

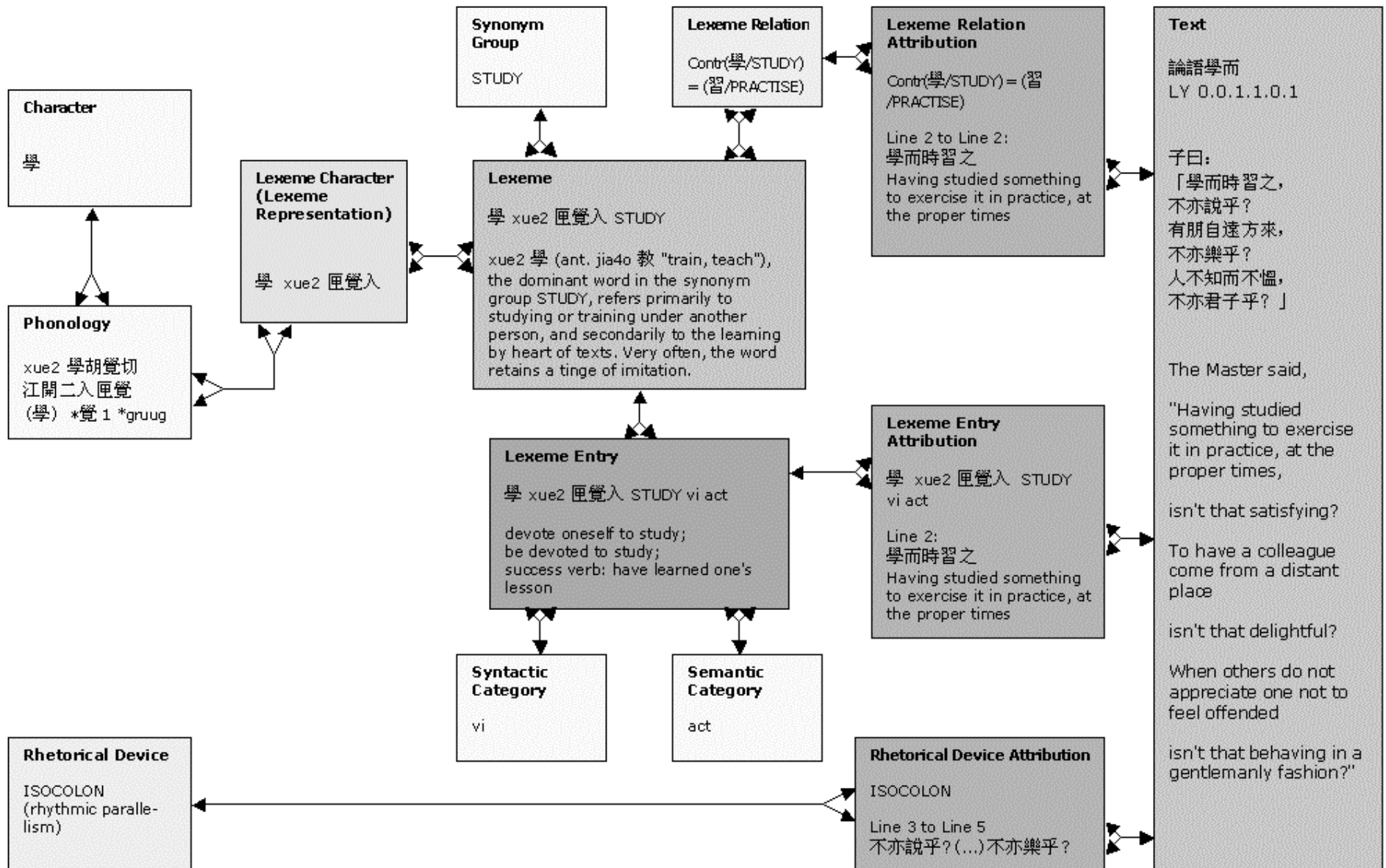
Thesaurus
Linguae Sericae
(TLS)

新編漢文典

**AN
HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE
ENCYCLOPAEDIA
OF CHINESE CONCEPTUAL
SCHEMES**

(A CONSTRUCTION SITE ON THE WEB)

Structure of the Theasaurus Linguae Sericae database



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HISTORICAL STAGES IN TLS

- **ORACLE BONES** (ca 1150-800 BC) Complete (partially revised) oracle bone transcriptions from Chenggongdaxue, Taiwan, with selected new translations are running. Ca. 800 bones are translated or annotated. The Bingbian collection with translation and annotation by K. Takashima will be made available as pict files in the near future, and will be made Web-readable as soon as feasible.
- **BRONZE INSCRIPTIONS** (ca 1150 onwards) 1560 transcriptions with German translation and annotation (18 vols.) by Ulrich Unger will be made available as pict files as soon as feasible.
- **PRE-BUDDHIST CLASSICAL CHINESE** from (800 BC to AD 200). (Working version with over 30 translated texts running.)
- **BUDDHIST COLLOQUIAL CHINESE** (ca AD 100- 1000). (450 pages of Zutangji translated and annotated by Christoph Anderl available in manuscript as of February 2001)
- **MODERN STANDARD PEKING CHINESE** (AD 1966-69) An audio synonym dictionary of the spoken language of Peking is under preparation. Digitalisation of a ca. 1500-hour recorded audio-dictionary by a Manchu speaker of Chinese is being completed. A collection of Xiangsheng is being digitalised and transcribed.

GENERAL FEATURES

- TLS explores the **conceptual schemes of pre-Buddhist Chinese** on the basis of over 8500 A4 pages of text with interlinear translations.
- TLS is a **sustained effort in philo-logical and philosophical fieldwork**, designed throughout to make the classical Chinese evidence strictly comparable to that of other cultures, and to make possible meaningful analytic primary-evidence-based disagreement among non-sinologists on classical Chinese concepts and words.
- TLS is compiled in the hope that careful philosophical reflection on Chinese texts might serve to **broaden the empirical basis for philosophical theories and generalisations on conceptual schemes**.
- TLS is based on the conviction that we should improve the clarity and bite of declarations of difference between conceptual schemes by enlarging the **basis of literally translated and analysed texts from widely (though never radically) different intellectual cultures**.
- The necessary "charitable" assumption that if we want to understand others we must count them right in most matters will not prevent TLS from looking for and exploring **deep conceptual contrasts** to the full.
- TLS seeks to make precise criteria of translation for classical Chinese, mainly through a detailed description in English of **systematic recurrent semantic relations between Chinese words, especially distinctive semantic features**.

THE ANALYSIS OF MODERN PEKING CHINESE

- TLS will analyse modern spoken Chinese on the basis of **recorded spontaneous speech and oral texts** and on the basis of a fine phonetic transcription of relevant parts of these, **NOT** only - and certainly not primarily - on the basis of written (even less published) text.
- TLS will in the first instance concentrate on **idiolects**, the language of one speaker, not on a variety of speakers of Peking Standard Chinese whose speech may differ widely. The choice of idiolects is inevitably arbitrary.
- The **example material** will in the first instance be in the form of recorded sentences from the following sources:
 - A. An **oral dictionary** provided by Tang Yunling and recorded by Oldrich Svarny of the Academy of Sciences in Prague.
 - B. Digitalised and transcribed recordings of xiangsheng (**comic dialogues**) of Hou Baolin and Ma Sanli from the sixties and seventies.
 - C. Modern Chinese will be studied in its pragmatic action context, and for this purpose extensive use will be made of **digitalised films** with speakers of Peking Chinese, including xiangsheng and other materials.

INNOVATIVE FEATURES OF THE PLANNED MODERN TLS

- NB: Until 2003, TLS has largely concentrated on pre-Buddhist Chinese.
- Modern Chinese will be analysed so as to make it pervasively comparable to earlier stages of the language: the same analytic framework will be applied to all periods.
- The repertoires of classical and modern Chinese synonyms have already been juxtaposed to allow for systematic historical comparison.
- Modern Chinese morphology and syntax will be analysed according to the same analytical principles.
- Foreign influences of all kinds on modern Chinese will be systematically recorded, Westernised grammar and lexis will be carefully analysed.
- For all multisyllabic words the internal morpho-syntactic structure and semantic composition will be defined.
- Modern Chinese will be treated systematically as a stress prominent language focussing on minimal pairs like **progress** versus **progress**. Two-peak words like **re-do** “do again” will also be systematically identified.

Morphology and Syntax in Modern Chinese

- Morphological and syntactic constituent structure will be analysed according to the same principles in TLS.
 - NB: This is possible because so much of Modern Chinese (MC) morphology is classical Chinese syntax.
 - This is desirable in order to show how much of the lexis and grammar of classical Chinese remains an integrated core part of MC.
- The meanings and syntactic functions of MC morphemes in MC word formation are registered and analysed exactly along the same principles as the meanings of words.
 - E.g. 校長 "school head" is taken as evidence that 校 can be adnominal and mean "school", (cf. 校園 "campus") and that 長 may function as a nominal head meaning "head (of an institution)" (cf. 院長 "head of the institute").
- Bound morphemes will be treated like (not as!) bound words
 - The complex questions of (degrees of) wordhood in MC are not allowed to get in the way of a homogeneous and strictly systematic analysis of semantics and constituent structure in MC.

LEVELS OF ANALYSIS FOR MODERN SPOKEN CHINESE

- The informant's spontaneous and **subjective reconstruction** of the meanings of words in her repertoire.
- The informant's **actual linguistic practice** (which exemplifies many features of which she is not subjectively aware).
- The **contrasts between the informant's reconstruction and the normative definitions** in the standard Chinese Chinese dictionaries and grammars of the time.
- The contrasts between her **practice** and that described in the standard Modern Chinese **dictionaries and grammars** of the time.
- The contrasts between the language of our **acoustic material** on the one hand, and the **published sources** on the other.
- The contrasts between the published Modern Standard Chinese **material** and the standard **description** of this language in the standard dictionaries.

MODERN PEKING CHINESE SOUND MATERIALS

- An estimated 1500 hours of tapes in the form of an audio dictionary of Modern Standard Peking Chinese by Tang Yunling, a Manchu speaker of Chinese recorded in 1966-69, covering all the material in Xiandai Hanyu pinyin cihui "VOCABULARY OF MODERN CHINESE" (1963), in Lu Zhiwei, Beijing hua danyinci cihui "MONOSYLLABIC VOCABULARY OF PEKING SPEECH" (1956) and in Zhang Xunru, Beijing hua qingsheng cihui QINGSHENG WORDS IN PEKING SPEECH (1957).
- The taped traditional Xiangsheng comic dialogue in Peking dialect) by Hou Baolin and Ma Sanli completely transcribed.
- Films with Peking speakers from the period after 1965 collected at Fondazione Cini in Venice, and Peking reality TV shows collected by the students of Paolo Santangelo in Napoli.

THE MODERN CHINESE INFORMANT: TANG YUNLING

- TLS's main informant is Madame Tang Yunling of Peking. Madame Tang is of Manchu origin and lives in Prague. She seems to have grown up in the tea-houses of Peking in the thirties, and in any case she is an advanced practitioner of the art of elaborative story-telling *shuo1 shu1* herself, specialising in knights' tales.
- In ca 1500 hours of tape Madame Tang explains and illustrates from her linguistic experience all the words in the 570-page word-list *Xiandai Hanyu Pinyin cihui* (1963) and the Beijing *hua danyinci cihui*. Her tapes date from 1966-69 and were made under the direction of Professor Oldrich Svarny, the distinguished Prague school phonologist of Chinese.
- These tapes are being digitalised as sound recordings, searchable by lexical entry headings, in Oslo.

Onomastics:

Names of persons, gods, and places

- TLS includes a dictionary of pre-Qin prosopography including slightly below 1000 biographies, by Ulrich Unger.
- TLS includes brief articles on the main rivers and mountains, with notes on cultural history where appropriate.
- TLS will include brief entries on Chinese gods and spirits.

Main New Features in TLS

- TLS is the first **synonym dictionary of classical Chinese** in any Western language. TLS focusses on distinctive semantic nuances.
- TLS is the first **interactive** dictionary of Chinese.
- TLS is the first dictionary which systematically organises the Chinese vocabulary in **taxonomic and mereonomic hierarchies** thus showing up whole conceptual schemes or cognitive systems. These are taken to circumscribe the changing **topology of Chinese mental space**.
- TLS is the first dictionary that systematically registers a range of **lexical relations** like antonym, converse, epithet etc.. TLS thus aims to define **conceptual space as a relational space**.
- TLS is the first dictionary of Chinese which incorporates detailed **syntactic analysis** of (over 600 distinct kinds of) syntactic usage. TLS thus enables us to make a systematic study of such basic phenomena as the **natural history of abstract nouns** in China.
- TLS is the first corpus-based dictionary which will record the history of **rhetorical devices** in texts and will thus enable us to study such intellectually crucial things as the **natural history of irony** in China.
- **All analytic categories and procedures of analysis in TLS are flexible** in the sense that they are continuously being revised and improved in the light of new observation and analysis.
- TLS proudly presents the first **dictionary of pre-Qin biography**, by Professor Ulrich Unger, Münster, of 973 persons, and his **Chinese German dictionary**.
- TLS proudly presents the first dictionary of 290 **mathematical terms**, by Karine Chemla, CNRS, Paris.

THREE GENERATIONS OF CHINESE DATABASES

- 1. RAW DATABASES 資料庫
- These make primary data searchable. TLS started like this.
- TYPICAL QUESTION: "Where does the word X occur?"
- 2. INFORMATION DATABASES 知識庫
- These are based on raw databases. They make information and received opinion retrievable and systematically inter-linked with primary data.
- TYPICAL QUESTION: "How was the word X traditionally interpreted, and what other words are there for X in Chinese?"
- 3. ANALYTIC DATABASES 分析庫
- These use information databases linked to raw databases, and on this basis systematically provide new analyses of the primary data made accessible by new technology. TLS is now an analytic database.
- TYPICAL QUESTION: "What are the changing semantic nuances of X, its syntactic features, and the system of recurrent semantic relations of X with its near synonyms in the texts analysed so far?"

THE PHILOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Our understanding of Chinese society and culture on its own terms is never going to be much more subtle than our understanding of **the semantic nuances in the written and spoken Chinese sources** our research is based on. (Does archaeology explain Chinese culture on its own terms? The point is debatable. In any case, TLS is primarily not only about things Chinese, but about Chinese conceptual schemes.
- TLS aims to explore these nuances in the spirit of **historical and critical philology**, and in the first instance TLS has to be primarily philologically orientated.
- TLS aims to place the pre-modern Chinese conceptual schemes it reconstructs **in a dynamic historical relation to modern conceptual developments**.
- TLS aims to place these pre-modern Chinese conceptual and cognitive schemes in a **systematic and dynamic analytic comparison** with other traditions, both classical and modern.

THE SOCIAL HISTORY PERSPECTIVE

- TLS was inspired from the start by the tradition of **conceptual history** as represented in the work of the social historian R. Koselleck, and as exemplified in the comprehensive, though Euro-centric
Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe [Basic historical concepts] 8 vols.
Historisches W^rterbuch der Philosophie [Historical dict. of philosophy] 12 vols
Historisches W^rterbuch der Rhetorik [Historical dict. of rhetoric] 6 vols,
Archiv f_r Begriffsgeschichte [Archive for conceptual hist.] 40 v. so far. (1955-))
- TLS sees the history of conceptualisations and of conceptual schemes as partly creating and defining **the evolving intellectual and social space in which historical agents think, plan, and operate.** (See the seminal R. Koselleck, Kritik und Krise (1959), tr. MIT Press 1988).
- TLS aims to provide a **bilingual, broad philological basis** for the investigation of such conceptual developments in China.
- The main historical focus of TLS is on the **operative common-use current vocabulary** which shaped general Chinese cultural and social practice over the last 3000 years, with special emphasis on **keywords** of the civilisation. (See R. Williams, Keywords (Fontana, 1985))

THE CONCEPTUAL ETHNOGRAPHY PERSPECTIVE

- TLS received much practical help from such **synonym handbooks** as
 - L. Doederlein, Lateinische Synonyme und Etymologien. 6 Bde (Leipzig: Vogel, 1826-36)
 - J.H.H. Schmidt, Handbuch der lateinischen und griechischen Synonymik (3 vols. Leipzig: Teubner, 1889)
- TLS aims for grammatically explicit and philologically **detailed semantic portraits of the meanings of keywords** in the spirit of Juri Apresjan and Igor A. Mel'cuk:
 - Juri Apresjan, Explanatory Dictionary of Russian Synonyms (1997ff in Russian),
 - Juri Apresjan, Systematic Lexicography (Oxford: OUP, 2001)
 - I.A. Mel'cuk and Alexander K. Zholkovsky, Explanatory Combinatorial Dictionary of Modern Russian, (in Russian) Vienna: Slawischer Almanach, 1984

TLS has profited from the courageous attempts at **contrastive conceptual ethnography** by Anna Wierzbicka:

- Semantics, Culture, and Cognition: universal human concepts in culture-specific configurations, OUP 1992
- Understanding Cultures Through Their Key Words, OUP 1997
- Emotions across Languages and Cultures, Cambridge Univ. Press 1999

THE COGNITIVE PERSPECTIVE

- In exploring the system of **SYNONYM GROUPS** and distinctions within synonym groups TLS aims to describe and systematically analyse the explicit and implicit **conceptual schemes** or **cognitive systems** of the language as revealed in the sources analysed.
- The members of each synonym group are taken to constitute the **EXPLICIT conceptual repertoire** of the language in this area.
- The distinctive semantic features for a synonym group constitute a generalisation concerning the **conceptual repertoire that is IMPLICIT in the prototypical reasons for the speakers'/writers' linguistic choice** of one of the members of the synonym group versus the choice of another.
- TLS aims to distinguish between the **current core conceptual repertoire** on the one hand, and the **specialised non-current terminological repertoire** on the other, assigning five levels of perceived currency to each lexical entry. Special attention is paid to the criteria for the use of the current core conceptual repertoire.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Many of the culturally important and historically influential Chinese conceptual schemes can only be studied meaningfully if **systematic attention is paid to the fast-growing archeological evidence concerning ancient Chinese material culture.**
- TLS aims to illustrate everything that may be illustrated with contemporary **ILLUSTRATIONS based - in the first instance - on archaeological material from pre-Buddhist times.** (Some later archaeological material is, however deemed relevant and included.)
- TLS aims to **link all discussion of material objects to standard archaeological LITERATURE** listed in the bibliography.
- TLS aims to illustrate also such **social activities** as "feasting", "acrobatics", and even "sitting", **wherever the relevant Chinese words can be associated with confidence to archaeological representations.**
- TLS will concentrate entirely on those aspects of archaeological finds **for which the contemporary ancient terminology is reasonably well-established** and included in TLS.

THE CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

- TLS assumes that all cognitive cultures are in some important sense **not exactly translatable or even commensurable**, and that this is what makes the close philological study of languages profoundly rewarding and necessary.
- Through SYNONYM GROUPS, TLS aims to **cultivate a sense for the specificities of Chinese cognitive culture by making this culture explicitly comparable** in every possible detail to that of other ancient civilisations like Greek, Roman, and Hebrew etc, and especially also with languages like Russian, which is the language on which the most detailed work on synonymy has been done by Juri Apresjan and his many associates.
- The medium of the TLS cross-cultural comparative analysis through SYNONYM GROUPS has to be a **maximally universal metalanguage**, preferably one which is based on
 - 1. detailed philological experience with a **variety of "classical" and other languages where synonymy relations have been studied in detail.**
 - 2. a systematic application of **logical, grammatical, and semantic analysis.**

THE INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

- TLS insists on looking upon matters Chinese from a Chinese perspective, and the working language of the project is for a large part Chinese. Ca. 700 Chinese books and articles on Chinese synonymy have been listed and assembled/photocopied so far, for systematic analysis. This represents a rich Chinese tradition of scholarship.
- Representative examples of Chinese contributions towards conceptual history include the following:
 - Wang Fengyang, "Dictionary of Classical Chinese Synonyms", 1053 pages, Changchun 1998
 - Huang Jingui, "Classified Contrastive Dictionary of Ancient Chinese Cultural Vocabulary" 1594 pages, Shanghai 1995
 - Yuan Hui, "Contrastive Dictionary of Ancient and Modern Chinese" 1561 pages, Taiyuan, 1994
 - Chen Bingzhao et al., Detailed Explanatory Dictionary of (Modern Chinese) Synonyms and Antonyms, 1000 pages, Changsha, 1996
 - Dong Danian, Classified Dictionary of Contemporary Chinese, 1334 pages, Shanghai 1998
 - Jiang Guanghui, Modern Chinese Current Use Contrastive Dictionary, 944 pages, Changchun, 1998

DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVES

- TLS aims to describe the long-term Chinese conceptual history in a **dynamic relation to modern developments**: it concentrates first on classical Chinese and will then relate this to Modern Chinese by a **rigidly homogeneous** analysis of both along the same principles .
- Speakers of Modern Chinese tend to have an active vocabulary of **thousands of phrases with classical Chinese lexis and grammar**. Early colloquial elements are even more prominent. TLS will register these continuities as **the current presence of the past** in Chinese.
- A large part of **modern Chinese morphology is explained by the principles of classical syntax**. The morphemes of many Modern Chinese words will be explained by reference to the relevant TLS lexeme entries for the classical Chinese words from which they derive.
- TLS will register **Buddhist, Mongol**, and more recent **westernising influences** on the formation of the core Modern Chinese vocabulary.
- TLS distinguishes between terminologised and general vocabulary, and it will **concentrate on the historical and contrastive analysis of CURRENT Chinese core vocabulary and key terminology**.

THE CURRENT STATE OF TLS

- TLS is designed not as an authoritative reference work but as a **digital construction site, a convenient platform for continuing discussion** on the development of Chinese over the last 3000 years.
- All distinctions and contrasts proposed in TLS aim to state **preliminary but EXPLICIT AND REFUTABLE working hypotheses** on Chinese historical grammar, concepts, and rhetoric.
- TLS is still at the initial stage of trying to build up a comprehensive and convenient **philological infrastructure** that will enable one to discuss an increasingly sensitive and analytical portrait of the the lexicon, the grammar, and the rhetoric of the Chinese language in its historical development over the last 3000 years.
- TLS is, and will try to remain, **exploratory and experimental**.
- The analysis of new primary sources leads to a **continuous adjustment of the original working hypotheses in the light of the accumulating new evidence**.
- TLS started out as a **PARTIALLY SYSTEMATISED PERSONAL COLLECTION OF RESEARCH NOTES** concerning analytical work in progress on the history of Chinese conceptual schemes. TLS still contains traces of its humble informal origins throughout, in spite of the very substantial contributions from many collaborators.

HISTORY OF TLS

- 1988 - Production, collection and revision of digitalised classical Chinese texts for personal use as a raw database. Without **Academia Sinica**, Taiwan, later the **CHANT database at Chinese University of Hong Kong** and other publicly available Internet resources TLS would have been quite inconceivable.
- 1993 - Production (with much enthusiastic student help) of **interlinear bilingual editions** of pre-Buddhist Chinese texts for personal use as a way of looking over the shoulders of and learning from the best translator-sinologists as an information database. The **University of Oslo** provides limited but crucial and sustained financial support for this digitilisation project over many years.
- 1994 - Compilation of a **comprehensive synonym dictionary** of classical Chinese, produced as a complex formatted word-processing document for the convenience of students and as a personal record as an analytic database.
- 1997 - Jens Østergaard Petersen (Copenhagen) begins to suggest and develop a **FileMaker database** to accommodate the increasing technological needs of the developing database.
- 1998 - TLS becomes a **cooperative project** between Peking University, the University of Oslo and a large number of other Universities.
- 1999-2000 TLS is supported by the Institute for Advanced Study, Oslo, and one year's funding at Norwegian professorial level is made available to J.Ø. Petersen.
- 2001 - The Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation finances the **Web-publication** of parts of TLS to be published in the Documentation Centre of the Sinological Institute, University of Heidelberg: a \$38 000 grant is made available and used in its entirety to support the programming work of J.Ø. Petersen.

THE USES OF TLS

- TLS is designed **for all those who may need to consult the main received ancient Chinese sources** including even those who neither know nor wish to learn Chinese.
- TLS enables the user of the present full version of the database to relate directly to the original Chinese texts through **translations** and a contrastive synonym **dictionary**.
- TLS provides **interlinear translations of over 30 ancient Chinese books** (many of which for copyright reasons have restrictions on public Internet access) with direct dictionary access on the same page.
- Interlinear bilingual **Buddhist colloquial** texts are ready and **modern texts** are in preparation and much more easy to provide than older texts.
- For all characters used in these texts, TLS provides **the contrastive meanings attributed to each** so far in TLS.
- For each meaning of a word TLS provides **a set of near-synonyms** for that word, and the criteria by which these are taken to be distinguished.
- For each group of classical Chinese synonyms, TLS **aims to provide a comparable set of modern Chinese synonyms** for comparison.
- For each meaning of a word TLS lists in detail **the syntactic functions which the word can have** in this given meaning, with ample examples, all translated.

TLS AS A TEACHING TOOL

- TLS is designed as an **interactive database** to enable beginning and advanced students to read classical Chinese texts with critical attention to the following features which are explained on the same page as the classical texts:
 - 1. Nuances of word meanings.
 - 2. Syntactic structures.
 - 3. Rhetorical devices.
 - 4. Standard translation for reference and critical evaluation.
- **Fields for free annotation** by users/students are available.

WORD MEANINGS AS SYSTEMS OF OPPOSITION

- The meanings of a word are explained in terms of its **system of contrasts with other words** of the language.
- The most important type of contrast is that of **systematic contrasts between near-synonyms within a given SYNONYM GROUP** or semantic field.
- These contrasts are first stated discursively, and then summarised for each synonym group in terms of a small set of immediately relevant **DISTINCTIVE SEMANTIC FEATURES**.
- An open set of (so far) eight **LEXICAL RELATIONS** like "antonym", "opposite", "epithet" are systematically registered (also between the SYNONYM GROUPS themselves).
- Wherever possible, the contrasting meanings of words are explained on the basis of **DIAGNOSTIC CONTEXTS** where the contrasting words co-occur in a way that clarifies their semantic contrast.

STRATEGIES OF CONTRASTIVE DEFINITION

- Wherever possible, definition is in terms of **RECURRENT RELEVANT DISTINCTIVE SEMANTIC FEATURES**, but such features being systematically insufficient to specify meaning they are always supplemented with informal discursive definitions.
- In the case of words for material objects, definition is, wherever possible, also ostensive through **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATIONS**.
- When a word is amenable **neither** to description in terms of contemporary archaeological illustration **nor** in terms of recurrent distinctive semantic features, definition and discrimination among words is - faute de mieux - by **mere juxtaposition of traditional informal discursive definitions**.
- The aim of contrastive definitions of the words in **SYNONYM GROUPS** is the reconstruction of changing **networks of recurrent regularities** in the semantic contrasts between Chinese words.
- Many such contrasts turn out **NOT to be recurrent or regular**.

A UNIFIED ACCOUNT OF GRAMMAR AND THE LEXICON

- TLS aims to provide a **systematically unified account of the lexicon and of grammar**, and also of rhetoric.
- This means that **the TLS dictionary is systematically grammatical in focus**, and that **the TLS grammar is systematically linked to the dictionary**.
- Any semantic or syntactic category in the TLS dictionary is taken to be significant only to the extent that it is systematically elucidated in the grammar in such a way that **the problems connected with assigning the relevant category in concrete cases are made explicit**.
- Any rule or category in the TLS dictionary is taken to be significant only to the extent that its illustration through translated examples is systematically accessible in the dictionary so that **its adequacy and its limitations can thus be tested on the translated texts in TLS**.

THE PHILOLOGICAL COMPONENTS OF TLS

- **Historical phonetics:** Jingdian shiwen 7th cent., Guangyun 1008 AD, reconstruction of Old Chinese by Pan Wuyun.
- **Graphic etymology:** notes by Qiu Xigui, Peking Univ. on all characters not well explained by B. Karlgren
- **Lexical analysis:** ca. 27 000 lexical entries
- **Example sentences:** Over 70 000 examples analysed
- **Syntactic analysis:** Over 600 function classes for words
- **Synonym groups:** Over 2200 groups hierarchically defined
- **Synonym distinctions:** 1078 groups contrastively analysed
- **Texts with interlinear translation:** Over 40 pre-Buddhist texts
- **Database of translated texts:** Over 80 000 paragraphs
- **Incorporated dictionaries:** B. Karlgren, Grammata Serica Recensa; E.G. Pulleyblank, Pronouncing Dictionary (1993)

SOME KEY CONCEPTS IN TLS

- 1. GRAPHS & STANDARD CHARACTERS Epigraphy
- 2. LEXEME CHARACTERS Phonology and Lexicology
- 3. LEXEMES Semantics
- 4. SYNONYM GROUPS Semantic System
- 5. DISTINCTIVE SEMANTIC FEATURES
- 6. LEXEME ENTRIES Lexicography
- 7. LEXEME RELATIONS Semantic (paradigmatic)
- 8. SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES Syntax
- 9. SEMANTIC CATEGORIES
- 10. RHETORICAL DEVICES Literary pragmatics
- 11. COMPLETE TEXTS (**NOT: EXAMPLE SNIPPETS!**)

GRAPHS AND CHARACTERS

- TLS aims to establish sets of **equivalence groups of graphs**.
 - There are about **85 000 such different graphs** or characters in the biggest dictionary to date.
 - The largest computer font of different graphs stood - in 2001 - at over **300 000 graphic variants of characters**.
- TLS aims to divide each equivalence group into a **standard character** on the one hand and its **graphic variants** on the other.
- With certain exceptions, the **variants are represented by the standard character** in the computer system so that the epigraphic details are unfocussed for the sake of retrievability.

PROBLEMS WITH CHARACTERS

- Sometimes, the division between standard character and variant graphs is arbitrary, but for computational reasons it is often practically necessary.
- Every time our digital font contains more than one graphic variants of one and the same standard character, this creates systematic problems for retrieval. One can live with some such problems, but not with many.

SEMANTICALLY SIGNIFICANT GRAPHIC VARIANTS

- In the context of **epigraphy all graphic variants are important**, and when we are dealing with epigraphic archeological texts, it becomes important to be able to search for graphic variants.
- An example will make this clear: there are **two clusters of graphs for the word di4 "God"** in the inscriptions of the 11th century BC.
- There is evidence that one cluster of graphs is used for this word when it refers to the **the deity**, the other is used only when the word is used to refer to a **sacrifice to that deity**. Thus the possible meanings of the word differs according to the graph used.

LEXEME CHARACTERS

- 1. a **standard character** associated to a set of graphic variants which is linked to
- 2. a standard **pronunciation** (sometimes with its set of variant readings, always with its set of reconstructed pronunciations (for **five stages** of the language: ca. 500 BC (according to Pan Wuyun), AD 601, AD 850, AD 1324, Modern Standard Chinese (according to E.G. Pulleyblank).
- There are ca. 16 000 such LEXEME CHARACTERS in TLS.

LEXEMES

- **LEXEMES** in the TLS system consist of the following:
 - 1. a **LEXEME CHARACTER** identifying a morpheme in the language, pronunciation, and graphs used for the morpheme
 - 2. a **SYNONYM GROUP** identifying a metalinguistically well-defined specified range of meanings of that morpheme.
- **LEXEMES** are **unspecified as to syntactic function**, and also with respect to general semantic features such as "-plural" or "-generic".
- **SYNONYM DISTINCTIONS** are established between **LEXEMES**, the assumption being that verbal, nominal, adverbial and adjectival forms of the same lexeme will share the essential distinctive semantic features which define the lexeme meaning in general.

SYNONYM GROUPS

- The vocabulary of classical Chinese is divided into 2075 **SYNONYM GROUPS** between which a limited set of systematic **LEXICAL RELATIONS** are registered.
- These **SYNONYM GROUPS** are organised in a **taxonomic (genus/species) hierarchy** on the one hand, and, wherever applicable, in a **mereonomic (part/whole) hierarchy**.
- The discursive definition of every **SYNONYM GROUP** is explicitly in terms of **the taxonomic hypernym or genus**, and preferably in terms of other synonym groups.
- These **definitions are designed as metalinguistic** thus aiming to facilitate **comparison between classical Chinese and other languages**. In particular, constant cross-reference is made to Carl D. Buck's Dictionary of Synonyms in the Main Indo-European Languages Chicago 1949.
- Any given **SYNONYM GROUP** in this system may have **multiple taxonomic hypernyms**, and occasionally it may also have **multiple mereonomic hypernyms**.

DEFINITION OF SYNONYM GROUPS

- SYNONYM GROUPS are established as metalinguistic categories that are held to make comparable a wide range of classical languages.
- SYNONYM GROUPS are defined as far as possible
- 1. **OBLIGATORILY** in terms of **taxonomic and/or mereonomic hypernyms (superordinates)**, and
- 2. **PREFERABLY** through the categories already established as **other SYNONYM GROUPS** elsewhere in the system.
- The definition of SYNONYM GROUPS has two often radically conflicting purposes:
 - 1. To describe the system of Chinese cognitive schemes with philological precision and **without the imposition of alien conceptual categories**.
 - 2. To make the Chinese system of cognitive schemes **comparable wherever possible** with pre-modern schemes such as that of Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, presence versus absence being a useful comparison.

DISTINCTIVE SEMANTIC FEATURES

- Wherever possible, distinctions among the members of a synonym group are in terms a limited but expandable set of **distinctive semantic features**. (Though rarely sufficient these remain useful.)
- This set of distinctive semantic features is developed for TLS **on the basis of the Chinese evidence**, NOT imposed on the basis of a general theory of semantics. They are supplemented by discursive definitions.
- The distinctive semantic features constitute a partial hypothesis concerning the kinds of **implicit conceptual schemes** which the Chinese must have had in order to make the relatively consistent choices they do make among the synonyms within their repertoire.
- The system of distinctive semantic features aims to **reconstruct philologically the cognitive system** which enabled the Chinese to make their relatively consistent distinctions between their synonyms.
- The distinctive semantic features rarely tell the whole story and **do not aim to be any more neat, precise or consistent than the often oscillating and overlapping usages they are designed to describe**.

RELEVANT DISTINCTIVE SEMANTIC FEATURES (RDSF)

- A DISTINCTIVE SEMANTIC FEATURE is taken to be relevant to a SYNONYM GROUP in TLS if it is taken to be **necessary to account for the distinctions made between words in that SYNONYM GROUP**. (Even the whole set is rarely taken to be sufficient.)
- RELEVANT DISTINCTIVE FEATURES are **often more abstract than the vocabulary of the language they describe**. The vocabulary of the distinctive features is **essentially metalinguistic** and NOT that of the language itself.
- The number of what are taken to be RELEVANT DISTINCTIVE FEATURES is **kept to a minimum**, the focus being on **recurrent RELEVANT DISTINCTIVE SEMANTIC FEATURES**.
- The range of solidly established RELEVANT DISTINCTIVE FEATURES constitutes a repertoire of **implicit concepts often in addition to the explicit words/concepts** in the Chinese conceptual repertoire, and thus provides important indirect evidence on a non-terminological dimension of abstract thought in China.

A CAUTIONARY NOTE

- No formalistic method is allowed, as a matter of principle, to get in the way of easily accessible, convenient and transparent description of semantic contrasts or of anything else in TLS.
- TLS is not designed as an exercise in formal semantics or logical analysis, but as an accessible and convenient digital vademecum for fellow students interested in the historical development of Chinese cognitive schemes, Chinese words, and Chinese grammatical structures.

LEXEME ENTRIES

- Syntactic function class and semantic features are assigned in the TLS system in the **LEXEME ENTRIES**, which thus come to consist of
- 1. A **LEXEME**, which specifies a LEXEME CHARACTER under a certain SYNONYM GROUP;
- 2. A **SYNTACTIC CATEGORY** which specifies whether the LEXEME ENTRY is of a noun, verb, or particle, or more specifically which of the large number of the closed set of SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES in TLS are characteristic of this LEXEME ENTRY.
- 3. **SEMANTIC FEATURES** which specify which of the open set of distinctive semantic features like "plural", "generic", "inchoative" the examples of this LEXEME ENTRY are stipulated characteristically to have.

LEXEME RELATIONS

- Whereas **SYNONYM GROUPS** use **metalinguistic terms and methods** to make the facts of Chinese accessible to systematic and detailed cross-cultural comparison, **LEXEME RELATIONS** explain the meanings of Chinese words in terms of **a set of their systematic semantic relations (like "antonymy") to each other.**
- It was found that **LEXEME RELATIONS**, such as that of antonymity or converseness, are most economically and usefully registered neither between **LEXEMES** themselves and nor between **LEXEME ENTRIES**, but **between classes of verbal, nominal or particle-like LEXEME ENTRIES.**
- Thus an **intransitive** verb "be pleased" will be assigned the same set of antonyms as the **transitive** verb "be pleased with" or an adverb etc.
- The advantages of economy of this are obvious, but so are the problems that will regularly arise, as when for example an antonym **only relates to the transitive** or **only to the intransitive** usage. We have found it convenient to solve this problem through annotation and definition of the lexeme relationships.

LEXEME RELATIONS LIST: I

- All LEXICAL RELATIONS are linked to example passages where they are "virulent", and they are thus exemplified along the same lines as LEXEME ENTRIES. LEXEME RELATIONS include:
- 1. current **antonyms** are specified wherever possible: it is found that the specific force of classical Chinese usages is very often most congenially expounded by focussing on available antonyms. (e.g. ai "grief" versus le "pleasure").
- 2. **neutralising contexts**, i.e. examples giving contexts where the special nuance of a word is neutralised because the word is used for variation in parallelism only and not its specific semantic nuance.
- 3. **contrastive contexts**, i.e. examples where the semantic contrasts between near-synonyms described in **TLS** come out particularly clearly in a given context (e.g. le "be delighted" versus yue "be pleased" in LY 1.1).

LEXEME RELATIONS LIST: 2

- 4. **oppositive contexts**, i.e. examples where non-antonyms are contrasted as widely different and opposite rather than antonyms. (e.g. "eat" and yin "drink")
- 5. the lexical relation between words X and Y where X is the standard **epithet** for Y (e.g. zhong chen loyal minister").
- 6. contexts in which X is the **converse** of Y (ci4 "give" versus sho4u "receive").
- 7. contexts where X is explicitly **defined** as Y (e.g. "humaneness is to love others")
- 8. examples where X is explicitly declared **inconsistent with** Y.
- 9. examples which show that X is typically conjoined or **associated** with Y in synonym compounds (peng you FRIEND/FRIEND> friends").

BASIC SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES IN TLS

- 2.1 VERBALS v -
- 2.2 NOMINALS n -
- 2.3 PARTICLES p -
- [3. SENTENCES S -]

STRUCTURAL FEATURES IN TLS

- **Xab** = abstract X(noun) e.g. **nab** "abstract noun"
- **Xc** = count X(noun) e.g. **nc** "count noun"
- **Xi** = intransitive X e.g. **vi** "intransitive verb"
- **Xm** = mass X(noun) e.g. **nm** "mass noun"
- **X0** = subjectless X e.g. **v0** "subjectless verb"
- **XP** = complex X e.g. **NP** "complex N"
- **Xpred** = predicative X e.g. **npred** "predicative noun"
- **Xproper** = proper X e.g. **n.proper** "proper name"
- **Xpro** = pro-form of X e.g. **npro** "pronoun"
- **Xt** = transitive X e.g. **vt** "transitive verb"
- **Xtt** = ditransitive X e.g. **vtt** "verb with 2 objects"

STRUCTURAL RELATIONS IN TLS

- 1. Lexicalised syntactic relations: modification
- **X ad Y** "X precedes and modifies Y"
- E. g. **vadN** "verb modifying a noun" e.g. 白 in 白馬

- **X - Y** "X precedes and is modified by Y"
- E.g. "verb preceding and being modified by a verb" e.g. 怒 in 怒甚

- **X postad Y** "X follows and modifies Y"
- E.g. **vpostadV** "particle following and modifying a sentence" e.g. 甚 in 怒甚

- **X post- Y** "X follows after and is modified by Y"
- E.g. **npro.post-V** "pronoun following and modified by a V" e.g. 者 in 殺人者

- 2. Unspecified lexicalised structural relations: concatenation
- **X + Y** "X precedes and is in construction with Y"
- E.g. **vt+N** "transitive verb in construction with a nominal (object)" e.g. 殺 in 殺人

- **X post Y** "X follows and is in construction with Y"
- E.g. **vpostV** "verb that follows and is in construction with a V" e.g. 死 in 殺死

SOME SIMPLE DERIVED CATEGORIES

- [adj =_{def} vadN or nadN or padN or VPadN etc]
- [adv =_{def} vadV or nadV or padV or VPadV etc]
- [suff =_{def} npostadN]
- [sentence final particle =_{def} ppostadS]
- [obj =_{def} NpostVt or VpostVt or VPpostVt etc]
- [prep(osition) =_{def} vt+N.postadV or vt+N.adV etc]
- [sentence connective =_{def} padS1.postS2 or ppostN.adV:postS, etc]

SOME BASIC SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES

2.1 VERBALS

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2.1.1 INTRANSITIVE VERBS | vi - |
| 2.1.2 TRANSITIVE VERBS | vt - |
| 2.1.3 DITRANSITIVE VERBS | vtt - |
| 2.1.4 SUBJECTLESS VERBS | vi0 -, vt0 -, vtt0 - |
| 2.1.5 DEVERBAL ADJECTIVES | vadN - |
| 2.1.6 DEVERBAL ADVERBS | vadV - |
| 2.1.7 POSTVERBAL VERBALS | vpostV - |
| 2.1.8 COMPLEX VERBALS | VP - |

2.2 NOMINALS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 2.2.1 COUNT NOUNS | nc - |
| 2.2.2 MASS NOUNS | nm - |
| 2.2.3 ABSTRACT NOUNS | nab - |
| 2.2.4 PRONOUNS | npro - |
| 2.2.5 DENOMINAL ADJECTIVES | nadN - |
| 2.2.6 DENOMINAL ADVERBS | nadV - |
| 2.2.7 COMPLEX NOMINALS | NP - |

2.3 PARTICLES

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| 2.3.1 ADNOMINAL PARTICLES | padN - |
| 2.3.2 ADSENTENTIAL PARTICLES | padS - |
| 2.3.3 ADVERBIAL PARTICLES | padV - |
| 2.3.4 POSTNOMINAL PARTICLES | ppostN - |
| 2.3.5 POSTSENTENTIAL PARTICLES | ppostS - |
| 2.3.6 POSTVERBAL PARTICLES | ppostV - |
| 2.3.7 COMBINATIONS OF PARTICLES | PP - |

ELABORATED SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES

EXAMPLE I:

TRANSITIVE VERBS

- 2.1.2.1 TRANSITIVE VERBS WITH NOMINAL OBJECTS **vt+N, short: vt**
- 2.1.2.2 TRANSITIVE VERBS WITH VERBAL OBJECTS **vt+V**
- 2.1.2.3 TRANSITIVE VERBS WITH SENTENTIAL OBJECTS **vt+S**
- 2.1.2.4 PREVERBAL TRANSITIVE VERBS **vt+N.adV**
- 2.1.2.5 POSTVERBAL TRANSITIVE VERBS **vt+N.postV**

ELABORATED SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES

EXAMPLE 2:

COMPLEX VERBALS

- 2.1.7.1 INTRANSITIVE COMPLEX VERBALS **V_{Pi}**
- 2.1.7.2 TRANSITIVE COMPLEX VERBALS **V_{Pt+N}**
- 2.1.7.3 DITRANSITIVE COMPLEX VERBALS **V_{Ptt+N1.+N2}**
- 2.1.7.4 ADNOMINAL COMPLEX VERBALS **V_{PadN}**
- 2.1.7.3 ADVERBIAL COMPLEX VERBALS **V_{PadV}**

SEMANTIC FEATURES IN TLS

EXAMPLES, ENGLISH AND CHINESE

- transitional (change): e.g. "turn from being a student into a professor"
- conative: e.g. "try to become a professor"
- inchoative: e.g. "be in the process of becoming a professor"
- ingressive: e.g. "become a professor"
- active: e.g. "serve as a professor"
- passive: e.g. "be appointed as a professor"
- medium: e.g. "be baffled"
- action: e.g. "pontification"
- agent: e.g. "pontificator"
- singular: e.g. 上帝 "the highest god"
- plural: e.g. 諸侯 the feudal lords
- general: e.g. 諸夏 "the various Xia"
- generic: e.g. 君子 "the gentleman"
- figurative: e.g. "ass" (NOT: "donkey")

TLS GRAMMAR: OUTLINE

- 1. SOUNDS
 - 1.1 RHYMES
 - 1.2 TONES
 - 1.3 INITIALS
- 2. WORDS
 - 2.1 VERBALS
 - 2.2 NOMINALS
 - 2.3 PARTICLES
- 3. SENTENCES
 - 3.1 SIMPLE SENTENCES
 - 3.2 COMPLEX SENTENCES
 - 3.3 THE PERIOD
- 4. RHETORIC
 - 4.1 FIGURES
 - 4.2 TROPES
 - 4.3 STYLE

RHETORICAL DEVICES

- TLS takes seriously the fact that our pre-Buddhist sources are literary compositions in which **the meanings of words are determined not only by considerations of grammar and lexicology, but by the repertoire of rhetorical devices that shapes word meaning.**
- TLS aims to analyse pre-Buddhist texts by systematically linking a **working repertoire of about one hundred current rhetorical devices** to passages that exemplify them.
- The rhetorical devices studied come from **two sources**:
 - 1. Traditional Chinese rhetoric.
 - 2. The Graeco-Roman and Renaissance Western rhetorical tradition.
- TLS assumes that like the Greeks **the Chinese used many devices for which they did not develop a fixed traditional terminology.**
- Parallelism is analytically and practically more elaborated in China, while tropes involving irony are more elaborated in Greece. Such **matters of rhetoric have a profound effect on cognitive culture in China** and in Greece. For example, TLS will aim to record all instances of irony in pre-Buddhist Chinese literature.

TLS BILINGUAL TEXTS: I

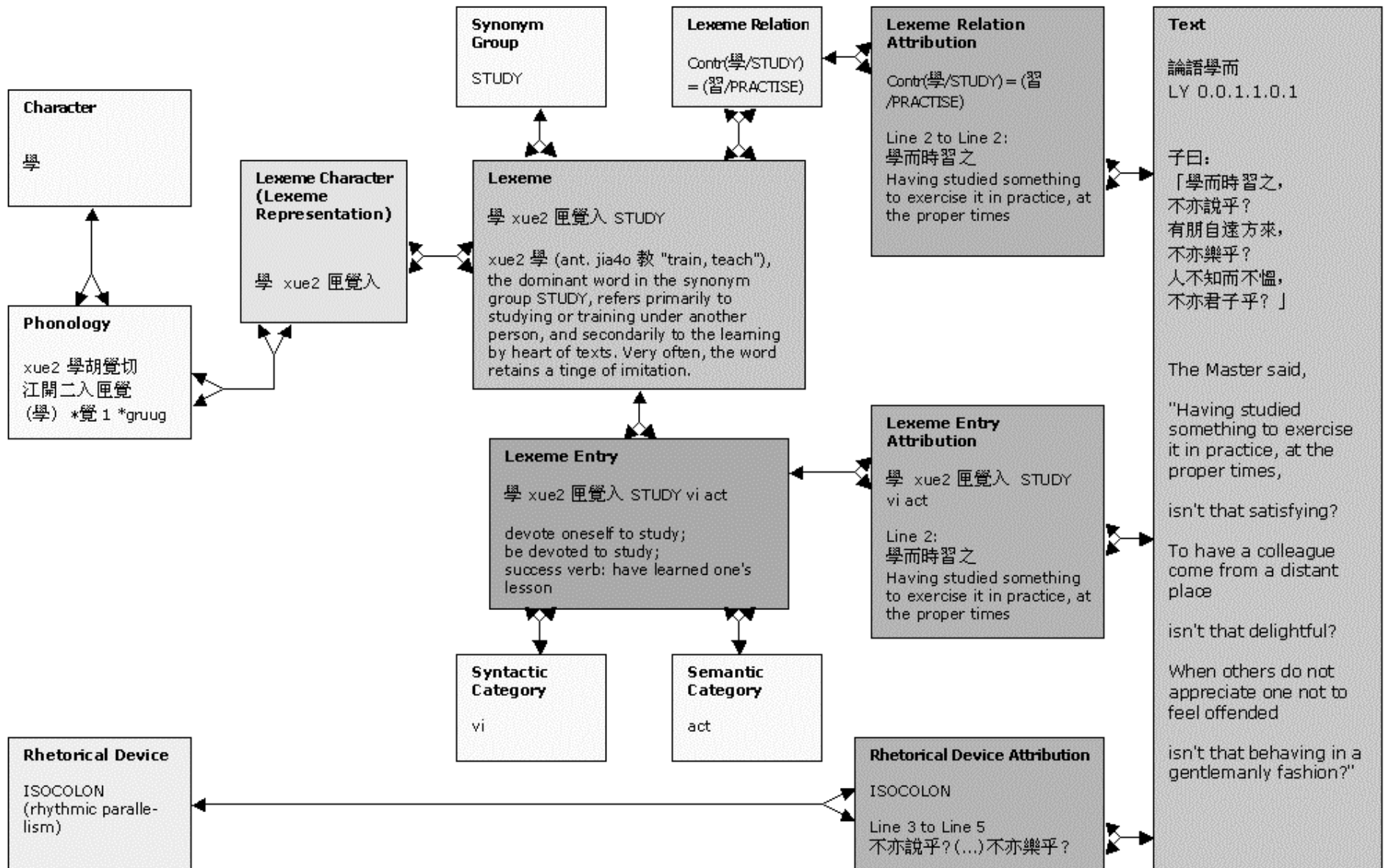
(For copyright reasons
not all are publicly available on the Web)

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| BAIHUTONG | 720 p. (complete) | INPUT: YU JING |
| • CHUCI | 178 p. (complete) | INPUT: TONE SANDØY |
| • GONGYANG/GULIANG | 247 p. (incomplete) | INPUT: CHRISTOPH ANDERL |
| • GUANZI | 844 p. (complete) | INPUT: TONE SANDØY/YU JING |
| • HANFEI | 850 p. (complete) | TR: CHRISTOPH HARBSMEIER |
| • HANSHIWAIZHUAN | 193 p. (complete) | INPUT: YU JING |
| • HUAINANZI 1,2,6,9,11 | 165 p. (complete) | INPUT: YU JING |
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| • LUNYU | 188 p. (complete) | TR: CHRISTOPH HARBSMEIER |
| • LUNHENG | TWO THIRDS | TRANSLATION: HU CHIRUI |
| • LYUSHICHUNQIU | 859 p. (complete) | INPUT: INGEBORG HARBSMEIER |
| • MENGZI | 217 p. (complete) | INPUT: SANDØY; TR. SEHNAL |
| • MOJING (ed GRAHAM) | 85 p. (complete) | INPUT: CHRISTOPH HARBSMEIER |
| • MOZI | 24 p. (excerpts) | INPUT: CHRISTOPH HARBSMEIER |

TLS BILINGUAL TEXTS: II

- NYUJIE, BY BAN ZHAO 30 p. (complete) INPUT: CHRISTOPH HARBSMEIER
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- ZHUANGZI 502 p. (complete) INPUT: TONE SANDØY
- ZUOZHUAN 1307 p. (complete) INPUT: WIEBKE DENECKE
- ORACLE BONE TEXTS ca 700 bones TR: KEIGHTLEY, TAKASHIMA, QIU XIGUI
- IN PREPARATION:
- XUNZI INGEBORG HARBSMEIER (half done)
- HEGUANZI MARNIX WELLS
- SHISHUO XINYU KAREL VAN DER LEEUW
- ZUTANGJI TR. CHRISTOPH ANDERL. 475 pages finished.

Structure of the Theasaurus Linguae Sericae database



THE SOURCES FOR TLS

- TLS focusses on **four stages** of the Chinese language, for which the sources differ greatly:
- **0. Pre-Classical Archaic Chinese**, which is studied on the basis of oracle bones (presented and analysed by Ken-ichi Takashima) and bronze inscriptions (presented and analysed by Ulrich Unger).
- **1. Pre-Buddhist Classical Chinese**, which is studied on the basis of the epigraphic and traditional written sources down to the second century A.D. which have remained influential throughout the ages.
- **2. Medieval Colloquial Chinese**, for which some of our most important sources are translations from the Sanskrit and other Buddhist colloquial writings. For this period it becomes crucial to take account of **Buddhist influence** on Chinese grammar and lexicon.
- **3. Modern Peking Chinese**, for which we do at last possess the kind of primary oral evidence which was lacking for the preceding stages of the language. For this period it becomes crucial to take account of the overwhelming **western influence** on Chinese grammar and lexicon, and to make use of the availability of oral/filmed evidence.

COLLABORATORS, CONTRIBUTORS and ADVISERS

TLS is still no more than a construction site, but it is being compiled in constant thoroughly enjoyable dialogue and collaboration with a large number of distinguished colleagues from China, and also from the US and from Europe. Naturally, only the editor can be held ultimately responsible for all that still is wrong with TLS, but if there is anything at all that is of value in it, I hope the gentle reader will assume that it derives from his coeditors and the following collaborators, contributors and visitors:

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