

Language Revitalization through the Aboriginal Languages Textbooks Compiling Project

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Taiwan Aboriginal languages are a group of Austronesian languages spoken by 2% of the population of Taiwan. Many populations speaking these languages underwent and are still undergoing language shift between Aboriginal and Chinese languages. However, there are efforts to revitalize Taiwan Aboriginal languages, such as the reform of the Taiwan native languages education system, the implementation of the Accreditation of Aboriginal Languages Proficiency (AALP), and the project of compiling textbooks for Taiwan Aboriginal languages.

With the success of the AALP on languages revitalization movement, there is a creative and on-going project of compiling Aboriginal Languages Textbooks (2002-2005) for satisfying the demand for the new curricula of Aboriginal languages among 1st-9th grade (from the elementary school to the junior high school) students. This project is being prepared by the Center for Aboriginal Languages, Cultures and Education (ALCD), National Cheng-Chi University. And this project is financed by both the Ministry of Education and the Council of Indigenous People. ALCD is authorized to supervise all the compiling teams of 40 different language varieties. These textbooks attempt to integrate the language structure with contemporary life character of Aboriginal speakers, embody modern consciousness and ethnicity, and be more suited to exciting the student's study interest.

The attention of this paper is paid to: (1) the Course Design of this project, (2) the efforts of the textbook editors, including the procedures of textbook compilation and the difficulties they underwent, (3) the discussions that occurred around the issue of whether or not to innovate the vocabulary, and (4) language modernization through the compilation and teaching of the textbooks. It is suggested that the

current model of the compilation will be significant to Aboriginal languages revitalization.