

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 以訛傳訛

**yi3 e2 chuan2 e2**

Everyone is talking about the “female gambling guru” who has been winning millions of dollars every day from casinos in Macau and has pocketed over HK\$100 million in the span of a few weeks.

Reports about this gambler appeared in the Chinese media on successive days, and online chats identifying the woman as a well-known Chinese super poker queen in Canada has since been found to be wrong.

This gambler’s identity remains a mystery, as casino staff were said to have been told to keep their mouths shut.

The management of one casino did acknowledge the existence of an “extraordinarily lucky” female customer who has won so much money as to have made a dent on the financial performance of the establishment.

One former lawmaker who frequents

Macau casinos thought such reports could well be casino promotion. So the whole sensation might be just a case of “以訛傳訛” (**yi3 e2 chuan2 e2**)

“以” (**yi3**) is “to use,” “訛” (**e2**) “erroneous,” “wrong,” “error,” “false,” “傳” (**chuan2**) “to hand down,” “to pass,” “to spread (information or a contagious disease)” and “訛” (**e2**) is, again, “erroneous,” “wrong,” “error,” “false.” Literally, “以訛傳訛” (**yi3 e2 chuan2 e2**) is “use falsehood to pass on falsehood,” “passing on falsehood after falsehood.”

The idiom means to “circulate erroneous report,” “to pass on erroneous version,” “to spread false information,” “to pile errors on top of errors,” “to spread falsehoods,” “to increasingly distort the truth.”

To dismiss a rumor as false, one can say, “It’s just “以訛傳訛” (**yi3 e2 chuan2 e2**)!”

### Terms containing the character “傳” (**chuan2**) include:

傳染 (**chuan2 ran3**) – to infect; to be contagious

傳染病 (**chuan2 ran3 bing4**) – an infectious disease

傳播 (**chuan2 bo1**) – to disseminate; to spread

傳統 (**chuan2 tong3**) - traditions