

Another Pepo Language: Taivoan or a Local Lingua Franca?

by

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When I was investigating the Mantaunan dialect of Rukai in August 1970, I was told by one of my consultants that she knew a Pepo language spoken around Liu-kuei (~Z<T) in Kaohsiung Prefecture. I did my best to retrieve the language in concern, but what she could remember was only few sentences and words, such as follows:

1. ancua ikasu akia tavoLaa gwaa no miaa "Pepo" language

Taiw	Kan	Kan	Kan	Taiw	Jap	Taiw
antsua	iikasu	?akia	taavalaa	goa	no	mia~
why	thou	none	know	I	of	name
	2SgInd			我		名

□私の名前、どうして分からないか？

"Why don't you know my name?"

2. ikuu ka ku boo pakciu cima vo tavLaa

Kan	Kan	Kan	Taiw	Taiw	Bun	Taiw	Kan
iiku	kaa	ku	bo	bak-chiu	cima	bo	taavalaa
1SgInd	never	1SgNom	Neg	eye	who	Neg	known
			無	目[目周]		無	

□私、(あんたを)長いこと見ないから、(あんたの名前)分からない。

"I haven't seen you for a long time, so I don't know who you are."

The language in concern is apparently a mixture of Kanakanavu, Taiwanese, Rukai-Mantaunan, Bunun, Japanese and some unknown elements. Why is it called a Pepo language? Are the data that I obtained the final pieces of Taivoan which narrowly escaped from disappearing, or some still unknown Pepo language? Unfortunately the data I salvaged in 1970 are so few that it is hard to say anything certain, but I try to reveal the enigma from various angles.