

明末清初西班牙傳教士之閩南方言文獻研究

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The history of Chinese grammar writing by Europeans goes back to the early 17th century, when Spanish missionaries of the Dominican order recorded the language of Chinese settlers in the Philippines. Two manuscripts of the earliest grammar, the "Arte de la lengua chio chiu", are still extant and kept in European libraries. The Chinese variety recorded in the "Arte" can easily be identified as Southern Min. The "Arte" offers some general impressions of early Southern Min phonology, lexicon and morpho-syntax. It is also one of the earliest documents which uses romanized transcriptions for rendering Southern Min words and phrases. Yet the author of the "Arte" offers no explicit reflection about the methodological approach underlying his practice of grammar writing. Why did he decide to analyze a regional variety and not the lingua franca of the Chinese elite? How did he select his informants? Who were the intended recipients of the "Arte"? What is the interplay between purpose of compilation and the methodological approach manifest in the Arte? In my talk, I will approach these questions by (a) linking the "Arte" to historical sources that help us to understand the social encounter between Spaniards and Chinese in the Philippines, and (b) taking a detailed look at the layout and arrangement of the "Arte".

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