MANDARIN CHINESE PINYIN: PRONUNCIATION, ORTHOGRAPHY AND TONE

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ABSTRACT

Pinyin is essential and most fundamental knowledge for all serious learners of Mandarin Chinese. If students are learning Mandarin Chinese, no matter if they are beginners or advanced learners, they should be aware of paramount importance of Pinyin. Good knowledge in Pinyin can greatly help students express themselves more clearly; it can also help them in achieving better listening and reading comprehension. Before learning how to read, write, or pronounce Chinese characters, students must learn pinyin first. This study aims at highlighting the importance of Pinyin and its usage in Mandarin for any students learning Mandarin Chinese. The research work adopts descriptive research method. The work is divided into introduction, body and conclusion.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pinyin (spelled sounds) has vastly increased literacy throughout China and beyond; eased the classroom agonies of foreigners studying Mandarin Chinese; afforded the blind a way to read the language in Braille; facilitated the rapid entry of Chinese on computer keyboards and cell phones. "About one billion Chinese citizens have mastered pinyin, which plays an important role in both Chinese language education and international communication," said Wang Dengfeng, vice-chairman of the National Language Committee and director of language department of the Education Ministry. "Hanyu Pinyin not only belongs to China but also belongs to the world. It is now everywhere in our daily lives," Wang said, "Pinyin will continue playing an important role in the modernization of China." (Xinhua News, 2008).

It is to Pinyin that we owe now-ubiquitous spellings like Beijing, which supplanted the earlier Peking; Chongqing, which replaced Chungking; Mao Zedong instead of Mao Tse-tung; and thousands of others. The system was adopted by the International Organization for Standardization in 1982 and by the United Nations in 1986. Adopted by China in 1958, Pinyin was designed not to replace the tens of thousands of traditional characters with which Chinese is written, but as an orthographic pry bar to afford passage into the labyrinthine world of those characters (Margalit Fox, 2017).

Zhou Youguang, a 102-year old linguist has worked on the research and application of pinyin for almost half a century. He said the speed of the popularization of pinyin was amazing and pinyin was used not only in education but also industry and commerce. It used to be regarded only as a tool for learning characters in primary schools, but now it serves as a communication tool. It used to be the key to Chinese culture, but now it is a bridge linking China to the whole world. (Xinhua News, 2008). Zhou Youguang, known as the father of Pinyin for creating the system of Romanized Chinese writing that has become the international standard since its introduction some 60 years ago, died on Saturday in Beijing, Chinese state media reported. He was 111 (Margalit Fox, 2017). "I'm not the father of pinyin," Zhou said years later; "I'm the son of pinyin. It's [the result of] a long tradition from the later years of the Qing dynasty down to today. But we restudied the problem and revisited it and made it more perfect." (Branigan, Tania, 2008).
2. HISTORY OF CHINESE ROMANIZATION

In 1605, the Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci published Xizi Qiji (《西字奇蹟》; Xīzì Qíjī; "Miracle of Western Letters") in Beijing. (Sin, Kiong Wong, 2012). This was the first book to use the Roman alphabet to write the Chinese language. Twenty years later, another Jesuit in China, Nicolas Trigault, issued his Xi Ru Ermu Zi (《西儒耳目資》; Hsi Ju Erh-mu Tzu; "Aid to the Eyes and Ears of Western Literati") at Hangzhou. (Brockey, Liam Matthew, 2009). Neither book had much immediate impact on the way in which Chinese thought about their writing system, and the romanizations they described were intended more for Westerners than for the Chinese (Chan, Wing-tsit; Adler, Joseph, 2013).

Wade-Giles: The Wade–Giles system was produced by Thomas Wade in 1859, and further improved by Herbert Giles in the Chinese–English Dictionary of 1892. It was popular and used in English-language publications outside China until 1979 (Ao, Benjamin, 1997).

Sin Wenz: In the early 1930s, Communist Party of China leaders trained in Moscow introduced a phonetic alphabet using Roman letters which had been developed in the Soviet Oriental Institute of Leningrad and was originally intended to improve literacy in the Russian Far East (Norman, Jerry (1988). This Sin Wenz or "New Writing" was much more linguistically sophisticated than earlier alphabets, with the major exception that it did not indicate tones (Jensen, Lionel M.; Weston, Timothy B., 2007 & Chen, Ping, 1999). Over thirty journals soon appeared written in Sin Wenz, plus large numbers of translations, biographies (including Lincoln, Franklin, Edison, Ford, and Charlie Chaplin), some contemporary Chinese literature, and a spectrum of textbooks. In 1940, the movement reached an apex when Mao's Border Region Government declared that the Sin Wenz had the same legal status as traditional characters in government and public documents. Many educators and political leaders looked forward to the day when they would be universally accepted and completely replace characters. Opposition arose, however, because the system was less well adapted to writing regional languages, and therefore would require learning Mandarin. Sin Wenz fell into relative disuse during the following years (John DeFrancis, 1984).

Yale: In 1943, the U.S. military engaged Yale University to develop a romanization of Mandarin Chinese for its pilots flying over China. The resulting system is very close to pinyin, but doesn't use English letters in unfamiliar ways; for example, pinyin x is written as sy. Medial semivowels are written with y and w (instead of pinyin i and u), and apical vowels (syllabic consonants) with r or z. Accent marks are used to indicate tone.

3. MANDARIN PINYIN

Hanyu Pinyin was based on several existing systems: Gwoyeu Romatzyh of 1928, Latinxua Sin Wenz of 1931, and the diacritic markings from zhuyin (Rohsenow, John S. 1989). Pinyin, or Hányǔ Pīnyīn, is the official romanization system for Standard Chinese in mainland China, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan. It is often used to teach Standard Chinese, which is normally written using Chinese characters. The system includes four diacritics denoting tones. Pinyin without tone marks is used to spell Chinese names and words in languages written with the Latin alphabet, and also in certain computer input methods to enter Chinese characters.

The pinyin system was developed in the 1950s by many linguists, including Zhou Youguang, based on earlier forms of romanization of Chinese. The International Organization for

Pinyin or Pin Yin is a short for Hanyu Pinyin, which literally means “spelled sound” (phonetics). Pin means “spelling” and Yin means “sound”. Pinyin is a system of Romanization (phonemic notation and transcription to Roman script) for Mandarin Chinese. Pinyin was approved in 1958 and adopted in 1979 by the government in the People’s Republic of China. Since then, Pinyin has been accepted by the Government of Singapore, the Library of Congress, the American Library Association, and most international institutions as the preferred transcription system for Mandarin Chinese. In 1979 the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) adopted pinyin as the standard Romanization for modern Chinese.

Pinyin uses Roman letters to represent sounds in Mandarin Chinese. The way these letters represent sounds in Mandarin Chinese differs from how other languages that use the Roman alphabet represent sound. Pinyin uses the same letters as the English alphabet except for the letter v plus the addition of ū. All of the consonants represent basically the same sound that they have in English with some exceptions. For example, the sounds indicated in Pinyin by ‘b’ and ‘p’ are distinguished from each other by aspiration in a manner different from that of both English, which has voicing and aspiration, and of French, which has voicing alone. Other letters like ‘j’, ‘q’, ‘x’ or ‘zh’ indicate sounds that do not correspond to any exact sound in English. Some of the transcriptions in Pinyin such as ‘ang’, do not correspond to English pronunciation, either. Pinyin has also become a useful tool for entering Chinese language text into computers.

A draft was published on February 12, 1956. The first edition of Hanyu Pinyin was approved and adopted at the Fifth Session of the 1st National People’s Congress on February 11, 1958. It was then introduced to primary schools as a way to teach Standard Chinese pronunciation and used to improve the literacy rate among adults (Straits Times, 2008). The first edition of Pinyin was adopted at the Fifth Session of the First National People's Congress on Feb. 11, 1958. It was then introduced to primary schools, and used to improve the literacy rate among adults.

Beginning in the early 1980s, Western publications addressing Mainland China began using the Hanyu Pinyin romanization system instead of earlier romanization systems (M.E. Sharpe, 2002). In 2001, the PRC Government issued the National Common Language Law, providing a legal basis for applying pinyin (Straits Times, 2008). Pinyin superseded older romanization systems such as Wade–Giles (1859; modified 1892) and postal romanization, and replaced zhuyin as the method of Chinese phonetic instruction in mainland China. The ISO adopted pinyin as the standard romanization for modern Chinese in 1982 (ISO 7098:1982, superseded by ISO 7098:2015); the United Nations followed suit in 1986 (Margalit Fox, 2017).

Since 1958, pinyin has been actively used in adult education as well, making it easier for formerly illiterate people to continue with self-study after a short period of pinyin literacy instruction (R.F. Price, 2005).

3.1 PINYIN PRONUNCIATION

The pronunciation and spelling of Chinese words are generally given in terms of initials and finals, which represent the segmental phonemic portion of the language, rather than letter by letter. Initials are initial consonants, while finals are all possible combinations of medials (semivowels coming before the vowel), the nucleus vowel, and coda (final vowel or consonant).
Initial

The conventional order (excluding w and y), derived from the zhuyin system, is:

b p m f   d t n l   g k h j q x   zh ch sh r   z c s

The letters w and y are not included in the table of initials in the official pinyin system. They are an orthographic convention for the medials i, u and ü when no initial is present. When i, u, or ü are finals and no initial is present, they are spelled yi, wu, and yu, respectively.

Final

The following is a list of finals in Mandarin Chinese:

a ai ao an ang
o ou ong
e ei er en eng
i ia ie iu in iao ian ing iang iong
u ua ui uo un uai uan uang
ü üe ün üan

3.2 PINYIN ORTHOGRAPHY/SPELLING

General Rules in Mandarin Pinyin Writing

• A Word is the basic unit for spelling the Chinese language.
• Structures of two or three syllables that indicate a complete concept are written together. For example, 全班 quánbān (the whole class) and 对不起 duìbùqǐ (sorry).
• Separate words with more than 4 syllables can be separated into words, otherwise write all the syllables together. For example, 经济 危机 jīngjì wēijī (economic crisis) and 研究生院 yánjiūshēngyuàn (graduate school).
• Reduplicated monosyllabic words are written together, but reduplicated disyllabic words are separated. For example, 人人 rénrén (everybody) and 尝试 尝试 chángshì chángshì (give it a try).
• Surnames and given names (xingmíng/míngzi) are written separately. The first letters of surnames and the given names are capitalized. Pen names (bǐmíng) and nicknames (biémíng) are written according to the same principles.
• A personal name and the person’s professional title are separated.
• Personal and place names not in the Mandarin, are written either in the original language or transcribed in Roman letters. For example, Einstein (Ài'īnsītǎn) and London (Lúndūn).
• Foreign names transcribed in Mandarin are written according to the pronunciation of the corresponding characters. For example, 萨拉 sàlā (Sarah) and 色拉 sèlā (salad).
• (Monosyllabic) action verbs are written together with the suffixes zhe, le, guo.

Letters

Pinyin differs from other romanizations in several aspects, such as the following:
• Syllables starting with u are written as w in place of u (e.g., *uan is written as wan). Standalone u is written as wu.
• Syllables starting with i are written as y in place of i (e.g., *ian is written as yan). Standalone i is written as yi.
• Syllables starting with ü are written as yu in place of ü (e.g., *üe is written as yue).
• ü is written as u when there is no ambiguity (such as ju, qu, and xu), but written as ü when there are corresponding u syllables (such as lü and nü). In such situations where there are corresponding u syllables, it is often replaced with v on a computer, making it easier to type on a standard keyboard.
• When preceded by a consonant, iou, uei, and uen are simplified as iu, ui, and un (which do not represent the actual pronunciation).
• As in zhuyin, what are actually pronounced as buo, puo, muo, and fuo are given a separate representation: bo, po, mo, and fo.
• The apostrophe (’) is used before a syllable starting with a vowel (a, o, or e) in a multiple-syllable word when the syllable does not start the word (which is most commonly realized as [uə]), unless the syllable immediately follows a hyphen or other dash. This is done to remove ambiguity that could arise, as in Xi’an, which consists of the two syllables xi (西) an (安). Compared to such words as xian (先), (This ambiguity does not occur when tone marks are used: The two tone marks in "Xi’an" unambiguously show that the word consists of two syllables. However, even with tone marks, the city is usually spelled with an apostrophe as "Xi’an".)
• Eh alone is written as ē; elsewhere as e. Schwa is always written as e.
• zh, ch, and sh can be abbreviated as ẑ, ċ, and ʂ (z, c, s with a circumflex). However, the shorthands are rarely used due to difficulty of entering them on computers, and are confined mainly to Esperanto keyboard layouts. Early drafts and some published material used diacritic hooks below instead: /twitter/ (z/z), /twitter/ (s).
• ng has the uncommon shorthand of ŋ.
• Early drafts also contained the letter ʢ or ʩ, borrowed from the Cyrillic script, in place of later j.
• The letter v is unused (except in spelling foreign languages, languages of minority nationalities, and some dialects), despite a conscious effort to distribute letters more evenly than in Western languages. However, sometimes, for ease of typing into a computer, the v is used to replace a ü.

Words, capitalization, initialisms and punctuation

Although Chinese characters represent single syllables, Mandarin Chinese is a polysyllabic language. Spacing in pinyin is based on whole words, not single syllables. However, there are often ambiguities in partitioning a word. The Basic Rules of the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet Orthography (汉语拼音正词法基本规则；漢語拼音正詞法基本規則；Hànyǔ Pīnyīn Zhèngcífǎ Jīběn Guīzé) were put into effect in 1988 by the National Educational Commission (国家教育委员会; 國家教育委員會; Guójia Jiàoyù Wěiyuánhuì) and the National Language Commission (国家语言文字工作委员会; 國家語言文字工作委員會; Guójìa Yǔyán Wénzì Gōngzuò Wěiyuánhuì). These rules became a PRC standard in 1996 and were updated in 2012.

Monosyllabic and polysyllabic words

• Single meaning: Words with a single meaning, which are usually set up of two characters (sometimes one, seldom three), are written together and not capitalized: rén 人 (person); péngyou 朋友 (friend); qiāokēlì 巧克力 (chocolate)

- **Combined meaning (2 or 3 characters):** Same goes for words combined of two words to one meaning: hǎifēng 海风 (sea breeze); wèndá 问答 (question and answer); quánguó 全国 (nationwide); chángyòngcí 常用词 (common words)

- **Combined meaning (4 or more characters):** Words with four or more characters having one meaning are split up with their original meaning if possible: wúfènggāngguǎn 无缝钢管 (seamless steel-tube); huánjìngbǎohùguīhuà 环境保护规划 (environmental protection planning); gāoměngsuānjǐà 高锰酸钾 (potassium permanganate)

### Duplicated words

- **AA:** Duplicated characters (AA) are written together: rénrén (人人, everybody), niánnián (年年, every year)

- **ABAB:** Two characters duplicated (ABAB) are written separated: yánjiū yánjiū (研究研究, to study, to research), xuěbái xuěbái (雪白雪白, white as snow)

- **AABB:** Characters in the AABB schema are written together: láiláiwǎngwǎng 来来往往 (come and go), qiānqiānwànwàn 千千万万 (numerous)

### Affixes (词缀 cízhuì)

- **Prefixes (前缀 qiánzhuì):**
  - Words accompanied by prefixes such as fù 副 (vice), zǒng 总 (chief), fēi 非 (non-), fān 反 (anti-), chāo 超 (ultra-), lǎo 老 (old), ā 阿 (used before names to indicate familiarity), kě 可 (able), wú 无 (less) and bàn 半 (semi-) are written together.

- **Suffixes (后缀 hòuzhuì):**
  - Words accompanied by suffixes such as zi 子 (noun suffix), r 儿 (diminutive suffix), tou 头 (noun suffix), xìng 性 (-ness, -ity), zhě 者 (-er, -ist), yuán 员 (person), jiā 家 (-er, -ist), shǒu 手 (person skilled in a field), huà 化 (-ize) and men 们 (plural marker) are written together.

### Nouns and names (名词 míngcí)

- **Words of position are separated:** For example, mén wài 门外 (outdoor), and hé li 河里 (under the river). Exceptions are words traditionally connected. For example, tiānshang 天上 (in the sky or outerspace) and dìxia 地下 (on the ground).

- **Surnames are separated from the given names,** each capitalized. For example, Lǐ Huá 李华 and Zhāng Sān 张三. If the surname and/or given name consists of two syllables, it should be written as one. For example, Zhūgě Kǒngmíng 诸葛孔明.

- **Titles following the name are separated and are not capitalized.** For example, Wáng bùzhǎng 王部长 (Minister Wang) and Lǐ xiānsheng 李先生 (Mr. Li).

- **The forms of addressing people with suffixes such as Lǎo 老, Xiǎo 小, Dà 大 and Ā 阿 are separated and capitalized.** For example, Xiǎo Liú 小刘 ([young] Ms./Mr. Liu) and Lǎo Wú 老吴 ( [senior] Mr. Wu). Exceptions are: Kǒngzǐ 孔子 (Confucius), Bāogōng 包公 (Judge Bao), Xīshī 西施 (Xishi), among others.

### Verbs (动词 dòngcí)

- **Verbs and their suffixes -zhe 着, -le 了 or -guo 过 are written as one.** For example, kānzhe 看着 (seeing) and jìnxingguo 进行过 (have been implemented). Note the Le 了...
as it appears in the end of a sentence is separated. For example, Huǒchē dào le 火车到了 (The train [has] arrived).

- Verbs and their objects are separated. For example, kàn xìn 看信 (read a letter) and chī yú 吃鱼 (eat fish).
- If verbs and their complements are each monosyllabic, they are written together; if not, they are separated. For example, dǎsǐ 打死 (hit to death) and gǎixiě wéi 改写为 (to rewrite as).

Adjectives (形容词 xíngróngcí)
- A monosyllabic adjective and its reduplication are written as one. For example, mēngmēngliàng 矇矇亮 (dim) and liàngtángtáng 亮堂堂 (shining bright).
- Complements of size or degree such as xiē 些, yīxiē 一些, diǎnr 点儿 and yīdiǎnr 一点儿 are written separated. For example, dà xiē 大些 (a little bigger) and kuài yīdiǎnr 快一点儿 (a bit faster).

Pronouns (代词; 代詞; dàicí)
- Personal pronouns and interrogative pronouns are separated from other words.
- The demonstrative pronoun zhè 这 (this), nà 那 (that) and the question pronoun nǎ 哪 (which) are separated. For example, zhè rén 这人 (this person) and nǎ zhāng báozhǐ 哪张报纸 (which newspaper). Exception, if zhè, nà or nǎ are followed by diǎnr 点儿, bān 般, biān 边, shí 时, huìr 一会儿, lǐ 里, me 么 or the general classifier ge 个, they are written together. For example, nàlǐ 那里 (there) and zhège 这个 (this).

Numerals (数词 shùcí) and measure words (量词 liàngcí)
- Numbers and words like gè 各 (each), měi 每 (each), mǒu 某 (any), běn 本 (this), gāi 该 (that), wǒ 我 (my, our) and nǐ 你 (your) are separated from the measure words following them. For example, liàng ge rén 两个人 (two people) and měi nián 每年 (every year).
- Numbers up to 100 are written as single words. For example, sānshísān 三十三 (thirty-three). Above that, the hundreds, thousands, etc. are written as separate words. For example, jiǔyì qīwàn èrqiān sānbǎi wǔshíliù 九亿七万二千三百五十六 (nine hundred million, seventy-two thousand, three hundred fifty-six). Arabic numerals are kept as Arabic numerals. For example, 635 fēnjī 635 分机 (extension 635).
- The dì (第) of ordinal numerals is hyphenated: dì-yī 第一 (first), dì-356 第 356 (356th).
- Numbers representing month and day are hyphenated. For example, wǔ-sì 五四 (May fourth) and yìèr-jìu 一二九 (December ninth).
- Words of approximations such as duō 多, lái 来 and jǐ 几 are separated from numerals and measure words. For example, yībāi duō gè 一百多个 (around a hundred) and shí lái wàn gè 十来万个 (around a hundred thousand).
- Shíjǐ 十几 (more than ten) and jǐshí 几十 (tens) are written together. For example, shíjǐ gè rén 十几个人 (more than ten people) and jǐshí 几十根钢管 (tens of steel pipes).
- Approximations with numbers or units that are close together are hyphenated: sān-wǔ tiān 三五天 (three to five days) and qiān-bǎi cì 千百次 (thousands of times).
Punctuation

- The Chinese full stop (。) is changed to a western full stop (.).
- The hyphen is a half-width hyphen (-).
- Ellipsis can be changed from 6 dots (……) to 3 dots (…).
- The enumeration comma (、) is changed to a normal comma (,).
- All other punctuation marks are the same as the ones used in normal texts.

Capitalization

- The first letter of the first word in a sentence is capitalized.
- The first letter of each line in a poem is capitalized.
- The first letter of a proper noun is capitalized.
- If a proper noun is written together with a common noun to make a proper noun, it is capitalized.

The current specification of the orthographic rules is laid down in the National Standard GB/T 16159-2012 (Derk Zech, 2002).

3.3 PINYIN TONE

In Chinese it is always very important to pronounce characters and words with correct tone. Chinese is a tonal language; each Chinese character has a tone. One syllable, pronounced in different tones will usually mean different things. Each pinyin syllable in Chinese can have 5 possible ways to pronounce it by varying the tone (pitch). There are four tones and neutral tone (toneless) in Mandarin Chinese.

- The first tone (Flat or High Level Tone) is represented by a macron (ˉ) such as ā.
- The second tone (Rising or High-Rising Tone) is denoted by an acute accent (ˊ) such as á.
- The third tone (Falling-Rising or Low Tone) is marked by a caron/háček (ˇ) such as ă.
- The fourth tone (Falling or High-Falling Tone) is represented by a grave accent (ˋ) such as à.
- The fifth tone (Neutral Tone) is represented by a normal vowel without any accent mark such as “a”.

Rules for placing the tone mark

The tone mark should always be placed by the order—a, o, e, i, u, ü. Pinyin tone marks appear primarily above the nucleus of the syllable, for example as in kuài, where k is the initial, u the medial, a the nucleus, and i the coda. The exception is syllabic nasals like /m/, where the nucleus of the syllable is a consonant, the diacritic will be carried by a written dummy vowel.

When the nucleus is /a/ (written e or o), and there is both a medial and a coda, the nucleus may be dropped from writing. In this case, when the coda is a consonant n or ng, the only vowel left is the medial i, u, or ü, and so this takes the diacritic. However, when the coda is a vowel, it is the coda rather than the medial which takes the diacritic in the absence of a written nucleus. This occurs with syllables ending in -ui (from wei: (wèi → -uǐ) and in -iu (from you: yòu → -iǔ).


\textit{iù.} That is, in the absence of a written nucleus the finals have priority for receiving the tone marker, as long as they are vowels: if not, the medial takes the diacritic. As a general rule, you should always put tone marks over finals such as, a, o, e, i, u, ü; not over initials.

- The tone mark is placed over the vowel if there is only one vowel letter.
- The tone mark is placed over the vowel “a” if there is more than one vowel.
- The tone mark is placed over the vowel “o” or “e” if there is no “a”. The tone will be put over the second vowel.
- When the tone mark is place on i, the small dot is removed.

Worded differently,

- If there is an a, e, or o, it will take the tone mark; in the case of ao, the mark goes on the a.
- Otherwise, the vowels are -iu or -ui, in which case the second vowel takes the tone mark.
- If the tone is written over an i, the tittle above the i is omitted, as in yī.

\textbf{Tone marks}

The pinyin system also uses diacritics to mark the four tones of Mandarin. The diacritic is placed over the letter that represents the syllable nucleus, unless that letter is missing. For example, mā má mā mà ·ma

Before the advent of computers, many typewriter fonts did not contain vowels with macron or caron diacritics. Tones were thus represented by placing a tone number at the end of individual syllables. For example, tónɡ is written tong2. The number used for each tone is as the order listed above, except the neutral tone, which is either not numbered, or given the number 0 or 5. For example, ma1 ma2 ma3 ma4 ma ma0 ma5

\textbf{Sequences of Tone}

When we pronounce a sequence of tones, the tones will not always remain the same. The most common ones are as the following:

- The Chinese character, “一 yī” (one) is usually pronounced as 1st tone. However it will be pronounced with 2nd tone when directly preceding a 4th tone. Example: “一个” is pronounced as “yī gè”. It will be pronounced with 4th tone when directly preceding a 2nd tone or 3rd tone. Example: “一本” is pronounced as “yī běn”.
- The Chinese character, “不 bù” (not) is usually pronounced as 4th tone. However it will be pronounced with 2nd tone when directly preceding a 4th tone. Example: “不是 bù shì”.
- When a syllable that is usually pronounced with 3rd tone, will turn into 2nd tone when directly preceding another 3rd tone. This rule will apply for entire sequences of words! Example: “两本书” is pronounced as “liǎng běn shū” (two books)
4. CONCLUSION

Pinyin is useful. It helps us to learn Chinese characters. Pinyin has become a tool for many foreigners to learn Mandarin pronunciation, and is used to explain both the grammar and spoken Mandarin coupled with Chinese characters.

The government used all kinds of measures to popularize pinyin for schools, newspapers, and brand names, and standardize the usage of pinyin on radios, TV and in advertisements. The popularization of pinyin is a demonstration of the development of China. Now more international students are learning Mandarin and Chinese culture.

REFERENCES


