

# **Semantic and morphosyntactic idiosyncrasies in the Bunun Bible translation**

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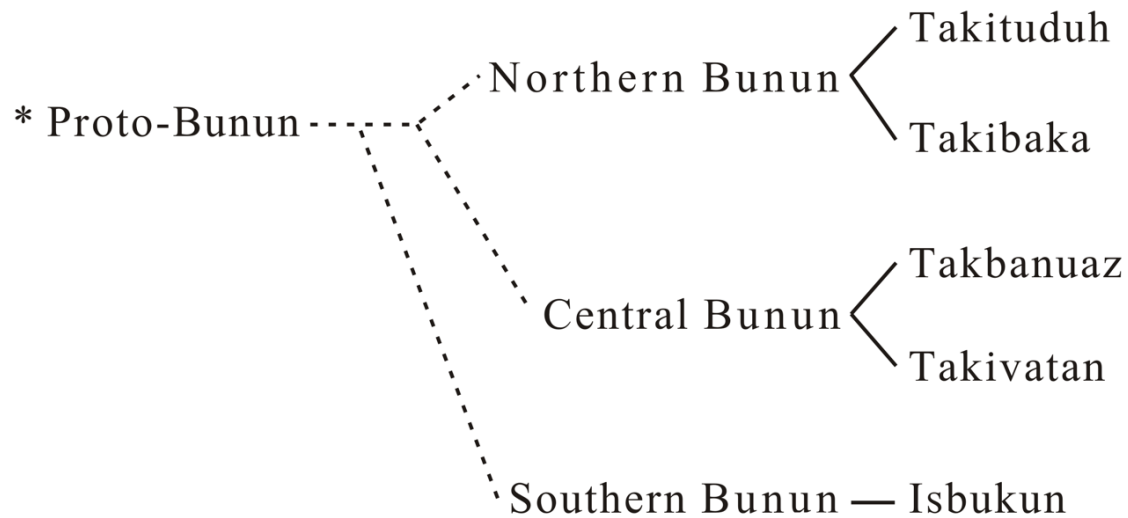


# Introduction

- Introduction of Christianity in Bunun culture
- Effect on the linguistic system:
  - Semantics: indigenization of concepts
  - Structural consequences

# Bunun

- Austronesian, Taiwan
- Complex affixal morphology
- 5 dialects:



# Aboriginal Christianity

- Conversion mainly after WWII
- Mainly two denominations:
  - Presbyterian Church
  - Catholic Church
- Indigenization movement:
  - Translation of key religious texts
  - Use of local language
  - Local church officials



# Indigenizing the Christian conceptual universe

- Translation
  - Bible
  - Religious documents
  - Songs
  - Liturgy, prayers
- What is the effect of this process on the linguistic system?

# Bunun Bible translations

Year	Books	Script
1949	Story of Noah's Flood	?
1951	Matthew	Zhuyin Fuhao
1955	Luke	Zhuyin Fuhao
1959	Acts	Zhuyin Fuhao
1962	Timothy 1-2	Zhuyin Fuhao
1983	Abbreviated NT	Roman
1990	Parallel p <i>Tama Dihanin tu halinga</i>	nan
1993	Jonan	Roman
<b>2000</b>	<b>Partial OT, Complete NT</b>	<b>Roman</b>
2011	Four Gospels (Takituduh)	Roman

# Indigenizing the Christian conceptual universe

“... the reliance on indigenous categories to translate Christian concepts during the proselytizing process has significant bearings on how Christianity is adopted.”

Yang (2008:70)

# Effects on the lexicon

- How are new religious concepts introduced in Bunun?
  - Phonological borrowing
  - Semantic transfer
    - Metaphorical extension
    - Semantic narrowing
  - Periphrasis
  - Templatic borrowing



# Effects on the lexicon

- Phonological borrowing (transliteration)
  - Mainly names
  - Phonological integration (e.g. /ie/, /e/)

Bunun	English	Source
Iehuba	Lord, Jehova	< Lat. Jehova
Iesulailu	Israel	< Jap. イスラエル Isuraeru
Muse	Moses	< Jap. モーセ Mōse
Ichibutu	Egypt	< Jap. エジプト Ejiputo
tensi	Angel	< Man. 天使 tiān shǐ

# Effects on the lexicon

- Semantic transfer
  - Metaphorical extension of indigenous concept

Bunun	English	Traditional
Sasbinaz	Lord	person in position of power (leader, policeman, ...)
asang	city	home village
hanitu	devil	ghost, spirit
uvau	dill	Chinese coriander

# Effects on the lexicon

- Semantic transfer
  - Semantic narrowing of indigenous concept from a general to a religious domain

Bunun	English	Traditional
inulivan	sin	wrongdoing
isang	soul	emotion, belief
taiklas	wisdom	clever, intelligent

# Effects on the lexicon

- Periphrasis

Bunun	English	Literal meaning
paliskadan daingaz	king	paliskadan ‘leader, person in which trust is put’ + daingaz ‘large’
hatu daingaz	ark	hatu ‘boat’ + daingaz ‘large’
masumsum tu hanian	sabbath	masumsum ‘pray’ + tu ‘ATTR’ + hanian ‘day’



# Effects on the lexicon

- Templatic borrowing (calque)
  - Creation of a new compound in correspondence to a similar construction in another language

Bunun	Composition	English
Sasbinaz Dihanin	Lord + Heaven	Father in Heaven, the Lord in Heaven
asang dihanin	village + heaven	Kingdom of Heaven

# Morphosyntax: Bible vs. everyday language

- Bunun Bible:
  - Dialect asymmetry: Based on Isbukun
  - Literary language
  - Discrepancies with everyday language
    - Phonology
    - Lexicon
    - Morphosyntax
- Example: personal deixis
  - Bible vs. Takivatan

# Morphosyntax: Bible vs. everyday language

- Bunun Bible

1. 

naia	hai	pasadu-an	saidzia	an-ʔanak		
3P.SUBJ	TPC	meet-LF	3S.OBJ	CV-self		
at	tahu	naidzia	mas	itu	Sasbinað	Dihanin
and	talk	3P.OBJ	OBL	this.here	God	
is-saipuk			tu	tamasað		
TRANSFER-take.care.of			ATTR	strength		

‘He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.’ (Act 1:3)



# Morphosyntax: Bible vs. everyday language

- Takivatan

2. aupa taʔađa istun-i na maqtu aipun  
thus listen 3S.MED-PRT CONS may DEM.S.MED.VIS  
ma-qansiap tu maupa-ta qan-a  
DYN-understand COMPL because-ART.ENT.DIST with-LNK  
i-mita bunun na-sia iniqumisan tu  
POSS-1I.N people IRR-ANAPH life INTER

‘Thus he is listening, and may he understand how we bunun conduct our lives.’ (TVN-008-001:16)



# Morphosyntax: Bible vs. everyday language

- Third person reference

Bunun Bible	Takivatan dialect
Personal pronouns	Personal pronouns (Rare)
?	Demonstratives (Common)
Visual/non-visual distinction?	Visual/non-visual distinction
Number distinction	Number distinction
Case distinction (SUBJ/OBJ/POSS)	—
—	Deictic distinction (PROX/MED/DIST)

# Conclusion

- Introduction new religion →
- Conceptual borrowing
  - Amalgam of strategies
- Creation of a literary standard
  - Discrepancy with spoken standard
  - Effects on language development and daily communication
- Further research

# Uninaŋ!



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# Bibliography

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