

12-1-2009

# Final Status Report [Thinkfinity Website Translation]

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## Recommended Citation

Zhao, Jing, "Final Status Report [ Thinkfinity Website Translation]" (2009). Cornerstone 2 Reports : Community Outreach and Empowerment Through Service Learning and Volunteerism. Paper 6. <http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cornerstone2/6>

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**Final  
Status Report**

Jing Zhao  
School of Education  
Pace University  
December 18, 2009

## Original goals:

- Do some assistant work for my professors on their research and academic project provided by Thinkfinity foundation (<http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/chineselearning/>)
- Research Chinese learning materials at <http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/chineselearning/> into English
- Learn more about Thinkfinity and make full use of the resources supported by Thinkfinity into teaching practice
- Improve my translation ability
- Learn more about how to work in a diverse cultural background environment
- Learn more about how to use the various Internet-based ways to teach languages
- Try to make more Chinese English teachers and learners know about Thinkfinity, and use their free on-line resources
- If Verizon is going to do marketing in China, provide some relative information and prepare some typographic if necessary

## **The progress and activities completed towards original goals:**

1. Finish collecting and organizing the English versions of the four main Chinese traditional festivals <sup>1</sup>
2. Add word-building section to the Chinese learning website provided by Thinkfinity <sup>2</sup>
3. Keep doing the word-building section for the website
4. Collecting teaching and learning material for the website, on-going
5. Learned more about Thinkfinity
6. Keep doing assistant work for my professors

## **Finished part:**

See <http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/chineselearning/>

## **Appendix:**

### **Qixi Festival**

As a traditional festival in China, Qixi is sometimes called Chinese Valentine's Day circa 1990s to 2000s. In late summer, the stars **Altair** and Vega are high in the night sky, and the Chinese tell the following love story, of which there are many variations:

One day, there were seven fairy sisters coming from the Heaven to have fun on the earth. A young cowherd named Niulang came across seven fairy sisters bathing in a lake. Encouraged by

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<sup>1</sup> Verify with Professor Xiaolei Wang

<sup>2</sup> See the appendix

his mischievous but loyal companion the ox, he stole their clothes and waited to see what would happen. The fairy sisters made the youngest and most beautiful sister Zhinü (weaver girl) look for their clothing. She agreed to do so. Niulang and she then began to know each other and later they started their journey of love. After a while, Zhinü decided to live in a happy mortal life rather than a boring ever-lasting life in the Heaven, so she left the Heaven secretly. She and Niulang soon got married. She proved to be a wonderful wife, and Niulang to be a good husband. They lived happily and had two children. However, when the Goddess of Heaven (or in some versions, Zhinü's mother) found out that Zhinü, a fairy girl, had married a mere mortal, she was furious and ordered Zhinü to return to heaven. (Alternatively, the Goddess forced the fairy back to her former duty of weaving colorful clouds, a task she neglected while living on earth with a mortal.) Niulang was very upset that his wife had disappeared. Suddenly, his ox began to talk, telling him that if he killed it and put on its hide, he would be able to go up to Heaven to find his wife. Crying bitterly, he killed the ox, put on its skin, and carried his two beloved children off to Heaven to find Zhinü. The Goddess discovered this and got very angry. Taking out her hairpin, the Goddess scratched a wide river in the sky to separate the two lovers forever, thus forming the Milky Way between Altair and Vega. Zhinü must sit forever on one side of the river, sadly weaving on her loom, while Niulang watched her from afar and takes care of their two children. Their faithful love touched the magpies a great deal and all the magpies would take pity on them and fly up to form a bridge for this couple. The Goddess had nothing to do with it but allow the couple to get together once a year which, on the seventh night of the seventh month. The bridge is called Que Qiao, "the bridge of magpies". It is said that if it rains on the night of Qixi, it is the tears of Niulang and Zhinü crying for a lost year apart.

*Reference: Wikipedia*

中国的传统节日七夕节在 20 世纪 90 年代至今有时候又被称作是中国的情人节。在仲夏的夜晚，织女星和牛郎星熠熠生辉的时候，人们开始讲述牛郎与织女的故事。下文是其中的一个版本：

一天，天上的七仙女一起下凡游戏，在河里洗澡。牛郎在老牛的帮助下认识了织女，二人互生情意，后来织女便偷偷下凡，来到人间，做了牛郎的妻子。织女是个很好的妻子，牛郎是个很好的丈夫。他们男耕女织，情深意重。后来他们有了一男一女两个孩子，一家人生活得很幸福。但是好景不长，这事很快便让天帝知道，王母娘娘亲自下凡来，强行把织女带回天上，恩爱夫妻被拆散。牛郎上天无路，就在这时老牛告诉牛郎，在它死后，

披着它的皮就可以上天。牛郎按照老牛的话做了。他含泪杀死老牛然后披着老牛的皮，拉着自己的儿女，一起腾云驾雾上天去追织女，眼见就要追到了，岂知王母娘娘拔下头上的金簪一挥，一道波涛汹涌的天河就出现了，牛郎和织女被隔在两岸，只能相对哭泣流泪。他们的忠贞爱情感动了喜鹊，千万只喜鹊飞来，搭成鹊桥，让牛郎织女走上鹊桥相会，王母娘娘对此也无奈，只好允许两人在每年七月七日于鹊桥相会。他们相会的桥被叫作鹊桥。传说每年七月七下的雨就是牛郎和织女见面痛哭时流的泪。

## **Lantern Festival**

The Lantern Festival is a Chinese festival (Yuanxiao Festival in Chinese) celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunar year in the Chinese calendar. During the Lantern Festival, children go out at night to carry lanterns and solve riddles on the lanterns. It officially ends the Chinese New Year. The Lantern Festival is also known as the Little New Year since it marks the end of the series of celebrations starting from the Chinese New Year.

Because the fact that first lunar month is called Yuan-month and in the ancient times people called night Xiao, this festival is called Yuan Xiao Festival in Chinese. The night of the fifteenth day of the first lunar month marks the appearance of the first full moon. According to the Chinese tradition, at the very beginning of a new year, when there is a bright full moon hanging in the sky, there should be thousands of colorful lanterns hung out for people to appreciate. People will try to solve the puzzles on the lanterns and eat Yuanxiao (glutinous rice ball) and get all their families united in the joyful atmosphere. Another popular activity at this festival is guessing lantern riddles (which became part of the festival during the Tang Dynasty). Chinese people hope that everything is satisfactory, and to eat Yuanxiao (glutinous rice dumplings) on the first night with a full moon in a year is to wish that all families remain united, harmonious, happy, and satisfied.

*Reference: Wikipedia*

每年农历的一月十五是中国的元宵节。在这天晚上，孩子们提着灯笼外出游玩，猜字谜。这一天的到来标志着农历春节的结束，所以人们又把它看作是“小年”。

因为正月又叫元月，“宵”是“夜晚”的意思，所以正月十五这个节日就叫元宵节。正月十五的晚上是一年里第一个月圆之夜。元宵节，中国人有赏花灯和吃元宵的习俗，所以，元宵节也叫灯节。元宵节这天，到处张灯结彩，人们就成群结队地去观赏花灯。有的花灯上写有谜语，人们会想办法破解灯谜，也很有趣。猜灯谜的传统在唐代就已经有

了。中国人希望诸事圆满，在一年开始的第一个月圆之夜吃元宵就是希望家人团圆，和睦，幸福，圆圆满满。

## Chinese Cuisine

Chinese cuisine enjoys the reputation for its color, sent, taste, and design, as well as its variety.

Due to the vast territory, abundant resources, varied climate and different living habits in China, people from different places have quite different flavors of food, for instance, southerners like light food while northerners are on the opposite, Sichuan people like spicy food, but Shanxi people like sour food. As a result, many different cuisines unique to certain areas are formed, among which that of Lu, Chuan, Huaiyang, and Yue are the more popular types of cuisine.

Shandong cuisine, also known as Lu Cai for short, is characterized by quick-frying, stir-frying, braising and deep-fat frying. It focuses on the confection of vegetable soup and milk soup. Famous dishes include Dezhou stewed chicken, sweet and sour carp, etc. Yue Cai is short for Guangdong Cuisine, which is famous for its wide selection of materials, variety of designing and colors, and original forms. It features tender and refreshing taste. Famous dishes are sauté shrimp, roast suckling pig, etc. Chuan Cai, short for Sichuan cuisine, is famous for being spicy, hot, oily and salty. Famous dishes include fish-flavored port threads, diced chicken with chilly pepper, multi-flavor chicken, bean curd Sichuan style, etc. Huaiyang Cuisine is represented by the dishes from the places along the Huai River and in the lower reaches of Changjiang, like Yangzhou, Zhenjiang, and Huai'an. It is characterized by the careful selection of materials, the timing of cooking and controlling of the heat, and the beautiful appearance of the dishes. Famous dishes include Hangzhou roast chicken (commonly known as Beggar's chicken), salty duck, braised pork balls with stewed crab, etc.

Visitors to Beijing will definitely have a taste of the Beijing roast duck, which is the representative dish of Beijing. It enjoys an international reputation for its date-red, shining with oil, but with a crisp skin and tender meat. The place that offers very good Beijing roast duck is the Quanjude Restaurant.

中国饮食

中国饮食博大精深。中国菜不仅花样多，而且具有色香味形俱佳的特点。由于中国地域辽阔，各地的物产，气候，和生活习惯不一样，因此人们的口味也各不相同。南方人口味清淡，北方人口味较重，四川人喜欢吃辣，山西人喜欢吃酸，等等。这样，在中国就形成了各具地方风味特色的菜系。其中鲁菜，川菜，淮扬菜和粤菜是较为出名的菜系。

鲁菜，也称山东菜，擅长爆，烧，炸，炒等，很讲究菜汤和奶汤的调制。鲁菜中比较有名的有“德州扒鸡”，“糖醋黄河鲤鱼”等。粤菜，也叫广东菜，它的用料比较广泛，花色品种也很多，注重口感的鲜嫩和爽滑。粤菜著名的菜品有“油包鲜虾仁”，“烤乳猪”等。川菜具有麻，辣，油重和味浓等特点。川菜的代表菜肴有“鱼香肉丝”，“宫保鸡丁”，“怪味鸡块”，“麻婆豆腐”等。淮扬菜集淮河延安，长江下游的扬州，镇江，淮安等地菜肴的精华，特点是注重选材，讲究火工，并且注重菜品造型的美观。著名菜肴有“叫花鸡”，“盐水鸭”，“清炖蟹粉狮子头”等。

到北京的客人，一般都要尝尝有名的“北京烤鸭”。北京烤鸭是北京的名菜，它以色泽红艳，肉质细嫩，味道醇厚，肥而不腻的特色而驰名中外。烤鸭店中最著名的是全聚德烤鸭。

### 精卫填海

从前，炎帝（传说里中国原始社会的统治者）的小女儿在东海上划船。正当她划得高兴时，海面上突然升起一阵大风，把她的小船弄翻了。就在她要被汹涌的波浪吞没时，她的灵魂变成了一只美丽的小鸟。它飞过那咆哮的海面，伤心的叫着“精卫，精卫”的声音。所以人们就叫她“精卫”。

精卫鸟住在靠海的一座山上。它非常恨大海，所以决心要把它填平。它每天来回于山海之间，把从山上衔来的小树枝和小石子扔在大海里。

一天，咆哮的大海对精卫说：“可怜的小鸟，停止你那无谓的举动吧！你是永远都填不平我的。”精卫回答说：“我当然会把你填平的！即使这需要千千万万年的时间，我也一定会斗争到底，直到你的末日来临！”

这只勇敢的小鸟继续从山上衔来小树枝和小石子，扔到东海中，从未有片刻休息。

“精卫填海”这个成语就是由这个传说而来的，形容那些坚定不移，不屈不挠，不到目的决不罢休的人。

Once upon a time, the youngest daughter of Emperor Yan, legendary ruler of primitive China, went boating on the Eastern Sea. While she was enjoying herself, a strong wind rose on the sea and her boat capsized. Just before she was buried by the surging waves, her spirit turned into a beautiful bird. As it flew over the roaring sea, it cried sadly in the sound "jinwei, jingwei". That was why people called it "Jingwei".

The bird lived on a mountain near the sea. It hated the sea so much that it decided to fill it up. Every day, it flew to and fro between the mountain and the sea, carrying in a twig or a pebble from the mountain and dropping it into the sea.

One day, the roaring sea said to Jingwei, "Poor little bird, just stop doing that meaningless thing! You'll never fill me up." Jingwei replied, "I'll fill you up no doubt! I will, even if it will take me thousands of years! I'll fight on until doomsday!"

The brave little bird kept carrying twigs and pebbles from the mountain to the Eastern Sea without taking a rest.

From this fable comes the idiom "The bird Jingwei trying to fill the sea". We use it to describe people who are firm and indomitable and will not stop until they reach their goal.

### 不寒而栗

汉武帝时，有一个人名叫义纵，因为受到太后的恩宠，做了上党郡某县令。上任以后，公务办得很出色，在案子处理上敢做敢为，不论是有钱有势的豪绅，还是平民，只要犯了法，义纵秉公审办，皇上很赞赏他，调他做河内郡都尉。一到任，他立即把祸害一方的豪门大族满门抄斩，一时间，河内郡的治安和社会风气大有好转，有人不慎把东西失落在道路上，也没有人抢走据为己有。

义纵调到南阳任太守时，一个作恶多端的豪强地主宁成，正在南阳居住。宁成为了讨好义纵，每次迎送都装出谦恭的样子。但是，义纵对他的恶行早有所闻，到南阳后立即展开调查，很快就查清他的罪行，把他关押起来。

后来，汉武帝又任命义纵为定襄太守。当时定襄的社会治安历史学家混乱。义纵到任以后，把押在狱中的没有加开具的二百多名重犯，以及为重犯开脱罪责进行贿赂的二百多名门客亲属，一律严加追究，拘捕治罪，一天之内处死的就有四百多名。从此以后，定襄的人一听到义纵的名字就“不寒而栗”——天气不冷却浑身发抖。

### Shivering All Over Though Not Cold

In the reign of Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty, there was a man whose name was Yi Zong. Because of the special kindness of the mother of the emperor, Yi Zong was made a county magistrate in the Shangdang Prefecture. After taking up the official post, he did very well in managing the official business. He was courageous and resolute in bundling cases, and punished

anybody who violated the law, no matter whether he was a despotic person who was rich and powerful or was one of the common people. As soon as he took office of Heinei, he had all the members of a wealthy and influential family that had brought calamities to the local people executed. For a while, the public order and the general mood of society in the Henei Prefectures were greatly improved. If someone should lose something on the road through carelessness, nobody would pick it up and take it as his own.

When YiZong was transferred to be the prefect of the Nanyang Prefecture, NingCheng, a despotic property owner who stopped at nothing in doing evil, was living there. In order to ingratiate himself with YiZong, NingCheng pretended to be very modest and courteous every time he met Yi Zong and saw him off. However, Yi Zong had heard of the evil conducts of NingZong and soon after he took office in Nanyang, he made investigations. It did not take much time for him to find out Ning cheng's crimes and had him in prison.

Later, Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty appointed YiZong the prefect of the Dingxiang Prefecture .At that time, the publica order in Dingxiang was very chaotic. When he took office there, there were 200 convicts in prison, who had committed felonies but had no implements of punishment on them. There were also more than 200 persons who offered bribes in order to absolve those serious offenders from guilty. YiZong treated this issue severely. He arrested all those bribers and severely punished them, as well as those serious offenders already in prison. More than 400 convicts were executed in a bay. From that day on, whenever the name of YiZong was mentioned, people in Dingxinang would tremble with fear --they would shiver all over though not cold.

This story appears in the "Lives of the Merciless Judges and Prison Wardens "in The Historical Records written by Sima Pian. The set phrase "shivering all over though not cold " is used to refer to the state of being extremely frightened.

### 掩耳盗铃

春秋时候，晋国贵族智伯灭掉了范氏。有人趁机跑到范氏家里想偷点东西，看见院子里吊着一口大钟。钟是用上等青铜铸成的，造型和图案都很精美。小偷心里高兴极了，想把这口精美的大钟背回自己家去。可是钟又大又重，怎么也挪不动。他想来想去，只有一个办法，那就是把钟敲碎，然后再分别搬回家。

小偷于是找来一把大大锤，拼命朝钟砸去，只听“咣”的一声巨响，把他吓了一跳。小偷一阵着慌，心想这下糟了，这种声不就等于是告诉人们我正在这里偷钟吗？他心里一急，身子一下子扑到了钟上，张开双臂想捂住钟声，可钟声又怎么捂得住呢！钟声依然悠悠地传向远方。

他越听越害怕，不自由地抽回双手，使劲捂住自己的耳朵。“咦，钟声变小了，听不见了！”小偷高兴起来，“妙极了！把耳朵捂住不住就听不进钟声了吗！”他立刻找来两个布

团，把耳朵塞住，心想，这下谁也听不见钟声了。于是就放手砸起钟来，一下一下，钟声响亮地传到很远的地方。人们听到钟声蜂拥而至把小偷捉住了。

故事出自《吕氏春秋·自知》“掩耳盗钟”被说成“掩耳盗铃”，比喻愚蠢自欺的掩饰行为。

### **Plugging One's Ears While Stealing a Bell**

During the Spring and Autumn period, Zhi Bo of the State of Jin destroyed Fan's family. Taking advantage of this occasion, a man went to Fan's house and tried to steal something. As soon as the man entered the gate, he saw that there hung a big bell in the courtyard. The bell was cast in high-quality bronze, and was beautiful in design and shape. The thief was very glad, and decided to carry this beautiful bell back home. However, no matter how hard he tried, he could not move the bell, because the bell was both big and heavy. He thought and thought again, and believed there was only one way to solve the problem. He had to break the bell to pieces before he was able to carry them back to his home separately.

The thief found a big iron hammer, with which he struck the bell with all his might. The striking produced an enormous crashing sound, which made the thief terribly frightened. The thief was flurried, thinking that it was too bad to have produced the crashing sound. Therefore, he threw himself on the bell, trying to muffle the crashing sound with his arms. How could the crashing sound of the bell be muffled? The crashing sound still kept drifting melodiously to distant places. The more he listened to the sound, the more frightened he became. He subconsciously shrank back, and covered his ears hard with his hands. "Hey, the sound becomes fainter, inaudible," the thief became cheerful at once, "wonderful! The sound of the bell can not be heard when the ears are covered." He immediately got some odd bits of cloth, made two rolls with them, and had his ears plugged with the two cloth rolls. He thought that in this way nobody could hear the sound of the bell. Feeling relieved, he began striking the bell, one blow after another. The resounding sound of the bell was heard at distant places, and finally people caught the thief by grasping the sound.

This story comes from "Knowing Yourself" in The Annals by Buwei, written just before the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.) was founded. Allegedly, when Li Yuan, Emperor Gao Zu of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), read this story, he felt it simply ridiculous and said, "This is what is called plugging one's ears while stealing a bell."

Later, people have used the set phrase "plugging one's ears while stealing a bell" to refer to the ignorance and foolishness of the person who deceives himself as well as others.

### **入木三分**

王羲之是中国东晋时代一个很有名的书法家，他从小就刻苦练字，从不间断，以后又吸取了各个不同书法派的优点，形成他自己独特的个性。因为他在书法上的成就，人们都尊称他为“圣人”。

有一次，王羲之在木板上刻字，后来刻字的人发现墨汁渗入木板有三尺深。

“入木三分”就是从这个故事中得出来的，用来形容书法有力，现在多用来比喻分析问题很深刻。

Wang Xi-zhi is one of the most famous calligraphers during the Eastern Jin Dynasty of China. When he was very young, he practiced his art every day and never stopped.

Later he absorbed the strong points of all the other schools of calligraphy, and developed his own unique style of writing. Because of his achievements, he has been honored as one of China's sages of calligraphy. One time, Wang Xi-zhi sketched in wood for an engraver to cut. Then the engraver found the ink had penetrated one centimeter into the wood.

"Ru Mu San Fen" is got from this story, which means the calligraphy is penetrating. Now it is often used to describe expressing sharp ideas or profound views.

### 南辕北辙

从前有个人要到南方去，他坐的车子却向北方行驶。过路人说：“你去南方，车子怎么向北行驶呢？”他回答说：“我的马很能跑路，我的车夫驾车的技术也很高明，加上我又带了充足的路费。”这个人没有考虑到，方向弄反了，他的条件越好，离他要去的就越远。

后来人们就把这个故事概括为“南辕北辙”，用来比喻一个人的行为和他的目的正好相反。

### Going South by Driving the Chariot North

Once a man wanted to go to the south, but his carriage was heading north. A passer-by asked him, "If you are going to the south, why is your chariot heading north?" The man answered, "My horse is good at running, my driver is highly skilled at driving a carriage, and I have enough money." The man did not consider that the direction might be wrong; the better his conditions were, the further he was away from his destination.

The idiom derived from this story indicates that one's action was the opposite effect to one's intention.

Beijing, capital of the People's Republic of China, is the nation's political, economic, cultural, educational and international trade and communication center. Located in northern China, close to Tianjin and partially surrounded by Hebei Province, Beijing also serves as the most important

transportation hub and port of entry in China. Beijing, Jing for short, is one of the six ancient cities in China. It has been the heart and soul of politics and society throughout its long history and consequently there is an unparalleled wealth of discovery to delight and intrigue travelers as they explore Beijing's ancient past and enjoy its exciting modern development. Now it has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, with about 140 million Chinese tourists and 4.4 million international visitors in a year.

北京，简称京，是中国的首都，中国的政治，经济，科教中心，同时也是国际贸易交流中心。北京坐落在中国的北方 距离天津很近，被河北省环抱，是中国最重要的交通枢纽和要道之一。北京是中国的六个古都之一，长久以来是社会政治的核心。因此，对喜欢探索的游客来说，在北京旅游总是乐趣无穷——既可以浏览北京的过去又可以欣赏现代北京。现在北京已成为世界上最流行的旅游目的地之一，每年大约接待一亿四千万国内游客和四百四十万国际游客。

Shanghai, Hu for short, is a renowned international metropolis drawing more and more attention from all over the world. Situated on the estuary of Yangtze River, Shanghai serves as the most influential economic, financial, international trade, cultural, science and technology center in East China. Also it is a popular tourist destination which is ideal for visitors to feel the impulse of the modern development of China. Beside the modernization, the multi-cultural feature endows Shanghai with unique glamour. Here one can find the perfect blend of cultures, including the modern and the traditional as well as the western and the oriental. New skyscrapers and old Shikumen lanes together draw the skyline of Shanghai. Western customs and Chinese traditions jointly form the interesting Shanghai culture, which make your stay in the city truly memorable.

上海，简称沪，是一个重焕生机的国际大都市，并越来越多的吸引着世人的眼光。位于扬子江畔的上海是中国的东部最有影响力的经济，金融，国际贸易，文化科教中心。上海也是一个受人青睐的旅游目的地，在上海游客可以感受到中国蓬勃发展的节奏。此外，上海的多元文化也使它散发异彩。在上海可以找到完美融合的不同文化，包括现代和传统，东方和西方。崭新的摩天楼和陈旧的石库门一起勾勒数上海的线条。西方的习俗和中国的传统在此汇接成为上海的文化，使在上海停留游客记忆盎然。

