The differences between Mandarin and Wu dialects during Tang times—with additional criteria for distinguishing Mandarin from Wu during Song times

Mei, Tsu-lin

【Abstract】

This paper will present 8 criteria for distinguishing Mandarin dialects from Wu dialects during Tang times and 4 additional criteria during Song times. For the Tang period, the criteria includes the 2nd person pronoun, 3rd person pronoun, distant demonstrative, near demonstrative. For the Song period, the criteria includes the perfective suffix (Mandarin le vs. Wu tsj) and the subordinative particle (Mandarin ti or te vs. Wu ko). Phonological criteria will also be discussed.