中国語発音12講
12 Lessons for Chinese Pronunciation

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Abstract

This report is a draft paper for a textbook which aims at mastering Chinese pronunciation in the shortest time and most effectively. Learning Chinese pronunciation itself is considered to be the first step in the study of basic Chinese. Most Chinese textbooks for beginners, however, do not devote enough pages to explaining pronunciation. Without concentrating on strengthening the basics of pronunciation, their methods seem to cover this subject along with the learning of grammar and vocabulary. However, when we read books, especially literary works, we somehow pronounce words mentally. Therefore, as an essential part of his scholarly discipline, the present writer has been rigorously trained to pronounce Chinese properly whenever he studied Chinese books regardless of their age and genre. Taking that experience into consideration, it has been a regret to see our students have great difficulty correcting their pronunciation. Once we allow them to fail in acquiring the correct forms at the beginners' stage, it is more difficult at later stages. Presented here as a solution to this problem is a textbook consisting of twelve lessons that are intended to be taught during one semester period, one lesson a week, with special emphasis on pronunciation. To be the most effective, this textbook should not be used separately from, but together with, the regular classroom instruction.