

classifiers. Thus they do not say “*sì hî*” (four fish), but “*sì bé hî*” (four tails fish), not “*chit ùi*” (one mast), but “*chit kî ùi*” (one stick mast). By this expedient many phrases are rendered readily intelligible, which would otherwise be hopelessly confusing. These classifiers are not only interposed between the numeral and the noun, but they follow the numeral, where the noun is not expressed but understood. Thus to the question “*lí ā kúí chiah bé?*” (how many horses have you?) the answer is “*sì chiah*,” (four head), not “*sì*” alone. These classifiers sometimes marshal strange groups. The same word is the classifier of chairs, tables, bedsteads, sails, wheel-carriages, wheeled instruments, curtains, bows, letters, (epistles), &c. Many of the groups, however, are quite natural.

Relations of the Words in the Written and Spoken Languages to each other.

The characters of the written language have different names in various parts of China. As the Arabic numerals, while conveying the same meaning to men of different nations, are yet called by entirely different names, so a Chinese character has different designations in various regions. The Nankin man calls certain two characters “*Shih fan*.” They mean “eat rice.” The Amoy man, looking at the same characters receives from them the same idea, “eat rice,” but he names the characters “*sî¹ hūan*.” The tones are different, and so are the articulate elements. The Nankin spoken language follows very closely the sounds of the characters. “*Shih fan*” is not only the sound of the two characters, but it is the colloquial phrase for “eat rice.” At Amoy, on the contrary, while the written expression is “*sî¹ hūan*,” the colloquial phrase is “*Chiah p̄ng*.”

From the following list it will be seen that many of the words are very unlike in the two languages.

<i>English</i>	<i>Written.</i>	<i>Spoken.</i>	<i>English.</i>	<i>Written.</i>	<i>Spoken.</i>
Man	Jîn	Lâng	Flower	Hua	Hoe
Horse	Má	Bé	Nine	Kíu	Káu
Foot	Kiak	Kha	Milk	Jú	Lín
Ship	Chhuân	Chûn	Thief	Chek	Chbat
Know	Ti	Chai	Wise	Hîân	Gáu
Sail	Hông	Pháng	Smoke	Ian	Hun
Fragrant	Hiang	Phang	Crockery	Chû	Húi
Speak	Suat	Kóng	Eight	Pat	Poch