

用真實教學材料教高班閱讀課：閱讀材料語料庫

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Most learners in Chinese Characters and Reading classes are satisfied with progress from novice level to intermediate level. However, frustration may start in advanced level because of the diminishing marginal return phenomenon in learning Chinese characters and scripts. (Hsueh 2005, Lau 2009, Mark & Lu 2005). The “common sense” to all teachers teaching Chinese reading classes is to give more readings. By observation the increase in the quantity of reading does not automatically relate to learners’ learning outcome. Other factors like authenticity of the reading and systemic design of the tasks are affecting the learning outcomes of the learners. A needs analysis has been done (Lee 2000) and the data confirms that students are looking for authentic or adopted materials with systematic task-design for them to improve their reading skills and the materials are expected to be used in class or in a self-access mode. As a result, teachers teaching Chinese learners’ in advanced reading classes should try to use newspaper articles and other authentic materials to teach Chinese reading. This paper discusses a Reading Materials Database (RMD) project. In this project, about 1000 authentic articles are collected and categorized into various topics and levels. Learners can use the systematically organized database as a self-access database and search for topics that they need to read for specific reading and presentation projects. Teachers can use it as a database for searching materials for teaching. Materials developers can also use the database to analyze frequency of certain vocabulary items. The database is also useful for academic research purposes, such as word frequency analysis, corpus linguistics, and dictionary research.