

## Tongue-Tied Taiwan: Linguistic Diversity and Imagined Identities at the Crossroads of Colonial East Asia

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A history of repeated colonization and foreign occupation creates in Taiwan a severe language gap spanning three generations, and leaves its people in an anxious search for the island's "linguistic" and "national" identity. Taiwanese speakers of indigenous Austronesian languages and Chinese dialects such as Hokkien and Hakka have historically endured the imposition of two different national languages: Japanese since 1895 and Mandarin since 1945. In this project, I draw on anthropological perspectives and media analysis to understand the ideologies and symbols vested upon different languages and codes that still circulate within different media today. My research primarily investigates an autoethnographic report on a family history, several museum and gallery exhibits, as well as two different documentaries, all centered on Hokkien speakers in Taiwan. I argue that a future generation's narrative construction of an authentic Taiwanese identity must be rooted in the island's past and present reality of linguistic and cultural diversity.