

Contents

| | |
|---|-------|
| Acknowledgements | vii |
| Preface | ix |
| Abbreviations | xviii |
| List of tables, diagrams and illustrations | xix |
| Chapter 1 | |
| Defining terminology | 1 |
| 1. ‘方言 <i>fāngyán</i> ’ versus ‘dialect’ | 1 |
| 2. Dialects or languages | 2 |
| 3. Conclusions | 2 |
| Chapter 2 | |
| Languages of China | 4 |
| 1. Classification of Chinese | 4 |
| 2. Non-Chinese languages of China | 5 |
| 3. Alternative classifications | 8 |
| Chapter 3 | |
| The language policy of the People’s Republic of China regarding the dialects of Chinese | 10 |
| 1. The forming of <i>Putonghua</i> | 10 |
| 2. Language legislation | 10 |
| 3. Mutual inter-influence of dialects and <i>Putonghua</i> | 12 |
| 4. The status of <i>Putonghua</i> | 13 |
| Chapter 4 | |
| Chinese historical phonetics | 15 |
| 1. The structure of the syllable | 15 |
| 2. Middle Chinese tones | 16 |
| 3. Middle Chinese initials | 18 |
| 4. Middle Chinese finals | 21 |
| 5. <i>Fanqie</i> | 22 |
| 6. Rhyme books (韵书 <i>yùnshū</i>) | 23 |
| Chapter 5 | |
| Classifications of Chinese dialects | 25 |
| 1. Criteria | 25 |
| 2. A historical overview since the end of the nineteenth century | 36 |

Chapter 6

| | |
|--|----|
| The classification of Chinese dialects according to <i>The Language Atlas of China</i> | 63 |
| 1. <i>The Language Atlas of China</i> | 63 |
| 2. Classification into smaller units | 63 |
| 3. The classification | 64 |
| 4. Controversial issues | 74 |
| 5. General characteristics of the ten Chinese dialect groups | 77 |

Chapter 7

| | |
|---|-----|
| Guidelines for field research of Chinese dialects | 91 |
| 1. Phonetics | 91 |
| 2. Vocabulary | 106 |
| 3. Grammar | 121 |

Chapter 8

| | |
|--|-----|
| Analysis of <i>The Great Dictionary of Modern Chinese Dialects</i> | 128 |
| 1. Introduction | 128 |
| 2. Methods of research for <i>The Great Dictionary of Modern Chinese Dialects</i> | 134 |
| 3. The choice of dialect localities for <i>The Great Dictionary of Modern Chinese Dialects</i> | 137 |
| 4. Background overview of explored places | 157 |

Chapter 9

| | |
|--|-----|
| Information gathered from <i>The Great Dictionary of Modern Chinese Dialects</i> | 184 |
| 1. Internal diversification | 184 |
| 2. Phonetics | 186 |
| 3. Vocabulary | 196 |
| 4. Grammar | 201 |

Chapter 10

| | |
|---|-----|
| Summary and conclusions | 203 |
| 1. Dialects or languages? | 203 |
| 2. The language of the majority | 204 |
| 3. Language policy | 204 |
| 4. Criteria | 205 |
| 5. Different classifications | 205 |
| 6. Research methods | 206 |
| 7. Other aspects of modern dialectology | 207 |
| 8. Chinese abroad | 207 |

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 9. | Are the dialects of China endangered? | 208 |
| 10. | Tasks of Chinese dialectology | 208 |
| 11. | The role of <i>The Great Dictionary of Modern Chinese Dialects</i> | 208 |
| | | |
| | A brief chronology of Chinese history since the Qin Dynasty | 210 |
| | China's main administrative units | 211 |
| | Notes | 213 |
| | References | 221 |
| | Chinese-English index-glossary of basic linguistic terminology | 252 |
| | Index of personal names..... | 266 |
| | Index of Chinese place names | 271 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---------|
| Table 7. | History of dialect classifications | 1 |
| Table 8. | Development of Middle Chinese syllables in the AP ⁺ entries in modern's <i>Yanduhuayu</i> | 1 |
| Table 9. | Development of Middle Chinese 25 quānyuǎn initials into modern dialects | 1 |
| Table 10. | Tones of the Beijing dialect | 1 |
| Table 11. | Initials of the Beijing dialect | 1 |
| Table 12. | Finals of the Beijing dialect | 1 |
| Table 13. | Table of homophonic characters for the final final in the Beijing dialect | 1 |
| Table 14. | Table of single characters for the [se, ian, uan, yan] finals of the Beijing dialect | 1 |
| Table 15. | Dialect groups and subgroups and their repre- sentatives in <i>The Great Dictionary of Mod- ern Chinese Dialects</i> | 138-141 |
| Table 16. | Provinces/A.R./Municipalities/S.A.R. and their representatives in <i>The Great Dictionary of Modern Chinese Dialects</i> | 146-147 |
| Table 17. | Representatives of dialects in preceding in- troductions and in <i>The Great Dictionary of Mod- ern Chinese Dialects</i> | 151 |
| Table 18. | A choice of features of the forty-two dialect localities of <i>The Great Dictionary of Mod- ern Chinese Dialects</i> | 151 |
| Table 19. | Numbers of initials, finals and tones in the forty-two dialect localities and Putonghua | 151 |