

On the Importance of “Literacy” from the Phenomenon of “Spread of Traditional Chinese Medicine to the West” – Also on how to solve the problem of “the difficulty in learning Chinese characters”

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During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, medical missionaries translated a large number of Chinese classics to the West, and the “spread of traditional Chinese medicine to the west” promoted the Western understanding of Chinese traditional medicine. The reason why missionaries could translate Chinese classics is that they had the ability to read and write classical Chinese. However, nowadays, we cannot cultivate foreigners with the ability to read and write classical Chinese through “teaching Chinese as a foreign language”. This paper finds that the cause of this problem is that the wrong view on writing in western linguistics — the writing is the symbol that records the language, which guides the “teaching of Chinese as a foreign language”. The article argues that the Western linguistic view of writing is wrong, and a correct view of writing should be established to guide the teaching of “Chinese characters” and “written Chinese” as a second writing, in this way, we can solve the problem of teaching “Chinese characters”. Only by attaching importance to the “literacy” of Chinese writing, especially the “literacy” of reading and writing classical Chinese, can we once again cultivate a large number of foreigners who can translate Chinese classics.