



Research on Authority Control of the Archives of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service—— Based on China' s Maritime Customs (Yuehaiguan) in Canton

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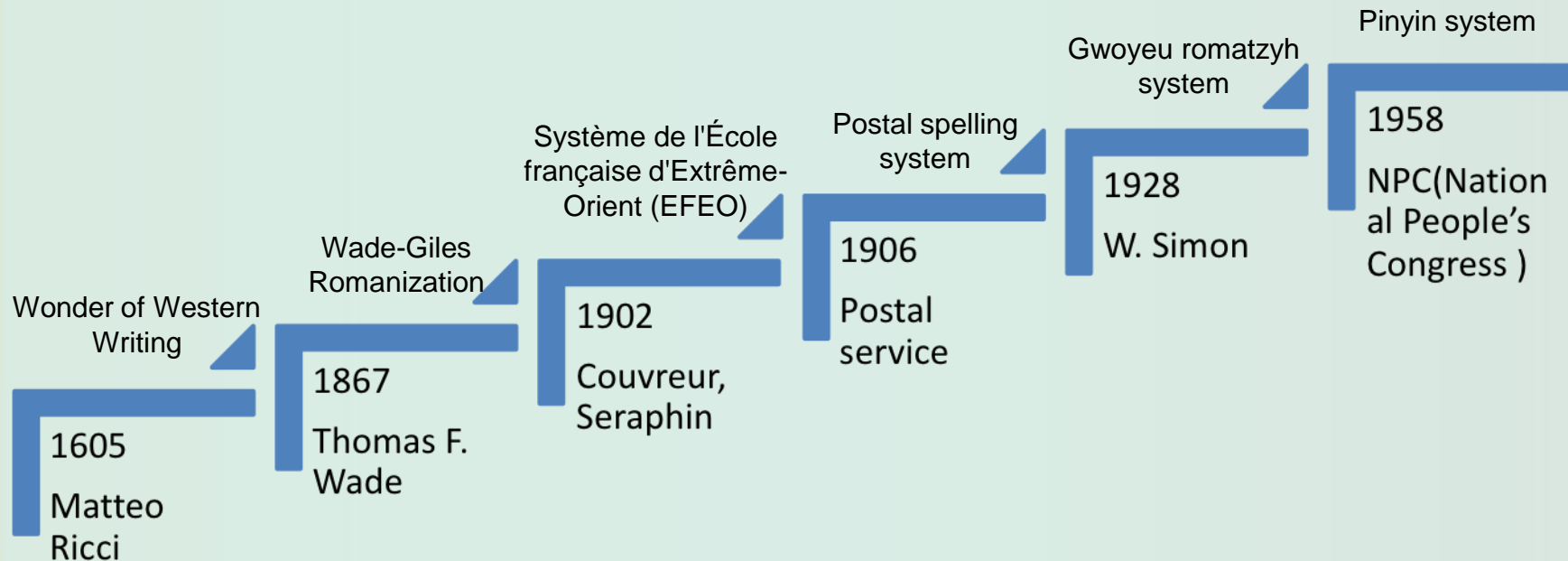
OUTLINE

1. Background information
2. Research question
3. Research objective
4. Research methodology
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Background information

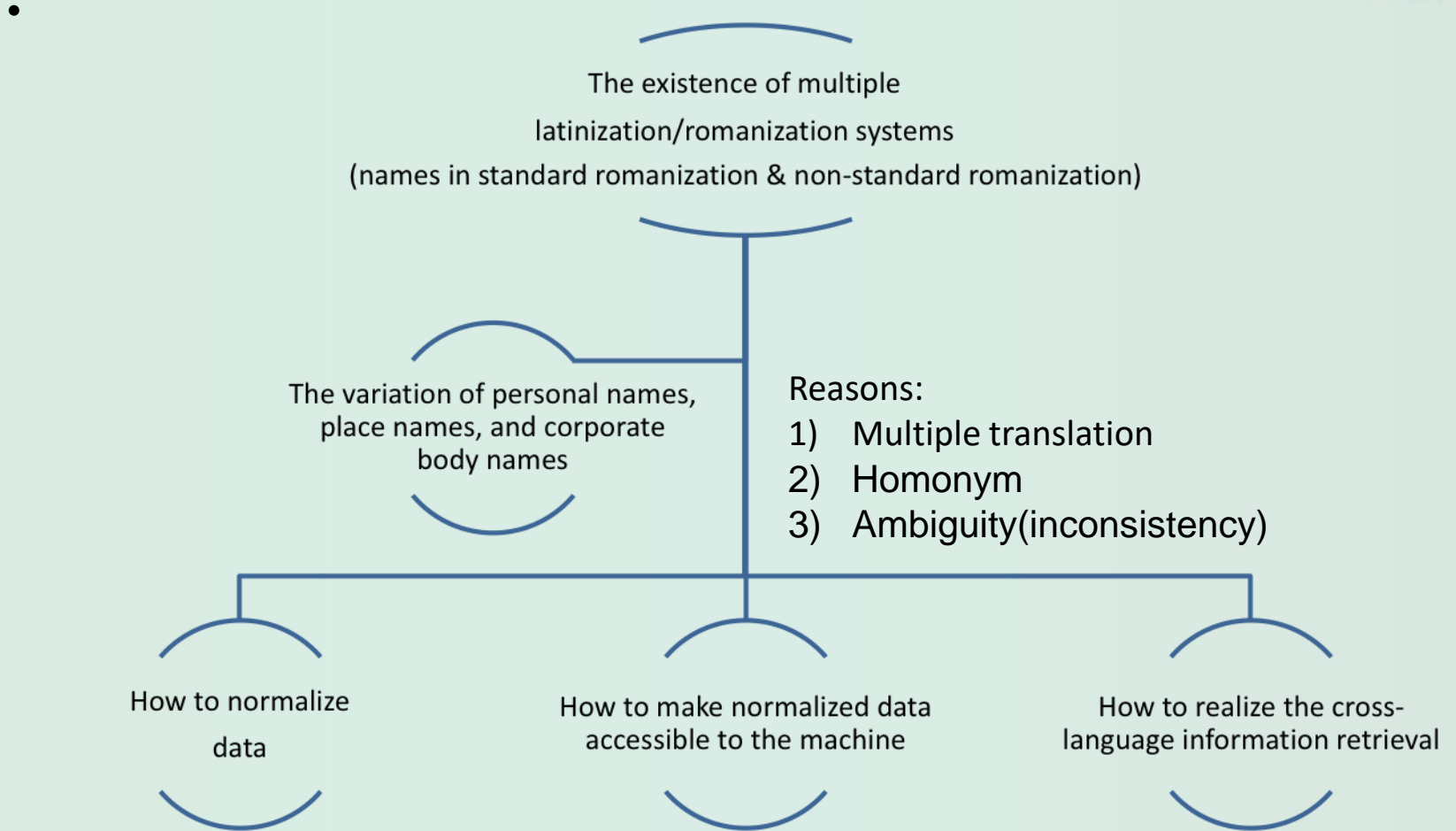
In late Ming Dynasty, western missionaries came to China for missionary work. For this, they must find a good way to learn English, so missionaries began to use Latin alphabets to spell Chinese.



Time	List of Romanized Systems	Usage
1892	Wade-Giles system	Both academic and popular
1902	French system	Both academic and popular
1912	German system	Both academic and popular
1932	Latinxua Sin Wenz system	Historical
1934	Polish system	Historical
1937	Chu-yin tzu-mu system	Very rarely used independently nowadays
1946	Yale university system	Restricted so far to works published in the Mirror series of the Institute of Far Eastern Languages, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
1952	Hungarian system	Historical/popular
1956+1958	Pinyin system	Both academic and popular
1957	Karlgren: grammata serica system	Historical
1959	Russian system	Both academic and popular
1964	Rumanian system	Both academic and popular
1965	Czech system	Popular



RESEARCH QUESTION





- Cynthia J. Durance once said in an article “Authority Control: Beyond a Bowl of Alphabet Soup” ,

“when for lunch we sometimes were served a well-known brand of soup which contains pasta shaped like the letters of the alphabet. ... Providing authority control is not unlike the process of creating order and meaning out of a bowl of alphabet soup. Authority control provides the means to create intellectual order out of the chaos of documents received in an archival repository. ”

” It functions like the road-map that guides one through the intersections of complex freeways and allows one to choose the best route towards a particular destination. The road-map is a surrogate for the actual roads; likewise, authority control is a map which guides the user through the maze of archival holdings towards the documents they seek.”

Cynthia J. Durance. *Authority Control: Beyond a Bowl of Alphabet Soup*[J]. *Archivaria*, 1993(35), 38-46.



RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

1) Semantic control

(the conceptual description of archival personal names, place names, and corporation body names)

2) Vocabulary control

(the determination of their standardized forms)



1. Improve recall ratio & precision ratio
2. Provide normalized data for the construction of the archival retrieval system



Personal names

In **the archives of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service**:

1. Personal names in standard romanization
2. Personal names in non-standard romanization
3. Personal names in English form

Chinese personal names (Chinese member) :

1. Ip Hon/hanye/汉叶
2. Chun kü/chenju/陈琚

Foreign personal names (Foreign member) :

1. A-ssu-pen/asiben/Osborn 阿思本



Place names

In **the archives of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service**:

1. Place names in standard romanization
 2. Place names in non-standard romanization
 3. Place names in English form
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1. Amoy/xiamen/厦門
 2. Anchi/anchih/安吉縣
 3. Chitongshi/tsuatungchi/ts' ai-tangshih /彩塘市
 4. Changte ho/changte/彰德府
 5. Ichwan/yichuan/宜川



Corporate body name

In **the archives of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service**:

1. Corporate body names in standard romanization
2. Corporate body names in non-standard romanization
3. Corporate body names in English form

1. Tsung shui wu ssu/inspector general/总税务司
2. Sui-ting-fu/Sui-ting house/绥定府
3. Kin chae kwan pan twan leen tsung keuh/ch' in-ch' ai kuan-pan t' uan-lien tsung-chü/官办团练总局
4. Che hsien/chih-hsien/district magistrate/知县
5. Fei-lace-sze/fei-lai ssu/飞来寺



How to normalize data

(personal name, place name, corporate body name)

- 1. authority control of Romanized systems (**pronunciation**)
 - (standard romanization + non-standard romanization)
- 2. vocabulary control of personal name, place name, corporate body name (**form**)
- 3. semantic control of personal name, place name, corporate body (**meaning**)



Authority control

- **Pronunciation**
 - 1) Standard romanization + non-standard romanization
- **Form**
 - 1) to normalized data: full name + vernacular scripts
 - 2) to make data structured: surname + given name, given name + surname
- **Meaning**
 - 1) established translation
 - 2) conceptual description



Research methodology

1. Collection & investigation
2. History evolution
3. Comparative study
4. Design of ideal language



Conclusion

- To realize the name authority file
- To link the name authority file with the archival database
- To achieve cooperative cataloging and resources sharing



Thank you !

