

**REPORT ON THE 2ND WORKSHOP ON HERITAGE
MAINTENANCE FOR ENDANGERED
LANGUAGES IN YUNNAN, CHINA
中国云南濒危语言遗产保护研讨会
Yuxi Normal Institute, Yuxi, Yunnan, China
中国云南玉溪师范学院
3-5 December 2006**

David Bradley

La Trobe University

This workshop was organised by David Bradley of La Trobe University, in conjunction with Xu Xianming 许鲜明 and Bai Bibo 白碧波 of Yuxi Normal Institute, and sponsored by UNESCO and by the International Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies of the Australian National University. The workshop provided a forum for the spread of information and strategies for the preservation and documentation of the Tibeto-Burman languages of Yunnan. As Yuxi Normal Institute has special responsibility for education in Yuxi City and Honghe and Nujiang prefectures, it is uniquely placed to develop language maintenance strategies for the languages of these areas, which include Hani, Lisu and Yi.

The workshop united a group of over 40 scholars, 25 of whom presented papers on language maintenance activities underway in Yunnan. All sessions were held in Chinese, though portions of some papers were presented in Hani, Lisu or Yi. Nearly all presenters were members of the Hani, Lisu, Yi, Lahu, Naxi, Bai or other minority nationalities, representing most of the Tibeto-Burman groups in Yunnan Province. A total of six foreign participants from Australia, Finland, New Zealand and the United States, as well as a number of staff and students of Yuxi Normal Institute, also took part.

The keynote speech was given by David Bradley, and entitled 转变语言态度，保护濒危语言 (Changing language attitudes and maintaining endangered languages).

On the third day of the workshop, there was a field research visit to one Hani and one Yi village near Yuxi. The local authorities of those two villages agreed to ongoing co-operation with Yuxi Normal Institute and La Trobe University as field stations to document and maintain their languages, which are the Haoni variety of Hani and the Nasu subvariety of Nisu (Southern Yi).

Many of the Hani participants in the workshop had just attended the Third Hani Literacy Workshop in Lüchun in November 2006, also sponsored by UNESCO and by the International Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies of the Australian National University and organised by Bai Bibo.

The proceedings of the first workshop, held on the 21st of June 2005 in Yuxi, were distributed to all participants; these are published in English and in Chinese, and copies are available from David Bradley at La Trobe University. The contents are as follows:

David BRADLEY: Issues in orthography development and reform (with examples mainly drawn from Yi and Lisu),

BAI Bibo & ZHU Liyong: Hani language preservation and maintenance – Hani language and literacy,

Picus Sizhi DING: Language modernisation of Prinmi: Problems from promoting orthography to language maintenance (on Pumi phonology and two proposed orthographies, one based on *pinyin* and the other based on Tibetan),

Bryan ALLEN: The influence of Chinese on minority orthographies (on Bai *pinyin*-based romanisation and word boundaries in this romanisation),

John UNGER: Cherokee language and literacy: searching for links to Hani literacy,

and a proposal for an intercultural seminar in language, symbols and cognition.

It is planned to prepare a similar workshop proceedings volume for the second workshop, initially in Chinese and later in English.