

Abstract

Shuowenjiezi is the first radical dictionary in the history of China, which has recorded rich and colorful linguistic data of ancient words. The dictionary is an important literature in the study of ancient culture and relationship between Chinese language and culture.

The radical women is one of the enormous division in Shuowenjiezi. 238 Chinese characters in radical women intensively reflect abundant feminine culture, which reveal the changes of female status from customs of social and marriage, family relationships, social relationships in different stages of social development.

The paper takes the radical women as the research subject. On the basis of checking all the 238 Chinese characters and Chinese myths to study the relationship between forms and meanings of these characters and their changes. A systematic and statistical way to compare the radical women in both Dictionary of Chinese Characters and Shuowenjiezi, to study the underlying cultural connotations and development trend.

Keywords : Shuowenjiezi; the radical women; Chinese myth fable; culture