

BOOK NOTICES

Hanyu Yufa Fenxi Wenti. By Lyu Shu-Xiang. Beijing: Shangwu Yinshuguan. 1979. Pp.113.

This essay discusses some of the fundamental problems in the analysis of Chinese grammar. Following the introduction, the discussion takes three parts. First, questions are raised concerning the concept 'unit'. Second, the discussion is centered on how to classify units such as morphemes, phrases and sentences. Finally, 'constructions' are examined under such headings as reduction, transposition, complement, etc.

Hong Kong Language Papers. Edited by Robert Lord. Hong Kong University Press. 1979. Pp.246.

"This collection of papers presents a cross-section of inquiry that has been taking place over the past five years or so. The first paper, 'U-gay-wa: a linguistic study of the campus language of students at the University of Hong Kong,' investigates language mixture and creoloid bilingualism in Hong Kong. The second paper, 'English language skills and academic performance,' is a study by a psychologist and the title speaks for itself. A comprehensive bibliography of psychological and psycho-linguistic studies by the same author is also included in this collection. The paper 'Language attitudes among university students in Hong Kong' is a joint work by three teachers of the Chinese University of Hong Kong who applied the match-guise technique to the situation in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The fourth paper, 'The measurement of bilingualism,' is the by-product of only partly successful attempts to establish measures of bilingualism applicable to bilingual speakers in Hong Kong. 'Studying Chinese phonology' discusses the problems associated with the teaching of and research into Chinese phonology. 'The frequency of occurrence of speech sounds and tones in Cantonese' is a development of studies carried out many years ago for English sounds. 'What is standard Chinese?' attempts to provide a base-line for those concerned with the divergence of norms in Chinese over the past two decades. The collection also includes a separate select bibliography by the same author." From the back-cover.

The Archaeology of Ancient China. By Kwang-Chih Chang. Yale University Press. Third Edition. 1977.

"In previous editions of this book, K. C. Chang presented his thesis of an indigenous development of Chinese civilization - from its beginning in the nuclear area of North China to its extension toward the north and the south - and reconstructed human culture in China from the primitive farmers to the early historic periods.

Although the book's basic thesis still stands, the present volume has been completely rewritten in parts and extensively revised in others. Chang extends his theory of the development of Chinese civilization to new horizons and evaluates the latest information that has become available - in particular, the radiocarbon dates announced since 1972 and the important discoveries made outside the nuclear area. He now sees two or possibly three parallel regional centers of early farmers in China. Each had distinctive features, but their growth processes were essentially identical, they increasingly shared common characteristics, and all were ancestral to the historical Ch'in and Han civilizations.

This third edition incorporates many new illustrations and tables, and the bibliography has been brought up to date." From the back-cover.

Computational Analysis of Mandarin. By Ching Y. Suen. Birkhauser Verlag. 1979.

"The analysis was made by a computer using a corpus composed of more than 750,000 samples of common Chinese characters. ... A new phonetic system for Mandarin was devised permitting an English-speaking person to pronounce correctly Mandarin syllables. Phonetic syllables of Mandarin were converted into phonemic syllables using rules invented by the author. These rules were programmed on the computer to tabulate and compare the rank frequency distributions of syllables, phonemes and their combinations, together with the tone." From the back-cover.

A Handbook on Chinese Language Structure. By Henry Henne, Ole Bjorn Rongen and Lars Jul Hansen. Universitetsforlaget. Oslo. 1977.

"This handbook is intended as a college-level textbook

for students in the process of learning Chinese. It also serves, however, as a useful introduction to the Chinese language - with emphasis on its underlying structure - for the general layman interested in mastering the basic principles of this rich and intriguing linguistic system. Organized on sound linguistic and pedagogic principles, A Handbook on Chinese Language Structure describes sentence and phrase structure, word formation, word classes, auxiliary words, and other information useful to the beginner. Each topic is clearly illustrated with helpful examples and translations." From the back-cover.

Chang Yong Zhongwenci de Chuxian Cishu. (Frequency Count of 40,000 Chinese Words.) By In-Mao Liu, Chong-Jen Chuang and Sou-Chung Wang. Lucky Books Company. Taipei. 1975. Pp.377.

The count is based on a corpus of 1,000,000 words of general reading materials. The first part lists the word types and their frequencies. The second part discusses the principles of word division and the materials used. The third part presents the 500 most frequent words and the 501 second most frequent words.

Ancient China: Studies in Early Civilization. Edited by David T. Roy and Tsuen-hsuei Tsien. The Chinese University Press. Hong Kong. 1978.

"The articles represent major disciplines in ancient Chinese studies, including archaeology and anthropology, epigraphy, philology, and linguistics; intellectual, cultural, economic, and institutional history; and philosophy, art and literature. They are arranged roughly in chronological order, covering all important periods from pre-history to the end of the Later Han dynasty in A.D.220." From book jacket.

The Chinese Signs: Lexicon of the Standard Sign Language for the Deaf in China. By S. C. Yau. Hong Kong. 1977. Pp.122.

This lexicon is primarily based on Zhongguo Tongyong Shouyu Caotu, published jointly in 1961 by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Education in Peking. It includes 22 pages of photographic illustrations, plus 80 some pages of verbal descriptions of the signs.