



# Value Research on the Modern Translation of Excavated Spring and Autumn Literature Variorum and Corpus Construction

Weiming Peng<sup>1,2</sup>(✉)

<sup>1</sup> School of Literature and Communication, Guangdong Polytechnic Normal University, Guangzhou 510665, China

LearningZiLu@hotmail.com

<sup>2</sup> Academy of Heyuan, Guangdong Polytechnic Normal University, Heyuan 517001, China

**Abstract.** In the past hundred years, a number of important excavated literatures emerged in China, which are important materials for the study of Chinese language in the Spring and Autumn Period. The excavated Spring and Autumn literatures used in this project include both “contemporaneous materials” and “post-time materials”. By careful selection, the excavated literatures adopted present the original look of language and have clear ages and regions. They are mainly literatures produced in the Spring and Autumn Period and excavated from tombs of the Spring and Autumn Period, and are therefore authentic. Based on collation and study of the selected literatures, the authors try to use contemporary lexicology, grammarology and grammar to study the variorum modern translation of the excavated Spring and Autumn literatures, and further construct a corpus of excavated Spring and Autumn literature translations, so as to make a breakthrough in the linguistic research of excavated Spring and Autumn literatures.

**Keywords:** Excavated literature · Spring and Autumn · Variorum · Corpus · Value research

## 1 Introduction

The excavated Spring and Autumn literatures (those under controversy over whether they are from late Western Zhou Dynasty or early Spring and Autumn Period are all classified as from early Spring and Autumn Period, and those under controversy over whether they are from late Spring and Autumn Period or early Warring States Period as from late Spring and Autumn Period) are in four forms: Spring and Autumn bronze

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inscriptions (including both those on bronze ware and on weapons), Spring and Autumn jade inscriptions (including those recording alliances from Houma and those recording alliances from Wenxian County), Spring and Autumn bamboo slip characters (including The Book of Songs from the Bamboo Slips in the Warring States Collected by Anhui University, The Book of Songs from Fuyang Slips, and Spring and Autumn literatures distributed in the three types of Warring States slips, namely Guodian Chu Slips, Chu Slips Collected by Shanghai Museum and Tsinghua Chu Slips) and other Spring and Autumn characters (those distributed in seals, pottery inscriptions and currency texts). The excavated literatures used in this project are selected from the above-mentioned literatures. While the bronze inscriptions and jade inscriptions were buried in the Spring and Autumn Period, the literatures from Spring and Autumn slips were not all generated in the Spring and Autumn Period, like the Book of Changes from Chu Slips Collected by Shanghai Museum and the Book of History from Tsinghua Chu Slips, etc., which are not used in this project. Only those were both generated and buried in the Spring and Autumn Period are adopted.

In this regard, the project holds that the excavated Spring and Autumn literatures should be classified into two types: “contemporaneous materials” and “post-time materials” [1]. The “contemporaneous materials” refer to Spring and Autumn bronze inscriptions and jade inscriptions which were both generated and buried in the Spring and Autumn Period, and are thus of great linguistic values. And the “post-time materials” are also indispensable as they are descriptions and researches of ancient Chinese by use of the Chinese language of the Spring and Autumn Period. Therefore, the excavated Spring and Autumn slips and silk manuscripts corpus refer to the excavated Spring and Autumn “post-time materials”, which are linguistic data from three ancient books, namely “The Book of Songs · Lessons from the States” from the slips and silk manuscripts of the Warring States Period and Han Dynasty, Commentaries on Yi from silk manuscripts and the Ceremonial Etiquette from slips of Han Dynasty.

## 2 Review of Research Status

IN terms of collation of Spring and Autumn literatures, many research results have been achieved.

### 2.1 Collation and Research Results of Spring and Autumn Bronze Inscriptions

First, there are important books where Spring and Autumn bronze inscription translations and catalogues are collated, such as the “Bronze Inscription of the Yin and Zhou Dynasties” (1984–1994) by Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, “A New Collection of Inscription on Bronze Objects from Ying and Zhou Dynasties and Their Images” (2006) by Zhong Baisheng et al., “Compilation of Recently Discovered Bronze Inscriptions” by Liu Yu and Lu Yan (2002), “Compilation of Recently Discovered Bronze Inscriptions Part II” by Liu Yu and Yan Zhibin (2010), Compendium of Inscriptions and Images of Bronzes from Shang and Zhou Dynasties (2012), “Compendium of Inscriptions and Images of Bronzes from Shang and Zhou Dynasties Sequel” (2016) and “Compendium of Inscriptions and Images of Bronzes from Shang and Zhou

Dynasties Part III” (2020) [2] by Wu Zhenfeng, etc. Second, some of the works on bronze inscriptions from Spring and Autumn Period have achieved a high level, such as “A comprehensive Study on the Age of Spring and Autumn Bronzes” (2011) [3] by Peng Yushang and doctoral dissertations like the “Study on the Structure System of the Spring and Autumn Bronze Inscriptions” (1997) by Luo Weidong and “Study on Spring and Autumn Characters” (2005) by Wu Guosheng. Luo made deep research into the structure system of Spring and Autumn bronze inscriptions, and Wu made a systemic collation of the inscriptions from a pure perspective of grammatology. Third, some reference books have made comprehensive collations of Spring and Autumn characters, like the “Glyph Table of Spring and Autumn Characters” (2017) [4] by Wu Guosheng, which was a work produced based on his doctoral dissertation “Spring and Autumn Characters Divided by Stages and Regions”. Compared with other works of character collection, like *Collection of Three-Jin Characters* (2013) by Tang Zhibiao and *Collection of Qi-Lu Characters* (2014) by Zhang Zhenqian, Wu’s work features a special focus on the characters from the Spring and Autumn Period for further systemic research based on stages and regions.

## 2.2 Collation and Research Results of Spring and Autumn Jade Inscriptions

The first part is comprised of the “Stone and Jade Inscriptions Recording Alliances from Houma” [5] compiled by Shanxi Cultural Relics Working Committee and the “Stone and Jade Inscriptions Recording Alliances from Wenxian County” in the “A Brief Report on the Excavation of No. 1 Pit at Wenxian, Henan” compiled by Henan Institute of Cultural Relics. As a special literary form, the “Stone and Jade Inscriptions Recording Alliances from Houma” belongs to the oath of alliance corpus of the House of Zhao in Jin State in the late Spring and Autumn Period. The “Stone and Jade Inscriptions Recording Alliances from Wenxian County” has similar contents with those from Houma, yet are more than doubled in number. In this project, the authors will make use of the clear color photos of the inscriptions recording alliances published by the major cultural exhibitions to make facsimiles and explanations, and collect and sort out the academic works with selections of exquisite images of the inscriptions made by the cultural and museum circles. After all the materials of the “Stone and Jade Inscriptions Recording Alliances from Wenxian County” are sorted out and published, the studies on ancient alliance systems and on the history of Jin State will definitely be further promoted. The second part is comprised of the Spring and Autumn jade and stone inscriptions (like stone-drum inscriptions, the inscriptions of the stone percussion instrument unearthed from the tombs of Qin State, etc.) from the “Ancient Characters Carved in Stones” (2006) by Zhao Chao, the “Chinese Calligraphy Encyclopaedia, Pre-Qin, Qin and Han Seals” (1991) by Liu Zhengcheng, “Compendium of Inscriptions and Images of Bronzes from Shang and Zhou Dynasties” (2012) by Wu Zhenyu.

## 2.3 Collation and Research Results of Spring and Autumn Bamboo Slip Scripts

First, Spring and Autumn literatures distributed in the Chu bamboo slips from the Warring States include “Lao Zi”, “Repertoire of Song Collection · Lost Poem”, etc. recorded in the three types of Warring States Bamboo slips, namely the “Excavated Warring States Strip Manuscripts from the Chu Region: Fourteen Collections” (2016) [6] by Chen

Wei et al., “Guodian Chu Bamboo Slips” (1998) compiled by Jingmen City Museum and the “Bamboo Slips in the Warring States Collected by Tsinghua University” (2010–2021) [7] compiled by Research and Conservation Center for Unearthed Texts, Tsinghua University, and the “Warring States Period Bamboo Slips Held in the Shanghai Museum” (I-IX) (2001–2012) [8] compiled by Ma Chengyuan. Second, results on the “The Book of Songs · Lessons from the States” in bamboo slips are mainly in two types. One is results from “The Book of Songs from Fuyang Slips”, like the “Study on The Book of Songs from Fuyang Slips” (1988) [9] by Hu Pingsheng and Han Ziqiang, the doctoral dissertation “Analysis of Variant Characters in the Book of Songs in Archaeological Literatures” (2005) by Cheng Yan of Anhui University, the “Variorum of <the Book of Songs> Written on the Bamboo Slips of Han Dynasty in Fuyang” (2013) by Hu Xuan which are unfortunately very incomplete and doesn’t have many poems recorded in it. The other is results from “The Book of Songs from the Bamboo Slips Hold by Anhui University I”, mainly including “The Book of Songs from the Bamboo Slips in the Warring States Collected by Anhui University I” compiled by Huang Dekuan. The organizer believes that “The Book of Songs” in slips are the codices from the Chu State and the earliest codices of the known era [10]. Their discovery will promote the progress of the study of “The Book of Songs”. Comparisons are made with the extant “Mao Poem”, “Three Factions of the Book of Songs” and “The Book of Songs from Fuyang Slips”. The content of “The Book of Songs” in slips is part of the “Lessons from the States”, including 58 pieces such as “Zhou Nan”, “Shao Nan”, “Hou”, “Yong”, “Wei”, “Local Songs from Qin”, etc. The large number of variant characters in this version serve as very valuable materials for the studies of ancient grammatology, philology and Chinese history. Moreover, related research results can be seen in the “Research on the Warring States” (Vol. 1 and Vol. 2) edited by Xu Zaigu, such as the research articles about “The Book of Songs from the Bamboo Slips in the Warring States Collected by Anhui University”, check and interpretation of unexplained or misinterpreted difficult words in ancient Chinese characters, or reinterpretation of difficult words in “The Book of Songs” and other related extant literatures according to newly discovered variant characters.

## 2.4 Collation and Research Results of Other Spring and Autumn Scripts

Other excavated Spring and Autumn scripts are Spring and Autumn seals, pottery inscriptions and currency texts. See the “Chinese Calligraphy Encyclopedia, Pre-Qin Seals” (2009) [11] edited by Liu Zhengcheng, “A Compilation of Ancient Pottery Inscriptions” (1990) [12] by Gao Ming, and the “Major Currencies of Chinese Dynasties: Pre-Qin Currencies” (1984) [13] by Wang Zhengqing, etc.

## 2.5 Relevant China National Social Science Foundation Supported Projects and Ministry of Education Supported Project Since 2015

China national projects include major projects, key projects, general projects and youth projects, such as the Corpus Construction and Lexicon Compilation of Excavated Spring and Autumn Literatures (2018), The Collation, Research and Corpus Construction of

Bronze Inscription Materials from the Spring and Autumn Period (2012), A comprehensive Study on the Age of Spring and Autumn Bronzes (2009), Annotation Collation and Interpretation and Research on the Inscriptions of Qi Epigraphs from in Eastern Zhou Dynasty (2013), Study on the Weapons with Inscriptions of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty Hold by Shanghai Museum (2019), Compilation of Characters and Words Recording Alliances from the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (2019), Relics of the Alliance from Eastern Zhou Dynasty in Wenxian County (2003), Study on the Formation and Development of Tsinghua Chu Slips and Confucian Classics (2016), Complete Compilation and General Interpretation of the First Batch of Chu Bamboo Books in Shanghai Museum (2012), A Study of Ancient Bamboo Slips from Guodian and Those hold in Shanghai Museum (2013), the Collation and Research of the Historical Materials of the States in the Eastern Zhou Dynasty Found in the Bamboo Books of the Warring States Period (2019), the Collation and Research of The Book of Songs from the Bamboo Slips in the Warring States Collected by Anhui University (2019), Study on the Jin Characters Based on Different States (2014), Study on the Difficult Problems of Newly Excavated Chu Slips and Bronze Inscriptions (2016), Research on the Excavated Literatures and the History of Qi State in the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (2019), Collation and Study of the Eastern Zhou Pottery Inscriptions Excavated from the Ancient Cities of Zheng and Han States (2019), etc.

Ministry of Education supported projects include major research projects, planned fund projects and youth fund projects, such as Study on the Spring and Autumn Bronze Inscriptions and Their Regional Characteristics (2012), Study on the Relationship Between Chinese Characters and Words in Unearthed Written materials of the Spring and Autumn Period (2012), A Study on the Usage of Bronze Inscriptions and the Society in the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (2012), Collation and Annotation of Warring States Period Bamboo Slips (8 Volumes) Held in the Shanghai Museum (2012), Collation and Study on the Jin Characters (2013), Study on Bronze Ware with Carved Patterns in Eastern Zhou Dynasty (2014), Collation and Research of the Materials of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty Excavated in Henan (2014), Research on the Appellation of People in the Spring and Autumn Period (2014), Collection and Research on Historical Data of Figures in the Spring and Autumn Period (2017) and Study on the Eastern Zhou Pottery Inscriptions from Zheng and Han States (2011), etc.

### **3 Research Framework and Ideas**

The research object of this project is the excavated Spring and Autumn literatures. One part of the job is to collect and translate the variorums of all excavated Spring and Autumn literatures published so far; and the other part is to build a corpus on the basis of the modern translations of the variorums.

#### **3.1 The Overall Framework of the Variorum Modern Translation of Excavated Spring and Autumn Literature**

##### **3.1.1 Facsimile**

Facsimiles of the selected excavated Spring and Autumn literatures should be made based on original materials so that readers can read them conveniently. Below is part of



Fig. 1. Facsimile.

the facsimiles of Bell Chimes in Zengzhou Yu Tomb, see Fig. 1 (to facilitate reading, the inscriptions are arranged from left to right).

### 3.1.2 Annotations and Punctuations

Annotations are given based on comprehensive review and learning of previous versions. Modern punctuations are used to break sentences in the annotations made. In the case of different opinions, simple explanations are given. Below shows a part of the annotation and punctuations for the Bell Chimes in Zengzhou Yi Tomb:

周王在位的第十月，美好的庚午日，曾侯与说：我乃周人先祖后稷的后代子孙。和睦善良，笃实敏捷，敬畏天命，平定曾国，巡卫疆域，恭敬虔敬地进行祭祀和盟誓，我以此来祈求绵长寿命。J31032(M1: 3, 5).

### 3.1.3 Variorum

Annotations are made for difficult characters and words. In the case of different opinions, simple explanations are given. Below shows a part of the variorum for the Bell Chimes in Zengzhou Yi Tomb:

周王在位的第十月：即建子的周正十月。据钟铭有记载吴国伐楚人邹一事（前506），其年代据张培瑜（1987）可定为公元前497年（凡国栋2017: 209）。

The tenth month of the King of Zhou's Reign: the tenth lunar month of the calendar adopted by Zhou. According to the bell chime inscriptions, it was recorded that Wu State attacked Chu State and entered its capital Ying (506 BC), and the year, according to Zhang Peiyu (1987) can be recognized at 497 BC (Fan Guodong, 2017: 209).

曾侯与：目前多数学者倾向于认为“曾侯与”为曾侯乙的祖父。同墓所出鬲铭写作“与”，亦见于曾侯乙墓所出尊盘，上蔡郭庄楚墓等，传世青铜器铭文另有“曾子子遯”（凡国栋2017: 209）。

Zeng Houyu (曾侯与): Currently most scholars tend to believe Zeng Houyu is Zeng Houyi (曾侯乙)'s grandfather. In the Ge (an ancient cooking tripod with hollow legs) inscriptions excavated from the same tomb, the character was written as yu (与), which is also seen in the bronze Zun and Pan excavated from Zeng Houyi's tomb and the Tomb of Chu in Guozhuang Village, Shangcai County, etc. According to extant bronze inscriptions, the name is also written as “曾子遯” (Fan Guodong, 2017: 209).

我乃周人先祖后稷的后代子孙：东周时期铜器铭文中常见的表示阖闾的套语（黄锦前2017）。“余”，第一人称代词，即曾侯与自称。“稷”即“后稷”，周朝的先祖。《史

记·周本纪》。载姜原因践天帝迹而怀后稷，因初欲弃之，故取名曰弃。及长，帝尧举为农师；有功，遂封于邰，号曰后稷。玄孙：远代子孙。《左传·僖公二八》“及而玄孙，无有老幼”。

“我乃周人先祖后稷的后代子孙 (I am the offspring of the Hou Ji, progenitor of Zhou people)”: a formulistic expression of extraction commonly seen in bronze inscriptions from the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (Huang Jinqian, 2017). The character “余” is a first person pronoun, which Zeng Houyu used to call himself. “稷” refers to “后稷”，who is the progenitor of the Zhou Dynasty. According to the Records of the Grand Historian · Annals of Zhou, Jiang Yuan was pregnant and gave birth to Hou Ji after she stepped in a footprint of Di deity. As she wanted to abandon him at first, she named him “弃” (qi), which literarily means abandon. When Ji grew up, he was appointed as the Minister of Agriculture by Emperor Yao. Then he was bestowed at Tai for good performance and given the name Hou Ji. “玄孙” (xuan sun): far offspring. The Commentary of Zuo · 28<sup>th</sup> Year of Duke Xi of Lu’s Reign: “The punishment shall go even to his far offspring irrespective of age”.

穆: 和睦, 温和。《诗经·豳民》“吉甫作诵, 穆如清风。”郑笺: “穆, 和也。”

“穆” (mu): peaceful and gentle. “The Book of Songs · Zheng Min”: “I, Yin Ji-fu, have made this song; May it enter like a quiet wind”. Zheng Jian: “穆” means “peaceful”.

竞: 该字为新见字形 (廖培汝 2019)。从二言, 会意字。主要有两说: 一疑系“善”字, 与上字, 解释为和善 (黄锦前 2017)。二读为“竞”, 竞有强义。溢号“景”字, 楚文字写作“竞” (李零 2015)。《说文》: “言, 竞言也。从二言, 凡言之属皆从言, 读若竞。”

“竞 (jing)”: This is a newly met glyph (Liao Yuru, 2019). With the radicals of two “言 (yan, meaning words, language)”, it is a semasiography. There are mainly two opinions: One holds that it refers to “善 (shan)”, and combined with the last character, means “和善 (he shan, genial)” (Huang Jinqian, 2017); the other opinion holds that it reads “竞”, meaning strength. The “景” in the Posthumous title is written as “竞” (Li Ling, 2015). “Shuo Wen Jie Zi”: “言” means to quarrel. It has radicals of two “言” and read the same as “竞 (jing)”.

定: 该字形金文首见 (廖培汝 2019)。从土, 从女, 奠声, 形声字。各家皆读为“定”, 意指平定, 安定 (李学勤 2014; 凡国栋 2014; 徐少华 2014; 李零 2015; 黄锦前 2017)。对该字隶定有三说: 一隶定为“𡇗” (吴镇烽 2016: 455)。二隶为“𡇗” (李学勤 2014; 凡国栋 2014; 黄锦前 2017; 廖培汝 2019)。三隶为“奠” (徐少华 2014; 李零 2015)。

“定”: This glyph is first seen in bronze inscriptions (Liao Yuru, 2019). It has the radicals of “土” and “女”, reads the same as “奠 (dian)” and is a phonogram. Scholars mostly read it as “定 (ding)”, meaning to pacify or to settle (Li Xueqin, 2014; Fan Guodong, 2014; Xu Shaohua, 2014; Li Ling, 2015; Huang Jinqian, 2017). There are three opinions in confirming its glyph: the first is “𡇗” (Wu Zhenfeng, 2016: 455); the second is “𡇗” (Li Xueqin, 2014; Fan Guodong, 2014; Huang Jinqian, 2017; (Liao Yuru, 2019); and the third is “奠” (Xu Shaohua, 2014; Li Ling, 2015).

均: 该字形金文首见 (廖培汝 2019)。从口, 匀声, 形声字。主要有两说: 一读为“徇”, 指巡视 (董珊 2014; 吴镇烽 2016: 455; 黄锦前 2017)。文献中用例极多, 如王孙遗者钟铭: “余溥徇于国”。二读为“均”, 意指安定调和。用例可参蔡侯申钟“定均庶邦” (集成 210–222), 曾侯与编钟M1有“改复曾疆”一语, 语义相同 (凡国栋 2014)。《说文》: “均, 平, 徇也。”

“均”: This glyph is first seen in bronze inscriptions (Liao Yuru, 2019). It has the radical of “口”, reads the same as “匀 (yun)”, and is a phonogram. There are mainly two opinions about its pronunciation. One is “徇 (xun)”, meaning “to make an inspection tour” (Dong Shan, 2014; Wu Zhenfeng, 2016: 455; Huang Jinqian, 2017). Examples are many, like in the “Wang Sun Yi Zhe Zhong Inscriptions”: “I tour widely in the state”. The other opinion is “均 (jun)”, meaning to stabilize and create harmony. Examples from Cai Hou Shen Bell inscriptions can serve as reference “定均庶邦 (ding jun shu bang, meaning to stabilize all states)” (Compendium: 210-220). The Bell Chime M1 from Zenghou Yu Tomb has the inscription of “改复曾疆 (gai fu zeng jiang)”, which are of the same meaning (Fan Guodong, 2014). “Shuo Wen Jie Zi”: “均”, meaning “平 (ping, meaning to equalize)” and “徧 (bian, meaning to make something common)”.

恭寅: “龙”, “収”皆为声符, “𡗗”, “龙”省声, 读作“恭”, 恭敬。“𡗗”下部从“収”, 像两手捧奉物件, “収”下加“心”为义符, 有敬奉之义。“𡗗”, “𡗗”, “恭”音同, 故古通用。铭文中常见“恭寅”或“恭夤”与“严龠夤”等用语, 皆义为恭敬。金文“严龠夤”同义连用, “寅”或作“夤”, 见于金文与《尚书》。秦公簋: “严龠夤天命”, 《尚书·无逸》: “严恭寅天命”。

“恭寅”: “龙”, “収” are phonetic elements. “𡗗”, “龙” represent the pronunciations, and it reads as “恭”, meaning respect. “𡗗” follows “収” at its bottom, like holding an object with both hands; the “心” added to the bottom of “収” is a semantic component, meaning piously worship. “𡗗”, “𡗗”, “恭” (gong) have the same pronunciations and are thus interchangeable. “恭寅 (gong yin)” or “恭夤 (gong yin)” and “严龠夤 (yan gong yin)” are commonly seen expressions in bronze inscriptions that all have the meaning of respect. In bronze inscriptions, the expression “严龠夤” is a combination of synonyms, with the character “夤” interchangeable with “寅”, see the Book of History. Qin Gong Gui Inscriptions: “严龠夤天命”, and the Book of History · Against Luxurious Ease: “严恭寅天命”, all meaning to worship the mandate of heaven.

斋盟: 祭祀和盟誓。铭文中常见“盟祀”与“禋盟”等用语, 皆指祭祀和盟誓。例如蔡侯作大孟姬尊, 蔡侯作大孟姬缶铭文“禋享是以, 祗盟尝饗” (集成10171, 集成6010), “恭寅斋盟”, 谓祭祀和盟誓时都很恭敬。

“斋盟 (zhai meng)”: sacrificial ceremony and taking an oath of alliance. Expressions like “盟祀 (meng si)” and “禋盟 (yin meng)” are commonly seen in bronze inscriptions, all referring to sacrificial ceremony and oath of alliance. For example, in the inscriptions on the Cai Hou Zuo Da Meng Ji Zun and Cai Hou Zuo Da Meng Ji Fou: “禋享是以, 祗盟尝饗 (yin xiang shi yi, zhi meng chang shang)” (Compendium 10171 and Compendium 6010), and “恭寅斋盟 (gong yin zhai meng)”, both meaning being respectful while having a sacrificial ceremony or taking an oath of alliance.

吾: 从声, 支, 鱼声, 形声字。“𡗗”即“廡”繁体, 读为“吾” (与“廡”双声迭韵), “𡗗”或“廡”是东周六国铭文特有的第一人称代词, 相当于《论语》及其以后的著作中第一人称代词“吾”。关于第一人称代词在西周金文中用“我”“余”, 在传世典籍则“我”“余”“予”“吾”并用。“𡗗”或径隶为“廡” (黄锦前 2017), 金文或省“支”旁。

“吾”: It has the radicals of “声” and “支”, pronounces the same as “鱼”, and is a phonogram. “𡗗” is the elaborate form of “廡”, and reads “吾 (wu)” (has alliterative compounds and rhyming compounds with “廡”). “𡗗” or “廡” is a special first person pronoun used in the bronze inscriptions from the six states in the Eastern Zhou Dynasty, equivalent to the first person pronoun “吾” used in The Analects of Confucius and

thereafter. As for the first person pronoun, while “我” and “余” were used in the Western Zhou Dynasty bronze inscriptions, “我”, “余”, “予”, “吾” are used alternatively in extant classics. The glyph of “𠄎” can be confirmed as “廡”, (Huang Jinqian, 2017), of which the radical “支” may be omitted.

### 3.1.4 Modern Translation

The excavated Spring and Autumn literatures are translated into modern Chinese for reader’s reference. If any of them cannot be translated, leave it as an open question. Below is part of the modern translation of Zeng Hou Yu Bell Chime: 周王在位的第十月, 美好的庚午日, 曾侯与说: 我乃周人先祖后稷的后代子孙。和睦善良, 笃实敏捷, 敬畏天命, 平定曾国, 巡卫疆域, 恭敬虔敬地进行祭祀和盟誓, 我以此来祈求绵长寿命。J31032 (M1: 3, 5).

### 3.1.5 Corpus Construction

The overall framework for the corpus construction of excavated Spring and Autumn literatures draws reference from the Bronze Inscriptions Reference System by Wu Zhenfeng.

- Font: A font specially for excavated Spring and Autumn literatures should be formulated to handle the difficult characters.
- Sequence: The inscriptions are generally arranged in the order of Spring and Autumn bronze inscriptions, Spring and Autumn jade inscriptions, Spring and Autumn bamboo slip scripts, Spring and Autumn seals, Spring and Autumn pottery inscriptions and Spring and Autumn currency texts.
- Retrieval: Retrieval can be made based on the photos of original rubbings, or facsimiles, annotations, variorum, modern translation or references. Characters and words from an expression can also be used, for example, searching one character or word can bring all expressions and sentences containing it.

## 3.2 Basic Research Ideas

First, collect all the original materials of the excavated Spring and Autumn literatures (photos of the rubbings, et al.), and based on which, make facsimiles (Reference can be drawn from existing facsimiles and various collection of characters). Second, it is necessary to read all the relevant research literatures, and the contents of these literatures can be consulted from Study on Spring and Autumn Characters and Glyph Table of Spring and Autumn Characters (2005, 2017) by Wu Guosheng, General Theory of Literature from the Warring States Period (Correction and Supplement) (by 2000), Chinese Archaeology Almanac, Bamboo Slip and Silk and China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), etc. After careful reading and study of the literatures, summarizations of the research results from the aspects of elucidation of ancient characters, explanation of words, holistic translation of sentences, main ideas, era, regionalism, etc. should be made and individualized thoughts and opinions should be formed. Next, annotations, punctuations, variorum and modern translation should be produced. And at last, based on

the collation and research results of the selected literatures, work with computer experts to construct a reference system for the excavated Spring and Autumn literatures.

## 4 Conclusion

It can be seen from the above that a lot of achievements have already been made in the sorting and research of unearthed Spring and Autumn literatures, laying a good foundation for the research of this project. However, there were two problems in previous studies. One is that most of these researches were made separately according to the types of the literatures, with a focus on the collation and word compilation of the corpus itself and few research achievements on the comprehensive arrangement of unearthed Spring and Autumn literatures. The other is that different scholars had different standards in choosing translations, meaning one ancient character may have different interpretations, one word may have different interpretations and one sentence may also have different interpretations, which brings huge inconvenience to Chinese history researchers and scholars of related subjects.

Chinese history researchers and scholars of related subjects are in urgent need of comprehensive collation and research results of excavated Spring and Autumn literatures. Such results should be able to cover all published excavated Spring and Autumn literatures, hold the same standard in translation, have the same interpretation for one ancient character and the same interpretation for one word, give simple introductions of the different opinions of the ancient character scholars; and such comprehensive research results should be made into a corpus, which facilitates the searching of scholars. The proposal of this project formally meets the demand of the academic world.

The research of this project is valuable not only to the study of ancient philology and Spring and Autumn philology, but also to the Chinese historiography and other subjects requiring the use of ancient characters, and is of application value to the teaching and popularization of related subjects.

**Authors' Contributions.** This paper is independently completed by Weiming Peng.

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