A Study on the Relationship Between Characters and Words in “Juyan Xin Jian”

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Abstract—This paper makes a detailed investigation on the characters used in “Juyan Xin Jian” with the help of database, and finds out that 138 characters in “Juyan Xin Jian” are different from the traditional characters talking involved in the function of the characters’ words-recording. These characters can be divided into two categories: 1. From the Han Dynasty to the present, the function of these characters is unchanged: in some cases, different characters are recorded differently at the beginning of the emergence, the Han Dynasty has mixed up as well as the present, in other cases, the same words were recorded at the beginning, this is still the case today. 2. From the Han Dynasty to the present, the function of the characters has changed, now these Chinese characters record the different words.

Keywords—“Juyan Xin Jian”; word correspondence; traditional standard characters

I. INTRODUCTION

“Juyan Xin Jian” is the Han Dynasty bamboo slips excavated from the ruins of Han Dynasty in Gansu cultural relic archaeologists during the period from 1972 to 1976. In the unearthed “Juyan Xin Jian”, the chronological slips is started from Shiyuan fifth year of emperor Zhao in the Western Han Dynasty (81 BC), ended with Yongchu fifth year of the emperor An in the Eastern Han Dynasty (111 AD). It is from the middle of the Western Han Dynasty to the early period of the Eastern Han Dynasty. According to statistics, the total number of characters in “Juyan Xin Jian” is 112219, and there are 2289 model of written characters. This paper makes a closed investigation on the characters used in “Juyan Xin Jian”, and hopes to find out the actual characters function used in the Han Dynasty.

In general, the standard degree of characters used in “Juyan Xin Jian” is not enough, and 138 characters are different from our traditional standard characters, the so-called traditional standard characters are based on the “Great Chinese Dictionary”, that is, the word “X” among “similar

with X”, “in common with X”, “later use as X” or “See X” in “the Great Chinese Dictionary” are identified as traditional standard characters. The concept of “upright character” is not used here, because from the perspective of inheritance, some of the characters that we have established as traditional standard characters are not upright characters, such as “咳” and “嗽”, “Shuowen Jiezi · Qian(咳) Part: “咳嗽” air forced through your throat, 咳 has the meaning related to ‘咳’, and the pronunciation related to ‘咳’. “Shuowen Jiezi · Kou(嗽) Part: “嗽”, baby smiles. 嗽 has the meaning related to ‘嗽’, and the pronunciation related to ‘嗽’. Shao Ying’s Shuwon Jiezi Qunjing Zhengzi, volume 17: “The characters(咳) has never been mix-used in the classics... Now it is written as “咳”, which follows the masses’ erroneous use”. The word of “cough” in the bamboo slips of the Eastern Han Dynasty was written as “嗽”, however, since “咳嗽” has been in use for a long time, this paper defines “咳嗽” as a traditional standard character, the character “咳嗽” is a “non-traditional standard character”. In bamboo slips, the character “咳嗽” is established as the standard character instead of “咳嗽”. Such as “咳” and “嗽”, according to “Shuowen Jiezi”, the former refers to “The confession of the lawsuit”, the latter means “decline”, but both of them were mixed up for a long time. The situation of “咳” and “嗽”, “咳” and “嗽” is the same as this. Judging from the function of recording words in character pattern, these 162 character patterns can be divided into two categories: 1. From the Han Dynasty to the present, the function of the character has not changed, but the usage of the traditional standard character has changed; 2. All Chinese characters that recorded the same word record different words today.

II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANCIENT AND MODERN WORDS OF CHARACTERS’ RECORDING IS THE SAME

The relationship between words and characters is same that it is still considered to be different characters that record the same word. In the long history from the Han Dynasty to the present, the characters have not developed the function of recording other words. Depending on whether the same word was recorded at the beginning of its production, they can be divided into two subcategories: First, different words were recorded at the beginning of production, but in the era of “Juyan Xin Jian”, they have mixed up and Continue until now.
Such as “��, 井”, “皌, 彙”, “徳, 善”, “服, 懒”; “媳, 怨”; “徳, 強” in seven groups. The use cases are as follows:

凡直(值)二千◇。（EPT51.302）（It is worth two thousand totally）

◇直(值)卅，光直(值)三百。（EPT50.58）（It is worth thirty. It is worth three hundred totally.）

元指曰：上造适東邑將氏里，年二十有三（七）歲，姓梁氏。（EPT5.5）（Chong has the testimony as following: with the title of Shangzao, surnamed Liang, from Pangshi neighborhood of Anyi county of Hedong, is 27 years old.）

張博，史錦書曰：彌聞月中受刑博魚甘頌，三月中◇。（EPT20.11）（Zhang Bo, Shi Lin’s testimony is as follows: Dang received twenty fish from Xing Bo in the leap month, and in March◇）

◇信魚(德)伏地再拜。（EPT53.133）（Xinde, on the ground again kowtowed）

思德固可豹(無)報臣，臣之讐寧可處耶！（EPT59.9A）（If kindness is not returned, my official duty can be discarded rather.）

具移部吏、卒所受臘肉斤兩、人。（EPT22.202）（Non-subordinated files are sent about bacon’s weight per person received by the officials and soldiers）

煮雞 腊□ 尉 愿 取 一 行 。 三 老 來 過 , 希 欲 備 之。（EPT52.40）（The officer is willing to bring a boiled bacon of chicken. The county officials in charge of culture will come and preparation wish to be done for it.）

三點史民作妻家私鑄作薄小，不足法度。（EPT22.38A）（Cunning officials and common people who secretly mint coins which is thin and small. It’s illegal.）

今互（志）考□□□。（EPT51.452B）（Broken, the meaning cannot be referenced）

今長吏亦然，及鋤役所張長吏索錢（徵）者名，有無□之言。（EPT22.41）（It is known by the head of the officials about the name of officers and local tyrants who was in charge of the illegal minting coins, and the report should be given every season.）

賊殺吏民及強盜者，有能斬捕其渠率（帥），予購錢十萬。（EPT59.9A）（If the Huns enter the sea, the crimes will be awarded  the money of 100,000.）

黑帝（人）惟（右）□□。（EPT49.13A）（The head of the beacon tower should wear a headscarf, the criminals who have lifted the chains did not receive the income of their patrols.）

甲渠北守候吏索覦□□見罪死，今就戮吏（無）狀，罪法重疊身元，（EPT22.286）（Dang, as the responsible person of Jiaqiu fort takes off his hat and kowtows to death for unachievment since taking office, the crimes accumulated enough to be killed）

服與金號，相與◇。（EPT65.244）（Broken, the meaning cannot be referenced）

◇□甲渠河北塞□□□。（EPT50.134A）（Hebei Fortress of Jiaqiu fort needs to light two beacons, burning◇）

漢人入塞，大風，風及雨，其不□□□□。當□□□□，□□□□□□。《EPF16.16》（If the Huns enter the fortress on windy and rainy days, if the conditions for burning the beacon fires is not obtained, the documents can be transferred whether by soldiers running or riding horses to
spread messages, with haste and urgency as the first consideration.)

正月乙亥人定七分不侵卒受万年卒盖。 (EPT52.83) (In the seventh stage Rending (at the dead of night) of the day of Yihai counted by Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches in the first lunar month, pawn Wu of Buqin received from pawn Gai of Wannian.)

湯自言病，令子男改名休， (EPT51.387) (A piece of coarse cloth is worth thirty money)

正月丙辰，赐爵关内侯，钱二百万。 (EPT51.384) (A pair of linen socks.)
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III. THE CHARACTERS WHICH RECORD THE DIFFERENT WORDS IN ANCIENT AND MODERN TIMES

The characters which record the different words in ancient and modern times, in fact, can be subdivided into two categories: One situation is in addition to “Jun Yan Xin Jian”. The relationship between the character and the word-recording are also found in other ancient literature. The other situation is the relationship between the character and the word-recording not seen in the literature handled from the ancient time. The first kind such as “俞: 愈”; “辟: 避”; “种: 腫”; “承: 禮”; “宿: 督”; “俞: 愈”; “嫉: 黠”; “校: 嫌”; “更: 異”; “旨: 眾”; “反: 皷”; “烽: 旗”; “烽: 旗”; “烽: 旗”.

Additional note: The table lists the characters and their corresponding patterns in ancient and modern times. The patterns are slightly different from the characters in the paper, but the arrangement is consistent.

TABLE I. A LIST OF THE CHARACTERS WHICH RECORD THE SAME WORDS IN ANCIENT AND MODERN TIMES

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<tr>
<th>Traditional standard characters</th>
<th>Character Pattern of “Jun Yan Xin Jian”</th>
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2 In the front of the colon is the character pattern in the “Jun Yan Xin Jian”, followed by the traditional standard character, the rest is the same.

3 This is the only pair in the relationship of character and word-recording which was different in the ancient time but the same today. In “Jun Yan Xin Jian”, “縕” is “縕” and “縕” is “縕”; today they are all written as “縕”.

4 In this paper, in order to save space, there may be more than one example word in one sentence, so the order of example sentences arrangement is slightly different from that of characters in the paper, but it is limited to the same category.
（头）寒 热， 饮 药 五 齐（剂）, 不
doses of medicine, but was not cured.

收到一百文 Guis (deep circular vessel with two or four handles, used as a container for grain), thousand元.

头痛， 感 冷 热， 饮 药 五 齐（剂）， 不
doses of medicine, but was not cured.

两石的米价是二百二十文。

处理官员和百姓互相贿赂的案件时，由县令到将军奏书，曰：奸黠吏民作使宾客私铸作钱薄小，

卖牛黄特齿八岁， 稷 二 七 石 予 彭 (雇) 就 (僦) 直 (值)。

马牛之 (柴) 少十石， EPT57.108B (There was ten dan of horse and cow dung less.)

慎出入， 造 默 (饲) 人喜。 EPT48.14B (Be
careful when you come in or out, watching the incoming man from afar.)

杀戮吏民及强盗者， 有能斩捕渠率 (帅)， 予购钱十万。

《文选》Fritillaria, three
doses of medicine, but was not cured.

《文选》Fritillaria, three
doses of medicine, but was not cured.

○ 我们买牛革一， 贾 (价) 钱三百。

欲 (病) 寒热， 依 药 (剂)， 不.

EPF22.23 (If Huns) entering a fortress at night, a beacon

《文选》Fritillaria, three
doses of medicine, but was not cured.

同药二剂, 少 (愈)。

取三日后， 服药有减， 方有减。

― 三 月 乙 酉 蚤 (早) 食 入。

《文选》Fritillaria, three
doses of medicine, but was not cured.

得闻南方邑中起居， 心中 (欢) 喜。

得闻南方邑中起居， 心中 (欢) 喜。

There were thirty men who repaired the sheepfold, each person also brought a cone, a small ruler, a

细心出射， 造 默 (饲) 之喜。 EPT48.14B (Be
careful when you come in or out, watching the incoming man from afar.)

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doses of medicine, but was not cured.

同药二剂, 少 (愈)。

取三日后， 服药有减， 方有减。
“痛”，庚寅有瘳。”（EPT52.93）（A mono-layer linen Chinese jacket.）

第廿三候長孫（痛），庚寅有瘳。（EPT10.9）（The leader of the 23th sentry post ached and recovered in the day of Gengyin counted by Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches.）

安寳侯國男子劉宇……初亡時衣布單衣，組（粗）布，步行。（ESC.9.A）（Liu Shou, a man in the land of Anzhong Marquis … at the beginning of the escape, he wore a white mono-layer linen coarse clothes on foot.）

△皆留傷（道）失期，職事無（無）狀，罪當死。（EPT59.541）（They were all delayed and fail to complete their duties, they should die for their unachievement and crime.）

公衆居延廣地里卅二歲，姓孫氏。建武六年正月除為甲渠城北候長。（EPT22.355）（Sun Shi, with the title of Gongcheng in Guangdi Neighborhood of Juyan, is 32 years old. He was nominated as the leader of Chengbei sentry post of Jiaqu in the sixth year of the reign of Jianwu because he was able to read the beacon fire agreement and knew how to watch.）

三月戊辰（燧）始建國天凡（風）一年六月守御簿。（ESC.22）（The file of the weapon for defense in Dangxi beacon tower of Sanshijing in June of the first year of the reign of Shijianguo Tianfeng.）

五月戊（ السي）。（EPT53.144）（A pocket that holds five dan.）

收到十二日，門亭毋（苛）留。如律令。（EPT22.698B）（With 15 days of rest, the pass should be allowed in the gateway as the decree.）

鐵械（鑷）田以鐵器為本。（EPT52.15）（Iron farming tools are fundamental in the process of land reclamation.）

又到北部，為棄（棄）肉十斤，直（ 值）穀一石，石三千。（EPT22.13）（Then he went to Beibu (place name) and bought ten jin(weight unit) of meat for Ye (name of person) which was worth of a dan of grain. The price is three thousand per dan.）

收到，付受與校計，同月出入，毋（無）令繆（謬）。如律令。（EPT22.462A）（When the document arrived, the persons who were sent and accepted should proofread each other, the date written down should be the same without any mistakes. All should follow the decree.）

不收時行錢法渡（度），自政法罰。（EPT22.41）（If it is not consistent with the official money law prevailing on the market in the old time, the punishment will be implemented by law.）

十月辛酉将屯偏將軍張掖大尹遵、尹、騎司馬武行副咸（貳）事，試守徒丞、司徒□◇循下部大尉、官縣，承書從事下當用者如詔書。（EPF22.65A）（On the day of Xinyou counted by Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches in October, Jiangtun vice general Zun and Yin as well as the magistrate of a prefecture of Zhangye and military assistant officer Wu handled the affairs of their assistants. Shoutucheng (official name) and Situ(an officer in charge of the civilizing and land) as a rule handed down to the department chief lieutenant and the county official. Those who receive documents must follow the orders of the imperial edict）

又到北部，為棄肉十斤，直（值）穀一石，石三千。（EPF22.13）（Then he went to Beibu (place name) and bought ten jin(weight unit) of meat for Ye (name of person) which was worth of a dan of grain. The price is three thousand per dan.）
on the day of Wuxu counted by Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches in March of the third year of the reign of Ju She.

As a result of sweating, he was sick with chill and fever and had a headache. Today the uncomfort of the heart increased and the four limbs swelled. As a result of the disease, his right calf couldn’t be curled up and muscles swelled.

TABLE II. A LIST OF THE CHARACTERS WHICH RECORD THE DIFFERENT WORDS IN ANCIENT AND MODERN TIMES

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IV. CONCLUSION

In general, a slight difference between the characters used in Ju Yan Xin Jian and the characters used in Modern Times. There are 2,289 separate characters in Juyan Xin Jian. Among them, 138 are different from traditional standard characters, accounting for about 6 percent. Most of the different situations have a context to follow, such as the form is connected with adding or changing the pictograph part or having a similar overall outline; or pronouncing is the same or similar. In these 138 words, 90 characters are also found to record the same word in other handed down literature, only 34 characters are not found to record the same word in handed down literature, another 14 characters more have never showed in handed down literature. In all these 48 characters account for 2% of the total characters in “Juyan Xin Jian", if the frequency of characters is taken into consideration, this proportion will decrease more. From Han Dynasty to the present day, Chinese characters have spanned nearly two thousand years, and the consistency in using them is as high as 98%. It can be seen that the consistency and continuity of characters used in Chinese. In addition, since the content of this study is limited to "Juyan Xin Jian", most of its contents are written records of the northwest frontier fortress, the cultural level of some writers is not too high, in addition, the reasons for unearthed document stump and Vagueness of...
handwriting, therefore, some glyph with only solitary evidence cannot rule out the wrong handwriting or the possibility of interpretation of the bamboo slips. This consistency may be more evident if we expand the scope of the study, we will identify with other unearthed documents of the same age.

REFERENCES


