

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

LWC	Language of Wider Communication
EV	Ethnolinguistic Vitality
SEV	Subjective Ethnolinguistic Vitality
OEV	Objective Ethnolinguistic Vitality
EVB	Ethnolinguistic Vitality Beliefs
NT	Northern Thai
CT	Central Thai
M	Male
F	Female
NA	Not Applicable
Q	Question
T	Total
D	Domain
V	Village

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GLOSSARY

LWC: This is an acronym for “Language of Wider Communication”. This concept normally refers to Hanyu (Yunnanese) or the local predominant minority language in this study, while it is interpreted differently in the six Bisu villages being investigated, depending on the local language situation. For example, it refers to Dai or Hanyu in Menghai Village; but Lahu or Hanyu in Zhutang Village. For the two Thai Bisu villages, LWC normally refers to Northern Thai, namely Kammuang; sometimes it also refers to Central Thai.

Chinese: This is a complicated concept. In Bussmann (1996), it is defined as “The largest Sino-Tibetan language that is actually a group of at least six languages (Mandarin, Wu, Yue, Min, Kan-Hakka and Hsiang)” (Bussmann 1996: 72). However, in this study, the concept of “Chinese” simply refers to the Standard Mandarin Chinese as well as its writing form.

Yunnanese: This refers to the variety of Chinese spoken within Yunnan province, namely, the Yunnan dialect. It was also interpreted as “Hanyu” or “Hanhua” (Han language) throughout the investigation in this study. The concept of “Yunnanese” in this study is exclusive of any Chinese written form.

Language proficiency: This refers to the ability to function competently in one’s native or in a second language, involving a sense for appropriate linguistic behavior in a variety of situations (Bussmann 1996: 384). This concept is used to measure the respondent’s command of the Bisu language in this study.

Code-switching: In a bilingual or multilingual situation, people are required to select a particular code whenever they choose to speak, and they may also decide to switch from one code to another or to mix codes within short utterances. This process is called code-switching. A new code is created during code-switching (Wardhaugh 2002: 100).

Mother tongue: The mother tongue is “the language which a person acquires in early years and which normally becomes his natural instrument of thought and communication” (Fasold 1984: 293). It plays an important role in the study of authenticity of a nationality, as stated by Fasold “the mother tongue is an aspect of the soul or the essence of a nationality” (1984: 3). In this study, the concept of mother tongue is applied to measure the respondent’s proficiency in Bisu, which is closely related to the use and maintenance of the Bisu language.

Patterns of language use: In a bilingual situation, people make choices about which language they will use in any given time or situation; this is normally referred to as patterns of language use (Varenkamp 1996: 1).