
NOTES ON ORTHOGRAPHY AND NAMES

This book uses the pinyin system for romanizing both Mandarin (Standard Chinese) and Fuzhounese in the text. Fuzhounese words and phrases are only distinguished from Mandarin, with the notation “Fz,” when they appear in parenthetical format. While Fuzhounese has sometimes been transcribed according to the international phonetic alphabet, I have elected to use pinyin in keeping with the standardized format of the *Fuzhou Dialect Dictionary* (*Fuzhou fangyan cidian*), authored by my Fuzhounese teacher, Liang Yuzhang (Fuzhou: Fujian People’s Publishing, 1995). Though Teacher Liang also taught me Fuzhounese through the more precise international phonetic system, I trust she will forgive me for sacrificing precision for simplicity’s sake.

In order to protect the confidentiality of my subjects, I refer to my particular field site as well as all its members by pseudonyms. Except for known names of political figures like Mao Zedong and broad regional markers like “the rural outskirts of Fuzhou City” or Fujian Province, I have eliminated or disguised various identifying markers of my field site, to which I refer here as “Longyan.” This includes a modification of the published sources I cite that include the specific name of my field site in the title, as well as the authors of such sources. In using pseudonyms consistently throughout, I have assigned one unique name to each subject cited in this book so that the reader, if he or she chooses to do so, can follow particular characters through all the chapters with the assurance that “Deng Feiyan” in the introduction is the same “Deng Feiyan” in chapter 6.