

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 /ə/
 3. The word for "slaughter" takes the general form of /tʰɔŋ¹/ (𪛗)
 4. The word for "thing" takes the general form of /ŋɛ⁴/ (嘢)
 5. The word for "noon" involves the general form /an⁵/ (晏)
 6. Presence of a feminine suffix for animals that takes the general form of /na³/ (𪛗)
 7. Presence of a 2nd person plural marker that takes the general form /ti⁶/ (哋)
 8. The word for "child" either takes the general form of /sej⁵ mən¹ tsej³/ (細民仔) or /sej⁵ lɔw³ kɔ¹/ (細佬哥)
 9. The word for "(early) morning" involves some combination of the general forms *tʃiw¹* (朝) and *tsɔw³* (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.

