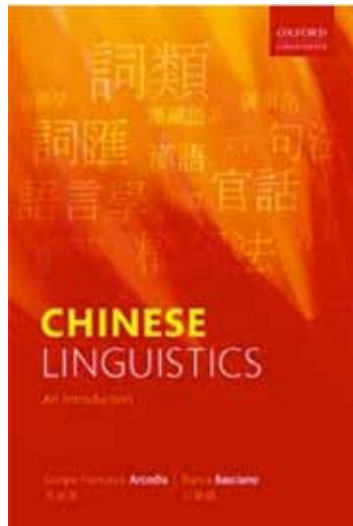


Chinese linguistics: An introduction (1.st ed.). Arcodia, G. F., & Basciano, B. (2021). Oxford University Press, 341 pages, ISBN: 978-0-19-884783-0.

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DOI: LINGUISTICS 10.30827/PORTALIN.VI38.24385



The book *Chinese Linguistics: An Introduction* has been recently published by Oxford University Press. The book is a functional text on Chinese languages, which a focus on Modern Standard Chinese. As stated in the first chapter, the aim of the book is to give a general presentation of the most important matters of Chinese linguistics research, both in and out of China. The book includes many current topics about the Chinese languages and their research, which are treated at length; for example what's Chinese linguistics, an overview of Sinitic languages, explanation about Chinese dialects, syntax, phonology, morphology and writing, etc. All of the aspects mentioned above are remarkably useful for novice researchers, language teachers and for foreign language teachers' trainings, given that those are topics that often provoke debate and incertitude. Arcodia and Basciano treat many common misconceptions that are easily solved and clearly explained in the book. They provide a wide range of references that can be of great use for novice scholars, professors and students, with a special regard to research in European languages for those readers who do not have the possibility or ability to read Chinese. All example sentences are given with Chinese characters,

pinyin with tones, glossing, word to word translation and final translation, which helps considerably to understand word to word relations, syntax and original meaning. Thanks to the very well-ordered and easy to use subject index, this book can also be used as a reference book where the user can rapidly find the answer to specific questions or doubts on Chinese linguistics.

Chapter 2 on Sinitic languages is particularly interesting. Authors concentrate on the concepts of ‘chinese’, ‘dialects’ and ‘Sinitic languages’ clarifying some fundamental notions; this chapter also includes a clear and detailed historical evolution of the language up to modern times, an easy to understand classification of what really the term ‘old chinese’ represent explaining the reasons and limitation of the partition method chosen here. Arcodia and Basciano conclude the chapter with a description of the classification of Sinitic languages.

A special mention goes to the chapter on historical and modern phonology. Arcodia and Basciano manage to concentrate an impressive amount of useful and detailed information on historical and modern phonology, including ancillary depictions of nine dialects. As clearly explained at the beginning of the book, this is a book written for neophytes, a highly needed perspective both for professors and students. Even considering the authors’ main aim, this book is interesting also for advanced learners of Chinese and scholars whom wish to have an overview of the subject matter, while outsiders will need to have an understanding of Chinese language and the situation of language in China and its surroundings.

The authors are experienced instructors, researchers and linguists, *Chinese Linguistics: An Introduction* answers to a need in a very important field which is the general introduction to Chinese languages creating an essential material that can be used as support material or classroom material in entry level university of Chinese language.