

Ethnocultural and national identities in the Romanized Taiwanese

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Abstract

This study explores the complex relationship between language ideology, Taiwanese identity, and the adoption of the Romanized Taiwanese (Pêh-ōe-jī) in the Taiwanese language (Tâigí) community amid Mandarin's dominance. It investigates Tâigí users' multifaceted reasons for preferring Pêh-ōe-jī, including affirming ethnic and national identities, enhancing linguistic skills, and revitalizing Tâigí. Through interviews with 27 self-taught Pêh-ōe-jī Tâigí writers, it uncovers their literacy practices aimed at countering Mandarin-centric narratives and Chinese colonization's lasting effects. These efforts highlight a commitment to decolonization and Tâigí's revitalization to reinforce Taiwanese ethnocultural and national identities. The findings reveal the sociolinguistic implications of literacy and orthographic choices, showing Pêh-ōe-jī's role as a linguistic counter to Sinocentric narratives and its demonstration of the intricate links between literacy, identity, and resistance, offering valuable insights into literacy studies.

Keywords:

Language ideology, counter-narrative, Taiwanese language (Tâigí), written Taiwanese language (Tâigí-bûn), literacy practice, Pêh-ōe-jī