

PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN

PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN IS A SUBJECT THAT REFLECTS THE ISLAND'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND COMPLEX HISTORICAL BACKGROUND. TAIWAN IS A MULTILINGUAL SOCIETY WHERE SEVERAL LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS COEXIST, INFLUENCED BY INDIGENOUS CULTURES, CHINESE MIGRATION, AND HISTORICAL FOREIGN RULE. UNDERSTANDING THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN INVOLVES EXPLORING THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, COMMONLY SPOKEN DIALECTS, AND THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES. THIS EXAMINATION HIGHLIGHTS THE LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AND THE SOCIOPOLITICAL FACTORS THAT SHAPE LANGUAGE USE IN TAIWAN TODAY. THE ARTICLE WILL DETAIL THE OFFICIAL MANDARIN CHINESE LANGUAGE, TAIWANESE HOKKIEN, HAKKA, INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, AND THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT LANGUAGE POLICIES. READERS WILL GAIN A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF TAIWAN'S LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPE AND THE EVOLVING STATUS OF ITS PRIMARY LANGUAGE.

- THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF TAIWAN
- COMMONLY SPOKEN LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS
- INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF TAIWAN
- LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT POLICY
- THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE IN TAIWANESE IDENTITY

THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF TAIWAN

THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN, OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AND USED IN GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, AND MEDIA, IS MANDARIN CHINESE. OFTEN REFERRED TO AS STANDARD MANDARIN OR GUOYU (國語), IT WAS ESTABLISHED AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AFTER THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT RELOCATED TO TAIWAN IN 1949. MANDARIN SERVES AS THE LINGUA FRANCA THAT UNITES THE VARIOUS ETHNIC AND LINGUISTIC GROUPS ON THE ISLAND. IT IS BASED ON THE BEIJING DIALECT AND USES TRADITIONAL CHINESE CHARACTERS, DISTINGUISHING IT FROM SIMPLIFIED CHINESE USED IN MAINLAND CHINA. OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, PUBLIC BROADCASTS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION PREDOMINANTLY UTILIZE MANDARIN, WHICH PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN NATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MANDARIN IN TAIWAN

MANDARIN WAS PROMOTED EXTENSIVELY DURING THE MID-20TH CENTURY AS THE GOVERNMENT AIMED TO UNIFY THE ISLAND'S POPULATION UNDER A SINGLE LANGUAGE. PRIOR TO THIS, MANY TAIWANESE SPOKE LOCAL LANGUAGES SUCH AS TAIWANESE HOKKIEN AND HAKKA, ALONG WITH INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES. THE IMPOSITION OF MANDARIN WAS PART OF A BROADER EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL IDENTITY AND STREAMLINE GOVERNANCE. OVER TIME, MANDARIN BECAME THE DOMINANT LANGUAGE IN URBAN AREAS AND FORMAL SETTINGS, ALTHOUGH LOCAL LANGUAGES CONTINUED TO THRIVE IN DAILY LIFE AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS.

COMMONLY SPOKEN LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS

WHILE MANDARIN IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, TAIWAN IS HOME TO A VARIETY OF LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS SPOKEN BY DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES. THESE LANGUAGES REFLECT THE ISLAND'S DIVERSE POPULATION AND HISTORICAL MIGRATION PATTERNS. THE MOST PROMINENT AMONG THESE ARE TAIWANESE HOKKIEN, HAKKA, AND THE LANGUAGES OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. EACH LANGUAGE HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CONTINUES TO BE ACTIVELY USED IN VARIOUS REGIONS AND SOCIAL SPHERES.

Taiwanese Hokkien

Taiwanese Hokkien, also known simply as Taiwanese or Minnan, is the most widely spoken non-Mandarin language in Taiwan. It is a variant of the Southern Min dialect group originating from Fujian Province in mainland China. Taiwanese Hokkien is commonly spoken in households, markets, and informal contexts, especially in the southern and central parts of Taiwan. It has a rich tradition in local media, music, and religious practices, serving as an important marker of local identity.

Hakka Language

The Hakka language is spoken by the Hakka ethnic group, which constitutes a significant minority in Taiwan. It belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family and has distinct phonetic and lexical characteristics compared to Mandarin and Taiwanese Hokkien. Hakka is mainly spoken in northern and southern Taiwan, with efforts underway to preserve and promote the language. It remains a vital part of cultural heritage for the Hakka community.

Other Dialects and Variants

In addition to Mandarin, Taiwanese Hokkien, and Hakka, there are smaller communities that speak other Chinese dialects and immigrant languages. These include the languages of mainland Chinese immigrants who arrived during different historical periods and various regional dialects brought by new arrivals. The linguistic diversity contributes to Taiwan's dynamic multilingual environment.

Indigenous Languages of Taiwan

Taiwan is home to several indigenous groups, each with its own language. These Austronesian languages are among the oldest in the region and are distinct from the Chinese language family. The indigenous languages are vital to the cultural identity and traditions of Taiwan's native peoples, though many are endangered due to historical marginalization and language shift toward Mandarin.

Overview of Indigenous Languages

There are approximately 16 recognized indigenous groups in Taiwan, each with a unique language or dialect. These languages include Amis, Atayal, Paiwan, Bunun, and Rukai, among others. Indigenous languages vary significantly in terms of grammar, phonology, and vocabulary, reflecting their diverse origins and histories. Despite declining numbers of fluent speakers, revitalization efforts have gained momentum in recent years to preserve these languages.

Challenges and Preservation Efforts

The primary challenges facing indigenous languages in Taiwan include decreasing intergenerational transmission, urbanization, and the dominance of Mandarin in education and media. To counter these trends, the Taiwanese government and indigenous organizations have initiated language preservation programs. These initiatives include bilingual education, official recognition of indigenous languages, cultural festivals, and the creation of media content in indigenous tongues.

Language Education and Government Policy

The linguistic landscape of Taiwan is heavily influenced by education policies and government initiatives.

LANGUAGE EDUCATION PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN SHAPING THE USE AND STATUS OF THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN, AS WELL AS OTHER LOCAL LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS. THE GOVERNMENT'S EVOLVING STANCE ON MULTILINGUALISM REFLECTS CHANGING ATTITUDES TOWARD CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION.

MANDARIN-CENTERED EDUCATION SYSTEM

SINCE THE MID-20TH CENTURY, TAIWAN'S EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS EMPHASIZED MANDARIN CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION. MANDARIN PROFICIENCY IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT. SCHOOLS ACROSS TAIWAN TEACH MANDARIN READING, WRITING, AND SPEAKING SKILLS EXTENSIVELY, ENSURING THAT THE LANGUAGE REMAINS DOMINANT IN FORMAL CONTEXTS. THIS FOCUS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE WIDESPREAD FLUENCY IN MANDARIN AMONG THE POPULATION.

PROMOTION OF LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

IN RECENT DECADES, TAIWAN HAS INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES. EDUCATIONAL REFORMS HAVE INTRODUCED BILINGUAL PROGRAMS AND OPTIONAL COURSES IN TAIWANESE HOKKIEN, HAKKA, AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES. THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION EFFORTS THROUGH FUNDING, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, AND MEDIA PRODUCTION. THESE MEASURES AIM TO BALANCE THE DOMINANCE OF MANDARIN WITH THE PRESERVATION OF TAIWAN'S LINGUISTIC HERITAGE.

LANGUAGE POLICY AND LEGISLATION

TAIWAN'S LANGUAGE POLICIES HAVE EVOLVED TO REFLECT THE ISLAND'S MULTICULTURAL IDENTITY. THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES DEVELOPMENT ACT, PASSED TO PROMOTE LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY, GRANTS OFFICIAL STATUS TO INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND ENCOURAGES THEIR USE IN PUBLIC LIFE. LANGUAGE RIGHTS AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT POLICY GOALS, INFLUENCING EDUCATION, PUBLIC SIGNAGE, AND MEDIA BROADCASTING.

THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE IN TAIWANESE IDENTITY

LANGUAGE IS A CENTRAL ELEMENT OF TAIWANESE IDENTITY, REFLECTING THE ISLAND'S COMPLEX HISTORY AND CULTURAL PLURALITY. THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN IS NOT ONLY A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BUT ALSO A SYMBOL OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ETHNIC IDENTITY. DIFFERENT LANGUAGE GROUPS EXPRESS THEIR HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY TIES THROUGH THEIR LINGUISTIC CHOICES, CONTRIBUTING TO TAIWAN'S VIBRANT CULTURAL MOSAIC.

LANGUAGE AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

FOR MANY TAIWANESE, THE USE OF TAIWANESE HOKKIEN OR HAKKA EXPRESSES A CONNECTION TO LOCAL ROOTS AND ETHNIC HERITAGE. INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SIMILARLY SERVE AS POWERFUL MARKERS OF NATIVE IDENTITY AND PRIDE. MANDARIN, WHILE DOMINANT, IS SOMETIMES VIEWED AS A UNIFYING BUT POLITICALLY CHARGED LANGUAGE, LINKED TO HISTORICAL GOVERNANCE AND NATIONAL NARRATIVES. THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN THESE LANGUAGES SHAPES INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITIES ACROSS TAIWAN.

LANGUAGE IN MEDIA AND POPULAR CULTURE

THE USE OF VARIOUS LANGUAGES IN TAIWANESE MEDIA, MUSIC, AND ENTERTAINMENT REFLECTS AND REINFORCES THE ISLAND'S LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY. TAIWANESE DRAMAS, POP SONGS, AND RADIO PROGRAMS FREQUENTLY INCORPORATE TAIWANESE HOKKIEN, MANDARIN, AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, APPEALING TO DIFFERENT AUDIENCES AND FOSTERING CULTURAL APPRECIATION. LANGUAGE CHOICE IN POPULAR CULTURE OFTEN SIGNALS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES, INFLUENCING PUBLIC DISCOURSE ON IDENTITY.

FUTURE TRENDS IN LANGUAGE USE

ONGOING DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, GLOBALIZATION, AND TECHNOLOGY WILL CONTINUE TO AFFECT THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN AND ITS LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPE. EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AND REVITALIZE LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES ARE EXPECTED TO GROW, SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISM. MEANWHILE, MANDARIN'S ROLE AS THE OFFICIAL AND EDUCATIONAL LANGUAGE WILL LIKELY REMAIN STRONG, ENSURING COMMUNICATION ACROSS TAIWAN'S DIVERSE POPULATION.

- MANDARIN CHINESE AS THE OFFICIAL AND DOMINANT LANGUAGE
- WIDESPREAD USE OF TAIWANESE HOKKIEN AND HAKKA DIALECTS
- PRESENCE AND PRESERVATION OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRONESIAN LANGUAGES
- GOVERNMENT POLICIES PROMOTING MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE RIGHTS
- LANGUAGE AS A KEY FACTOR IN CULTURAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN TAIWAN?

THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN TAIWAN IS MANDARIN CHINESE, ALSO KNOWN AS STANDARD CHINESE OR PUTONGHUA.

IS MANDARIN THE ONLY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN TAIWAN?

NO, BESIDES MANDARIN, OTHER LANGUAGES SUCH AS TAIWANESE HOKKIEN, HAKKA, AND INDIGENOUS FORMOSAN LANGUAGES ARE ALSO SPOKEN IN TAIWAN.

WHY IS MANDARIN CHINESE THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN?

MANDARIN BECAME THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN AFTER THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA GOVERNMENT RELOCATED TO THE ISLAND IN 1949 AND PROMOTED IT AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE FOR EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT.

DO MOST TAIWANESE PEOPLE SPEAK MANDARIN FLUENTLY?

YES, MOST TAIWANESE PEOPLE ARE FLUENT IN MANDARIN DUE TO ITS USE IN SCHOOLS, MEDIA, AND GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH MANY ALSO SPEAK OTHER LOCAL LANGUAGES.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TAIWANESE HOKKIEN AND MANDARIN?

TAIWANESE HOKKIEN IS A SOUTHERN MIN DIALECT WITH ITS OWN VOCABULARY AND PRONUNCIATION, DISTINCT FROM MANDARIN CHINESE, WHICH IS BASED ON THE BEIJING DIALECT.

ARE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES STILL SPOKEN IN TAIWAN?

YES, SEVERAL INDIGENOUS FORMOSAN LANGUAGES ARE STILL SPOKEN BY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF TAIWAN, ALTHOUGH THEIR USE HAS DECLINED OVER TIME.

IS ENGLISH WIDELY SPOKEN IN TAIWAN?

ENGLISH IS TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS AND IS COMMONLY USED IN BUSINESS AND TOURISM, BUT IT IS NOT A PRIMARY LANGUAGE FOR DAILY COMMUNICATION IN TAIWAN.

HOW DOES TAIWAN'S LANGUAGE POLICY SUPPORT LOCAL LANGUAGES?

TAIWAN HAS IMPLEMENTED POLICIES TO PRESERVE AND REVITALIZE LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, INCLUDING INCORPORATING THEM INTO EDUCATION AND MEDIA.

WHAT SCRIPT IS USED FOR WRITING THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN TAIWAN?

TRADITIONAL CHINESE CHARACTERS ARE USED FOR WRITING MANDARIN CHINESE IN TAIWAN, UNLIKE SIMPLIFIED CHARACTERS USED IN MAINLAND CHINA.

CAN TOURISTS COMMUNICATE EASILY IN MANDARIN WHEN VISITING TAIWAN?

YES, TOURISTS CAN GENERALLY COMMUNICATE EASILY IN MANDARIN IN TAIWAN, AS IT IS WIDELY SPOKEN AND UNDERSTOOD THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. *THE LANGUAGES OF TAIWAN: A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW*

THIS BOOK PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF THE VARIOUS LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN TAIWAN, INCLUDING MANDARIN, TAIWANESE HOKKIEN, HAKKA, AND INDIGENOUS FORMOSAN LANGUAGES. IT EXAMINES THEIR HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIOLINGUISTIC STATUS, AND CURRENT USAGE. THE AUTHOR ALSO DISCUSSES LANGUAGE POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION IN TAIWAN.

2. *MANDARIN CHINESE IN TAIWAN: IDENTITY AND EDUCATION*

FOCUSING ON THE ROLE OF MANDARIN AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF TAIWAN, THIS BOOK ANALYZES HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES CULTURAL IDENTITY AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS. IT COVERS THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM'S APPROACH TO TEACHING MANDARIN AND THE CHALLENGES FACED BY SPEAKERS OF OTHER NATIVE LANGUAGES. THE BOOK ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE BALANCE BETWEEN NATIONAL UNITY AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY.

3. *TAIWANESE HOKKIEN: HISTORY AND REVIVAL*

THIS WORK TRACES THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF TAIWANESE HOKKIEN, ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY SPOKEN LOCAL LANGUAGES IN TAIWAN. IT DISCUSSES EFFORTS TO REVIVE AND PROMOTE TAIWANESE HOKKIEN IN MEDIA, SCHOOLS, AND PUBLIC LIFE AMID THE DOMINANCE OF MANDARIN. THE BOOK ALSO EXPLORES ITS CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CONTEMPORARY USAGE.

4. *LANGUAGE POLICY AND MULTILINGUALISM IN TAIWAN*

EXAMINING TAIWAN'S LANGUAGE POLICIES, THIS BOOK EXPLORES HOW GOVERNMENT DECISIONS INFLUENCE THE LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPE. IT DELVES INTO THE PROMOTION OF MULTILINGUALISM, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS. THE AUTHOR EVALUATES POLICY EFFECTIVENESS AND SUGGESTS FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE PLANNING.

5. *INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF TAIWAN: PRESERVATION AND CHALLENGES*

THIS BOOK FOCUSES ON TAIWAN'S INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, THEIR UNIQUE LINGUISTIC FEATURES, AND THE THREATS THEY FACE FROM LANGUAGE SHIFT AND GLOBALIZATION. IT PRESENTS CASE STUDIES OF REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THESE LANGUAGES. THE AUTHOR HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AS PART OF TAIWAN'S CULTURAL HERITAGE.

6. *TEACHING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN TAIWAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS*

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS, THIS BOOK ADDRESSES STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN TAIWAN'S PRIMARY EDUCATION SYSTEM. IT DISCUSSES CURRICULUM DESIGN THAT INCORPORATES LOCAL LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL CONTENT. THE BOOK ALSO PROVIDES INSIGHTS INTO FOSTERING BILINGUALISM AND MULTICULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG YOUNG LEARNERS.

7. *THE ROLE OF TAIWANESE SIGN LANGUAGE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION*

THIS BOOK EXPLORES THE STATUS AND DEVELOPMENT OF TAIWANESE SIGN LANGUAGE (TSL) WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. IT COVERS THE HISTORY OF TSL, ITS RECOGNITION AS A NATURAL LANGUAGE, AND ITS INTEGRATION INTO PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULA FOR DEAF STUDENTS. THE AUTHOR ADVOCATES FOR GREATER AWARENESS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION.

8. *LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY IN TAIWAN'S PRIMARY LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS*

FOCUSING ON THE INTERSECTION OF LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY, THIS BOOK EXAMINES HOW PRIMARY LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION SHAPES STUDENTS' SENSE OF SELF AND COMMUNITY. IT EXPLORES CLASSROOM DYNAMICS, TEACHER ATTITUDES, AND STUDENT EXPERIENCES IN MULTILINGUAL SETTINGS. THE BOOK EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING PRACTICES.

9. *BILINGUAL EDUCATION MODELS IN TAIWAN: CASE STUDIES AND OUTCOMES*

THIS VOLUME PRESENTS VARIOUS BILINGUAL EDUCATION MODELS IMPLEMENTED ACROSS TAIWAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS, INCLUDING MANDARIN-TAIWANESE AND MANDARIN-HAKKA PROGRAMS. IT ANALYZES THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN PROMOTING LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. THE BOOK INCLUDES CASE STUDIES THAT HIGHLIGHT SUCCESSSES, CHALLENGES, AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION.

Primary Language In Taiwan

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primary language in taiwan: Language Policy in Taiwan in the 21st Century Chen-Cheng Chun, Der-Hwa Victoria Rau, 2025-07-22 This book provides insiders' views of how Taiwan's monolingual language policy has evolved into multilingual language policies since its peaceful transition to a democratic society in the late 20th century. From three major perspectives, it examines the conflicts and compromises of monolingual and multilingual ideologies, challenges and approaches in language management, and actual language practice in families and communities in the transformation process in the last three decades. The book intends to theorize Taiwan's multilingual experience and introduce it to the international scholarly community, who are more familiar with the monolingual development on the other side of the Taiwan Strait and less aware of the multilingual development in Taiwan. It is an eye-opening book for language planning and policy students, language educators, public policymakers, and all those with a stake in multilingualism.

primary language in taiwan: The Handbook of Language Contact Raymond Hickey, 2020-09-01 The second edition of the definitive reference on contact studies and linguistic change—provides extensive new research and original case studies Language contact is a dynamic area of contemporary linguistic research that studies how language changes when speakers of different languages interact. Accessibly structured into three sections, The Handbook of Language Contact explores the role of contact studies within the field of linguistics, the value of contact studies for language change research, and the relevance of language contact for sociolinguistics. This authoritative volume presents original findings and fresh research directions from an international team of prominent experts. Thirty-seven specially-commissioned chapters cover a broad range of topics and case studies of contact from around the world. Now in its second edition, this valuable reference has been extensively updated with new chapters on topics including globalization, language acquisition, creolization, code-switching, and genetic classification. Fresh case studies examine Romance, Indo-European, African, Mayan, and many other languages in both

the past and the present. Addressing the major issues in the field of language contact studies, this volume: Includes a representative sample of individual studies which re-evaluate the role of language contact in the broader context of language and society Offers 23 new chapters written by leading scholars Examines language contact in different societies, including many in Africa and Asia Provides a cross-section of case studies drawing on languages across the world The Handbook of Language Contact, Second Edition is an indispensable resource for researchers, scholars, and students involved in language contact, language variation and change, sociolinguistics, bilingualism, and language theory.

primary language in taiwan: Teaching Chinese as a Second Language in Taiwan Chun-yi Peng, Jung-yueh Tu, Chen-chun E, 2025-06-30 This book focusses on the teaching and learning of Chinese as a second language (CSL) in contemporary Taiwan. It explores linguistic, social, and pedagogical perspectives and offers unique insights into Taiwan's diverse language landscape, from international students to immigrant learners. Readers will gain an in-depth understanding of how Mandarin is taught and learned in Taiwan, benefiting from the book's linguistic approach and its examination of multilingualism, teacher education, and immigrant language programs. It provides practical insights for CSL teachers and learners, combining theoretical analysis with real-world examples of language use in Taiwan. This book is ideal for CSL instructors, aspiring teachers, and students interested in learning Mandarin in Taiwan. It will also appeal to scholars studying language pedagogy, and sociolinguistics, and those involved in teacher education programs.

primary language in taiwan: Language Planning and Policy in Asia: Japan, Nepal, Taiwan and Chinese characters Robert B. Kaplan, Richard B. Baldauf, 2008 This volume covers the language situation in Japan, Nepal and Taiwan, as well as the modernisation of Chinese Characters in China, explaining the linguistic diversity, the historical and political contexts and the current language situation -- including language-in-education planning, the role of the media, the role of religion, and the roles of non-indigenous languages. Two of the authors are indigenous and the other two have been participants in the language planning context.

primary language in taiwan: Curriculum and Teaching in Primary CLIL in Taiwan Yi-Ping Huang, 2024-12-13 This book explores teacher agency within Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), highlighting the roles of identity, emotion, discourse, and power. It demonstrates how teacher agency is shaped in curriculum leadership, course design, scaffolding, translanguaging, and cross-curricular collaboration. Focusing on public elementary schools in Taiwan, the first in Asia to adopt CLIL in compulsory education, this book proposes glocalized frameworks of teacher agency for curriculum and teaching in CLIL based on three qualitative case studies sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan (107-2410-H-004-116; 108-2410-H-004-099-MY2; 110-2410-H-004-045). This book is an essential reference for educators, researchers, and leaders involved in designing and implementing CLIL in EFL contexts across Asia.

primary language in taiwan: OFW Guide Taiwan Jandel Cruz, 2025-01-12 OFW Guide Taiwan: Everything You Need to Know is a thorough and indispensable resource for Filipino workers aspiring to work in Taiwan. Whether you're exploring job opportunities, preparing for your journey, or adjusting to life in a new country, this guide offers vital information, practical advice, and insights to help you succeed and secure a brighter future for yourself and your family. This book covers every stage of the OFW journey in Taiwan—from understanding cultural and legal requirements to securing the right job, managing daily life, and building a support network. It equips you with the tools, resources, and knowledge needed to face challenges confidently and embrace the opportunities that come with working abroad. With topics ranging from language learning and financial planning to connecting with the Filipino community and preparing for your return home, the guide provides clear, actionable advice. It also includes guidance on navigating cultural differences, work ethics, and expectations, helping you adapt and thrive in Taiwan's unique environment. Each chapter is tailored to address the specific needs of Filipino workers, offering practical tips on housing, transportation, communication, and emotional well-being. The book also highlights real-life stories of OFWs who have successfully built their lives abroad, inspiring readers

with their experiences and resilience. Whether you're a first-time worker or have prior experience overseas, this guide empowers you to make the most of your journey in Taiwan. It ensures your transition is smooth, your time abroad is rewarding, and your future is full of promise. For Every Filipino Worker This book is a tribute to the courage, sacrifice, and perseverance of Filipino workers worldwide. Through shared stories and practical advice, it aims to provide the support and knowledge every OFW deserves to succeed in their mission and return home stronger and more fulfilled.

primary language in taiwan: Revolutionary Taiwan Catherine Lila Chou, Mark Harrison, 2024-09-03 This book is in the Cambria Sinophone World Series, headed by Victor H. Mair (University of Pennsylvania). In the early 1990s, the people of Taiwan gained the right to vote for their executive and legislature. In building a democratic society, they transformed how they saw themselves and their homeland. The outcome of democratization was nothing less than revolutionary, producing a new, de facto nation and people that can be justly called Taiwanese. Yet this revolution remains unfinished and incomplete. In an era of increasing US-China rivalry, the People's Republic of China (PRC) claims sovereignty over Taiwan and insists that reunification is the historic mission of all peoples on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. The PRC threatens war with and over the island, inviting a crisis that would engulf the region and beyond. Common ideas about Taiwan—that it split with China in 1949 or sees itself as the true China—fail to explain why the Taiwanese withstand pressure from the PRC to relinquish their democratic self-governance. *Revolutionary Taiwan* sheds light on this. Each chapter shows how democratization in Taiwan constituted a revolution, changing not just the form of government but also how Taiwanese people conceptualized the island, coming to see it a complete nation unto itself. At the same time, however, Beijing has blocked the normal endpoint of this revolution: an open declaration of statehood and welcome into the global community. *Revolutionary Taiwan: Making Nationhood in a Changing World Order* brings the Taiwan story to a general audience. It will appeal to students and readers interested in international relations, contemporary geopolitics, and East Asian Studies. Informed by years of academic research and life in Taiwan, this book provides an entry point to a remarkable place and people.

primary language in taiwan: The Columbia Sourcebook of Literary Taiwan Sung-sheng Yvonne Chang, Michelle Yeh, Ming-ju Fan, 2014-09-02 This sourcebook contains more than 160 documents and writings that reflect the development of Taiwanese literature from the early modern period to the twenty-first century. Selections include seminal essays in literary debates, polemics, and other landmark events; interviews, diaries, and letters by major authors; critical and retrospective essays by influential writers, editors, and scholars; transcripts of historical speeches and conferences; literary-society manifestos and inaugural journal prefaces; and governmental policy pronouncements that have significantly influenced Taiwanese literature. These texts illuminate Asia's experience with modernization, colonialism, and postcolonialism; the character of Taiwan's Cold War and post-Cold War cultural production; gender and environmental issues; indigenous movements; and the changes and challenges of the digital revolution. Taiwan's complex history with Dutch, Spanish, and Japanese colonization; strategic geopolitical position vis-à-vis China, Japan, and the United States; and status as a hub for the East-bound circulation of technological and popular-culture trends make the nation an excellent case study for a richer understanding of East Asian and modern global relations.

primary language in taiwan: Taiwan 101 Matthew B. Christensen, Henrietta Yang, 2024-01-09 An indispensable guide for readers traveling to Taiwan for vacation, work, or school. It's chock-full of information that will help people successfully navigate the country. -Library Journal Taiwan has always been an attractive place to study and work. In fact, long before Mainland China became an option for Westerners, Taiwan was the place to study Chinese and work in a Mandarin Chinese speaking environment. As the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) gained economic and political strength in the world, Westerners naturally gravitated toward this new market. Language programs and jobs for Westerners flourished. In the past decade there has been a renewed interest

in Taiwan. This is undoubtedly due to a dramatic increase in cost of living in the P.R.C., increasing government regulation and scrutiny of foreigners, the increased political tension between China and the West, and generally the increasing difficulty doing business and studying in China in a free and fair way. In recent years Taiwan has once again emerged as an attractive place to study, work, and live. Taiwan offers a free, open, and safe environment that is welcoming to outsiders. While the cost of living in Taiwan's big cities is about the same as the big cities in Mainland China, it is much easier for a foreigner to navigate than in China. This book provides a practical, up-to-date, hands-on guide to navigating life in Taiwan. It is not a travel guidebook, but rather provides detailed information for the foreign resident in Taiwan, whether they be studying or working. It provides a wealth of information covering everything from renting apartments, taking care of your daily needs, what and where to eat, to Taiwanese work ethic and business culture, how to make the most of your study of Chinese, how to get around, and so on. The book is illustrated with relevant photos that contextualize the text, and enhance reader's understanding of the information.

primary language in taiwan: Being a Mother in a Strange Land Shu-Yi Huang, 2019-05-21 This text provides an alternative narrative to the humble and often exclusively male voices of first generation Chinese migrants. Despite Chinese migrants having migrated to the Netherlands since 1911, particularly after World War Two, and female migrants outnumbering male migrants, their everyday life and transnational motherhood experiences have remained largely unknown. Based on the narratives of 38 Chinese migrant women from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China, this book brings women, their lives and opinions to the center of Dutch migration history.

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of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. The Department of East Asian Studies is one of the few academic centres where all the entities in the East Asian region are studied and researched. This book will be very useful for those interested or engaged in research on East Asia.

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