

oral presentation (one of the Workshops) OR poster (both)

Borrowings in song lyrics in Taiwanese Southern Min

Abstract

Songs can be useful source for observing lexical change as well as cultural change. This study collects song lyrics from song corpora in Taiwanese Southern Min. We examine borrowings in 1950s and 2010s popular songs. The purpose is to find out types of borrowings and lexical change with Haspelmath's loanword typology (2008) taking as the theoretical base. The results indicate that (1) most of the borrowings are not loan translation (8.57%) but loanwords (82.86%), e.g. *ū-lòk-ting* 有樂町 'Yuurakuchou'. (2) Eighty percent of the borrowings are from Japanese. (3) Many loanwords are used because of rhythm. (4) Most of the borrowings are related to geographical names, animals and amusement (e.g., *gam-bue* 乾杯 'to drink a toast' in the lyrics 你我乾杯驚什麼何必著來驚 / 男兒哀歌, 1959).

Keywords: borrowings, loanword, loan translation, loan-blend, popular song, lyrics, Taiwanese, Japanese