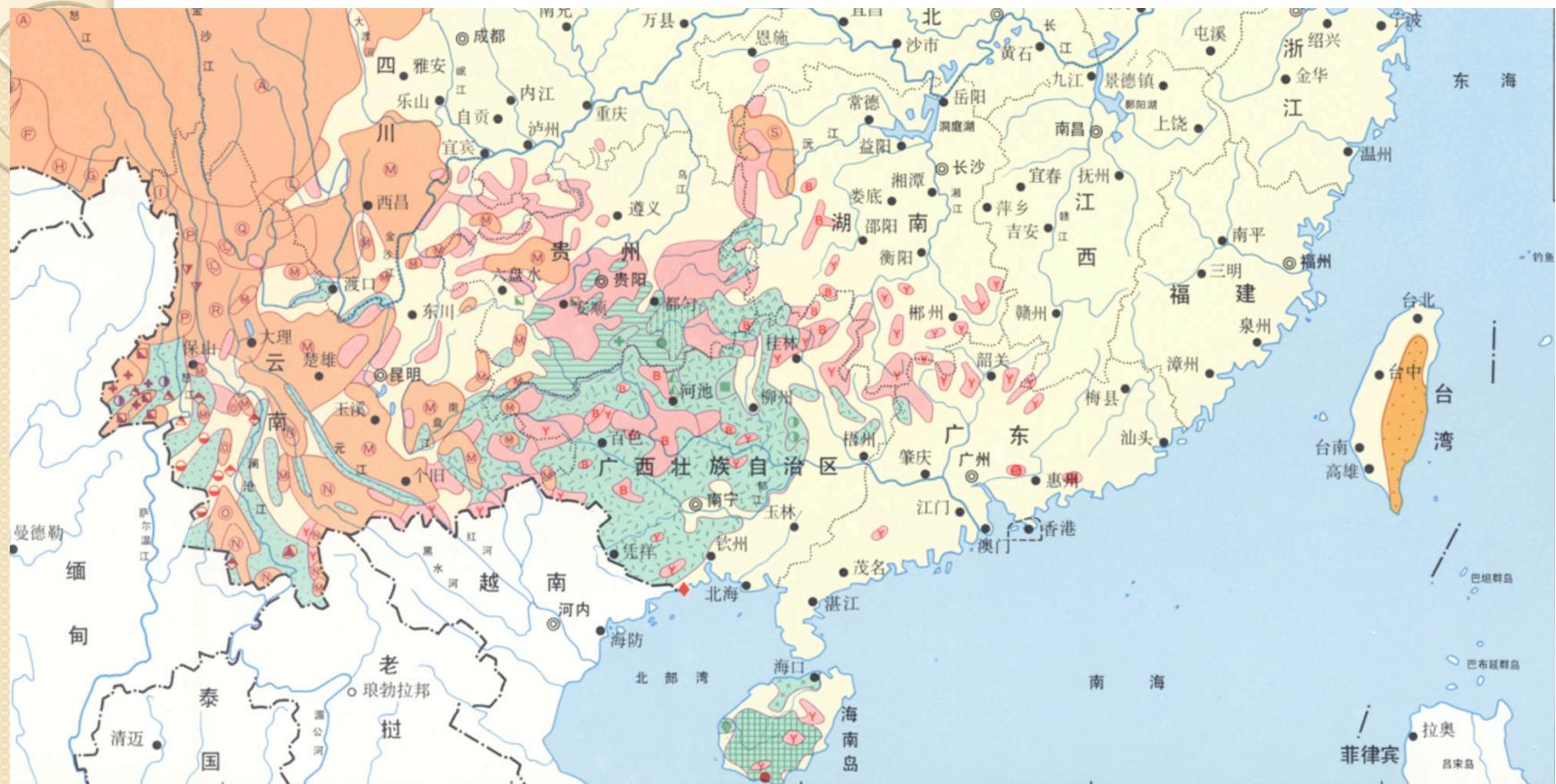




Pinghua
平話

Yue (Cantonese)
粵語

(Lang atlas of China)





S. Pinghua People's Music Culture

- Opera genres:
 - 壮劇 (Northern/Southern) Zhuang opera;
 - 粤劇 Cantonese opera;
 - 桂劇 Guilin opera;
 - 莺劇 Nanning Mandarin opera;
 - 师公戲 ‘Shaman’ opera.
- Love songs: *ka*⁵³



S. Pinghua Love Songs *ka*⁵³

*ka*⁵³ “家” ‘love song’

e.g. *tʃɛŋ²⁵ ka⁵⁵* 唱家 ‘sing love song’

歌 *kɔ*⁵³ ‘song (in general)’

S. Pinghua Love Songs *ka*⁵³

Very popular, but ‘clandestine’ in the past
due to sexual conservatism

(idiom describing their level of conservatism:)

29. 朝不摸頭， 夜不摸？
tʃiu⁵³ pət³ mu⁵³ təu¹¹ ja²² pət³ mu⁵³ lɔt³
day NEG touch head night NEG touch bottom

*ka*⁵³ were not transmitted to one's own children

S. Pinghua Love Songs *ka*⁵³

Nowadays:



[http://www.nnnews.net/News/10/09/01/
NNNEWSQ192939T20100901NCTPUJKW0.html](http://www.nnnews.net/News/10/09/01/NNNEWSQ192939T20100901NCTPUJKW0.html)
(07th/09/2010)

Topic of lyrics widened from love to other topics.

Limited ‘over-the-counter’ commercialisation.



S. Pinghua Love Songs *ka*⁵³

- Usually simple melodies in major pentatonic scale, monophonic, and unaccompanied;
- Quatrains (i.e. 4 lines);
- Monologue or dialogue style (each turn of a ‘dialogue’ is half a verse, or one verse, or multiple verses);
- Melody is somewhat influenced by the tonal sequences of the lyrics, and the poem-lyric has its own tonal requirements.
- Skills of lyric improvisation highly valued;

Poetic structure of *ka*⁵³

30.

八月 正是 中秋節
pat³ wit²³ tʃən⁵⁵ li²² tʃʊŋ⁵³ tʃʰəu⁵³ tsit³
eight month exact be mid autumn festival

‘The eighth month is the time of Mid-Autumn festival,’

‘oblique’ tone

朋乖
pəŋ¹¹kʷai⁵³
'rhyme leg':
inventory of 20

多謝 朋姨 買餅來
tɔ⁵³ tʃɛ²² pəŋ¹¹həi¹¹ mai¹³ pən³³ lai¹¹
many thank friend aunt buy cake come

‘thank you *aunt* for coming here with moon cakes.’

‘oblique’ tone

隊
tɔi²²
invariant filler tɔi²²

舅 是 主人 妹 是 客
kəu¹³ li²² tʃəi³³nən¹¹ məi²² li²² hək³
uncle be host l.sister be guest

‘Uncle is the host and *little sister* is the guest,’

個條 道理 有應該
kə⁵⁵ tiu¹¹ tau²²ləi¹³ mi¹³ ən⁵³ kai⁵³

this CL reason not ought.to
‘this is not the right thing to do.’

(i.e. you should not have brought me gifts)

rhyme; in ‘level’ (53/11) tones

parallelism; (additional tonal metre)

31.



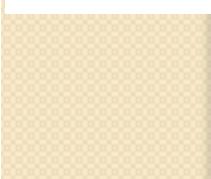
31. 

2:8 pat3 八 wit23 正 tʃən55 是 tʃʊŋ53 中 tʃʰəu53 秋 tʃit3 節 (pen11 (朋 kʷai53 乖)

5 ta53 多 tʃe22 謝 pen11 朋 hei11 媳 a mai13 買 pon33 餅 lai11 來 a n

10 keu13 hi22 舉 是 la tʃoi33 主 nen11 人 moi22 hi22 妹 是 hek3 客 a n

15 (to 聰 - i22) ka55 tiu11 個 條 a n tau22 道 loi13 理 mi13 有 on53 應 kai53 該 a





Conclusions

- Southern Pinghua is in contact with Zhuang, Yue (Cantonese) and SW Mandarin;
- (My hypothesis:) Pinghua represents a mix of early western Yue and Song dynasty (10th – 13th century) Northern Chinese;
- Due to social restrictions, ('Core') Southern Pinghua has largely retained Northern Chinese-like syntactic patterns, and musically largely resisted assimilation in form by Zhuang.