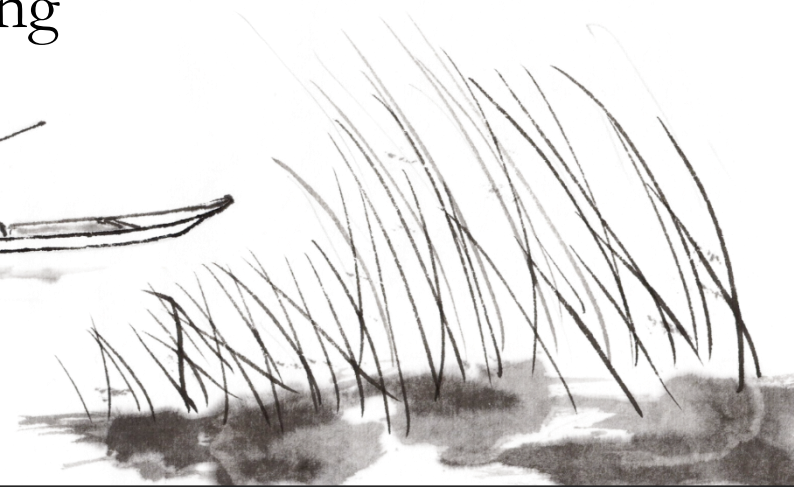


The Evolution of Phonetic Notation in Ancient China until the Thirty-six Alphabets (三十六字母)

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- Student number: 1804447
- Date: 2 June 2021





Contents



- The phonetic notation in ancient China before Fanqie (反切)
- The briefly introduction to Fanqie
- The "Thirty Alphabets" (三十字母) and the "Thirty-six Alphabets" (三十六字母)



■ Part1: The phonetic notation in ancient China before Fanqie (反切)

1、Phonogram (形聲字)



胥5.1(甲)



鎡55.3(甲)



𠄎844(甲)



甲615(甲)

居¹ — 居² — 居³ — 居⁴ — 居⁵ — 居⁶ — 居

西周 战国 战国 《说文》小篆 秦 汉 楷书

2、Phonetic notation with analogy (譬況註音法)

◆ Descriptive way to express pronunciation

◆ Very abstract and general

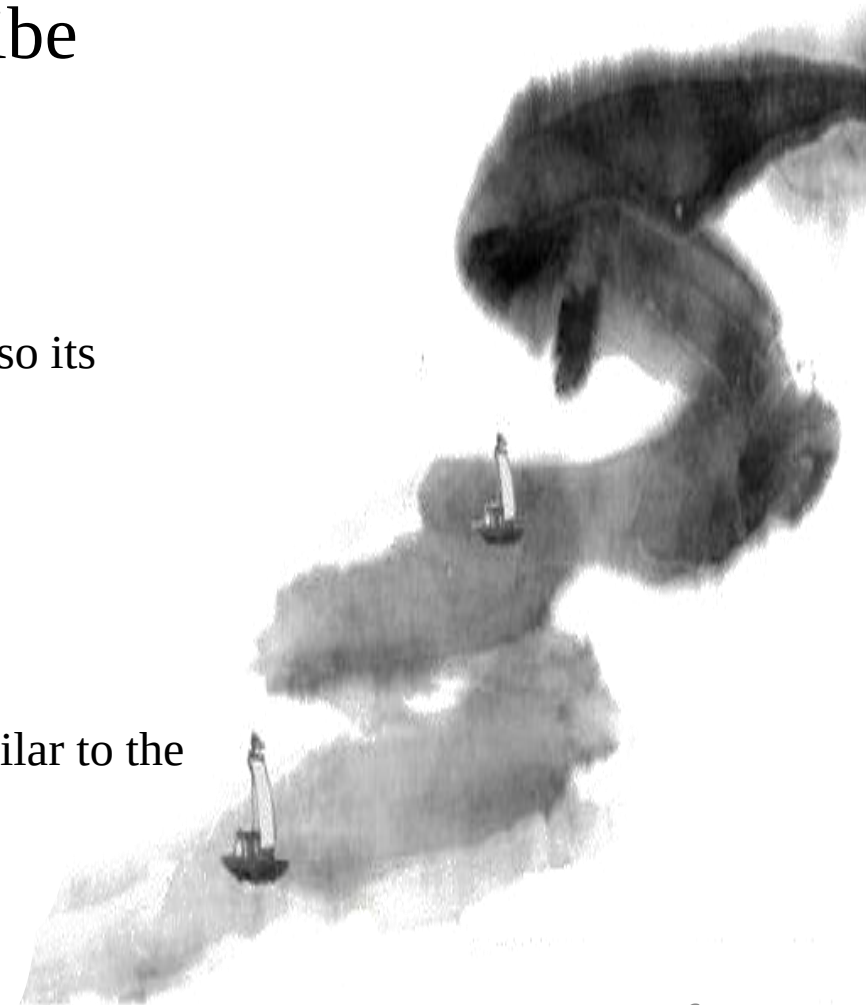
- “If the character Fa 伐 means aggress, Qi people said, you should read it in a long way; if the character Fa 伐 means be aggressed, Qi people said, you should read it in a short way.”

「伐人者為客，讀伐長言之，齊人語也；見伐者為主，讀伐短言之，齊人語也。」—— *The Gongyang commentary of Spring and Autumn Annals*



■ 3、Phonetic notation of similar pronunciation (讀若註音法)

- ◆ Find a word with similar pronunciation to describe the pronunciation
- ◆ More specific and also has great limitations
- “The character dang 漾, this word describes the feeling of water fluctuation, so its pronunciation was similar to the character dang 蕩”
「漾，水漾漾也，從水象聲讀若蕩」 —— *Shuowen Jiezi*
- “The character wei 媿 which means obedience, and its pronunciation was similar to the character mei 媚.
「媿，順也，從女尾聲，讀若媚。」 —— *Shuowen Jiezi*





■ Part2:The briefly introduction to Fanqie (反切)



Evolution

■ Recognize Pronunciation

Previous Phonetic Notation Methods → From the Whole Syllable



Fanqie (反切)

→ Divide the Syllable
into Smaller Units

Initial (聲母)

Final (韻母)

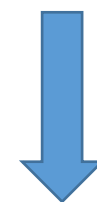
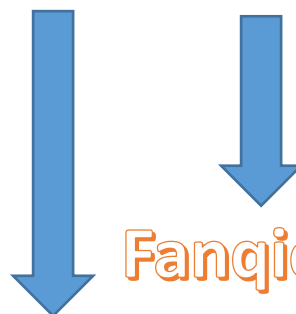
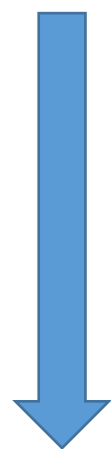
Tone (聲調)

■ Fanqie 反切



X — **A B** REVERSE 反

& X — **A B** CUT 切



Fanqie lower character (反切下字)

Fanqie upper character (反切上字)

the character to be phoneticized





Part3:The "Thirty Alphabets" (三十字母) and the "Thirty-six Alphabets" (三十六字母)

■ Shuangsheng 雙聲

X_1	—	A_1	B_1
X_2	—	A_2	B_2
X_3	—	A_3	B_3
X_4	—	A_4	B_4
X_5	—	A_5	B_5
X_6	—	A_6	B_6

Same Initial

Sanskrit alphabets (梵文字母)

Reference

A (字母)

"Thirty Alphabets" (三十字母)

"Thirty-six Alphabets" (三十六字母)

Take a word(A) to represent a group of disyllabic words($A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots$)



The Authors



Professor Luo
Changpei:

"Thirty Alphabets" : Created by Shou Wen

"Thirty-six Alphabets" : Created in Song Dynasty and under the pretext of Shou Wen

Professor Lin
Jingyi:

"Thirty Alphabets" : Created by the Sheli of the Tang Dynasty

"Thirty-six Alphabets" Created by Shou Wen



"Thirty Alphabets" (三十字母)

Labial sound (唇音)	不	芳	並	明	
Tongue sound (舌音)	端	透	定	泥	
	知	徹	澄	日	
Velar sound (牙音)	見	溪	群	來	疑
Dental sound (齒音)	精	清	從		
	審	穿	禪	照	
Laryngeal sound (喉音)	心	邪	曉		
	匣	喻	影		



"Thirty-six Alphabets" (三十六字母)

Labial sound (脣音)	幫	滂	並	明	
	非	敷	奉	微	
Tongue sound (舌音)	端	透	定	泥	
	知	徹	澄	娘	
Dental sound (齒音)	精	清	從	心	邪
	照	穿	牀	審	禪
Velar sound (牙音)	見	溪	群	疑	
Laryngeal sound (喉音)	影	曉	邪	喻	
Middle edge sound of tongue tip (半舌)	來				
Front of the tongue nasal-affricate sound (半齒)	日				



Diferences

"Thirty Alphabets" (三十字母)

不	芳	並	明	
端	透	定	泥	
知	徹	澄	日	
見	溪	群	來	疑
精	清	從		
審	穿	禪	照	
心	邪	曉		
匣	喻	影		

1

"Thirty-six Alphabets" (三十六字母)

幫	滂	並	明	
非	敷	奉	微	
端	透	定	泥	
知	徹	澄	娘	
精	清	從	心	邪
照	穿	牀	審	禪
見	溪	群	疑	
影	曉	邪	喻	
來				
日				

2

3

- The phonetic notation in ancient China before Fanqie (反切) : Phonogram、Phonetic notation with analogy and Phonetic notation of similar pronunciation
- The briefly **introduction** to Fanqie
- **The authors and differences** between the “Thirty Alphabets” and the “Thirty-six Alphabets”



Conclusion

