How to Use the Software
(Online Help)
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1. Introduction

China Scene was created by De Bao Xu and Hong Gang Jin with Macromedia Director. It is a large, multimedia, interactive, cross-platform software on both Macintosh and Windows and is equipped for *China Scene: An Advanced Chinese Multimedia Course*, a sixteen-lesson multimedia course including a textbook, a video tape, and four audio tapes (Hong Gang Jin, De Bao Xu, and James Harget, Cheng & Tsui Company, Boston, 2000). It was originally created on Macintosh with Macromedia Director 6.0 in 1996, and then continuously being test-used and updated with Director 7.0, 8.0, 8.5, MX, and finally MX 2004.

The software programs all the materials in the series of *China Scene* including the texts, videotape, audiotapes, and creates additional graphics and animation with over 200,000 pieces of media being linked for interaction. Same as in the textbook, in each of the sixteen lessons there are two main sessions: dialogs and text. Interactive activities in these sessions include animated dialogs, audio-visual vocabulary learning with recording ability, on-line grammar notes and sentence patterns, paced-reading: entire text and by sentence, authentic movie-text linkage, key points, cultural notes, and vocabulary index of the sixteen lessons. Features include online instruction, online voice recording, traditional and simplified characters, free navigation among activities and lessons, and standalone. No Macromedia Director is needed to run the software.

2. Requirements_and_Installation

2.1. Hardware

China Scene is a large, multimedia, cross-platform software running on both Macintosh (OSX) and Windows (XP). It needs at least 1GB free space on your hard drive for storage. You will also need a microphone/headphone connected to your computer.

Before using the microphone/headphone on Macintosh, select "System Preferences" on the Apple scrolling menu, then "Sound", and then "External Microphone" (by its name) to make sure you can record via the connected microphone/headphone.

2.2. System and Memory

China Scene requires Macintosh OSX and Windows XP or higher with at least 32MB RAM.

2.3. Installation

China Scene is contained on a DVD with both lesson and function files and quickTime movies. To install *China Scene*, copy all of these files into ONE FOLDER on your hard drive (you can name it whatever you want). Since the voice recording needs real hard drive space, you cannot run *China Scene* directly from the DVD if you use the recording function. However, it is possible to only run the movies from the DVD (by only copying the lesson and function files on your hard drive), but this will slow the program down drastically.

3. Navigation

3.1. Opening a Lesson

China Scene is composed of sixteen lessons, with separate Dialogs and Text sections in each lesson. A Dialogs section may contain one, two, or three dialogs. Text sections include a text and its accompanying movie.

To open a lesson, double-click on the *China Scene* icon. After the opening pages, choose to skip the introduction. This will take you directly to the Main Menu, where you can select one of the sixteen lessons. From the title page, choose either the Dialogs or the Text section to begin.

3.2. Navigating Between Lessons

The scrolling menus at the top of your screen allow you to move between lessons, or between Dialogs and Text activities within a lesson.

The "Lessons" scrolling menu will take you to the title page of a new lesson. From there, you can choose to go to the Dialogs or Text section of that lesson. You can also use the "Lessons" menu to go to the Vocabulary Index, or to the Main Menu.

If you are already in the Dialogs section of a lesson, you can use the "Text" scrolling menu to jump to an activity in the Text section of the same lesson. Likewise, if you are already in a text section, the "Dialog" scrolling menu will take you to an activity in the Dialogs section of the same lesson.

3.3. Navigating Between Activities

To select an activity in the section of the lesson you are already in (i.e., a Text activity in Text, or a Dialogs activity in Dialogs), use the buttons under the "Activity/Instruction" bar near the top of the black board.

Clicking on the "Dialog 1" or "Dialog 2" button (Dialogs section only) takes you to an animated reading of the dialog.

Clicking on the "Grammar" button (Dialogs and Text sections) takes you to the Grammar activity, where you can review sentence patterns and view notes on word usage.

Click the "Vocabulary" button (Dialogs and Text sections) to go to the Vocabulary activity.

Click and HOLD DOWN the mouse on the "Paced Reading" button (Text only). A pop-up menu will appear. Drag the mouse over "Entire Text" to select the Entire Text reading activity, or over "By Sentence" for the Sentence-By-Sentence reading activity.

Likewise, click and HOLD DOWN the mouse on the "Authentic Movie" button (Text only). Use the pop-up menu that appears to view the movie with or without scripts.

Click and HOLD DOWN the mouse on the "Key Points" button (Text only) as well. The pop-up menu will take you to the Word Explanation page, the Idioms page, or the Comparison Table.

Click the "Cultural Notes" button (Dialogs and Text) to go to the Cultural Notes.

Two additional buttons along the top of the screen do not take you to an activity. Use the "Show Scripts" button (Dialogs section only) during the Animated Reading activity to open the dialog scripts. The "Vocab. Index" button (Dialogs and Text) opens a window listing all the vocabulary for the entire sixteen lessons.

You can also use the "Back" and "Forward" buttons at the top left corner of the black board to move through the activities page-by-page. Click the "Home" button to return to

the beginning of the lesson.

See "Navigating Between Lessons" for instructions on going to an activity in the opposite section.

3.4. Navigating Within an Activity

Most activities are more than one page long. To move between pages of an activity, use the gray arrows at the bottom left corner of the black board.

You can also use the "Back" and "Forward" buttons at the top left corner of the black board to move through the activities page-by-page.

Pressing the "Reset" button at the top center of the black board will take you back to the first page of the activity you are using.

3.5. Knowing Your Location

The white "Activity/Instruction" bar at the top of the black board tells you what activity you are in and what page you are on, as well as a brief instruction as to how to use the activity. For example, if you are on the second page of the by-sentence paced reading activity in Lesson 9, the bar will read as follows:

Lesson 12/Text/Paced Reading/By Sentence/Page 2 (Click a sentence to begin)

Furthermore, a number appears at the bottom of each activity page, indicating which page you are on and how many pages there are altogether in the activity.

3.6. Exiting the Program

When you are ready to quit *China Scene*, click on the "Exit" button in the upper right corner of the black board.

4. Selecting_Simplified_or_Traditional_Characters

Every activity in *China Scene* can be viewed in either simplified or traditional characters. Activities will first appear in simplified characters.

To see traditional characters, click on the "Traditional" button near the top right corner of the black board. You can change back to simplified characters by pressing the "Simplified" button, which will appear in the same place. These two buttons appear throughout each lesson, except during the "Key Points" and "Cultural Notes" information.

You can also use the "T" and "S" keys on your keyboard at any point in a lesson to view traditional and simplified characters, respectively.

5. Dialog_Reading

Where to find it:

   Dialogs section, via the buttons reading "Dialog 1" and "Dialog 2"

How to use it:

   To begin the animated reading, press the "Play" button at the top center of the black board. Click the "Stop" button to pause the animated reading. Pressing "Play" will begin the reading again from the same point. To start the reading again, press "Stop" and then "Reset."

   To see a script of the dialog, click the "Show Scripts" button beneath the "Activity/Instruction" bar near the top of the black board. A menu will appear in the middle of the screen, from which you can select simplified or traditional scripts. You can also switch back and forth between simplified and traditional scripts using the "Simplified" and "Traditional "buttons.

6. Grammar

Where to find it:

   Dialogs and Text, via the "Grammar" button

How to use it:

   The Grammar activity highlights the lesson's featured sentences patterns, marked as red text, and footnotes, marked as red numbers.

6.1 Sentence_Patterns

   The important sentence patterns featured in each lesson are highlighted in red. Clicking on one will take you to a new screen that gives a definition of the terms in the pattern, a few notes on its usage, and examples of how to use the pattern.

   When you have finished a pattern, you can click on the brown button in the top right corner to return to the Grammar activity, or use the arrows in the bottom left corner to see explanations of other patterns.

6.2. Footnotes

   The Footnotes highlight additional information on how key words in the text are should be used, specific connotations, similarities and differences between similar terms,

etc. Clicking on one of the small numbers in the lesson text will open a window displaying the footnote of the same number. You can scroll through all of the footnotes for a particular lesson, or click on a number to view the appropriate footnote. Click on the footnotes window to close it.

7. Vocabulary

Where to find it:

   Dialogs and Text, via the "Vocabulary" button

How to use it:

   New vocabulary terms for each lesson are highlighted in red. When you click on a term and HOLD DOWN the mouse, the word will be read aloud twice and the definition in English will appear.

   The "Stop Recording," "Record Sound," and "Play Recorded Sound" buttons at the bottom of the black board allow you to record your own voice reading a vocabulary item. (Before using this feature, see Section 2: Software Requirements for instructions on how to set up your microphone properly.) To record your voice, click "Record Sound," speak into the microphone, and click "Stop Recording" when you are finished. Press "Play Recorded Sound" to hear your recording. Clicking the highlighted vocabulary item will still play the original sound.

   You can only store one recorded sound at a time. If you have any problems recording, click one of the "Reset" buttons to the right or left of the recording bar and try again.

8. Paced_Reading

   There are two different Paced Reading activities, an Entire Text reading and a Sentence By Sentence reading.

8.1. Entire Text

Where to find it:

   Text only, via the "Paced Reading" button; first item on the pop-up menu

How to use it:

   Click the "Play" button at the top center of the black board. The text will be read aloud, with each sentence highlighted as it is read. To pause the reading and start again, press "Stop" and then "Play." To stop the reading and start over, press "Stop" and then "Reset."

You may use the arrows at the bottom right corner of the black board to read a particular page. However, pages will be turned automatically; you do not need to use the arrows at the bottom of the screen to go to the next page.

8.2. By Sentence

Where to find it:

Text only, via the "Paced Reading" button; second item on the pop-up menu

How to use it:

Click on any sentence to hear it read aloud. The sentence will be highlighted in red as it is read. If you do not want to hear the whole sentence, you can click on another sentence while the first is still playing.

If a sentence is divided between two pages (that is, if it starts on one page and ends on the next), the page will turn automatically. You do not need to use the arrows at the bottom of the screen.

The "Stop Recording," "Record Sound," and "Play Recorded Sound" buttons at the bottom of the black board allow you to record your own voice reading a sentence. (Before using this feature, see Section 2: Software Requirements for instructions on how to set up your microphone properly.) To record your voice, click "Record Sound," speak into the microphone, and click "Stop Recording" when you are finished. Press "Play Recorded Sound" to hear your recording. Clicking a sentence will still play the original sound.

You can only store one recorded sound at a time. If you have any problems recording, click one of the "Reset" buttons to the right or left of the recording bar and try again.

9. Authentic_Movie

The Text section of each lesson contains a video clip from an authentic Chinese news broadcast. Movies can be viewed with or without scripts.

9.1. With Scripts

Where to find it:

Text only, via the "Authentic Movie" button; first item on the pop-up menu

How to use it:

Click on one of the numbered sentences in the script to see the corresponding sentence in the video. If you do not want to hear the whole sentence, you can click on another sentence while the first is still playing.

You can also click on one of the numbered buttons to the left and right of the movie to view the corresponding movie clip. The numbering of the buttons matches the numbering of the sentences in the script. However, clicking one of these buttons will not take you to the matching page in the scripts; you will need to use the flashing arrows at the bottom right corner of the black board.

In some lessons, numbering the sentences requires more buttons than can fit on one screen. In these lessons, as you flip through the pages of the script, the matching buttons will appear.

In this activity, you can also watch the entire movie by clicking the "Play" button, either from the beginning or at any point during the movie. To pause play, press "Stop" and then "Play." To return to the beginning, press "Stop" and then "Reset."

9.2. Without Scripts

Where to find it:

Text only, via the "Authentic Movie" button; second item on the pop-up menu

How to use it:

Click on the numbered buttons to the left and right of the movie to view the corresponding movie clip. The numbering of these buttons matches the numbering of the sentences in the script in the With Scripts activity.

In some lessons, numbering the sentences requires more buttons than can fit on one screen. In these lessons, a flashing "Turn Page" button appears at the bottom right corner of the buttons. Click this button to see the rest of the numbers, or to return to the first page.

In this activity, you can also watch the entire movie by clicking the "Play" button, either from the beginning or at any point during the movie. To pause play, press "Stop" and then "Play." To return to the beginning, press "Stop" and then "Reset."

10. Key_Points

The "Key Points" button leads you to additional information about vocabulary and grammar usage. It includes explanations of Classical Chinese and idiomatic expressions; idioms; and a table comparing written and colloquial Chinese.

10.1. Word Explanation

Where to find it:

Text only, via the "Key Points" button; first item on the pop-up menu

What it does:

"Word Explanation" uses Chinese words and expressions with which you are already familiar to explain Classical Chinese and frequently used expressions.

Some lessons contain more than one page of explanations. Gray arrows appear in the bottom right corner of these lessons; use these arrows to flip back and forth between pages.

Clicking the "Return" button in the upper right corner of the black board will bring you back to the activity you were using most recently.

10.2. Idioms

Where to find it:

Text only, via the "Key Points" button; second item on the pop-up menu (does not appear in all lessons)

What it does:

The "Idioms" page defines any four-character idioms featured in the lesson.

Clicking the "Return" button in the upper right corner of the black board will bring you back to the activity you were using.

10.3. Comparison Table

Where to find it:

Text only, via the "Key Points" button; third item on the pop-up menu (does not appear in all lessons)

What it does:

"Comparison Table" presents expressions from formal or written Chinese and their colloquial equivalent.

Some lessons also feature a table comparing dialectical and standard Chinese expressions. In these lessons, gray arrows appear in the bottom right corner of the black

board. Use these arrows to flip back and forth between the two tables.

Clicking the "Return" button in the top right corner of the screen will take you back to the activity you were using most recently.

11. Cultural_Notes

Where to find it:

Dialogs and Text, via the "Cultural Notes" button

What it does:

"Cultural Notes" presents additional information explaining the cultural background of the dialogs or text.

Clicking the "Return" button in the top right corner of the screen will take you back to the activity you were using most recently.

12. Vocabulary_Index

Where to find it:

Dialogs and Text, via the "Vocab.Index" button

What it does:

The "Vocab.Index" button takes you to a page that lists the vocabulary items from all sixteen lessons in alphabetical order. You can scroll through this list to look up words you have studied in previous lessons.

13. Further_Technical_Support

For further technical support, contact De Bao Xu:
e-mail: dxu@hamilton.edu
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http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/eal/Software.html