

Exploring the Application of Paper-Cutting in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language: A Preliminary Study

Mohammad Rafiqul Islam¹ and Easir Arafat^{2*}

¹PhD, Assistant Professor, Brac Institute of Languages (BIL), Brac University, Bangladesh

²Lecturer, Brac Institute of Languages (BIL), Brac University, Bangladesh

Abstract

China's Belt and Road Initiative is a global development strategy that has led to an increased interest in learning Chinese language and culture. To effectively teach Chinese as a foreign language, teachers need to go beyond teaching basic language and cultural knowledge and focus on developing learners' ability to listen, speak, read, and write in Chinese. One effective tool for achieving this is paper-cutting art, which has become a popular cultural path for teaching Chinese to foreigners. By incorporating paper-cutting art into Chinese teaching, teachers can use it as an auxiliary method to help learners recognize and read Chinese characters while introducing them to the richness and variety of Chinese culture. This approach can enhance learners' learning experiences and deepen their understanding of Chinese culture. With the increasing importance of China in the global economy, the demand for learning Chinese will continue to grow, and incorporating paper-cutting art into Chinese teaching can be an effective way to meet this demand.

Keywords: Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese language and culture, paper-cutting art, teaching Chinese as a foreign language

Introduction

The Chinese language has become increasingly popular as a foreign language, with more and more learners interested in learning it due to the country's economic growth and the increasing importance of China in the global arena. As a result, there is a growing demand for effective teaching methods and materials for teaching Chinese as a foreign language (TCFL).

Chinese culture is an essential component of teaching TCFL. It helps learners understand the language better and appreciate the country's history, literature, philosophy, and art. Among the many forms of Chinese traditional art, paper-cutting art stands out as a versatile and practical tool for cultural teaching in TCFL.

Paper-cutting is an ancient Chinese folk art that has been passed down from generation to generation for over 1,500 years. It is a technique of cutting paper into various shapes and patterns using scissors or knives. It is an art form that is deeply rooted in Chinese culture and is often used to express auspicious meanings and wishes, such as happiness, prosperity, longevity, and good luck. It is also widely used in many traditional Chinese celebrations and festivals, such as the Spring Festival, weddings, and funerals.

In recent years, paper-cutting has gained renewed attention as an innovative and effective tool for teaching Chinese culture in TCFL. Studies have shown that incorporating paper-cutting into language teaching can improve students' language proficiency, cultural awareness, and creativity. Moreover, paper-cutting can enhance students' motivation and engagement in learning Chinese, as it offers a fun and interactive way of learning.

Despite the growing interest in paper-cutting as a tool for teaching Chinese culture in TCFL, there is still limited research on its effectiveness and best practices. Therefore, it is necessary to explore the potential of paper-cutting in TCFL and to provide practical guidance for teachers on how to use paper-cutting as a tool for teaching Chinese culture.

* Corresponding Author

The Significance of Using Paper-Cutting in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language

The significance of this preliminary study lies in its potential to contribute to the development of innovative and effective teaching methods in the field of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. Paper-cutting is a unique and traditional art form in China that has been passed down for thousands of years. By incorporating paper-cutting into Chinese language teaching, it can provide a rich and engaging cultural experience for foreign language learners.

The use of paper-cutting in Chinese language teaching can enhance learners' understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture, and make the learning process more enjoyable and effective. Paper-cutting is a visual and hands-on activity that can stimulate learners' creativity, imagination, and problem-solving skills. It can also help learners to remember and recognize Chinese characters more easily, and improve their reading and writing skills.

In addition, this preliminary study can provide insights into the integration of traditional culture into foreign language teaching, which can have a broader impact on the promotion and preservation of Chinese cultural heritage. It can also contribute to the development of innovative teaching methods and materials for foreign language learners, which can benefit educators and learners worldwide.

China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Growth of Chinese Language Education

China's "Belt and Road" initiative is a global development strategy aimed at promoting economic cooperation among countries. It includes a vast network of infrastructure projects, such as ports, highways, railways, and pipelines, which connect China with Asia, Europe, and Africa. With this initiative, China has been expanding its influence and strengthening its relationship with other countries, thereby contributing to the global economy.

Additionally, China has proposed the concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind," which emphasizes the importance of cooperation, mutual respect, and shared responsibility among nations. This concept has gained widespread attention and recognition from the international community, reflecting China's efforts to promote peace and development worldwide.

As a result of these initiatives, "learning Chinese well" has become increasingly popular around the world. Many learners are not only interested in the practical application of the Chinese language, but also in understanding Chinese traditional culture, which is deeply intertwined with the language. This has led to a large number of teachers teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

Teaching Chinese as a foreign language should not only focus on disseminating basic Chinese language and cultural knowledge, but also on developing learners' ability to listen, speak, read, and write in Chinese. It also requires learners to understand Chinese traditional culture and the foundation for the development of modern Mandarin Chinese. By helping learners understand and master the essence of Chinese culture, teachers can provide a variety of materials and approaches for teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

One example of such an approach is paper-cut art, which has become a popular cultural path for teaching Chinese as a foreign language. With its all-encompassing themes and rich and vivid images, paper-cut art is an effective way to introduce learners to the richness and variety of Chinese culture. By integrating paper-cut art into language instruction, learners can develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture, while also improving their language skills.

Using Paper-Cut Art as a Practical Path in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language

Paper-cutting art is a significant part of Chinese culture and has been recognized as a precious intangible cultural heritage of China. In recent years, it has gained popularity as an

effective tool in teaching Chinese as a foreign language due to its practicality and operability. It has become one of the indispensable organic components of the vivid image of teaching Chinese as a foreign language, providing a unique way to present the profound connotation of Chinese culture.

Paper-cutting teaching can be combined with Chinese character teaching, making it an effective way for Chinese learners to memorize Chinese characters. By presenting Chinese characters in the form of paper-cut, learners can strengthen their recognition and reading impression in the learning process, making it more flexible than simple writing recognition and reading. This auxiliary method is still quite productive in helping learners overcome the challenges of recognizing and reading Chinese characters.

This year, there are diverse designs and presentations of Chinese character paper-cut art, allowing learners to recognize and read Chinese characters while feeling the rich presentation of Chinese character culture. This cultural enjoyment of art and beauty is a powerful tool that can help learners solve the troublesome or boring problems that they may encounter during the learning process of recognizing and reading Chinese characters.

Teachers of Chinese as a foreign language can explore many practical ways to incorporate paper-cut art into the Chinese teaching process. For instance, when introducing traditional Chinese wedding culture, they can use the red double happiness characters to explain the spirit of harmony in Chinese culture and allow learners to appreciate the symmetrical beauty of oriental art. By tapping into the potential of paper-cutting art in Chinese teaching, teachers can enhance the learning experience and enrich the understanding of Chinese culture for learners.

The Beauty and Charm of Chinese Characters and Paper-Cutting Art in Chinese Culture

Chinese characters have a unique beauty that has been admired by people around the world for centuries. With their intricate strokes and elegant shapes, they are considered one of the most beautiful writing systems in the world. But Chinese characters are more than just aesthetically pleasing; they are a window into the rich and ancient culture of China. Each character has a story behind it, often based on historical or mythical figures, events, or objects. These legends add to the depth and complexity of Chinese characters, making them a form of communication and cultural heritage.

Using paper-cutting art to depict Chinese characters adds a new dimension to their beauty and meaning. Paper-cutting is a traditional folk art that has been practiced in China for centuries, and it is an intangible cultural heritage of the country. The combination of Chinese characters and paper-cutting art can create a stunning visual representation of the meaning behind each character, bursting out sparks of infinite charm and inspiring the imagination of learners and viewers alike.

Chinese characters are a treasure of Chinese culture, and paper-cutting art is a perfect medium for learners to experience oriental art and understand the poetic life of Chinese people. Through the art of paper-cutting, learners can gain a deeper appreciation of the beauty and complexity of Chinese characters and the culture they represent. Furthermore, by exploring the intricate strokes and shapes of Chinese characters through paper-cutting, learners can develop a greater understanding of the language itself and the nuances of meaning that it conveys.

Using Chinese Paper-Cutting to Enhance Chinese Character Learning in Foreign Language Teaching

Teaching Chinese characters is undoubtedly a challenge in teaching Chinese as a foreign language. For non-native Chinese learners, the complex structures and diverse meanings of Chinese characters can be daunting. However, Chinese characters are the backbone of the

Chinese language, and mastering them is a key point for learners to improve their Chinese proficiency.

Fortunately, with the help of the flexibility and variety of Chinese character paper-cutting, the quality of Chinese character recognition and reading of learners can be significantly improved. By visually presenting the shape and structure of Chinese characters through paper-cutting, learners can deepen their memory of Chinese characters and enhance their understanding of their meanings. Moreover, the use of paper-cutting art in Chinese character teaching can also add an artistic and enjoyable element to the learning process, making it more engaging and stimulating for learners.

However, it's important to note that the art of paper-cutting cannot replace the fundamental skill of writing Chinese characters. Although paper-cutting can help learners recognize and remember Chinese characters, it doesn't necessarily help them write them correctly. Therefore, writing elementary Chinese characters still needs to be done step by step, and learners should practice writing them regularly to develop the necessary muscle memory and motor skills.

Conclusion

China's Belt and Road Initiative has contributed to the growth of Chinese language education around the world, as more learners seek to understand Chinese culture and language. Teaching Chinese as a foreign language should focus on developing learners' ability to listen, speak, read, and write in Chinese, while also helping them understand the foundation for the development of modern Mandarin Chinese. Paper-cutting art has become a popular cultural path for teaching Chinese as a foreign language, as it provides a unique way to present the profound connotation of Chinese culture. By integrating paper-cut art into language instruction, learners can develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture, while also improving their language skills. Chinese characters are a treasure of Chinese culture, and paper-cutting art is a perfect medium for learners to experience oriental art and understand the poetic life of Chinese people. By visually presenting the shape and structure of Chinese characters through paper-cutting, learners can improve their recognition and reading impression in the learning process. Overall, incorporating paper-cutting art into Chinese language education is an effective way to enhance the learning experience and enrich the understanding of Chinese culture for learners around the world.

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