











## 2.4 Appropriate register of French equivalents

More often than not, there are several possible translations<sup>5</sup> of a word or phrase. While using a dictionary for production or translation, learners often ignore the register of an L2 word, and hence fail to use it appropriately. GDCFC fills this gap by briefly indicating the register of some French equivalents. For example,

- 【妓院】jìyuàn (Q. 家、座) maison *f* de prostitution; maison *f* close; maison *f* publique; bordel *m* (fam.) • ≈ 娼家
- 【淫欲】yínyù lubricité *f*; désir *m* impur [impudique, sexuel]; concupiscence *f* (litt.) ▷ 饱暖思~ Bien nourri et habillé, on commence à désirer la lubricité.
- 【怨恨】yuànhèn ❶ en vouloir à *loc.v*; garder rancune à *loc.v*; haïr *v.t*; abhorrer *v.t* (litt.) ❷ ressentiment *m*, rancune *f*, rancœur *f*, haine *f*, animosité *f* ▷ 充满~ être plein de haine
- 【带头】dài//tóu prendre la tête de; donner l'exemple; prendre l'initiative de; mener la danse (péj.) ▷ 他~跳进水里。Il fut le premier à se jeter à l'eau. || ~作用 rôle de promoteur; exemple d'un pionnier; influence exercée par les initiateurs ◆~羊 sonnailler *m* de troupeau || ~者 locomotive *f* (fig.) • ≈ 领头

In the above articles, the French equivalents "bordel" is marked with (fam.), "concupiscence" and "abhorrer" with (litt.), "mener la danse" with (pej.), and "locomotive" with (fig.). Those metalanguage labels help to prevent Chinese learners from using the French words inappropriately.

## 3. Features designed for the secondary user group

Due to a small number of L2 Chinese learners in French-speaking countries and limited resources of the Chinese–French language pair, publishers are reluctant to produce a Chinese–French dictionary exclusively for this group of users. Hence, GDCFC targets L2 Chinese learners as well, though as a secondary intended user group. Their potential user situations embrace reception of the foreign language (i.e. Chinese) and translation from the foreign language (i.e. Chinese), in addition to their cognitive need for foreign-language (i.e. Chinese) learning (Tarp 2008). This group of users may wish to obtain information on the usage of Chinese characters or words.

### 3.1 Words in regional varieties of Chinese

In addition to *Putonghua* (Mandarin Chinese), L2 Chinese learners are likely to encounter some words and phrases that are mainly used in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau or the overseas Chinese communities. To help users understand

their meanings, GDCFC offers some of the most common nomenclature, and marks them with ⟨dial.⟩. For example,

- 【三脚猫】 sānjiǎomāo ⟨dial.⟩ chat *m* à trois pattes (trad. litt.); personne *f* qui n'a que des connaissances superficielles, personne *f* dénuée de compétence  
【烧刀子】 shāodāozi ⟨dial.⟩ eau-de-vie *f* forte  
【失失慌慌】 shīshīhuānghuāng ⟨dial.⟩ • ≈ 慌张  
【手袜】 shǒuwà ⟨dial.⟩ • = 手套

One might argue that the label ⟨dial.⟩ is not informative enough, and that it would be preferable to specify the regions by their name. However, as far as L2 Chinese learners are concerned, they would show more interest in the meanings of those words than their regional origin.

### 3.2 Classifiers in Chinese

Classifiers (or quantifiers), which can be roughly divided into "sortal classifiers" and "measure words" (Ahrens and Huang 2016), often challenge L2 Chinese learners. Why does one say "一匹马" (a horse) and "一头牛" (a cow/bull) instead of \*"一头马" and \*"一匹牛"? It is difficult to deduce the usage of classifiers from a grammatical rule. Thus, L2 Chinese learners often wish to find information on classifiers from a dictionary.

Under the noun entries, GDCFC uses the sign (Q) to specify the classifiers that they take. For example,

- 【秘诀】 mǐjué (Q. 条) méthode *f* secrète; recette *f* secrète; secret *m*; truc *m*; clé *f* ▷ 成功的~ secret du succès; recette de la réussite  
【模型】 móxíng (Q. 套、具、副) ① modèle *m*, maquette *f* ▷ 飞机~ modèle d'avion || 车身~ modèle de carrosserie || 建筑~ modèle d'un édifice || 缩比~ modèle réduit, maquette réduite || 全尺寸~ maquette grandeur réelle || 百分之一的~ modèle réduit au 1/100 ② gabarit *m*; moule *m*; matrice *f*; forme *f* ▷ 石膏~ moule en plâtre • ≈ 模子[múzi]  
【蘑菇<sup>1</sup>】 mógu (Q. 朵、片、棵) champignon *m* comestible; champignon *m* ▷ 采~ cueillir des champignons ◆~房 champignonnière *f*; meule *f* (de terreau et de fumier)

In some entries, several interchangeable classifiers are given.

GDCFC also indicates those words or terms that can be used as classifiers with the sign ⟨q.⟩, and at the same time exemplifies the contexts of usage in which they apply. For example,

- 泡<sup>3</sup> pào ⟨q.⟩ [s'appliquant uniquement à l'urine et aux excréments] ▷ 撒泡尿 pisser (un coup); faire pipi || 拉泡屎 aller à la selle || 一泡狗屎 un étron de chien

匹<sup>2</sup> (\*疋<sup>0</sup>) pǐ <q.> ① [s'appliquant au cheval, à l'âne, etc.] ▷ 一匹马 un cheval  
|| 两匹骡子 deux mulets || 100匹马的马群 un troupeau de chevaux de  
cent têtes ② [s'appliquant à la pièce ou au rouleau d'étoffe] *pi*, 1 *pi* = 50  
ou 100 *chi* (尺\*) ▷ 一匹布 une pièce d'étoffe; un rouleau de tissu  
【梭子<sup>2</sup>】suōzi ① cartouchière *f* ② <q.> [s'appliquant à la cartouche] char-  
geur *m*; rafale *f* ▷ 打了一~子弹 vider un chargeur, tirer une rafale

Apparently, such treatment will help L2 Chinese learners to have a clearer picture of specific classifiers preceding a noun.

### 3.3 Formulaicity of some Chinese characters

Whether one Chinese character can be freely combined to form a word is contingent upon morphological restrictions on it. Our experience in teaching Chinese as a foreign language shows that learners in the West have difficulty in distinguishing the stand-alone contemporary Chinese characters from those that are not. GDCFC indicates the Chinese characters, which are used only as morpheme, syllable or affix, respectively with the labels of <morph.>, <syll.> or <aff.>. For example,

丫 (\*桺<sup>0</sup>桺<sup>0</sup>) yā ① <morph.> fourche *f*; bifurcation *f* ▷ 树丫 fourche d'un  
arbre || 枝丫 branche fourchue; rameau; branchette ② <morph.> <p. ext.>  
chose *f* [objet *m*] en forme de fourche ③ <morph.> <dial.> fillette *f* ▷  
小丫 petite fille; fillette ④ nom de famille  
俩 (俩) liǎng <syll.> 伎[jì]俩 •另见liǎ  
老<sup>3</sup>lǎo <aff.> ① [devant certains noms désignant des personnes] ▷ 老百姓\* ||  
老大娘\* ② [devant certains noms d'animaux ou de plantes] ▷ 老虎\* ||  
老鹰\* || 老玉米\* ③ [devant un nom de personne monosyllabique] ▷ 老王  
Lao Wang ④ [devant un numéral, de deuxième à dixième, désignant  
l'ordre des rangs d'âge] ▷ 她是老二。Elle est née la deuxième. || 王老三  
Wang le troisième ⑤ <dial.> cadet(te) *a*; benjamin(e) *n* ▷ 老儿子 fils cadet;  
le benjamin de la famille || 老闺女 fille cadette; la benjamine de la famille

In this way, French learners of Chinese can gain useful information on the formulaicity of some Chinese characters, and reduce their errors as a result of arbitrary use of those characters.

### 3.4 Flexibility of some Chinese characters

In contrast to formulaicity, some Chinese words, which are composed of two or more characters, can be used in a "flexible" way. One may, where appropriate, detach a character (i.e. to insert a meaning unit), repeat certain characters (to strengthen the tone or to mitigate meaning), or even reverse the characters (to form another word or synonym).<sup>6</sup>



### 3.4.1 Detachedness of some Chinese characters

GDCFC marks such a headword with "/" in the middle of its phonetic notation, and offers examples of usage:

- 【搭伴】dā//bàn (～儿) tenir compagnie (à qn); aller [partir] ensemble (à l'occasion); voyager en compagnie de (qn) ▷ 他也去北京, 你可以和他搭个伴儿。 Il va aussi à Beijing, tu pourras l'avoir comme compagnon de voyage. || 不与某人～ fausser compagnie à qn
- 【带好儿】dài//hǎo saluer qn de la part de...▷ 你回家时, 给叔叔带好儿。 Dis bonjour à mon oncle [Salue mon oncle] de ma part quand tu rentres à la maison.

### 3.4.2 Repeated use of some Chinese characters

GDCFC highlights the Chinese characters (morphemes) which can be used repeatedly. There are three types:

- 1) Type AB-AAB: One morpheme is repeated, e.g. 操心-操操心.
- 2) Type AB-AABB: Both morphemes are repeated, e.g. 安稳-安安稳稳.
- 3) Type AB-ABAB: The whole word is repeated, e.g. 反省-反省反省.

【操心】cāo//xīn se préoccuper (de) *v.pr.*; se soucier (de) *v.pr.*; s'inquiéter (de) *v.pr.*; se faire du souci; se donner du mal ▷ 你不必为那件事～。 Ne vous embarrassez pas de cette affaire-là. || 他为孩子操碎了心。 Il s'est fait beaucoup de souci pour ses enfants. || 我得为儿子的前途多操操心。 Je dois me préoccuper de l'avenir de mon fils.

【安稳】ānwěn ① stable *a.*; paisible *a.*; solide *a.*; ferme *a.*; sûr(e) *a.* ▷ 安安稳稳的生活 vie paisible || 睡得安安稳稳 dormir tranquillement || 船行～。 Le bateau s'avance doucement. ② [en parlant surtout des enfants] sage *a.*; posé(e) *a.*; sérieux-x(se) *a.*

【反省】fǎnxǐng faire un retour sur soi-même; faire réflexion sur soi-même; faire un examen de conscience ▷ 你是怎么犯错误的, 该好好～～。 Comment as-tu pu commettre une telle erreur? Tu dois faire un examen de conscience [effectuer un sérieux retour sur toi-même].

### 3.4.3 Reversed use of some Chinese characters

GDCFC also marks the keyword entries in which both morphemes (characters) can be reversed (i.e. AB-BA).

This unique linguistic phenomenon in the Chinese language increases the learning burden on L2 Chinese learners. Although a general dictionary cannot deal with this problem in length, we believe that a simple indication will be

useful to French users. In this dictionary,

- 1) the sign "=" indicates that the two morphemes are interchangeable, the word and the inverted keeping the same meaning (AB = BA);
- 2) the sign "≈" indicates that the two morphemes can be reversed in some cases, the inverted word keeping a close meaning; and
- 3) the sign "≠" indicates that the reverse word has a completely different meaning.

For example,

- 【脊背】 jǐbèi (=背脊\*) dos (d'un être vivant) *m* ●=背<sup>1</sup>①  
【建构】 jiàngòu (≈构建\*) [appliqué surtout à qch. d'abstrait] construire  
*v.t*; constituer *v.t*; instaurer *v.t* ▷~新的理论体系 établir un nouveau  
système théorique  
【爱心】 àixīn (≠心爱\*) (Q 份、番) cœur *m* compatissant; amour *m*; affec-  
tion *f*

Obviously, such information given in GDCFC will help L2 Chinese learners to gain a better understanding of the flexibility of some Chinese characters, and use them correctly.

#### 4. Features designed for both groups of users

GDCFC's design lies in its practical consideration of the needs of both groups of Chinese and French speakers: the needs of Chinese users producing French, and the needs of reception of Chinese by French speakers. We believe that this approach which is oriented to the needs of both groups of users is not necessarily opposed or contradictory, but is, to some extent, complementary. Even in the case of flexible use of Chinese characters as mentioned above, although the arrangement mainly aims to facilitate French speakers' comprehension, it can still help Chinese speakers to be sensitive to this type of linguistic phenomena.

The following design will benefit both groups of users at large.

##### 4.1 Indication of POS in context

GDCFC attempts, whenever possible, to reflect the grammatical categories of Chinese headwords. The issue of indication of parts of speech (POS) of Chinese characters is, however, complex, and has provoked controversy among specialists. Sometimes, the POS indication in CCD and NDCC — the two authoritative monolingual Chinese dictionaries — does not properly correspond to the actual usage. Consider the word "免费" (free, gratis, free of charge). The two Chinese dictionaries categorize it into 副 (*v.*). Yet in natural context, "免费" is used more often than not as adjective or adverb. In addition, the two dictionaries sometimes contradict each other in POS indication. For example, while CCD

labels "恼火" (irritated; be fuming at) with 形 (*adj.*), NDCC marks it as 动 (*v.*).

Since it is not easy to determine POS labels from existing Chinese dictionaries and the editorial team of GDCFC could hardly spare time to establish their own based on the words' usage patterns found in large Chinese corpora, it is advisable not to fall into the trap of POS indication. Instead, GDCFC illustrates the various usages of a headword with examples, and uses, if possible, translation equivalents of the same POS to reflect its grammatical categories. For instance,

【免费】miǎn//fèi dispenser (qn) des frais; gratuit(e) *a*; gratuitement *adv*, gratis *adv*; à titre gratuit *loc.adv* ▷ ~入场 entrée gratuite; entrée libre || ~教育 enseignement gratuit || ~学校 école gratuite || ~门诊 consultations gratuites || ~随带行李 bagages en franchise || ~为病人看病 traiter les malades gratis; soigner les malades gratuitement

【恼火】nǎohuǒ se fâcher *v.pr*; s'emporter *v.pr*; s'irriter *v.pr*; se vexer *v.pr* ▷ 我直说了, 你可别~。Je vais te parler franchement, seulement ne te fâche pas. || 这些话使他很~。Ces propos l'avaient exaspéré. || 他慢条斯理, 叫我真~。Sa lenteur me fait bouillir. || 他动不动就~。Il s'emporte facilement, même contre un rien. • ≈ 恼怒①

【概述】gàishù ① résumer *v.t*; exposer *v.t* sommairement ▷ 他向我们~了他的意图。Il nous a exposé sommairement ses intentions. ② exposé *m* sommaire; aperçu *m* ▷ 对当前形势作一个~ donner un aperçu [brosser un tableau] de la situation actuelle

The corresponding French equivalents of "免费" as exemplified in context of usage show that this word can function as adverb, adjective and verb. In the same vein, those contextual equivalents illustrate the usage of "恼火" as either verb or adjective, and that of "概述" as either verb or noun.

#### 4.2 Equivalents in context

Since cognitive (semantic, systemic or prototypical) equivalents are not easily available (Adamska-Sałaciak 2010, 2011), we argue that as an alternative, equivalents presented in a dynamic way can cater for users' reference needs. In the translation of entry words, especially in the rendering of idioms, GDCFC offers many explanatory and translational equivalents. A headword is first translated literally, then explained, and finally, a fixed French expression, which roughly corresponds to its Chinese counterpart but uses different lexical means and/or imagery, is given if available. All this would be accompanied by examples of usage. For instance,

【云开日出】yúnkāi-rìchū Les nuages se dissipent, le soleil réapparaît: revirement de fortune. | Le soleil dissipe les nuages. | Après la pluie vient le beau temps. (prov.) ▷ 他历经许多困苦, 今天总算~, 看到希望了。Aujourd'hui, après maintes difficultés, les nuages se sont dissipés, le soleil réapparaît, et finalement il voit de l'espoir dans l'avenir.

【游戏人生】 yóuxì- rénshēng jouer avec la vie; prendre la vie comme un jeu; mener une vie désinvolte; agir sans aucune contrainte ▷ 现在有些年轻人无所事事, ~。 De nos jours, certains jeunes mènent une vie oisive et pleine de désinvolture.

In our view, different types of equivalents at various levels can assist Chinese speakers in finding an appropriate French counterpart of a Chinese idiom, and assist French speakers in understanding the meanings of an idiomatic expression in Chinese.

#### 4.3 Semantic network of the nomenclature

The nomenclature in a dictionary binds, as a whole, the semantic network of words. In GDCFC, synonyms or near synonyms of some headwords are thus offered. Unlike other dictionaries in which a static list of synonyms are given, GDCFC presents the synonyms in a typical context. For example,

【得当】 dédàng convenable *a*; adéquat(e) *a*; opportun(e) *a*; à point *loc.adv.* à propos *loc.adv.* ▷ 采取~ (适当\*) 的措施 prendre des mesures convenables [opportunes] || 措词~ (恰当\*) s'exprimer en termes convenables [appropriés] || 回答~ (恰当\*) répondre de façon adéquate  
【寄存】 jìcún mettre *v.t* à la consigne; mettre *v.t* en dépôt; consigner *v.t*; déposer *v.t* ▷ ~ (存放\*) 行李 consigner ses bagages ...

Typical examples of usage will help users differentiate synonyms more accurately.

GDCFC also strives to cross-reference words or related terms. In this way, it has established a link between different words that belong to a system, and helps users to create a semantic network in their mental lexicon. For instance,

【霸王鞭<sup>1</sup>】 bàwángbiān ① ... ② danse *f* folklorique du bâton coloré  
●=花棍舞、打连厢  
【扛大梁】 káng dàliáng (fig.) assumer une grande responsabilité; jouer le rôle principal ●=挑大梁  
【跟斗】 gēndou (dial.) ●≈跟头  
【客舍】 kèshè (litt.) ●≈客店  
【干租】 gānzū louer *v.t* sans équipage; location *f* sans équipage ●←湿租  
【倒果为因】 dàoguǒwéiyīn inverser effet et cause; prendre l'effet pour la cause ●←倒因为果

In the above entries, "●=" is used to indicate synonyms; "●≈" represents near synonyms; and "●←" links antonyms. Thus, GDCFC shows users, back and forth, useful links in the dictionary text. They learn not only a word or a single term, but also a series of words or related terms. To our knowledge, no Chinese-French dictionaries, and even no general Chinese-English ones, have treated

items in such a way. This dictionary might be the first attempt of this kind.

## 5. Conclusion

This dictionary has some distinctive features that other Chinese bilingual dictionaries (including Chinese–English/English–Chinese ones) are devoid of. Apart from an extensive and up-to-date lemma list, GDCFC pays special attention to the frequency, grammar and register of equivalents. It gives a lengthy treatment of formulaicity and flexibility of L2 morphology. It illustrates the POS as well as meaning of a headword in context of usage. It integrates the entry words into a semantic network by offering synonyms in context and cross-referencing related words.

The making of GDCFC has implications for the compilation of other less-resourced bilingual dictionaries. Dictionaries of this type often have to follow the design of bidirectional dictionaries<sup>7</sup> (Hausmann and Werner 1991; Hannay 2003; Adamska-Salaciak 2013), for "it is cheaper to produce one dictionary which will be sold in both markets than invest in two different ones" (Adamska-Salaciak 2013: 215). This does not mean that a bidirectional dictionary is confined to a skeleton structure, with only equivalents given. Far from it. A bidirectional dictionary can be "learnerized" in the way as a monodirectional bilingual dictionary does (Granger and Lefer 2016). In other words, such a dictionary can be designed to meet the needs of both groups of users in question. Priority is given to the morphological, semantic, syntactic and pragmatic points of an L2 lexical item with which learners may run into difficulty. It has to be admitted that some information in a bidirectional dictionary might look redundant to the group of L1 users, but that is a compromise before a monodirectional dictionary targeting a specific learner population is finally produced. A well-designed bidirectional dictionary can still boast some of its notable features.

## Endnotes

1. It took such a long time to complete it, because a number of professors of French, who had been involved in the making of this dictionary, were dropped from the editorial team due to other commitments, and this project almost came to a halt when the editor-in-chief was diagnosed with cancer in 2008.
2. For instance, in 2018, this dictionary won the "Chinese Government Award for Publishing" — the highest-level award in the Chinese publishing industry.
3. Apart from several pocket bilingual dictionaries, there are only 4 medium-sized Chinese–French dictionaries published before 2014: *Dictionnaire français de la langue chinoise* (1976/1986/1994/1999), *Dictionnaire chinois–français* (1990), *Nouveau dictionnaire pratique chinois–français* (1996), and *Grand dictionnaire Ricci de la langue chinoise* (2001), and most of them have not been updated.
4. This Chinese–French dictionary "aims to reflect today's Chinese language in all its dimensions, to integrate the needs of both Chinese and French speakers, and to show different translation options, ranging from a literal to an authentic idiomatic expression".

5. See Section 4.2 for further discussion of the equivalency issue.
6. One major category of those Chinese words in flexible use is "separable word" or *liheci* (Packard 2016: 74-76).
7. The terminology is inconsistent in the literature. Landau (2001) and Atkins and Rundell (2008) use the term "bidirectional" dictionaries to refer to what Hausmann and Werner (1993), Han-nay (2003) and Adamska-Salaciak (2013) call "biscopal" (Lx-Ly and Ly-Lx) dictionaries.

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