

THE LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS OF THE NANLING AREA IN CHINA

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ABSTRACT

The Nanling area in China boasts a rich resource of languages, including not only Chinese dialects such as the group of Southwest Mandarin, Hakka, Xiang, Yue and Min, but also minority languages such as the Yao group of Miao-Yao and the Tai group of Kam-Tai. In addition, there is Tuhua whose language affiliation has yet to be established. The development of the Nanling Tuhua has been contingent on the complex land topography in this area, and on the area being the critical traffic route for people migrating from north to south in China. Through comparison of the Tuhua and the neighboring Chinese dialects or minority languages, it is found that the Nanling Tuhua is best described as a creole or mixed language with its associated features.

KEYWORDS

Nanling area Chinese dialects Minority Languages Tuhua

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