

(1) Paper title:

Description of Sakizaya

(2) Sub-field:

Language Description

(3) Name of author:

Melissa Shih-hui Lin

(4) Affiliation of author:

Assistant Professor, College of Indigenous Studies, National DongHwa University,
Taiwan.

(5) Email address:

linshihhui@hotmail.com

Description of Sakizaya

Sakizaya, known as a dialect of Amis for years, one of the Austronesian languages, is spoken on the eastern part of Taiwan Island, mainly in northern Hualien. The population is estimated to be less than 2000 and all speakers are older adults.

The data on the linguistic research of Sakizaya are comparatively scarce, which include the researches of Mabuchi, T., Tsuchida, S. (1982, 2002), Jen-Kuei Li (1999) and Tsukida, N. (1993). The previous three only mentioned Sakizaya on the categorizing of Amis language, but Tsuchida labored over a 39-paged specific discourse on Sakizaya language. Besides, the Sakizaya people's spiritual leader, principal Lai-Won Lee (1996), also contributed greatly to related discourses.

In this paper, I would like to present the collected language data of Sakizaya and the approximately 60% difference compared with Amis. I will preliminarily arrange and list the phonological, morphological and syntactic differences between Sakizaya and Amis according to the field work so far. For example, on the phonemic inventory systems, Sakizaya language and Amis have completely similar vowels, but Sakizaya language includes two more consonants (/z/ and /b/) than Amis. Moreover, the consonant /f/ in Sakizaya language is seldom employed. The existence of the specific consonant is probably influenced by neighboring Amis phoneme, but this argument needs further linguistic data to attest it. In addition, Amis' /ʌ/ and /x/ are mostly replaced by /h/ in Sakizaya. On morphological consideration, Sakizaya and Amis languages both have verbal prefix *mi-* which functions as agent focus, and verbal prefix *ma-* as agent or patient focuses. The Sakizaya language has one more prefix *mo-* than Amis, but Sakizaya doesn't have verbal infix *-om-* as agent focus in Amis. Within the comparison, I hope this paper could derive more discussion on this endangered language, Sakizaya.

Reference:

Blundell, David (ed). 2000. *Austronesian Taiwan, Linguistics, History, Ethnology and Prehistory*. Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley with Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines.

Li, Paul Jen-Kuei. 1999. *The linguistic history of Formosan aborigines* (in Chinese) Nantou, Taiwan: The Historical Research Commission of Taiwan Province.

Tsukida, Naomi, 1993. *A Brief Sketch of the Sakizaya Dialect of Amis*. Tokyo University Linguistic Paper 13.

Tsuchida, Shigeru, 1982. *Subclassification of Amis dialects*. Unpublished MS.

Tsuchida, Shigeru, 1983. Austronesian languages in Taiwan (Formosa). In S. A. Wurm and Shiro Hattori(eds). *Language Atlas of the Pacific Area*. Canberra. Australian

National University.

