



Similarities and Differences of Chinese Missionary Dictionaries

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ABSTRACT This study reviewed and compared the two-volume Chinese-Russian dictionary of a member of the Beijing Spiritual Mission, Archimandrite Palladius (Kafarov) and the Chinese-English dictionary of the representative of the British Protestant Mission, Frederick William Baller. These dictionaries are examples of the work of representatives of Christian missions (that is, Orthodox and Protestant) who served in China and studied Chinese. However, the relevance of the study is revealed by the fact that dictionaries, which have been published by different spiritual missions in approximately one period but not considered together, were taken for comparison. Therefore, the study was conducted to identify the main features of the similarities and differences based on the missionaries approaches to compile dictionaries and learning Chinese. Results showed that missionary dictionaries compiled at the end of the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th century have both similar and different features, which indicates the difference in the scientific approaches of the missionaries who represented different Christian missions that existed in China during a given time period. Although both dictionaries had differences, they are used as the basis for further study of the Chinese language in different countries, which underlines their scientific significance for world sinology. Finally, it could be stated that the results obtained from review and comparison are of scientific importance for addressing the experience of compiling the Chinese dictionaries in Russia and abroad.