

# The cues of Manner in Taiwan Southern Min

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# Motive

- In our daily life, we always make requests, especially to strangers, with politeness markers such as “PLEASE” in most languages.
  - Please give me some water.
  - 請給我一點水。
  - 물을 좀 주세요.
  - ? お水をください。

# Observations

- お水をお願いします。
- Although requests are sometimes made with 請-initial sentences in Taiwan Southern Min, native speakers are rather to use different syntactic structures, for example, 敢-initial interrogatives, “借問” substitution of “請問”, to convey politeness.

- However, politeness markers such as “PLEASE” are not suitable for all situations, especially in languages like Taiwan Southern Min.
  - ?請予我一點仔水。
  - Can I have some water?
  - 敢會當予我一點仔水？
- In Taiwan Southern Min, the syntactic structures such as kam (敢) leading interrogatives are used to express politeness much more naturally than the usage of politeness markers tsiang (請).

# More Syntactic Structures about Politeness Expression

- 不好意思，請問臺灣大學怎麼走？

歹勢，借問臺灣大學按怎行？

- 請問你們這裡賣書嗎？

?借問恁遮敢有賣冊？

恁遮敢有賣冊？

# Research Questions

- In addition to the examples shown previously, are there other syntactic patterns used to show politeness other than 請-driven sentences?
- Besides syntactic cues, is there any possibilities that the politeness expression fulfilled by lexicons?
  - Appellation words (including loanwords)  
阿桑、運匠、少年仔
- Phonetic cues

# Data Collection

- Speech Recording
  - Place: hospitals, restaurants, markets
  - Target: 50s native speaker
- Native TV drama
  - DaAi TV, SET TV
- Taiwanese Concordancer (台語文語詞檢索)

# Challenges

- Uncertain relation between “Politeness” and Emotion Expressions
- Lack of previous studies about politeness expressions based on Taiwan Southern Min
- Online Taiwan Southern Min corpus with different codings (Chinese characters/ Taiwanese Roman Orthography)
- Representativeness of TV drama as spoken languages