

# Will Chinese replace English as the global language?

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**Abstract:** This thesis discusses the properties of the current global language English, along with other three languages: Esperanto, Latin, and Classical Chinese who once were or close to be an international language. This paper attempts to figure out if Chinese will replace English as the next global language by listing the properties of a global language following a comparison of the list with properties of Modern Chinese. In order to find out the properties of a global language, this thesis analyzes the reasons why each language became a global or a regional lingua franca and why some of the languages failed to maintain the status of being an international language. The result shows that being a global language often relies on colonial expansion, strong influence in multiple fields throughout the world and the easiness of acquiring the language. Chinese being the only language written with characters and the principle of “Peaceful Rise” of China makes Chinese less likely to be the next global language.

*Key words:* English, Chinese, Mandarin, global language, lingua franca, future language.

## Chapter 1 Introduction

Mandarin has the largest amount of native speakers in the world, and the number of L2 Mandarin learners has been increasing rapidly. In 2005, 117660 non-native Mandarin learners from overseas took the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK), with a year-on-year growth of 26.52% from 2004.<sup>1</sup> In 2012, the number of foreign HSK candidates rose to 3.5 million.<sup>2</sup> The spread of Mandarin is inseparable from the development of China. China has been the second largest economy in the world since 2010. Both The New York Times and BBC forecasted that China would replace the United States as the biggest world economy in a decade.<sup>3 4</sup> With rapid development of China and its increasing engagement with the world, growing numbers of discussion about whether Chinese will be a global language have appeared.<sup>5 6</sup> Nowadays, English is the most commonly used language in the world. David Crystal referred to English as a “global language” (definition see Chapter 2).<sup>7</sup> As the name suggests, a global language is a language that is spoken globally. The rapid increase of the number of Mandarin learners in the world and the development of China raise a question: Will Chinese replace English as the global language?

This thesis intends to answer this question by looking at five languages: English, Esperanto, Latin, Classical Chinese and Mandarin. English is the current global language. Esperanto was created to be a global language, yet it is not commonly used in real life practice. In the Middle Ages, Latin served as a lingua franca (definition see Chapter 2) in Europe, the thesis will look at why Latin became regional lingua franca and why it failed to remain as one. In East Asia, Classical Chinese used to have a similar status as Latin in Europe. These four languages all

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<sup>1</sup> Xinhua News Agency (2011).

<sup>2</sup> Sun; Zhao & Tang (2013).

<sup>3</sup> Barboza (2010).

<sup>4</sup> Flanders (2011).

<sup>5</sup> Gil (2011, p. 52).

<sup>6</sup> In this thesis, unspecified term “Chinese” refers to Mandarin.

<sup>7</sup> Crystal (2003a).

have potential to be global language, but Esperanto failed to become a global language, this paper will find out why Esperanto did not become a global language. Among the rest of the three languages which became global languages, only English remained as an international language (definition see Chapter 2). By analyzing why these four languages did or did not become a global language and why it did or did not remain that way, properties of a global language can be summarized. The methodology used in this thesis is making checklist of properties of a global language, then comparing the current situation of Mandarin with the properties on the list to see if Chinese have all the properties that a global language has. With the comparison of Chinese and the languages mentioned above, an answer to the research question can be drawn.

This thesis is divided into seven chapters. Chapter 1 generally introduces the topic and the background of the thesis, raises the research question and outlines the order of information in the thesis. Chapter 2 analyzes if English is a global language, when and why English became a global language, as well as why it remained a global language, from the aspect of colonial expansion, cultural influence, international standing and economic and technological influence of English speaking countries. The rudiment of the global language properties list is formed in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 explains the purpose of invention and the language feature of Esperanto, states the current situation of this language and analyzes why it failed to become a global language. Chapter 4 looks at why Latin became a regional lingua franca in the Middle Ages and why it failed to remain one, new property is added on the global language properties list and new order of the properties is formed based on the importance of the property. Chapter 5 explains the influence of Classical Chinese in East Asia, and compares Classical Chinese with Latin. Chapter 6 states the current situation of Mandarin, compares Mandarin with the global language properties list to point out the missing properties of Mandarin to be a global language, then analyzes if the missing properties can be changed. By doing so, the answer of the main

research question is drawn. Chapter 7 summarizes the analysis done in this thesis and directly answers the research question.

## Chapter 2 English

### 2.1 What is global language?

As of yet, there is no official definition of “global language”, but there are opinions about what “world language” and “universal language” is. Since “global” “world” and “universal” are near-synonyms, one might infer the meaning of “global language” from the explanations of “world language” and “universal language”.

“World language” refers to an internationally spoken language that is learned by large numbers of individuals as a second language. A world language is estimated by the number of its native speakers and second language speakers, its geographical distribution, as well as its use in diplomatic relations and international organizations.<sup>8</sup>

As for *universal language*, its literal meaning is a language which is spoken and understood by all or most of the people in the world. In some conceptions, it refers to an international auxiliary language for communication between different groups of people with different first languages, also known as international lingua franca. In other contexts, it may refer to a hypothetical language that is spoken by the entire world’s population as a first language.<sup>9</sup>

The overlap definition of *world language* and *universal language* is that the language is widely spoken as a second language in order to communicate with people who do not share the same native language. The definition of a lingua franca is “A language that is adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different”, so a global language should be a lingua franca in a worldwide range.<sup>10</sup> In other words, a global language should be a language that plays the role of an international bridge language.

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<sup>8</sup> Baker & Jones (1998, p. 302).

<sup>9</sup> Sweet (1911).

<sup>10</sup> Oxford dictionary. (2018). "Lingua franca".



## 2.2 Is English a global language?

English is the official language of United States, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and a number of Caribbean nations. In 57 nations all over the world, for example African countries like Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa, and Asian countries like Singapore, The Philippines, India and Pakistan, English is either (one of) their official language(s) or a greater part of its tenants use it as L1. In 2017, about 380 million people in the world spoke English as their mother tongue, and about 744 million speakers use English as a second language (L2).<sup>11</sup> Among the L2 English speakers, over 400 million of them are from outside the English-speaking countries.<sup>12</sup> The second frequently used language Mandarin has about 908 million L1 speakers and 198 million L2 speakers in the world.<sup>13</sup> Among the L2 speakers of Chinese, 20 million are from outside of China.<sup>14</sup> Which means compared to Mandarin Chinese, English has much less native speakers but much more overseas L2 users.

English is also the lingua franca in multiple fields like business and computing. Over 90% of the air companies in the world use English as their Air-speak.<sup>15</sup> About one fourth of the Internet users in the world are from English-speaking countries, which makes English the most commonly used online language.<sup>16</sup> About 95% of the articles reported by Science Citation Index are in English, despite the fact that 50% of them were written by non- English-speaking authors.<sup>17</sup> Up to half of business negotiations in the world are communicated in English, and about 30% of the international organizations choose only English as their working language.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Many international organizations adopt English as their official language even though there

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<sup>11</sup> Simons & Fennig (2018). "English".

<sup>12</sup> Mastin (2011). "English today".

<sup>13</sup> Simons & Fennig (2018). "Chinese, Mandarin".

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Mastin (2011). "English as a global language".

<sup>16</sup> Internet World Stats (2018). "Top Ten Languages Used in the Web - December 31, 2017".

<sup>17</sup> Mastin (2011). English today.

<sup>18</sup> Mastin (2011). English today.

<sup>19</sup> Mastin (2011). English as a global language.

are none native English-speaking members or countries in the organization. For example, there are no English-speaking countries as members in European Central Bank (ECB), the head office is located in Frankfurt, Germany, but the official language is English. As for the entertainment industry, well-known music worldwide is strongly influenced by English speaking countries, American or British TV programs or TV series is well graded and followed in the world. Moreover, in most countries of the world, notices for tourists in public places like hotels, museums, tourist attractions, airports, train stations and restaurants are in the local language and English.<sup>20</sup>

The data mentioned above proves that in total numbers of speakers and in its uses in the practical fields, English is one of the world's most important language. Therefore, it can be considered a global language, or the closest thing there is to a global language. A definition of global language has been drawn in the first section that a global language should be an international lingua franca, but from the discussion above one can see that the strong influence of English and the status of being the official language of multiple countries are also factors that made English a global language. From the discussion of English being a global language, a list of properties of a global language can be preliminarily drawn.

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<sup>20</sup> Crystal (2012, p.104).

Properties of a global language:

1. An official language of one or more countries
2. Worldwide reach
3. Large number of overseas L2 speakers
4. Strong influence in multiple fields like politics, science, economy, culture, internet, business, etc. A strong indicator of a global language is that the language is used in international organizations and gatherings even if none of the participants are native speaker of the language.
5. One native-speaking country or multiple native-speaking countries have high international status and strong influence in the world

### **2.3 How did English become a global language?**

In the Middle Ages, Latin was the lingua franca of Europe because of the Roman Empire.<sup>21</sup> German was used as lingua franca in central and Eastern Europe during the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 19th century.<sup>22</sup> In the mid-19th century, the administration of Alexander II intended to spread Russian language to help unify the Russian empire.<sup>23</sup> Russian was assigned to be the official tongue of Kingdom of Poland after the Polish rebellion in 1863. In Central Asia and the Caucasus, natives were obligated to learn Russian. By late-19th century, Russian was spread throughout the empire.<sup>24</sup> Russian had a strong influence in Eastern Europe and Middle Asia due to the power of the Russian Empire in late-19th century and in the Soviet Union in the 1970s. History shows that the rise of a language is never about the language itself.

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<sup>21</sup> Mauranen; Hynniinen & Ranta (2009).

<sup>22</sup> Darquennes & Nelde (2006, p. 61-77).

<sup>23</sup> Pavlenko (2006, p. 80-83).

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

When the native-speakers or the country of the language rules, the language rules. A language becomes a regional lingua franca is primarily because of the political power, along with the economic and cultural influence of its native-speaking country. English, as a global language and its rise is inseparable from the rise of the British Empire; it has a consequential influence like the international standings and influence of its former colonies like the United States.<sup>25 26</sup>

### 2.3.1 Colonial expansion

Looking at the English-speaking countries: North American countries like the USA and Canada; Oceanian countries like Australia and New Zealand; African countries like Uganda and South Africa; Asian countries like Singapore and India, were all once British colonies. As for countries like the Philippines who has never officially been a British colony, the capital city Manila was taken by the British Empire in 1762, and it was a colony of America in the late 19th and early 20th century. Hence one can see that the wide spread of a language is essentially due to the power of the top government, or in the colonizers situation, the power of the suzerain. It also explains why Spanish and Portuguese are widely spoken in South America.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, England, the Netherlands and France started to expand, colonize and build up trading networks after Spain and Portugal's exploration and wealth gaining.<sup>27</sup> Then in the 17th and 18th centuries, with the union of England and Scotland, Great Britain became the great colonial power of North America and the Indian subcontinent.<sup>28</sup> With the rise of the British Empire, English began to spread as a way to consolidate the colonial power.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Crystal (2012, p. 29).

<sup>26</sup> Crystal (2012, p. 85).

<sup>27</sup> Russo (2012, p. 15).

<sup>28</sup> Russo (2012, p. 14).

<sup>29</sup> Amador (2013).

The British Empire was the most important global power and the largest Empire for over a century.<sup>30</sup> By 1913, the British Empire was ruling 23% of the world population and by 1920, the empire covered 24% of the land on earth.<sup>31</sup> As a result of the British Empire taking control of the education, business and administration in its colonies, the English language was widely spread in the whole territory of the empire.

### 2.3.2 Cultural influence

“Through culture, education and diplomatic outreach programmes, the US still influences ‘the street’ globally”.<sup>32</sup> The cultural influence of America and Britain is one of the reasons why English remains popular in the current world.<sup>33</sup>

The film industry in Europe was obstructed by World War I, movie centers were then shifted to the United States, more specifically, Hollywood. According to David Robinson's review in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the United States dominates approximately 85% of the world movie market.<sup>34</sup> Moreover, in the 85%, Hollywood movies contributes most of the profits in most countries. As for British TV industry, the TV series *Sherlock* was sold worldwide to more than 180 territories by BBC.<sup>35</sup> What is more, since the premiere of *Downton Abbey* in September 2010 in Britain, the show has been played in more than 200 countries or regions.<sup>36</sup> With Hollywood movies sweeping across the globe, British TV series like *Downton Abbey* and *Sherlock* remain popular among people worldwide; everyone who watches entertainment products in English can pick up English words from there.

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<sup>30</sup> Ferguson (2004b).

<sup>31</sup> CIA (2018).

<sup>32</sup> Goldfarb (2014).

<sup>33</sup> Crystal (2003, p. 98-100).

<sup>34</sup> Robinson (1995, p. 245).

<sup>35</sup> Youtube (2012).

<sup>36</sup> Egner (2013).

Within the modern pop music world, English is the dominant language.<sup>37</sup> With American singers like Elvis Presley and Michael Jackson and British bands like the Rolling Stones and the Beatles that became popular in the world, English language has been spreading rapidly around the world's music fans.<sup>38</sup> The *Penguin encyclopedia of popular music (1990 edition)* stated that 99% of the bands in the 1990s performed entirely or mainly in English; 95% of the singers sang in English regardless of what their native languages are. In 2002, about 70% of the songs in annual Euro-vision Song Contest are English songs.<sup>39</sup>

### 2.3.3 International status

As mentioned in 3.1, the British Empire was the strongest world's power and it is the broadest realm in history. In spite of the fact that it has now generally advanced into the Commonwealth of Nations, British impact in politics, economics, education and language has remained solid throughout the world.

After the decline of the British Empire, no superpower had raised until the United States came up on top on economics and political powers. In 1945, the United Nations replaced the League of Nations and became one of the most powerful and internationally represented intergovernmental organizations on earth.<sup>40</sup> The United Nations is located in the New York City, which shows the world focus is shifted to America. Among the five permanent members of United Nation Security Council: China, Russian Federation, France, the United Kingdom and the United States, two of the permanent members are English speaking countries.<sup>41</sup> Currently, the United States is the only superpower on the planet. According to *2018 Military Strength Ranking*, the United States has the strongest military power in the world.<sup>42</sup> The United

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<sup>37</sup> Crystal (2003a, p. 102-103).

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Crystal (2003a, p. 103).

<sup>40</sup> National Geographic (2018).

<sup>41</sup> United Nations Security Council (2018).

<sup>42</sup> GFP (2018).

States spent about 528.6 billion dollars on military defense in 2007, which is about five times of the amount China spent on the same purpose.<sup>43</sup>

#### 2.3.4 Economic and technological influence

Great Britain became the strongest economic and technological power in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the linguistic impacts is that English lexicon has been added with new technological terminologies.

American businesses took over what had left off by the British East India Company decades before, using English as a trading language all over the world later in the late 19<sup>th</sup>. In 2017, the United States was the largest economy in the world with 19390.6 billion dollars.<sup>44</sup> According to a survey from *NationMaster*, English-speaking countries, countries where the majority of the population speaks English as a first language, have about 6% of the world population, but contributed about 25% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the average revenue of English-speaking countries is about five times more than the average revenue of the world in 2013.<sup>45</sup> The economical contributes of English-speaking country shows the important role they play in global trades, which implies the importance of English in global business.

The Industrial Revolution started in Great Britain, and a considerable number of the mechanical advancements, such as new means of transportation, were of British origin.<sup>46</sup> Other nations who were in need of the new industrial information or knowledge had to learn it from English materials or making deals with English companies, therefore learning English was a requirement of developing industry. The spread of English comes with the development of technology in Great Britain. The telegraph for example, was invented in Great Britain, the

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<sup>43</sup> Towell ; Daggett & Belasco (2008).

<sup>44</sup> World Bank. (2018). "Gross domestic product 2017".

<sup>45</sup> NationMaster (2018).

<sup>46</sup> Horn ; Rosenband & Smith (2010).

language of its system English, which is why originally all the telegraph operators had to learn English in order to use it.

The United States has been a pioneer in developing mechanics since the late 19th century; the creation of the transistor in the 50s of the 20th century is a pivotal element in major parts of the modern electronics, which prompted the development of the American technology industry. The telephone, long-lasting incandescent light bulb, mobile phone, email and internet were all invented in America, most of which are still benefiting people's life. Those important creations brought English to the places where the new products were in need. The rise of American technology companies like IBM and Microsoft laid the foundation for English being the most important online language.

The new list of properties of global language:

1. An official language of one or more countries
2. Worldwide reach
3. Large number of oversea L2 speakers
4. Strong influence in multiple fields like politics, economy, culture, internet, business, etc.
5. One native-speaking country or multiple native-speaking countries have high international status and strong influence in the world
6. Legacy of colonial expansion

The new list can be used to compare with the properties of Chinese language to see if Chinese can be a global language.



## Chapter 3 Esperanto

### 3.1 What is Esperanto?

Esperanto is a constructed language devised by a Polish doctor named Ludwik Lejzer Zamenhof.<sup>47</sup> The vocabulary of Esperanto is based on root words from Romance and Germanic languages.<sup>48</sup> In 1887, Ludwik Lejzer Zamenhof published the first book explaining Esperanto; the book is titled *International Language*.<sup>49</sup> The name of the language “Esperanto” is from “Dr. Esperanto”, the pen name used by Zamenhof when he wrote the book. The literal meaning of “esperanto” is “one who hopes”, and the word is based on “to hope” in Latin “sperare”.<sup>50</sup>

Zamenhof’s purpose of inventing this language was to create a language that is easy to learn, to invent an international lingua franca no matter whether it can be globally accepted or not. In order to achieve his goals, Zamenhof tried to keep the grammar of Esperanto as easy as possible. According to his book *International language*, the grammar of Esperanto “can be learned perfectly in one hour”. He narrowed down the foundation words that are necessary to learn. Additionally, he made word-formation rules so that Esperanto learners can create new words without previously learning them.<sup>51</sup>

### 3.2 Is Esperanto a global language?

As the title of Zamenhof’s book in 1887 shows, Esperanto was invented to be an international language. It grew all through the 20th century and has kept on developing in the 21st century.

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<sup>47</sup> Oxford dictionary (2018). “Esperanto”.

<sup>48</sup> Language Dictionary (2018).

<sup>49</sup> Encyclopaedia Britannica (2018). L.L. Zamenhof.

<sup>50</sup> Oxford dictionary (2018). “Esperanto”.

<sup>51</sup> Encyclopaedia Britannica (2018). L.L. Zamenhof.

Esperanto was granted official support as an international auxiliary language by the United Nations in 1954.<sup>52</sup>

### 3.2.1 Current situation of Esperanto

Esperanto has spread universally.<sup>53</sup> In 2015, it had about two million speakers around the world.<sup>54</sup> Esperanto is most diffusely represented in Japan, China, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, United States, Brazil, Belgium, and the United Kingdom (arranged by number of individuals in the World Esperanto Association). Esperanto is not any country's official language.<sup>55</sup> However, it is the official language of several non-profit organizations.<sup>56</sup> The largest organization of Esperanto is Universal Esperanto Association, which has 5501 individual members in 121 countries and 9215 members through national associations.<sup>57</sup> In 1921, the French Academy of Sciences presented to use Esperanto for universal scientific communication.<sup>58</sup> A number of mathematicians, scientists and linguists, for example, Maurice Fréchet, John C. Wells and Helmar Frank and Nobel laureate Reinhard Selten have published some of their work in Esperanto.<sup>59</sup> <sup>60</sup> <sup>61</sup> <sup>62</sup> In early 1920s, the French Chamber of Commerce did a research and found the best business language seemed to be Esperanto.<sup>63</sup> The result was reported in *The New York Times* in 1921. Many websites, such as Vatican Radio and

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<sup>52</sup> UNESCO (1955).

<sup>53</sup> Simons & Fennig (2018). Esperanto.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Language Dictionary (2018).

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Esperanto (2016, p. 94).

<sup>58</sup> Forster (1982, p. 181).

<sup>59</sup> Fréchet (1954-1956, p. 81-96).

<sup>60</sup> Wells (2010).

<sup>61</sup> Frank (2011).

<sup>62</sup> Selten (1955).

<sup>63</sup> The New York Times (1921).

China.org.cn have an Esperanto version.<sup>64 65</sup> As for education, Esperanto is the main language of educating and administration of the International Academy of Sciences San Marino.<sup>66</sup>

### 3.2.2 Comparison between properties of Esperanto and properties list of global language

#### 1. An official language of one or more countries

So far, Esperanto is not an official language of any country.<sup>67</sup>

#### 2. Worldwide reach

Esperanto is spread universally, it is mostly diffusely represented in Asia, Europe and both North and South America. Esperanto thus meets the criterion of having a worldwide reach.

#### 3. Large number of overseas L2 speakers

According to *Ethnologue*, there are about two million L2 Esperanto speakers in 2015.<sup>68</sup> Because Esperanto is not an official language of any country, the L2 speakers are all considered overseas L2 speakers.

#### 4. Strong influence in multiple fields like politics, economy, culture, internet, business, etc.

Esperanto has very little influence in fields like science, business and education, and no striking data shows that Esperanto has made a great contribution to economy.

#### 5. One native-speaking country or multiple native-speaking countries have high international status and strong influence in the world

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<sup>64</sup> Vatican Radio (2018).

<sup>65</sup> China.org.cn (2018).

<sup>66</sup> AIS (2017).

<sup>67</sup> Language Dictionary (2018).

<sup>68</sup> Simons & Fennig (2018). Esperanto.

Because Esperanto is not an official language of any country, it does not have native-speaking country or meet the criteria of having one or more native-speaking countries with high international status and strong influence.

#### 6. Legacy of colonial expansion

Because Esperanto does not have native speaking country, therefore this criterion does not apply on Esperanto.

### **3.3 Why did Esperanto not become a global language as Zamenhof expected?**

A global language needs to contribute largely in multiple fields, such as economy and education. Section 2 shows that Esperanto has influence in multiple fields around the world. However, the influence is limited especially compared with many other languages who are official languages of countries. As it is mentioned in “English as a global language”, a language becomes a regional lingua franca and is primarily because of the political power, along with the economic and cultural influence of its native-speaking country. Without a native-speaking country and its political power to spread the language, Esperanto has to rely on Esperanto organizations to popularize the language. Even with the governments’ help of popularizing, Esperanto would still come after the official language.

Esperanto is the official language of several non-profit organizations, but most of them are Esperanto organizations. This means the influence of Esperanto is still within its own community.<sup>69</sup> Esperanto is the main language in one university, whereas other languages like English and French are the main languages of hundreds of Universities throughout the world, Esperanto still has a long way to go before becoming an important education language like

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<sup>69</sup> Language Dictionary (2018).

English and French. Since English has already taken the position of the global lingua franca, even though Esperanto is designed to be easy to learn, without meeting the other criteria of a global language, it would be hard for Esperanto to replace English.

From the discussion above, one can see that for a language to become a global language, it must have a powerful native speaking country. In another word, the global spread of a language highly relies on a powerful country with a high status in the world, which means property (1) *An official language of one or more countries* and property (5) *One native-speaking country or multiple native-speaking countries have high international status and strong influence in the world* are two essential criteria.

## Chapter 4 Latin

### 4.1 A historical perspective of Latin as an international language

Latin belongs to the Italic branch of the Indo-European language family, and it is ancestral to the modern Romance languages, such as French, Spanish and Italian.<sup>70 71</sup> Latin originated in Latium, a small region near the River Tiber.<sup>72</sup> The name Latin comes from the Italic tribe called Latini that settled in Latium around the tenth century BCE, as well as the language spoken by people in that tribe.<sup>73</sup>

#### 4.1.1 Was Latin an international language?

Under the rule of Augustus Caesar (27 BC–14 AD), the Roman Empire expanded its territory, which was then kept by the Empire for around four hundred years.<sup>74</sup> At that time, the Roman Empire included the land from the south of the Danube to the west of the Rhine, along with all the countries down the southern coasts and eastern coasts of the Mediterranean.<sup>75</sup> The two official languages of the Roman Empire were Greek and Latin.<sup>76</sup> Greek was spoken in the East of the Empire, like countries that surrounded the eastern Mediterranean from Greece to Libya and of the dominion that forms modern-day Iran and Iraq, as well as southern Italy and Sicily; in the meantime, Latin was spoke in the rest of the Empire.<sup>77</sup>

Before southern Europe and regions in North Africa came under the rule of the Roman Empire, they did not speak Roman languages.<sup>78</sup> For example, the majority of France spoke a Celtic

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<sup>70</sup> Oxforddictionaries (2018). Latin.

<sup>71</sup> Encyclopædia Britannica (2018). Latin Language.

<sup>72</sup> Hansen (2000, p. 209).

<sup>73</sup> Palmer (1987, p. 59).

<sup>74</sup> Janson (2007, p. 44).

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Janson (2007, p. 45).

<sup>77</sup> Janson (2007, p. 20).

<sup>78</sup> Janson (2007, p. 45).

language, in what is now Morocco and Algeria, most people spoke Berber. After the Roman Empire expanded to southern Europe and North Africa, regions in those areas (other than Italy) became provinces with Roman governors appointed by Rome. Since then, an increasing number of people from those areas gradually gave up their native languages and learnt Latin. One important reason of people adopting Latin was the military organization and soldiers. The military used Latin for all of its affairs, which means any men who became or wished to become Roman soldiers had to learn Latin. The Empire also set up colonies of veteran soldiers in the provinces, from which sometimes formed large towns where Latin was the major language.<sup>79</sup> Another important reason was that new provinces gradually moved into a peaceful condition, which obtained during several centuries of empire. During the peaceful times, the local economies of most provinces improved.<sup>80</sup> The expansion and emerge of towns, and the increasing opportunities of business encouraged businessmen to learn Latin so that they could broaden their business and communicate with customers with other language backgrounds.<sup>81</sup> Latin was the language of the military, law and the dominance hierarchy; knowing Latin was an essential requirement of getting Roman citizenship.<sup>82 83</sup>

After the downfall of the Roman Empire, Latin remained as a lingua franca in Europe between educated people during the Middle Ages (from the fifth century to the fifteenth century, also known as the Medieval Period). In Barotchi's overview *Lingua Franca*, it mentions that Latin was seen as a Lingua Franca in the Roman Empire as the official language.<sup>84</sup> In the medieval period, Latin was the lingua franca of the Christian world, as the language of the Catholic

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<sup>79</sup> Janson (2007, p. 45).

<sup>80</sup> Janson (2007, p. 46).

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Rochette (2011, p. 552-557).

<sup>83</sup> Adams (2003, p. 185).

<sup>84</sup> Barotchi (2001, p. 503-504).

Church.<sup>85</sup> Latin continued to be the language of liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church until 1962 when the second Vatican Council was reformed.<sup>86</sup>

Latin was widely used as the language of academics and administration until the end of the 17th century.<sup>87</sup> The Encyclopédie in 1765 stated that Latin was the scholarly language in Europe.<sup>88</sup> In the 17th and 18th century, a large number of books in vernacular languages were translated into Latin in order to gain an international audience.<sup>89</sup> Diderot mentioned it was important to speak Latin since it could help the discussion with international scholars.<sup>90</sup>

Throughout the Medieval Period (from the fifth to the fifteenth century), Latin was also used for writing poetry.<sup>91</sup> During the Renaissance, the number of Latin poems increased all over Europe, from England alone hundreds of Latin poems were written in the period of the 16th to the 17th century.<sup>92</sup>

In summary, Latin was widely used not only in Europe but also in other domains the Roman Empire conquered, such as regions in North Africa. Latin was the language of the military and law in the Roman Empire. During the Middle Ages, Latin was the language of academics, administration and poetry in Europe. Latin also played an important role in business trade. During the Medieval Period, Latin had major influence in multiple fields. Therefore, Latin could be considered as an international language in the Middle Ages.

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<sup>85</sup> Barotchi (2001, p. 503-504).

<sup>86</sup> Oxforddictionaries (2018). Latin.

<sup>87</sup> Encyclopedia.com 2016. "LATIN." Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language.

<sup>88</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 71).

<sup>89</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 71).

<sup>90</sup> Waquet (2001, p. 80).

<sup>91</sup> Janson (2007, p. 131).

<sup>92</sup> Janson (2007, p. 131).



## 4.1.2 How did Latin become a regional lingua franca?

### 4.1.2.1 Roman Empire

In the book *English as a Global Language*, the author David Crystal states that Latin's role of being an international language is derived from being a powerful language in the Roman Empire. Power is the main property of an international language because “[t]here is the closest of links between language dominance and cultural power”, and “[a] language becomes an international language for one chief reason: the political power of its people – especially the military power”, both cultural power and political power are tightly linked with economic power.<sup>93 94 95</sup>

Around 117 AD, the Roman Empire was the most powerful political and cultural structure and the biggest military and economic force in the western world.<sup>96</sup> During the time the Roman Empire was under the rule of Trajan (98 AD-117 AD), the domain of the Empire expanded to five million square kilometers.<sup>97 98</sup> On the territories of the Empire lived around 70 million inhabitants, which was about 20% of the world's population at that time.<sup>99</sup>

Charlemagne, also known as Charles the Great, played an important role in the expansion of the Frankish Empire. He ruled the kingdom of the Franks from 768 AD.<sup>100</sup> Later, in 774, he conquered the Lombard Kingdom and merged it into his Frankish Empire.<sup>101</sup> After that, he became the Holy Roman Emperor and governed from 800 to 814. In the eighth and the ninth century, he united a large part of central and Western Europe. The union made a great

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<sup>93</sup> Crystal (2003, p. 7).

<sup>94</sup> Crystal (2003, p. 9).

<sup>95</sup> Bernini (2015, p. 16-34).

<sup>96</sup> Mark (2018).

<sup>97</sup> Taagepera (1979, p. 125).

<sup>98</sup> Turchin; Adams; Hall. (2006, p. 222).

<sup>99</sup> Kremer (1993, p.682-715).

<sup>100</sup> McKitterick (2008, p. 1).

<sup>101</sup> McKitterick (2008, p. 111-113).

contribution to the expansion of Christianity and Latin in Europe.<sup>102</sup> Charlemagne expanded Christianity and Latin in Europe mainly through military force and education. When he conquered the East part of Europe, his army slaughtered people who were not willing to convert to Christianity. The Roman Catholic Church, the largest Christian church that could get the intervention of the state if needed, took the survivors. The Roman Catholic Church ran its business in Latin, which led to Latin being the language of administration and religion in large places of central Europe.<sup>103</sup> As for education, Charlemagne, with the help of an Englishman Alcuin, made a great effort to ensure that students could learn correct Latin based on classical rules of the language.<sup>104</sup>

Through military force and education, Charles the Great made a great contribution to the expansion of the Roman Empire and the spread of the Christianity. Because the power of the Romans got stronger and stronger, Latin spread from Italy into most of southern and western Europe, and later into the African regions around the western and central Mediterranean.<sup>105</sup>

#### 4.1.2.2 Education

In Roman schools, becoming a good public speaker was a prior goal of the educational considerations, since achieving success in Rome highly relied on the competence of speaking in public.<sup>106</sup> This attitude resulted in Latin receiving great attention in school since Latin was the language of instruction at Roman schools.<sup>107</sup> In order to be a successful speaker, one needed to have a great knowledge of the language used, from basic knowledge like grammar to more

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<sup>102</sup> Jason (2007, p. 95).

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> Janson (2007, p. 96).

<sup>105</sup> Encyclopædia Britannica (2018). Latin Language.

<sup>106</sup> Janson (2007, p. 62).

<sup>107</sup> Janson (2007, p. 61).

advanced knowledge like speaking style. Thus, a great command of Latin was the prerequisite of being a good public speaker in Rome.<sup>108</sup>

#### 4.1.2.3 Religion

Christianity originated in the east part of the Roman Empire, where the official language was Greek.<sup>109</sup> Christianity began to spread within the Roman Empire after the beginning of the fourth century and became the official religion of the Roman Empire by the end of the fourth century.<sup>110</sup> However, when Christianity spread to the west part of the Roman Empire, where the official language was Latin, most of the people could not understand Greek Christian literature.<sup>111</sup> In order to make sure Christianity is well spread in the west Roman Empire, the practical choice was to create Christian literatures in Latin instead of making everyone in the west learn Greek.<sup>112</sup>

To sum up, Latin became a global language because of the strong military force, political power and cultural power of the Roman Empire, as well as the important role Latin played in education and the well spread of Christianity in Europe.

#### 4.1.3 Comparison between the historical situation of Latin and the global language properties list

Global language properties list:

(1) An official language of one or more countries

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<sup>108</sup> Janson (2007, p. 62).

<sup>109</sup> Janson (2007, p. 77).

<sup>110</sup> Janson (2007, p. 78).

<sup>111</sup> Janson (2007, p. 78).

<sup>112</sup> Janson (2007, p. 78).

As it was mentioned in section 4.1.1 *Was Latin an international language?* Latin was an official language of the Roman Empire.<sup>113</sup> Therefore, Latin in meets the criteria of being the official language of one country.

## (2) Worldwide reach

Latin originated in Latium, where the city of Rome was founded which grew to be the capital city of the Roman Empire.<sup>114</sup> The Roman Empire had a large territory around the Mediterranean Sea in Asia, Europe and Africa.<sup>115</sup> Latin never gained a firm foothold in the eastern part of the empire, whereas in the western part of the empire most people gradually adopted Latin as their language.<sup>116</sup> Regions like France, Spain, and Portugal in Europe, modern Algeria and Morocco in North Africa became provinces of the Roman Empire after they were conquered by the Romans, increasing number of people in those provinces started to learn Latin and gave up on their native languages (reasons explained in 4.1.1). Moreover, because Latin was a lingua franca in the Christian world as the language of the Catholic Church, Latin reached to every places where Christianity was the major religion.<sup>117</sup> Strictly speaking, Latin did not have a worldwide reach because Christianity was not well spread in places like China and its neighboring countries before the 16th century, or the Australasia before the late 17th century.<sup>118 119</sup> Nevertheless, Latin did spread into a large territory that stretches over two continents, it can be considered widely spread.

## (3) Large number of overseas L2 speakers

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<sup>113</sup> In some other sources, such as Ermatinger (2018, p. 269), Latin was considered not one of but the only official language of the Roman Empire.

<sup>114</sup> Sandys (1910, p. 811-812).

<sup>115</sup> Janson (2007, p. 45).

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Barotchi (2001, p. 504).

<sup>118</sup> Hastings (1999, p. 369-412).

<sup>119</sup> Hastings (1999, p. 508).

Regionally speaking, the influence of Latin was mainly in the Roman Empire and the Christian world.<sup>120</sup> Because Latin was an official language of the Roman Empire, overseas L2 speakers would refer to people who speak Latin outside of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire expanded around the Mediterranean Sea, which means its colonies were close to where the Roman Empire originated. Compare with the British Empire whose colonies, such as India, South Africa, Australia and America, are far from the British Isles, the colonies of the Roman Empire were merged into the Roman Empire. Since the domain of the Roman Empire kept changing and it was hard to distinguish its colonies from the Empire itself, it was difficult to count the number of overseas L2 Latin speakers in the Middle Ages.

(4) Strong influence in multiple fields like politics, economy, culture, internet, business, etc.

The importance of Latin for science can be seen from one example. When almost all scholars wrote their academic writings in Latin, Galileo published his book *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* in Italian in 1632.<sup>121</sup> The book was well-known all over Europe, but it only became accessible to educated people everywhere after it had been translated into Latin.<sup>122</sup>

From antiquity to the 13th century, the cultural history and history of Europe was written mostly in Latin.<sup>123</sup> In the western world, Latin was an important medium for original works like speeches of Cicero, dramas of Terence, poems of Virgil and the histories of Tacitus and Livy.<sup>124</sup> The Roman philosopher and statesman Boethius wrote his most influential and popular work *De consolatione philosophiae* (*The Consolation of Philosophy*) in Latin in around 524 AD.<sup>125</sup> Peter Abelard, also a philosopher whose most notable philosophic work *Sic et non* (1136; “Yes

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<sup>120</sup> Barotchi (2001, p. 504).

<sup>121</sup> Janson (2007, p. 157).

<sup>122</sup> Janson (2007, p. 158).

<sup>123</sup> Janson (2007, p. 176).

<sup>124</sup> Encyclopædia Britannica (2018). Roman Empire.

<sup>125</sup> Goodman; Raby & Wilkinson (2016).

*and No*”) was written in Latin. Latin remained the major language of scholarship until late 17th century.<sup>126</sup> A number of works of Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus, a Dutch humanist who is commonly known as Erasmu, were written in Latin, such as *Enchiridion militis Christiani* (1501; “*Handbook of a Christian Knight*”), *Moriae Encomium* (1509; “*In Praise of Folly*”) and *De libero arbitrio diatribe sive collation* (1524; “*The Freedom of the Will*”).<sup>127</sup> Issac Newton wrote one of his masterpiece *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (1687; “*Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*”), often referred to as *Principia*.<sup>128</sup>

As one can see, Latin was important in the fields of science, history, literature, and as mentioned in section 4.1.1, business.

(5) One native-speaking country or multiple native-speaking countries have high international status and strong influence in the world

The Roman Empire was a major power in the western world, and how it became a major power is inseparable with its outstanding army and its intellectual accomplishments.<sup>129</sup> Roman law, the legal system of ancient Rome, denoted the legal system applied in most of Western Europe until the end of the 18th century.<sup>130</sup> Roman law also functioned as a basis for legal practice in states of Western Europe and their former colonies such as Latin America. Eastern Europe did not use Roman law but Eastern European law was influenced by the Roman legal system, such as medieval Byzantine legal system. For example, in medieval Romania, the legal system there was created based on Roman law and medieval Romanian local law.<sup>131</sup> Roads of Rome was designed for relatively fast transportation and adapted to varies of functions, such as mail

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<sup>126</sup> Encyclopedia.com 2016. "LATIN." Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language.

<sup>127</sup> Tracy (2018).

<sup>128</sup> Westfall (2018).

<sup>129</sup> Encyclopædia Britannica (2018). Roman Empire.

<sup>130</sup> Herbermann (1913).

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

delivery, business trade, agriculture and military movements.<sup>132</sup> Rome's road were incomparable in the ancient world.<sup>133</sup> From the facts above, it can be seen that the native-speaking country of Latin did have high international status and strong influence in the western world.

#### (6) Legacy of colonial expansion

As explained in section 4.1.2.1 *Roman Empire*, the spread of Latin during the Medieval Period was inseparable with the expansion of the Roman Empire. Latin fits this property of being a global language.

From the comparison of the historical situation of Latin and the global language properties list, one can see that even though the exact amount of overseas Latin speakers is hard to find, Latin was no doubt widely spread and influential in multiple fields. The spread of Latin was largely due to the expansion of Roman Empire.

## **4.2 The present status of Latin**

### 4.2.1 Current situation of Latin language

Even though Latin is no longer widely spoken in the world, it still has a great influence on a number of living European languages.<sup>134</sup> A few of the European languages, such as Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, are direct descendants of Latin, they are called Romance languages or Romanic languages. Many modern European non-Romance languages have borrowed words from Latin directly or indirectly.<sup>135</sup> Latin terms are still used in many medical, scientific, and

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<sup>132</sup> Encyclopædia Britannica (2018). Roman Empire.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> Thompson (2015).

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

legal terminologies across the world.<sup>136</sup> A number of countries have adopted Latin mottoes, even countries with no historic ties to the Roman Empire.<sup>137</sup> For example, the official motto of Canada is "A Mari Usque Ad Mare", carried on its coat of arms.<sup>138</sup> The English translation of the motto is "From sea to sea".<sup>139</sup>

Scientific writings in Latin had been the best in Europe for a long time.<sup>140</sup> However, during the course of the last few centuries, a large number of Latin scientific works have become outdated and many of them have turned out to be wrong. In modern scientific writings, many Latin terms have been preserved whereas theories written in Latin has not.<sup>141</sup> By the 17th century, many European vernacular languages, such as English, Italian and French, had risen.<sup>142</sup> The fact that European vernacular languages were highly developed restrained the attempts of restoring classical Latin by humanists. Although scientists were trained in Latin, the amount of academic writings in vernacular languages began to boost.<sup>143</sup> This shows that the influence of Latin in the field of science has diminished.

Latin had been the major language of scholarship until the end of the 17th century.<sup>144</sup> In 1687, Isaac Newton wrote the *Principia* in Latin so that this work would be widely read. However, in the early 18th century, Newton chose English as the medium for *Opticks*, which symbolized that scholar language is shifting from Latin to English.<sup>145</sup>

Classical Latin language and literature are still taught at schools in many countries, but instead of focusing on Latin language, students learn the language and its literature as historical

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<sup>136</sup> Zecca-Naples (2015).

<sup>137</sup> Zecca-Naples (2015).

<sup>138</sup> Lamb (2016).

<sup>139</sup> Lamb (2016).

<sup>140</sup> Janson (2007, p. 65).

<sup>141</sup> Janson (2007, p. 65).

<sup>142</sup> Encyclopedia.com 2016. "LATIN." Europe, 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Encyclopedia.com 2016. "LATIN." Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid.



materials to understand its cultural background.<sup>146 147</sup> Latin is no longer the main academic or literary writing language.<sup>148</sup>

As for Latin being the language of Christianity, Latin was the essential ritualistic language of the Roman Catholic Church until the reform of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). After that, the main liturgical language of the Catholic Church was replaced by the vernacular languages of the parishioners.<sup>149</sup>

Overall, Latin's influence in other languages exists in the form of loan words and phrases, and its current contribution to scientific, medical and legal fields are Latin terms in those domains. Latin literatures are still being taught at school but Latin is no longer the language of literary.

#### 4.2.2 Why did it fail to maintain as an international language?

##### 4.2.2.1 Downfall of the Roman Empire

The Roman Empire was too extensive to rule by the central government in Rome by 285 AD, it was then divided into an Eastern and a Western Empire by the Emperor at the time, Diocletian (284 AD-305 AD). The Western Roman Empire ended when the Germanic King Odoacer deposed the Roman Emperor Romulus Augustulus in 476 AD.<sup>150</sup> The Eastern Roman Empire continued to exist as the Byzantine Empire until its capital city, Constantinople was conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1453 AD.<sup>151</sup> With the fall of Roman government in both Western and Eastern Roman Empires, Germanic and Turkish languages shook the status of Latin being the most important language throughout the Roman Empire.

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<sup>146</sup> Thompson (2015).

<sup>147</sup> Leonhardt & Kronenberg (2013, p. 279).

<sup>148</sup> Encyclopedia.com 2016. "LATIN." Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language.

<sup>149</sup> Encyclopedia.com 2016. "LATIN." Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language.

<sup>150</sup> Mark (2018).

<sup>151</sup> Mark (2018).

Despite Latin remained as a lingua franca in Europe between educated people after the decline of the Roman Empire during the Middle Ages, in some provinces of the Roman Empire, Latin disappeared after the downfall of the Empire. Especially in North Africa, where people had spoken Latin for hundreds of years as their primary language.<sup>152</sup> <sup>153</sup> Latin in North Africa was still in use from the fifth to the seventh century, when parts of North Africa were under the rule of vandals, a Germanic tribe, and then the eastern emperor in Constantinople. However, Latin disappeared in North Africa after it was conquered by Arabs in the seventh century.<sup>154</sup>

#### 4.2.2.2 Insufficient establish of Latin

There are places where Latin was never sufficiently established. For example, England and Wales were conquered in the first century, and it remained as a Roman province for about three hundred years.<sup>155</sup> However, Celtic languages were more frequently used than Latin in England and Wales. Later in the fifth century, the Germanic invasion switched the main languages of England and Wales from Celtic to Germanic.<sup>156</sup>

#### 4.2.3 Comparison between current situation of Latin and global language properties list

Currently, Latin is the official language of the Holy See.<sup>157</sup> The Holy See is often referred to as “The Vatican”, but the Holy See and the Vatican City State are different entities.<sup>158</sup> According to the statement on the official website of the Vatican City State, Vatican City State’s nature of being a sovereign State is distinct from the Holy See, which means that the Holy See is not a sovereign State.<sup>159</sup> The official website of the Holy See has versions in seven languages; Latin

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<sup>152</sup> Janson (2007, p. 47).

<sup>153</sup> Decret & Smither (2009, p. 29).

<sup>154</sup> Janson (2007, p. 47).

<sup>155</sup> Ibid.

<sup>156</sup> Janson (2007, p. 47).

<sup>157</sup> Toschi (1931, p. 529-538).

<sup>158</sup> Vatican City State (2017).

<sup>159</sup> Ibid.

is one of the seven.<sup>160</sup> The official website of the Vatican City State has versions in five languages: Italian, English, French, German and Spanish.<sup>161</sup> Latin is not one of the five. Therefore, Latin is not the official language of the Vatican City. Whether the Holy See is a country is debatable. As mentioned above, the Holy See is not stated as a sovereign State on the official website of the Vatican City. However, according to Foreign & Commonwealth Office of UK, the Holy See is a sovereign entity.<sup>162</sup> For this reason, it is hard to define whether Latin meets the criteria of being an official language of one or more countries. Additionally, the colonial expansion property and the native-speaking country property does not apply to Latin either.

Latin has no known native speakers and no ethnic community or population.<sup>163</sup> In this case, all Latin speakers now should be considered as L2 speakers.<sup>164</sup> However, it is difficult to find the data of Latin speakers' number since people do not communicate in this language anymore.<sup>165</sup>

As mentioned in section 4.2.2.1, Latin disappeared in a few provinces after the downfall of the Roman Empire. Latin is used for all official Holy See documents and in Roman Catholic liturgy, which should have helped Latin consolidate its status in Christianity world.<sup>166</sup> However, the official website of the Holy See has multiple language choices, which means knowing Latin is not a prerequisite for keeping up with the center of Catholicism.<sup>167</sup> The spread of Christianity does not help much with the spread of Latin anymore. Latin stayed as a language of the educated

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<sup>160</sup> The Holy See (n.d.).

<sup>161</sup> Vatican City State (2017).

<sup>162</sup> Foreign & Commonwealth Office (2013).

<sup>163</sup> Ethnologue 2017. Latin.

<sup>164</sup> Ethnologue 2017. Latin.

<sup>165</sup> Thompson (2015).

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> The Holy See. Official website: <https://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>.

population around the world until the 19th century.<sup>168</sup> In the meantime, its importance as a global language receded.<sup>169</sup> Overall, Latin does not have a worldwide reach.

Galileo published his book *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* in Italian, and the book was only accessible all over the Europe after it was translated into Latin. On the one hand, it illustrated the strong influence Latin had on science at that time. On the other hand, it started a new tendency of writing in native languages.<sup>170</sup> After Galileo, great scientists often published their scientific works in both Latin and their mother tongue.<sup>171</sup> There are many Latin words in use in the field of medicine, such as virus and appendix; and the field of law, as mentioned in section 4.2.1 *Current situation of Latin language*.<sup>172</sup> However, it is rare to see a prescription written entirely in Latin or lawyer plead in Latin in modern society. Latin still has influence in multiple fields but the influence is very limited.

The properties Latin had when it was an international language are: official language of a country; a worldwide reach, or at least a large range; strong influence in multiple fields; native-speaking country has strong influence in the world and colonial expansion. When Latin stopped being an international lingua franca, it lost all of those properties. Which means to be a global language, a language has to have strong influence in multiple fields and a powerful country who use it as an official language. The country has to have large colony territory strong influence throughout the world. As David Crystal said in his book *English as a Global Language*, language dominance depends on a strong power-base.<sup>173</sup> In Latin's case, the power-base is the power of the Roman Empire.<sup>174</sup> Therefore, the success of a language comes

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<sup>168</sup> Leonhardt & Kronenberg (2013, p. 264-265).

<sup>169</sup> Leonhardt & Kronenberg (2013, p. 265).

<sup>170</sup> Janson (2007, p. 158).

<sup>171</sup> Janson (2007, p. 158).

<sup>172</sup> Janson (2007, p. 149).

<sup>173</sup> Crystal (2003, p. 7).

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.

from the success of its country, the most important criteria of becoming a global language is to have a powerful country.

Based on the important role Christianity played in the spread of Latin, one more property should be added on the list: language of an influential religion. Because the number of people who believe in one religion is relatively limited compare with the world population, this property should be an influencing factor, not a determining factor.

From the most crucial property to the least influential property, the new global language properties list should be:

- (1) An official language of one or more countries
- (2) One native-speaking country or multiple native-speaking countries have high international status and strong influence in the world
- (3) Legacy of colonial expansion
- (4) Language with a worldwide reach
- (5) Large number of overseas L2 speakers
- (6) Strong influence in multiple fields like politics, economy, culture, internet, business, etc.
- (7) Language of an influential religion

With properties (1) to (3) as determining criteria, properties (4) to (6) as consequential criteria, properties (7) as influential criteria.

## Chapter 5 Classical Chinese

### 5.1 What is classical Chinese?

Classical Chinese refers to the language of the period from late Spring and Autumn period (early fifth century BC) to the end of the Han Dynasty (220 AD).<sup>175</sup> After the Han Dynasty, Classical Chinese continued as the official written language of China until it was replaced by vernacular written Chinese in the early 20th century.<sup>176</sup>

### 5.2 Was Classical Chinese an international language?

During the Tang dynasty (618 AD–907 AD), Chinese language and culture were largely imported into Japan, Korea and Vietnam.<sup>177</sup> Before vernacular written Chinese replaced classical Chinese as the main written language in China in early 20th century, classical Chinese was both the diplomatic language and the written lingua franca in East Asia, including China, Korea, Japan, the Ryukyu Kingdom (until it was annexed by Japan in 1868) and Vietnam.<sup>178</sup> Japanese Confucians in Edo Period (1603-1868) used to have Confucian discussion with Korean Confucians through writing Chinese. *Rekidai Hōan* ("Precious Documents of Successive Generations") is a diplomatic documents compilation of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The *Rekidai Hōan* contains records of communications between Ryukyu and its trading partners like China, Korea and Siam (Thailand) from 1424 to 1867, and the documents were written entirely in Chinese.<sup>179</sup> Yuan Shikai (1859-1916), a Chinese warlord, could communicate with

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<sup>175</sup> Norman (1988, p. xi, 83).

<sup>176</sup> Norman (1988, p. 109).

<sup>177</sup> Norman (1988, p. 34).

<sup>178</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 65).

<sup>179</sup> Okinawa-ken Kyōiku Iinkai. (2003).

Korean king and Korean officials by writing Chinese.<sup>180</sup> Throughout East Asia, classical Chinese was the language of administration and scholarship.<sup>181</sup>

Classical Chinese was first introduced to Korea when the Han dynasty invaded the north of the Korean peninsula in the first century BC and established the Four Commanderies.<sup>182</sup> In 682 AD, *kukhak*, a Korean government organization which was in charge of national education was established and Chinese classics started to be taught.<sup>183</sup> In 985 AD, the Chinese system of civil service examinations based on the Chinese classics was adopted by Kwangjong, the Korean king at the time.<sup>184</sup> With the strong influence of China, most literary works created in the Korean peninsula before the 20th century were in classical Chinese, as well as all major documents and publications.<sup>185 186</sup> For example, Korean historical records such as 三國史記 (1145 AD) "*History of the Three Kingdoms*" and 三國遺事 (1512 AD) "*Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms*" were in written in Classical Chinese.<sup>187 188</sup> What is more, government examinations like the imperial examinations and the military service examinations were in classical Chinese.<sup>189</sup> The dominant status of classical Chinese on the Korean peninsula was maintained until the fall of the Korean Yi Dynasty (1392-1910) in 1910. During the Yi dynasty any Korean who wish to have significant achievements had to acquire proficiency in classical Chinese.<sup>190</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> Wikipedia (2018). Sinosphere.

<sup>181</sup> Ibid.

<sup>182</sup> Sohn & Lee (2003, p. 23).

<sup>183</sup> Ibid.

<sup>184</sup> Kang (1974).

<sup>185</sup> Shapiro & Jernudd (1989, p. 114).

<sup>186</sup> Mair, ed. (2001, chapter 53).

<sup>187</sup> Shultz (2004).

<sup>188</sup> Chong ; Lee & Kwon (2016).

<sup>189</sup> Shapiro & Jernudd (1989, p. 114).

<sup>190</sup> Ibid.

Classical Chinese was introduced to Japan by Buddhist clerics from Korea around the fourth century.<sup>191</sup> Japan started direct contacts with China by 607 BC. Later in the Chinese Tang dynasty (618 AD - 907 AD), Japan largely imported Chinese culture including the language.<sup>192</sup> Just like in Korea, a number of Japanese historical books were written in Classical Chinese, such as *日本書紀* (720 AD) (*Nihon Shoki*, “*The Chronicles of Japan*”) and *古事記* (711 AD) (*Kojiki*, “*Records of Ancient Matters*”). Classical Chinese was the preferred language for formal works until the end of 19th century.<sup>193</sup>

In Vietnam, the northern part of the country was controlled by China from 111 BC to 983 AD, and when they were independent from China, they kept on using classical Chinese.<sup>194</sup> The earliest extant Chinese writings written by Vietnamese are poems from the late tenth century, and the writers are Buddhist monks.<sup>195</sup> Later on, the Ly Dynasty (1009-1225) was first supported by Buddhist monks, and then influenced by Confucianism. In 1070, a Confucian Temple of Literature was built in Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. With the spread of Buddhism and Confucianism in Vietnam, classical Chinese spread with them since classical Chinese was the medium language of Buddhism and Confucianism. The influence of Confucianism kept growing until 1913; the French colonial administration suppressed the civil service examinations on the Chinese model.<sup>196</sup>

Take Phan Boi Chau (1867-1940), a Vietnamese nationalist hero, an example of the status of classical Chinese in Vietnam; in the early 20th century, he tried to raise funds and look for supporters in China and Japan to fight against the colonial rule of France.<sup>197</sup> Phan Boi Chau

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<sup>191</sup> Cranston (1993, p. 453-454).

<sup>192</sup> Cranston (1993, p. 455-457).

<sup>193</sup> Twine (1991, p. 34-35, 45-48).

<sup>194</sup> DeFrancis (1977, p. 14).

<sup>195</sup> Coedès (1966, p. 87).

<sup>196</sup> DeFrancis (1977, p. 14, 31).

<sup>197</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 67).



wrote his requests in classical Chinese.<sup>198</sup> Phan Boi Chau's revolutionary pamphlet "*The History of the Loss of Vietnam*" was written in classical Chinese, as well as his autobiography in 1928.<sup>199</sup> The example of Phan Boi Chau illustrates the prestige of classical Chinese in Vietnam, that even a nationalist hero wrote his revolutionary pamphlet and autobiography in Chinese.<sup>200</sup>

Loanwords is another indicator of the tremendous influence Chinese had on Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese. About 60% of the Korean words can be traced to Classical Chinese.<sup>201</sup> Approximately 60% of the words in Genkai dictionary (1859), a modern Japanese dictionary, are originated in Chinese.<sup>202</sup> As for Vietnamese, 70% or higher of the Vietnamese lexicon are of Chinese origin.<sup>203</sup>

From the usage of classical Chinese in Korea, Japan and Vietnam mentioned above, one can see that classical Chinese played an important role in East Asia as a common written language, it was a regional written lingua franca.

### **5.3 How did Classical Chinese become regional lingua franca?**

#### **5.3.1 Buddhism, Confucianism and Tang poetry**

The spread of Buddhism in Asia, from India through China to East Asia, along with the spread of Confucianism in Northeast Asia, has laid the foundation for classical Chinese to spread in East Asia.<sup>204</sup> From the third century to the seventh century, a large number of Buddhist texts

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<sup>198</sup> Ibid.

<sup>199</sup> Sinh, V & Wickenden, N. (1999).

<sup>200</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 67).

<sup>201</sup> Choo (2008, p. 85).

<sup>202</sup> Shibatani (1990, p. 142).

<sup>203</sup> Alves (2009, p. 7). In another source like DeFrancis (1977, p. 8), the percentage of Chinese loanwords in Vietnamese is 60%.

<sup>204</sup> Bader (2005).

were translated from Sanskrit into Chinese.<sup>205</sup> Buddhism was propagated from India to China, and then spread outwardly through China into Japan, Korea and Vietnam. For Japan, Korea and Vietnam, Buddhism was a religion mediated by Chinese; Chinese was the language of Buddhism in East Asia.<sup>206</sup>

*Four Books* and *Five Classics* formed the essential educational texts in the Confucian tradition; these two books were exported to Korea, Japan and Vietnam by late sixth century.<sup>207</sup> Later on, commentaries on Confucian texts came out and redeveloped Confucianism in the 11th century. Confucian texts were the major part of secular book production in East Asian countries other than China, and the only other kind of literary works that were widely spread in East Asia were the poetry of the Tang dynasty, which were popular throughout East Asia and were printed in countries both in and outside China.<sup>208</sup> The *Four Books* formed the basis of primary education in village schools in Japan, Korea and Vietnam from the 18th century.<sup>209</sup> The Confucian book *The School Saying of Confucius* have different editions printed in different East Asian countries, a Ming edition in 1533, a Japanese edition in 1599 and a Korean edition in 1810.<sup>210</sup>

Since Chinese was the language of both Buddhism and Confucianism, any country or society committed to Buddhism or Confucianism was inseparable from classical Chinese.<sup>211</sup>

### 5.3.2 Technical advantage of China

Woodblock printing, the earliest known paper printing form, was invented in China before 220 AD.<sup>212</sup> In 1040, Bi Sheng developed the printing form and invented movable type, a printing

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<sup>205</sup> Kornicki. (2011, p. 69).

<sup>206</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 69-70).

<sup>207</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 70).

<sup>208</sup> Ibid.

<sup>209</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 76).

<sup>210</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 73).

<sup>211</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 76).

<sup>212</sup> Vainker (1999).

system using movable wood or metal type.<sup>213</sup> Movable type was relatively flexible and convenient compared with woodblock printing. Printing technique spread early to Japan and Korea, where they also used Chinese characters.<sup>214</sup> In Vietnam, people also used the printing technique from China.<sup>215</sup>

First paper found with readable Chinese characters on it was from 8 BC.<sup>216</sup> The traditional papermaking technique, using fishnet, hemp waste, old rags, mulberry along with other fabrics to make paper, was first invented in China.<sup>217</sup> The inventor is an official in the Imperial court in Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD) called Cai Lun.<sup>218</sup> Paper is widely used as a writing medium by the third century.<sup>219</sup>

From the facts listed above, one can see that the papermaking technique and woodblock printing made book printing easier. Because both of the techniques were invented in China, Chinese books are the biggest beneficiaries. Additionally, because Classical Chinese was already written in East Asia, the invention and development of printing and papermaking had made great contribution to the spread further of Chinese characters in East Asia.

#### **5.4 Decline of Classical Chinese in East Asia**

The status of classical Chinese in East Asia has changed; it is no longer the written lingua franca in East Asia. The reasons of the decline can be seen from the following two points.

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<sup>213</sup> Wang (2012).

<sup>214</sup> Wikipedia (2018). "Printing".

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

<sup>216</sup> WAC (2006).

<sup>217</sup> Papermaking. (2007).

On some other source like Wikipedia, it says Cai Lun did not invent the papermaking technique, he simply developed it. Retrived from <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%80%A0%E7%BA%B8%E6%9C%AF>.

<sup>218</sup> Ibid.

<sup>219</sup> Needham (1986, p. 1).

#### 5.4.1 Decline of Chinese military power and political power

The demolishing of the old order in East Asia was an important factor of Chinese losing the status of regional lingua franca.<sup>220</sup> In 1895, China was defeated in the first Sino-Japanese War.<sup>221</sup> In the same year, a Korean textbook stated, "China, like our nation, is one country on the Asian continent." This declaration shows the decline of the status of China and the thought of equality between nations in East Asia.<sup>222</sup>

The First Sino-Japanese War (25 July 1894 – 17 April 1895) was fought between the China and Japan, mainly for influence over Korea. The Qing Empire was defeated by the end of the war. Its failure showed the decline of Chinese military power and the success of Meiji Restoration in Japan, it is also the symbol of the regional dominance in East Asia shifting from China to Japan.<sup>223</sup>

The colonial rule of Japan between 1910 and 1945 is a key factor in the reduction of the influence of classical Chinese.<sup>224</sup> After Japan annexed Korea in 1910, Japan replaced China as the ultimate dominator of major affairs that affect Korea.<sup>225</sup> When Korea was liberated from the Japanese occupation in 1945, the country was in need of its own written language instead of using Classical Chinese, and that is where the Korean vernacular writing system Hangul (created in the 15th century) took place.<sup>226</sup>

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<sup>220</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 76).

<sup>221</sup> Schmid (2002, p. 85).

<sup>222</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 76).

<sup>223</sup> Paine (2003, p. 3).

<sup>224</sup> Shapiro & Jernudd (1989, p. 115).

<sup>225</sup> Shapiro & Jernudd (1989, p. 116).

<sup>226</sup> Shapiro & Jernudd (1989, p. 114).

#### 5.4.2 The abolishment of Classical Chinese in China

Classical Chinese was used in Chinese literary works until the New Culture Movement (mid 1910s to 1920s).<sup>227</sup> The New Culture Movement aimed to criticize feudal dictatorship, and establish the foundation of a new culture by wiping away the dross of the traditional culture. One of the way was to replace the official writing language Classical Chinese by written vernacular Chinese. The promotion of written vernacular Chinese allowed people with lower education to read books and articles.<sup>228</sup> With Classical Chinese abolished in China, consequentially its spread in East Asia was weakened.

### **5.5 Comparison between properties of classical Chinese and properties of a global language.**

Properties of a global language:

(1) An official language of one or more countries

Classical Chinese was the written form of the Chinese of the Han-period, it was the official written language of China from the 1st to the 20th century. In Korea, Classical Chinese was the dominant written language until the fall of the Korean Yi Dynasty (1392-1910) in 1910. In Japan, Classical Chinese was the dominant written language until the beginning of the 20th century.<sup>229</sup> In Vietnam, literary Chinese were used for all formal writings such as administration until the early 20th century.<sup>230</sup>

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<sup>227</sup> Tsao (2000, p. 75-76).

<sup>228</sup> Chow (1960, p. 46, 59, 277).

<sup>229</sup> Snow (2004, p. 27).

<sup>230</sup> DeFrancis (1977, p. 14).

(2) One native-speaking country or multiple native-speaking countries have high international status and strong influence in the world

In the case of classical Chinese, when China had a technical and cultural advantage over other East Asian countries, it was the regional lingua franca. When China gradually lost the advantage, the status of classical Chinese in East Asia also declined.

(3) Legacy of colonial expansion

While both Korea and Vietnam had places occupied by China, Japan never had a part of soil controlled by China. Therefore, this property does not apply to Japan, and it cannot be the main reason why classical Chinese was the regional lingua franca.

(4) Language with a worldwide reach

As it was mentioned in section 5.2 *Was classical Chinese an international language?* Classical Chinese was both the diplomatic language and the written lingua franca in East Asia. Strictly speaking, it did not have a worldwide reach, but it was an important regional lingua franca.

(5) Large number of overseas L2 speakers

The exact number of Classical Chinese overseas second language user is difficult to find, but the facts listed in section 5.2 *Was classical Chinese an international language?* showed that classical Chinese was widely used in the elite circles of people who could write in Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

(6) Strong influence in multiple fields like politics, economy, culture, internet, business, etc.

Classical Chinese was the language of government affairs, education, scholarship and civil service examination.<sup>231</sup> As it was stated above in section 2 and 3, it was also the language of

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<sup>231</sup> Kornicki (2011, p. 66).

Buddhism, Confucianism and literary works. Therefore, it did have strong influence in multiple fields in Korea, Japan and Vietnam during its peaking period.

(7) Language of an influential religion

As it was mentioned in section 5.2 *Was Classical Chinese an international language?* Classical Chinese was the medium language of Buddhism and Confucianism. With the spread of Buddhism and Confucianism, Classical Chinese was also spread in East Asia. Classical Chinese meets the criterion of being a language of an influential religion.

## Chapter 6 Mandarin

Learning Chinese as a foreign language has become progressively popular in recent times. Most of the international Chinese language learners study Mandarin since it is the official language of China.<sup>232</sup> Other than being the official language of mainland China, Mandarin is also the official language of Taiwan, an official language of Hong Kong and one of the four official languages of Singapore.<sup>233</sup>

### 6.1. Is Mandarin a global language now?

In 2015, there are about 1.074 billion Mandarin speakers in China. Among them, about 0.9 billion people are L1 Mandarin speakers and the rest 0.18 billion people are L2 users.<sup>234</sup> In the world, there are around 1.107 billion Mandarin speakers, about 0.9 billion of them are native speakers and close to 0.2 billion people are L2 Mandarin speakers.<sup>235</sup> Which means, there are about 20 million second language users of Mandarin outside of China.

The study of Chinese is increasing in the United States as well as around the world. In 2009, about 60 thousand college students in the United States were studying Chinese, which was three times as many as in two decades before.<sup>236</sup> In 2010, 750 thousand people from across the world took the Chinese Proficiency Test, also known as HSK.<sup>237</sup> In 2014, more than 480 Confucius Institutes, which are Chinese non-profit public institutions aiming to promote Chinese language and culture in the rest of the world, have been established on six continents.<sup>238</sup> In 2017, over 7 million students have been trained in the Confucius Institutes worldwide and 2.1 million

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<sup>232</sup> Bradley (1992, p. 319).

<sup>233</sup> Chen (1999, p. 1).

<sup>234</sup> Simons & Fennig (2018). "Chinese, Mandarin".

<sup>235</sup> Ibid.

<sup>236</sup> Brock (2014).

<sup>237</sup> Shao (2015).

<sup>238</sup> Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) (2014).



students are currently studying in the Confucius Institutes.<sup>239</sup> Yet, English is still the priority language to learn as a foreign language in over a hundred countries distribute mainly in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America since English is already the first language in most of North America and Australia.<sup>240</sup> Much more Chinese native speakers are studying English than studying any of the other languages, and many more people learn English as a foreign language than learn Mandarin.<sup>241</sup> For instance, in 2008, there were about 330 million English learners in China, whereas in the world there are only 20 million people learning Mandarin now.<sup>242</sup>

Mandarin has the largest population of native speakers among all the languages in the world, and there are increasing numbers of people learning Mandarin as a second language.<sup>243 244</sup> However, most of the native speakers of Mandarin live in mainland China, as well as other regions like Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. Compare with English which has a larger number of native-speaking regions in more than five continents, such as North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, from the perspective of the distribution of native speakers, Mandarin does not have a worldwide reach.<sup>245</sup> As for people who learn Mandarin as a second language, they are distributed in not only Asia but across other continents.

More than twenty thousand Japanese high school students learn Chinese in over five hundred schools in 2006, and forty Japanese universities has Chinese language as a degree subject.<sup>246</sup>  
<sup>247</sup> In 2005, there were about 347 universities provide Chinese language or related majors in Korea.<sup>248</sup> In addition, the Korean government had encouraged all two and four years'

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<sup>239</sup> China Daily (2017).

<sup>240</sup> Crystal (2006, p. 423).

<sup>241</sup> McArthur (2005, p. 60).

<sup>242</sup> Bolton (2008, p. 6). In some other source, the number differs. Such as in Crystal (2008), the number of English learners in China is over 400 million.

<sup>243</sup> Gil (2011, p. 54).

<sup>244</sup> Simons & Fennig (2018). "Chinese, Mandarin".

<sup>245</sup> Crystal (1998, p. 62-65).

<sup>246</sup> People's Daily Online (2006). 'Chinese language fever brings opportunities and harmony to the world.'

<sup>247</sup> Li & Lee (2004, p. 770).

<sup>248</sup> Zhang (2005).

universities to set up Chinese language courses.<sup>249</sup> Same encouragement was done by the Thai government as well. The Thai government had appointed all public schools to put effort into teaching Chinese.<sup>250</sup> According to the reports from the Office of Chinese Language Council International, over a thousand elementary schools and high schools offered Chinese lessons to around three hundred thousand students in Thailand.<sup>251</sup> In Malaysia, the largest Chinese newspaper *Sin Chew Daily* had 1.1 million readers in 2004, which was 260 thousand more than five years before even with the decline of newspaper reading in the world.<sup>252</sup> In Cambodia, one Chinese language primary school alone has over ten thousand students.<sup>253</sup> In the meantime, Indonesia is lacking one hundred thousand Chinese language teachers.<sup>254</sup>

Seven out of eight universities of New Zealand, along with an institute of technology called Unitec New Zealand, provide Bachelor programs in Chinese.<sup>255</sup> It is also possible to study Chinese in a degree level at the Auckland Institute of Studies as well as other institutions that provide Chinese language studies at certificate or diploma level.<sup>256</sup> Although, all the universities of New Zealand provide Bachelor programs in Japanese.<sup>257</sup> In Australia, Mandarin teaching has made major progress since the late 20th century.<sup>258</sup> In 1988, only thirteen universities in Australia had Chinese courses, but by 2001, twenty-nine Australian universities teach Chinese.<sup>259</sup> From 1990 to 2001, there had been close to one hundred percent growth averagely in the numbers of students who study Chinese. Especially University of New South Wales (UNSW), the Chinese-study students number increased about ten times.<sup>260</sup> However,

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<sup>249</sup> Ibid.

<sup>250</sup> Kurlantzick (2007, p. 116).

<sup>251</sup> People's Daily Online (2009).

<sup>252</sup> Kurlantzick (2007, p. 116).

<sup>253</sup> Ibid.

<sup>254</sup> Kurlantzick (2007, p. 116).

<sup>255</sup> New Zealand Asian Studies Society (2004, p. 29).

<sup>256</sup> New Zealand Asian Studies Society (2004, p. 31).

<sup>257</sup> New Zealand Asian Studies Society (2004, p. 30).

<sup>258</sup> Asian Studies Association of Australia (2002, p. 23).

<sup>259</sup> Asian Studies Association of Australia (2002, p. 38).

<sup>260</sup> Asian Studies Association of Australia (2002, p. 23).

after major increase in the early 1990s, the number of students who study Chinese decreased in the late 20th century in most of the universities, except for UNSW and Sydney University, who showed renewed increase.<sup>261</sup>

According to the British Council, the international organization for educational and cultural relations of United Kingdom, about a hundred schools in the U.K. are teaching Chinese.<sup>262</sup> BBC also mentioned that schools in the United Kingdom would add Mandarin on their compulsory subjects list, by then Mandarin would be a core foreign language just like Spanish, French and Latin for teenage students in the United Kingdom.<sup>263</sup> <sup>264</sup> However, judging from the data of General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), an academic qualification test typically taken by middle school students in the United Kingdom (excluding Scotland), Mandarin still has a long way to go before becoming a core language.<sup>265</sup> GCSE test has less than four thousand Chinese language entries in 2006, but in the same year, there were more than 3.2 million entries in French.<sup>266</sup>

In the United States, the number of students who study Chinese in higher education institution increased from 51382 in 2006 to 53069 in 2016 according to the Modern Language Association of America (MLA).<sup>267</sup> Moreover, more than one thousand elementary schools in the United States provide Chinese courses, along with eight hundred universities, which is one quarter of the number of American universities.<sup>268</sup> It is worth noting that the number of American students who enrolled in Chinese courses was not incessantly increasing. In 2009, there were 59876 students enrolled in Chinese courses in higher education institution. The number rose to 61084

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<sup>261</sup> Asian Studies Association of Australia (2002, p. 39).

<sup>262</sup> BBC (2007). 'Cantonese if you please!'

<sup>263</sup> BBC (2006). 'British school says, "learn Mandarin".'

<sup>264</sup> BBC (2006). 'College makes Chinese compulsory'.

<sup>265</sup> Oxforddictionaries (2018). 'GCSE'.

<sup>266</sup> BBC (2007). 'Cantonese if you please!'

<sup>267</sup> Looney, D and Lusin, N (2018, p. 13).

<sup>268</sup> People's Daily Online (2006). 'Chinese language teaching heats up in US.'

in 2013 then dropped to 53069 in 2016.<sup>269</sup> What is more, the language with largest number of enrollments from 2006 to 2016 has been Spanish, followed by French, American Sign Language, German, Japanese, Italian (the slight order change between Japanese and Italian in each year) and then Chinese.<sup>270</sup> Which means Chinese language is popular in the United States but its popularity is still limited among students in higher education institution.

From the data of the influence of Chinese in the world, one can see that Mandarin is gaining importance in language studies around the world. However, its status in education is still limited and not comparable to languages like English, Spanish and French.<sup>271</sup> Therefore, Mandarin is hardly a global language yet.

## **6.2. Why is Mandarin popular but not a global language now?**

### 6.2.1 Reasons of Mandarin being popular in the world

"Soft power" is a concept formulated by a Harvard scholar named Joseph Nye in the late 20th century. Nye mentioned that soft power reposes on the power to form others' preferences, it is guiding and engaging others to do as one desires by setting them an example rather than ingratiating or forcing them.<sup>272</sup> In the case of country's soft power, it normally means global influence achieved through economic, diplomatic, cultural and other non-military ways.<sup>273</sup> In the past ten years or more, the soft power and the international status of China has gone up, which resulted in the diffuse of Mandarin in the world.<sup>274</sup>

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<sup>269</sup> Looney, D and Lusin, N (2018, p. 13).

<sup>270</sup> Ibid.

<sup>271</sup> Gil (2011, p. 56).

<sup>272</sup> Nye (2004, p. 5-6).

<sup>273</sup> Lum (2010, p. 2).

<sup>274</sup> Lum (2010, p. 2).

### 6.2.1.1 Diplomacy

China has been an international power with global foreign policy ambitions since the middle of the 1990s.<sup>275</sup> China is one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.<sup>276</sup> Mandarin is one of the six official languages of United Nations.<sup>277</sup>

China has made progress in diplomacy. After the middle 1990s, the foreign policy of China has become more effective and more engaged.<sup>278</sup> China started to promote its security interests and business trade through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Compare with the United States, official bilateral meetings conducted by China, especially meetings with smaller developing nations, has been more active. The international status of China has been risen through conducting the meetings. In regional cooperation organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the China-Arab Cooperation Forum and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China has played an important role.<sup>279</sup>

Official development assistance (ODA) is another way to measure China's contribution in foreign assistance. ODA is an aid measurement when Official agencies, like national or local governments and their executive agencies, providing assistance, such as financial aids, to help developing countries with their development and welfare.<sup>280</sup> Every year, China spends from 1.5 billion to 2 billion U.S. dollars on ODA besides providing trade deals, country-sponsored investments and concessional loans as part of aid packages.<sup>281 282</sup> As a major foreign assistance provider, China has had gained significant influence among major international aid donors due

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<sup>275</sup> Kurlantzick (2007, p. 5).

<sup>276</sup> United Nations Security Council (2018).

<sup>277</sup> United Nations (2018).

<sup>278</sup> Lum (2010, p. 4).

<sup>279</sup> Ibid.

<sup>280</sup> IMF (2013).

<sup>281</sup> Lancaster (2007).

<sup>282</sup> Saunders (2006).

to its growth, size, availability and symbolic value. A number of Chinese aid projects, for instance build hospitals, energy facilities, government buildings and infrastructures, are funded by the Export-Import Bank of China and built by companies from China.<sup>283</sup>

#### 6.2.1.2 Economy

China started the open-door policy in 1949, which has led to rapid growth of the Chinese economy.<sup>284</sup> According to the data from the World Bank, from 1979 to 2013, China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew from about 201 billion U.S. dollars to 4864 billion U.S. dollars, with an average yearly growth rate of about 9.83%. During the same period, the imports of China increased from 29 billion U.S. dollars to 1696 billion U.S. dollars, and the exports of China rose from 30 million U.S. dollars to 2033 billion U.S. dollars, with average yearly increase rate of about 12.71% on imports and 13.18% on exports. In 1979, China was Number 32 on the world's trade list. Whereas in 2014, China rose up to the Number 1 trading country in goods trade and Number 2 in combination of wares and services. The largest goods and services trading country is the United States.<sup>285</sup> In 2017, China had the second largest GDP 12237.7 billion U.S. dollars, after the United States with 19390.6 billion U.S. dollars.<sup>286</sup> According to another ranking based on Purchasing power parity (PPP), a way of measuring countries' purchasing power with exchange rate, of the World Bank, China was the largest economy in the world in 2017 with about 23300.8 billion international dollars, followed by the United States with approximately 19390.6 international dollars.<sup>287 288</sup>

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<sup>283</sup> Lum (2010, p. 30).

<sup>284</sup> Qiu & Zhan (2016, p. 45).

<sup>285</sup> Qiu & Zhan (2016, p. 45).

<sup>286</sup> World Bank (2018). "Gross domestic product 2017".

<sup>287</sup> Oxford dictionaries (2018). "PPP".

<sup>288</sup> World Bank (2018). "Gross domestic product 2017, PPP".

## 6.2.2 Reasons why Mandarin is not yet a global language

### 6.2.2.1 Culture industry

While American pop culture sweeps across the globe, Chinese movies, music and television shows do not receive large amount of audiences outside of China.<sup>289</sup> Between 1996 and 2000, Chinese movies made less than 14 million U.S. dollars overseas.<sup>290</sup> In 2012, China had 2.69 billion U.S. dollars box-office earning and became the second largest movie-going market, right after North America (referring to the United States and Canada) who contributed 10.8 billion U.S. dollars in the same field.<sup>291</sup> However, more than half of the gross ticket revenue of China in 2012 was from foreign movies (mostly Hollywood movies).<sup>292</sup> As for Chinese-language movies in the international movie market, popularity of movies in Chinese peaked in the early 2000s with the release of *Hero* (2002), *Kung Fu Hustle* (2004) and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000).<sup>293</sup> *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* alone grossed 128 million dollars in the United States, which made it the highest grossing foreign language movie produced outside of the United States in American history.<sup>294</sup> Yet after the early 2000s, Chinese import films in America has been through a sharp reduction.<sup>295</sup> For example, in 2014, Chinese movies earned about 30.65 million dollars outside China, which was 45% of the total gross.<sup>296</sup> <sup>297</sup> The decline of Chinese movies oversea gross is clear by comparing 30.65 million dollars oversea gross from all Chinese movies with 128 million dollars gross in the United States from only one movie.

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<sup>289</sup> Brock (2014).

<sup>290</sup> Miller ; Govil ; McMurria & Maxwell (2001).

<sup>291</sup> Bettinson (2013, p. 259).

<sup>292</sup> Bettinson (2013, p. 260).

<sup>293</sup> Bettinson (2013, p. 265).

<sup>294</sup> Box Office Mojo (2018).

<sup>295</sup> Bettinson (2013, p. 265).

<sup>296</sup> Ma (2015). The original data was 1.87 billion Chinese yuan, with the average exchange rate of 2014: 1 USD equals to about 6.1 CNY; the converted data is 30.65 million U.S. dollars.

<sup>297</sup> Frater (2015).

#### 6.2.2.2 Military power

The 2008 report from United States Secretary of Defense to United States Congress about the estimated military power of China stated that China spent about 97-139 billion U.S. dollars on military defense in 2007.<sup>298</sup> In comparison, the United States spent about 528.6 billion dollars on the same purpose.<sup>299</sup> According to *2018 Military Strength Ranking*, China has the third strongest military power in the world, after the United States and Russia.<sup>300</sup> The military strength ranking is based on over 55 individual factors such as manpower, air power, army strength, logistical resources, weapon diversity and financial strength.<sup>301</sup> According to Swiss Institute for Peace and Energy Research (SIPER), the United States has 587 bases in 42 foreign countries, including a country named Djibouti, where also hosts the only oversea military base of China.<sup>302</sup>

#### 6.2.2.3 Academic influence

There are over eight thousand academic journals in China; more than 4600 of them are scientific journals.<sup>303</sup> In 1999, only 661 journals in Chinese language were indexed in the international index systems.<sup>304</sup> More than two thousand journals in the social sciences and humanities fields were published in China in 2006; however, none of them could be found in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) 2007.<sup>305</sup> <sup>306</sup> In other fields, SSCI included 1176 Chinese publications, which was less than 1.5 percent of the total amount of world publications in SSCI.<sup>307</sup> The data listed above shows that Chinese academic writings are not influential in the world.

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<sup>298</sup> Secretary of Defense (2008).

<sup>299</sup> Towell ; Daggett & Belasco (2008).

<sup>300</sup> GFP (2018).

<sup>301</sup> GFP (2018).

<sup>302</sup> Jacobs (2017).

<sup>303</sup> Tian (2003).

<sup>304</sup> Xiang (2002).

<sup>305</sup> Jiang (2007); Ren (2007).

<sup>306</sup> Zhou; Su & Leydesdorff (2010).

<sup>307</sup> Zhou; Thijs & Glänzel (2009).



#### 6.2.2.4 Internet

According to Internet World Stats, Chinese is used by 804 million internet users, which is 19.4 percent of the world's internet users.<sup>308</sup> About 772 million of the internet users are from mainland China, around 20.8 million internet users are from Taiwan.<sup>309</sup> This shows that nearly all the Chinese-speaking internet users are from regions where Mandarin is the official language, which means the Mandarin is an important online language, however, the global influence of Mandarin on the internet is extremely limited.

#### 6.2.3 Comparison between the properties of Mandarin and the list of properties of a global language

##### (1) An official language of one or more countries

Mandarin is the official language of China, and one of the official languages of Singapore.<sup>310</sup> It meets the criteria of being an official language of one or more countries.

##### (2) One native-speaking country or multiple native-speaking countries have high international status and strong influence in the world

As it was mentioned in section 6.2 *Why is Mandarin popular but not a global language now?*, China is a permanent member of United Nations Security Council, the second largest economy and trading country in the world. Conducting official bilateral meetings also helped with the rise of the international status of China.

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<sup>308</sup> Internet World Stats (2018). "Top Ten Languages Used in the Web - December 31, 2017".

<sup>309</sup> Internet World Stats (2018). "Asia".

<sup>310</sup> Chen (1999, p. 1).

### (3) Legacy of colonial expansion

Mandarin was spread in the world because of the soft power of China, mainly through education especially Chinese subjects in foreign higher education institutes and Confucius Institutions, not military force.

### (4) Language with a worldwide reach

As introduced in section 6.1 *Is Mandarin a global language now?*, Mandarin is being studied by increasing number of people in different continents like America, Australia and Asia, Mandarin does have a worldwide reach but not as wide as English has.

### (5) Large number of overseas L2 speakers

As it was calculated in section 6.1 *Is Mandarin a global language now?* There are about 20 million overseas L2 Mandarin speakers in the world. It is a large number but still incomparable with the number of overseas L2 English speakers, 742 million.<sup>311</sup>

### (6) Strong influence in multiple fields like politics, economy, culture, internet, business, etc.

As mentioned in section 6.2.2 *Reasons why Mandarin is not yet a global language*, the influence of Mandarin in the world's culture industry, academic writings and internet is insignificant.

### (7) Language of an influential religion

By population, the top five major religions in the world are Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Chinese traditional religion and Buddhism.<sup>312</sup> Chinese is the language of Chinese traditional religion. However, compare with Buddhism and Hinduism, Chinese traditional religion like Taoism is not widely spread in the world, vast majority of the believers are in China or ethnic

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<sup>311</sup> Simons & Fennig (2018). "English".

<sup>312</sup> Adherents.com (2007). The original ranking includes Atheist as the third largest religion. In this paper, Atheist is excluded.

Chinese abroad. Therefore, strictly speaking, Chinese is the language of an influential religion, but globally speaking, Chinese does not qualify as a powerful language of a major religion.<sup>313</sup> Religion does not have a major contribution in the spread of Mandarin in the world.

In sum, Mandarin is the official language of China who has high international status and strong influence in the world. Mandarin is not an easy language to learn, it does have a worldwide reach and a large number of L2 speakers, but neither of which has competitive advantage against English. The influence of Mandarin in the fields of movies industry, academic writing and internet is extremely limited. Moreover, colonialism and religion factor are not concerned in the spread of Mandarin in the world.

#### 6.2.4 Difficulties of acquiring Mandarin

This is a factor that I have not mentioned in other languages but must be discussed in the context of Mandarin.

Learning Chinese requires more effort compare with learning the current global language English.<sup>314</sup> The United States Foreign Service Institute evaluated that: to reach professional fluency in Chinese, a native English speaker needs to spend about 2200 hours, which is four times longer than reaching professional fluency in French or Spanish.<sup>315</sup> The reason why certain languages are relatively more difficult to learn than the others are following:

Studying a language that has similar features with one's native language, or other languages that one already learnt, is easier compared to studying a completely new language. For instance, English is a Germanic language, which makes other languages with Germanic root like German,

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<sup>313</sup> Bennett (2017, vi-viii).

<sup>314</sup> Brock (2014).

<sup>315</sup> Effective Language Learning (2017). Language Difficulty Ranking.

Dutch and Scandinavian languages easier to learn for English speakers compared to languages that share no origin with English, such as Chinese, Korean and Japanese.<sup>316</sup>

Equivalents and borrowed terms are factors that make Romance languages and English similar to one another. Romance languages take the majority of their terminology from Latin. A lot of English vocabulary were gained from Latin and French, which makes Romance languages like French, Italian and Spanish easier to learn for English speakers compared to other non-Romance non-Germanic languages, such as Mandarin.<sup>317</sup>

Even though Chinese grammar is relatively simple, without tenses, grammatical cases or genders like many European languages, the tones and the script of Chinese are difficult for non-native learners to master.<sup>318</sup>

Standard modern Chinese is a tonal language with four basic tones and a neutral tone.<sup>319</sup> In Chinese, changing tones often result in changing the meaning of the word.<sup>320</sup> For instance, in Chinese *mǎi* means “buy”, if the word is changed into a falling tone, the pronunciation becomes *mài*, meaning, “sell”. This can be very complicated for L2 Mandarin learners who have never applied tones before.<sup>321</sup>

In addition to tones, Chinese is written with characters, which is different from the Roman alphabet that is used to write English. In English, every letter in principle regularly corresponds to certain sound or sounds. When reading an English word, the pronunciation can be speculated. For example, when the letter “c” is at the beginning of a word, it is often pronounced like [k] or [s], and the letter “u” in between two consonants is either read like [ʌ] or [u]. In which case,

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<sup>316</sup> Effective Language Learning (2017). Differences in the Difficulty of Learning a Language.

<sup>317</sup> Ibid.

<sup>318</sup> BBC (2014).

<sup>319</sup> Sun (2006, p. 34).

<sup>320</sup> Kitamura (2013, p. 36-37).

<sup>321</sup> Effective Language Learning (2017). Differences in the Difficulty of Learning a Language.

it is not hard to infer the pronunciation when seeing the word “cup”. However, in Chinese, characters are not always consist of radicals that indicate their pronunciations, such as 我 (wǒ) and 好 (hǎo), which means when a Chinese character is seen, no pronunciation can be inferred judging by the single character. Moreover, a number of European languages mainly use the same script as English, along with some symbols which are not used in English but similar as English letters, such as "ñ" in Spanish or "Ø" in Danish and Norwegian.<sup>322</sup> Whereas in Chinese, every word corresponds to a character, not a Roman letter, which means each character has to be studied in order to understand Chinese.<sup>323</sup> According to the List of Common Characters in Modern Chinese published by the Chinese State Language Commission and the Chinese State Education Commission in 1988, there are about 3500 characters being commonly used.<sup>324</sup> Based on Zhou's *Hanzi “Chinese characters”*, there are about 56 thousand simplified Chinese characters in modern Chinese, among which the most commonly used characters are 2400. Those 2400 characters constitute 99 percent of the characters used in Chinese publications.<sup>325</sup> In order to reach the level of understanding the content on Chinese newspapers, one must be able to recognize about three thousand Chinese characters.<sup>326</sup> Compare with English, which only use 26 letters putting in different order to form different words, Chinese characters are far more difficult to learn and remember. Everson's study about the relationship between correct pronunciation and correct identification of two character combinations in 1996 showed that L2 Mandarin students could only correctly pronounce and identify about 58% of the characters they were taught. The probability of correctly identifying a two-character combination when one can correctly pronounce the characters and the probability of the other way around are both over 90%. The results suggest that it is difficult to retain characters and L2 Mandarin learners

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<sup>322</sup> Ibid.

<sup>323</sup> Effective Language Learning (2017). Differences in the Difficulty of Learning a Language.

<sup>324</sup> Chen (1999, p. 137).

<sup>325</sup> Sun (2006, p. 10).

<sup>326</sup> Chen (1999, p. 194).

tend to rely on the pronunciation for remembering the meaning of the characters.<sup>327</sup> Ke's study in 1998 confirms the findings in Everson (1996) in that retaining and producing Chinese characters for L2 Mandarin learners is difficult and time consuming.<sup>328</sup>

Xu (2010) studied the attrition of English among Chinese and Dutch learners by analyzing the effect of attained English proficiency in Chinese and Dutch University Students. Two years after the language learning finished, attrition was observed in both Dutch and Chinese student groups. Where Chinese students showed attrition across all performance tests (reading, speaking, writing and listening), Dutch participants only displayed deterioration in writing.<sup>329</sup> The result shows that the language attrition of English is stronger for Chinese speakers than Dutch speakers. As explained above, Dutch and English are both Germanic languages, whereas Chinese shares no origin with English. Studying a language which is associated with one's native language is easier compared to studying a completely new language. For the same reason, attrition of a completely new language is stronger compared to a language which is closely associated with one's native language. In this case, forgetting Mandarin knowledge is relatively easy for speakers of a language that does not share an origin with Mandarin.

### **6.3 Will Mandarin be a global language?**

As it was noted at the end of the Latin section, properties (1) to (3) are determining criteria, properties (4) to (6) are consequential criteria, property (7) is influential criteria. Mandarin meets the determining criteria (1) and (2), and the consequential criteria (4) and (5) even though both of the properties on Mandarin are limited compared with English. Mandarin also meets the influential criterion (7), even though in Mandarin's case this property is not helpful or

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<sup>327</sup> Ke (1998, p. 92).

<sup>328</sup> Ke (1998, p. 97).

<sup>329</sup> Xu (2010).

essential. The properties that Mandarin does not have are the determining criterion (3) and the consequential criterion (6). In order to see if Mandarin can be a global language, the criterion Mandarin does not meet need to be analyzed to see what can be changed and what can not be.

Starting with the determining property (3). Colonialism refers to the practice that a powerful country directly controls the territory and politics of less powerful countries through military force, colonization and economic exploitation; uses their resources to enhance its own power and wealth.<sup>330 331 332</sup> As it was pointed out by David Crystal and discussed above in this thesis, Latin was an international language because people who were subjugated by the Romans were less powerful than the Romans.<sup>333</sup> A language become a global language is primarily due to the strong political and military power of its country.<sup>334</sup> Military force helps a powerful country to establish a language, and then the economic power helps the country to maintain and spread the language.<sup>335</sup> Thus for Mandarin to replace English as an international language, China first need to have stronger military power than all the other countries especially militarily powerful English speaking countries like the United States. Then use military force to establish Chinese as a global language in the world. In *China's Military Power: Assessing Current and Future Capabilities (2015)*, Roger Cliff assessed the progress Chinese military had made between 2000 and 2010, and then estimated the power of Chinese military in 2020. The result is that Chinese military has improved in all seven dimensions of military capability comprising doctrine, organizational structure, weaponry, personnel, training, logistics, and organizational culture from 2000 to 2010 and they are likely to keep growing, yet the logistics, organizational structure, and organizational culture are still not strong enough and might weaken the military power in

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<sup>330</sup> Zhong (2011, p. 27)

<sup>331</sup> Oxford dictionary (2018). "Colonialism".

<sup>332</sup> Collins (2018). "Colonialism".

<sup>333</sup> Crystal (2003, p. 7).

<sup>334</sup> Crystal (2003, p. 9).

<sup>335</sup> Crystal (2003, p. 10).

general.<sup>336</sup> China will not be the dominant military power in the world any time shortly.<sup>337</sup> In addition, "peaceful development", also known as "peaceful rise" has become an official policy of China since 2003.<sup>338</sup> One concept of "peaceful development" is that China will never engage in expansion.<sup>339</sup> Which means officially military expansion is not an option for China to develop the country or spread its language.

As for property (6), Chinese movies had a successful period in the international movie market in the early 2000s.<sup>340</sup> Which means Chinese movies can be popular overseas. One of the obstacles of Chinese movies being popular is, according to the deputy Chairman of the Film Development Council Wilfred Wong, the lack of movie industrial system in China especially when comparing with Hollywood.<sup>341</sup> Hollywood studios spend from 50 to 70 million dollars on international publicity for each theatrical movie, which is more than the amount of money spend on producing a Chinese movie averagely.<sup>342</sup> Another obstacle is that the American movie market, or the world film market in general, is attracted by genres and stars.<sup>343</sup> Globally known American movie stars outnumber Chinese International superstars poses a marketing problem for Chinese movies.<sup>344</sup> Overcoming those obstacles would take time but not impossible. Nowadays, four studios produce most of the movies in China, which makes it easier to form an industrial system.<sup>345</sup> With well-known Chinese speaking stars like Jackie Chen and Jet Li and new faces of Chinese movie stars like Fan Bingbing and Zhang Ziyi participating in increasing number of famous western movies, marketing problem because of stars will be reduced

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<sup>336</sup> Cliff (2015, p. 244).

<sup>337</sup> Cliff (2015, p. 245).

<sup>338</sup> Glaser & Medeiros (2007, p. 292).

<sup>339</sup> [www.gov.cn](http://www.gov.cn) (2012).

<sup>340</sup> Bettinson (2013, p. 265).

<sup>341</sup> Bettinson (2013, p. 262).

<sup>342</sup> Ibid.

<sup>343</sup> Bettinson (2013, p. 266).

<sup>344</sup> Ibid.

<sup>345</sup> Aranburu (2017, 12).



gradually.<sup>346 347</sup> As mentioned in the section about English, about 95% of the articles reported by Science Citation Index are in English.<sup>348</sup> Up to half of the business negotiations in the world are made in English.<sup>349</sup> English is also the most commonly used online language.<sup>350</sup> The current dominance of English in those fields shows it would be hard for Chinese to replace English. In addition, the usage of Chinese in all those fields is associated with the new factor. In order to make Chinese the major or one of the major important languages of academic writings, business and internet, the audience have to be able to recognize Chinese characters to read Chinese papers, sign contracts in Chinese or read Chinese online information. The difficulty of mastering Chinese characters has been discussed above, which means as long as the difficulty of recognizing Chinese characters is not reduced, English would not be replaced by Chinese in those fields.

To sum up, situation of Mandarin concerning the determining criterion (3) will not have drastic change in the future. Criterion (6) is associated with the new factor, and new factor is difficult to overcome in the short future, so Chinese is not likely to replace English as the next global language any time soon.

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<sup>346</sup> Beech (2017).

<sup>347</sup> Zhang (1998).

<sup>348</sup> Science Citation Index

<sup>349</sup> Mastin (2011).

<sup>350</sup> Internet world stats (2018). "Top Ten Languages Used in the Web - December 31, 2017".

## **Chapter 7**

### **Conclusion**

With China's increasing engagement with the world and the heat of learning Chinese worldwide, topic about "whether Chinese will be a global language" has been frequently brought up. Currently, English is the most influential language in the world in general. For Chinese to be a global language, it has to overtake English first. Therefore, the research question of this thesis is: Will Chinese replace English as the global language?

This thesis discussed five languages: English, Esperanto, Latin, Classical Chinese and Mandarin. For English, this thesis analyzed if English is a global language and the reason why it became and remained a global language. A list of properties of a global language was made after the discussion about English. Followed by an analysis of why Esperanto did not become a global language as it was created and expected to be, to see what global language properties Esperanto has missed. Then this thesis respectively analyzed why Latin and Classical Chinese used to be regional lingua franca but failed to stay that way, and compared Latin with Classical Chinese to see the differences between these two languages as lingua franca, as well as the reasons behind the differences. The global language properties list was updated after the analysis of Latin and Classical Chinese. At last, the current situation of Mandarin was stated. The properties of Chinese and the properties on the list were compared to see if Chinese have all the properties that a global language should have. From the missing properties of Mandarin to be a global language, a discussion was made about whether those properties of Mandarin can be changed. Through the discussion, the research question was answered.

From the analysis of English, Esperanto, Latin and Classical Chinese, the list of determining properties of a global language were further developed and refined. First, the language needs to be an official language of one or more countries. Then the native-speaking country or countries

of the language must have high international status and strong influence in the world. Moreover, the language should be spread in the world through colonial expansion. The missing determining property of Mandarin is the colonial expansion criterion, and it is not likely to change in a short future. As for the consequential criteria and the influential criteria, Mandarin does have a worldwide reach even though the reach is not as wide as English has. Mandarin has a large number of overseas L2 speakers, even though the gap between English and Mandarin on both criteria is still large. Mandarin is the language of an influential religion - Chinese traditional religion, however the influence is limited in Chinese and ethnic Chinese communities. The two non-determining criteria Mandarin does not meet are that Chinese does not have strong influence in multiple fields like politics, economy, culture, internet, business, etc., and Mandarin is not relatively easy to learn. The former property is associated with the later property, and the later property is not likely to change any time soon. Overall, Chinese is not likely to replace English as the next global language in the short future.

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