

The Sound Variation and Change of Shezi Dialect in Taipei City

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This study investigates the sound variation and change of Shezi dialect in Taipei City. We aim to probe several questions about Shezi dialect: (1) the reservation of New Tongan dialect in Shezi among different age groups; (2) whether or not it reserves more characteristics of New Tongan dialect in the city; (3) the new trend of sound variation and change of the dialect; (4) how linguistic and social factors affect the variation and change of the dialect. The research based on a survey of 64 Shezi citizens shows that when compared with other rural areas of Taipei City, Shezi dialect preserves more characteristics of New Tongan dialect for one of the two rhymes in this study. However, it is decaying and is now less used as we look into the younger group. As we study the sound variations except those caused by “the Zhang-Quan competition,” we tell the variations with linguistic and social factors. The results show that “the minimizing articulatory effort” is the key to drive those new sound change, and age is the obvious social factor to the change while gender is not.

Key words: Shezi dialect, sound variation, sound change, linguistic factor, social factor

