

現代語言學論叢

臺灣福建話形容詞的研究

鄭謝淑娟著

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# 臺灣福建話形容詞的研究

## A STUDY OF TAIWANESE ADJECTIVES

鄭謝淑娟著

BY

SUSIE S. CHENG

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(全一冊)

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### 著者簡介

鄭謝淑娟，台灣省高雄市人。國立台灣師範大學英語系文學士，美國印地安那大學圖書館學碩士，美國夏威夷大學東亞語言學碩士。曾任中學教員，並於美國東西文化中心圖書館、美國約克大學圖書館等處服務。現任職於美國夏威夷大學亞洲圖書館。

## 「現代語言學論叢」緣起

語言與文字是人類歷史上最偉大的發明。有了語言，人類纔能超越一切禽獸成爲萬物之靈；有了文字，祖先的文化遺產纔能綿延不絕，相傳到現在。尤有進者，人的思維或推理都以語言爲媒介；因此，如能揭開語言之謎，對於人類之探求至少就可以獲得一半的解答。

中國對於語文的研究有一段悠久而輝煌的歷史，成爲漢學中最受人重視的一環。爲了繼承這光榮的傳統並且繼續予以發揚光大起見，我們準備刊行「現代語言學論叢」。在這個論叢裡，我們有系統地介紹並討論現代語言學的理論與方法，同時運用這些理論與方法，從事國語語音、語法、語意各方面的分析與研究。論叢將分爲兩大類：甲類用國文撰寫，乙類用英文撰寫。我們希望將來還能開闢第三類，以容納國內研究所學生的論文。

在人文科學普遍遭受歧視的今天，「現代語言學論叢」的出版，可以說是一個相當勇敢的嘗試。我們除了感謝臺灣學生書局提供這難得的機會以外，還虔誠地呼籲國內外從事漢語語言學研究的學者不斷給予支持與鼓勵。

湯 廷 池

民國六十五年九月二十九日於臺北

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

A	Adjective	*	ungrammatical sentence
Adj	Adjective	≠	unequal
Adv	Adverb	( )	optional selection
AP	Adjectival phrase	{ }	alternative choice
D	Specifier		
DD	Degree of difference		
Deg	Degree		
Det	Determinative phrase		
Loc	Locative		
M	Measure		
Md	Mandarin		
N	Noun		
Neg	Negative		
NP	Noun phrase		
Num	Numeral		
P	Preposition or coverb		
PP	Prepositional phrase		
Redup	Reduplication		
S	Subject		
SD	Structural description		
V	Verb		
Vaux	Auxiliary verb		
VP	Verb phrase		
Tw	Taiwanese		

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. General Purpose

The purpose of this thesis is twofold: 1) To identify and present the commonly used adjectives in Taiwanese and to categorize them in terms of the types of their formation, and 2) to identify and present the major constructions in which a Taiwanese adjective can occur and to describe the structures and meanings of such constructions.

#### 1.2. The Variety of the Language under Investigation

By Taiwanese we mean the South Min variety of Chinese that is the native language of about 80% of the population in Taiwan. The South Min group of Chinese includes Amoy, Choân-chiu (Quánzhōu), Chiang-chiu (Zhāngzhōu), and many other dialects in the Hokkien province, Tiô-chiu (Cháozhōu), Swatow (Shàntóu), Hái-lâm (Háinán), Liông-to\* (Lúngdū), Sam-hiong (Sānxiāng) in the Kwangtung province, various types of Hokkien in Southeast Asia and Taiwanese. From the historical point of view, Taiwanese has developed as a result of the mixture of Chôan-chiu, Chiang-chiu, and a few other Min dialects. Because of independent language change and because of contact with Malayo-Polynesian languages in Taiwan, Japanese, and Mandarin, Taiwanese in spite of its

own internal variations is distinguishable from any other variety of South Min.

Speakers of the two major dialect sources for Taiwanese started to immigrate to Taiwan more than 400 years ago, but a larger influx of immigrants took place around the time of Koxinga (1661-1683). Influence from Amoy occurred not through any large quantity of Amoy immigrants in Taiwan but was due to the fact that Amoy was the prestige language of South Min. Dictionaries and broadcasting in earlier periods tended to be based on Amoy usage.

The idea that Amoy is the prestige language or standard for the Min variety of Chinese in Taiwan has faded gradually during the Japanese period (1895-1944) and Nationalist period (1945-present). During both periods contacts between speakers on Taiwan and those in the Hokkien area were either discouraged or officially banned except for one short period of three or four years at the beginning period of the Nationalist rule.

That Amoy is no longer viewed as prestigious among the Taiwanese speakers is reflected in the popular use of the term "Taiwanese" to refer to their native language.

There are a couple of linguistic treatments (Yen, 1966; Peng, 1965; Teng, 1978) that have used Taiwanese data but labeled the language as Amoy or South Min. We refrain from such a practice for the following reasons.

•

1) We do not intend to assert or assume that Taiwanese should be the standard or the prestige language for all of the South Min group.

2) The linguistic description presented in this thesis is based on Taiwanese data. We would like to claim that they are applicable to most varieties of Taiwanese. But we would hesitate to claim that they are applicable to Amoy or most other varieties of South Min because we have not investigated sufficient data to make such a claim.

3) The speakers themselves refer to their own language as Taiwanese.

### 1.3. Previous Work on Taiwanese Adjectives

There have been quite a few linguistic works that use data from Taiwanese speakers. Most of these works, however, are on its phonology. There are a few studies of Taiwanese syntax (Li, 1971; Chen, 1972; Cheng, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1979; Lin, 1974, 1975; Li, 1979) but none of them specifically treats Taiwanese adjectives except Robert Cheng's lecture notes entitled "Adjective and Degree Expressions" (19 pp.). Cheng's lecture notes present a framework for the classification of Taiwanese adjectives and an outline of degree expressions which modify adjectives. We find the framework in Cheng's lecture notes quite useful and have adopted parts of it in the second (Types of Adjectives) and third (Degree Expressions and the Adjective) chapters of this thesis.

Even though intensive and extensive studies of Taiwanese adjectives cannot be found, several studies on Mandarin need to be mentioned in connection with the present study.

Despite the fact that Mandarin in general uses different function words to mark syntactic constructions which an adjective can take, the syntactic and semantic features of these constructions are basically similar with a few significant exceptions. I find Chao's (1968) and Zhu's (1956) works very useful. It should be noted while these works are quite sufficient and thorough in the treatment of morphological features and of shorter constructions in which adjectives occur (such as *hěn* \_\_, *hěn bù* \_\_), both works are far from sufficient in the description of the larger constructions in which an adjective can function (e.g. the predicate or complement constructions in which an adjectival phrase can occur.)

#### 1.4. Method of Investigation and Presentation

The present work does not claim any direct contribution to general linguistic theory from evaluating some competing theories in terms of their relative applicability to Taiwanese. Nor does it attempt to apply any newly developed theory to the investigation and description of Taiwanese adjectives. It aims at a presentation of insights and findings about the grammar of Taiwanese adjectives in ways that are most convenient to the writer, and in a fashion



that the writer judges to be most understandable to students, teachers, administrators, and linguists who are interested in the subject treated here.

Concerning the collection of lexical items and the selection of example sentences the following should be noted.

The lexical items presented in the four lists in the appendix are selected mainly from Ong's dictionary (1957). Embree's A Dictionary of Southern Min (1973) is used as a supplementary source. Included also are some items familiar to the writer but which are listed in neither of the above-mentioned sources. Excluded are those adjectives which are, to the writer's knowledge, not common or obsolete in the present-day usage, and some newly-formed adjectives which may be popular among the younger generation in Taiwan but are not familiar to the writer.

For lack of sufficient written sources in Taiwanese I made up most of the example sentences and phrases myself. Other native speakers were always consulted in case of doubtful constructions.

Each lexical item in the appendix is presented in romanization with or without Chinese characters, while each example sentence or phrase in the main text is presented in romanization, Chinese characters if there is any, and English translation. The romanization system used here is the system most commonly used in language schools and