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Spoken Hokkien

Meili Fang

方 美麗

Tai.  
gí.  
gí.

Spoken Hokkien  
By Meili Fang

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## Abbreviations and conventions

Adj	adjective
Adv	adverb
Aux	auxiliary
Con	conjunction
Int	interjection
IP	interrogative pronoun
MW	measure word
N	noun
Nasal	nasal sound
Num	number
O	object
Pa	particle
Pl	plural
PN	proper noun
Pos	possessive
Prep	preposition
Pro	pronoun
S	subject
Sg	singular
Suf	suffix
V	verb
○	expression is correct Hokkien
×	expression is not correct Hokkien

In wordlists, explanations and comments are surrounded by square brackets.

Audio items are marked with 🗣️ in the text.

## **Introduction**

Hokkien is spoken in Taiwan and in parts of China including Fujian Province. It is also called Taiwanese, Taigi, Min Nan (Southern Min), or Holo. There are several dialectal variants of Hokkien; this text mainly uses the variant spoken around the Tainan area, where Hokkien is most prevalent in Taiwan.

This textbook is intended for learners of Hokkien who start with no or almost no knowledge of Hokkien and who come from a non-Chinese background. It is written to support teachers and learners in a classroom situation where the emphasis is on developing free-flowing speaking and listening skills. The teacher is expected to provide models for listening and speaking.

The text was developed to provide a controlled and learnable sequence of vocabulary, structure, and conversational functions. Ideally, each lesson should be fully mastered before moving to the next one.

The Hokkien orthography in this book, using modified roman characters, is derived from a former missionary transcription system. Although this modern romanisation is now widely used, it is not fully standardised, so other spellings are possible. In the first two lessons the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is used to indicate sounds.

This textbook includes audio recordings of examples, exercises, dialogues, and vocabulary for each lesson. Audio items are marked with 🎧 in the text.

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## Further information

*Spoken Hokkien* started life as a set of teaching materials for a Hokkien course designed and taught by Meili Fang at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 2002. In 2005-6 it was developed further in an English version for teaching the Hokkien MA course at SOAS within a CETL\*-funded project conducted in collaboration with Dr Bernhard Fuehrer. The textbook was available in print + CD form from 2005 until 2016.

\*SOAS-UCL Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Languages of the Wider World

**Where to obtain *Spoken Hokkien*:** The Spoken Hokkien textbook is available in downloadable electronic form from the [SPEAK TAIWANESE](http://speaktaiwanese.com) website (<http://speaktaiwanese.com>)



The [SPEAK TAIWANESE](http://speaktaiwanese.com) website also has further information about the Taiwanese language, language pedagogy, and the work of Dr Meili Fang.

**Dr Meili Fang** completed her PhD in Linguistics at Ochanomizu University in Japan in 1997. She then held a Post Doctoral position at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, where she specialised in classical Chinese. Following that she was Assistant Professor of Japanese at Fu-Jen University in Taiwan, and Foreign Professor in Mandarin Chinese at Tsukuba University and Ochanomizu University in Japan. She taught Hokkien (Taiwanese) at SOAS, and Mandarin at Imperial College, London. She has published several books on Chinese and Japanese linguistics, pedagogy, and language textbooks.