

A Study of Food Lexicon and Culture in Pazeh Taiwan

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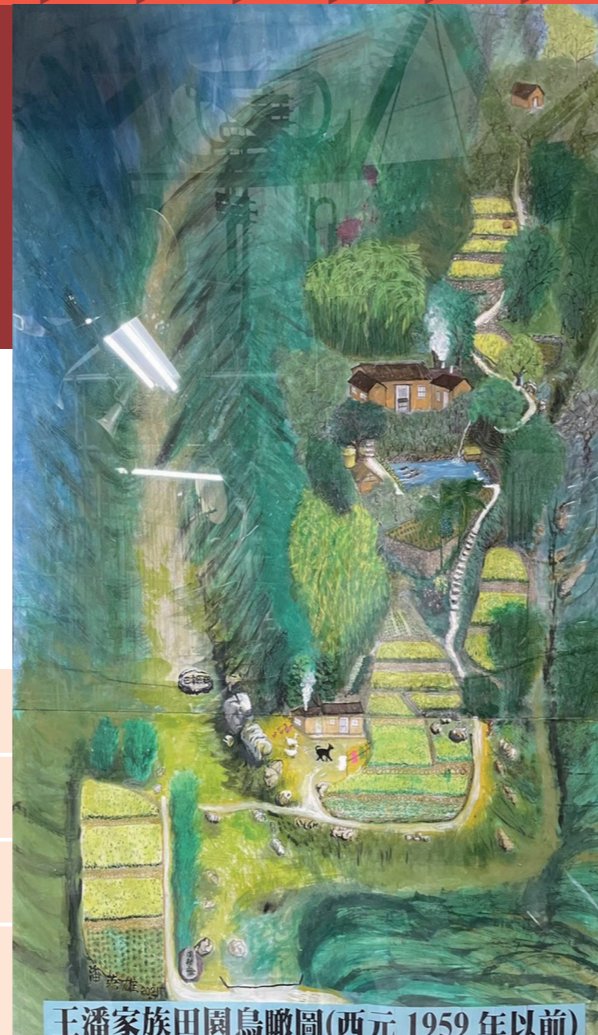
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1 Question

How does Pazeh classification and grouping of food related vocabulary reflect their distinct culture?

Information about Pazeh

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Status | Unofficially recognized | |
| Location | Ailan Village (愛蘭), Puli Township, Nantou County, Taiwan | |
| Language use | Pazeh (critically endangered, few speakers) Taiwanese Southern Min (daily lives) | |
| Previous studies | Phonology, morphology, and syntax (Ferrell 1968, Blust 1999, Lin 2000, Li & Tsuchida 2001) | Collection of vocabulary and texts (Tsuchida 1969, Li & Tsuchida 2001, 2002) |



王潘家族田園鳥瞰圖(西元 1959 年以前)

Results

Finding 1: Pazeh's distinct words for different varieties of the same food type

Different words used to describe the different types of rice

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Pazeh | <i>piaxun</i> | <i>mulasi</i> | <i>pazay</i> |
| English | foxtail millet | wheat rice | sticky rice |
| Chinese | 小米 | 稻米 | 糯米 |
| 生物分類 | 禾本科 狗尾草屬 小米種 | 禾本科 稻屬 | 禾本科 稻屬 稻種 |

Modifiers are added to signalize the different varieties of rice

Conclusion of Finding 1: Pazeh has specific vocabulary for different food types instead of using modifiers.

Finding 2: Unique words for different parts of a plant

| | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Pazeh | <i>dukul</i> | <i>talu</i> | <i>dadas</i> | <i>xaxawas</i> |
| English | taro | taro stem | sweet potato | sweet potato leaf |
| Chinese | 芋頭 | 芋頭梗 | 蕃薯 | 蕃薯葉 |

Conclusion of Finding 2: Pazeh has specific vocabulary for each part of a plant which are individually considered as important as well.

Finding 3: Three way distinction of rice based on the state of the rice

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pazeh | <i>mulasi</i> | <i>lasu</i> | <i>sumay</i> |
| English | | rice | |
| Chinese | | 米 | 飯 |
| TSM | tshik | bi | png |
| Gloss | unhusked rice | husked rice | cooked rice |

Conclusion of Finding 3: Pazeh vocabulary highlights the importance of rice in Pazeh food culture, hence the specific vocabulary and classification.

Finding 4: Homographic words



Conclusion of Finding 4: The homographic words in Pazeh reflect the meaning of the two words being associated or similar.

2 Significance

- Increased understanding leads contribution towards language and culture revitalization
- Implication of Pazeh food related cultural values and tradition
- Highlights specificity of Pazeh food related vocabulary in comparison to other languages which reflects the importance of food in Pazeh culture



3 Motivation

Why study Pazeh?

- Attention to oppressed minorities
- Pazeh is a moribund language
- Aids Pazeh revitalization

Why study Pazeh food related vocabulary?

- Never been analyzed
- Essential and relevant in daily life
- Further understanding of food culture and Pazeh tradition



4 Methods

Data resource

- Pazeh: Tsuchida (1969)
- Other Formosan languages: CIP's official online dictionary

Analysis

- Morphological analysis (Payne 1997)
- Semantic analysis (Saeed 2009)

Field work

- Interviewing Pazeh elders
- Observing and experiencing Pazeh food culture

