

## Problems with the Póyáng/Bōyáng Dialect

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### Topics to be discussed

- ▶ Brief history of the area
- ▶ Different Names for Póyáng
- ▶ Nature of fieldwork and 1989 County Annals
- ▶ Phonemic Inventory of Póyáng dialect
- ▶ Classification of Póyáng dialect
- ▶ Bigger picture

### History

- ▶ Póyáng County has been inhabited since the pre-Qin period
- ▶ Jiāngxī, especially in the area around Póyáng, was subject to several population shifts throughout history due to skirmishes and its central location
- ▶ Historically at the intersection of Wú and Chū kingdoms

### Jiāngxī Province and Póyáng



### Different Names for Póyáng

- ▶ HYDCD lists the character 番 with the alternative pronunciation Pó meaning the place name.
- ▶ The *fānqiè* spelling for this character in the Hànsū is 蒲何反 = MC b(u) + (h)a = ba > SC pó
- ▶ Póxiàn 番县, part of Jiǔjiāng 九江, established in 221 BC
- ▶ Póyáng 番阳 in Western Hàn, Póyáng 鄱阳 in Eastern Hàn
- ▶ Changed to Bōyáng 波阳 in 1957 AD
- ▶ Officially changed back to Póyáng in 2003

### Póyáng County

- ▶ Consists of 14 towns and 20 rural townships
- ▶ The dialect discussed in this presentation is that of the county seat, Póyáng Zhèn

## 1989 Bōyáng Xiànzhi

- ▶ Hereafter referred to as Póyáng 1989
- ▶ Identities unclear, states that the dialect represented is that of Póyáng Zhèn
- ▶ Claims affinity to Gà, we'll return to this...

## Poyang 2010 Fieldwork

- ▶ Fieldworker: Myself
- ▶ Consultant: Póyáng Zhèn native, b. 1956. Male.
- ▶ Phonemic system differs little from that of Póyáng 1989



## Phonemic System

- ▶ 19 initials: p, p<sup>h</sup>, m, f, t, t<sup>h</sup>, n, l, ts (tɕ), ts<sup>h</sup> (tɕ<sup>h</sup>), s (ɕ), k, k<sup>h</sup>, ŋ, h, Ø.
- ▶ 47 finals: ɿ, ʅ, e, ɛ, o, ə, a, ei, ou, ai, au, en, ên, ôn, ân, əŋ, i, ie, ie, io, iəu, iau, in, ien, iɛn, u, ue, uo, uə, uei, uai, uen, uon, uân, uôn, ɯ, ɯe, ɯɛ, uei, uai, ɯn, ɯen, ɯên, ɯon, ɯân, ɯôn
- ▶ 5 Tones:
  - Yīnpíng – 11
  - Yángpíng – 24
  - Shāng – 42
  - Qù – 35
  - Rù – 44

## Tonal breakdown (Póyáng 2010)

- ▶ Shang tone words with MC voiced obstruent initials (*quánzhuó*) are pronounced as *yángpíng* (24) 竖,近,淡,棒 or *yīnpíng* (11) 厚 (used to be in *yángqù*)
- ▶ *Yángqù* merged into *yīnpíng* - 11
- ▶ Most *yángrù* words are pronounced in *yīnqù* (35) 六 (used to have a k- (k.ruk in old Chinese), 麦, 合, 直, 白, 毒, 薄. (肉, 热, 袜 are *rù* 44)
- ▶ *Rù* syllables lack plosive codas and are not shorter in duration (avg. 0.455 sec) than syllables in the other tones (avg. 0.461 sec)

## Two Rising Tones

- ▶ Póyáng 1989 notes two rising tones
- ▶ Consultant for Póyáng 2010 agrees there is a distinction; however fieldworker cannot perceive it.

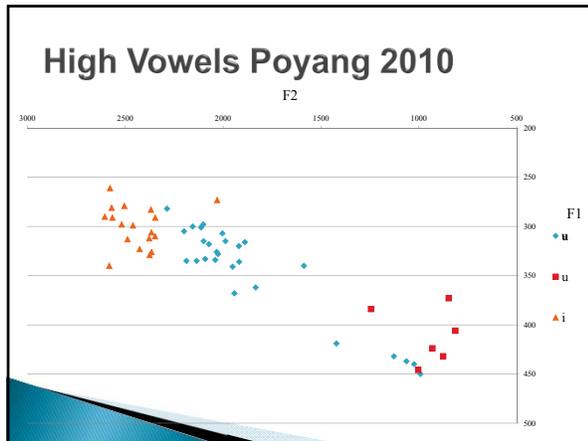


fan 24 帆 'sail'      fan 35 贩 'deal'

*Yángpíng*                      *Qù*

## High-front or mid-front rounded

- ▶ According to the Bōyáng Xiànzhi, *cuōkōu* vowels are [u].
- ▶ The fieldworker could not decide if this vowel should be [y] or [u], especially since this vowel along with [i] cause the dental sibilants to palatalize.



### What are some typical Gan characteristics (Norman 1988)?

- ▶ MC *quánzhuó* initials are voiceless aspirated (also a feature of Hakka, some Mǐn and Mandarin dialects)
- ▶ Third person pronoun is 渠(佢)
- ▶ Typically have 6-7 tones (some have 5)
- ▶ Contrast between [a] and [o] in finals such as an/on, am/om, and ai/oi.
- ▶ Negative is cognate with SC 不

### More characteristics (Yan 2006)

- ▶ Retention of some OC bilabial initials ex. 浮 /p'au/
- ▶ The word for 'sun' should be 日头
- ▶ The word for 'son' should be 崽
- ▶ The word for 'drink' should be 食, ex. 食酒 食茶
- ▶ The word for 'house' should be 屋

### Boyang Xianzhi (1989)

- ▶ “班 and 搬 are different”
- ▶ 来母洪音 is η, 细音 is n
- ▶ 影母洪音 is η
- ▶ ‘Sun’ is 日头
- ▶ ‘Rain’ is 落雨
- ▶ ‘To know’ is 晓得
- ▶ ‘To stand’ is 倚 [t<sup>h</sup>i /]
- ▶ ‘To eat’ is 喫饭 [t<sup>h</sup>ie \_]
- ▶ ‘Intercourse’ is 禽[tso \_]
- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronoun is 渠 [t<sup>h</sup>ie /]
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> person possessive is 我个

### Shared features of Poyang 1989 and Poyang 2010

- ▶ MC *Quánzhuó* initials are voiceless aspirated
- ▶ 5 tones
- ▶ “班 and 搬 are different”: Contrast between [a] and [o] in finals such as an/on, am/om, and ai/oi.
- ▶ 来母洪音 is η, 细音 is n
- ▶ 影母洪音 is η
- ▶ Negative is 不
- ▶ 浮 does not retain OC bilabial initial, both are /fou2/
- ▶ 晓得, 喫饭, 禽, 房子 are the same in both dialects

### Differences between Poyang 1989 and 2010

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ▶ ‘Sun’ 日头                             | ▶ ‘Sun’ 太阳                             |
| ▶ ‘Son’ 毛伢                             | ▶ ‘Son’ 儿子                             |
| ▶ ‘To rain’ 落雨                         | ▶ ‘To rain’ 下雨                         |
| ▶ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Person Pronoun 渠     | ▶ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Person Pronoun 他     |
| ▶ 1 <sup>st</sup> Person Possessive 我个 | ▶ 1 <sup>st</sup> Person Possessive 我的 |

Poyang 1989

Poyang 2010

## Is Pōyáng 2010 a Gàn dialect?

- ▶ Retains almost exactly the same phonemic system of Pōyáng 1989, which is atypical but still Gàn
- ▶ Retains some of the Gàn lexicon from Pōyáng 1989 but several criterion items, specifically pronouns are clearly of the Standard Chinese lexicon
- ▶ Surrounding dialects differ in *rù* and *cuōkǒu* finals (maps on next slide)

## Maps

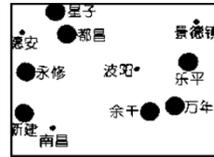


图17 四呼

- 四呼齐全
- 无撮口呼

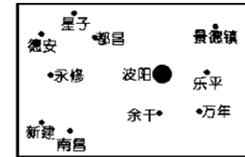


图16 韵母简化与否

- 韵尾失落或部分失落，韵母呈简化趋势
- 保留韵尾

## Bigger Picture

- ▶ In older data we often do not know the identities of the fieldworker or consultant and thus we don't know their linguistic training and demographic background respectively.
- ▶ The effectiveness of the promotion of Standard Chinese might entail lexical bleeding into the lexicon of Chinese dialects
- ▶ It is difficult to define Gàn, perhaps it is not a single legitimate dialect group. More fieldwork needs to be done.
- ▶ Ho (1987, 1988), "Gàn dialects, surrounded by Wú and Mǐn to the east, Xiāng to the west, Yuè and Hakka to the south and Mandarin to the north, are "mixture dialects". This could be a mixed dialect.
- ▶ Located near the Huī region which has no common innovations. They are essentially a group of mixed dialects.

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