

* **Chinese Linguistics in Spain:
Historical and Institutional
Overview**

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Beginnings (1)

- * 16th-18th century the study of Chinese linguistics in Spain in the hands of missionaries.
- * They made an important contribution both in quantitative and qualitative terms.

Beginnings (2)

- ❖ Spanish Franciscan and Dominican missionaries were the first to study the language, ideas, customs and history of China.
 - Martin de Rada: *Arte y Vocabulario de la Lengua China* → 1st work on the Chinese language written in a European language.
 - Juan Cobo:
 - ✓ 範立本 (Fàn Lìběn) 明心寶鑒 (*Míng Xīn Bǎo Jiàn*) (1592) → 1st translation of a Chinese book into a European language.
 - ✓ *Vocabulario y Arte de la Lengua China* (has not survived the ravages of time).

Beginnings (3)

- ❖ Diego de Pantoja:
 - Creation of a romanization system of Mandarin Chinese
- ❖ Francisco Varo:
 - *Arte de la Lengua Mandarina* (1682)
 - ✓ oldest Chinese grammar preserved to date
 - ✓ reflects the phonology, syntax and lexicon of the language spoken by 17th century mandarins in Nanjing

Beginnings (4)

- ❖ From 16th to 18th centuries Spanish priests undertook the formidable task of compiling dictionaries and glossaries, and writing grammar books.
- ❖ With the expulsion of missionaries from China in the 18th century and the decline of colonial power in the late 19th century, Spain turned its back on Asia.

The advent and evolution of Chinese Studies in Spain (1)

- ❖ From the end of 19th century to the 1950's it was one of the most convulsive periods in the history of Spain → the country faced inwards because of domestic problems.
- ❖ In 1973 diplomatic relations between China and Spain, broken off in 1950 during the Franco regime, were resumed.

The advent and evolution of Chinese Studies in Spain (1)

- ❖ Inclusion of Chinese language courses at tertiary level → Diploma in Translation and Interpreting:
 - University of Granada (1978)
 - Autonomous University of Barcelona (1988)
- ❖ Since 2000 the number of undergraduate degrees offering China-related studies has increased and diversified, providing multidisciplinary programs placed within the paradigm of **Area Studies** rather than taking a **Sinological** or **Translation Studies** approach.

The advent and evolution of Chinese Studies in Spain (2)

- ❖ Initiatives taken regarding post-graduate courses in EAS or TI aim largely at training students for the professional workplace rather than for academic pursuits.
- ❖ We should not expect a substantial increase in academic research output related to Chinese linguistics in the short term.

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (1)

- ❖ General overviews of the socio-historical context of the Chinese language:
 - Martínez's *La Lengua China: Historia, Signo y Contexto: una Aproximación Sociocultural* (2007)
 - Rovira-Esteva's *Lengua y Escritura Chinas: Mitos y Realidades* (2010)

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (2)

❖ Chinese grammar books for Spanish-speakers:

- *Marco et al. (1998) Gramática de la Lengua China*
- *Xu et al. (1997) Gramática China*
- *Liao et al. (2007) Introducción a la Gramática China*

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (3)

❖ Chinese language dictionaries:

- Mateos *et al.* (1977) *Diccionario Español de la Lengua China*: 汉西综合辞典
- Mateos *et al.* (1987) *Diccionario Chino de la Lengua Española*: 华西综合辞典
- Zhou (1999) *Diccionari Xinès-Català, Català-Xinès*
- Zhou (2006) *Diccionario Chino Pocket Español-Chino, Chino Español*
- Rovira-Esteva (1998) *Diccionari de Mesuradors Xinesos. Ús i Traducció al Català*

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (4)

❖ Chinese writing:

- Fadón (2001) *Breve Historia de la Caligrafía China*
- Fadón (2005) *Manual Práctico de Caligrafía Oriental*
- Marco *et al.* (2000) *La Escritura China y sus Duendes: 214 Claves o Radicales para Comprender el Mundo de los Caracteres y el Espíritu de China*

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (5)

- ❖ Phonetics and phonology (mainly taking a contrastive approach):
 - Mandarin and Spanish (Álvarez, 2000; Cortés, 2006 and 2009; Fisac, 1985)
 - Mandarin and Catalan (Julià-Muné, 2009)
 - Spanish and Taiwanese (Wang, 2007)

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (7)

❖ Morphology (1 / 2):

- Marco et al. (1991, 1992) general description of the morphology of Mandarin
- Marco (1988) study on the resultative aspect in Mandarin

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (6)

❖ Morphology (2/2):

- ✓ Casas-Tost's comparative study of onomatopoeia in Chinese and Spanish (2008)
- ✓ Lu's (2003) study on the particle *le*
- ✓ Marco (1988) and Rovira-Esteva (2007, 2007 and 2008) focus on measure words

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (8)

❖ Syntax (1/2):

- Cheng (2008) studies the usages of the particle *le*
- Fisac (1993) offers an analysis of Chinese simple sentences
- Lu (1995, 1997) analyses null-subject and personal pronoun omission in Spanish and Chinese

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (9)

❖ Syntax (2/2):

- Marco (1987, 1989, 1999) studies sentence structure, as well as passive and transitive constructions
- Querol (2010) presents a study on the syntax of lexical nominalization
- Wang (2005) tries to find Chinese equivalents for the Spanish relative pronoun *que*

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (10)

❖ Translation Studies (1/3):

- Although relatively few texts have been translated from Chinese, Translation Studies is a well-established academic discipline.
- Arbillaga (2003) provides a comprehensive overview of texts that have been translated from Chinese in Spain up to the early 21st century.

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (11)

❖ Translation Studies (2/3):

- General approaches to Chinese-Spanish translation (Ciruela, 2004 and 2010)
- Translation of given lexical or grammatical items (Bonilla, 2001; Casas, 2010; Zhi, 2006)
- Sociological approaches (Casas et al., 2008)
- Didactics of translation (García-Noblejas, 2008; Ramírez, 2004)

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (12)

❖ Translation Studies (3/3):

- Literary translation (Rovira, 2005, 2007 and 2009; Rovira et al., 2000)
- Translation of ancient Chinese texts (Golden, 1996; Suárez, 2010)
- Specialized translation (Lu et al., 2009)
- Community interpreting (Vargas Urpi, 2011)

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (13)

❖ Discourse analysis:

- Orientalist discourse in the description of the Chinese language (Casas *et al.*, 2008 and 2009)
- Socio-linguistics of Chinese (Cuadrado, 2000 and 2002; Garayzábal *et al.*, 2006; Prosser, 2006 and 2008; Querol, 2009)
- Community interpreting (Raga *et al.*, 1999; Raga, 2009; Vargas Urpi 2010, 2011 and 2011)

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (14)

❖ Teaching Chinese as a foreign language:

- Textbooks:
 - ✓ Costa et al. (2006) *Chino para hispanohablantes*
 - ✓ Marco et al. (2007) *Chino para españoles*
 - ✓ Casas et al. (2007) *Lengua china para traductores*
- General issues (Fachal, 2008; Fisac, 2008, Lee, 2008; Zhang Nian, 2008; Zhou, 2008 and 2010)

Current situation of research and publications in Chinese Linguistics (15)

❖ Specific aspects:

- Writing (Ciruela, 2007; Legaz, 2007; Chin, 2010; Zhang Zheng Quan, 2008)
- Verbal system (Casas, 2007 and 2008; Li 2010)
- Task-based learning (Chen, 2008)
- The use of new technologies (Chin, 2008)
- Adaptation of Chinese language proficiency levels to the requirements of the EFRL (Marco, 2008; Casas *et al.* in press).

Concluding remarks (1)

- ❖ There is no long-established tradition of Chinese Studies in Spain.
- ❖ The absence of research groups in Chinese Linguistics has meant that publications are often the result of individual effort and usually show little continuity.
- ❖ Since no specialist journals exist in the field, the findings of research have often been published in books and journals that are not readily accessible.

Concluding remarks (2)

- ❖ It is paradoxical that Spaniards, who were pioneers both in the systematic study of the Chinese language and its dissemination in Europe, are no longer to be found at the forefront of the field.
- ❖ It is to be hoped that the steady increase in East Asian Studies courses on offer in Spanish universities will stimulate research in Chinese Linguistics in the medium term.

Thank you for your attention!

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* Check hand-out for full references.