

**The comparison between most commonly used Chinese characters in  
“Shuowenjiezhizhu” and frequently used Chinese characters  
– the development of word property**

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**Abstract**

In the history of dictionary editing, the most commonly used Chinese characters are most likely be presented in two forms: one is commonly used words and children’s teaching materials, such as 《倉頡篇》、《急就篇》、《千字文》, which are mainly in the form of characters combination in order to make learners convenient to memorize and understand.

The other one is the meaning implied in all dictionaries. The traditional method of explanatory notes is to explain unknown word meanings with known ones and to explain rare word meanings with common ones. Therefore, explaining word meaning in dictionaries is probably characterized by contemporary commonly used words. In this way, it reaches the goal of being understood easily when explaining characters. The former is a dominant representation, and the later is implicative application. In the past dynasties of Chinese characters education, both of them equip educationists and learners to better understand Chinese characters.

This study, focusing on “the most commonly used Chinese characters”, analyses 《常用國字標準字體表》 and 《黃侃論學雜著》 edited by Ministry of Education and is combined with 《說文》 to study specifically the property of several common used words.

**Key Words**

Shuowenjiezhizhu, Minimum Vocabulary, Vocabulary Shift, Teaching of Chinese Characters