



**Վ. ԲՐՅՈՒՍՈՎԻ ԱՆՎԱՆ ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ  
ՀԱՄԱԼՍԱՐԱՆ  
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ  
ИМЕНИ В. БРЮСОВА  
BRUSOV STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**ԼԵՉՎԱԲԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ԵՎ ԲԱՆԱՍԻՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ**

**ЛИНГВИСТИКА И ФИЛОЛОГИЯ**

**LINGUISTICS AND PHILOLOGY**

**1(66)**

**Վ. ԲՐՅՈՒՍՈՎԻ ԱՆՎԱՆ ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱԼՍԱՐԱՆԻ  
«ԼԻՆԳՎԱ» ՀՐԱՏԱՐԱԿԶՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ**

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## ON TERMINOLOGY OF TYPES OF CHINESE DICTIONARIES

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**Abstract**

The paper is devoted to the study of different Chinese terms that denote types of dictionaries/reference books in Chinese.

The English word *dictionary* has several Chinese equivalents, including the archaic term 字书 (*zìshū*, character book) and modern terms 字典 (*zìdiǎn*, character dictionary), 词典 (*cídiǎn*, word dictionary, or simply dictionary), and 辞典 (*cídiǎn*, *lexicon*), and the more general term 辞书 (*císhū*, lexicographical works). Depending on the kind of linguistic units that are selected as its entries, Chinese - foreign dictionaries can be a character dictionary, a word dictionary, or a dictionary of characters and words.

A Chinese lexeme can be a monosyllabic morpheme in the form of a single character like 眼 (*yǎn*, eye), 看 (*kàn*, look), 不 (*bù*, no; not) and 了 (*le*), or a multi-syllabic morpheme consisting of two or more characters, like 葡萄 (*pútáo*, grape) and 巧克力 (*qiǎokèlì*, chocolate). Unlike conventional dictionaries in which multi-syllabic morphemes are treated as sub-entries, the dictionary of Chinese lexemes 辞位 (*cíwèi*) that serves the needs of teaching Chinese as a foreign language, treats them on an equal footing as single characters. The sub-entries of 辞位 (*cíwèi*) dictionary correspond to English words and are composed of a head character or head lexeme plus another character or lexeme. For instance, the sub-entries under 眼 (*yǎn*, eye) are 眼光 (*yǎnguāng*, vision), 眼睛 (*yǎnjīng*, eye), etc.; and the sub-entries under 葡萄 (*pútáo*, grape) are 葡萄干 (*pútaogān*, raisin), 葡萄酒 (*pútaojiǔ*, wine), 葡萄糖 (*pútaotáng*, glucose) and 葡萄牙 (*pútaoyá*, Portugal).

**Keywords:** Dictionary, Chinese, 字 *zì*; 词 *cí*; 辞典 *cídiǎn*, characters, lexeme, morpheme, entry

## **Introduction**

Moser (1991) has mentioned that the greatest difficulty in learning Chinese is the literacy. He brings the following reasons: (1) Chinese character writing system is more difficult to learn than alphabetic writing systems; (2) Even for frequently used Chinese characters, the instructions of the pronunciation are not so clear; (3) Chinese dictionaries cannot skillfully give the root, that would make it easy to memorize; (4) Arrangement of the characters in Chinese dictionaries is still complex.

The paper researches different types of Chinese dictionaries to help the learner of Chinese to choose the reference books that will meet their needs.

### **1.1 字(zì), 辭(cí), and 詞(cí) in Traditional Chinese Grammar**

Since ancient times, native Chinese speakers, by their linguistic intuition, recognize the following two as the minimum units, 言(yán), and 字(zì), both meaning 'character'.

言(yán) is a linguistic unit and at the same time it refers to langue or sentence. In modern Chinese, some cases remain for 言(yán) as a linguistic unit such as 五言诗(wǔ yán shī, five-character poem), and 万言书(wàn yán shū, ten-thousand-character essay). Even so, 言(yán) never represents the minimum category as a linguistic unit.

字(zì, character) is a unit for writing, representing a character with explanation from Xu Shen in his *Elucidating Graphs and Analysing Characters: Preface*: "Forms and phonetics complement each other, which is the feature of a compound character." 字(zì) is also the minimum category for linguistic unit such as 实字(shí zì, notational character), and 虚字(xū zì, expletive character) in classic text and some typical examples from Ma Jianzhong (1898): 名字(míng zì, noun) 代字(dài zì, pronoun), 动字(dòng zì, verb), 静字(jìng zì, adjective), 状字(zhuàng zì, adverbial) 介字(jiè zì, preposition), 连字(lián zì, conjunction), "助字"(zhù zì, auxiliary character), 助字(zhù zì, auxiliary character), 叹字(tàn zì, interjection), ".

In classic Chinese, particularly written Chinese, two more terms are also used to categorize linguistic units, namely 词(cí, word) and 辞(cí, diction). Considering the differentiation in their meaning and usage by Duan Yucai in the "Terms of 词(cí, word)" from *Annotations to the Elucidating Graphs and Analysing Characters*, they do not, though, differ much in daily use. Words or dictions in researches of classic Chinese grammar usually refer to general grammatical unit rather than the minimum linguistic unit.

Ma Jianzhong (1898/1983: 24-28) attached new meaning for 词 in his *Ma's Grammar*. His 起词 (qǐcí), 语词 (yǔcí), 止词 (zhǐcí), 表词 (biǎocí), 司词 (sīcí), equal to subject, predicate, object, complement, and prepositional complement respectively nowadays.

## 1.2 Dictionary: 字典 zìdiǎn; 词典 cídiǎn; and 辞典 cídiǎn

Character is the basic unit of writing in Chinese. Traditionally, reference books that take characters as entries, arrange them in a certain order, and describe their structure, pronunciation and meaning are called character books. The most famous one is *Elucidating Graphs and Analysing Characters* written by Xu Shen and annotation by Duan Yücai (1815/1981). The titles of Chinese reference books published in the ancient time varied, but the character 字 (zì, character) was almost certainly part of the title, for example, *A Character Master* (Li Congzhou 1254), *Correct Character Master* (Zhang Zilie, c. 1670) and *A Collection of Characters* (Mèi Yīngzuò 1615). After the *Kangxi Dictionary* edited by Chen Tingjing (1716) was published, the word dictionary gradually became a commonly used title for this kind of reference books due to its big circulation and wide-spread influence. Among all, the ones with relatively huge influence are *Great Zhonghua Dictionary* (Lu Feikui and Ouyang Fucun 1915), *Xinhua Dictionary* (Dictionary Editing Office of the Language Institute of CASS 1957-2011) and *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Chinese Characters* (Xu Zhongshu 1995).

The initial meaning of 词 (cí) is that its meaning is widely recognized but is irrelevant to its linguistic sign (under the entry of 词 [cí] in *Elucidating Graphs and Analysing Characters*), which is the so-called auxiliary word, auxiliary character, syntactic expletive, functional character or functional word. Although there was such monograph on functional words as *Explanation of Words in the Classics* (Wang Yinzhi 1799), there was no reference book entitled as dictionary.

At the very beginning, when modern Chinese scholars introduced western grammatical terms, they still used 字 (zì) as the corresponding Chinese unit for word and related terms. For example, terms adopted in *Ma's Grammar* (Ma Jianzhong 1898) are 名字 (míng zì, noun), 代字 (dài zì, pronoun), 动字 (dòng zì, verb), 静字 (jìng zì, adjective), 状字 (zhuàng zì, adverb), 介字 (jiè zì, preposition), 连字 (lián zì, conjunction), 助字 (zhù zì, auxiliary word) and 叹字 (tàn zì, interjection).

Zhang Shizhao (1907) first translated the English parts of speech “noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction” into Chinese 名词 (míngcí), 代名词 (dàimíngcí), 动词 (dòngcí), 形容词

(*xíngróngcí*), 副词 (*fùcí*), 介词 (*jiècí*), 接续词 (*jiēxùcí*). After that, these terms became deep-rooted in Chinese linguistics and the Chinese lexicographers began to name reference books with words (characters included) as dictionaries.

Typical examples include the bilingual *New Chinese-English Dictionary* (Li Yürü 1918) and *Grand Chinese-English Dictionary* (Zhang Yunpeng 1920), and the monolingual *Chinese Dictionary* (Zhou Pan 1922), *A Modern Chinese Dictionary* (Dictionary Editing Office of the Language Institute of CASS 1960-2013) and *A Comprehensive Chinese Dictionary* (Luo Zhufeng 1993).

There is no problem naming foreign language or foreign language-Chinese dictionaries as 词典 (*cídiǎn*, dictionary) in Chinese since these dictionaries originally have words as their entries. Yet, if naming Chinese or Chinese-foreign language dictionaries as 词典 (*cídiǎn*, dictionary) as well, may not be perfectly justifiable unless we redefine 词 (*cí*, word). The 词 (*cí*, word) as a term of linguistics is often defined by Chinese linguistics circle as “the smallest language unit that can be freely adopted” (Zhang Bin, 2010: 48). The lexicographers defined it as “the smallest independent pronunciation and meaning unit that can be freely applied in a language” (*Grand Chinese Character Dictionary*, ① under the entry) or “the smallest unit in a language that can be freely applied” (*Modern Chinese Dictionary*, ③ under the entry). Therefore, 词 (*cí*, word) has two defining features. It is the smallest unit and can be freely applied. Apart from the smallest unit that can be freely applied, there is the smallest dependent unit as well, be it in Chinese or English.

The English dictionaries at an early stage were named as word-books. It only involved words without any affixes. Theoretically, they can follow this tradition even in modern time. In contrast, Chinese or Chinese-foreign language dictionaries cannot. They cannot only include such smallest applicable units as 我 (*wǒ*, I), 这 (*zhè*, this), 一 (*yī*, one), 好 (*hǎo*, good) and 来 (*lái*, come) without containing the smallest dependent units including 们 /*mén*/, 子 /*zi*/, 些 /*xiē*/, 个 /*ge*/, 者 /*zhě*/, 的 /*de*/, 着 /*zhe*/, 了 /*le*/ and 过 /*guo*/. In other words, Chinese or Chinese-foreign language dictionaries not only include characters such as words, but also characters such as affixes. Therefore, naming such reference books as dictionary is not appropriate.

Another type of reference books with diction being the entries are called diction dictionary. A basic meaning of diction is “what one writes and says” (*The Source of Diction*, ② under the entry; *Comprehensive Chinese Dictionary*, ③ under the entry), and it serves to refer to a linguistic unit bigger than a character. For example, it is said in *The Book of Changes* that “well-intentioned people often speak less whereas ill-intentioned people often

say a lot”. At the very beginning of the Republic of China, people began to name reference books that had diction as diction books, for example, *New Encyclopedia Diction Book* (Huang Moxi 1911). Later, Chinese reference books which had characters and words as entries and sub-entries were called diction dictionaries, such as *The Source of Diction* (Lu Erkui et al. 1915) and *Comprehensive Dictionary* (Shu Xincheng 1936-1938). In this way, it seems that dictionaries and diction dictionaries have become reference books under different titles but with the same nature.

Nowadays, dictionary and diction dictionary can be regarded as synonyms that are mutually interchangeable (Compare the entry of 词典 (*cídiǎn*), dictionary with 辞典 (*cídiǎn*), diction dictionary, in *Grand Chinese Dictionary* and *Grand Modern Chinese Dictionary*). Yong Heming (2006: 20) states that “the fact that ‘词典’ (*cídiǎn*, dictionary) and ‘辞典’ (*cídiǎn*, lexicon) are interchangeable complies with the practical use of language. No matter it is ‘词典’ (*cídiǎn*) or ‘辞典’ (*cídiǎn*), they are the same word.” The author thinks that in fact, these two are not perfectly interchangeable. Nor are they the same word. Lexicons include character dictionaries and dictionaries. For instance, we can say that “*Kangxi Dictionary* is a lexicon”, or “*Modern Chinese Dictionary* is a lexicon”. However, dictionaries can have characters and words as the entries and sub-entries, but based on the definitions of 词 (*cí*, word) in different dictionaries, it can only refer to characters that can be used as words instead of those that cannot. As a result, dictionaries cannot cover what character dictionaries comprise. Few lexicographers would say, “*Elucidating Graphs and Analysing Characters* or *Kangxi Dictionary* is a dictionary”.

However, Yong Heming (2006: 20) argued that 词典 (*cídiǎn*, dictionary) and 辞典 (*cídiǎn*, lexicon) cannot be comprehended separately as “dictionary of words” or “dictionary of diction”. It is likely that their original meanings were derived in this way, but language constantly develops and the meanings of words evolve. From a modern perspective, the connotations and denotations of 词典 (*cídiǎn*, dictionary) and 辞典 (*cídiǎn*, lexicon) have been considerably extended so that they can cover any Chinese dictionary and “any other lexicon apart from Chinese dictionaries”.

In order to prove this statement, Yong Heming did a survey on the titles of 1,066 dictionaries. “The result showed that among Chinese lexicons, the majority are entitled as ‘词典’ (*cídiǎn*, dictionary) with some ‘辞典’ (*cídiǎn*, lexicon); whereas among non-Chinese lexicons, the proportions of other terms are more or less the same.” (ibid.)

The author believes that the research on the differences and commonalities of the meaning and usage of 词典, (*cídiǎn*, dictionary) and 辞典, (*cídiǎn*, lexicon) cannot be only reliant on statistics, but also need to refer to the opinions of experts in this field. The Lexicographical Society of China represents the top-level academic organization of Chinese lexicographers. Observing its organizational structure, we can find that there are eight professional committees under it:

1. Academic Committee (学术专业委员会)
2. Lexicographical Editing and Publishing Committee (辞书编辑出版专业委员会)
3. General-Purpose Dictionary Committee (语文词典专业委员会)
4. Encyclopedia Committee (百科全书专业委员会)
5. Bilingual Lexicography Committee (双语辞典专业委员会)
6. Special Dictionary Committee (专科词典专业委员会)
7. Lexicography Modernization Committee (辞典编纂现代化专业委员会)
8. Theory and History of Lexicography Committee (辞典理论与辞书史专业委员会)

Among all those committees, the responsibilities of committees' No. 1, 2, 7 and 8 cover the whole profession. Except for No.1, the titles of the remaining three all involve either 辞书, (*císhū*, lexicographical works) like 辞书编辑, (*císhū biānji*, lexicographical editing) and 辞书史, (*císhūshǐ*, history of lexicography) or 辞典, (*cídiǎn*, lexicon) like 辞典编纂, (*cídiǎn biāzuǎn*, lexicography) and 辞典理论 (*cídiǎn lǐlùn*, theory of lexicography). The other four committees are named after the categories of reference books, among which No 3 and 6 have 词典, (*cídiǎn*, dictionary) in their titles, namely 语文词典, (*yǔwén cídiǎn*, Chinese language dictionary) and 专科词典, (*zhuānkē cídiǎn*, profession-specific dictionary), No. 4 is titled as 百科全书, (*bǎikē quánshū*, encyclopedia), and No. 5 has 双语辞典, (*shuāngyǔ cídiǎn*, bilingual dictionary) in its title. It is not difficult to find that diction book/dictionary is regarded as the general term of this discipline covering diction dictionary, dictionary and encyclopedia, which are more than what dictionary covers. The titles of committees No. 3, 6 and 8 especially deserve our attention. Looking backwards, the title of 辞典理论与辞书史, (*cídiǎn lǐlùn yǔ císhūshǐ*, (theory of diction dictionary and history of dictionary) seems strange to some extent since it has not adopted 辞典理论与辞典史, (*cídiǎn lǐlùn yǔ cídiǎnshǐ*, theory and history of diction dictionary) or 辞书理论与辞书史, (*císhū lǐlùn yǔ císhūshǐ*, theory and history of dictionary) in order to remain consistent. The author supposes that the reason to adopt 辞典理论,

(cídiǎn lǐlùn, theory of diction dictionary) is probably because there are various kinds of dictionaries, it is hard to cover the theories of the whole field. And the reason why 辞书史, (císhūshǐ, history of dictionary) is probably that this title can reflect the largest scale and development history of this discipline since 辞书, (císhū, dictionary) is “the general term for ‘字典’, (character dictionary), ‘辞典’, (diction dictionary), ‘百科全书’, (encyclopedia) and ‘专科辞典’, (profession-specific dictionary)” (辞海, Cí Hǎi, Collection of Words 1980, under the entry of 辞书, dictionary). Besides, such general terms as 字书 (zìshū, character book) and 类书 (lèishū, book by category) emerged far earlier than 辞典 (cídiǎn, diction dictionary), which might also be a factor. In the titles of two committees containing 词典 (cídiǎn, dictionary), there may be two reasons for the adoption of 专科词典 (zhuānkē cídiǎn, profession-specific dictionary) rather than 专科辞典 (zhuānkē cídiǎn, profession-specific diction dictionary). Firstly, the character of 辞, (cí, diction) itself has the meaning of diction; and secondly, usually profession-specific reference books involve professional terms that are multi-character expression which are freely applicable. That is to say, it is words rather than individual characters that are embodied in it. Therefore, it is justifiable to have it named as 专科词典. In comparison, although the title of 语文词典 (yǔwén cídiǎn, Chinese language dictionary) reflects the modern usage of 词典 (cídiǎn, dictionary), the argument is not adequate enough since it is in conflict with the definition of 词典 by relevant dictionaries. The definition of 词典 under the entry of 词典 by both Modern Chinese Dictionary and Grand Chinese Dictionary is that “reference books that collect vocabulary and illustrate them”. Their definitions of 词汇, (cíhuì, vocabulary) are “the general term for the words and set phrases in a language” (entry of 词汇 in *Modern Chinese Dictionary*) and “the collection of all the words and set phrases used in a language, which is the building material of a language” (entry of 词汇 in *Grand Chinese Dictionary*). Naturally, characters that cannot be freely applicable as words are not words, let alone set phrases. Nowadays, as many English dictionaries do, many Chinese and Chinese-foreign language dictionaries also embody affixes in addition to words. There is no problem with English dictionaries to do so since “diction”, the stem of “dictionary”, means wording, whose meaning is compatible with affixes. In contrast, the Chinese 词典 (cídiǎn, dictionary) has excluded non-word language units by its definition. Reference books like Dictionary of the Oracle Script (Xu Zhongshu, 2014) and Classified Dictionary of Ancient Scripture (Gao Ming and Xu Baikui, 2008) that specifically record characters as entries do not belong to the category of dictionary. From the perspective of terminology, if character dictionaries in



real sense belong to linguistic reference books, 语文辞典 makes more sense than 语文词典.

### **Conclusion**

We can draw the conclusion based on the meaning and usage of 字 (zì), 词 (cí), 辞 (cí) that till now, 字 (zì) is the minimum writing unit, and most characters represent the minimum linguistic unit; both 词 (cí) and 辞 (cí) refer to linguistic elements of certain grammatical function such as 虚词 (xū cí, non-substantial words) or 虚辞 (xū cí, non-substantial phrases). The only difference lies in their frequency with 辞 (cí) being of higher ratio. In modern times, 词 (cí) serves as the translation for word in English. It fills the semantic void for a unit bigger than character in form but of equal status in semantics with it or word. 词 (cí) in this sense soon roots deeply in Chinese linguistics and lexicology overwhelming the status of 辞 (cí) in linguistic terminology. Yet this is still not the case for Chinese lexicology especially when considering the names of professional committees in the Lexicographical Society of China.

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## ՄԵՐԻ ԿՆՅԱԶՅԱՆ - ՉԻՆԱՐԵՆ ԲԱՌԱՐԱՆՆԵՐԻ ՏԵՍԱԿՆԵՐԻ ՏԵՐՄԻՆԱԲԱՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄԱՍԻՆ

**Հիմնաբառեր՝** բառարաններ, չինարեն, 字 zì, 词cí, 辞典 cídiǎn, հիերոգլիֆ, բառույթ, ձևույթ, գլխաբառ

Հոդվածը նվիրված է չինարեն բառարանների տարբեր տեսակներն անվանող տերմինների ուսումնասիրությանը:

Անգլերեն dictionary բառն ունի մի քանի չինարեն համարժեքներ, որոնք են 字书 (zìshū, հիերոգլիֆների գիրք) հնացած և 字典 (zìdiǎn, հիերոգլիֆների բառարան), 词典 (cídiǎn, բառային բառարան կամ պարզապես բառարան), 辞典 (cídiǎn, բառապաշար) ժամանակակից տերմիններն ու 辞书 (císhū, բառարանագրական աշխատություններ) ավելի ընդհանուր տերմինը: Կախված նրանից, թե լեզվական միավորներից որն է հանդես գալիս իբրև գլխաբառ, չինարեն-օտար լեզու բառարանը կարող է լինել հիերոգլիֆների բառարան, բառերի բառարան կամ հիերոգլիֆների և բառերի բառարան:

Չինարենում բառույթը կարող է լինել միավանկ ձևույթ՝ 眼 (yǎn, աչք), 看 (kàn, հայացք), 不 (bù, ոչ) և 了 (le), կամ բազմավանկ ձևույթ՝ բաղկացած երկու կամ ավելի հիերոգլիֆներից, ինչպիսիք են 葡萄 (pútáo, խաղող) և 巧克力 (qiǎokèlì, շոկոլադ) բառերը: Ի տարբերություն սովորական բառարանների, որոնցում բազմավանկ ձևույթները դիտվում են որպես ենթագլխաբառեր, չինարեն բառույթների բառարաններում՝ 辞位 (cíwèi), որոնք հիմնականում նախատեսված են չինարենը որպես օտար լեզու ուսուցանելու համար, դրանք դիտվում են որպես առանձին հիերոգլիֆներ: Այս բառարաններում ենթագլխաբառերը տրված են անգլերեն բառերին համապատասխան և կազմված են գլխաբառից կամ գլխավոր բառույթից՝ գումարած մեկ այլ հիերոգլիֆ կամ բառույթ: Օրինակ՝ 眼 (yǎn, աչք) հիերոգլիֆի ենթագլխաբառերն են 眼光 (yǎnguān, տեսողություն), 眼睛 (yǎnjīng, աչք) և այլն, իսկ 葡萄 (pútáo, խաղող) բառի ենթաբառերն են 葡萄干 (pútaogān, չամիչ), 葡萄酒 (pútaojiǔ, գինի), 葡萄糖 (pútaotáng, գլյուկոզ) և 葡萄牙 (pútaoyá, Պորտուգալիա):

## МЭРИ КНЯЗЯН - О ТЕРМИНОЛОГИИ ВИДОВ КИТАЙСКИХ СЛОВАРЕЙ

**Ключевые слова:** словари, китайский, 字 zì, 词, 辞 cídǐǎn, иероглифы, лексема, морфема, заглавное слово

Статья посвящена изучению различных китайских терминов, обозначающих виды словарей на китайском языке.

Английскому слову "dictionary" соответствуют несколько китайских эквивалентов, включая архаичное слово 字 (zìshū, книга иероглифов) и современные термины 字典 (zìdiǎn, словарь иероглифов), 词典 (cídiǎn, словарь слов, или просто словарь), и 辞典 (cídiǎn, лексикон), а также более общий термин 辞 (císhū, лексикографические работы). В зависимости от вида лингвистических единиц, которые рассматриваются в качестве заглавных

слов, китайско-армянские словари могут быть 'словарями иероглифов', 'словарями слов' или 'словарями иероглифов и слов'.

Китайская лексема может быть односложной морфемой в виде одного иероглифа, например "眼(yǎn, глаз), "看(kàn, смотреть), "不(bù, нет; не) и "了(le), или многосложной морфемой, состоящей из двух или более иероглифов, например "葡(pútáo, виноград) и "巧(qiǎokèlì, шоколад). В отличие от обычных словарей, в которых многосложные морфемы рассматриваются как подзаглавные слова, словарь китайских лексем 辞(cíwèi), отвечающий потребностям преподавания китайского языка как иностранного, рассматривает их на равных как отдельные иероглифы. Подзаглавные слова в словаре 辞(cíwèi) соответствуют английским словам и состоят из главного иероглифа или главной лексеммы а также другого иероглифа или лексеммы. В качестве примера можно привести подзаглавные слова под 眼(yǎn, глаз) это 眼(yǎnguān, зрение), 睛(jīng, глаз), и т. д.; а под заглавные слова в разделе 葡(pútáo, виноград) это 葡(pútáogān, изюм), 葡(pútáojiǔ, вино), 葡(pútáotáng, глюкоза) и 葡(pútáoyá, Португалия).

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