

Historical Strata of Colloquial and Literary Words in Wenzhou Speech

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(Abstract)

In Wenzhou speech, some words with *-ai* rhyme in the Ge Rhyme Group 歌部 and initial *g-* 匣母 were the remains of the southern dialect in the period of the ending of Han Dynasty, and some *f-* read as *p-* under the influences of Ancient Wu dialect in Northern and Southern Dynasties. So there are three substrata, including the Earlier Kam-Dai substratum in the speech. The basic frame of the dialect was from a Tang Dynasty dialect with *f-* and *v-* initials, with the difference of Yu 魚 Rhyme and Yu 虞 Rhyme. The literary reading in it after Tang Dynasty can be divided into four strata. The earliest one has made the Yu 魚 Rhyme mixed with Yu 虞 Rhyme, and the latest one made the word in Ge 歌 Rhyme and Yu 魚 Rhyme with *-o* rhyme etc.