

Re: Invention of the Alphabet

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-08/msg00344.html>

- *From:* Lee Sau Dan <danlee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 05 Aug 2005 01:38:48 +0800
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>>>> "Des" == Des Small <des.small@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

Des> LSD! Your point is not a point, since it is false.

Des> PTD's yardstick was that one criterion for Chinese wordiness
Des> would be the headwords in the CHINESE TO ENGLISH side of a
Des> Chinese-English dictionary.

Des> For your comparison with English words to make sense, the
Des> only honest thing to do would be to consider the ENGLISH TO
Des> SOMETHING side of an English-Something dictionary.

Easy. Take English-French. What's "railway" in French? "Chemin de fer". So, "chemin de fer" must be one single word, right? Even though "chemin" means "road" and "fer" means "iron"?

Des> Of the dictionaries to hand (Collins Gem French-English,
Des> Langenscheidts Universal Wörterbuch Englisch-Deutsch, Berlitz
Des> Dutch-English, Norsted's Engelska Fickordbok), none – not a
Des> single one! – has an entry for "train station" under "train"
Des> in the English to Foreign side.

English German? Then "remember (inf.)" maps to "sich erinnern (inf.)". So, the Germans lexicographers are all wrong to write "sich erinnern" with a space in between. Since it's one word in English, it must be also 1 word in German, right?

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• *References:*

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