An overview of Saisiyat morphology

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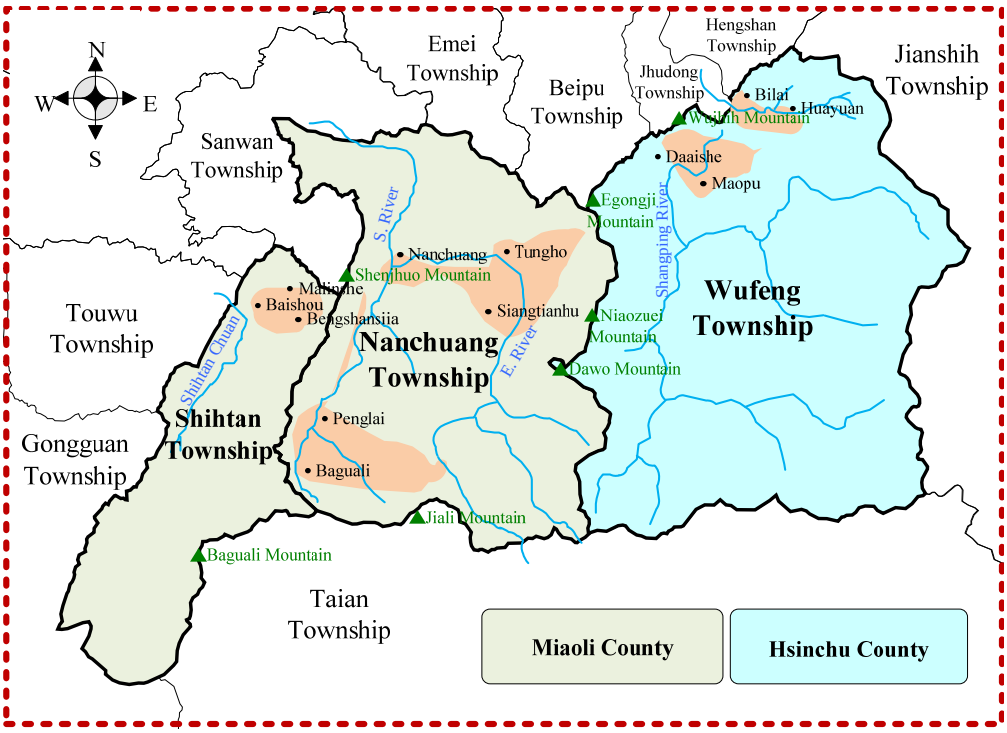
ABSTRACT

Among the fourteen Formosan languages, Saisiyat forms a small communalect, both in terms of population (estimated at 6,200 as of the end of 2012 -- http://www.apec.gov.tw) and diffusion of the language.

Saisiyat is divided into two major dialects, Taai (**shaykilapa:** [**ʃajkilapa:**] in Saisiyat), known as the Northern dialect, spoken in Wufeng Township, Hsinchu County and Tungho (**shaymahahebon** [**ʃajmahahəβon**] in Saisiyat), referred to as the Southern dialect, spoken in Nanchuang and Shihtan Townships, Miaoli County (see Map 1). The major difference between these two dialects is said to lie in their phonologies: the voiced flap /**ɾ**/ is preserved in Taai but has been lost in Tungho (Li 1978).

The Tungho dialect is spoken by three communities (**'aehae' baala'** [**ʔæhæʔ βaalaʔ**]) which are delimited by three different rivers (see Map 2), viz. Tungho **shaywalo'** [**ʃajwaloʔ**], Penglai **shayrai'in** [**ʃajraiʔin**] and Shihtan **shayshawi'** [**ʃajʃawiʔ**], dispersed in a number of villages (**'aehae 'asang** [**ʔæhæʔ ʔasaŋ**]).

Map 1: Distribution of the Saisiyat dialects



The present talk, based on a monograph of about 600 pages on the same topic, will provide an overview of Tungho Saisiyat verbal morphology, by focusing on nominal and verbal morphology.

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