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Topics in Middle Mekong Linguistics



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Preface

This book is a special volume of linguistics that focuses on the languages of the area of Middle Mekong, and includes research result from our project entitled “A Study of Languages and Linguistic Change in Middle-Mekong Region.” (JSPS Kaken #JP17H02335; Principal Investigator: Norihiko Hayashi, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies) which started in 2017 and will end in March 2022.

As is widely known, there are several different language families represented in the Middle Mekong region—Sino-Tibetan, Tai-Kadai (Kra-Dai), Austroasiatic, and Hmong Mien (Miao-Yao), etc. Most are currently facing linguistic endangerment or even extinction. They are precious and important from the viewpoints of both language revitalization and academic linguistics (descriptive linguistics, linguistic typology, historical linguistics, theoretical linguistics, etc.). Linguistic fieldwork in this region is limited, and the number of linguists studying the languages here are much fewer than the number of those researching major languages all over the world. Our project aims at documenting the languages of the Middle Mekong region and analyzing them from the perspectives of descriptive and historical linguistics.

Our volume focuses on three branches of linguistics: faunal terms, language change, and linguistic description; the first is contained in **Part A** and the last two in **Part B** of the book.

Faunal terms are significant in anthropological and ecological studies, though they have rarely gotten linguists’ attention. As you may notice, however, they are allotted one of the most important positions in linguistic fields as well. In this volume, **CHAMBERLAIN**’s paper analyzes the historical connection of the word for “snake” in Austroasiatic languages with Oceanic languages in relation to the Lapita culture. **BADENOCH**, **KURABE**, and **HAYASHI** describe the faunal terms in Sida (Tibeto-Burman, Sino-Tibetan; Luang Namtha, Laos), Jinghpaw (Tibeto-Burman, Sino-Tibetan; Kachin State, Myanmar), and Saek (Northern Tai, Tai-Kadai; Nakhon Phanom, Thailand), respectively. Badenoch’s paper makes a special reference to “expressive morphology” in the Sida language. Kurabe’s paper investigates the nomenclature of Jinghpaw faunal terms in detail. Hayashi’s paper sketches faunal terms in the At Samart variety of Saek, including many new words that cannot be found in previous works. This volume is unique in that it provides many insights and fruitful data for the faunal terms with zoological linguistics in this region.

Another issue is of the language change. **KATO**’s paper compares Sgaw Karen and Pwo Karen (Tibeto-Burman, Sino-Tibetan; Eastern Myanmar) from the typological and historical viewpoints. **HIRANO**’s paper compares two Tai languages, namely the Tay language and the Nung language spoken in Lang Son Province of Vietnam, which are quite close to each other in various respects.

Finally, our volume also focuses on the language description. **TAGUCHI**’s paper analyzes the deictic verbs (venitive and andative) in Lan Hmyo, a Hmong dialect in Guizhou Province of China.

We would like to thank all the speakers of the languages treated in this volume and express our sincere gratitude to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for its financial support. The editor would like to express appreciation for all the

assistance of the project members and colleagues: Nathan Badenoch, James Chamberlain, Gérard Diffloth, Kazue Iwasa, Atsuhiko Kato, Keita Kurabe, Ayaka Hirano, Keisuke Huziwara, Masaki Nohara, Toshiki Osada, Weera Ostapirat, Masaaki Shimizu, Yoshihisa Taguchi, Tsuguihito Takeuchi, and others. Last not but the least, we appreciate the academic and financial assistance from the Research Institute of Foreign Studies, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies. Without the help of all the people and institutions mentioned above, our project and the publication of this volume would not have been possible.

It is our wish that this volume makes a substantial contribution to the field of areal linguistics and language documentation in Southeast Asia.

Norihiko HAYASHI
Kobe City University of Foreign Studies
July 2019

The Contributors

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神戸外大研究年報 第60巻 正誤表
Errata in *Journal of Research Institute vol. 60*
Topics in Middle Mekong Linguistics

| | Error 誤 | Correction 正 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Preface; The 4 th Line | March 2022.) | March 2022. |
| p.108; Last line of 5.1 | /ɲuuu2/. ¹¹ | /ɲuuu2/ (Hudak 2008: 95) . ¹¹ |
| p.109; Last line of 5.2 | /pyaa1/. | /pyaa1/ (Hudak 2008: 97). |
| p.128; (8) | ʔɛhíkò | ʔɛthíkò |
| p.130; (18) gloss | ‘1SG | 1SG |
| p. 130; (20) | tò` | tò |

なお、神戸市外国語大学学術情報リポジトリでは以上の修正を行ったものを掲載しております。

ご不便をおかけして大変申し訳ありません。心よりお詫び申し上げます。何卒よろしくお願ひ致します。

The above errors have been corrected in the repository of Kobe City University of Foreign Studies Library. The editor apologizes for the inconveniences.

編者
The Editor

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Part A

Faunal Terms in Middle Mekong Region
and Southeast Asia

Part B

Descriptive and Historical Linguistics
in Middle Mekong Region
and Southeast Asia

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