Progress of the
Taiwanese Aboriginal Language
Wikipedia

Nkana ta patas pedia
Masamaamaanay
.kopidiya

Ministry of Education   Center for Aboriginal Studies, NCCU, Taiwan

Since 2014, the Center for Aboriginal Studies at National Chengchi University (ALCD-NCCU) has conducted the "Aboriginal Language Wikipedia Project" on behalf of the Ministry of Education. It is hoped that the aboriginal language version of Wikipedia will be established through this project to reactivate and revitalize these languages in interest of adding further diversity to global languages.

The writing workshop for 'Amis

The State of Taiwanese Aborigines

The aboriginal population of Taiwan is estimated to be about 560,000 people, which makes up around 2.38% of the total population in Taiwan. Taiwanese aborigines are divided into 16 ethnic groups, the largest group being the Amis with about 200,000 people, followed by the Paiwan with 100,000 people, Atayal with 90,000 people, Bunun with 60,000 people, Truku with 30,000 people, and the Puyuma, Rukai and Seediq each numbering around 10,000 people. The population of the Cou, SaySiyat and Yami numbers between 4,000 and 7,000, while the remainder of ethnic groups such as the Thao, Kebalan, Sakizaya, Hla'alua and Kanakanavu, are somewhere between 300 to 1,000 people.

The press conference on the outcomes presentation for "Aboriginal Language Wikipedia Project"

About ALCD's "Aboriginal Language Wikipedia Project"

Since the usage rate of aboriginal languages is quite low, it is not easy to establish the aboriginal languages of Taiwan as an official language for Wikipedia. To address this difficulty, the ALCD has held 28 writing workshops and entry writing studies, 18 regular gatherings, 7 publicity campaigns, and a press conference, while also having conducted other projects like the "Endangered Language Revitalization Project," which lists Wikipedia as a daily assignment to enable more writers' participation in collaborative writing and maintaining the active state of the wiki-incubator.

During 2014 and 2018, the number of entries for the 15 wiki-incubators of all 16 aboriginal groups has increased to 10,066 (and is continuously increasing). Among them, three have had better incubation progress than the others: the Atayal incubator (2,648 entries), the Sakizaya incubator (3,063 entries), and the 'Amis incubator (1,502 entries).

3 wiki-incubators ('Amis, Atayal, and Sakizaya) have been included in the active list

Diverse Forms of Development

Atayal incubator: Through holding courses on ethnic culture in community colleges, the coordinators make students operate in the classroom, and directly update course content to the incubator to maintain its active state.

Sakizaya incubator: Mainly focused on the participation of local youths. In the initial stage it aimed to update terms and pictures, while in the middle stage it increased the number of tables and short essays, and added more entries concerning ethnic culture to retain its active state.

'Amis incubator: The writing team is composed of members from the "'Amis Language Sustainable Development Society". The entries are first written in Mandarin Chinese, then converted to 'Amis. Though the number of entries grows slowly at this pace, it can still maintain the incubator in an active state.

All the assistants of the "Aboriginal Language Wikipedia Project"

Though still in the incubation stage, these three wiki-incubators ('Amis Wikipedia, Atayal Wikipedia, and Sakizaya Wikipedia) have been included in the active list as best records. Currently, while the Atayal Wikipedia is still on the active list, the Sakizaya Wikipedia has fulfilled conditions to be listed as an official Wiki. However, due to a dispute in the SIL language code, the program has yet to complete the name change, so the Sakizaya Wikipedia has been temporarily transferred to the stalled list.

Wikimedia Taiwan (live stream campaign)

**Outcomes video for
"Taiwanese Aboriginal Language Wikipedia Project"**

1A 'Amis
2T Tayal
3W Paiwan
4B Bunun
5P Puyuma
6R Rukai
7C Cou
8 SaySiyat
9Y Yami
10 Thao
11K Kebalan
12 Truku
13 Sakizaya
14Q Seediq
15 Hla'alua
16 Kanakanavu