The Pinghua language
Hilário de Sousa
Setting: Sinitic Languages

SW Mandarin

Nanning

Pinghua

Yue (e.g. Cantonese)

(Lang atlas of China 1986)
Setting: Non-Sinitic languages

Kra-Dai languages
(e.g. Nth/Sth Zhuang)

*(Kra-Dai: the family formerly known as Tai-Kadai)*
In 南寧 Nanning, schematically:

- **Northern Zhuang**
  (indigenous)

- **Southern Pinghua**
  (≈1000 years)

- **Cantonese**
  (≈150 years)

- **Southern Zhuang**
  (indigenous)
Nanning 南寧 — capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

南寧白話 Nanning Cantonese:
  o Spoken primarily in the city centre of Nanning;
  o First brought in by immigrants from the Pearl River Delta around the Opium Wars (mid 19th century). More Cantonese people came to Nanning from the Pearl River Delta during subsequent wars.

南寧平話 Nanning Pinghua
  o Spoken primarily in suburbs and nearby rural areas;
  o Associated with military personal from Shandong (including parts of modern day Henan) during the 1053 war by 宋 Sòng against the 儂志高 Nungz Ciqgau (Nóng Zhìgāo) regime.

Other languages in the area:
  o Indigenous Northern Zhuang and Southern Zhuang (Tai languages) in rural area and towns further away;

邕州官話 Old Nanning Mandarin (SW Mandarin, speakers >70 yo, Ming dynst officials
Some examples of Cantonese being more like Zhuang than Nanning Pinghua

Gender affixes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mandarin MOD N</th>
<th>Nanning Pinghua MOD N</th>
<th>Northern Zhuang N MOD</th>
<th>Cantonese N MOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘cock’</td>
<td>公鸡</td>
<td>公鸡</td>
<td>gaiq baeux</td>
<td>雞公</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘hen’</td>
<td>母鸡</td>
<td>母鸡</td>
<td>gaiq meh</td>
<td>雞乸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘pre-ovulating hen/ pullet’</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>母鸡</td>
<td>gaiq hangh</td>
<td>雞乸</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Modifier marker 個kə₅₅

Nanning Pinghua:

18. 我個衫爛喇
   ɳə¹³ kə₅₅ lam³³ lan²² la³³
   1SG MOD clothes torn ASP
   ‘My clothes are torn.’

Standard Mandarin:

19. 我的 衣服
   wǒ de yīfu
   1SG MOD clothes
   ‘My clothes’

Cantonese:

20. 我件衫
    ngo⁵⁵ kɪn³⁶saam¹
    1SG CL clothes
    ‘My clothes’

Northern Zhuang:

22. bonj saw gou
    CL book 1SG
    ‘My book’
## Demonstratives

**Table 1.** The demonstratives in Nanning Pingshua

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attributive:</td>
<td>个 kə́⁵⁵ ‘this/that’</td>
<td>二 ni²² ‘that’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(个 kə́⁵⁵ and 二 ni²² must be followed by a classifier within the NP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbial <strong>SPATIAL:</strong></td>
<td>个的 kə́⁵⁵-tik⁵ ‘t/here’</td>
<td>二的 ni²²-tik⁵ ‘there’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>个○ kə́⁵⁵ ten²² ‘t/here’</td>
<td>二○ ni²² ten²² ‘there’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>个的○ kə́⁵⁵-tik⁵ ten²² ‘t/here’</td>
<td>二的○ ni²²-tik⁵ ten²² ‘there’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>个边 kə́⁵⁵ pin⁵³ ‘this/that side’</td>
<td>二边 ni²² pin⁵³ ‘that side’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>个岸江 kə́⁵⁵ ən¹¹ kay⁵³ ‘this/that side of the river’</td>
<td>二岸江 ni²² ən¹¹ kay⁵³ ‘that side of the river’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbial <strong>TEMPORAL:</strong></td>
<td>个(阵)时 kə́⁵⁵ (tën²²) ti¹¹ ‘this/that moment’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>个次 kə́⁵⁵ tə⁵ʰ ‘this/that time’</td>
<td>二次 ni²² tə⁵ʰ ‘that time’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>个回 kə́⁵⁵ wəi¹¹ ‘this/that time’</td>
<td>二回 ni²² wəi¹¹ ‘that time’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbial <strong>DEGREE:</strong></td>
<td>耿 kəŋ³³ ‘this/that X’ (must be followed by an adjective)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbial <strong>MANNER:</strong></td>
<td>耿 kəŋ³³ ‘like this/that’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(1) 你为那门来个的？
*nēi¹³ wèi²² nà³³ mǔn¹¹ lèi¹¹ kǎo⁵⁵-tīk⁵*
2SG why come DEM-place
‘Why did you come here?’

(2) 我么佢去个的欣。
*nà¹³ cu²³ kēi¹³ hōi²⁵ kǎo⁵⁵-tīk⁵ hên⁵³*
1SG call 3SG go DEM-place play
‘I told him/her to go and play there.’
(1) 是从宁夏二边来
be from Ningxia DIST side come

或者从那儿来的有点不清楚。
or from where come NEG-quite clear

‘[They] came from Ningxia over there, or wherever they came from, is not quite clear [to me].’

(1) 我识得个天主教堂,
1SG know MOD catholicism hall

民生路有间,
livelihood road exist one CL

七星路二的有间。
seven star road DIST-place exist one CL

‘The catholic churches that I know of, there is one [near] Mínshēng Lù, there is one [near] Qīxīng Lù over there.’