

# On the nature of Superimposed Sound Change and the Law of Community Diffusion ——taking the variation of two groups of vowels in Guangshan dialect as an example

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The superimposed sound change in Chinese is a phenomenon widely concerned in the academic circles. Chinese linguists Xu Tongqiang and Wang Hongjun created and developed the concept of *superimposed sound change*, which described by Wang Hongjun as: “A synchronic phonology with different vernacular sounds can be regarded as a whole formed by the superposition of two different dialect phonology. The same part of the two phonologies superimposed into one, while the different parts are layered, showing a kind of 'superposed' relationship, which contains both separation and combination.” And literary and colloquial readings of Chinese characters is the representation of superimposed sound change.

We adopt the perspective of historical sociolinguistics in this paper. In the course of fieldwork, we choose Guangshan dialect as the research object, taking village Beixin as a speech community, using sociolinguistic investigation and research methods under the framework of language contact theory. We analyzes the mechanism of literary reading, the substitution of colloquial reading by literary reading, the demographic factors, contact intensity and social network factors that affect the literary reading and the transmission mechanism of literary reading and colloquial reading.

By taking the proportion of colloquial reading replaced by literary reading as the dependent variable, demographic factors, exposure degree factors and social network factors as the independent variables, and using multiple step-up regression and other statistical methods to test, the results show that the literary reading level of Guangshan dialect is the result of borrowing process in the contact between Mandarin and dialects.

The number of reading forms is significantly affected by age, school location and how many people do they say hello to within the speech community, while the density of contact in the neighborhood is not correlated with the number of reading forms. The acquisition of literary reading is more likely to be the result of individual acquisition from outside rather than the diffusion of speech community.

In this case, the essence of the superimposed sound change is that monolinguals gradually become bilinguals, which reflects the social phenomenon brought by the influence of Mandarin. The study of external (social) factors helps to distinguish the internal change and contact change of language.

**Keywords:** superimposed sound change, language contact, language variation, literary and colloquial readings