

A geolinguistic research of west coastal Taiwanese using “Glottogram”

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In this paper we investigate Taiwanese (Taiwanese Southern Min) in the west coast of Taiwan from Chu-nan of Miaoli County to Tsu-kuan of Kaohsiung County using “glottogram”. This part of coastline extends 29 townships and is over 250 kilometers in length. According to the linguistic map in Ogawa (1907), the ancestral origins of the ethnic Chinese in the west coastal region are mainly Quanzhou prefecture along the coast, but Zhangzhou prefecture further inland. Glottogram is a geo-linguistic tool developed in Japan to reveal the age-area distribution and synchronic sound change in progress within a certain area. Now we apply this method to analyze and discuss the sound change happened in coastal Quanzhou-type Taiwanese. Incorporating findings from immigration history literature, we can see whether these phonological and lexical differences are linguistic change per se or original unchanged features.