elements of a chinese language game[*]

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Abstract

There are a number of online resources, including games, for learning the chinese language, or chinese characters which are also used in japanese. In the presentation, we will give a brief overview of existing chinese and japanese language games, and introduce an architecture, based on the open source flex 2 SDK, for an extensible language game, allowing user-contributed content and learning practice, supported by interactive video.

Keywords and phrases: chinese language, serious games

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1 introduction

- chinese – growing impact ...
- language – syntax, semantics, and pragmatics
- game – effective method to learn
- elements – online components

2 what is in a chinese character?

1. pictograph(s) – e.g. 木 = *tree*
2. ideograph(s) – abstractions, e.g. 一 = *one*
3. logical aggregate(s) – e.g. 安 = *peace* (roof, woman)
4. phonetic complex(es) – e.g. 忠 = *loyal* (center, m: heart)
5. associative transformation(s) – extension to related concept
6. borrowing(s) – unrelated meaning, similar pronunciation

3 chinese language resources

- genealogy – zhongwen.com
- dictionary – www.mdbg.net/chindict
- reader/writer – www.mandarintools.com/dimsum.html
- google – www.google.com/translate
- CJK / TeX – www.math.nus.edu.sg/aslaksen/cs/cjk.html
- iTravl – www.ectaco.com/products/ECTACO-TL-2EuAs10

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[*]www.cs.vu.nl/∼eliens/media/lecture-china.html

4 online language games

- kanji (k/h/c) – www.msu.edu/∼lakejess/kanjigame.html
- knuckles in china land – www.kicl.info/
- teleac – www.teleac.nl/chinees
- google (etc) – www.google.com/search?q=chinese+language+game

5 game elements – play, learn, explore

- play – turn-based, score(s)
- learn – simulation model, target(s)
- explore – interactive video, mini games

6 platform for serious games

- ajax – dynamic update(s)
- flex2 SDK – XML game description template(s)
- (flash) video – interactive video, mini game(s)

7 conclusions

- chinese – characters, grammar, usage
- language – tools, translation, context
- game – play, learn, explore
- elements – dialog(s), video, mini games

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