

Name Edit

The English word "mandarin" (from Portuguese mandarim, from Malay menteri, from Sanskrit mantrā, mantrin, meaning 'minister or counsellor') originally meant an official of the Ming and Qing empires.[7][8][a] Since their native varieties were often mutually unintelligible, these officials communicated using a Koiné language based on various northern varieties. When Jesuit missionaries learned this standard language in the 16th century, they called it "Mandarin", from its Chinese name Guānhuā (官话/官话, or 'language of the officials'). In everyday English, "Mandarin" refers to Standard Chinese, which is often called simply "Chinese". Standard Mandarin Chinese is based on Beijing dialect, with some lexical and syntactic influence from other Mandarin dialects. It is the official spoken language of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Taiwan (Republic of China, ROC), as well as one of the four official languages of Singapore, and a high-prestige minority language[11] in Malaysia. It also functions as the language of instruction in Mainland China and Taiwan. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, under the name "Chinese". Chinese speakers refer to the modern standard language as Pǔtōnghuā (普通话/普通话, literally 'common speech') in Mainland China,

(普通话, literally 'common speech') in Mainland China, Guóyǔ (国语/国语, literally 'national language') in Taiwan or

(国语, literally 'national language') in Taiwan or Huáyǔ (华语/华语, literally 'Hua (Chinese) language') in Malaysia and Singapore, but not as Guānhuā. Linguists use the term "Mandarin" to refer to the diverse group of dialects spoken in northern and southwestern China, which Chinese linguists call Guānhuā. The alternative term Běifānghuā (北方话/北方话) or "Northern dialects", is used less and less among Chinese linguists. By extension, the term "Old Mandarin" or "Early Mandarin" is used by linguists to refer to the northern dialects recorded in materials from the Yuan dynasty. Native speakers who are not academic linguists may not recognize that the variants they speak are classified in linguistics as members of "Mandarin" (or so-called "Northern dialects") in a broader sense. Within Chinese social or cultural discourse, there is not a common "Mandarin" identity based on language; rather, there are strong regional identities centred on individual dialects because of the wide geographical distribution and cultural diversity of their speakers. Speakers of forms of Mandarin other than the standard typically refer to the variety they speak by a geographic name—for example the Sichuan dialect and the Hebei dialect or Northeastern dialect, all being regarded as distinct from the standard language, with which they may not share much mutual intelligibility.

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Vocabulary Edit

There are more polysyllabic words in Mandarin than in all other major varieties of Chinese except Shanghainese[citation needed]. This is partly because Mandarin has undergone many more sound changes than have southern varieties of Chinese, and has needed to deal with many more homophones. New words have been formed by adding affixes such as *lao-* (è•), *-zi* (â-•), *-(e)r* (â„¿/â...'), and *-tou* (â´/é -), or by compounding, e.g. by combining two words of similar meaning as in *cǎngmǎng* (â†â¿™), made from elements meaning "hurried" and "busy". A distinctive feature of southwestern Mandarin is its frequent use of noun reduplication, which is hardly used in Beijing. In Sichuan, one hears *bǎobǎo* (â...â...) "handbag" where Beijing uses *bǎor* (â...â¿). There are also a small number of words that have been polysyllabic since Old Chinese, such as *hǎidiǎo* (è•'è•¶) "butterfly". The singular pronouns in Mandarin are *wǒ* (æ^') "I", *nǐ* (ǎ½ or â|³) "you", *nǐ-n* (æ,") "you (formal)", and *tā* (â»-, â¥¹ or â®f/ç%) "he/she/it", with *-men* (â»-/â€') added for the plural. Further, there is a distinction between the plural first-person pronoun *zǎimen* (â'±â»-/â'±â€'), which is inclusive of the listener, and *wǒmen* (æ^'â»-/æ^'â€'), which may be exclusive of the listener. Dialects of Mandarin agree with each other quite consistently on these pronouns. While the first and second person singular pronouns are cognate with forms in other varieties of Chinese, the rest of the pronominal system is a Mandarin innovation (e.g., Shanghainese has non *ǎ½-/â„*, "you" and *yī* *ǎ½* "he/she"). Because of contact with Mongolian and Manchurian peoples, Mandarin (especially the Northeastern varieties) has some loanwords from these languages not present in other varieties of Chinese, such as *hǎitǎng* (èf;â•) "alley". Southern Chinese varieties have borrowed from Tai, Austroasiatic,[102] and Austronesian languages. There are also many Chinese words which come from foreign languages such as *gǎorǎo* (é«~â°"â«) from golf; *bǎojǎn* (æ~"âÿ°â¼) from bikini; *hǎnbǎo* (æ±%â ;â...) from hamburger. In general, the greatest variation occurs in slang, in kinship terms, in names for common crops and domesticated animals, for common verbs and adjectives, and other such everyday terms. The least variation occurs in "formal" vocabularyâ€"terms dealing with science, law, or government.

Grammar Edit

See also: Chinese grammar Chinese varieties of all periods are considered prime examples of analytic languages, relying on word order and particles instead of inflection or affixes to provide grammatical information such as person, number, tense, mood, or case. Although modern varieties, including the Mandarin dialects, use a small number of particles in a similar fashion to suffixes, they are still strongly analytic. The basic word order of subjectâ€"verbâ€"object is common across Chinese dialects, but there are variations in the order of the two objects of

ditransitive sentences. In northern dialects the indirect object precedes the direct object (as in English), for example in the Standard Chinese sentence: $\text{w}\check{\text{c}}' \text{ I } \text{q}\check{\text{e}}\text{m} \text{ g}\check{\text{A}}\text{>i} \text{ give } \text{a}\check{\text{z}} \text{ n}\check{\text{c}} \cdot \text{ you } \text{a}, \text{€}\text{æ}\text{-} \text{y}\check{\text{A}}\text{-b}\check{\text{A}}\text{>n} \text{ one- CLF } \text{a}^1 | \text{ sh}\check{\text{A}}\text{«} \text{ book}$
 $\text{a}^1 \text{ q}\check{\text{e}}\text{m} \text{ a}\check{\text{z}} \text{ a}, \text{€}\text{æ}\text{-} \text{a}^1 | \text{ w}\check{\text{c}}' \text{ g}\check{\text{A}}\text{>i} \text{ n}\check{\text{c}} \cdot \text{ y}\check{\text{A}}\text{-b}\check{\text{A}}\text{>n} \text{ sh}\check{\text{A}}\text{«} \text{ I give you \{one-CLF\} book}$ In southern dialects, as well as many southwestern and Lower Yangtze dialects, the objects occur in the reverse order. Most varieties of Chinese use post-verbal particles to indicate aspect, but the particles used vary. Most Mandarin dialects use the particle -le ($\text{ä}^\circ\text{†}$) to indicate the perfective aspect and -zhe ($\text{ç}\cdot\text{€}/\text{è}'\text{-}$) for the progressive aspect. Other Chinese varieties tend to use different particles, e.g. Cantonese $\text{zo}2 \text{ a}'\text{-}$ and $\text{gan}2 \text{ ç}'\text{§}/\text{ç}\cdot\check{\text{S}}$ respectively. The experiential aspect particle -guo ($\text{è}\check{\text{z}}\text{†}/\text{é}\cdot\check{\text{Z}}$) is used more widely, except in Southern Min. The subordinative particle de ($\text{ç}\check{\text{S}}\text{,,}$) is characteristic of Mandarin dialects. Some southern dialects, and a few Lower Yangtze dialects, preserve an older pattern of subordination without a marking particle, while in others a classifier fulfils the role of the Mandarin particle. Especially in conversational Chinese, sentence-final particles alter the inherent meaning of a sentence. Like much vocabulary, particles can vary a great deal with regards to the locale. For example, the particle ma ($\text{a}^\sim\text{>}$), which is used in most northern dialects to denote obviousness or contention, is replaced by yo ($\text{a}^\sim\check{\text{Y}}$) in southern usage. Some characters in Mandarin can be combined with others to indicate a particular meaning just like prefix and suffix in English. For example, the suffix -er which means the person who is doing the action, e.g. teacher, person who teaches. In Mandarin the character a,« has the same function, it is combined with $\text{æ}\cdot\text{™}$, which means teach, to form the word teacher. List of several common Chinese prefixes and suffixes: Affix Pronunciation Meaning Example Meaning of Example
 $\text{-a}^\text{€}'[\text{ä}\text{>}\text{-}]$ men plural for human nouns, same as -s, -es $\text{a}\text{-}, \text{ç}''\check{\text{Y}}\text{a}^\text{€}'$ [$\text{a}\text{-}|\text{ç}''\check{\text{Y}}\text{a}^\text{€}'\text{>}\text{-}]\text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{æ}\text{<}\text{a}\cdot\text{a}^\text{€}'$ [$\text{æ}\text{<}\text{a}\cdot\text{a}^\text{€}'\text{>}\text{-}]$ students, friends
 $\text{a}\cdot\text{-}$ kÄ» same as -able $\text{a}\cdot\text{-}\text{ä}\check{\text{z}};\text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\cdot\text{-}\text{ç}\text{-}'\text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\cdot\text{-}\text{é}\cdot$ trusty, laughable, reliable $\text{é}\text{†}\text{-}$ chÄ³ng same as re- (again)
 $\text{é}\text{†}\cdot\text{a}\cdot\check{\text{S}}\text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{é}\text{†}\cdot\text{a}^\circ\text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{é}\text{†}\cdot\text{æ}\text{-}^\circ$ redo, rebuild, renew $\text{ç}\text{-}\text{-}$ dÄ³ same as -th, -st, -nd $\text{ç}\text{-}\text{-}\text{ä}^\circ\text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{ç}\text{-}\text{-}\text{ä}, \text{€}$ second, first $\text{è}^\text{€}\text{-}$ lçŽo
old, or show respect to a certain type of person $\text{è}^\text{€}\cdot\text{é}$ $\text{-}[\text{è}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}^\circ\text{'}] \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{è}^\text{€}\cdot\text{é}\text{-}\text{†}[\text{è}^\text{€}\cdot\text{æ}\cdot\check{\text{z}}] \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{è}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\cdot\text{«}[\text{è}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\cdot\text{^}]$ old man; boss,
teacher -a€- huÄ³ same as -ize, -en $\text{a}\text{-}\text{-}\text{a}\check{\text{z}}\cdot\text{a}^\text{€}\text{-}\text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}^\text{€}\text{†}|\text{a}^\circ|\text{a}^\text{€}\text{-}\text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\check{\text{z}}\cdot\text{a}^\text{€}\text{-}$ officialize, systemize, strengthen -a€¶ jiÄ³ same
as -er or expert $\text{a}\check{\text{z}}\text{ä}^\text{€}\text{¶} \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{ç}\text{§}'\text{a}\text{-}, \text{a}^\circ\text{¶}[\text{ç}\text{§}'\text{a}\text{-}|\text{a}^\circ\text{¶}] \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{è}\text{-}\cdot\text{è}; \text{'a}^\circ\text{¶}[\text{è}^\circ\text{æ}\text{-}\text{a}^\circ\text{¶}]$ writer, scientist, artist -æ€§ xÄ³ng same as
-ness, -ability $\text{a}\cdot\text{-}\text{é}\cdot$ æ€§ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\text{-}|\text{ç}''\text{æ€§}[\text{a}^\circ\check{\text{Z}}\text{ç}''\text{æ€§}] \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\cdot\text{-}\text{ç}\cdot\text{†}\text{è}\text{§}\text{æ€§} reliability, usability, understandability -é¹¼ guç.
usually used in a disparaging way similar to -aholic $\text{ç}\text{-}\text{-}\text{é}\text{-}\text{¹¼} \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{é}\text{-}\text{¹¼} \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{é}\text{-}\text{¹¼} \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{è}\text{†}\text{a}^\circ\cdot\text{é}\text{-}\text{¹¼}$ smoker, alcoholic, coward -a€ jiÄ³ ng
a technician in a certain field $\text{è}\check{\text{S}}\text{†}\text{a}^\text{€} \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{æ}^2\text{¹}\text{æ}^1\text{†}\text{a}^\text{€} \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{æ}\text{-}\text{a}^\text{€}$ gardener, painter, carpenter -èç· mÄ³- an enthusiast
 $\text{æ}^\text{²}\text{èç}\cdot[\text{æ}^\text{^}\cdot\text{èç}\cdot] \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{ç}\cdot\text{f}\text{èç}\cdot \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{æ}\text{-}\text{èç}\cdot$ theater fan, sports fan, groupie of a musician -a,« [$\text{a}\cdot\text{^}$] shÄ³« suffix for occupations
 $\text{æ}\cdot\text{™}\text{a}\cdot\text{«}[\text{æ}\cdot\text{™}\text{a}\cdot\text{^}] \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\check{\text{Z}}\text{-}\text{a}\cdot\text{«}[\text{a}\check{\text{Z}}\text{-}\text{a}\cdot\text{^}] \text{ä}^\text{€}\cdot\text{a}\check{\text{z}}\text{<}\text{a}\cdot\text{«}[\text{a}\check{\text{z}}\text{<}\text{a}\cdot\text{^}]$ teacher, cook/chef, lawyer

See also Edit

Notes Edit

^ MÇŽn dÃ rÃ@n (æ»jãŏšä°° ; æ»ĵãŏšä°° ; ' folk etymology deriving the name from; ' Manchu big man') is without foundation. ^ In the early 1950s, only 54% of people in the Mandarin-speaking area could understand Standard Chinese, which was based on the Beijing dialect.

"Hence we see that even Mandarin includes within it an unspecified number of languages, very few of which have ever been reduced to writing, that are mutually unintelligible."

"the common term assigned by linguists to this group of languages implies a certain homogeneity which is more likely to be related to the sociopolitical context than to linguistic reality, since most of those varieties are not mutually intelligible."

"A speaker of only standard Mandarin might take a week or two to comprehend even simple Kunminghua with ease"and then only if willing to learn it."

"without prior exposure, speakers of different Mandarin dialects often have considerable difficulty understanding each other's local vernacular even if they come from the same province, provided that two or more distinct groups of Mandarin are spoken therein. In some cases, mutual intelligibility is not guaranteed even if the Mandarin dialects concerned belong to the same group and are spoken within the same province. As reported by a native speaker of the Zhenjiang dialect (a Jianghuai (Lower Yangtze) Mandarin dialect spoken in the Jiangsu province), it is impossible for her to understand the Nantong dialect (another Jianghuai Mandarin dialect spoken around 140 kilometers away in the same province)." For example: ^ Speaker numbers are rounded to the nearest million from figures in the revised edition of the Language Atlas of China. ^ The development is purely due to the preservation of an early glide which later became /j/ and triggered patalization, and does not indicate the absence of a vowel merger.

References Edit

Further reading Edit

Reference

[The Art of Inquiry: A Depth-Psychological Perspective](#)

[Antibody-Drug Conjugates and Cellular Metabolic Dynamics](#)