

Research Review of the Script Reform in the Late Qing Dynasty and the Early Republic of China

Xiaodan Liu

*School of Humanities, Yangtze Normal University, Chongqing, China
liuyajun@sx.chinamobile.com*

Abstract. The Chinese character reform movement used to be an important study in language and writing work. As modern Chinese language, literature, and history disciplines continue to develop, the research on character reform is also deepening continuously. This paper explores the research on the Chinese character reform in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China in the modern era. It conducts a literature review of this reform from multiple aspects, including its purpose, reform directions and methods, specific practices, and impacts. From a theoretical perspective, by applying the induction method, comparison method, and citation method, and integrating other humanities and social sciences such as history, a total of 20 articles, including those from Peking University Core Journals and CSSCI, indexed in CNKI, are summarized. It is found that the relevant academic research in this area can be summarized into three major aspects: research on the purpose of the Chinese character reform movement from the late Qing Dynasty to the early Republic of China, research on its reform direction and methods, and research on the influence it had in practice. A brief discussion is also provided on the research findings in these aspects.

Keywords: Late Qing Dynasty and the Early Republic of China, Chinese Character Reform, Movement for Articulatory Phonetic Symbols

1. Introduction

Chinese character reform refers to a complete transformation of the system. Narrowly defined, Chinese character reform generally refers to the Romanization of Chinese phonetics. Broadly defined, Chinese character reform also includes the simplification and standardization of Chinese characters, aiming to adapt to the fine-tuning of the development of the Chinese language [1]. The late Qing Dynasty to the early Republic of China was a special period in modern Chinese history. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that during this time, China faced unprecedented colonial invasions. In foreign wars, it wasn't just a local fight against the invaders; instead, it was a heroic resistance against the looming threat of national annihilation. Moreover, there were substantial changes in the national governance model. It was no longer a simple replacement of dynasties in the feudal era, but rather China's first comprehensive transformation from a "dynastic state" to a "sovereign state". Therefore, Chinese character reform in the late Qing Dynasty and early Republic of China not only

reflected the concern of the society at that time about language and writing issues, but also embodied the era's demands for national salvation and enlightenment.

In recent years, academic research on Chinese character reform during this period has continued to advance, yielding preliminary results across multiple dimensions. For instance, from the perspective of social communication, Jiao Wei and Wang Jinping have noted that character reform was an urgent necessity for advancing literacy popularization and modern education development [2,3]. Gao Tianru, on the other hand, argued that the reform movements of the late Qing Dynasty and early Republican era laid the ideological groundwork for the subsequent Latinization of Chinese characters [4]. Meanwhile, Gao Yu, examining the transformation of cultural concepts, pointed out that these movements propelled the evolution of linguistic ideas during the May Fourth Period [5].

This article will briefly discuss the research findings on the character reform during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China, and propose new research directions for the relevant research methodologies.

2. Method

The author searched three databases—CNKI, Wanfang Database, and Google Scholar—using keywords such as "Chinese character reform" and "late Qing Dynasty and early Republic of China," yielding 1,686 research papers. These papers were then filtered by the research focus of "modern Chinese history," resulting in 156 articles. Using relatively authoritative core journals as the criterion for extracting viewpoints, 22 articles were selected, excluding those that solely study figures promoting Chinese character reform, those focusing only on specific minor phenomena, and those published in non-authoritative journals with low academic quality.

3. The purpose of the Chinese character reform movement

Due to the particularity of historical conditions, the purpose of the script reform in the late Qing Dynasty and early Republic of China was basically to solve the historical and social problems arising in the historical context; therefore, the academic circle has carried out a meticulous study on the historical background and social motives of Chinese character reform.

3.1. From the historical background

From oracle bone inscriptions to the small seal script of the Qin Dynasty, and then to the official, regular, cursive, and scripts that evolved into calligraphic art, every transformation of Chinese characters has been closely linked to the advancement of historical processes and the development of social productive forces.

Currently, the academic community has carried out relatively comprehensive research on the historical background and social impetus of the Chinese character reform during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China, and has reached a relatively unified consensus.

For instance, in terms of the historical backdrop, the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China marked a period of great upheaval in China. The country faced unprecedented invasions from foreign imperialist powers, and the national crisis was extremely grave.

Therefore, the following three main factors have had a profound influence on the Chinese character reform.

First, there was the impact of Western language and cultural concepts. The introduction of Western languages and the spread of Western linguistic theories prompted Chinese intellectuals to

reflect on the complexity of traditional Chinese characters and how they hindered the popularization of education and the dissemination of knowledge. As an international auxiliary language, Esperanto, with its simplicity and ease of learning, attracted some intellectuals. They attempted to introduce Esperanto to compensate for the shortcomings of Chinese characters [2,3].

The second is the influence of the nationalist trend of thought. The invasion of the Western powers continuously deepened the national crisis and promoted the rise of the nationalist trend of thought in the late Qing Dynasty. This period emphasized national unity and identity. As an important symbol of national identity, the reform of language and characters is regarded as an important means to enhance national cohesion. The important movements in the late Qing Dynasty—the movement for creating easy-to-pronounce characters and the trend of 'national language unification'—are all closely related to the trend of nationalism, reflecting the intellectuals' pursuit of national unity and national identity [6]. Under the background of national crises, intellectuals hope to enhance the nation's cultural self-strengthening awareness through the reform of language and characters. The Esperanto movement is regarded, to a certain extent, as a means of saving the nation through culture, hoping to enhance the country's cultural competitiveness through the unification and simplification of language [2]. The promotion of Mandarin and the discussion of Chinese character reform are both closely related to the trend of nationalism [7]. The development of the literary revolution during this period is associated with the urgent need to pursue national prosperity and strength and achieve national modernization and industrialization. For example, by adopting a simple literacy method - simplified characters - we can make up for the shortage in cultivating talents for a modern country, realize the secularization of knowledge, and achieve the effect of "enlightening the people's wisdom", thus changing the current situation of China [8]. In addition to Western influences, some scholars also believe that it was influenced by the "Unity of Speech and Writing" Movement during the Meiji period in Japan. In the last 20 years of the late Qing Dynasty, a language and writing reform movement was launched. Creating phonetic simple characters and advocating the vernacular both aimed at achieving the unity of speech and writing [9].

Thirdly, it is the promotion of educational reform. The educational reform in the late Qing Dynasty emphasized popular education, but the traditional Chinese character education methods were complicated and inefficient, making it difficult to meet the needs of popular education. Therefore, reform measures such as simplifying Chinese characters and promoting vernacular Chinese were widely supported by the education community [3,7].

In addition, the progress of productivity and the development of science and technology have promoted the rise of modern newspapers. For example, Shenbao contributed to the promotion of vernacular Chinese and simplified Chinese characters [3]. In modern China, as it was in a period of social transformation and faced the dilemma of internal troubles and external threats, all social strata had an urgent expectation for the country's modernization process. The Chinese character reform movement was an exploration by intellectuals into the modernization of language tools [2]. It emerged out of the consideration of enlightenment under the pressure of modernity anxiety [10].

3.2. From the perspective of social motivations

The academic community's research on this issue mainly focuses on three social groups: intellectuals, the social elite, and the underprivileged masses.

First, the awakening of intellectuals. Intellectuals at the end of the Qing Dynasty and the beginning of the Republic of China were deeply influenced by Western ideas. They realized that the backwardness of language and characters hindered the modernization of the country, so they actively advocated the reform of Chinese characters [7]. Intellectuals in modern China had a strong spirit of

exploration and a sense of reform. They pursued modernization in language tools and also hoped to promote social progress through language reform [2]. According to Wang Dongjie's research, the initiators and participants of the important movement of Chinese character reform in the late Qing Dynasty—the Spelling-sound Movement—were mostly intellectuals. They publicized the necessity and superiority of the Spelling-sound characters through various means, and promoted society's awareness of this issue [6].

The second is the promotion by social elites. The social elite class in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China, including government officials, educators, scholars and so on, actively promoted the reform of language and characters. They played an important role in policy-making, education promotion, academic research and other areas and provided strong support for the reform of Chinese characters [7].

Thirdly, it was the urgent need of the people at the bottom of society. As previously mentioned, the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China were a time of great upheaval in China. The country faced unprecedented invasions from foreign imperialist powers, and the national crisis was at a high. Therefore, the aspiration to save the nation from subjugation and seek survival was widespread across all social strata. Besides the elite class, which believed that only by ending the "cultural monopoly of the upper class" and the policy of keeping the people ignorant and "enlightening the people to save the nation" could the country be saved, the people at the bottom of society also yearned to save the nation and recognized the importance of cultural knowledge in this process. As a result, the demand for cultural education among ordinary people grew steadily.

Learning traditional Chinese characters is extremely difficult, which reduces the efficiency of rapid knowledge dissemination in a short time and prevents many people from receiving education. Reform measures such as simplifying Chinese characters and promoting phonetic symbols meet the wishes and interests of the people at the bottom of society and have received extensive support from them [6].

In terms of media, during this period, traditional print media flourished in China due to colonial invasion. This development provided more people at the bottom of society with channels to gain information and express their opinions. Meanwhile, it also increased the demand for literacy. Guided by newspapers, the demands of the people at the bottom were voiced and amplified, indirectly strengthening the reform momentum. Newspapers such as Shenbao created strong social public - opinion pressure by reporting on and discussing the issue of language and writing reform. This public opinion pressure has prompted the government and all sectors of society to attach greater importance to Chinese character reform and promoted the implementation of the reform [3].

4. The reform directions and methods of the Chinese character reform movement

4.1. The reform orientation and content of Chinese character reform

Regarding the direction of Chinese character reform, the academic community holds a relatively unified view. It is believed that the fundamental direction of reform is to pursue the consistency between speech and writing, achieve the transition from complex and cumbersome Chinese characters to simple and concise ones, ensure the uniformity of spoken Chinese character expression, and make written expression simple, standardized, and easy to read and recognize [1,6,10].

Some scholars have focused on the discussions about language unification by Chinese script reformers in the late Qing Dynasty within the scope of the reform. It encompasses three aspects: eliminating dialect differences and unifying the language to unite the nation; establishing the Beijing

dialect rather than the southern Mandarin as the phonetic standard for the common language; and promoting the national language through Chinese character phonetic notation [11].

Some scholars have concentrated on the improvement of Chinese language and writing in the late Qing Dynasty during the Chinese script reform. They believe that it was a dual movement involving both language and thought, which not only promoted the development of the language movement but also transformed the traditional thinking pattern [12].

Some have paid attention to the vernacular movement in newspapers during the reform, regarding it as a language tool movement. This movement promoted the popularization of the vernacular and laid a certain foundation for the vernacular movement of the New Literature in the May 4th Movement [5].

4.2. Exploration of specific practical cases — taking the “Qieyinzi movement” as an example

Among the numerous Chinese script reform movements during this period, the "Phonetic Transcription Characters" movement is a hot research topic that has been studied more comprehensively and from diverse perspectives in academic circles. It is mainly associated with history, aiming to explore the purposes and problems that emerged from the movement's practice. Taking this movement as a typical example, it reflects the overall characteristics of the script reform movements during this period from a specific case to a broader scope.

Study on the Problems Arising in the 'Qieyinzi Movement' in the Late Qing Dynasty

Some scholars argue that the movement of creating phonetic characters has resulted in the shallowness of cultural and academic connotations—there is only an external pursuit of nationalism but a lack of national cultural connotations [13,14].

Some scholars have explored the movement of creating phonetic characters from the perspective of instrumental rationality, arguing that China suffered great humiliation during this period, and instrumentalization and tool efficiency became the primary pursuit of cultural movements, which was the goal pursued by the activity of creating phonetic characters, while the inherent historical and cultural connotations of Chinese characters were neglected and marginalized.

The movement of phonetic characters objectively directly led to the advocacy of "Europeanization" and the anarchists' advocacy of "abolishing Chinese characters", causing a national cultural crisis. In the face of this national cultural crisis, some intellectuals refuted the fallacies of national nihilism on the issue of characters from the perspective of defending national culture and humanistic values. It reflects the game in modern China during the Chinese character reform movement to achieve the coordination and unification of the instrumental rationality and humanistic value rationality of Chinese characters [15].

Some scholars also argue that the Chinese phonetic alphabets designed in the late Qing Dynasty can basically be considered dialectal scripts. If these dialectal scripts were to become popular and widespread, they would cause significant damage to both the Chinese language and Chinese culture. Moreover, due to insufficient recognition of the superiority of Chinese characters and an over of their drawbacks and the merits of Western scripts, the misconception that Chinese characters are "difficult to learn" has been propagated [5].

To sum up, the “Qieyinzi Movement” in the late Qing Dynasty took “Consistency between Speech and Writing” and “Popularization of Education” as its slogans, and concentratedly embodies the three commonalities of the entire writing reform movement:

Firstly, it reflects the dominance of instrumental rationality. Lu Gengzhang, Wang Zhao and others regarded the complexity of Chinese characters as the root cause of the country's weakness and

attempted to replace them with phonetic symbols, which follows the same logic as the subsequent simplification and Latinization of Chinese characters.

Secondly, it reflects the anxiety of nationalism. Most Chinese character phonetic notation schemes are based on the "standard Mandarin pronunciation", implicitly embodying the aspiration to unify the national language and build a modern country.

Thirdly, there is a gap between the practical implementation and the ideal plan. The Chinese character phonetic notation schemes failed to be popularized due to dialect differences and social resistance, but they laid the groundwork for the Zhuyin Fuhao (Chinese phonetic alphabet) and the Vernacular Movement. This also demonstrates the "unfinished nature" that was common to all kinds of writing reform movements before the May 4th Movement.

4.3. Research on the purposes reflected in the practice of the "Qieyinzi movement" in the late Qing Dynasty

Different academic interpretations are presented regarding the political and cultural purposes reflected behind the "Movement of Creating Phonetic Characters" in the late Qing Dynasty.

If the author link the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet Movement to the tendency of nationalism and believe that the key figures in this movement, represented by Lu Gengzhang and Wang Zhao, were influenced by Western phonetic centrism, aiming to create a unified national language with "identical written and spoken forms" to fulfill the political aspiration of "national prosperity and strength", this represents a "Chinese learning for fundamental principles and Western learning for practical application" - style theory of the national language under the combined influence of nationalism and Western phonetic centrism [16].

Some also associated the movement of phonetic script characters with nationalism, aiming to explore the Chinese nation's survival and development, advocating the national spirit in culture and strengthening national identity and cohesion [14].

4.4. Historical status of the Qieyinzi movement

From a linguistic perspective, the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet Movement in the late Qing Dynasty marked the beginning of modern Chinese linguistics. It signified the shift of Chinese language and writing reform from the traditional to the modern era and the modernization of the Chinese language and writing system.

Technically, the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet Movement aimed to simplify the complexity of learning Chinese characters. Ideologically, it sparked reflections on traditional notions of writing. In terms of social change, it spurred extensive discussions on language and writing reform in society, thereby promoting the liberation of social thinking and the advancement of culture and education.

Distinct from ancient Chinese linguistics that preceded it, this movement actually became the origin of new theories in modern Chinese linguistics [4].

5. The impact arising from the practice of Chinese character reform

5.1. The relationship between the writing revolution in the late Qing Dynasty and the early republic of China and subsequent other cultural movements

The Chinese Phonetic Alphabet Movement laid the foundation for the development of modern Chinese linguistics. It introduced Western concepts of phonetic notation and linguistic theories, facilitating the transformation of Chinese linguistics from traditional philology and phonology to

modern linguistics. The practical exploration of the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet Movement offered valuable experience and theoretical support for the subsequent simplification of Chinese characters, the Vernacular Movement, and the formulation of the Modern Chinese Pinyin Scheme [4].

Some scholars have also noted that the Chinese character reform movement from the late Qing Dynasty to the early Republic of China laid the ideological foundation and provided technical preparations for the subsequent Chinese character Latinization movement [17]. The reform movement in the late Qing Dynasty spurred intellectuals' pursuit of language and writing modernization, which further evolved into the Chinese character Latinization movement during the Republic of China. The character reform movement resonated with subsequent cultural movements (such as the New Culture Movement), jointly driving the liberation of social thinking and the cultural modernization process [18].

5.2. Analysis of the historical status of the writing revolution in the late Qing Dynasty and the early republic of China

From Specific Reform Practices. The vernacular movement in newspapers during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China was the start of modern Chinese language and script reform and held significant historical importance. It not only promoted the popularization of the vernacular but also facilitated ideological enlightenment and social transformation. This movement, although it cannot form a direct logical connection with the subsequent May 4th Vernacular Movement, has a temporal connection, laid the foundation, and is an important starting point for the modernization of the Chinese language and characters [19]. From a linguistic perspective, the movement of creating phonetic scripts in the late Qing Dynasty was the beginning of modern Chinese linguistics. It marked the transformation of China's language and writing reform from tradition to modernity and initiated the first move towards the modernization of China's language and writing [4].

From the Overall Movement Characteristics. The 'Unity of Speech and Writing' theory in the language reform movement during the late Qing Dynasty holds significant historical importance. It emphasized the unity of spoken and written language, promoted the modernization process of language and writing, and provided theoretical support for the subsequent vernacular movement. In the late Qing Dynasty, the 'Qieyinzi' and the idea of phoneticization not only aimed at the consistency between speech and writing, but were also regarded by the intellectual elites as an enlightenment tool and a bond for national unification [20]; this movement played an important role in ideological enlightenment and social transformation, and was an important starting point of modern Chinese linguistics [9]. It was also an important component of the nationalist and cultural movements. By promoting language and writing reforms, it facilitated national identity and cultural modernization, thereby laying the foundation for the transformation of Chinese society. This movement has far-reaching historical significance in ideological enlightenment and cultural dissemination [14]. Among them, the language unification idea of the literary reformers has had a profound impact on the subsequent language and character reform. This movement not only advanced the standardization and unification of language and characters but also facilitated social integration and the formation of national identity. The language reform at the end of the Qing Dynasty holds an important historical position in the modernization process of the Chinese language and writing system [11].

The language improvement movement at the end of the Qing Dynasty has an important historical status. It not only promoted the modernization of the language and writing system but also facilitated ideological enlightenment and social change. This movement advanced the country's

modernization process through language reform, laying the foundation for the transformation of Chinese society [10]. This view of language reform interacted with the discourse of "sovereign equality" in diplomacy during the same period, jointly accomplishing the conceptual transformation from the imperial cultural order to the concept of the modern nation-state [20, 21].

The Academic Value of the Study on the Reform of Chinese Characters in the Late Qing Dynasty and the Early Republic of China. Thus, the study of Chinese character reform during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China plays a crucial role in bridging the past and the future in the history of Chinese character reform research. This period was a crucial stage in the transformation of Chinese characters from traditional forms to modern forms, and its reform movement not only reflected the cultural needs and ideological changes during the social transformation period, but also laid the foundation for the standardization and scientificization of modern Chinese language and characters. Early research mainly focused on the description and evaluation of the reform movement. With the continuous deepening of academic research, the research perspective has gradually shifted from the macro level to the micro level, from a single discipline to interdisciplinary studies, and from the elite perspective to the overall social perspective. The research achievements of this period not only provided historical references for the subsequent language and character reforms such as the simplification of Chinese characters and the promotion of Putonghua, but also provided important perspectives for understanding the cultural transformation in modern and contemporary China. However, due to the complexity of historical materials and the limitations of research perspectives, there are still many problems in the study of Chinese character reform in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China that need to be urgently addressed, and its academic value and practical significance remain to be further explored.

6. Conclusion

The research on Chinese character reform in the late Qing Dynasty and early Republic of China is an important part of the research on Chinese character reform, and it is also inseparable from textual philology.

Based on the review of existing research findings, specifically 20 relevant papers selected from Peking University Core Journals and CSSCI Journals indexed in CNKI, there is still ample room for further exploration in the research on Chinese character reform during this period. Although current research has, to some extent, uncovered the historical background, major movements, and their impacts of Chinese character reform in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China, there are still limitations in terms of the research's depth and breadth.

From the perspective of research content, current research often focuses on the social elite circles and intellectuals, highlighting their leading roles and ideological stances in the reform of Chinese characters. However, research on how the grassroots people participate in this reform, their attitudes and evaluations, and the impact of these factors on the reform process is relatively weak. The grassroots people, as the main users of Chinese characters, their participation and feedback are vital to the actual outcome of Chinese character reform. Future research should focus more on the dynamics of this group to fully restore the social landscape of Chinese character reform during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China. In addition, although the 'Qieyinzi Movement' was an important part of the Chinese character reform during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China, the number of in-depth studies on other related movements, such as the in-depth study of the vernacular movement in the late Qing Dynasty, is far less than that of the former. The Vernacular Movement holds profound significance in the modernization process of language and writing. It not only drove the simplification of Chinese characters and the transformation of writing

styles but also promoted the spread and popularization of ideas and culture. Future research needs to further explore the unique role of the Vernacular Movement in Chinese character reform and its interactive relationship with other reform movements.

From the perspective of research methods, current research mostly adopts literature analysis, text research, and comparative research methods, which have played an important role in sorting out historical contexts, analyzing ideological origins, and comparing different viewpoints. However, the lack of interdisciplinary research restricts the expansion of research horizons and the exploration of research depth. Language reform not only involves linguistics, but is also closely related to multiple disciplines such as sociology, history, cultural studies, and psychology. For example, from the perspective of sociology, we can analyze the impact and reshaping of Chinese character reform on social structure and social strata; from the perspective of cultural studies, we can explore how Chinese character reform inherits and innovates traditional culture; from the perspective of psychology, we can study the public's psychological acceptance and adaptation process to Chinese character reform. Therefore, future research should strengthen interdisciplinary integration, apply the theories and methods of multiple disciplines, and conduct a comprehensive and multi-level analysis of the Chinese character reform during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China.

Future research should enhance the study of the participation, acceptance, and feedback of the common people in the Chinese character reform during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China. Through methods such as field surveys, oral history collection, and archival data exploration, we should restore the genuine voices of the common people in the Chinese character reform, explore the reasons for their support or opposition to the reform, and the impact of this social basis on the success or failure of the reform. Secondly, further explore the role and significance of the vernacular movement in the late Qing Dynasty in the reform of Chinese characters. Study the mutual influence between the vernacular movement and the movement for phonetic Chinese characters. Analyze how the vernacular movement promotes the simplification of Chinese characters and the transformation of writing methods, and its unique contributions in ideological enlightenment and cultural communication. Meanwhile, examine the spread and reception of the Vernacular Chinese Movement in different regions and social groups, and explore its far-reaching impact on the development of modern Chinese. Finally, a comparative study is conducted on the Chinese character reform in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China against the background of international language and writing reforms. Analyze the language and writing reform experiences of other countries in similar historical periods, explore the similarities and differences between them and China's Chinese character reform, and draw on international experiences to deepen the understanding of China's Chinese character reform. At the same time, study the role and influence of Chinese character reform in international exchanges, as well as its enlightenment on the development of languages and writing systems in the East Asian cultural sphere.

References

- [1] Tian, M.: A review of the research on Chinese character reform. Jilin University, (2008).
- [2] Jiao, H.: A study on the process of the Esperanto movement in modern China. Central China Normal University, (2014).
- [3] Wang, JP.: A study on the language and character reform in the late Qing dynasty and the Republic of China from the perspective of Shenbao. Hebei University, (2022).
- [4] Gao, TR.: The beginning of modern Chinese linguistics — The historical status of the late Qing dynasty's Chinese phonetic alphabet movement. *Chinese Language Learning and Teaching*, 12: 15-17 (1992)

- [5] Gao, Y.: Misunderstandings and harms of the late Qing dynasty's writing reform towards Chinese characters, with a mention of unexpected gains. *Modern Chinese Literature Studies*, 5: 21-28 (2024)
- [6] Wang, DJ.: The sound enters the heart and communicates: The entanglement between the Chinese phonetic alphabet movement and the thought of "national language unification" in the late Qing dynasty. *Journal of Modern Chinese History Studies*, 5: 82-106+3 (2010)
- [7] Wang, JC.: A historical analysis of the debates on three major issues of the Mandarin pronunciation in the late Qing dynasty and the early Republic of China. Xiamen University, (2022).
- [8] Liu, C.: The modernity appeal of Chinese character reform from the late Qing dynasty to the May 4th period. *Jiangnan Tribune*, 1: 84-88 (2011)
- [9] Ni, W.: The theory of "unifying speech and writing" in the language and character reform movement in the late Qing dynasty. *Journal of Hangzhou Normal University (Social Sciences Edition)*, 38(5): 41-53 (2016)
- [10] Shi, SP.: Saving the nation, enlightening the people, and reviving the country - modernity anxiety and the theory of saving the nation through writing in the late Qing dynasty. *Nankai Journal (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 1: 79-88 (2013)
- [11] Li, YM.: The views of Chinese character reformers in the late Qing dynasty on language unification. *Language Teaching and Research*, 2: 1-11 (2003)
- [12] Zhao, LM.: Writing as the foundation for revitalization — The late Qing dynasty's Chinese language reform as an intellectual exercise. *Jianghuai Tribune*, 2: 173-178 (2020)
- [13] Wang, LM.: The late Qing dynasty's writing reform: Nationalism and cultural movement (Part I). *Academic Monthly*, 10: 140-146 (2007)
- [14] Wang, LM.: The late Qing dynasty's writing reform: Nationalism and cultural movement (Part II). *Academic Monthly*, 11: 129-136 (2007)
- [15] Wang, LM.: The late Qing dynasty's writing reform movement under the concept of instrumental rationality. *Journal of Zhejiang University (Humanities and Social Sciences)*, 5: 34-42 (2008)
- [16] Zhou, YC.: The phonetic centralism and statism tendency of the late Qing dynasty's Chinese phonetic alphabet movement — Centered around Lu Gzhang and Wang Zhao. *Journal of Yichun University*, 44(8): 86-90 (2022)
- [17] Liu, XM, Liu, W.: The theory of the complexity of Chinese characters and the concept of education popularization in the late Qing dynasty's "Chinese phonetic alphabet movement". *Journal of Hebei Normal University (Educational Science Edition)*, 26(4): 127-132 (2024)
- [18] Li, SM.: The unfinished media revolution: The Chinese character Latinization movement during the Republic of China. *Huazhong University of Science and Technology*, (2019).
- [19] Gao, Y.: On the vernacular movement in newspapers during the late Qing dynasty and the early Republic of China and its historical significance. *Journal of Sun Yat-sen University (Social Science Edition)*, 56(3): 49-57 (2016)
- [20] Zhang, XM. Xu, CF: The late Qing dynasty diplomatic transformation: Analysis from an ideational perspective. *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, 1(3): 405-445 (2007)
- [21] Cheng, WK.: Enlightenment and unity: Language reformism in late Qing China. *Modern Asian Studies*, 35(2): 469-493 (2001)