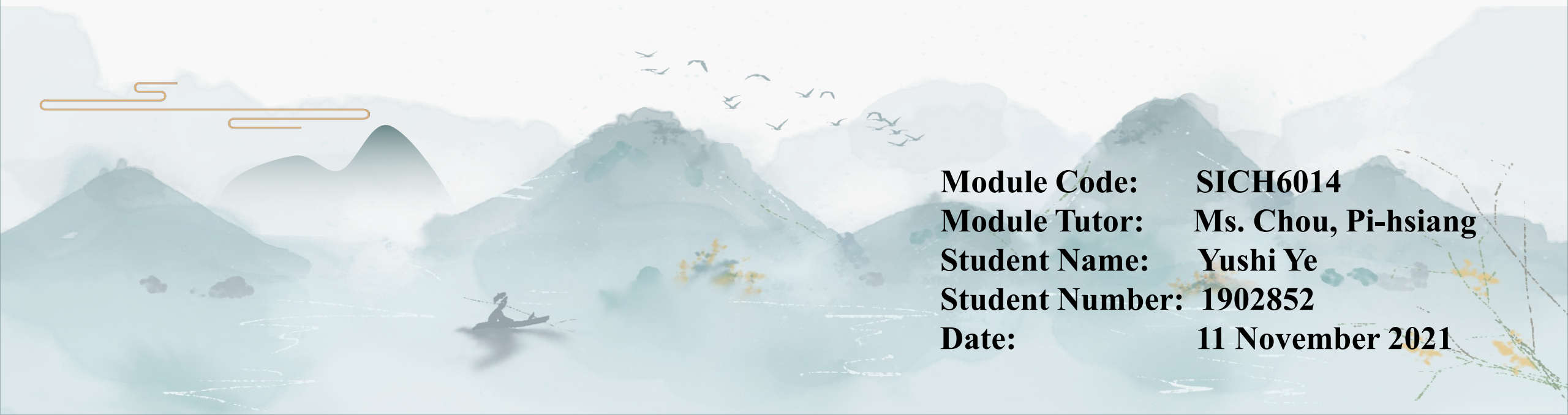




Sound and Meaning Spring from the Same Source 聲義同源

——Taking the Character *Si* 寺 as an Example



Module Code:	SICH6014
Module Tutor:	Ms. Chou, Pi-hsiang
Student Name:	Yushi Ye
Student Number:	1902852
Date:	11 November 2021



Contents

1. Introduction
2. A brief exploration of the character *Si*
3. The exploration of the phonograms 形聲字 with phonetic symbol 聲符 *Si*
4. Conclusion



01

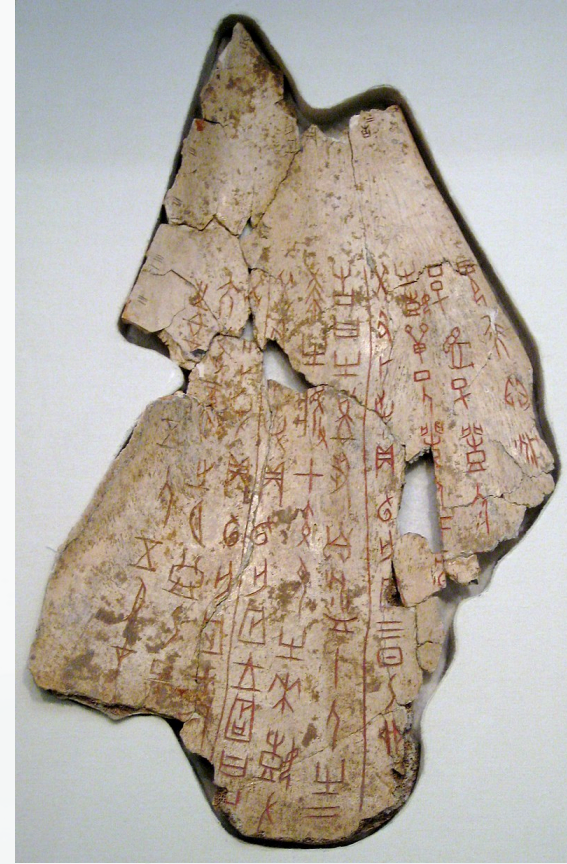
Introduction

1. Introduction



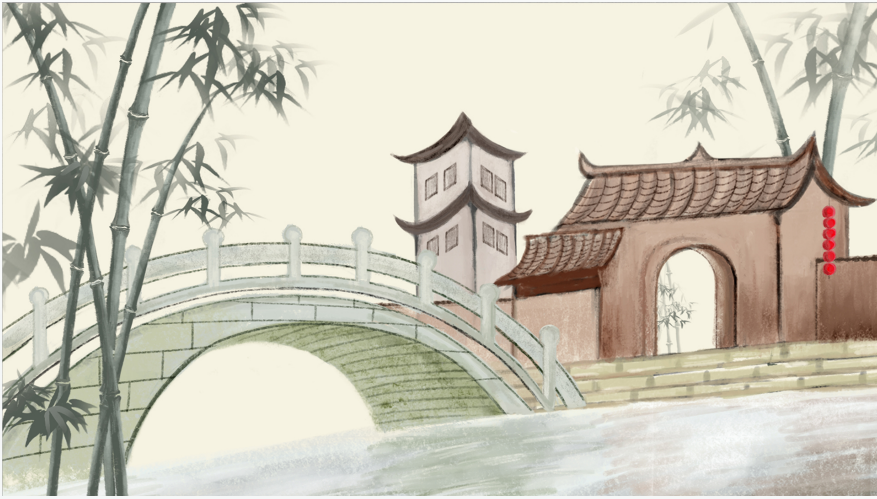
Wang Yirong 王懿榮, a director of
the Chinese Imperial Academy

Pictures from wikipedia.org

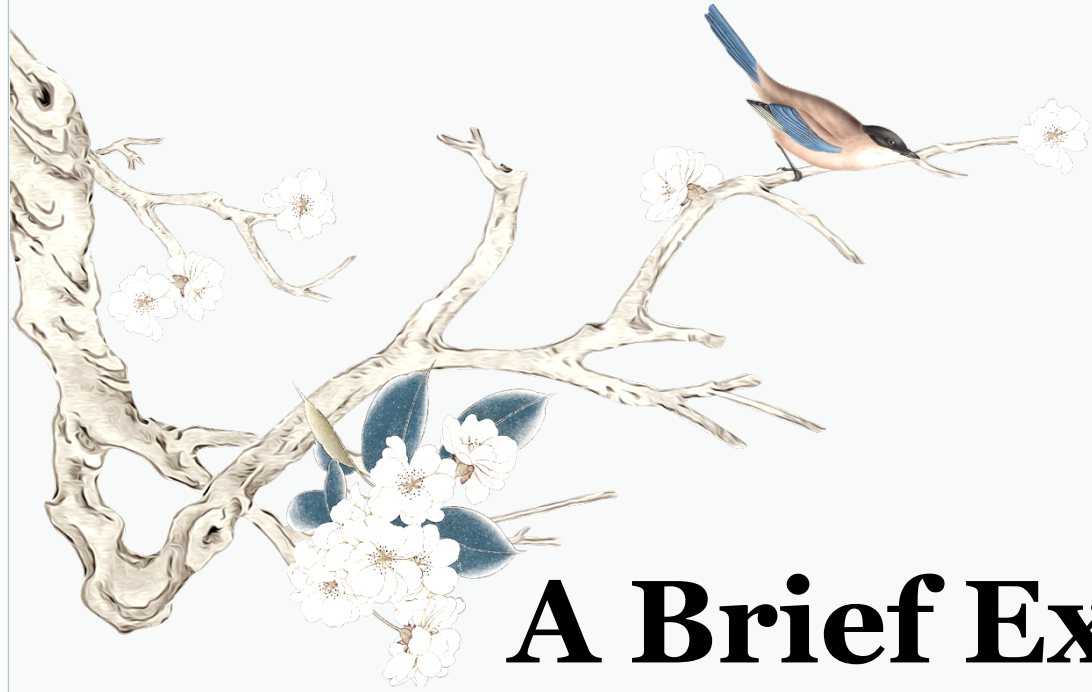


The oracle bones inscriptions
甲骨文

1. Introduction



- Dai Dongyuan:
'Character's form, meaning and sound have close connection with each other'.
(字學、故訓、音聲未始相離。)
- Duan Yucai 段玉裁：
Sound comes from meaning, and sound exists with meaning.



02

A Brief Exploration of the Character *Si*

2.1 The meaning of character *Si*



Si 寺

Shuowen Jiezi said,

‘*Si* means **an administrative organization**. It is where a place has law and rules. The character composed by *Cun* 寸 and the sound of *Zhi* 之.’
(廷也。有法度者也。從寸之聲。)



Pictures from <http://m.qulishi.com/huati/dalisi/>



Mo Teng 摩騰 (Kāśyapa Mātanga)



Zhu Falan 竺法蘭 (Dharmaratna)



Honglu si 鴻臚寺



Baima si 白馬寺

2.1 The meaning of character *Si*



Si 寺



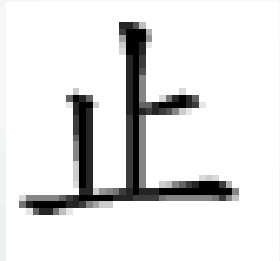
(之)

the seal script



(止)

the bronzes inscriptions



Zhi 止



(止)

stop

(亞窶夫止鼎， bronzes inscriptions, Late Shang Period)



(步)

walking

(步觚, bronzes inscriptions, Late Shang Period)

2.1 The meaning of character *Si*

(寸)

寺

Si 寺

寸

Cun 寸

Shuowen said,

‘(*Cun* is a unit of length.) **Ten *Fen* 分 is equal to one *Cun*.** There has a vital part called *Cunkou* 寸口 which is one *Cun* away from our wrist.

The character *Cun* composed by *You* 又 (hand) and *Yi* 一 (one). ’

(寸，十分也。人手卻一寸脈動，謂之寸口。从又从一。)



- The Great Learning 大學 said, ‘The point where to rest being known, the object of pursuit is then determined.’(知止而後有定。)

2.2 The meaning of character *Fa* 法 and *Du* 度



Fa 法 (Law)



Fa 灋, the origin
of character *Fa*
法

Shuowen said, ‘*Fa* is **law**. It means lawsuit settlement should be equal as water, so it composed by water. Animals *Zhi*’s 鴈 angle will touch person who do wrong, making them to leave. So the character composed by *Zhi* 鴈 and leave 去 (*Qu*)’.

(灋，荆也。平之如水，从水；鴈所以觸不直者；去之，从鴈去。)



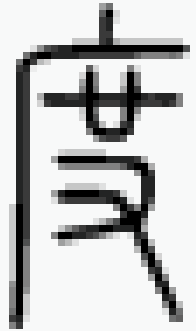
2.2 The meaning of character *Fa* 法 and *Du* 度

Zhi 𠩺

(大克鼎, bronzes inscriptions,
Late Shang Period)



2.2 The meaning of character *Fa* 法 and *Du* 度



Du 度

Shuowen explained it as **legal institutions**. (法制也)

- ‘It would not enact the legal system except the national leader...If someone is in position but he does not have enough virtue, he does not dare to make the system of rites and music. If someone is virtuous but not in position, he does not dare to make the system of rites and music, too.’

(非天子不制度。.....雖有其位，苟無其德，不敢作禮樂焉；雖有其德，苟無其位，亦不敢作禮樂焉。)

2.2 The meaning of character *Fa* 法 and *Du* 度

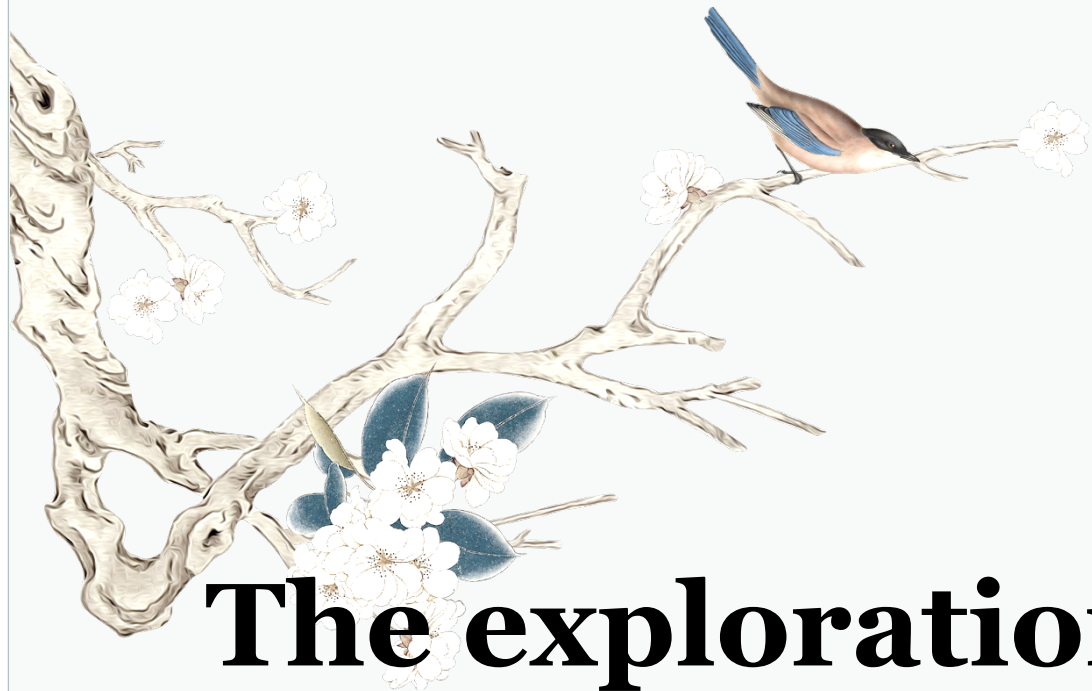


Si 寺



Judgement

Criteria



03

**The exploration of the phonograms
with phonetic symbol 聲符 *Si***

3. The phonograms with phonetic symbol *Si*

時

詩

恃

持

待

Shi 時 (time), *Shi* 詩 (poetry), *Shi* 恃 (rely on), *Chi* 持 (hold) and *Dai* 待 (wait)



3.1 The character *Shi* 時 and *Shi* 詩



時

Shi 時
(time)

Shouwen said, ‘The character *Shi* 時 means **four seasons**. It composed by character *Ri* 日 (sun) and the sound of character *Si* 寺’ (四時也。從日寺聲。)

Duan yucan annotated, ‘the origin meaning of *Shi* 時 is spring, summer, autumn and winter. Then it extended to the application of year, month, day and time.’ (本春夏秋冬之稱，引伸之爲凡歲月日刻之用。)



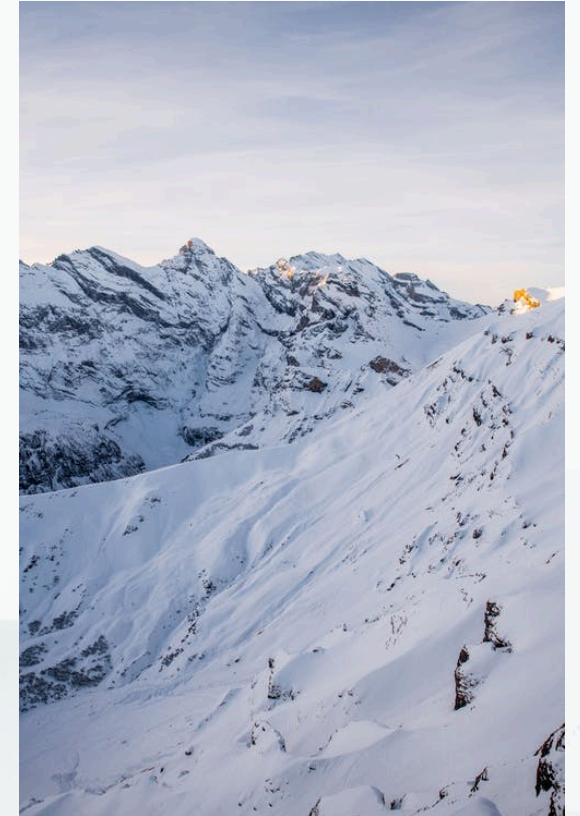
Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

3.1 The character *Shi* 時 and *Shi* 詩



時

Shi 時
(time)

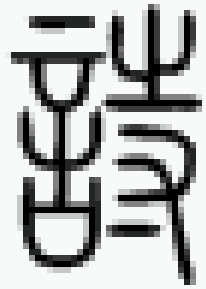


Criteria

Shouwen said, ‘The character *Shi* 時 means **four seasons**. It composed by character *Ri* 日 (sun) and the sound of character *Si* 寺’ (四時也。從日寺聲。)

Duan yucan annotated, ‘the origin meaning of *Shi* 時 is spring, summer, autumn and winter. Then it extended to the application of year, month, day and time.’ (本春夏秋冬夏之稱，引伸之爲凡歲月日刻之用。)

3.1 The character Shi 時 and Shi 詩



Shi 詩
(poetry)



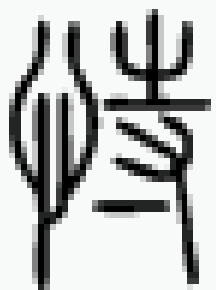
Criteria

‘Character *Shi* 詩 means **aspirations**. It composed by character *Yan* 言 (speech) and the sound of character *Si*.’ (志也。從言寺聲。)

Maoshi xu 毛詩序 annotated, ‘Poetry is where the aspirations located. Aspiration exists in mind, then expressing in word, which calls “poetry”.’

(詩者，志之所之也。在心爲志。發言爲詩。)

3.2 The character Shi 恃, Chi 持 and Dai 待

The image shows the seal script of the Chinese character 'Shi' (恃). It is a stylized, ancient form of the character, composed of two main parts: a vertical stroke on the left and a more complex structure on the right that includes a heart radical (心) and a sound component (寺).

Shi 恃
(rely on)

Shuowen said, 'the character *Shi* 恃 means **relying on**. It composed by character *Xin* 心 (heart) and the sound of *Si*.' (賴也。從心寺聲。)

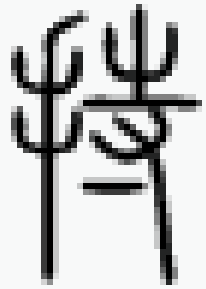


Judgement

Criteria



3.2 The character Shi 恃, Chi 持 and Dai 待

The image shows the seal script of the Chinese character 'Chi' (持). It is a stylized, vertical form with a central vertical stroke and several horizontal and curved strokes branching off, characteristic of ancient Chinese calligraphy.

Chi 持 (hold)

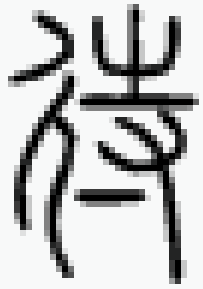


Criteria

Shuowen said, 'the character *Chi* 持 means **holding**. It composed by character *Shou* 手 (hand) and the sound of *Si*.' (握也。從手寺聲。)



3.2 The character Shi 恃, Chi 持 and Dai 待



Dai 待 (wait)

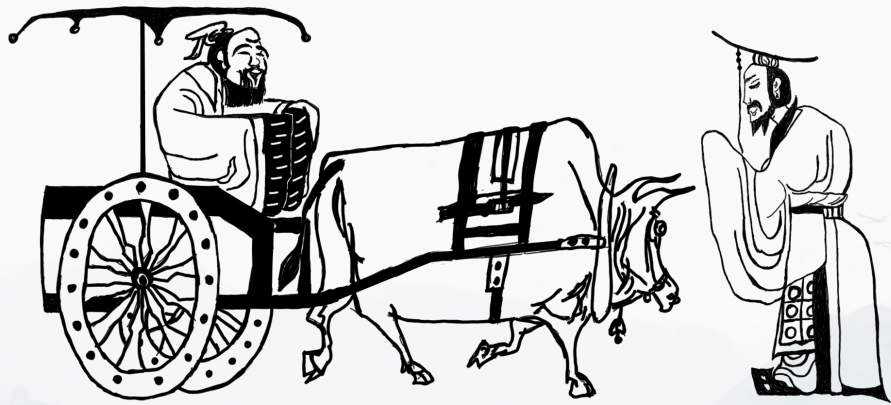
Shuowen said, ‘the character *Dai* 待 means **waiting**. It composed by character *Chi* 彳 (walk) and the sound of *Si*.’
(俟也。從彳寺聲。)



Criteria

Stop

3.2 The character Shi 恃, Chi 持 and Dai 待



He did not worry for not being know.

不患人之不己知



04 Conclusion

4. Conclusion



- **Most phonograms of same pronunciation have the same meanings**
(Most phonetic symbols have close meanings.)
- Seventeen ancient sound 古音十七部 of Duan Yucai



Thank you for listening.