# SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON DEVELOPING A CHINESE LANGUAGE EXIT TEST FOR THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES OF HONG KONG

Abstract

*The system of education in Hong Kong, mainly the area of secondary and tertiary education had experienced a large structural change since the academic year 2012-2013. For universities, the duration of a bachelor programme is extended to four years instead of three. Since then the government, as well as the general public are concerned about whether the graduates under the new system, have retained a high level of proficiency in written Chinese, in order to meet requirements in different industries.*

*For the reasons above, universities amongst Hong Kong have considered the possibilities of implementing a specially-designed university Chinese exit test to evaluate students' Chinese language proficiency before their graduation. The exit test aims to raise the awareness of the students' Chinese language proficiency, at the same time providing an objective and reliable measure of graduates' Chinese proficiency for employers' reference.*

*We must thoroughly consider different aspects in designing and implementing the Chinese exit test, including the types of language skills to be assessed, the development of a Chinese language proficiency scale with a set of level descriptors. Furthermore, universities also need to correspond to the exit test, by offering Chinese language enhancement courses that cater to students' practical Chinese language needs , as well as providing self-learning materials which help the students to be well equipped for the exit test. In this paper, a discussion will be drawn into the considerations mentioned above, attempting to provide some preliminary thoughts on the development of the exit test.*

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