

Chapter II Literature Reviews

People have long been interested in studying the place names of Taiwan. From local history books there have been more or less some descriptions on how a certain place was named. However, there has been no professional and island-wide survey on place names until Japanese occupation. Among those Japanese scholars who devoted themselves to field work, Ino Kanori (伊能嘉矩) and Abe Akiyoshi (安倍明義) are representative. In 1909 Ino wrote “Continuation of Great Japan Place Name Dictionary, third: Taiwan” (大日本地名辭書續編, 第三台灣), which was also known as “Dictionary of Taiwan Place Names”(臺灣地名辭書). This book was divided into two parts: the first part was general discussion, including the five subsections “Taiwan Geography Survey”(臺灣地理總說), “Investigation on Taiwan place names”(臺灣地名考), “Taiwan Political Development Survey”(臺灣政治沿革總說), “Taiwan Inhabitants Survey”(臺灣住民總說) and “Tudi guanxing yiban”(土地慣行一斑). It briefly explained the historical and geographical background of Taiwan and its naming patterns for place names. The second part was detailed discussion, describing major place names and the culture content behind them. The explanations of these major place names came from various sources, including all kinds of local history books, literatures and his own field work data, so this book also served as a collection of historical data on Taiwan development. “Taiwan Culture History”(臺灣文化志),

which was published in 1928, was an extension based on Ino's work. It is a pity that this book has not been translated into Chinese yet. This is especially so for those who can not read Japanese.

After Ino, Abe Akiyoshi composed "Study on Taiwan Place Names" (臺灣地名研究) in 1938. Actually Abe's book was also based on Ino's "Dictionary of Taiwan Place Names", together with some early Taiwan historical literature, such as "Report of Aborigines" (蕃族調查報告書) and "Taiwan Demographic Statistics"(臺灣常住人口統計表), plus his own field work data as well. Abe separated those small place names under each major place name, putting them together as a unit and comparing them with the new place names which were given by the Japanese government. Although Abe's book also took Ino's work as its foundation, he contributed a lot in recording aboriginal groups' place names and their origins, especially those of the Austronesian mountain group. These were precious data, but these parts were omitted in the Chinese translation published in 1996 by Wooling Publisher, which was a pity.

Although there were still some incomplete and incorrect parts in Ino's and Abe's works, as foreigners, they contributed so much to the study of Taiwan place names; far more than the Han Chinese who have lived much longer on this island, and they are two pioneers who set the corner stone of the study of place names in Taiwan. Their attitudes are worthy of our respect and emulation.

After the restoration, Chen Zheng-xiang (陳正祥) wrote the first paper on place names “Analysis on Taiwan Place Names”. This Paper was based on “Taiwan Fangzhi”(臺灣方志) and a 1:50,000 geographic map. His conclusions were: place names from different stages of history would present difference cultural layers; place names of Taiwan can be categorized into geographic names, location names, descriptive names, memorial names, village names, specialty names and compound names. However, these categorizations followed Ino’s work. Two years later, in 1960, Chen published “Taiwan Place Name Dictionary” (臺灣地名辭典). Chen was an industrious geographer, so this dictionary was “just a side product of my fourteen years of doing research in Taiwan...actually this is a record of ‘map reading’“(Chen, 1960). This dictionary recruited numerous place names shown on a 1:50,000 map, ordered in strokes along with the phonetic spelling of the Mandarin Chinese of each place name; in addition, longitude and latitude were also noted with every place name. For village names, population and main industries would also be added. Generally speaking, this dictionary focused on the absolute location of natural geography, but lacked the humanistic geographical explanation on the origin of these place names. Basically this dictionary was place-name index of a 1:50,000 map.

Since the 1980’s, Hong Min-lin (洪敏麟) has composed a series of “The Development of Taiwan Old Place Names”(台灣舊地名沿革). Book 1 was on

Northern Taiwan, including Taipei City, Taipei County, Keelung City and Yi-lan County; Book 2 was divided into two parts and the latter. The former part included Tao-yuan County, Hsin-chu County and Miao-li County; the latter part included Taichung City, Taichung County and Chang-hwa County. In terms of field work, Hong's survey has been the most complete and detailed one up to now. Almost every one who studies Taiwan place names refers to his work. However, his work is only concerned the central and northern parts of Taiwan, with the southern and eastern parts still pending. Besides, the research on place names at this stage still represents the aspects of language, geography and history independently, with no attempts to integrate them for a more complete picture.

Meanwhile, since 1981, Chen Guo-chang (陳國章) has been recording Taiwan place names in real life. In his book "Taiwan Place Names Dictionary" (台灣地名辭典)(Chen, 1998), he specified sounds and meanings of Taiwan place names, and in each place name he put a note on whether it was pronounced by Hakka, Quanzhou Hoklo, Zhangzhou Hoklo or others. Besides exact pronunciations, he also marked out the dominant language of the area in which each place name was located. Different naming patterns between Hakka and Hoklo were also mentioned in his research. Chen's studies on place names were integrative, based on linguistics and accompanying geographical and historical statistical analysis. His contribution was

significant, and he has published many thematic papers in the past twenty years, including the book “Taiwan Place Names Corpus”(台灣地名學文集) (1994).

Besides Chen, a scholar from mainland China, Li Ru-long (李如龍), has also emphasized the importance of linguistics in studying place names. Since place names contain three components, history, geography and language, he thought that the study of place names has to be started with linguistic analysis, for place names must be realized in language. In his book “Discussions on Place Names of Han Chinese”(漢語地名學論稿), he described Han Chinese place names in terms of morphology, lexicon, forms, sounds and meanings, as well as naming patterns, etymology, development and change, citing much data and literature, and was a book containing both micro and macro perspectives. However, as for the foreign influences on Han Chinese place names, Li only stated his point of view politically, emphasizing that these “given” names had to be undone, or otherwise would be regarded as attainments. Nevertheless, despite these negative impressions, foreign culture has also enriched Han Chinese place names, through methods such as borrowing or translation. But these parts were not mentioned in the book, which is a pity.

Studies on place names, also known as Toponymy, can be divided into two general groups: one is on toponymy itself, the other is indirect but related data, such as maps and local history books, for they can provide background knowledge for toponymical

studies. As for direct toponymy studies, there are four sub fields: general toponymy, specific toponymy, applied toponymy and toponymical history. Among these four, specific toponymy refers to thematic research, and can be further divided into historical toponymy, linguistic toponymy, discussions on nationwide place names' origin and development, and discussions on regional place names' origin and development. Historical toponymy focused more on history, using place names to discuss historical change; linguistic toponymy surveys for dialectal place names, aboriginal place names and foreign place names, studying how they are pronounced, what they mean and their naming rules; natural and regional toponymy were once grouped together. However, with the majority or recent toponomical studies have been on this field, it was later separated into two categories. For example, "Linguistic study on Taiwan Southern –Min Geographical Names: Discussions on Their Cultural Meanings and Development" (Tsai, 2004) studied place names across Taiwan. Another thesis, "Using Han Chinese Morphology and Phonetics to Understand Hakka Place Names—Hakka Townships in Tao-yuan, Hsin-chu and Miao-li Area" (Ye, 2003), was a regional study. These two master theses discussed Hoklo or Hakka place names in general. They did have some contributions on linguistic analysis of Taiwan place names, especially the former author, for she can read Japanese so that some Japanese data and literature can be referred to in illustration. However, they seldom combined

historical or geographical background knowledge into their studies, so the focus was not clear.

Different from the previous two theses, Tsao Feng-fu's (曹逢甫) paper "The Development of the Greater Taipei Area and the Relationship between the Different Ethnic Groups and the Linguistic Ecological State of the Area during the Period of Development" (Tsao,2004) was an example of a thematic and systematic study, which integrated history and geography together with language. As a linguist, Tsao started his discussion from place names, talked about the development history of the greater Taipei area from the ethnic groups who took part in the development, the development procedures to the relationship between these groups. Through sociolinguistic analysis he cited a lot of place names as a witness to this development history. It was this paper that motivated the author of the present study to study place names of central Taiwan and provided the research framework.

In the previous paper, Tsao mentioned armed fighting in the development process, claiming that it was because the "identity" function of language was overused (Tsao, 2004). Truly, languages were the easiest way to tell the differences among ethnic groups, and Huang Shuan-fan (黃宣範) had detailed discussions in his book "Language, Society, and Ethnic Identity—Research on Taiwan Sociology of Language" (Huang, 1994). The main ethnic groups in the book were Hoklo, Hakka,

Mainlanders (other than people from the southern-min area) and aboriginal people. As time goes by, there are more and more foreigners moving into Taiwan, such as people from Vietnam and Thailand, and some changes must be going on in the relationships of ethnic groups. But the main idea of Huang's book still provided the author a lot of insight about ethnic groups and their interactions.

Turning our attention to the issue of development, we should first have some understanding of the development history of Taiwan. Yin Chang-yi (尹章義), who was one of the experts on this field, wrote a book called "Research on the Development History of Taiwan" (Yin, 1989). Yin found the special contribution of pedigrees and old contracts and receipts in studying the development history of Taiwan, and then offered a new perspective in many aspects, including the relationship between ethnic and linguistic groups and their distribution. Yin wrote "On Stages and Types of Development History of Taiwan" as the conclusion of the whole book, constructing a whole theory on development history of Taiwan with documents. Based on this theoretical framework, he explained why Taiwan can become a Han Chinese society in such a short time compared with Hainan, southwestern China and other overseas area, in south Asia.

If we want to talk about the development of central Taiwan then we can not ignore the Pingpu group (the Austronesian plains group). Prof. Li Jen-Kui (李壬癸) was the

leading expert in studying the Taiwan Pingpu group. Li has published many books and papers on the Pingpu group and in his book “History and Interaction of Taiwan Pingpu Group” (Li, 2000a), he took linguistic data as a base, developing clear discussions on histories and traditions of the Pingpu group. He himself is a professional linguist who is experienced in studying Austronesian languages, so he can develop a comprehensive discussion on the Pingpu group’s past and present situation under the constraints of insufficient data. As he said, “The majority of Taiwan’s history is the history of Austronesia. Since the Pingpu is plains group of Austronesia in Taiwan, they played an important role in contacting other people in the Asian and Pacific area, for the Austronesian mountains group can not contact the outside world so directly...Thus, when we study thousands of years Taiwan’s history, we have to start with the Pingpu group. Han Chinese only inhabited Taiwan for a few hundreds years, which was only a short period of time in the whole history.” Thus Li’s work was valuable reference when the author studied the history of the Pingpu group in central Taiwan.