

Effective Teaching Strategies for Online Teaching of Chinese Characters in Sri Lanka

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Teaching Chinese characters is one of the essential components in the process of teaching Chinese as a foreign language. Effective teaching strategies therefore are of great importance in teaching Chinese characters, especially in relation to online-teaching. The current study attempts to examine certain strategies used to improve online teaching of Chinese character writing in Sri Lanka. Data were collected through questionnaires administered among 55 Sri Lankan university and high school students and interviews with 15 teachers. Findings of this study reveal two major aspects considered by teachers when selecting teaching strategies: learning interest cultivation and literacy improvement. The findings categorize a total of eight effective Chinese character teaching strategies, namely: contradiction creation strategy, whole body reaction strategy, communication and experience strategy, diversified evaluation strategy, situational memory strategy, character family literacy strategy, Chinese character game strategy and animation interpretation strategy. Furthermore, this paper assesses the difficulties in implementing the said teaching strategies, especially with regard to online teaching. It is

notable that resultant findings and suggestions of the current study can be generalized for offline teaching as well.

Keywords: *Chinese characters, online teaching, teaching strategy, Sri Lankan students*

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