



The Pinghua language

Hilário de Sousa

Setting: Sinitic Languages



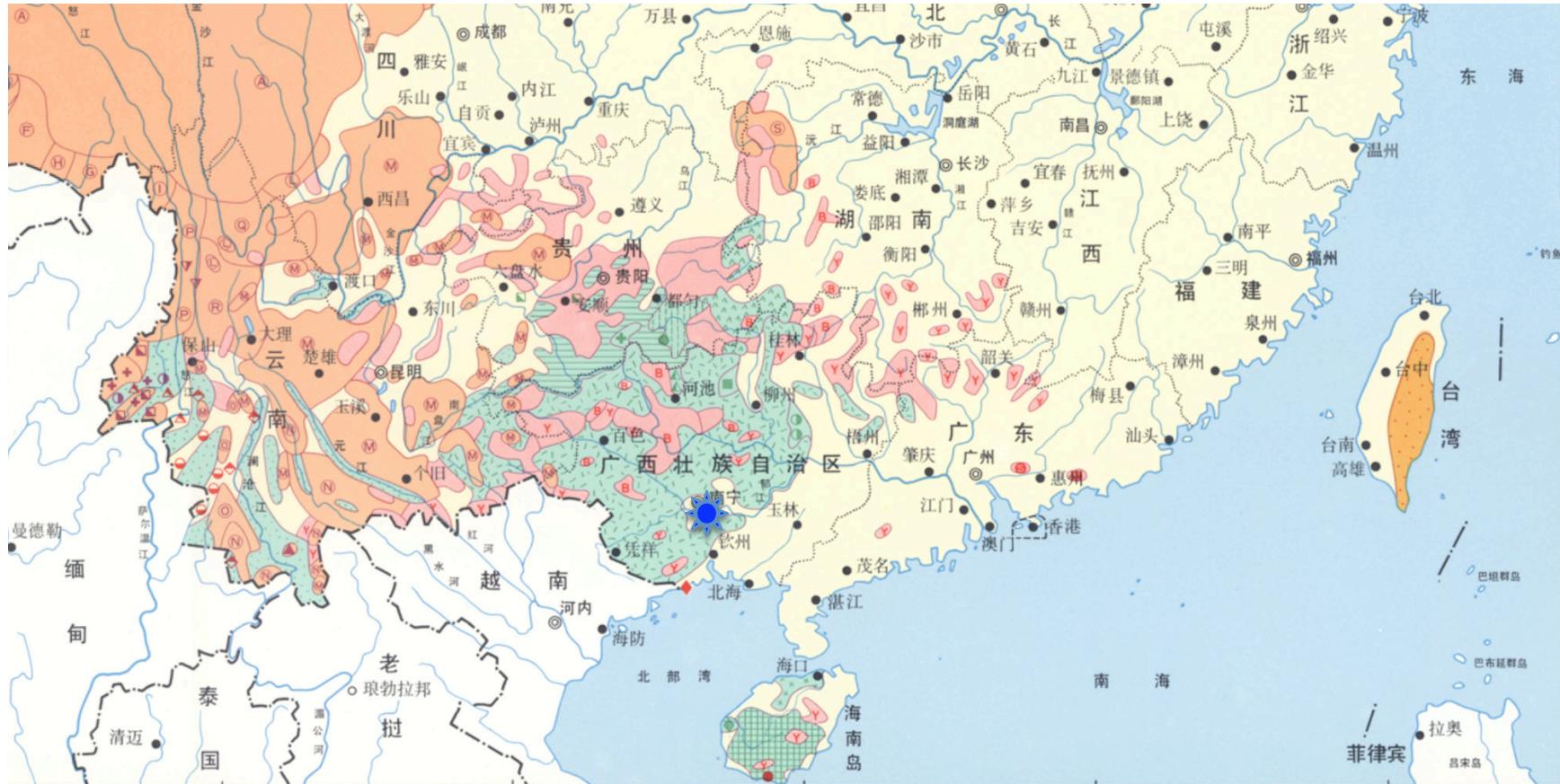
Nanning
南寧

Pinghua
平話

Yue (e.g. Cantonese)
粵語

(Lang atlas of China 1986)

Setting: Non-Sinitic languages

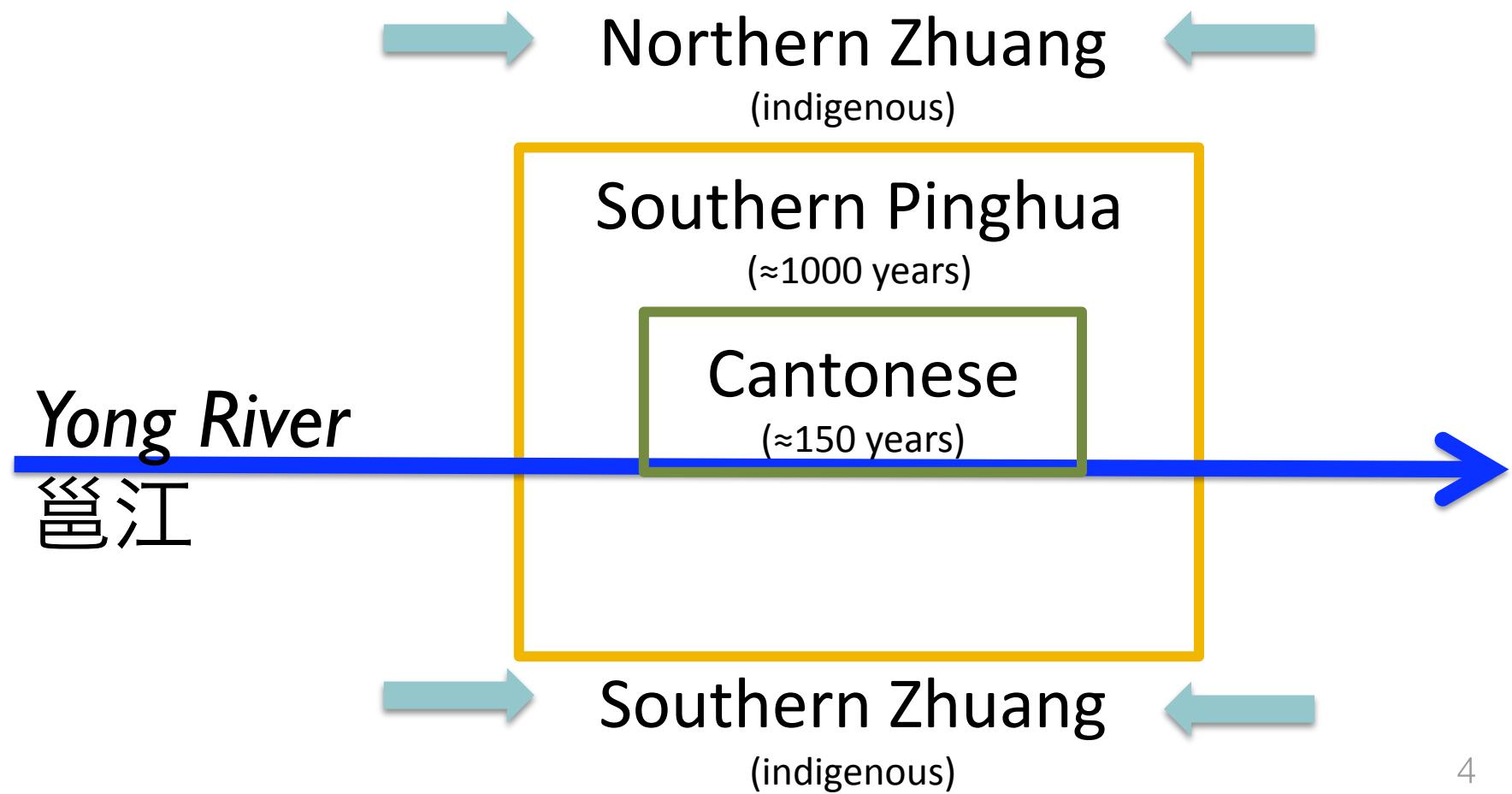


Nanning
南寧

Kra-Dai languages
(e.g. Nth/Sth Zhuang)

**(Kra-Dai: the family
formerly known as Tai-Kadai)*

In 南寧 Nanning, schematically:



Nanning 南寧 — capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

南寧白話 Nanning Cantonese:

- Spoken primarily in the city centre of Nanning;
- First brought in by immigrants from the Pearl River Delta around the Opium Wars (mid 19th century). More Cantonese people came to Nanning from the Pearl River Delta during subsequent wars.

南寧平話 Nanning Pinghua

- Spoken primarily in suburbs and nearby rural areas;
- Associated with military personal from Shandong (including parts of modern day Henan) during the 1053 war by 宋 *Sòng* against the 儂志高 *Nungz Ciqgau* (*Nóng Zhīgāo*) regime.

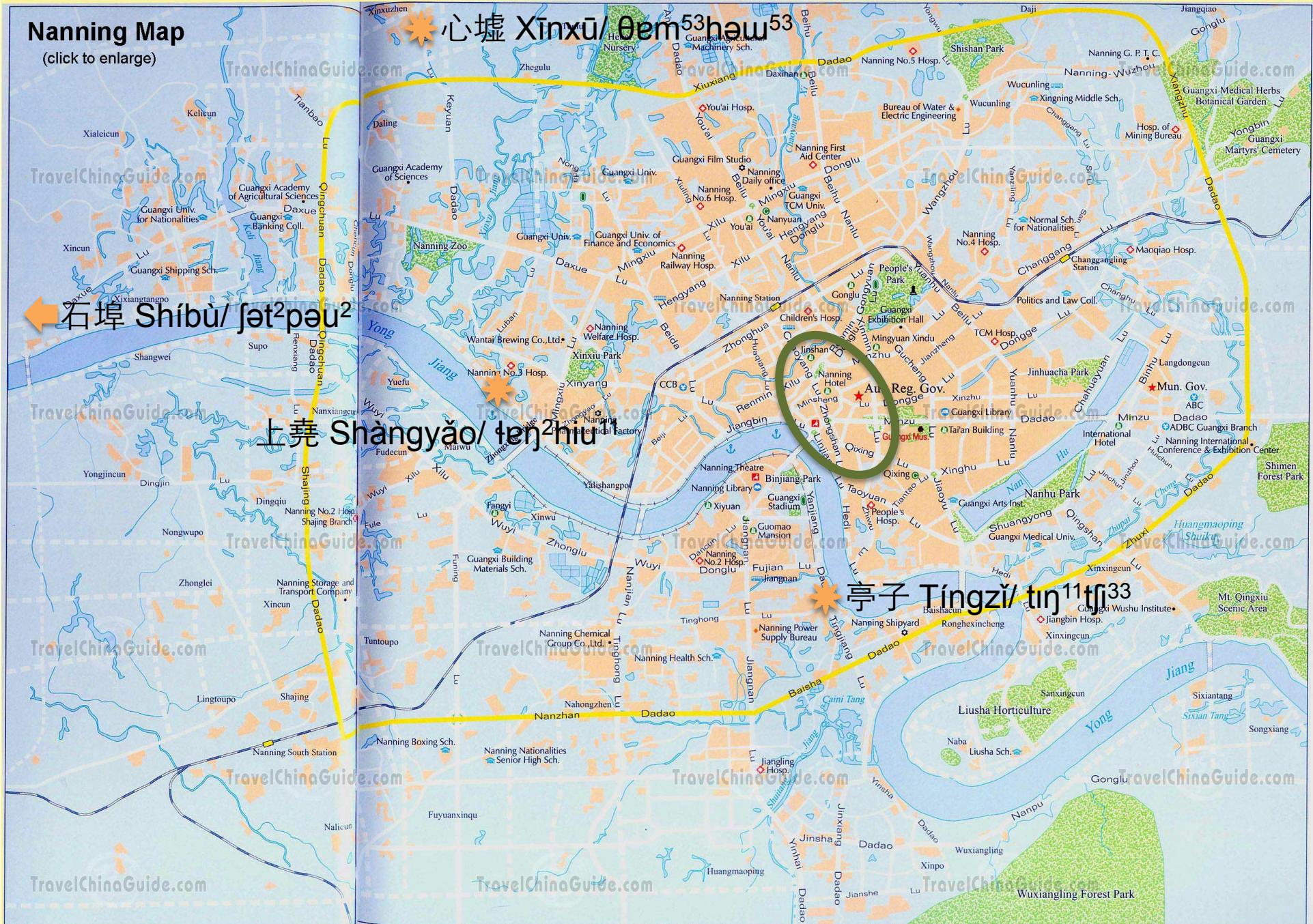
Other languages in the area:

- Indigenous Northern Zhuang and Southern Zhuang (Tai languages) in rural area and towns further away;

邕州官話 Old Nanning Mandarin (SW Mandarin, speakers >70 yo, Ming dynst officials

Nanning Map

(click to enlarge)



Some examples of Cantonese being more like Zhuang than Nanning Pinghua

Gender affixes:

	Mandarin <u>MOD</u> N	Nanning Pinghua <u>MOD</u> N	Northern Zhuang N <u>MOD</u>	Cantonese N <u>MOD</u>
‘cock’	公雞 <u>gōng</u> jī	公雞 <u>kvn̩</u> ⁵³ k̩ei ⁵³	<i>gaiq baeux</i>	雞公 <u>gai1</u> <u>gung1</u>
‘hen’	母雞 <u>mǔ</u> jī	母雞 <u>mu</u> ¹³ <u>k̩ei</u> ⁵³	<i>gaiq meh</i>	雞乸 <u>gai1</u> <u>naa2</u>
‘pre-ovulating hen/ pullet’	?	項雞 <u>han</u> ²² <u>k̩ei</u> ⁵³	<i>gaiq hangh</i>	雞項 <u>gai1</u> <u>hong2</u>

Modifier marker 個kə⁵⁵

Nanning Pinghua:

18. 我 個 衫 爛 喇
ŋa¹³ kə⁵⁵ lam⁵³ lan²² la³³
1SG MOD clothes torn ASP
'My clothes are torn.'

Standard Mandarin:

19. 我 的 衣服
wǒ de yīfu
1SG MOD clothes
'My clothes'

Cantonese:

20. 我 件 衫
ngo5 kin6saam1
1SG CL clothes
'My clothes'

21. 我 本 書
ngo5 bun2 syu1
1SG CL book
'My book'

Northern Zhuang:

22. bonj saw gou
CL book 1SG
'My book'

Demonstratives

Table 1. The demonstratives in Nanning Pinghua

Attributive:	个 <i>kə⁵⁵</i> ‘this/that’ (个 <i>kə⁵⁵</i> and 二 <i>ni²²</i> must be followed by a classifier within the NP)	二 <i>ni²²</i> ‘that’
Adverbial _{SPATIAL} :	个的 <i>kə⁵⁵-tik⁵</i> ‘t/here’ 个〇 <i>kə⁵⁵ ten²²</i> ‘t/here’ 个的〇 <i>kə⁵⁵-tik⁵ ten²²</i> ‘t/here’ 个边 <i>kə⁵⁵ pin⁵³</i> ‘this/that side’ 个岸江 <i>kə⁵⁵ yan¹¹ kəŋ⁵³</i> ‘this/that side of the river’	二的 <i>ni²²-tik⁵</i> ‘there’ 二〇 <i>ni²² ten²²</i> ‘there’ 二的〇 <i>ni²²-tik⁵ ten²²</i> ‘there’ 二边 <i>ni²² pin⁵³</i> ‘that side’ 二岸江 <i>ni²² yan¹¹ kəŋ⁵³</i> ‘that side of the river’
Adverbial _{TEMPORAL} :	个(阵)时 <i>kə⁵⁵(tʃən²²)ti¹¹</i> ‘this/that moment’ 个次 <i>kə⁵⁵ tʃʰi²⁵</i> ‘this/that time’ 个回 <i>kə⁵⁵ wəi¹¹</i> ‘this/that time’	二次 <i>ni²² tʃʰi²⁵</i> ‘that time’ 二回 <i>ni²² wəi¹¹</i> ‘that time’
Adverbial _{DEGREE} :	耿 <i>kəŋ³³</i> ‘this/that X’ (must be followed by an adjective)	
Adverbial _{MANNER} :	耿 <i>kəŋ³³</i> ‘like this/that’	

- (1) 你 为那门 来 个的?
nəi¹³ wəi²²na³³mun¹¹ ləi¹¹ kə⁵⁵-tik⁵?
2SG why come DEM-place
'Why did you come here?'

- (2) 我 么 佢 去 个的 欣。
ŋa¹³ εu⁵³ kəi¹³ həi²⁵ kə⁵⁵-tik⁵ hen⁵³.
1SG call 3SG go DEM-place play
'I told him/her to go and play there.'

(1) 是 从 宁夏 二 边 来
ti²² tʃɔŋ¹¹ nən¹¹ja²² ni²² pin⁵³ lei¹¹
be from Ningxia DEM;DIST side come
或者 从 那的 来 有爱 清楚。
hɔk²tʃɛ³³ tʃɔŋ¹¹ na³³-tik⁵ lei¹¹ mi¹³-ai⁵⁵ tʃʰən⁵³tʃʰɔ³³.
or from where come NEG-quite clear
‘[They] came from Ningxia over there, or wherever they came from, is not quite clear [to me].’

(1) 我 识得 个 天主教 堂,
ŋa¹³ lət³tek³ kə⁵⁵ tʰin⁵³tʃəi³³kau⁵⁵ tan¹¹,
1SG know MOD catholicism hall
民生 路 有 一 间,
mən¹¹ləŋ⁵³ lɔ²² jəu¹³ et³ kan⁵³,
livelihood road exist one CL
七 星 路 二 的 有 一 间。
tʃʰet³ lən⁵³ lɔ²² ni²²-tik⁵ jəu¹³ et³ kan⁵³.
seven star road DEM;DIST-place exist one CL
‘The catholic churches that I know of, there is one [near] Míns héng Lù, there is one [near] Qīxīng Lù over there.’