## **Preliminaries**

## What is a Yuè Dialect?

A simple diagnostic (cite me):

- 1. Presence of a phonemic lower yīnrù (陰入) tone
- 2. A distinction between long, open /a/ and short, central /ɐ/
- 3. The word for "slaughter" takes the general form of /thɔŋ¹/ (劏)
- 4. The word for "thing" takes the general form of / $n\epsilon^4$ / (嘢)
- 5. The word for "noon" involves the general form /an<sup>5</sup>/ (晏)
- 6. Presence of a feminine suffix for animals that takes the general form of  $/na^3/$  (極)
- 7. Presence of a 2nd person plural marker that takes the general form /ti<sup>6</sup>/ (吨)
- 8. The word for "child" either takes the general form of /sej<sup>5</sup> men<sup>1</sup> tsej<sup>3</sup>/ (細民仔) or /sej<sup>5</sup> low<sup>3</sup> ko<sup>1</sup>/ (細佬哥)
- 9. The word for "(early) morning" involves some combination of the general forms  $t / iw^1$  (朝) and  $t s > w^3$  (早)
- 5 or more -> (probably) Yuè Chinese
- Convenient way to narrow focus to dialects most experts agree are Yuè. Not meant to be the final say.
- Predicts S. Pinghua dialects are Yue, *but* N. Pinghua dialects are not.

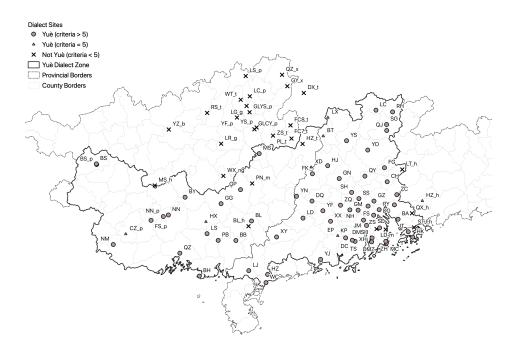


Figure 1: The Diagnostic Applied to the Yuè Dialects and their Neighbors