

Love: An Etymology



love: n. 爱, 恋爱, 爱情 v. 爱, 热爱, 喜欢
ài: 1. to love 2. affection 3. to be fond of 4. to like

i. 受 *shòu*

shòu
radicals
left hand right hand
two hands together
to receive.

ii. 心 *xīn*

xīn
three points
one sweeping hook
an independent radical
heart.

iii. 心 *xīn* inside 受 *shòu*

愛 *ài*

pre-1948
pre-Chairman Mao
pre-Great Leap Forward
pre-Cultural Revolution.

to receive a heart.

iv. 爱 *ài*

post-1948
simplified writing system
the heart taken from love
replaced with one line

Caleb Powell

the party line 爱.