

Mipaselak to sowal no Pangach: a critical digital ethnography of ‘Amis Wikipitiya

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Nov. 16, 2024
First Conference on Global Indigenous Studies



‘Amis MoeDict and Wikipitiya



WIKIPITIYA
Paifaloco'an pitiya a tilid

ami.wikipedia.org

What are we talking about?

- Who are the ‘Amis/Pangcah // Colonialisms in Taiwan // Language Policy
- Why Wikipedia // Escaping the Wikipedia Incubator
- Survey of 50 ‘Amis Wikipitiya Articles
- Reactions to the Wikipitiya today from ‘Amis User-Contributors

Wikipitiya as a storehouse

“I believe everyone wants to know what is Wikipedia? My explanation is that it is like the rice barn of the 'Amis. Ariri is the place where we used to store rice. It is called soko (warehouse) in Japanese. The soko here refers to the collection of any wisdom in our lives. This is the explanation of Wikipedia. The collection of all our wisdom or some of our conceptual thinking is included in it. After collecting the language and culture of the tribe, we will still have a place to read it in the future. This is the central idea of our team.”

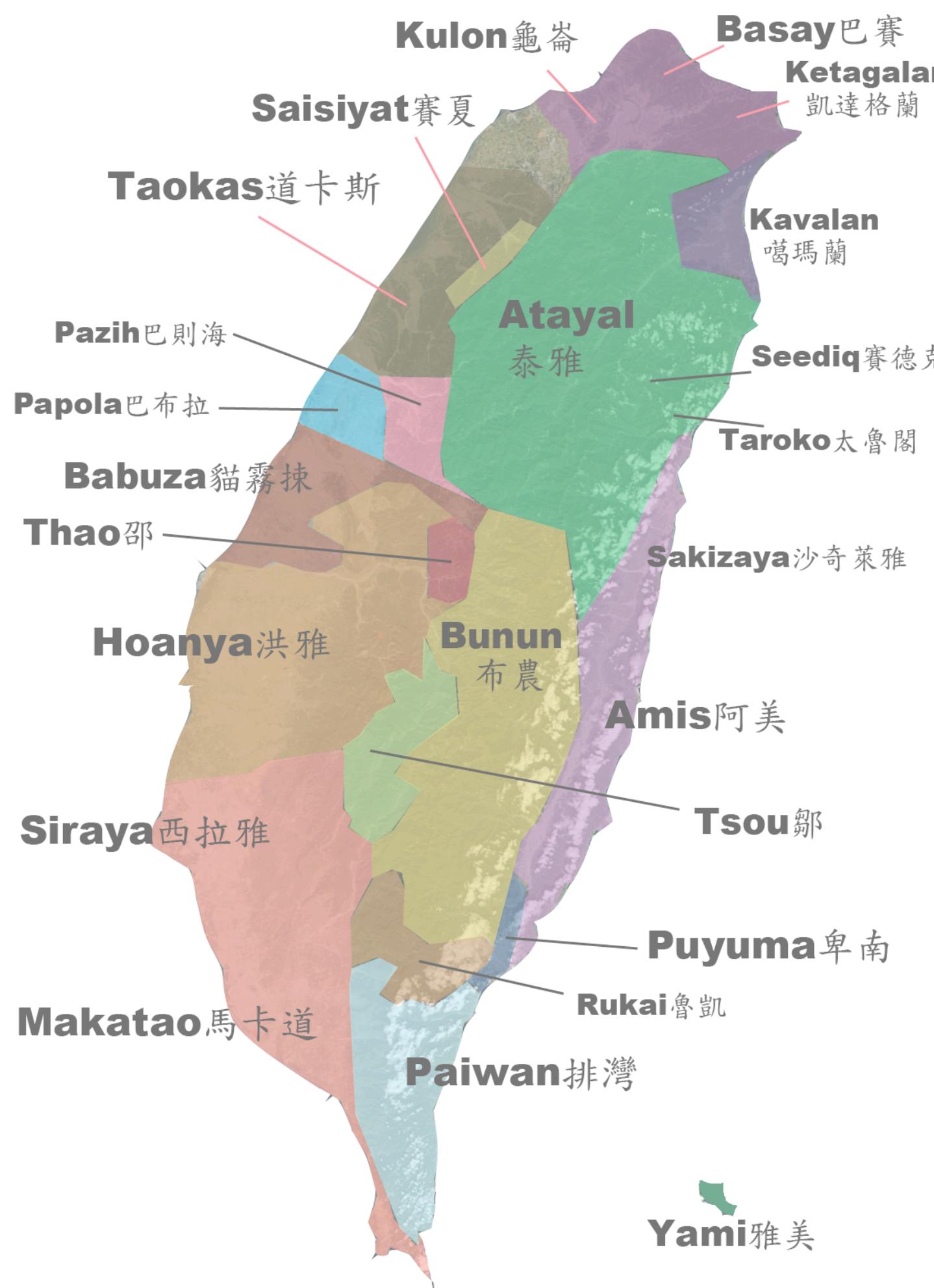
~ Prof. Safulo, TITV 2022

‘Amis Background

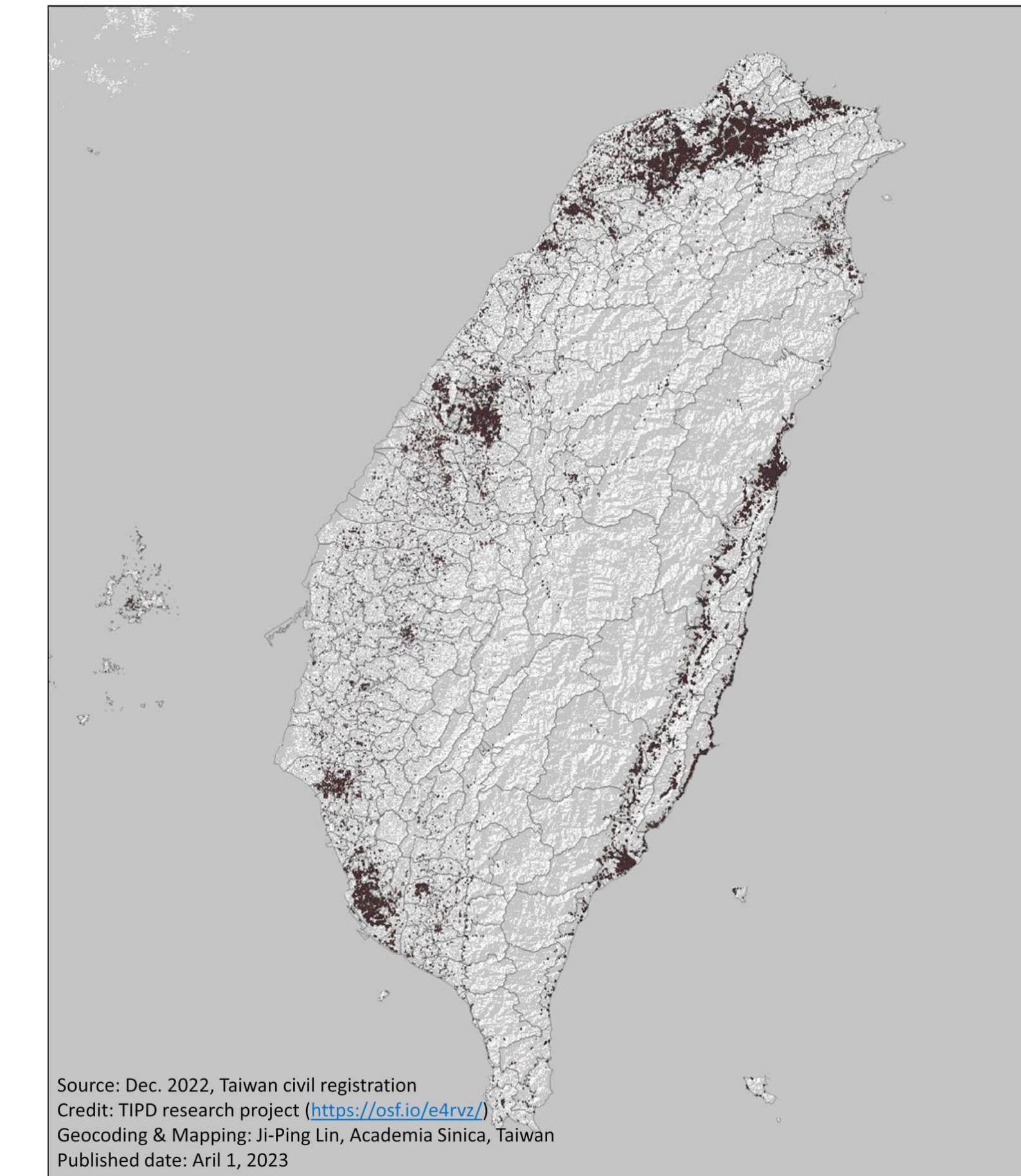
- Known as the ‘Amis or Pangcah
- 582,008 Indigenous people in Taiwan, 217,216 ‘Amis (37.3%) (2022 Taiwan Census)
- One of 16 recognized Taiwanese Indigenous communities
- Austronesian language in the East Formosan subgroup
- Number of Speakers - 110,000 (Ethnologue), 30,000 (Kuo 2015)



‘Amis Population Distribution



台灣原住民族人口分布
Population Distribution of Taiwan Indigenous Peoples
阿美族 Amis



- https://www.cos.io/blog/taiwan-indigenous-peoples?hs_preview=QUOrJLoo-176808682520

Colonialisms in Taiwan

“Indeed, Taiwan’s historical formation may be viewed as a succession of colonialisms: the initial settlers of the island indigenized over thousands of years were colonized and displaced by settlers from the Mainland during the Ming but especially during the Qing dynasties, by the Dutch colonial unification of the island, by Qing incorporation of the island into its administrative structure, by half a century of Japanese colonialism, followed by the Guomindang after World War II, and presently by the ongoing threat from the Mainland.”

~Dirlik 2018, 8

Indigenous Policy since Democratization

- 1996 - Council of Aboriginal Affairs (renamed Council of Indigenous Peoples in 2002)
- 1998 - Education Act for Indigenous Peoples
- 2005 - Establishment of Taiwan Indigenous Television
- 2008 - Taiwan Indigenous Peoples Basic Law
- 2008-2013, 2014-2019 Six Year Plans for the Revitalization of Taiwan's Indigenous Languages
- 2017 Indigenous Languages Development Act

Early ‘Amis Wikipitya

- 2005 - MoE publishes “Taiwanese Indigenous Ethnic Language Writing Systems”
- 2010 - Indigenous Languages Writing Workshop
- 2014 - Indigenous Peoples’ Wikipedia Construction Project (addition of Wikimedia Taiwan in 2015)

Why Wikipedia?

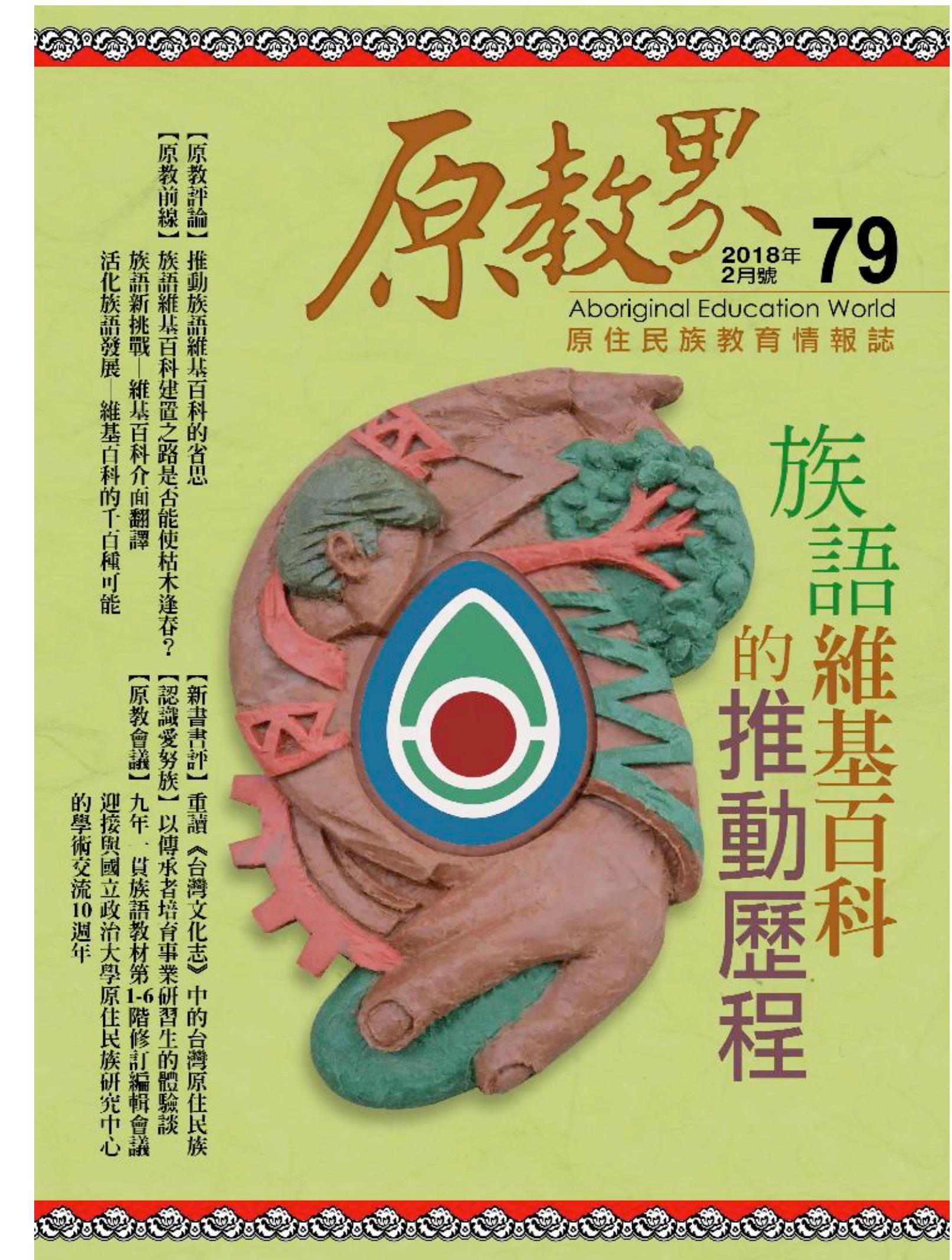
- Promotion of a writing standard
- “No Wikipedia, no ascent” (Kornai 2013)
- Status of Wikipedia as “language empathetic” (Cunliffe 2019, 458-9)
- “To speak out internationally” (NCCU ALCD)



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Making of ‘Amis Wikipitiya

- Wikipedia Incubator
 - Must be unique with an ISO code
 - Must translate the full interface (8000+ terms)
- “To get as many people as possible to write as many articles as possible” (Aharoni 2020)
- Hosted editing sessions with assistants, writers, and tribal elders with input from MoE, volunteer Wikipedians, and Wikimedia Taiwan.



What is in the Wikipitiya?

- There are 1129 total articles in the Wikipitiya
- Following the example of Dijk (2009) I took a cross-section of 50 to describe using the random article feature

'Amis Wikipitiya Word Count Statistics	
Average Word Count	256
Median Word Count	86
Longest Article	2087
Article type ratios	
Real Articles (>50 words)	20
Buluo Template	25
Stubs (near-zero content)	5

“Real” Articles (40%)

- Written by users Safulo or Masaonikar
- Generally describe countries, leaders, or current events
- Heavy use of neologisms

Costa Rica

[tanenengan \[himed\]](#)

- 1 [Takaray Sowal\(概要\)](#)
- 2 [Kaitiraan\(地理\)](#)
- 3 [Sici \(政治\)](#)
- 4 [Rikisi\(歴史\)](#)
- 5 [Tamdaw\(人口\)](#)
- 6 [Sowal\(語言\)](#)
- 7 [Ponka\(文化\)](#)
- 8 [Tahapinangan Tild\(参考文献\)](#)
- 9 [参考文献\[編輯\]](#)
- 10 [外部連結\[編輯原始碼\]](#)
- 11 [Costa rica \(哥斯大黎加\)](#)

Takaray Sowal(概要) [mikawit i o yin-se-ma no pisinanot]

Costa Rica Kosta Rika Kapolongan Kitakit ([Sipanya a sowal](#):República de Costa Rica; [Kuwaping a sowal](#): 哥斯大黎加共和国), Kosta Rika hananay a mitahidang to kaloromi'ad, o 「kinatahtahay a salawacan no riyar」 sanay ko imi nona no kitakit. Itiraay i Sifoay [Amirika](#), ka'amis o [Nikarakuwa](#), katimol malala'edan ato [Panama](#), o tatapangan a tokay o [Siehos](#). O Kosta Rika hananay a kitakit 'i,o sarakatay a palasawad to sofita a kitakit i hekal, o sarihadayay ko 'orip itini i Sifoay Amirika, o sakaay a kamaro'an no misawday to tayal a tamdaw hananay no 『Fupisi』 i 2020 miheca. o patirengay to rikec kalomaocan mahinapec mifoot to sakapidoedo no congong to pirrid mato miliyangay to kimpo. 2003 miheca 4 folad, pakayni i kalaliyaliyangan, ikor mirikec kalomaocan niketonan a losid, mihayda to caay kanga'ay ko cecay a congong to nisamaamaanan ko nirikecan to sapipadoedoaw masadak.



Flag of Costa Rica

Neologisms in 'Amis

A comparison of neologism formation between the English loanwords and the Amis language.

Method	English	'Amis	Breakdown
'Amis + 'Amis	water re-sources	<u>kinairaira</u> no nanon-amoman	(all material contained) + (great source of water)
'Amis + loan-word	self-govern-ment	<u>niyahpikowan</u>	<u>niyah</u> (onself, 'Amis) + <u>kuwan</u> (manage, Taigi)
Compound word	Indigenous ethnic groups	<u>polong</u> a <u>finacadan</u> a <u>yincuminco</u>	(all ethnic groups, 'Amis) + 原住民族 (<u>yuanzhuminzu</u> , Chinese)
Loanword	insurance	<u>pawsin</u> , <u>hokin</u>	保險 (<u>baoxin</u> , Chinese)
Literal trans-lations	bicameral system	兩個國家的會議制度	Use Chinese translation without 'Amis transliteration

Buluo Template (50%)

- Descriptions of “buluo” or Taiwanese Indigenous villages/village clusters
- Follow a standard template listing their county, population, and demographics
- Created conveyor belt style, sometimes by non-'Amis speakers

Matang

Matang (馬當部落)

Itiniay i [Taitung](#)(台東) Cen no Taitung ko Matang a niyaro', 872 ko sa'osi no parod no loma', 2,542 ko sa'osi no tamdaw.

38% ko ka'aloman(多的) no Yincomin(原住民), polong han i, 967 ko tamdaw; o roma sato i, 62% ko ka'aloman no roma a finacadan, polong(全部) han i, 1,575 ko tamdaw.

O pa-sin-to(百分比) no ka'aloman no tamdaw no kasafinacadan(族群) i, ko [Amis](#)(阿美族)30%, [Paiwan](#)(排灣族)3%, [Bunun](#)(布農族)1%, [Puyuma](#)(卑南族)1%, roma(其他)3%.

O katadamaanan no niyaro' [[mikawit](#) | o yin-se-ma no pisinanot]

o kasadakan no lihaf [[mikawit](#) | o yin-se-ma no pisinanot]

- [內政部戶政司全球資訊網](#)
- [原住民族委員會全球資訊網統計資料](#)

[kasakilac : Farangaw 'Amis](#)

Stubs and Other (10%)

- Stubs have almost no content
- “Other” articles can be extensive but don’t quite follow a pattern - often very idiosyncratic

Naniwac

This article is a **stub**. You can help Wikipedia by [expanding it](#).
這是一篇小作品，你可以通過[編輯或修訂](#)擴充其內容。



[kasakilac : Stubs](#)

“Ano mitodoh ko tamdaw to simal ato sikitang, masadak ko e-yang-hwa-tan (二
氧化碳). O nian ko sakafaedet no romi’ad no mita i matini.”

“If people burn oil and coal, it will release carbon dioxide. This is now heating up
our climate (weather).”

Perspectives from User-Contributors

- “I would not want to go to Wikipedia by myself because I would feel that I need to practice. It’s my own business, and I shouldn’t put this thing in a public place.” -Sera
- “The editing is output because you have to push yourself to write, to use all the sentences or the vocabularies that you know. And to make it, to write maybe a few sentences of articles, small articles. And that’s the way to push yourself to know more, to learn more. And it gives you the drive to improve yourself.” -Simoy
- Because I was already familiar with Wikipitiya and how to write in 'Amis language, I knew that there would be a teacher at the back who would have read it first... and if I wasn't in the same stream with that teacher, that is, his way of writing wasn't the way I liked it."Then I want to say oh my god we have to be used as an example by them to go out and be talked about what not to do. It affects my willingness [to edit]. That's why I don't really want to make a new entry after that.” -Omah

Do we need a Wikipitiya?

- “We need to publish. We can send 'Amis Wikipitiya to the world. Then when families see it in other languages besides Wikipedia, we can bring it back so that everyone can use it at home or think about it. It's more valuable because it's on Wikipedia. It's on an international platform.” -Tan Kheng-iong
- “I think one of the biggest functions of Amis language is to make people feel confident that our language can be used so that everyone knows that our language is not inferior to the larger ones.” -Omah
- “Yes, of course, I think we need an 'Amis Wikipitiya. Because that's the way we link to the world. And that's the same as that we can preserve our language in websites. And maybe we can expand our language.” -Simoy

Asia

[中文](#)

[客家語 / Hak-kâ-...](#)

[日本語](#)

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[Русский](#)

[Bahasa Indonesia](#)

[Bahasa Melayu](#)

[Jawa](#)

[Minangkabau](#)

[Pangcah](#)

[Português](#)

[Sakizaya](#)

Global Indigeneity?

*“Our biggest goal is to make Amis more and more accessible to the public, but of course we're not just going to stay in Taiwan, so we're going to have conferences and meetings with Wikipedia, and we're going to push ourselves out there, so **that we can learn about the world in our own language**, and that's the direction we're going to go in the future.”*

~ Prof. Safulo



Sa'ayyaw pising no tyin-naw

sa'ayyaw pising no tyin-naw [malalicay](#)

[miasip](#) [misinanot](#) [o yin-se-ma no pisinanot](#) [misongila' a minengneng to likisi](#) [sakatayal](#) ▾



Wikipitiya

Iraay to ko 1,149 a nitilidan no mita
malacafay kita mitilid to Wikipitiya

[kitakit](#) [niyaro' ato sakowan](#) [kawakawasan ratoh](#) [ngasaw](#) [dafong](#)
[pinaloma](#) [tamdaw](#) [ponka](#) ['orip no 'Amis](#) [a'adopen](#) [pakariyar](#)

As Storehouse, as Workshop

ami.wikipedia.org