

# Lecture 2: What is/was your Ah-Gong saying?

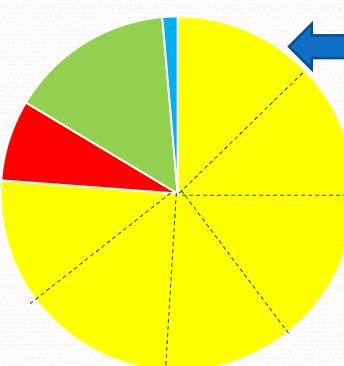


Chinese dialects and  
Chinese dialect groups

1

## CMIO model

Race



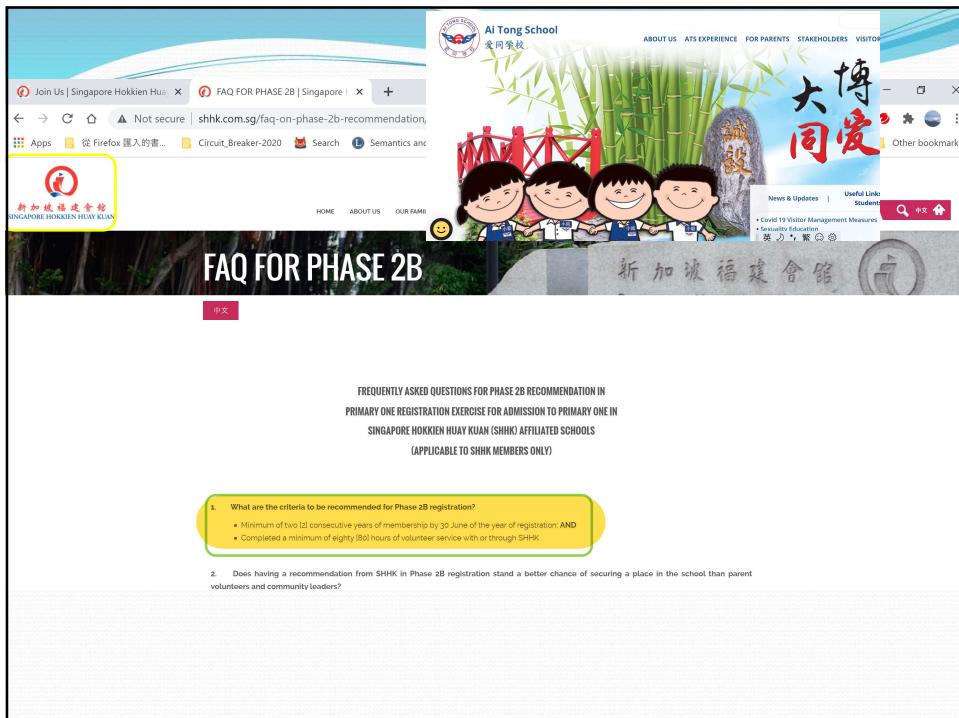
Synchronously and historically, the Chinese race in Singapore is and was not homogeneous.

2

Second Schedule

FORM L REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS ACT (CHAPTER 267)		BIRTH REGISTRATION NO.		
<b>CERTIFICATE OF EXTRACT FROM REGISTER OF BIRTHS</b>				
CHILD'S PARTICULARS	Birth Registered at			
	Full Name Sex _____ Date of Birth _____ Time of Birth _____ Hours _____ Place or Address of Birth			
MOTHER'S PARTICULARS	Name	NRIC/Identification Document No.		
	Race	Dialect Group	Nationality	Country/Place of Birth
FATHER'S PARTICULARS	Date of Birth	Address		
	Name	NRIC/Identification Document No.		
INFORMANT'S PARTICULARS	Race	Dialect Group	Nationality	Country/Place of Birth
	Name	NRIC/Identification Document No.		
Relationship _____ Address _____				
<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE</b>				
Certified to be a true extract from the Register of Births				
..... Date _____ Registrar of Births and Deaths				

3



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan (SHHK) website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Join Us', 'FAQ FOR PHASE 2B | Singapore', 'ABOUT US', 'OUR FAMILIES', 'STAKEHOLDERS', and 'VISITORS'. The main banner features the text 'FAQ FOR PHASE 2B' and 'Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan'. Below the banner, there's a section titled 'FAQ FOR PHASE 2B RECOMMENDATION' with a sub-section for 'PRIMARY ONE REGISTRATION EXERCISE FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY ONE IN SINGAPORE HOKKIEN HUAY KUAN (SHHK) AFFILIATED SCHOOLS (APPLICABLE TO SHHK MEMBERS ONLY)'. The page lists two requirements for Phase 2B registration:

- What are the criteria to be recommended for Phase 2B registration?
  - Minimum of two consecutive years of membership by 30 June of the year of registration; AND
  - Completed a minimum of eighty (80) hours of volunteer service with or through SHHK
- Does having a recommendation from SHHK in Phase 2B registration stand a better chance of securing a place in the school than parent volunteers and community leaders?

4

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

PUBLISHED NOV 2, 2020, 11:30 AM SGT

## Ngee Ann Kongsi fund to support Teochews who lost jobs and incomes due to Covid-19



Only Singaporean Teochews aged 21 and above who are currently unemployed qualify for the fund.  
PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

5

**The Ngee Ann Kongsi Covid-19 Relief Fund for Teochews 義安抗疫援潮金**

**Sponsored by:**  **Supported by:** 

**Eligibility:**

- Singapore Citizen of Teochew descent (patrilineal) aged 21 and above.**
- One application per household.**

**One-time Assistance: \$500**  
2 November 2020 to 31 March 2021

**Applicant who is unemployed and experienced total loss of income due to involuntary no-pay leave, retrenchment and/or termination for three months before application (Loss of income must take place after 23 Jan 2020 when Covid-19 first occurred in Singapore)**

**For More Details, Contact Us via:**

**Website:** [teochewfederation.sg/](http://teochewfederation.sg/)  
**Hotline:** 6733 3207  
**Email:** [NAKcovidfund@teochewfederation.sg](mailto:NAKcovidfund@teochewfederation.sg)  
**Facebook:** [Facebook/teochewfederation/](https://www.facebook.com/teochewfederation/)  
**Operating Hours:**  
Monday to Friday: 9am to 12pm; 2pm to 5pm  
(closed on Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.)



6

  
**新加坡福建會館**  
 SINGAPORE HOKKIEN HUAY KUAN

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON MEMBERSHIP**

7. Am I eligible to apply if only my mother is Hokkien?  **The context behind this question**

We follow the Chinese traditional way of identifying the dialect group of a person via the paternal lineage i.e. the father's dialect group.

7

**THE STRAITS TIMES** SINGAPORE

Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan marks 180th anniversary with \$1.8m donation to SIT



ST president Tan Cheng Gay (right) receives the cheque from SHHK president Tan Cheng Kai (in the presence of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, left) and others at the 180th anniversary of the Hokkien Huay Kuan and Chinese Community and Youth Network (left). ST PHOTO: MARK CHEONG

**SINGAPORE** - The Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan (SHHK) has donated \$1.8 million to the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to support the university's new campus in the upcoming Punggol Digital District.

The clan association's president Tan Cheng Gay presented a cheque on Sunday (Nov 15) to the SIT president, Professor Tan Thiam Soon, during an event to celebrate the SHHK's 180th anniversary.

Speaking in Mandarin, Mr Tan said the donation, made through the clan association's Hokkien Foundation charity arm, is in line with the SHHK's philosophy of supporting the community and funding education since its founding.

8

 **How many dialect groups are there in Singapore?**

Saw Swee-Hock

**The  
Population  
of Singapore**  
**Third Edition**

**2012**

**ISEAS** INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES  
Singapore

9

# Chinese in Singapore

In the population censuses, the concept of ethnic group has been used in the usual sense to connote groups or communities belonging to the same stock or ethnological origin having common bonds of culture, customs, and language.

The term “Chinese” covers all persons of Chinese origin, and is subdivided into specific dialect groups such as Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese, Hainanese, Hakka, and so forth.

**Are they equally distributed?**

10

**3**

### Changing Population Structure

Of the total resident population of 3,771,721 enumerated in 2010, some 2,793,980 or 74.1 per cent were Chinese, and hence the not unexpected widespread influence of this group in the social and economic activities of the country. Within the 2,793,980 Chinese resident population, there were the many dialect-speaking communities led by the Hokkiens, who numbered 1,118,817 or 40.0 per cent. This community was way ahead of the Teochews, who came in second with 562,139 or 21.1 per cent. The Cantonese occupied third position with 408,517 or 14.6 per cent. The fourth and fifth were fairly close, and they were the Hakkas with 232,914, or 8.3 per cent and the Hainanese with 177,541 or 6.4 per cent. The much smaller groups, with numbers ranging from about 54,000 to 22,000, were the Foochows, the Henghuas, and the Shanghaiines.

11

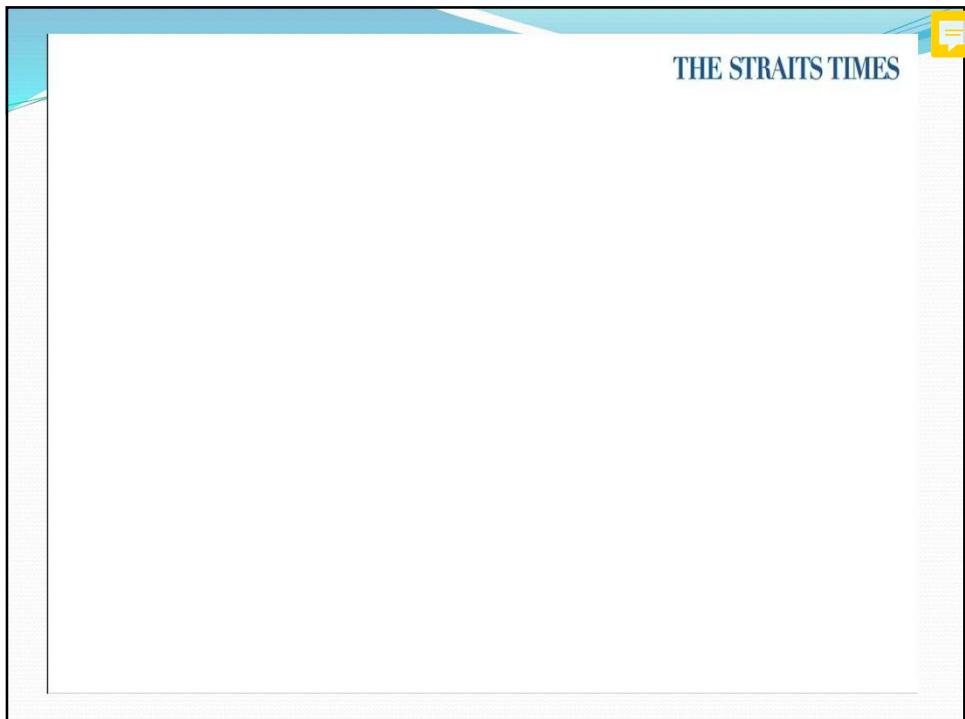
*The Sociolinguistic Situation in Singapore:  
Unity in Diversity*

EDDIE C.Y. KUO

✓ TABLE 2.1 LANGUAGE GROUPS IN SINGAPORE, 1957

Languages and Language Family <sup>a</sup>	Mother Tongue Speakers	Percentage of Total Population (N = 1,445,929)
<b>1. Sinitic (Chinese)</b>		
Hokkien	433,718	30.0
Teochew	246,478	17.0
Cantonese	217,640	15.1
Hainanese	74,498	5.2
Hakka	66,597	4.6
Foochow	14,232	1.0
Henghua	7,866	0.5
Shanghaienes <sup>b</sup>	7,273	0.5
Hokchia	6,443	0.4
Mandarin	1,275	0.1
<b>2. Malayo-Polynesian (Western)</b>		
Malay	166,931 <sup>c</sup>	11.5
Javanese	14,517	1.0
Boyanese	14,344	1.0
<b>3. Dravidian</b>		
Tamil	75,617	5.2
Malayalam	20,063	1.4
<b>4. Indo-European (Indo-Aryan)</b>		
Punjabi	10,089	0.7
Hindustani	5,394	0.4
Bengali	1,210	0.1
Gujerati	1,022	0.1
<b>5. Indo-European (Germanic)</b>		
English	26,599	1.8

12



13

	PARTICULARS OF CHINESE POPULATION.											
	1881			1891			1901			1911*		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Cantonese . . .	9,699	5,154	14,853	15,750	7,647	23,397	19,963	10,766	30,729	28,934	18,566	47,500
Hainan . . .	8,266	53	8,319	8,506	115	8,711	9,237	214	9,451	10,206	398	10,504
Hing-Hoa . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,872	53	1,925
Hok-Chchia . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,564	76	3,640
Hok-Chiu . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,466	187	3,653
Hokkien . . .	23,327	1,654	24,981	41,776	4,080	45,856	49,061	10,056	59,117	68,370	22,378	90,748
Kheh . . .	5,561	609	6,170	6,538	844	7,402	7,752	1,262	8,514	9,516	2,431	11,947
Straits-born . . .	4,513	5,014	9,527	6,084	6,721	12,805	7,719	7,779	15,498	20,369	23,193	43,560
Teo-chiu . . .	20,946	1,698	22,644	21,682	2,055	23,737	24,186	3,378	27,564	29,705	7,708	37,413
Others . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	358	60	418
Not stated . . .	259	13	272	—	—	—	238	42	280	—	—	—
Total . . .	72,571	14,195	100,446	100,446	21,462	121,908	130,367	33,674	164,041	161,648	57,929	219,577

\* The figures for 1911 (except for Straits-born, others, and total) are the numbers of persons speaking the particular Chinese dialect.

Breakdown of the Singapore Chinese population by dialect groups from 1881-1911. The first systematic population census in 1871 was taken as part of the Straits Settlements Census.

14

*The Sociolinguistic Situation in Singapore:  
Unity in Diversity*

EDDIE C.Y. KUO

✓ TABLE 2.1 LANGUAGE GROUPS IN SINGAPORE, 1957

Languages and Language Family <sup>a</sup>	Mother Tongue Speakers	Percentage of Total Population (N = 1,445,929)
<b>1. Sinitic (Chinese)</b>		
Hokkien	433,718	30.0 40%
Teochew	246,478	17.0 23%
Cantonese	217,640	15.1 20%
Hainanese	74,498	5.2 7%
Hakka	66,597	4.6 6%
Foochow	14,232	1.0
Henghua	7,866	0.5
Shanghainese <sup>b</sup>	7,273	0.5
Hokchia	6,443	0.4
Mandarin	1,275	0.1
<b>2. Malayo-Polynesian (Western)</b>		
Malay	166,931 <sup>c</sup>	11.5
Javanese	14,517	1.0
Boyanese	14,344	1.0
<b>3. Dravidian</b>		
Tamil	75,617	5.2
Malayalam	20,063	1.4
<b>4. Indo-European (Indo-Aryan)</b>		
Punjabi	10,089	0.7
Hindustani	5,394	0.4
Bengali	1,210	0.1
Gujerati	1,022	0.1
<b>5. Indo-European (Germanic)</b>		
English	26,599	1.8

15

## Singapore as an immigrant society and Chinese dialects

16

**Deng Xiaoping visited S'pore in 1978. Here's the impact it left on Sino-S'pore relations 40 years on.**

George Yeo reflects on the significance of this momentous event, and on Singapore-China relations ever since.

George Yeo | November 13, 2018 @ 12:29 pm

543

Lee Kuan Yew told him that if Singapore Chinese who were the descendants of poorly-educated coolies could make good, how much better mainland China could be if the right policies were adopted.

17

**A GENERAL HISTORY OF THE CHINESE IN SINGAPORE**

Edited by

**Reflections on Writing the History of the Chinese in Singapore**

The history of the Chinese in Singapore has been told as the history of the peoples of coastal southeast China driven to sojourn in Singapore in the hope of a better livelihood.

**10 MUST TRY MALA XIANG GUO**  
To Satisfy Your Mala Cravings

**Mala Xiang Guo Where:**

You Ma You La	Ang Mo Kio
Mala Xiang Guo	Bedok
RI RI Hong Mala	Chinatown
Joyful Palace Mala	Clementi
Liang Ban Ku	...
La Bu La Mala	...
Lao Wang Ma	...
	and more!

**Sam Kiang Huay Kwan**

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

Singapore Talking  
Shanghainese enjoys mini revival in Singapore

In Singapore, the label Shanghainese is used loosely and describes the various dialects of those who trace their roots to the three provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Jiangxi, collectively called Sanjiang.

18

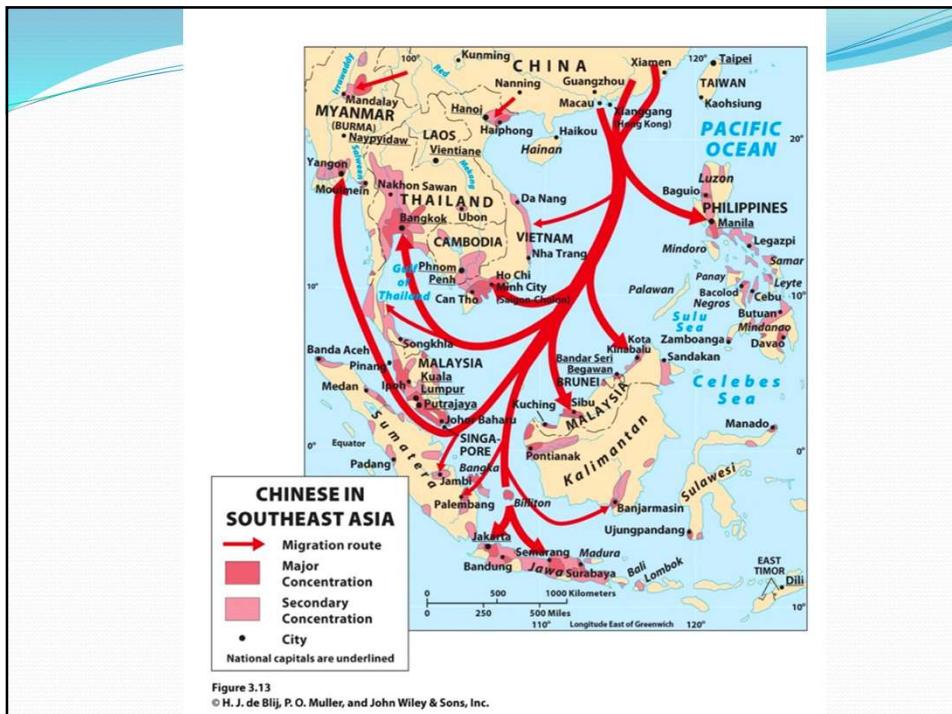


Figure 3.13  
© H. J. de Blij, P. O. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

19

## A brief linguistic introduction to modern Chinese dialects

20

**Chinese Language**

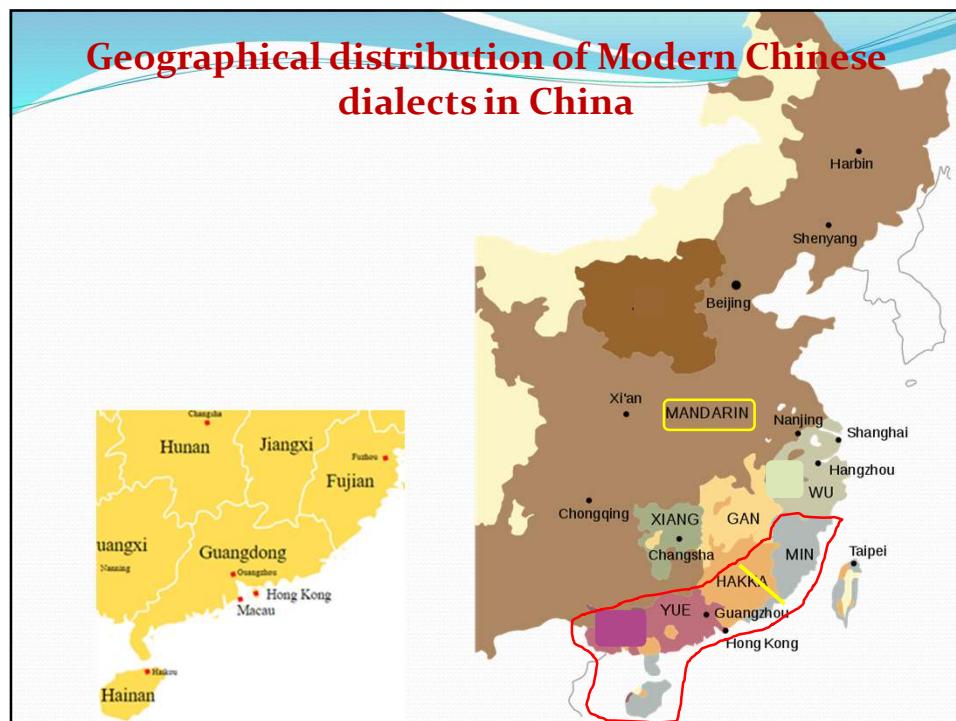
# Modern Chinese

## History and Sociolinguistics

PING CHEN

What is known as the Chinese language comprises dozens of dialects which may be mutually unintelligible.<sup>3</sup> Again, opinions differ as to their grouping. This book follows the framework in Norman (1988) and B. Xu and Zhan (1988) in classifying all the dialects into seven major groups, differentiated mainly on the basis of phonological features, and, to a lesser extent, also in terms of vocabulary and grammar.

21



22

# The Min dialects

## 9.4 The Min dialects

Fújiàn province, together with the northeastern corner of Guǎngdōng province, is the homeland of the Mǐn-speaking peoples. This region is a peripheral area in the classic sense of the term: the absence of major rivers and a wildly mountainous terrain have always made access difficult, and it is not surprising that the dialects spoken here lie outside the mainstream of Chinese linguistic development. On the one hand, we find here numerous archaisms not preserved elsewhere, and, on the other hand, a whole series of local innovations which are peculiarly Mǐn. Long centuries of relative isolation and the lack of convenient lines of communication within the region itself have also led to strong internal differentiation; but despite the very considerable differences found among the Mǐn dialects themselves, this group is, next to Mandarin, the most distinctive and easily characterized group of Chinese dialects.

Norman, Jerry  
Chinese. – (Cambridge language surveys).

23

# The Min dialects

Geographically speaking, Mǐn dialects are spoken in all of Fújiàn province except for the southwestern corner, which is a part of the Kèjiā-speaking region.

The northeastern part of Guǎngdōng, located immediately to the south of Fújiàn, is also Mǐn-speaking; the dialect of this area is often referred to by the former prefectural name of Cháozhōu. Mǐn-speaking islands are found at many points on the Guǎngdōng coast and even in some inland areas; the Léizhōu Peninsula and Hainán Island are also home to a number of dialects belonging to this group.

Norman, Jerry  
Chinese. – (Cambridge language surveys).

24

## Sub-dialects of the Min dialects



25

## Sub-dialects within the Min dialects

Formerly scholars divided the Mǐn dialects into a Northern and a Southern group (Yuán 1960). Pān Mǎodǐng and his associates (1963), in the brief report on their Fújìan dialect survey, however, proposed that the major division is between an Eastern and a Western group. Pān was basically correct in this reinterpretation

Norman, Jerry  
Chinese. – (Cambridge language surveys).

26

## Sub-dialects of the Min dialects



27

## Southern Min dialects

The Eastern Min dialects can be divided into two large subgroups: Southern Min, which includes Xiàmén (as well as almost all of southeastern Fújiàn), Cháozhōu in Guǎngdōng, and the Min dialects of Táiwān

## Northeastern Min dialects

Northeastern Min is spoken in the northeastern part of Fújiàn, including the capital city of Fúzhōu. The Northeastern dialects are more heterogeneous than those of the Southern group

Norman, Jerry  
Chinese. – (Cambridge language surveys).

28



29

## Hock Chew and Hockchia dialect groups in Singapore

30

**THE STRAITS TIMES**  
**Singapore Talking**  
**Hock Chew: A secret, cherished language**

Singapore is a tapestry of languages, each with its own unique syntax and history. Some are endangered and others are thriving. In the latest instalment of a weekly series, we look at Hock Chew.



About 80 people attend the 1,200-member Foochow Methodist Church's Hock Chew service on average each week, a far cry from the 1970s when the congregation would pack the chapel. ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR

 **Charmaine Ng**

**MAY 4, 2017 9:12 AM**

31

### About Hock Chew

#### ORIGINS

Hock Chew is spoken in at least 11 places in the south-eastern Chinese province of Fujian, including Fuzhou City. The pronunciation and vocabulary may differ from place to place.

In Singapore, the dialect was brought over by migrants from Fuzhou, who initially arrived here to perform hard labour. It was common for these migrants to work as carpenters, trishaw riders, barbers, chefs and tailors, among other roles.

Subsequently, many of these migrants opened their own coffee shops. At its peak, more than 50 per cent of coffee shops in Singapore were owned by Hock Chews.

#### WHERE TO LEARN IT

The Singapore Foochow Association plans to hold a series of 10 lessons from September to October.

32

## Fuzhou (Foochow/Hock Chew) dialect lesson



33

## The issue of Hockchia dialect group

A Singapore Government Agency Website  
singapore Infopedia

[Home](#) / [Organisations](#)

by Tan, Gabriel

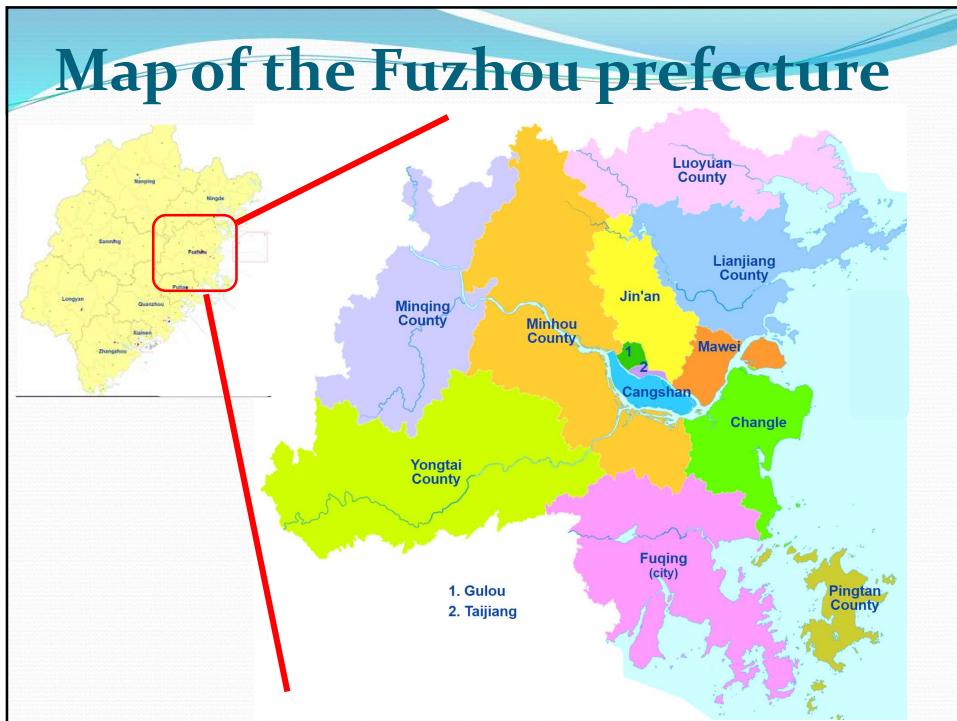
Singapore Futsing (Fuqing) Association

### Early Hockchia settlers

Early Fuqing (Futsing) or Hockchia<sup>1</sup> settlers to the region came from the city of Fuqing in the northern part of Fujian province, China. Fuqing is one of the ten districts or counties in the province under the jurisdiction of the provincial capital of Fuzhou.<sup>2</sup> The people speak the Fuqing dialect.<sup>3</sup>

The Singapore Futsing Association was set up in 1910.<sup>4</sup> Membership was "open to those who came from Futsinghsien, a district south of Foochow in Fukien Province".<sup>5</sup>

34



35

## Membership to Singapore Foochow Association

**入会申请条件**

1. a. 普通会员和永久会员申请人必须符合下列所有条件，他必须：

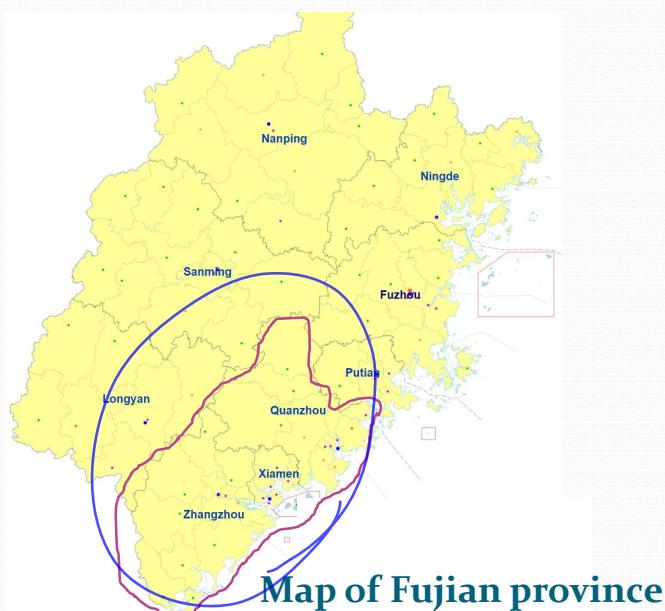
- ① 是新加坡公民或永久居民之福州籍乡亲，  
(福州包括闽侯、长乐、闽清、古田、**福清**、  
连江、罗源、平潭、屏南、永泰十县市)
- ② 至少 21 岁
- ③ 未因违反任何国家的刑法而被法院定罪判监。

36

## Southern Min dialects & the Hokkien and Teochew dialect groups

37

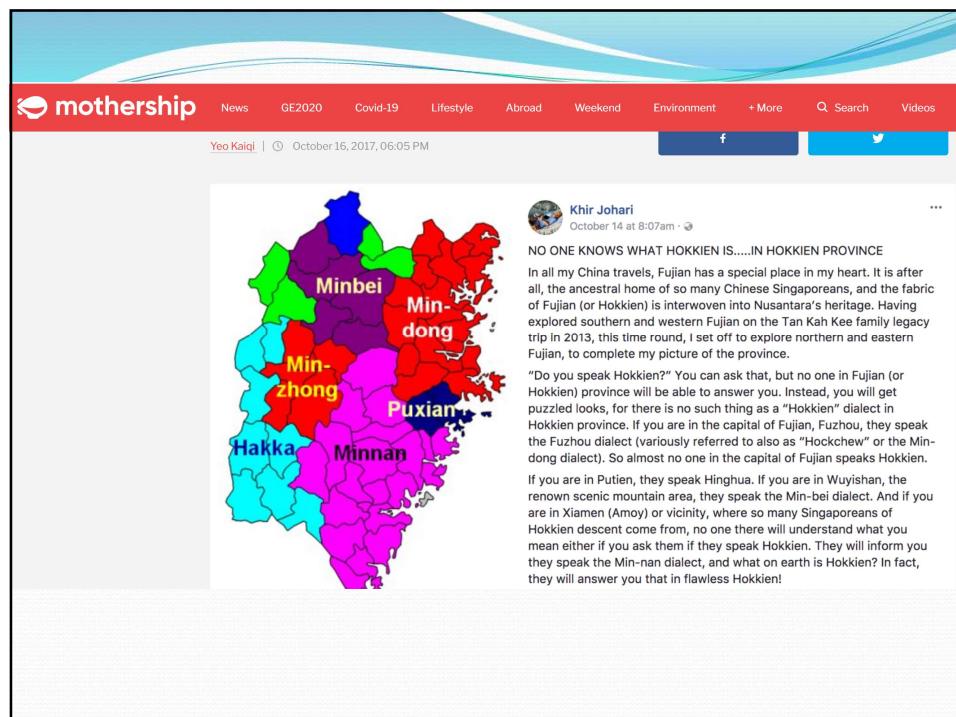
### The issue of Hokkien dialect



38

# The term “Hokkien dialect”/ “Hokkien people” used in Singapore is a misnomer

39

A screenshot of a news article from the website mothership. The title of the article is "The term “Hokkien dialect”/“Hokkien people” used in Singapore is a misnomer". Below the title is a large, colorful map of Fujian province in China, divided into several regions labeled with their respective dialect names: Minbei (purple), Min-dong (red), Min-zhong (yellow), Hakka (cyan), and Minnan (pink). The map shows the provincial boundaries and the locations of these dialect groups. To the right of the map is the article's content, which discusses the misconception of Hokkien being a single dialect or people from Singapore, pointing out that it is actually a complex mix of dialects from Fujian.

40

### 3. Simplicity from a Malayan perspective

Eventually, he came to the crux of why most of us use the word "Hokkien" to describe a dialect in Singapore, and why most of us in this part of the region have done so in general:

"So whither Hokkien? Well, since most of the people who came to Malaya from Fujian/Hokkien province came from the Min-nan lands of Xiamen, Quanzhou and Zhangzhou, their language for simplicity was called Hokkien.

The minority who came from other part of Fujian are referred to by their specific local dialects in Malaya. Thus, isn't it ironical that the people who live in the capital of Hokkien don't speak 'Hokkien'? And it is the folks in the southern reaches of the province who speak a dialect whose name suggests the entire province?

This type of naming is actually not unique to 'Hokkien' in Malaya. Thus, we call the dialect spoken in the western half of Guangdong province 'Cantonese', or the Guangdong language. But Guangdong itself has three distinct dialect groups. There is the Guangzhou dialect in the west ('Cantonese'), the Hakka dialect in the Northeast, and the Teochew dialect in the southwest. But from the Malayan perspective, the dialect of the western half of the province speaks for the entire province.

41

**Linguistically, the Hokkien and the Teochew dialects are Southern Min dialects.**

42

## The Issue of Teochew dialect group



43

## Southern Min dialects

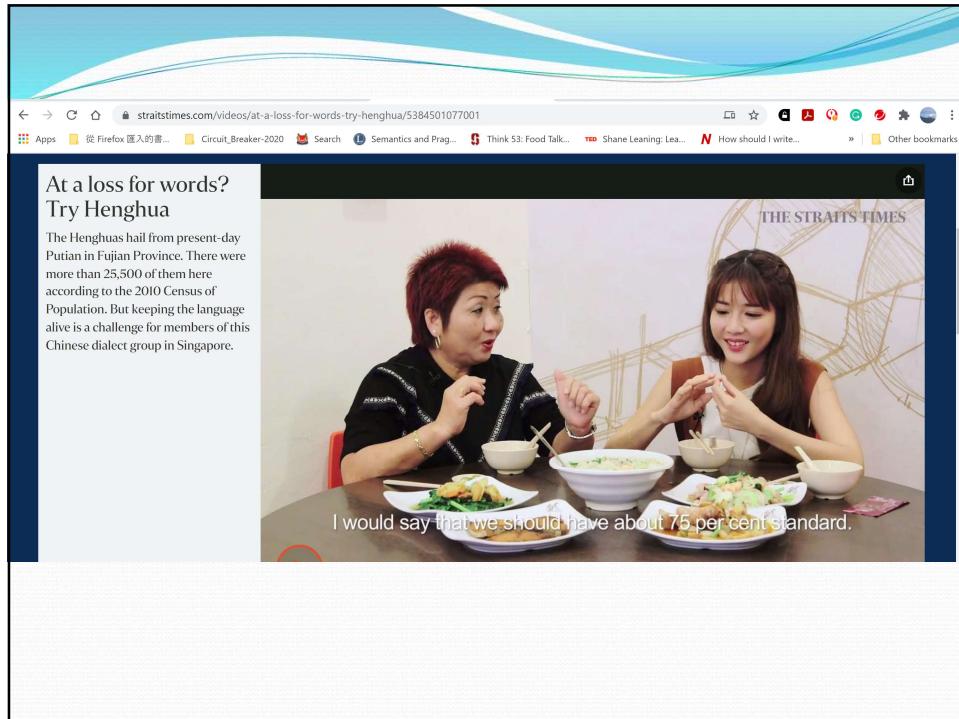
The Eastern Mǐn dialects can be divided into two large subgroups: Southern Mǐn, which includes Xiàmén (as well as almost all of southeastern Fújiàn), Cháozhōu in Guǎngdōng, and the Mǐn dialects of Táiwān

### Henghua dialect / Putian dialect

### Northeastern Min dialects

Northeastern Mǐn is spoken in the northeastern part of Fújiàn, including the capital city of Fúzhōu. The Northeastern dialects are more heterogeneous than those of the Southern group

44



45

**THE STRAITS TIMES**  
**Singapore Talking**  
**At a loss for words? Try Henghua**

PUBLISHED APR 6, 2017, 5:00 AM SGT

Ms Irene Lau, 28, co-owner of an IT company, said the apparent "similarity" between Hokkien and her spoken Henghua, once led to an unwelcome remark from a stranger.

Madam Lee Siew Kim (left) dishing out some white lor mee for her daughter Irene Lau at the Henghua restaurant. ST PHOTO: LAU FOOK KONG

46

"There was once when I was speaking to my mum in Henghua in the taxi," she said. "The taxi uncle was quite mean... He told me, 'If you can't speak Hokkien, don't force it, just use Mandarin!' I told him we were speaking Henghua, and then he said, 'Huh? What's that?'"

Mandarin speakers might find themselves tickled by certain words in Henghua. "Wife" in Henghua is *lao ma*, which sounds like "old mother" in Mandarin. "Mother" in Henghua, on the other hand, is *niao leh*, which is pronounced almost exactly like "bird species" in Mandarin.

While the word "Henghua" might not mean much to many Singaporeans, some will probably still find the name "Putian" familiar, thanks to the popular Putien restaurant chain which began as a coffee shop.

47

## Southern Min dialects

The Eastern Mǐn dialects can be divided into two large subgroups: Southern Mǐn, which includes Xiàmén (as well as almost all of southeastern Fújiàn), Cháozhōu in Guǎngdōng, and the Mǐn dialects of Táiwān



**Henghua dialect / Putian dialect**

**Hainanese dialect**

## Northeastern Min dialects

Northeastern Mǐn is spoken in the northeastern part of Fújiàn, including the capital city of Fúzhōu. The Northeastern dialects are more heterogeneous than those of the Southern group

48

# Dialect profiling / stereotyping

49

Get a sneak peek of the new version of this page. [Check it out now](#)

FULL CAST AND CREW | TRIVIA | USER REVIEWS | IMDbPro | MORE ▾ [SHARE](#)

**+ When Hainan Meets Teochew (2010)** ★ 6.7 /10 36 [Rate This](#)

NC-16 | 1h 21min | Comedy, Romance | 3 December 2010 (Singapore)



A romantic comedy usually involves a handsome man and a pretty lady. But what happens when it's a 'manly' woman, and a 'womanly' man? One day, a brassiere drops on Teochew. He immediately ... [See full summary »](#)

**Director:** Yew Kwang Han  
**Writer:** Yew Kwang Han  
**Stars:** Alaric, Yew Kwang Han, Yi Kai Ho | [See full cast & crew »](#)

[+ Add to Watchlist](#)

50

**ENTERTAINMENT**

## Actor Chew Chor Meng admits he used to be 'conceited and arrogant'

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 (PUBLISHED AT 9:17 PM)  
ASIAONE

Join our telegram channel for the latest updates

He may have been known for his comedic roles and for playing happy-lucky characters, but in reality, actor Chew Chor Meng says he was 'bad-tempered, conceited and arrogant'. And this rubbed many in the industry the wrong way.

In an interview with Chinese evening daily [Lianhe Wanbao](#), Chew, 48, says he was a 'calefare' (bit-role actor) for a few years before joining and ultimately

**Chew Chor Meng And Dennis Chew Open Porridge Stall Called 'Zhou Chu Ming'**

The punny names of the dishes at their kopitiam stall will also make you giggle.

BY YIP JIERYING  
LAST UPDATED: 27 DEC 2016 09:01

**Porridge kings**

Chew Chor Meng and Dennis Chew opened a punny porridge stall in an Ang Mo Kio kopitiam just a week ago.

After setting up three successful coffeeshop stalls selling their [BBB Mockato](#) brand of Thai barbecue-steambat, [Chew Chor Meng and Dennis Chew](#) want you to eat clean now.

Just last week, the duo soft-launched their new Ang Mo Kio kopitiam porridge stall called The Famous Zhou, aka Zhou Chu Ming (周楚明) in Chinese, an epic pun on Chew Meng's Chinese name.

For non-Mandarin speakers, 'zhou' is the Chinese hanzi pinyin for both porridge as well as Chew Meng and Dennis' surnames.

[Discover more](#)

Brought to you by Sumitomo Corporation

51

**LEE KUAN YEW THE MAN AND HIS IDEAS**

*"I am determined. I'll do whatever it takes to make things happen. That's all I can say. The world would be better off if we could do that. It is right, I'm so it. That's the bottom line of a leader."*

By Han Fook Kuan  
Warren Fernandes  
Sumako

Closer to home, Lee noted similarly striking differences between the various ethnic groups in multiracial Singapore, as well as among various subgroups within each race. Looking around him in the Singapore Cabinet, he found a disproportionate number of Teochew Chinese, whose ancestors hailed from villages in southern China, as well as Hakkas, Lee's own dialect group. He did not believe this was pure chance.

"Look at the number of smart Teochews there are ... just count them. Teo Chee Hean, Lim Hng Kiang, George Yeo, Lim Boon Heng. Is it a coincidence? In a Cabinet of 15, how do you explain that? For that matter, the Hakkas consider themselves very special too. They are tough, resourceful, they were latecomers who got squeezed to the mountainous areas of the south when they came from the north. They were the only Chinese group that did not bind their women's feet, because they lived on hilly terrain, had to make a living and couldn't afford to have women with feet bound. You also have more Hakkas in the Cabinet than are represented in the population. They are supposed to be harder-working, tougher and therefore higher-achievers. So there are these differences even within the races."

**Teochew – The second most prevalent Chinese dialect group in Singapore, with 212,600 speakers. Top on the list is Hokkien (465,500) and third is Cantonese (203,400).**

pp. 171-173

52

# The Cantonese dialect group in Singapore

53

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

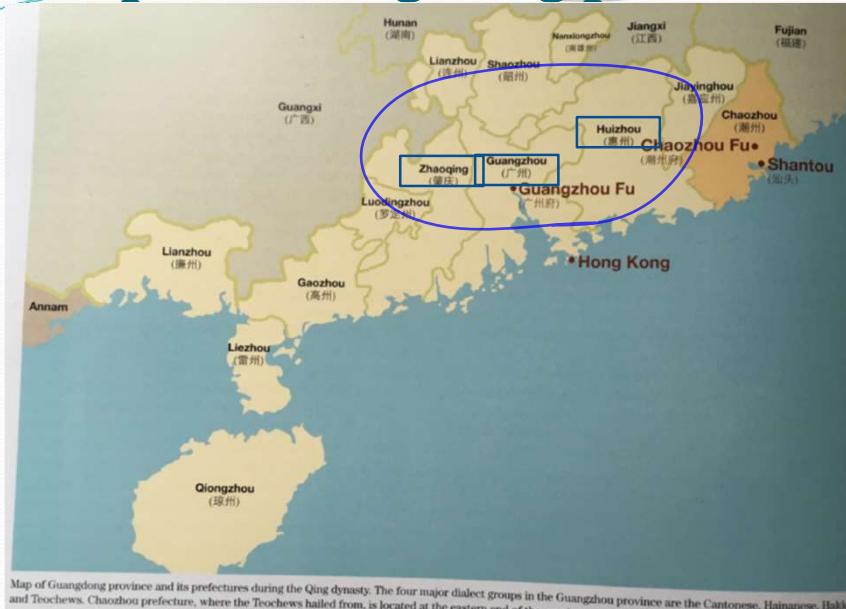
8 vaccination centres by end-Feb as S'pore ramps up vaccine roll-out

THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 2021

Health Minister Gan Kim Yong (left) and Education Minister Lawrence Wong, who co-chair Singapore's multi-ministry task force tackling Covid-19, receiving their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine from Dr Richard Tan, director of clinical services at Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital, yesterday. ST PHOTO: JASON QUAH

54

## Map of Guangdong province



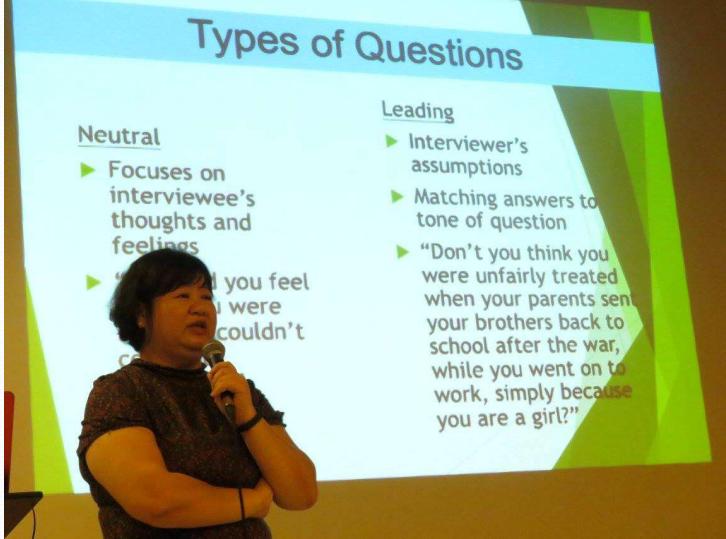
55

Origins of Fujian and GuangDong province

## The Hakka dialect group in Singapore

56

## Guest lecture on Hakka in week 6



**Types of Questions**

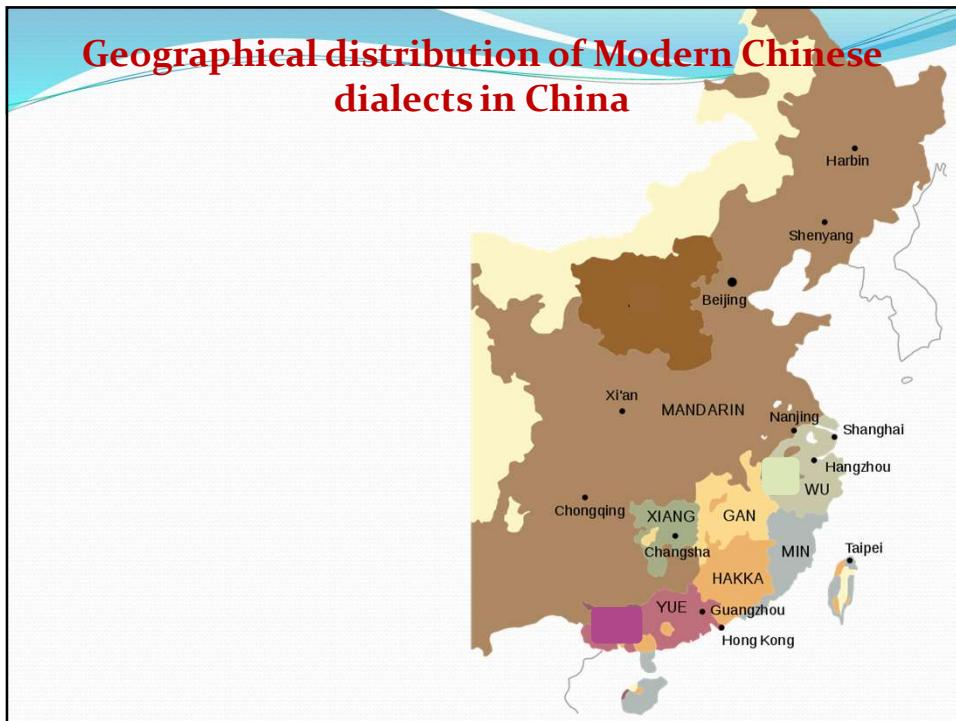
<p><b>Neutral</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Focuses on interviewee's thoughts and feelings</li> <li>▶ "How did you feel when you were told you couldn't go to school?"</li> </ul>	<p><b>Leading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Interviewer's assumptions</li> <li>▶ Matching answers to tone of question</li> <li>▶ "Don't you think you were unfairly treated when your parents sent your brothers back to school after the war, while you went on to work, simply because you are a girl?"</li> </ul>
--	---

**Adjunct Assistant Professor Lye Soo Choon**

57

## The Mandarin dialect and Putonghua

58



59

## Mandarin dialect

The vast distribution of Mandarin can be attributed to the following. First, for several dynasties China's political and cultural center were mostly located in the north, except during some brief periods. It follows naturally that northern dialects often became the prestigious language with nationwide influence. This was especially the case for about a thousand years after the formation of Mandarin.

60

## Hokkiens in Singapore



61

## NTU building and road renamed in honour of pioneers

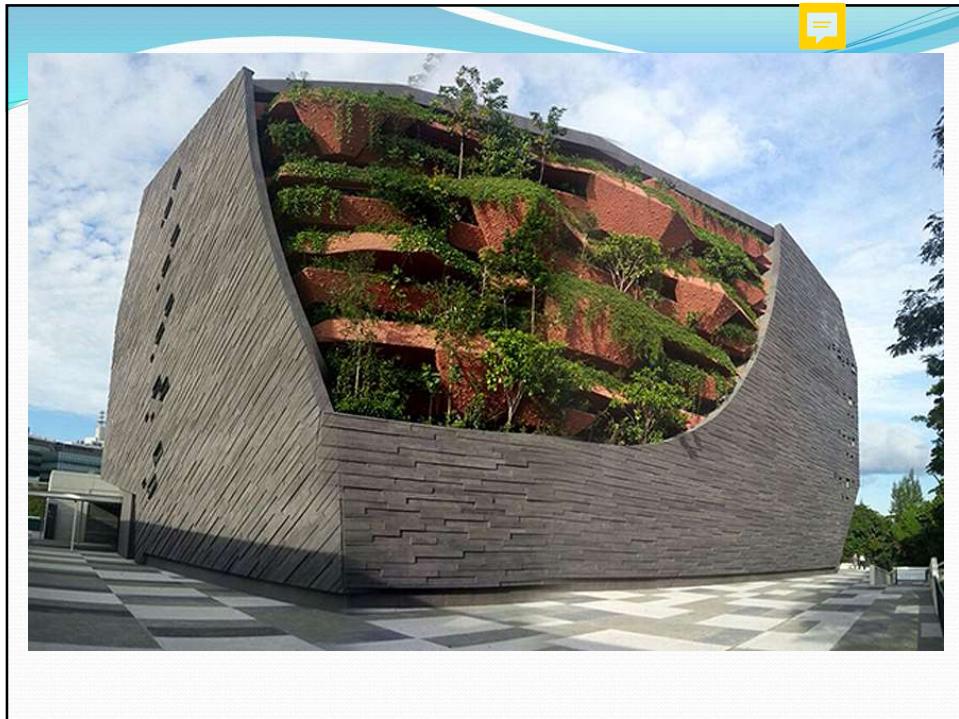
🕒 PUBLISHED OCT 20, 2019, 5:00 AM SGT



The building that houses Nanyang Technological University's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences has been named the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Building. PHOTOS: LIANHE ZAOBAO

The building that houses the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences has been named the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan (SHHK) Building, while Nanyang Valley, a road adjacent to the Chinese Heritage Centre, will be renamed the Tan Lark Sye Walk.

62



63

## Lingua Francas before 1965

64

The Palgrave Macmillan  
A Sociolinguistic History  
of Early Identities in  
Singapore

Phyllis Ghim-Lian Chew

From Colonialism to Nationalism

**6**

Individual Identities: The Use of Lingua Francas and Language Choice

In this chapter, the focus is on lingua francas – “bridging” languages – or mutually understood languages, which afford a practical means of communication between different linguistic groups in a multilingual speech community (Chew, 2009).

**Bazaar Malay**

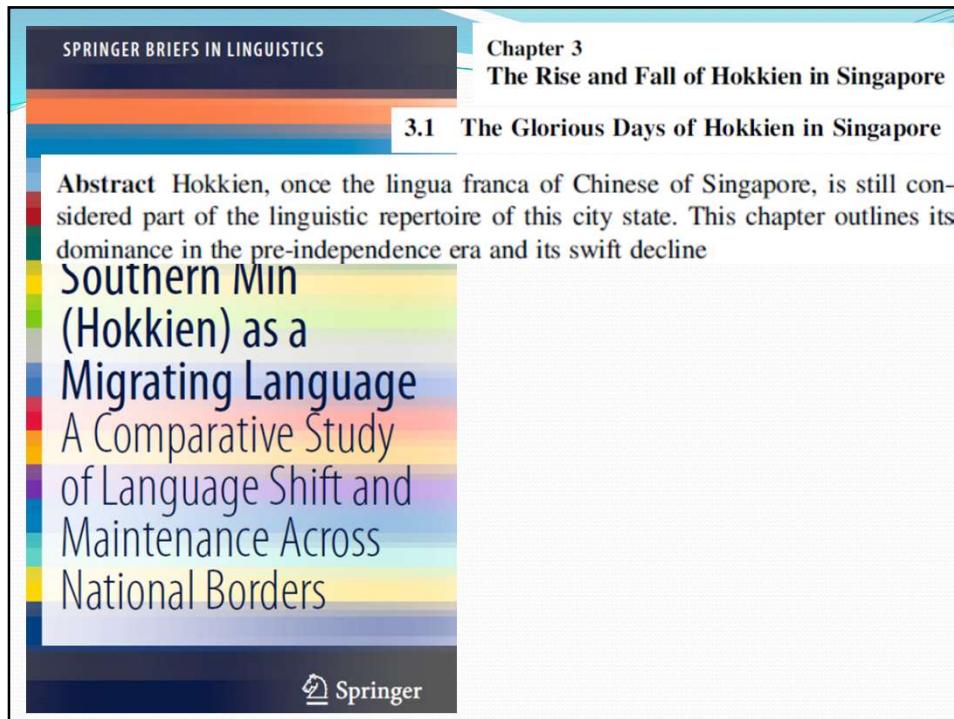
Bazaar Malay (also called *bahasa pasar* or *Pasar Malay*) (hereafter BM) is basically what is understood as colloquial Malay or “non-standard Malay”.<sup>2</sup> To speak BM is to assume an identity of fraternity, informality and flexibility in line with the easy-going and dynamic nature of the language.<sup>3</sup> Like the so-called Vulgar Latin of the Roman Empire, BM was used in international trade, politics and inter-ethnic communication and originated as a pidgin and subsequently as Creole (Omar, 1977, 1983).

65

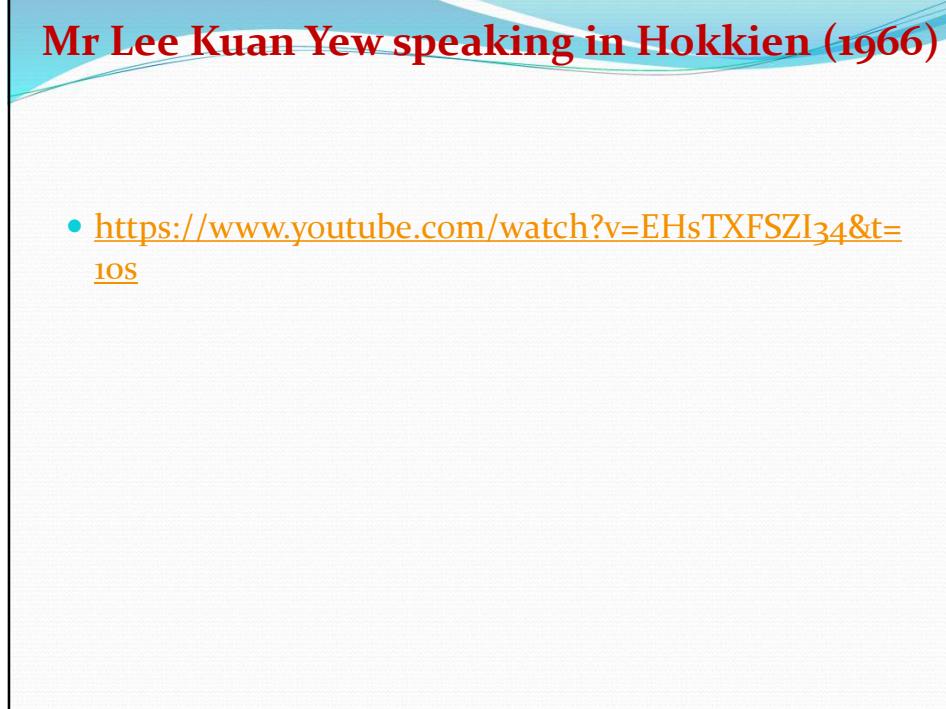
**Singapore Hokkien (SH)**

It was Hokkien rather than Hakka or Teochew which became the default intra-group lingua franca in Singapore. This was because the Chinese settlers then were Hokkien (福建) speakers from Quanzhou and Zhangzhou in Fujian<sup>20</sup> and Hokkien was the lingua franca of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.<sup>21</sup> This regional group dominated the more lucrative early businesses such as opium, rubber and gambier. While the Chinese used BM and SE for inter-group communication such as in communicating with an Arab, Punjabi or Malay, they were more likely to use Hokkien for intra-group communication, such as in communicating with a Cantonese or Khek.<sup>22</sup> Also, while the Babas, Eurasians and Anglicized Indians were the first to expound a Singaporean-Malayan identity through the use of SE, a more Chinese ethnic identity was made possible through the use of Hokkien, which was the mother tongue of the majority of Chinese in Singapore.<sup>23</sup>

66



67



68

**SPEECH BY MINISTER MENTOR LEE KUAN YEW AT THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE REPORT OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2004**

By the May 1959 general elections, 4 years after my first Mandarin speech at Kreta Ayer, I was able to make Mandarin speeches off the cuff. Then came another language crisis, a terrible setback in 1961. PAP's best Hokkien speaker, Ong Eng Guan, a non-communist, the first and only Mayor of Singapore, had rebelled against the party. He wanted to become the leader and picked a fight with the party. He resigned his seat in Hong Lim. So we faced a by-election. We could not depend on Lim Chin Siong, who had been our great Hokkien orator because we would not release all the pro-communists in detention. Ong Eng Guan had become our Hokkien speaker in his place when Lim Chin Siong was in detention from 1956 to 1959. Goh Keng Swee came to see me in my office at the City Hall, dolefully, he looked me in the eye and said, "Learn Hokkien, you be our Hokkien speaker, no other way". I did so, furiously and assiduously, spending 1-2 hours a day in between my work as PM. After a few weeks I made my first Hokkien speech based on my Mandarin and the snatches of Hokkien I remembered it from my youth. My teacher was Radio Singapore producer of Hokkien programmes, Seah Cheng Tit. His enthusiasm and skills plus my determination and total concentration, made for progress. My first street rally in China Street was unforgettable. The little kids around the lorry from which I spoke, laughed hilariously as I spoke in Hokkien. I took them seriously. I said, children don't laugh I want to learn in order to speak to you because I have something important to say to you. At the end of 3 months by polling day of that by-election campaign I had mastered enough basic Hokkien to stop them laughing at me.

69

## Hokkien peng (Hokkien soldier)

[video](#)

70

 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrUYAD\\_8s&t=1579s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrUYAD_8s&t=1579s)

71

**Straits-born Chinese**

vs  
**Sinkheh**

72

## Melaka and Singapore



Postage stamp commemorating **Tan Tock Seng**, a Melaka-born Chinese who moved to Singapore soon after 1819, where he started out selling vegetables and poultry. His break came when he joined J.H. Whithead of Shaw, Whithead & Company to speculate in land. His tremendous success in this enterprise led him to become an influential member of the Chinese community and a donor to many philanthropic causes.

73

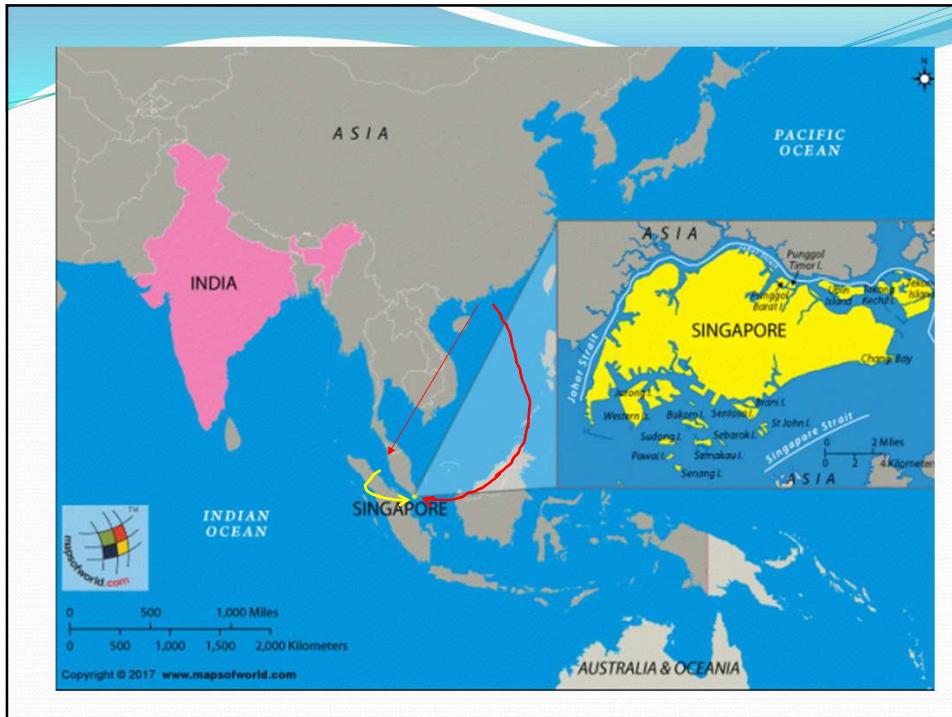
## Si Hoo Keh (薛佛记)



### Si Hoo Keh

Si Hoo Keh, an immigrant from Zhangpu County in Fujian, was a pioneer of the Singapore Hokkien community. He left Malacca for Singapore soon after its founding. Not long later, Si Hoo Keh became a wealthy and public-spirited businessman. In 1828, he established the Hengshanting Temple. Besides serving as its Director, he also became a Director of the Thian Hock Keng Temple. At 46, he returned to Malacca as the President of the Cheng Hoon Teng Temple, and became the supreme leader of the Chinese community in Malacca. For a century, he and his family contributed significantly towards the economic and social development of Singapore and Malacca.

74



75

**Hokkien spoken in Singapore is a mixture of the Zhangzhou (漳州) accent and the Quanzhou (泉州) accent**

76

## Variation in pronouncing the word 猪 ‘pig’ and 去 ‘go’ in Singapore Hokkien

77

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoUWCZsvYMI&t=711s>

78

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXuSxe4HAYk&t=434s>

[k<sup>h</sup>i] [k<sup>h</sup>w]

7: 00

79

### Guest lecture on Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan in week 5



Ms Josephine Gan

80



81

## County-based clan associations for the Teochew dialect group

In Singapore, the county-based clan associations are the Teo Yeon Huai Kuan (潮阳会馆), Nanyang Pho Leng Hui Kuan (南洋普宁会馆), Singapore Kityang Huay Kwan (新加坡揭阳会馆), Huilai Countrymen Association (惠来同乡会), Teo Ann Huay Kuan (潮安会馆), Theng Hai Huay Kuan (澄海会馆) and Raoping Association (新加坡饶平会馆).

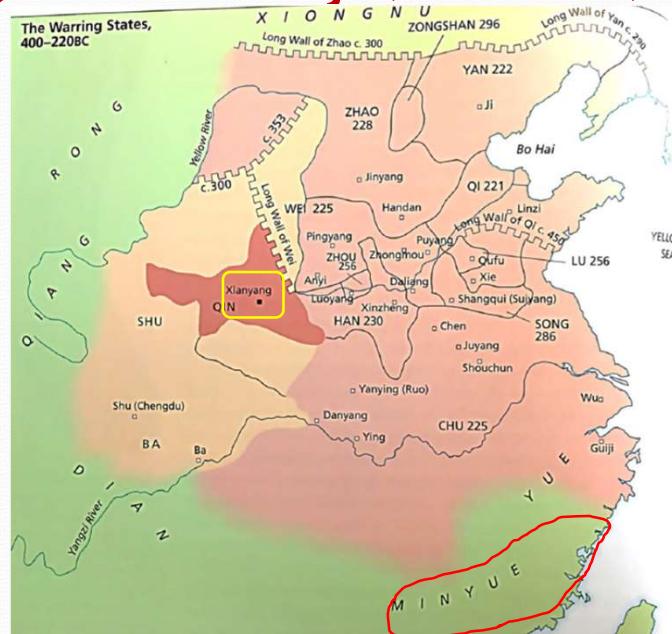
82

## Formation of Chinese dialects

Migration of Chinese people  
from 221 B.C. onwards

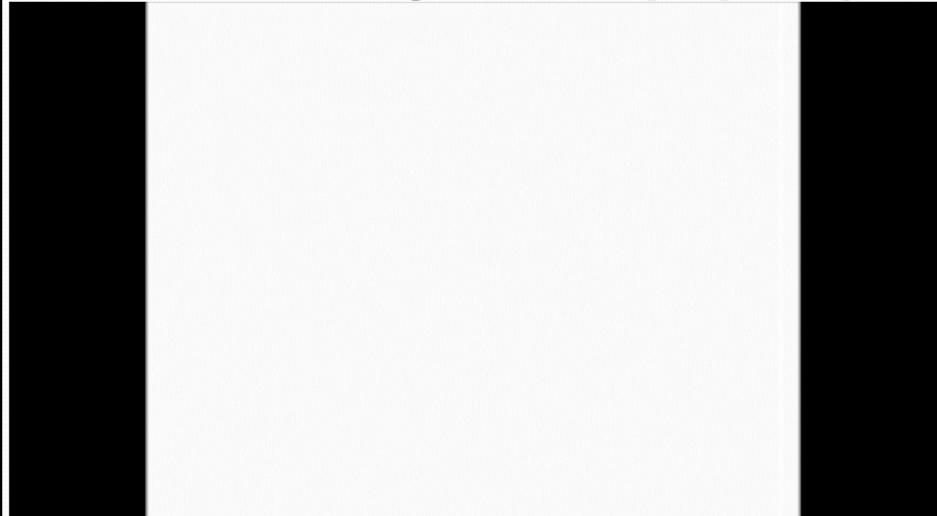
83

## Qin territory (221 B.C.)



84

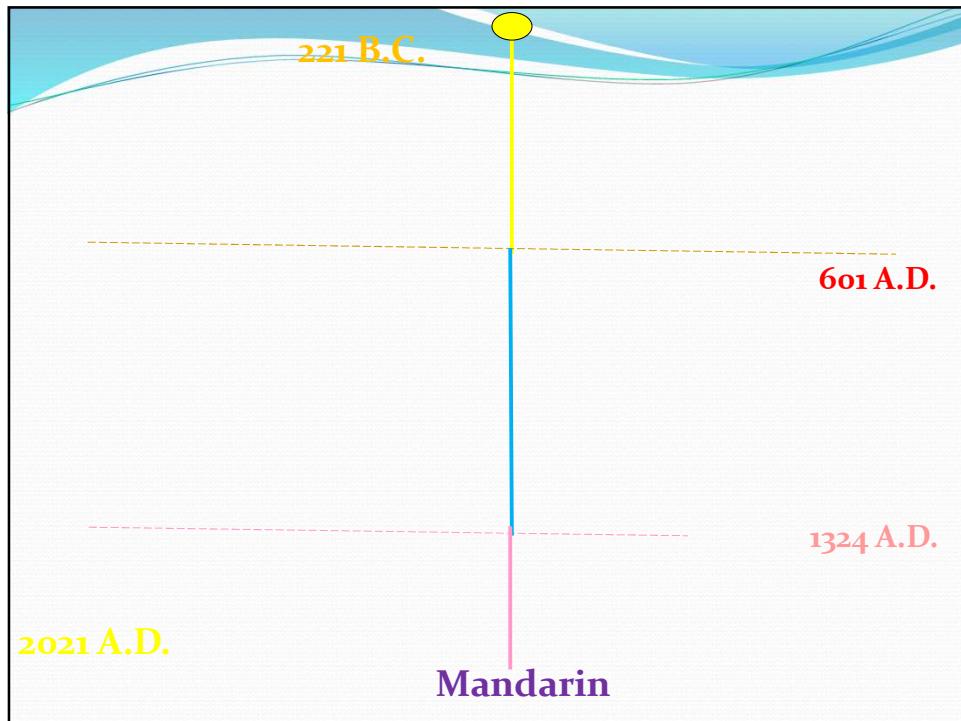
## History of China in 8 Minutes: Territorial Changes of Every Dynasty



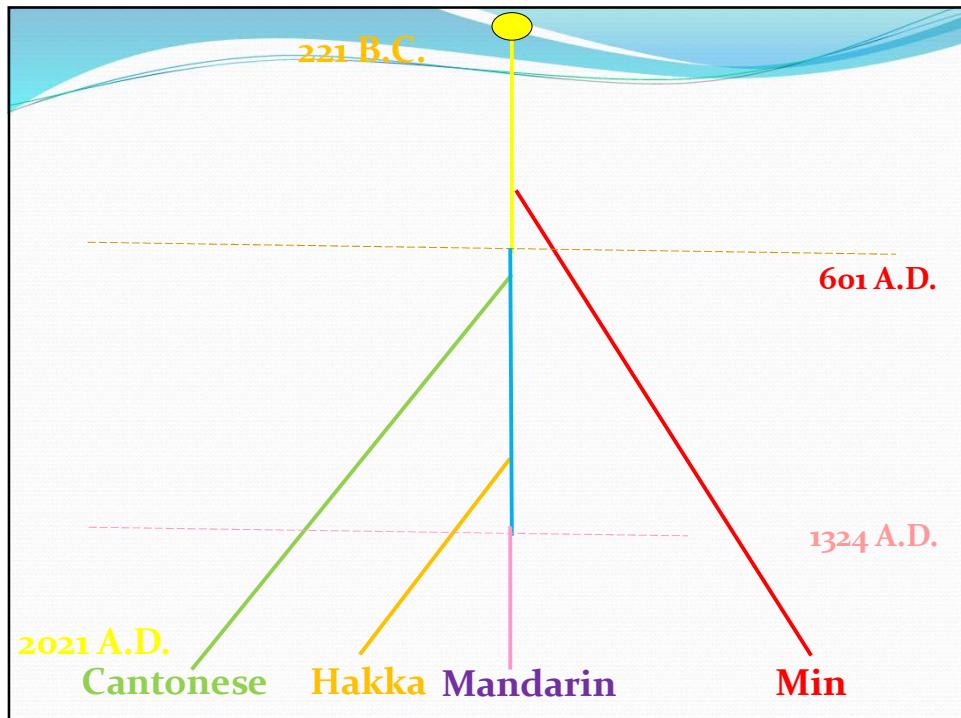
85

**Chinese dialects emerged due  
to successive migration from  
Northern China to Southern  
China**

86



87



88

**Hakka people**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Hakka** (Chinese: 客家), sometimes **Hakka Han**,<sup>[1][4]</sup> are Han Chinese people whose ancestral homes are chiefly in the Hakka-speaking provincial areas of Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangxi, Guangxi, Sichuan, Hunan, Zhejiang, Hainan and Guizhou. The Chinese characters for **Hakka** (客家) literally mean "guest families".<sup>[5]</sup> Unlike other Han Chinese subgroups, the Hakkas are not named after a geographical region, e.g. a province, county or city, in China. Modern day Hakka are generally identified by both full Hakka and by different degrees of Hakka ancestry and usually speak the **Hakka language**.

The Hakkas are thought to have originated from relatively northern provinces particularly Henan and Hubei.<sup>[6]</sup> In a series of migrations, the Hakkas moved and settled in their present areas in **Southern China** and from there, substantial numbers migrated overseas to various countries throughout the world.<sup>[7]</sup> As the most diasporic among the Chinese community groups, the worldwide population of Hakkas is about 80 million to 120 million.<sup>[2][8]</sup> The Hakkas moved from Central China into Southern China at a time when the earlier Han Chinese settlers who already lived there had developed distinctive cultural identities and languages from Hakkas. The **Tunbaos** and **Chuanging** people are other Han Chinese subgroups that migrated from possibly somewhere in Central or Eastern China to Southwestern China while maintaining their ancestral traditions which differentiated them from the native Chinese people.

The Hakka people have had significant influence on the course of modern Chinese and **overseas Chinese** history; in particular, they have been a source of many government and military leaders—in 1984, over half of the Standing Committee of the Politburo were ethnically Hakka.<sup>[9]</sup>

The Hakka language was the national language of the **Taiping Heavenly Kingdom**,<sup>[dubious – discuss][better source needed]</sup> which



89

## Language contact in ancient China

- New lexical item being introduced into Chinese
  - Basic vocabulary
    - An example
      - 'elder brother'

兄 *xiong* → 哥 *ge*

As several prominent Qing scholars have observed, the use of *ge* for "elder brother" occurred fairly late: the first recorded such usage did not appear until the middle to late Tang times.<sup>4</sup> *Tang huiyao* (*The Essentials of Tang Institutions*, 5.56) has an anecdotal story, not noted by the cited Qing and modern scholars, about a younger brother of Emperor Taizong, calling the latter *erge*, "the second elder brother." While this is certainly a revealing case of the term's early usage, it should be pointed out that the earliest parts of *Tang huiyao*, completed during the Northern Song dynasty, were compiled no earlier than the reign of Emperor Dezong (780–805),<sup>5</sup> more than 150 years after the conversation allegedly took place.

90

## A final question for you

- Can Chinese dialects be called Chinese languages?

91

**Various Chinese dialects  
=  
Various Chinese languages?**

92

**The New York Times**

## Uniting China to Speak Mandarin, the One Official Language: Easier Said Than Done

By HOWARD W. FRENCH JULY 10, 2005



"No one can clearly answer the question how many dialects there are in China," said Zhang Hongming, a professor of Chinese linguistics at the University of Wisconsin who is in China doing fieldwork. "The degree of difference among dialects is much higher than the degree of difference among European languages. In Europe they call them languages, but in China we share a culture, so the central government would like to consider that one language is shared by many different peoples. It is simply a different definition."

Linguists say the Wu dialect widely spoken in Shanghai, to take one prominent example, shares only about 31 percent lexical similarity with Mandarin, or roughly the same as English and French.

93

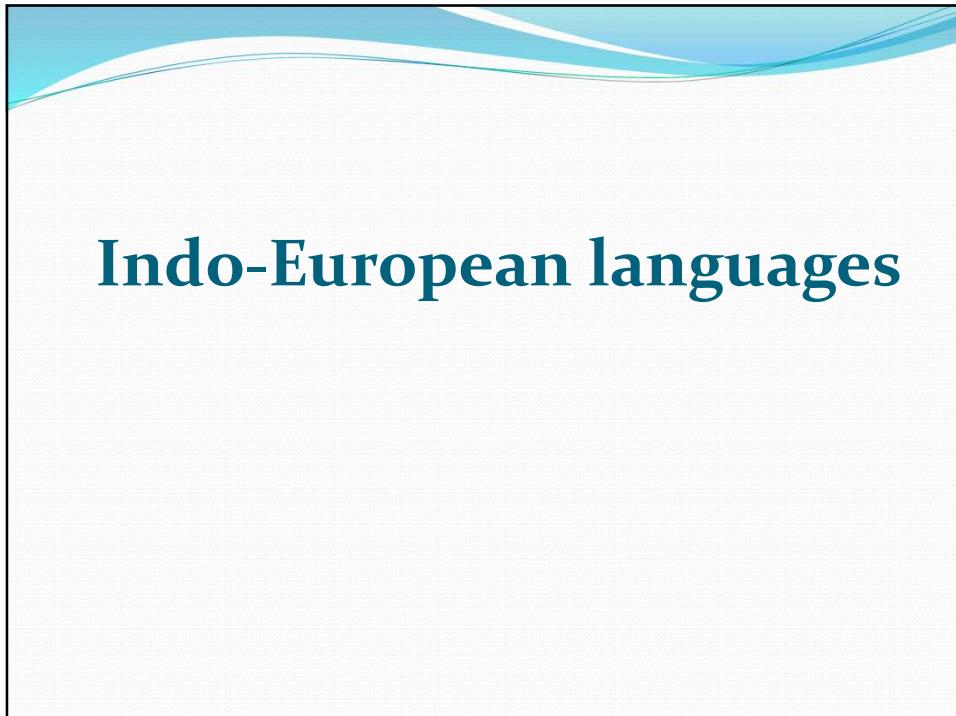
### What is a dialect in linguistics textbook?

- Dialect refers to a regional variety of a language spoken in a particular area
- Size of the area does not matter; distinguished by differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar
- The dialects or varieties of a particular language are closely related and, despite their differences, are most often largely mutually intelligible,

94



95



96

## What is Chinese dialect?

- Chinese dialect refers to a regional variety of the Chinese language spoken in a particular area
- Size of the area does not matter; distinguished by differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar
- The dialects or varieties of a particular language are closely related and, despite their differences, are most often largely mutually unintelligible,

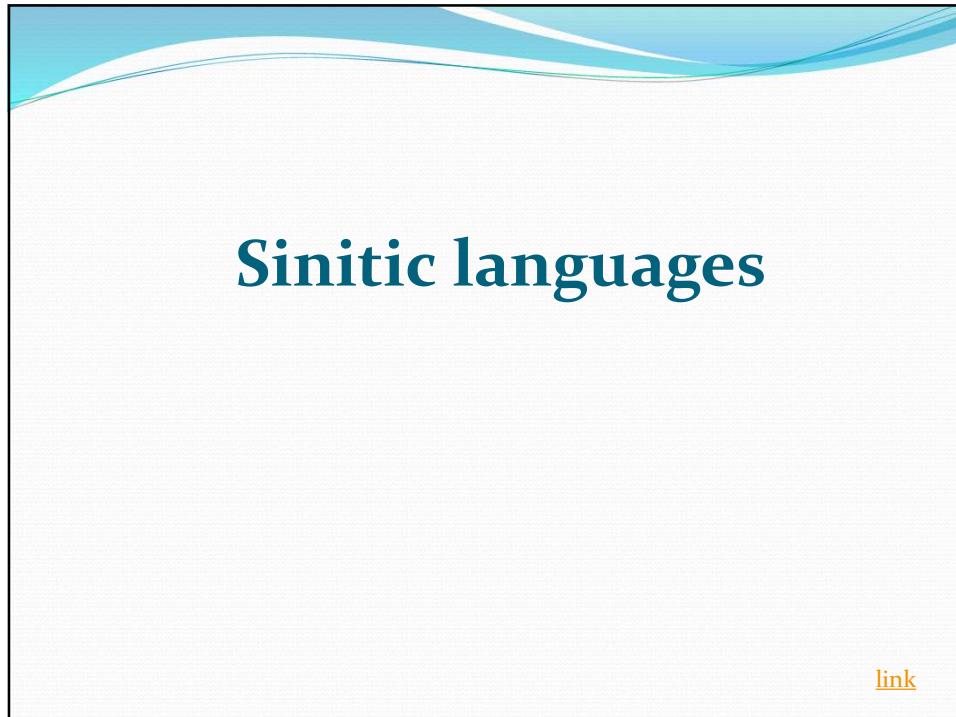
97

**Various Chinese dialects**

=

**Various Chinese languages!**

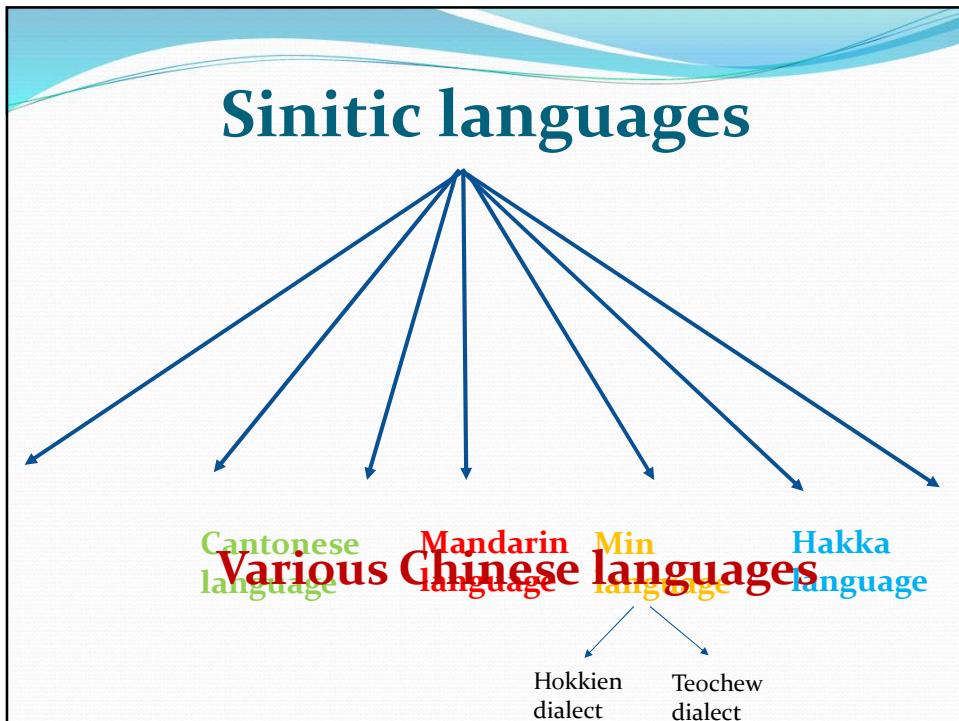
98



99



100



101