Pazeh-Kaxabu Affinity Revisited: from a corpus-based approach

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This paper revisits the Pazeh-Kaxabu affinity from a corpus-based approach. Pazeh and Kaxabu, spoken in Central Taiwan, are geographically separated from each other, and always recognized as different dialects, which show certain phonetic variants and lexical differences (Ferrell 1970, Blust 1999, Li and Tsuchida 2001, and Lim, Wang and Huang 2007, Lim 2016), such as *r*-deletion and nasalization of liquid *–l* in word-final position, as illustrated in the two sets: *ʔimaʔ* 'hand' in Kaxabu and *rimaʔ* 'hand' in Pazeh for *r*-deletion, and *bun* 'bone' in Kaxabu and *bul* 'bone' in Pazeh for final nasalization.

The phonetic variants between Pazeh and Kaxabu are not so far investigated from a corpus approach with a larger pool of examples. Thus, I establish a corpus based on Li and Tsuchida (2001) for Pazeh data and Pan (2015) for Kaxabu data. The corpus includes 1418 sets, which are divided into two categories: fully identical items (786 sets) and phonetic variants (632 sets). In this paper, I specifically analyze the 632 sets of phonetic variants and. Divide them into at least eight different types of phonetic correspondences. Final *-l* in Pazeh corresponds to nasal *-n* in Kaxabu, and Pazeh *r* corresponds differently to Kaxabu glottal stop *ʔ* or liquid *l*. There is a frication process of *d* in Kaxabu, *d* > z. Pazeh alveolar fricative *s* in word final position corresponds to Kaxabu alveolar stop *t* or affricate *ts*. With regard to vowels, the correspondences suggest only four vowels. Mid vowels *e* and *o* are phonologically affected by adjacent consonant *h* or *r*. In addition to the eight correspondences that have been discussed in the literature, in this paper, there are two new findings. Long vowels are not phonemic, and schwa is raised when it is adjacent to grave consonants.