

COLOR TERMS IN KAM

Group 5
Celia Lau
Michelle Tam
Norah Lo

OBJECTIVES

- Investigate color naming system in Kam language
 - Basic color terms
 - Modifiers for color terms
- Find differences between different genders and age groups

METHODOLOGY

- Show interviewees slides of different colors
 1. Identify the colors in Kam
 2. Compare the different colors in the same spectrum
 3. Describe the color of different objects
- Subjects: 2 female children, 3 female adults, 3 male adults
- Equipment used:
 1. Head-mounted microphone, OLYMPUS Linear PCM Recorder LS-10
 2. Audio-technica Condenser Lo-Z Stereo microphone AT8022, ZOOM H6 Handy Recorder

Interviewing: Michelle

Recording: Celia

Note taking: Norah

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- Limited color terms
 - Black, white, red, yellow, green/ blue, purple and grey
- Modify or mix colors when differentiating colors in the same spectrum
 - Subjective, no rules to follow
 - E.g. **Blue**: *su43 men43* (sky blue)
Green: *su54 jin34 j^ha:n44* (green like grass)
 - E.g. **Light green**: *su43 da:l43 pa:k23*
(green with a little white)
su43 m^ha:ŋ44
(green yellow)

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- Age difference

- Children: influenced by Putonghua
use objects to describe
- Adults: mixing colors

- Gender difference

- M: only use four color terms in daily conversations
- F: more sensitive to colors

possible reason: deal with fabrics

LIMITATIONS

- Understanding of colors is subjective
 - E.g. Light green: su43 or m^ha:η44
- Limited data
- Using computer screen might lead to color difference

PROBLEMS

- Language barrier

- Could not recognize color terms in a complete Kam sentence

- Ask Manxiang for translation

- Interviewees misunderstood our instructions



- Difficulties with equipment

- First recording by the stereo microphone was in low volume

- Use Audacity to amplify the sound

- Consult Dr. Nathan