

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2/IRG N2539 Feedback

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If my understanding is correct, Richard HSIEH's concern is that “characters” recording different pronunciations and meanings are “merged” under PRC's simplification policy. Therefore, in the world of “characters”, there is a “丰” that records its “original” pronunciations and meanings, and a “丰” that is “just” a simplified character of “豐”, so the two “丰”s should be “disunified” because of the difference in their recorded pronunciations and meanings.

Similarly, since 復復 were merged into 复, 隻祇 into 只, 彌瀰 into 弥, it seems necessary to distinguish these “characters” one by one.

However, in my understanding, the so-called “disunification” here is completely different from what IRG is undertaking. My view of unification is based purely on the analysis of the abstract shapes of the actual shapes, where pronunciations and meanings are used only to find the abstract counterpart to which each actual shape and its actual component really refers.

Therefore, even though “考” is pronounced as *go* in Korea for “confession” and *hataraku* in Japan for “(mental) work”, the two actual shapes are analyzed as 𠄎[𠄎][考] and thus correspond to the same codepoint.

If a distinction between the two is felt to be necessary, because codepoint only gives information at the purely abstract shape level and is not directly related to its pronunciations or meanings, I think it would be appropriate to consider introducing new structure on top of the character set for representation. Similar practices have been adopted in some dictionary headings (e.g., 现代汉语词典).

This is my note to “what is being described is a non-problem and is not an isolated case”.

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