

Interview of Professor Verner Worm

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Worm: I would simply answer to the first question by telling you that my wife is from Shanghai and she is Chinese. I met her at the university in the 1970's. So, that has been a connection to China. Her mother lives in Shanghai but she used to live with us for very many, maybe 20, years. So, she was with us (with my wife and me) first in Beijing and when we moved to Copenhagen, she came with us in 1992 and stayed here until 2012, but she is back in Shanghai now. So, that's why I have had a sort of close personal relationship to China.

I visited China for the first time in 1974 with a legation of the Dano-Chinese friendship association. This was during the Mao period when we had the "Criticize Lin, Criticize Confucius -campaign" (批林批孔運動). It was a political campaign directed against Lin Biao but also to some degree against Zhou Enlai. So, that was during a power struggle. Then I moved to China in 1977. There were four of us; Jørgen Delman, who is now a professor at the University of Copenhagen, me and two women. Two of us have worked here in Copenhagen. I have been here at the Copenhagen Business School and Jørgen came back later and is a professor at the University of Copenhagen.

So, the four of us went to China in 1977 and then went to the language course and after that we were sent to the Peking University. So, all foreigners stayed at the Peking University. I stayed for two years. We all went for at least one year.

Chen: Did you only learn the language, or did you also take other courses.

W: No, I took courses both in economics and philosophy. We could take any course.

C: All in Chinese?

W: Yes. At that time the students were not really interested in English. So, we went to the Peking University and it was wonderful, because at that time the Chinese students did not speak English. They had started to become somewhat interested in it, but all communication was in Chinese. We were living two in a room, with one Chinese and one foreigner in each room, and that was much better than it has been afterwards, because after that the foreigners have been staying together and they have interacted much less with the Chinese. Of course, the Chinese students were also supposed to keep an eye on us and control what we were doing. However, as we were not doing anything illegal, there really isn't much to say about that. As China was opening-up in the 1970's, the people there were changing a lot. And even the head of this foreign students' programme, who was originally trained in the Renmin University, as he was a communist cadre, and was only appointed to lead this programme in the Peking University during the Cultural Revolution, asked

me to buy him a table recorder when I went to Hong Kong during my stay in China. The Chinese students and staff were supposed to observe us, but there really weren't any conflicts.

C: At that time, it was not popular to go to China to study in Denmark, I assume?

W: No, it wasn't. Still there were some, who wanted to. Certain people started it but then most of them stopped very early. So, all in all, there were very few of us.

C: I still do not understand your motivation for going to China at that time.

W: The motivation for all of us, and you will hear this all around the Nordic countries, was that we thought that the Cultural Revolution was doing a lot of good things. Then when we came there we saw that it was not that good. But at the least we were reading at home that they had barefoot doctors in China. Of course, there were good things. The women's position improved a lot during it. For example, the new marriage law from 1951 was a huge improvement to what they had had before. However, the Cultural Revolution was not a success and most of us started to criticise it after we had come there. After the Third Plenum of the 11th National Congress in December 1978, China basically changed its political strategy from focusing on class struggle to focusing on production and political reform combined with opening-up. However, the actual economic opening-up only came after Deng Xiaoping's (鄧小平) famous Southern Tour in 1992. In the 1980's, the Chinese were trying both opening-up and political reform at the same time under the leadership of people like Zhao Ziyang (趙紫陽) and the atmosphere was actually very free. I was at the Peking University 1977-79 and again 1980-81. After a spell back in Denmark, I was running a representative office at the 樂音賓館, a hotel. So, that was a kind of a business venture during which I was selling junk products financed by the World Bank and other institutions in Denmark and so on. So, we were doing this for four years, and then the student uprising came and everyone stopped supporting China, which caused us to leave. After that, I got a scholarship and went with my whole family to the US for one year.

C: Where in the US?

W: In Kansas, in the Mid-West. Then, in 1991, I came back to Denmark, and in March 1992, I got a scholarship for writing a PhD in business studies financed by a shipping company. You don't probably know it, but in Denmark one can do a PhD in cooperation with a company.

C: So, where did you do your PhD? Here at the Copenhagen Business School?

W: Yes, here at the CBS and also in the shipping company, but mainly here.

C: How long did it take?

W: Three years, from 1992 to 95.

C: What was the subject of your dissertation?

W: It was the same as I have been doing all the time, cross-cultural communication and management.

C: Who was your supervisor, or did you have one?

W: I actually had one officially, but he couldn't supervise. So, we had to find people ourselves.

C: Did you already know that time that you would like to pursue a career in Chinese studies?

W: Yes, already in 1992 I went to talk to the president of the CBS telling him that we should have a study programme focused on Asia. They had actually already started a programme called Japanese language and economics. Then, in 1995 when I finished my PhD, they started their Asia research centre and I have been there ever since.

C: How many people were there at the beginning in this Asia Research Centre?

W: The head of department was really not a specialist on Asia, but he was interested in it. Then there were two assistant professors and two secretaries. That was the beginning.

C: So, the other assistant professor was in charge of Japan and the other one in China?

W: Yes, and then the one in charge of Japan didn't publish, so when he was up for promotion to assistant professor, he didn't make it. So, he left and then we got another one, but there has been this focus on Japan; we actually initially mainly focused on Japan. Then, of course, China came in, and for the last few years we have been mainly focusing on China.

C: Right. At the beginning, you were mainly focused on teaching the students and not on research. How many students were there?

W: In the beginning, before I came, we had the Japanese programme from about 1990 and the Chinese language and economics was only added in 2002 or so. So, in the beginning, we didn't have students; we were just a research centre. That is also the reason it is still called the Asia Research Centre.

C: So, it's still here.

W: Yes, it's still here.

C: How many people do you have now in terms of faculty members?

W: We have Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard, Michael Jakobsen, one Malaysian, one from Japan and two assistant professors focusing on China. I think that's about it.

C: So, you have expanded slowly.

W: Well, we were growing a lot and now we are not expanding, but we are keeping our current size. However, they are going to close down the Japanese language and economics line. They don't anymore take in new students. So, after three years, when those who are already in the line have finished, we will close it.

C: Is it because there are not enough students?

W: Yes.

C: And there are more for China?

W: Yes.

C: How many students do you have now?

W: We open two classes, so we have sixty students in the beginning, but then some think it's too troublesome to learn all the Chinese characters, stop and start doing something else after a year or maybe a year and a half.

C: Do you have BA and MA degree here or only MA degree?

W: We only have BA degree here at the Asia studies.

C: Is that a three-year programme?

W: Actually, it is a four-year programme. The students get an extra year, because they don't know any Chinese when they start. If one comes here to learn French economics, for example, one has already learnt some French at least in the high school. As a student, I was negotiating this one extra year way back in the 1970's. So, if one studies Chinese or Japanese, it's a four-year programme. We have this extra year for the students to learn the language.

C: Do you have Mainland Chinese teachers here who are teaching Chinese?

W: There has been some collaboration with the Confucius Institute, and there, of course, the teachers are from the Renmin University. But those are really not our language teachers. They do their job and we do ours. So, basically the teachers are Chinese living here and then one Dane teaches the grammar.

C: Simplified characters?

W: Yes, simplified. Most of the Mainlanders can't read Traditional characters.

C: Is language learning a barrier for most of the students here?

W: It takes a lot of time. We say that the students should spend forty per cent of their studies on language and sixty per cent on other things in the field of economics and business. But of course, in the reality, they spend way more time on the language. However, they are good students and after their exchange in China, they can all speak fluent Chinese. They learn the language, but it takes a lot of time, and they all must go to China for at least one semester, sometimes for two. Some have been there before and after coming back they decide that they want to study China. Some are actually children of Chinese parents.

C: Are there many, or is this a minority?

W: Not many, but some.

C: Does that also mean that they have more background in the language?

W: Yes, that can be the case, many of them speak Chinese with their parents.

C: So, you allow these kinds of students to be your students as well, because in Helsinki we cannot do that.

W: If they come from China, we don't take them, but if they are Danish citizens, they can attend.

C: I would like to ask you about the source and quality of your students over time. Have you observed any changes? Are they getting better or worse?

W: I think they are getting better, actually. There are more applicants now, so those who matriculate with very low grades are not anymore accepted. So, in that sense, the quality of our students has improved. This has happened particularly in Chinese, not so much in Japanese. That is because if there fewer who apply, the average will get lower, and that's the case with Japanese. That's actually the reason why the president and the vice president of the CBS decided to close down not only the

Japanese programme, but also other language programmes. So, programmes solely focused on French and Spanish etc. are also closed. What is not closed is the combination which we call language and economics; this will continue.

C: And there is no other Asian language like Korean?

W: No, nothing.

C: But you say there is a professor doing Malaysian studies.

W: Yes, I think she speaks some Bahasa, but we don't have a programme.

C: What's the relationship of the Confucius Institute with your Asia Centre?

W: I was actually the director for starting up the Confucius Institute in the beginning from 2008 to 2013. At that time we provided one teacher for the Asia Studies programme. However that has stopped now, not due to political, but due to bureaucratic obstacles; for example, how to pay them. So, we have our own teachers, who are typically Chinese-born, have a university degree and are living in Denmark. Those of them who came early, in the 1980's and 90's, mostly have Danish citizenship nowadays.

C: You have neither Master of PhD programmes here?

W: We actually do have PhD students.

C: But no MA students?

W: Yes and no. One can take the MA programme in Chinese language and business, but it's a two-year programme of which one must spend a year in China. So, we have very few MA students. A few years ago, we had a lot of MA students because back then we had teaching for them here. I was teaching them in Chinese and we were reading articles about economic development, companies and so on. However, this is now discontinued.

C: But you do have PhD students?

W: The PhD students actually belong to the department, but they sometimes focus on China. Sometimes there are companies which declare their readiness to finance the dissertation.

C: Are you supervising anyone now?

W: Not at the moment, but I have been doing it before.

C: Your subjects are all related to business, aren't they? You are special in that your studies are all business-related.

W: They are related to business and the business environment: how these societies are built up and so on. This is because one cannot do business in a society one doesn't know.

C: So, you are also studying cultural aspects.

W: Yes, culture, the institutions; we talk about formal and informal institutions. The informal institutions are good representatives of culture.

C: How about research funding?

W: I have half of my time devoted to teaching and half to research, so in that sense, the salary is there and the time should also be there. However, if one wants to travel and do some more complicated stuff, one has to apply for external funding, and this is getting very competitive. It used to be easy. For five years, I was a member of a group studying cultural intelligence in Asia; including Danes going to Asia: Japan, China etc. We received three million Danish kroner in funding from the research council.

C: The Danish Research Council?

W: Yes. However, these are now more or less closed down because the Danish government wants to reduce its educational expenditures. That's the policy. They are saying that the Danes pay too much taxes, and when they lower the taxes, they have to reduce public spending and then they cut from education among other things.

C: There is a question here about your involvement in academic debate on China concerning human rights. Are you involved in this?

W: Not really. I mean, my focus is cross-cultural management. Also now, we have what we call 本土管理, or indigenous management, and I have a colleague who is doing a lot of things related to this. We are also cooperating in this field. I also sometimes do things which are not related to China. I have just written a paper about the different conceptualisations of culture. It can also be used in relation to China, but the paper per se is not related to China. However, most of what I have done has been related to China. For example, the difference between 關係 and its Russian counterpart. We once tried to contextualise these and figure out their differences.

C: Is the way you approach it more theoretical or practical?

W: Well, in the conceptualisations project we were travelling a lot and interviewed many people in Asia in places like India, China and Japan. I was only covering China and Japan. Some of my colleagues went to India. At that time we had more funding. It was another project, but I mean that the main challenge in cooperative projects is how to acquire the funding. Nowadays we do get funding for such projects and that's quite good. We received 20 000 Danish kroner per year in funding to attend conferences. Then we could also apply for external funding if we were presenting a paper. So, in that sense one could get 30 000 Danish kroner per year.

C: Each professor?

W: Yes, each professor. That's quite good funding.

C: That's really good funding.

W: So, I attended a conference in Hangzhou (杭州) last year and gave a presentation on Chinese management research. I'm going to attend another conference at the Academy of Management in the US, in Anaheim, California, to be more precise.

C: So, the funding is very generous.

W: Yes, it's quite good. Better than in some other places. Of course, we are all undergoing spending cuts. Particularly two years ago, there was a very tough situation when they wanted to cut, I forgot how many million Danish kroner. The way they did it was intimidating; one had to be at one's office on a certain day at nine o'clock and they would tell one if he/she were fired. This was a bit

scary, but it ended up saying that they had negotiated with people and some left for other universities and some went on retirement. So, in the end, no one was fired.

C: So, most of the funding of CBS comes from the government, doesn't it?

W: Yes. Whenever we get a new BA or MA student, we get some funding.

C: Right, because you don't really collect tuition fees from local students.

W: Yes, we have Danish students and a lot of Norwegian students, but they don't have to pay tuition fees, either, even though they are not from an EU member state.¹ We also have some students from Sweden and other EU countries. Then there are a few students who pay the tuition fees from countries like China and the US.

C: Do you have a lot of students from China?

W: Not a lot, but some.

C: And are they mainly doing their BA level studies?

W: BA and MA level studies.

C: Do you know how high the tuition fee is for a Chinese student?

W: It's the same for all of those who have to pay it. It's about 60 000 for two years, but then one also has to spend money on living, of course. It's not especially expensive when compared to the likes of the US.

C: But still, living here is expensive, isn't it?

W: Yes.

C: Do you offer scholarships?

W: Yes, those students can apply for scholarships.

C: Are you involved in policy consultation concerning China in public or private sectors?

W: As researchers, we are not political, but we do consulting. Then, of course, I had another contact with Danish companies when I was acting as the director of the Confucius Institute because we were having a lot of arranged meetings with people coming from China and talking about it and their conception about it. That was interesting for companies.

C: How about your involvement in transnational research projects?

W: I'm involved all the time. I'm a member of a research project at the Fudan University (復旦大學). I'm always into some international projects.

C: Is the research project linked to the Nordic Centre in Fudan?

W: No, business studies. I'm also a consultant member, like Kauko Laitinen has been for many years, to the Nordic Centre.

¹While Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein are not members of the EU, they are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which is part of the EU free trade and travel area.

C: How about your cooperation with other Nordic countries?

W: The Nordic Centre is a good platform for cooperation, because many of these projects that we get funding from the Nordic Centre require that at least two or three Nordic countries be involved. So, we need to find cooperation from other Nordic countries.

C: So, you have had those kinds of projects before.

W: Yes, we have had those. We're also supported by the NIAS (Nordic Institute for Asian Studies). It has played a major role, but again, the difference is that NIAS is not interested in business. They are doing their political science.

C: Is CBS a member of the NIAS?

W: Yes, we are, but now it's more integrated into the University of Copenhagen. I think they are actually employed by the University of Copenhagen.

C: So, they are partially independent and partially attached to the University of Copenhagen.

W: Well, the researchers get their salary from the University of Copenhagen. So, they are a part of the university.

C: Then I would like to ask you a very important question. Have you made any observations concerning the relationship between the Danish and Chinese governments? Any kinds of changes from the time you first visited China?

W: I think Denmark has always had a very good relationship with China. First of all, we recognised the PRC in 1950 at the same time with Finland, Norway and Sweden. So, we were the few countries that recognised the new government; the rest of Europe still maintained ties with the ROC. China sent an ambassador here; the first one was Geng Biao (耿飚)². He was also a very famous politician. The Danish queen has also visited China twice last time just last year and previously sometimes in the 1970's.³ Hu Jintao (胡錦濤) also visited Denmark. So, we have had quite a strong political relationship.

C: Does that reflect that you are very practically oriented?

W: Well, that concerns the two governments. It doesn't have much to do with what we are doing. Of course, we do have a lot of contacts like counselling at the embassy, one must maintain contact with the Chinese embassy. I have had a lot of these connections, but I do think that these good relations are basically between the two governments.

C: And you don't have serious debate about human rights like in Norway.

W: Norway is a special case because of Liu Xiaobo's (劉曉波) Nobel Peace Prize. We don't have such debate here in Denmark, and they actually do not have it in Norway, either, but the Chinese don't want to be in contact with them due to Liu Xiaobo's Nobel. Somehow the Chinese government pretends that it is the Norwegian government who is doing this. It's not really the Norwegian government. Actually, we have had some small issues in our relationship with China

²Geng Biao was actually ambassador to Sweden and minister to Denmark and Finland. He was a major first generation cadre, politician, diplomat and military leader.

³The royal spouse of Queen Margrethe II, Prince Henrik of Denmark, speaks fluent Chinese and Vietnamese, as he has studied those two languages in École Nationale des Langues Orientales and also studied in Hong Kong and Saigon.

lately. I think Dalai Lama visited Denmark recently, meeting our prime minister in the process and the Chinese protested. But that's a minor issue.

C: How about the general media in Denmark. I want to ask this, because in general, the Western media tends to portray China in a rather critical light.

W: I think it's quite objective. Maybe, when we go back to the 1970's and before, it was very biased against China, but nowadays, as a lot of things have changed in China, and the Chinese journalists in Denmark and the Danish journalists in China have been inviting people to visit them, so I don't think it's very biased. There's actually a study one can find on how the Danish media portrays China saying that it's not that bad. It depends, and I don't know what the Chinese would say. We have never asked them.

C: Now, this is a bit difficult question because every time I have asked this the interviewee had to think before answering. What is your self-perceived contribution to this field of study?

W: Well, we do publish a lot. From 1995, we have been publishing on China, because there's a much greater pressure at the Copenhagen Business School to publish when compared to the likes of the University of Copenhagen. One must publish to be promoted. The younger generation is having an even tougher time in having to publish in certain journals. So, we have been publishing in the US and, of course, sometimes in China, but that doesn't count. We are running according to a list of journals where we have to publish. We have been doing this for quite some time, and I would say that we have made a contribution to our field of study, for example, the study of the contextualisation of the cultural phenomena like 關係. That study has been cited for hundreds of times. So, it has made an impact.

C: The next problem is somewhat related to the previous one. I would like to ask about your self-perceived problems of previous research, if you have any, and the future challenges thereof.

W: Well, I'm sixty-two, so I could retire.

C: Of course, the challenges are different now when compared to the past.

W: Yes, of course, in the past I wanted to be promoted and wanted to publish etc. In comparison, now I just want to do my work and publish with some young scholars. So, nowadays, I'm more relaxed. You know, as long as one teaches 50% of the time and does research the other 50%, one will not be fired, if one is at least an associate professor, of course. Most people continue until they are seventy and some even take part-time jobs thereafter.

C: I forgot to ask you this, but do you consider yourself a scholar of area studies or of business studies?

W: It's a mixture of course, but nowadays, I'm probably more a business scholar. However, I focus on China most of the time. Most of these articles we publish are related to China or to Asia in one way or another.

C: So, when you are selecting a journal where to publish a new paper of yours, where do you submit it? Area studies or business and management?

W: Business journals. I mean, the journals of area studies do not count much, whereas the business journals give much higher points. For example, if one publishes one's paper in a business journal, one will get four points! Even though area study journals like China Quarterly are very difficult for

one to get one's paper to be published in, we do not get a lot of points from publishing in them, because, even though we are the Asia Research Centre, we are still part of the International Business Department. So, in that sense, they [the International Business Department] decide, what counts.

C: So, it's according to the business discipline.

W: Of course, if one then takes high-profile journals of business studies, Academy of Management Tribune, for example, they will have a lot about China. So, one could easily use China data or write a conceptual paper about China. Then, of course, we have our own journal in this organisation, International Association for Chinese Management Research, in whose establishment I was involved in 2004, called the MOR, or Management and Organization Review. This journal started in 2004, and now we get three points for publishing in it. The publisher is one of the big ones. So, MOR is a journal we focus a lot on. It contains debates about indigenous management, the contribution of Chinese philosophy to management, Western Hegelian and Marxist concepts and so on. All these debates take place in this journal.

C: So, that's also your contribution.

W: Well, I was involved during the first two years. The journal was the reason why I went to Hangzhou last week, because they have meeting in Asia biannually; normally somewhere in Mainland China, but it has also been arranged in Hong Kong. The first meeting in 2004 was in Beijing. We have also had a meeting in Shanghai and Guangzhou. In Beijing, we have had a meeting twice. As it is arranged every second year, we have already had six meetings.

C: Your work concerns China and business. Is there any other place in Denmark where they study China and business, or is it concentrated here? Do they do other kinds of China-related research elsewhere in Denmark?

W: For many years, I would be in charge of management side here at the Asia Research Centre and Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard would be in charge of politics and so on. It has changed now, because now there's a focus on economics. However, for many years, if a journalist were to call and he/she had anything to ask about politics, I would refer to Kjeld Erik, and if it was something about entrepreneurship or management, I would answer the questions.

C: How about outside the CBS, places like the Copenhagen University?

W: Officially, they don't do business studies, but on the other hand, the professor there who went to China with me in the 1970's, Jørgen Delman, has been doing a lot of research on business. However, they mainly do area studies and political science.

C: And outside Copenhagen?

W: Aarhus?

C: Yes, Aarhus. They also have a Confucius Institute, don't they?

W: No, they have one in Aalborg.

C: Oh, I got confused. Do they specialise more on classical or humanities kind of studies in Aarhus?

W: No, I think the Copenhagen University used to focus on those. They have been more focused on contemporary studies in Aarhus. When I was studying, the focus was mainly on classical studies.

My companions to China and I were amongst the few who wanted to study Modern Chinese, but the professor hated that and he was only teaching Classical Chinese.

C: Very challenging. But I think it has become smaller and I think the students are more interested in contemporary studies.

W: At that time we had NIAS of course as an independent organ and then we had an East Asian Institute, which is now closed, however. However, concerning the future, that's a very broad question. I think that the comprehensiveness of language teaching, not only Chinese, but also other languages, at universities is declining. That's a bit strange, because at high schools, one needs teachers who can teach French, Spanish, German, Chinese, Japanese, and so on. One can study languages and we will survive, but in the future, I think, people who want to learn Chinese will have to go to China. I mean, again, it's a new world where China is much more developed and much more capable of teaching both in English and in Chinese. When I went there for the first time, no one was teaching in English in China. Today, we only send our students to universities where they have courses in English.

C: Can high school students learn Chinese in Denmark?

W: It's optional like French, Spanish and German.

C: But is this possible in all high schools?

W: If they have enough students and a teacher, yes. It has the same position in the curriculum as the likes of Spanish and French.

C: How about lower education levels like primary schools?

W: One can do it if one wants, but it requires that there be enough students. Some primary schools do teach Chinese. This is what I was working on when I was director of the Confucius Institute. We got this language component where Chinese was on the same level as the likes of French or Spanish. It was what we call the B language. One has to learn Danish and English in Denmark and then one can choose one of these B languages like German, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, and so on. But it depends on if the students are up to it and if they have a teacher. Many schools don't have one.

C: I would like to compare different China studies' communities, I don't know if you agree with the following. In Finland, and I also think in some other European countries, the students are more interested to learn Japanese than Chinese, but here it's really different, because at the CBS, the motives are really about career prospects.

W: Yes, to get a job. I mean, first of all, one can still study Japanese at the University of Copenhagen. I think what makes the students to be interested in studying Japanese is the cartoons and stuff like this. By studying Chinese in combination with economics, one can get a job. For example, my own daughter is working at a Danish company called Novo Nordisk producing instruments for people with diabetes. They have a factory at the Tanggu district (塘沽區) in Tianjin (天津).

W: Where from China are you, by the way?

C: You have to guess. No one can answer this with ease.

W: Hangzhou?

C: No. Actually, I'm from Taiwan.

W: Oh, I think you told me, actually. But you have been travelling in China?

C: Yes. And I'm the director of a Confucius Institute!

W: Taiwan is nice. We like Taiwan. I've been there three times for conferences.

C: Do you have cooperation here in CBS with the Taiwan representative office.

W: Not actually, but I do have some cooperation with them, because they are actually providing scholarships, but that's through another organisation. However, the reason for going to Taiwan has been attending conferences. For example, they had a conference on Taoism where I presented a paper. They've also had business conferences.

C: What does the company where your daughter works actually do?

W: They produce instruments for treating diabetes. As the Chinese get older and fatter, they'll get diabetes. My daughter is a pharmacist. She studied organic chemistry and her husband actually has the same education. Because she speaks Chinese, she was sent to China for three months to be more familiar with what's going on there. I mean, there's an office in Beijing and a factory in Tanggu. I was actually involved in setting up the first Danish company in Tanggu.

C: Does it still exist?

W: I don't know. I think it has been sold to the Chinese partners. It was a collaboration with the Chinese bicycle company called Flying Pigeon (天津飛鴿自行車), which was very famous in China in the 1960's and 70's. It was a 50-50 deal with a Danish bicycle firm made in 1984.

C: This is the last and a very minor question. Do you have a Danish or English textbook for Chinese?

W: English, because a lot of our students don't speak Danish as they are foreigners and we don't require a command of Danish from our foreign students.

C: Okay. However, I assume you have a Dano-Chinese textbook in the Confucius Institute.

W: Yes, Hanban made some books in Danish. I don't know if these books are used here. However, the Confucius Institute offers a lot of courses for those who want to take shorter courses. I mean, if one wants to take a BA degree here at the Asia Research Centre, one has to spend four years doing it and a lot of the Danes want to learn some, but not much Chinese and do not wish to spend four years doing it. I actually saw some of their advertisements for their summer courses today.