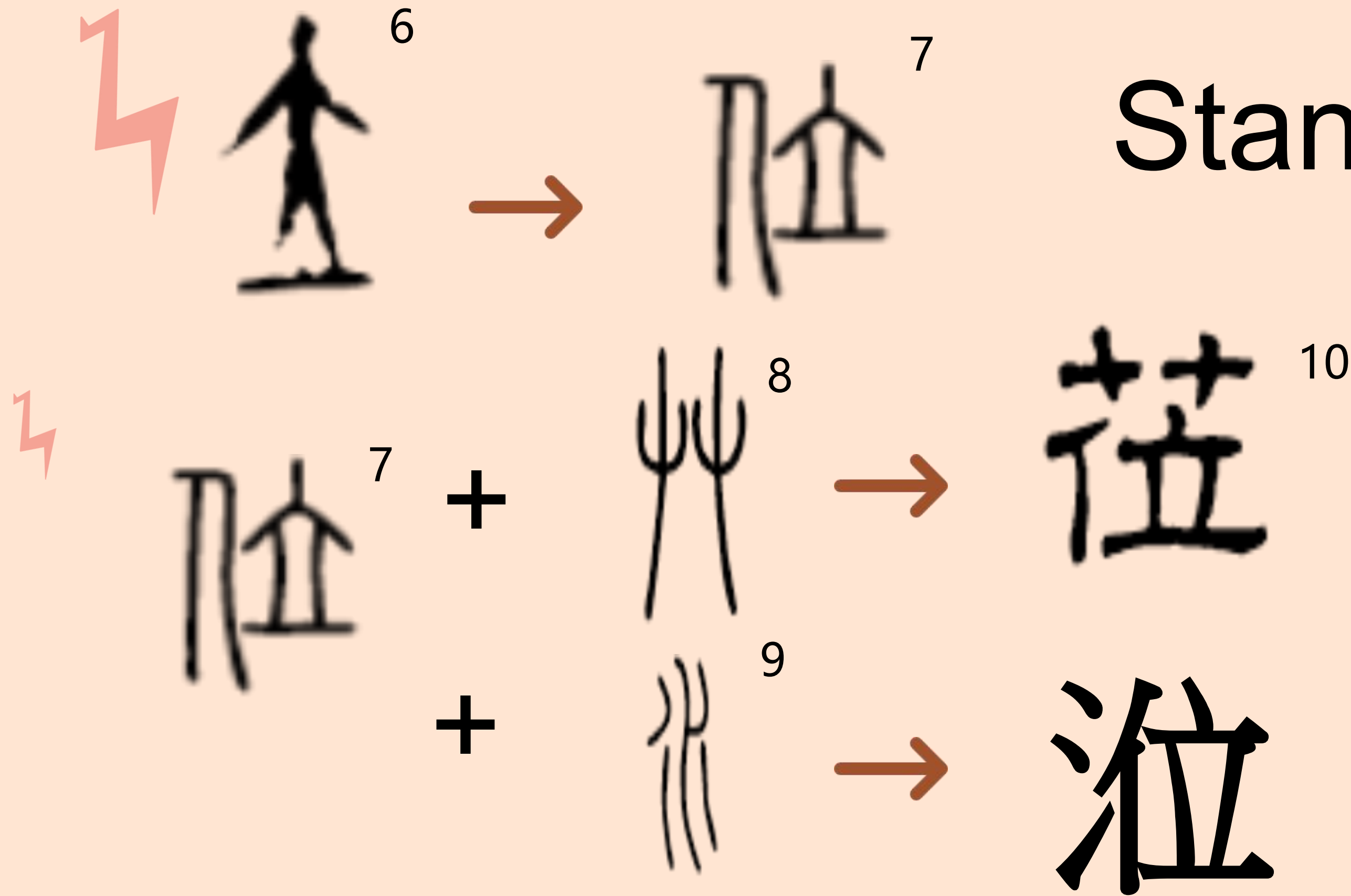


3

The Cognate Relationship in Graphic Form



Standing



6.Xiaoxuetang zixingyanbian 小學堂字形演變 <https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%ee%9e%8a&font=%e4%b8%ad%e7%a0%94%e9%99%a2%e7%94%b2%e9%aa%a8%e6%96%87%e9%87%8d%e6%96%87%e4%b8%89&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96> › [accessed 21 November 2025]
7.Xiaoxuetang zixingyanbian 小學堂字形演變 <https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%e4%bd%8d&font=%e5%8c%97%e5%b8%ab%e5%a4%a7%e8%aa%aa%e6%96%87%e5%b0%8f%e7%af%86&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96> › [accessed 21 November 2025]
8.Xiaoxuetang zixingyanbian 小學堂字形演變 <https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%e8%89%b8&font=%e5%8c%97%e5%b8%ab%e5%a4%a7%e8%aa%aa%e6%96%87%e5%b0%8f%e7%af%86&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96> › [accessed 21 November 2025]
9.Xiaoxuetang zixingyanbian 小學堂字形演變 <https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%e6%b0%b4&font=%e5%8c%97%e5%b8%ab%e5%a4%a7%e8%aa%aa%e6%96%87%e5%b0%8f%e7%af%86&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96> › [accessed 21 November 2025]
10.Xiaoxuetang zixingyanbian 小學堂字形演變 <https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%ee%95%9a&font=%e4%b8%ad%e7%a0%94%e9%99%a2%e9%9a%b8%e6%9b%b8%e9%87%8d%e6%96%87%e4%b8%80&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96> › [accessed 21 November 2025]



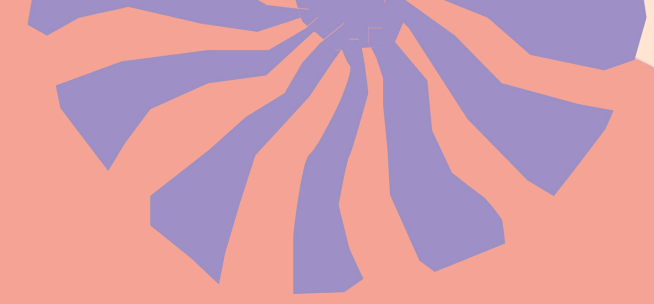
4

The Semantic Connection





立: The Verb to Stand



Shuowen Jiezi defines it: “Li 立 means standing. It is composed of the radical ‘da(大 symbolizing a human figure)’ with a horizontal line below it to denote the ground, signifying a person standing on the earth.”





位: Standing Becomes Status

Noun Meaning of 位

The core meaning of 位 is position, emphasizing a specific place related to humans. It originally denoted the spots where ministers stood in the central courtyard.



Semantic Extension

位 gradually extended from a concrete standing place to abstract meanings such as position and official post.

Historical Usage

In ancient texts, the phrase 公即位 (the duke ascended the throne) is written as 公即立, showing the semantic connection between standing and position.



Original Meaning of 莅

The original meaning of 莅 is “to arrive and inspect”, specifically referring to a superior official arriving at a place to conduct inspections or preside over rituals.

莅

Historical Usage

From *Han Feizi*· Wai Chu Shu·Zuo Shang: “A ruler who does not clarify the value of virtue, nor require his subordinates to uphold integrity, yet personally governs and administers them.”

Semantic Extension

The meaning of 莅 is extended from 立, as the act of arriving implies standing in a location.

5

Conclusion



- Li 立、wei 位 and li 莅 is reflected in their similar pronunciations in old Chinese, cognate character forms, and semantic extension
- The core semantic of li 立、wei 位 and li 莅 center on “standing”, with “wei 位” specializing in the noun meaning of “position” and “li 莅” specializing in the verb meaning of “arriving to inspect”
- form a typical cognate word family, recording an important process in the evolution of Chinese characters.



Thank You

For Listening!

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