

Contents

<i>Illustrations and Tables</i>	viii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Introduction: The Singlish Affair</i>	1
Part I. Rethinking “The Chinese Language”	35
1. <i>On Defining “Chinese” and “Language”</i>	37
2. <i>A Sketch of Spoken Chinese</i>	41
3. <i>Idiolects, Dialects, Regionalects, and Languages</i>	53
Part II. Rethinking Chinese Characters	69
4. <i>What’s in a Name?</i>	71
5. <i>From Pictographs to What?</i>	74
6. <i>How Do Chinese Characters Represent Sounds?</i>	89
7. <i>How Do Chinese Characters Convey Meaning?</i>	116
Part III. Demythifying Chinese Characters	131
8. <i>The Ideographic Myth</i>	133
9. <i>The Universality Myth</i>	149
10. <i>The Emulatability Myth</i>	161
11. <i>The Monosyllabic Myth</i>	177
12. <i>The Indispensability Myth</i>	189
13. <i>The Successfulness Myth</i>	204
Part IV. Chinese Language Reform	221
14. <i>Speech Reform</i>	223
15. <i>Writing Reform</i>	240
<i>Notes</i>	289
<i>Glossary</i>	297
<i>Suggested Reading</i>	301
<i>References</i>	303
<i>Index</i>	317