

Re: -eme and related suffixes

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-01/msg00040.html>

- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 01 Jan 2006 14:16:50 GMT
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Lee Sau Dan wrote:

>
> >>>> "Peter" == Peter T Daniels <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:
>
> Peter> Why wouldn't the components be the graphemes, with the
> Peter> strokes something like phonetic features?
>
> Some strokes have variant forms, which can be replaced without
> affecting the meaning. e.g. a diagonal stroke from upper-left to
> lower-right can be replaced with a dot.
>
> So, glyph shape<->phonetic feature; stroke<->phonemic feature
>
> Peter> Why wouldn't the characters be the graphemes, since they're
> Peter> the units that have actual functions in the writing system
> Peter> itself? Writers don't recombine the strokes or the
> Peter> components freely to make writing-units.
>
> Because many components have variants, which can be freely replaced.
> e.g. the water radical on the left, which contains 3 dots, could be
> replaced by a vertical stroke in fast writing. The fire radical,
> which is 4 dots below, could also be replaced by a horizontal stroke.
> The simplified "radicals" in the simplified character set is another
> set of examples. It's still understood as the same character if you
> replace a traditional component in a traditional character with its
> simplified equivalent. Of course, that may not always result in an
> official simplified character, but people would otherwise still
> recognize it.
>
> So, on this level, component<->phonetic feature; character<->phonemic
> feature.
>
> There are multiple levels of abstractions, beginning from the
> "stroke", then "components" (which include radicals), then
> "characters". Each abstraction level has elements which may have
> variants that differ only on the lower level.

So we've come no further in trying to decide where the term "grapheme" would apply in Chinese writing.

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Peter T. Daniels grammatim@xxxxxxx
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- *Follow-Ups:*
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◇ *From: Lee Sau Dan*

- *References:*
 - ◆ *Re: -eme and related suffixes*
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