

A Survey on Taiwan's Chinese Romanization Policy

～ 1984~2002 Chronological Table (National Language) ～

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Abstract

In the past several years in Taiwan, place-names on road signs shown in Roman letters have been rewritten one after another. In some cases, however, the same Chinese letters have been expressed in different Roman letters. In Taipei City, two different forms of romanization (one in brackets), in fact, are used to indicate some place-names on road signs. It is now an awkward situation, but these different expressions each have their own legal basis.

In 1984, The Ministry of Education made public “Guoyu zhuyin fuhao diershi.” In 2002, The Taipei City Government adopted “Hanyu pinyin” and The National Languages Committee proposed adoption of “Tongyong pinyin.” This paper has as its object gathering the arguments about the problems and the successive changes of policies in the Government, documents of the various offices concerned, media reports and academic studies. These materials are to be arranged in a chronological table, which will spotlight the process of policy-making and help my successive studies on the language policy in Taiwan.