Digraphia of the Nuosu language

Halina Wasilewska
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
hwasilew@amu.edu.pl

Two writing systems are used nowadays in the Liangshan area for writing Nuosu language. The official one is the Nuosu syllabary introduced in 1980s within the project of creating scripts for particular minority languages in China. The second one is a traditional script cluster which is in use since at least several hundred years. Although the new standard is derived from the traditional system it did not succeed in replacing the former one in the religious usage. The paper analyzes different aspects of the Nuosu digraphia from the historical background to the introduction and implementation of the reform, the structural differences between the scripts as well as the social range of usage of both Nuosu scripts. It also considers some problems which presumably affected the level of usage of the scripts in the Nuosu society such as the structure of the scripts especially of the newly created standard and the Nuosu language situation of the area. The future of the Nuosu digraphia is another problem which is considered in the paper.