

Melodies of Learning: Enhancing Chinese Language Acquisition by Music at BU

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George Huang, the founder and band leader of Boston You&Me Music, is celebrated for creating a platform that unites international and local musical talents. The band is known for its rich harmonies and diverse repertoire, spanning Asian pop, country, folk, and jazz. Beyond performing, Huang's work includes producing for *Slow Boat To Taiwan* and collaborating with Boston University to develop a music album for learning Chinese, showcasing his innovative approach to merging education with music. Additionally, Huang's achievements include winning the prestigious TTV Five-Lights Prize (五燈獎), highlighting his significant contributions to the music industry.



Improving Language Learning Experience

The project aims to enhance the language learning experience of first-year Chinese students at Boston University through the use of short songs designed specifically for their beginner-level proficiency.

As research has shown, songs can be an effective tool for language learning, as they help learners to memorize language patterns and vocabulary subconsciously through repetition and melodies.

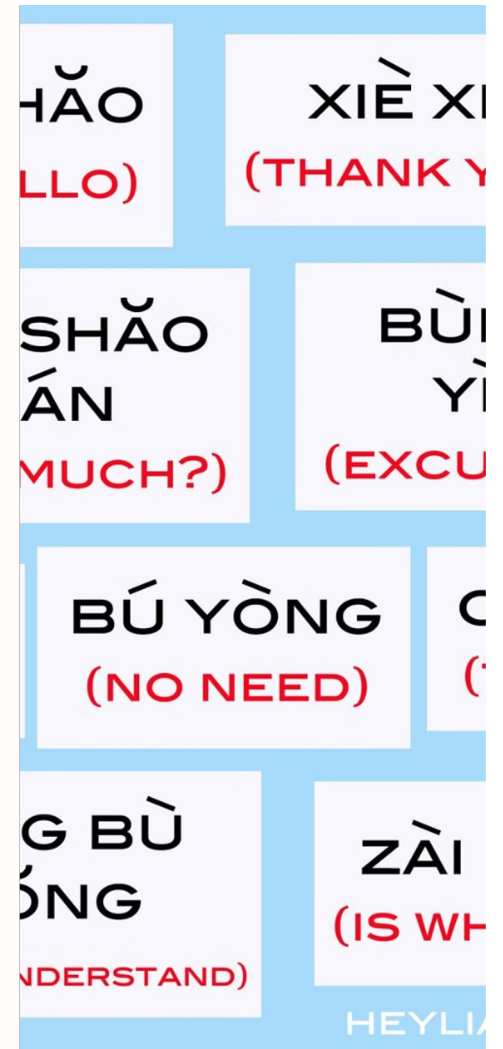
Current Learning

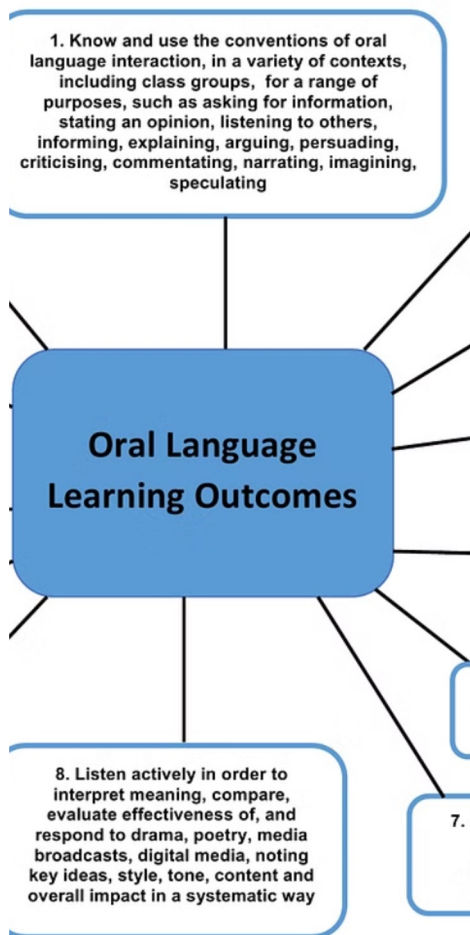
Limited Resources

Existing resources for first-year Chinese students lack simple Chinese language songs.

Engagement Challenge

Available songs are designed for children and may not engage college-aged students.





Intended Outcomes

1

Improved Retention

Help students retain vocabulary, grammar structures, and pronunciation over time.

2

Greater student engagement and participation

Create a more dynamic and interactive learning environment, which could lead to increased student participation and engagement in the classroom.

3

Enhanced Cultural Appreciation

Incorporating songs into language learning can motivate students' interest in contemporary trends, fostering a deeper connection to Chinese society. This approach seamlessly blends language acquisition with cultural exploration, setting the stage for a sustained passion for China's dynamic pop culture and lifelong learning.

Project Implementation Steps

1

Song Development

Create short songs covering relevant topics for first-year Chinese curriculum. We compose the melody, arrange the music, record the instruments and vocals. Then finally we need to mix and mastering.

2

Music Video Production

Record and produce music videos with visuals and subtitles.

3

Curriculum Integration

Integrate songs and videos into the first-year Chinese curriculum.



Sentences from the textbook

李友，你上个星期考试考得怎么样？

Li You, how did you do on the exam last week?

因为你帮我复习，所以考得不错。但是我写中国字写得太慢了！

Because you helped me review, I did well. But I write Chinese characters too slowly!

是吗？以后我跟你一起练习写字，好不好？Really? How about I practice writing with you from now on, is that okay?

那太好了！我们现在就写，怎么样？

That's great! Shall we start writing now?

好，给我一枝笔、一张纸。写什么字？

Okay, give me a pen and a piece of paper. What character shall we write?

你教我怎么写“懂”字吧。

Teach me how to write the character “懂” (understand). 好吧。Okay.

你写字写得真好，真快。

You write characters really well and fast.

明天我们学第七课。第七课的语法很容易，我都懂，Tomorrow we will study Lesson 7. The grammar of Lesson 7 is very easy; I understand it all, 可是生词太多，汉字也有一点儿难。

But there are too many new words, and the Chinese characters are a bit difficult.

我唱歌唱得怎么样？ How well do I sing?

你唱歌唱得真好！ You sing really well!

我跳舞跳得怎么样？ How well do I dance?

你跳舞跳得也很好！ You also dance very well!

我写中国字写得怎么样？

How well do I write Chinese characters?

你写得不太好呢！ You don't write very well!

汉字有点儿难呢！

Chinese characters are somewhat difficult!

以后我跟你一起练习吧！

Let's practice together later on!

我昨天十二点才睡

I didn't go to bed until twelve o'clock last night.

怎么这么晚！我昨天九点就睡了。

Why so late! I went to bed at nine o'clock yesterday.

我写了功课就睡觉了

I went to sleep after doing my homework.

我一边听音乐一边看书

I am listening to music while reading a book.

还是不想睡。

I still didn't want to sleep

Verse 1:

我唱歌唱得怎么样？ How do I sing?
你唱歌真好听！ You sing very nicely!
我跳舞跳得怎么样？ How is my dancing?
你跳舞跳得也好看！ You also dance beautifully!

Verse 2:

我写中国字写得怎么样？
How well do I write Chinese characters?
你写得不太不太好呢！ You don't write very well!
我写了功课就睡觉了
After doing my homework, I went to sleep.
我一边听着音乐一边看书
I read a book while listening to music.
还是不想睡。 Still don't want to sleep.

Chorus:

汉字有点儿难！

Chinese characters are a bit difficult!

以后我跟你一起练习吧！

Let's practice together later!

汉字有点儿难

Chinese characters are a bit difficult.

这么晚！听着音乐 一起练习

So late! Listen to music and practice together.

汉字有点儿难！

Chinese characters are a bit difficult!

以后我跟你一起练习吧！

Let's practice together later!

汉字有点儿难

Chinese characters are a bit difficult.

这么晚！听着音乐 一起练习吧

So late! Listen to music and practice together.



你唱歌唱得真好听

You sing very well.

Impact and Transformation

Course/Program Level Impact

Unique and engaging opportunity for language and culture learning.

Community Level Impact

Transformational impact on the broader Chinese language learning community.