

The Teaching and Learning of Interpreting in China's Mainland

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China's Revitalisation

- 1978: Reform and opening up policy
- 1979: The UN Training Program for Interpreters and Translators set up in Beijing
- 1980s: Ideological fight: socialism vs. capitalism
- Spring, 1992: Deng Xiaoping's southern trip to Shenzhen
“A cat that catches mice is a good cat; it doesn't matter whether it is black or yellow” (“Cat Theory”)
“It is my fault that Shanghai was not opened earlier”
socialist market economy with Chinese characteristics
- December, 1993: Shanghai's first viaduct completed—wave of infrastructure construction: Shanghai's takeoff
- Multinational companies (MNCs) started to swarm in

Unprecedented International engagement

- September 1999, Fortune Forum in Shanghai
- International and regional conferences
- Annual meetings by MNCs
- Reception Parties
- Seminars
- Symposiums
- Exhibitions & Expositions

Unprecedented International engagement

- December 11, 2001: China's accession into WTO
- 2008: Olympic Games in Beijing
- 2010: World Expo in Shanghai
- ...

Unprecedented International engagement

Demand for interpreters!

Status Quo of Interpreter Training in China

3 Scenarios

- Academic departments of Universities
- Professional training programs
- Profit-oriented, non-academic social training organizations

Interpreting as an academic subject

2000: Interpreting was made a compulsory course by China's Ministry of Education

“211 Project”: 100 best universities in the 21st century

- All universities have an English department or equivalent;**
- Those offering interpreting as an academic subject**

Beijing: 3 (out of 19)

Shanghai: 4 (out of 11)

1 in Zhejiang

Guangdong: 2 (out of 4)

Fujian : 1(out of 2)

Beijing

3:

- Beijing Foreign Language Studies University
- University of International Business and Economics
- Beijing Institute of Diplomatic Relations

Shanghai

4:

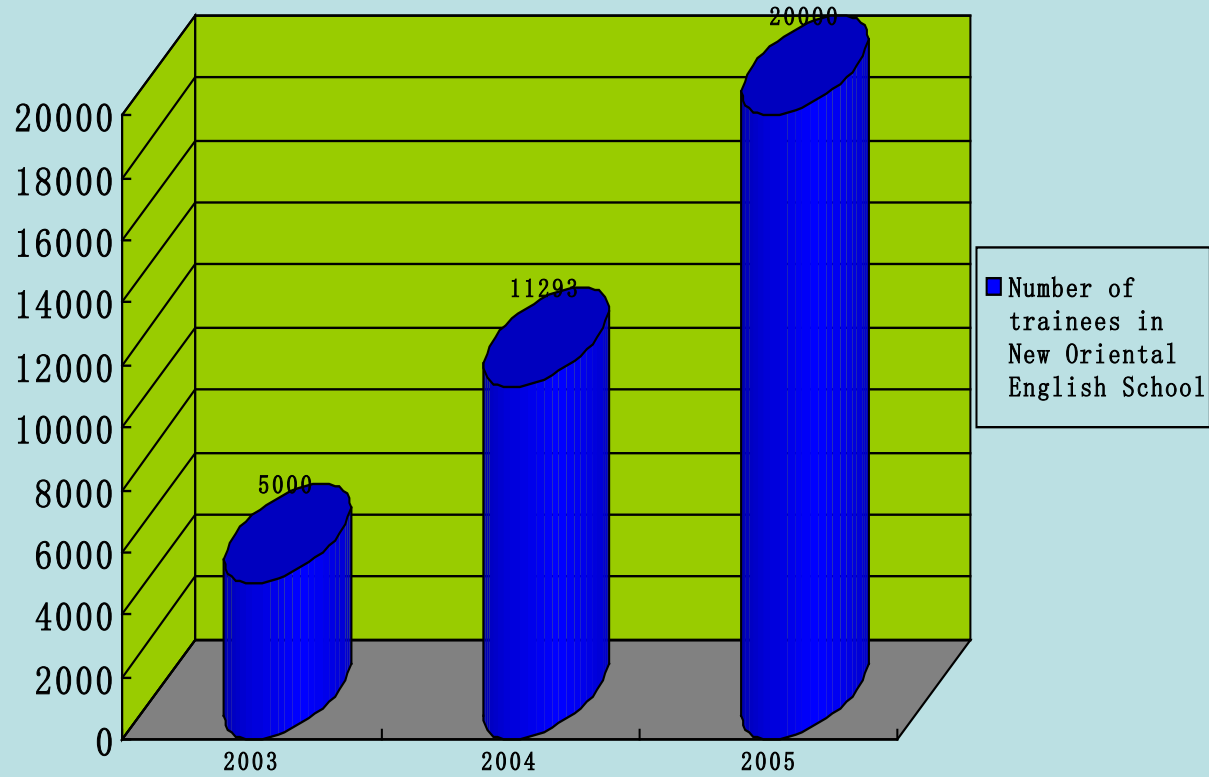
- Fudan University
- Jiaotong University
- Shanghai International Studies University
- East China Normal University

And ...

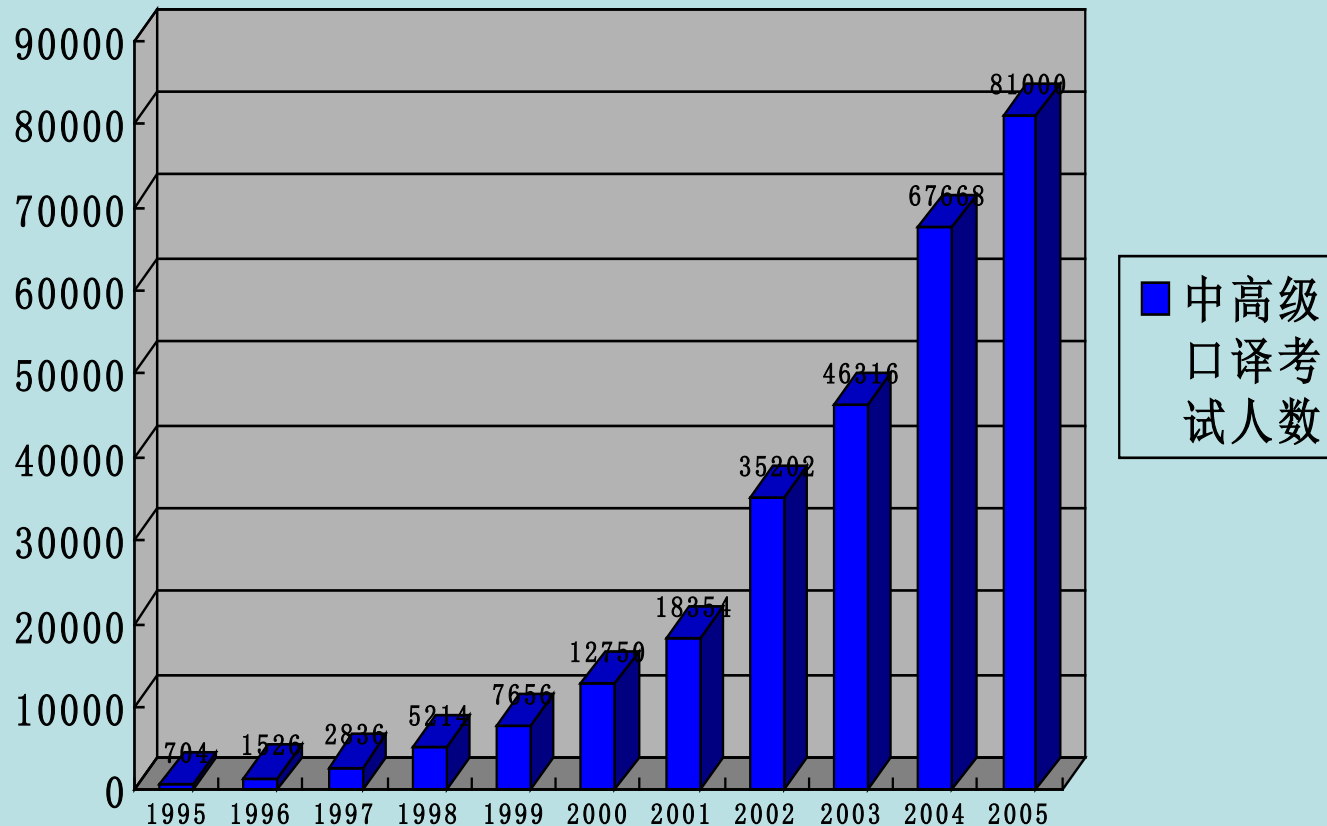
- 2 in Zhejiang (Zhejiang University, and Zhejiang Normal University),
- 2 in Guangdong (Guangdong University of Foreign Languages and Trade, and Zhongshan University),
- 1 in Fujian (Xiamen University)

Profit-oriented training organizations

- New Orient English School (HQ in Beijing)
- Only One in Shanghai
- Others...



Number of Shanghai Intermediate & Advanced Interpretation Test Takers



Professional interpreter training programs in China

- **Beijing Foreign Studies University**
- **Graduate Institute of Interpretation and Translation, Shanghai International Studies University**
- **Guangdong University of Foreign Languages and Trade**

Typological differences and stumbling blocks in SI

Chinese:

- verb-driven
- left-branched
- high context
- topic-prominent
- discourse oriented
- specific

English:

- noun-driven
- Right-branched
- low context
- subject-prominent
- sentence oriented
- abstract

A case in point

- Co-verb

**Zhongguo dui guojishehui yiqie youliyu
huanhe jinzhangjushi, pingxi chongtu,huifu
hetan de nuli biaoshi huanyin.**

中国对国际社会一切有利于缓和紧张局势，平息冲突，恢复和谈的努力表示欢迎。

**The international community has been working
towardsChina welcomes all its efforts
in this regard.**

A case in point

- Decoy object

Zhongguo jianjue zhichi Dongmeng geguo yiji qitaguojia tichu de yiqie youliyu gongzheng heli jieue Chaoxian wenti de jianyi he zhuzhang.

中国坚决支持东盟各国以及其他国家提出的一切有利于公正合理解决朝鲜问题的建议和主张。

- **China resolutely supports ASEAN and other countries in their efforts to resolve the Korean issue as well as all the proposals they put forward which are conducive to the just and reasonable solution of the question of Korea. 或:**
- **China resolutely supports ASEAN and other countries when they put forward all the proposals which will help the just and proper solution of the Korean question.**

Additional notes...

- Conference Interpreting does have a bright future, not orange
- There is a need for professional interpreters to contribute to the teaching and training of next-generation qualified interpreters
- With more than 4 decades experience and expertise in interpreter training, University of Westminster will see continued success well into the future, esp. in the Chinese market.