



放眼天下

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I ♥ LIBERAL STUDIES

中文基本功

屋簷的簷粵語三種讀音 讀嚴讀蟬讀吟勢成鼎峙

兩個月來，簷字一詞出現於傳媒，幾乎無日無之。此字的粵語讀法，各人不同。有時，在一個電台之上，甚至該電台的一個節目中，也有兩種乃至三種聲音。

以五月卅一日收看電視和收聽電台為例，就有讀嚴讀蟬讀吟的分別。其中讀吟的包括我們熟悉的香港特別行政區行政長官曾蔭權先生。

簷字三種讀音，以讀嚴為最古老。我讀書的年代（二十世紀四十年代），只有在字典、辭典查到有這種讀法，一般人不懂；除非泥古的書呆子，才會引經據典指出這才是「正音」。

簷字第二種讀音，最為普遍，可以說是簷字百年來粵語的實際讀音之一。屋簷下，簷前滴水，飛簷走壁，無不如此讀。由阿爺到我這一輩，老師教文天祥的《正氣歌》，「風簷展書讀，古道照顏色」的

簷就讀成蟬了。無他，字音由不送氣到送氣，是個發展規律，讀不送氣的嚴，發展到讀送氣的蟬，是極之正常的。這一類的例子，何止千百！

簷字第三種讀音，讀成吟，也是與讀蟬並存的實際讀音，特別是用到簷字一詞，讀吟比讀蟬更多。我小時候開始就跟隨長輩讀吟，直到今天未變。原來，這種讀法，是受客家話影響，由客而粵，久而久之，約定俗成。一般用於口語而不用於讀書注音。

可能香港電台的「官」威嚇人，有個時期，香港傳媒簷字幾乎統一讀「嚴」。近日大有改變。我見有線電視報告有關簷字新聞的主播就讀蟬而不讀嚴。商業電台同一新聞節目，記者紛紛讀蟬，而主持人堅持讀蟬。就是香港電台本身，同一個節目，也是嚴蟬並讀，就像該台《解構經典》節目，曾經一個時期，讀構字就够扣兼讀，同室操戈；只是該節目到今天構字已不讀够而全讀扣，反映了字音由不送氣到送氣的規律。

容若



Cash handout must be law-abiding and efficient

At last, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau yesterday gave details of how the government would handle the giveaway of \$6,000 to each permanent resident, which has been gazed by many citizens with eager expectations in past months. If everything goes well, the first batch of eligible citizens will receive the money in the first half of November.

According to government statistics, about 6.1 million residents will be eligible for the handout. This "benevolent measure" of the government will cost tax payers HK \$38 billion.

No doubt, all Hong Kong citizens are happy to learn about the timetable for the cash handout. But for people in various sectors, the happiness may have different meanings. Middle-class people mainly feel that they well deserve some rewards from the government. The vast majority of grass-roots people, on the other hand, genuinely feel excited for having some extra money in hand. For a family of four, just the discussion about how to spend the extra \$24,000 - whether to buy a computer or a new television set or to travel - would keep them excited for quite a while. A family receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) surely would want to take their children to eat a good meal out...

Seeing that citizens already feel so happy even before they actually receive the money, the SAR Government must become deeply aware that "strong governance for the people" should never be empty talk. In the past when Hong Kong suffered economic difficulties and the government had to reduce its spending and to raise taxes and charges, citizens had "tightened their belts" to ride out the predicament together with the government. Now the environment has improved, the government could afford to spend more as its coffers are "flooded" (with money). Should government officials become smug about it and concerned only with their own future career? Or should they instantly think of citizens of various sectors - including middle-class people who contribute more but enjoy less benefits and grass-roots people who live from hand to mouth - who have supported the government through thick and thin, think of children from families receiving CSSA who haven't been to the Disneyland ever since the theme park opened, and consider sharing a proportion of the surpluses with people so as to promote social harmony? This has really posed a big challenge to the government. Today, while all citizens may benefit from the \$6,000 handout, isn't it that the SAR Government has also learned a good lesson?

The handout of \$6,000 was announced by Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-wah on March 2, or more than three months ago. Now people still have to wait for at least another four months to receive the money. On this, there are complaints all around about the low efficiency of the SAR Government with many people questioning why it has made it so troublesome to hand out the money.

In regard to this, authorities concerned yesterday gave their explanations which sounded quite reasonable. First of all, this is the first time ever in Hong Kong's history for the government to give away more than \$30 billion to six million citizens. The government cannot but be careful and cautious. How to define "an eligible citizen"? Are the hundreds and thousands of Hong Kong ID card holders who have migrated overseas eligible? What about new immigrants who have lived in Hong Kong for less than seven years? Which date should be set to decide a young person as reaching his age of 18? How to hand out the money to people

without a bank account? How to hand out the money to aged and disabled people, or people who have difficulties to move about or mental illness patients?... There are indeed a lot of problems that need to be considered.

Moreover, the government must hand out the money in accordance with the law. Under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, anyone including the SAR Government is denied free access to a citizen's personal banking account. According to the law, the government cannot have free access to even the banking account of a CSSA recipient, though its data are known and have been checked. Because of this, even after the Legislative Council (Legco) approves the allocation of the fund for the handout, an eligible citizen will still have to go to a bank or post office to fill a form giving his consent for the government to deposit \$6,000 into his account or send him a check. Only then can the government act accordingly.

Such rules sound somewhat ridiculous and pedantic. However, no government action should transgress bounds or go against the law. Therefore, while the arrangements for the handout appear quite troublesome and the money won't be sent out until at least four months later, citizens should make allowances for this and give their support.

Needless to say, while the government must abide by the law, relevant authorities should also really feel eager to meet citizens' demand, making efforts to hand out the money as quickly as possible. Opposition lawmakers should also give the fund allocation "quick scrutiny and quick approval". They must not play any more political tricks in this regard. Otherwise, it would be difficult for them not to get scolding from citizens.

17 June 2011

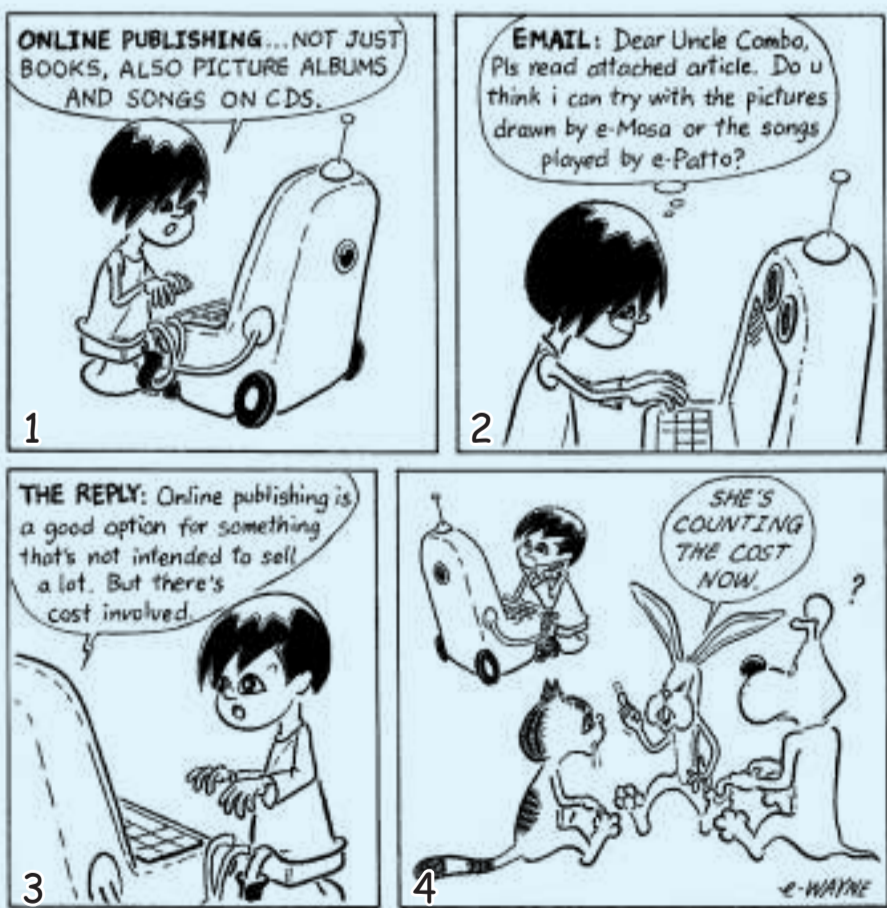
WORDS AND USAGE :

- 1 In hand (idiom) - In one's possession or control. (在手上)
Examples: 1. Keep your attention on the matter in hand. 2. I still have \$500 in hand after paying the bill.
2 Quite a while (idiom) - Quite a long time. (好一陣子，相當長的一段時間)
Examples: 1. It took me quite a while to fill out the questionnaire. 2. I haven't seen Sally in quite a while, but she hasn't changed much.
3 Eat out; dine out (phrasal verb) - To have a meal in a restaurant, etc., rather than at home. (在外用餐，尤指到酒樓或餐館吃飯)
Examples: 1. I enjoy eating a meal out every now and then. 2. It costs a lot of money to dine out often.
4 Ride sth out (phrasal verb) - To manage to survive a difficult period or situation. (經受住，安然渡過(難關))
Examples: 1. I think we'll ride out the current crisis. 2. Is this boat strong enough to ride out the storm?
5 Through thick and thin (idiom) - Through good times and bad times. (在任何情況下)
Examples: 1. She has remained loyal to the party through thick and thin. 2. Over the years, we went through thick and thin and enjoyed every minute of it.

觸景立畫



Soho Diary



My Tai Chi Teacher (1)

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Why didn't Brightness, my Tai Chi teacher, write his own book about Shadow Boxing? I asked the question when he said he was going to do Master Tsang's revised edition. After going to his funeral and reading the booklet about his life, I came to know that the children of Tsang had also considered to do the revised edition. Why didn't Brightness leave the job to them and go ahead to write his own book?

Another one answered "might be" because he did not know what to say and how to say. He was a genius of Shadow Boxing. Like many gifted people, he had no difficulty to get onto the other shore and he didn't know why many of his students could not cross the river, like him, in a single stride.

He was a believer of education and he did not admit that he was gifted in this respect. Had he come to terms with that, he might have tried to question the way Tai Chi was taught to most learners.

Brightness used the Chinese language as the medium of instruction. And he chose to use a mixture of classical and modern Chinese when he talked to his students during his Tai Chi lessons. He said time and again that the names of the fighting techniques were poetic (詩意的) and could bring out the beauty of Shadow Boxing. That might mean the poetic elements would be kept, easier than learning the details of the movements. In fact, using the Chinese language we use in Hong Kong to carry the messages as subtle as those in Shadow Boxing is a real challenge.

派錢要依法有序也要提高效率

不少市民「望穿秋水」的六千元，昨日終由財經事務及庫務局公布具體發放辦法，如果一切運作順利，首批合資格市民將於今年十一月月上旬有錢到手。

據政府統計，符合領取六千元資格的市民人數為六百一十萬，政府為推行此項「德政」而需要動用的公帑約為三百七十九億。

毫無疑問，全港市民在獲悉六千元終於派發有期之後，反應都是高興的。而這份高興有各種不同的內涵，中產一族主要是覺得政府早該對他們有所回饋，而廣大基層市民則確確實實是為手邊多了一筆錢而感到興奮，如一家大小四口的，二萬四千元是買電腦、換電視還是去旅遊，光是討論如何用法已可高興好一陣子，綜援家庭當然少不了要答應帶孩子去吃餐「勁」的……。

六千元還未到手，市民已經這般高興，作為特區政府，應該深深感受到：施政為民、福為民開，決不能只是一句空話。過去在經濟困難的日子，政府要減少開支、加稅加費，市民是「勒緊褲頭」和政府共渡時艱的；一旦環境好了，政府庫房「水浸」、恆有餘力了，這時政府是沾沾自喜、「好官我自為之」，還是第一時間想到曾經同甘共苦的各階層市民，包括多盡義務、少享福利的中產，以及入息捉襟見肘「搵搵緊」的基層，想到那些開幕至今還未去過「迪士尼」的綜援孩子，從而拿出盈餘的一部分，體現與民共享、促進和諧，實在是對政府施政的一大考驗。今天，六千元的派發，全體市民固然有所得益，特區政府又何嘗不是上了很好的一課？

六千元的派發，是曾俊華於三月二日公布的，距今已三個多月，距真正有錢到手還要四個月。對此，不少市民嘖有煩言，質疑特區政府的工作效率太慢，把錢放進市民口袋用得著那麼大的折騰？

對此，有關部門昨日作出了一些回應，看來是言之成理的。一來，政府一次過拿出三百多億元、派發予六百萬市民，在本港還是「亘古未有」之事，政府不能不小心、不能不慎重，如怎樣界定市民的領取資格？已經移居海外的幾十萬有香港身份證者是否符合資格？來港未滿七年的新移民如何計算？十八歲成年居民又以那一年一月那一天來劃線？沒有銀行戶口的怎辦？老弱傷殘、行動不便以至精神病患者又怎辦？……問題確實是不少。

更有甚者，特區政府「派錢」，必須依法辦事，而在「個人私



▲ 近月通脹加劇百物騰貴，市民皆極期待財政司司長曾俊華(小圖)盡快落實派發6000元以解生活燃眉之急

隱」條例保護下，包括特區政府，也不能隨意進入市民個人的銀行戶口；就連綜援戶，明明什麼資料都已經調查過、齊備了，但依法而行，政府也無權使用。因此，未來立法會通過撥款之後，市民還要去銀行或郵政局填寫一份表格，表明同意讓政府把六千元存進個人戶口或寄出抬頭支票，政府才可以行動。

這些規定，聽起來好像有些滑稽、迂腐，但政府辦事的确不可以越雷池半步，不可以有半點違法違規，因此儘管領款手續有些麻煩，錢最快也要四個月後才會到手，市民也應該給予理解和支持。

當然，依法而行必須，但有部門也要真正「急市民之所急」，爭取早日把錢發出，而立法會反對派議員，在撥款申請上必須「快審快批」，莫再玩弄什麼多餘的政治花招，否則想不捱市民罵也難矣。

2011/06/17 大公報社評

港人最快11月可領\$6000

今年2月23日，財政司司長曾俊華發表了2011至2012年度財政預算案。其中一項措施是，他已預留240億元，準備一次過派發6000元的強積金到各合資格人士的戶口；認為這既不會增加通脹壓力，也是政府能負擔的。但眼下就已經面臨高通脹壓力的市民認為這項措施屬「遠水不能救近火」，又炮轟曾俊華是「守財奴」、不參考澳門政府的派發方案。同時，這份財政預算案的發表，不但成為了政府歷來最差的一份，亦令曾俊華的民望大幅下跌。

連日來的反對聲音終令曾俊華在3月2日修改方案，把原本的注資強積金改為向每位18歲或以上的永久性居民派發6000元現金。但此舉並沒有贏得市民掌聲，倒是引起了反預算案的泛民

團體在3月6日發起「洋紫荊革命」，近萬名市民上街遊行。就在當晚，警方強力清場，當中有一名8歲小男生被警方的胡椒噴霧噴中，這成了另一則新聞；保安局局長李少光事後批評帶小童遊行抗爭的家長需負責任，又指此舉會「教壞小孩」。

除了遊行示威外，網絡上流傳了不少惡搞創作和一份假的「如何領取6000元」通告，也有不少網民在高登討論預算案、Facebook出現歧視新來港人士的群組等濶濶效應。

3個月後，財經事務及庫務局終在6月16日公布了具體的6000元發放辦法，首批合資格市民將於今年11月上旬領到錢。

通識記憶體

