Abstract

The purpose of this Academic Exercise is to discuss the origin of Chinese Characters. Many different views had been raised regarding this topic since the pre-Qin Dynasty (先秦时期 Xian-Qin Shiqi), but had not reached a definite conclusion till now. This study attempts to eliminate the inappropriate sayings by providing evidence from the ancient books and documents, so as to provide insight for those who are interested in the subject.

The study is divided into four main categories. The first category introduces the theories that are commonly known as to where the ancient symbols in the world originated from, which were used long before the invention of language. The second part discusses the notions that contained Chinese legends and mythology. The third part offers a description of some sayings that were raised from other aspects other than judging the structure of the individual Chinese Characters. In the final category, the theory showing that Chinese Characters were originated from pictures will be discussed.

The findings of this study indicate that Chinese Characters were not created by a single individual but by the people as a whole. They were created due to the need to record down the language by the people. Over a long period of time, pictures were turned into pictographs which gradually...
became words. This can be shown in many traces found in the Oracle-Bone Writing (甲骨文 Jiaguwen) that many of the Chinese Characters then were actually pictographs.