

## Positive and Negative Questions of Shima dialect in Zhenjiang, Guangdong

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**Keywords:** Zhenjiang Shima dialect, a wuVP

**Abstract:** TShipi Village has three dialects: Shima dialect, Hakka dialect and vernacular (Cantonese dialect). Shima dialect is a dialect inherited from generation to generation by Shipi villagers. Shima dialect indicates that there are many types of positive and negative questions in neutral inquiry: (1) “F-VP”Ni a wujingshe (o) ? (2) “VP-neg-VP”: Nijing wujingshe (o) ? (3) “VP-neg”: Nijingshemo? The "a wu VP" type question is one of the original types commonly used by Shima dialect. This type is in the border areas of Guangdong and Fujian, such as Longchuan, Heping, Shaoguan, Longchuan, Wengyuan, etc. in Jiangxi Province and Jiangxi Province. Longnan, Quannan, Dingnan and other places are also very common. The "a wu VP" in Shima dialect is similar in syntax structure and grammatical function to the "a wu VP" in these places, but there are some differences in the frequency of use and the time body. The other two types, VP wu VP and VPmo, may be of a type that is influenced by the surrounding Hakka and Cantonese.

### 1. Introduction

Shipi Village is located in the northeast of Shujiang District, Shaoguan City. It belongs to a natural village in the management area of Xinshao Town, adjacent to Datang Town, Qujiang District. Shipi Village has three dialects: Shima dialect, Hakka dialect and vernacular (Cantonese dialect). Shima dialect is a dialect inherited from generation to generation by Shipi villagers. Shima dialect is one of the most representative dialects in the mountainous areas of northern Guangdong, and it is also an endangered dialect. The names vary from place to place. Apart from Shima dialect, there are also many names such as Shepo, the city dialect, Hexi dialect, Shetan dialect, Shipborne dialect, Laoshaoguan dialect and Shaoguan dialect. Shi Po Village said that Shima Dialects has three small pieces: Jiang's House, Liu's House and Deng's House. At present, Deng's House has a large population going out. It said that Shima Dialects are fewer and fewer, while Shima Dialects of Jiang's House and Liu's House are better preserved.

Positive and negative questions in Putonghua, also known as repeated questions, are usually asked with the "VP no / no VP" structure. Because it does not literally express the speaker's opinions and attitudes, it can also be called neutral question. In Chinese dialect, besides VP no/no VP, there are also two types of questions: F-VP and VP-neg. You Ruijie (1993) thought that judging from the grammatical form, "F-VP" and "VP-neg" in dialect were not repeated questions. If judged by the way of answering, both types of sentences have the nature of general interrogative sentences. Repeated questions are the terms and concepts proposed in the study of Putonghua grammar. It cannot summarize the two kinds of questions of "F-VP" and "VP-neg" in the dialect, but they can be regarded as the corresponding forms of repeated questions. the study. This article is to explore this kind of interrogative sentence in Shima dialect. For the sake of unity, the following is generally called the pros and cons.

### 2. The type of positive and negative questions of Zhenjiang Shima dialect

Shima dialect indicates that there are three types of general neutral inquiries: ①“F-neg-VP”: Ni a wujingshe(o)? ②“VP-neg-VP”: Nijing wujingshe(o)? ③“VP-neg(prt)”: Nijingshemo? Can correspond to in Mandarin “Ni pa bu pa she?” “Nipa shema?”, As shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Types of positive and negative Interrogative sentences of Shima dialect in Shipi

	F-neg-VP	VP-neg-VP	VP-neg(prt)
Are you going?	Ni a wu qu?	Niquwuqu?	Niqumo?
Are you hot?	Ni a wure?	Nirewure?	Niremo?
Do you have brown sugar?	Niamouhongtang?	Niyoumouhongtang?	Niyouhongtangmou?
Have you ever been there?	Niamouqugou?	Niyoumouqugou?	Niugoumou?

Among them, "F-neg-VP" is the most frequently used sentence pattern in the daily life of villagers who use Shima dialect, while the local Hakka-speaking villagers generally do not say so. We speculate that it may be an inherent sentence pattern of Shima dialect. In Chinese dialect, there is a special interrogative sentence "F-VP", whose structure is usually inserted before the predicate of the declarative sentence, or before the predicate components such as complements and adverbials, to form interrogative sentences focusing on the "F-VP" phrase. Shi Po Shima dialect's question "Ah-Wu VP" belongs to a special "F-VP" question in terms of structure and function. The question word consists of two independent syllables "A" and negative word "Wu". VP can be verbal or adjectival.

Shima dialect also uses "VP-neg-VP" sentence pattern for positive and negative rhetorical questions. Especially when we investigate some positive and negative questions in Putonghua, the pronunciators usually use "VP-neg-VP" sentence pattern to correspond, with the negative word in the middle being "um". The commonly used form of predicate-object structure and polysyllabic words is "V-neg-VO" and occasionally "VO-neg-VO". The sentence pattern "VP not VP" is widely used in Maozi sound and Meezi sound, Cantonese and Putonghua in Hakka dialect. Villagers may be influenced by these dialects when they use the "Ah Wu VP" question as well as the "VP Wu VP" question.

When asking questions about the completion of the action, Shima dialect often places the negative word "Ran" behind the predicate to form a "VP-neg" sentence pattern. As "fanshuyimou?" "quzouyimou?" In addition, before we take the yes-no question "are you going?" When this kind of sentence "ah-Wu VP" asks the sentence to carry on the investigation, the young pronunciation person will use "will you go there?" However, two older male speakers believed that there was no such sentence pattern. "Ru" is a modal particle with a pronunciation similar to Cantonese's "baa" and belongs to the "VP-prt" sentence pattern. The usage of this sentence pattern differs greatly from person to person.

The type of the rhetorical question of Shima dialect is so rich that it is related to the local language life. We can look at the language life of the entire village from the family language usage of the very representative Liu Ayi family.

Table 2 Language Use of Aunt Liu's Family

	Father	Mother	Spouse	Brothers and sisters	Children	Daughter-in-law	Grandson
Hong Ying Liu	Shima dialect	Maozi sound Shima dialect	Mezi sound	Shima dialect	Mezi sound	Cantonese	Mandarin
father		Shima dialect	Shima dialect	Shima dialect	Mezi sound	Cantonese	Mandarin
mother	Shima dialect		Maozi sound	Maozi sound	Mezi sound	Cantonese	Mandarin
spouse	Shima dialect	Maozi sound		Shima dialect Maozi sound	Mezi sound	Cantonese	Mandarin
Brothers and sisters	Shima dialect	Maozi sound	Shima dialect		Mezi sound	Cantonese	Mandarin
children	Shima dialect	Maozi sound	Shima dialect	Mezi sound		Cantonese	Mandarin
Daughter-in-law	Cantonese	Cantonese	Cantonese	Cantonese	Cantonese		Mandarin
Grandson	Mandarin	Mandarin	Mandarin	Mandarin	Mandarin	Mandarin	

Kuang Yonghui et al. (1998) made a thorough investigation into the language life of Shipi

village and pointed out that at present, most of the people who continue to use local dialect in their homes and villages are middle-aged and old people, and the younger generation has basically spoken Hakka. Hakka dialect is a regional common language in the suburbs of Shaoguan and even the whole northern part of Guangdong. It is a dominant dialect in northern Guangdong. It surrounds all kinds of local dialects including Shibi's "lice sound". Today Hakka dialect has become the main communication language among the villagers in shipu, and it has a tendency to gradually replace local dialect. Vernacular is the communication language in Shaoguan city and the dominant dialect in Guangdong province. In the past decade or so, with the rapid economic development in the Pearl River Delta, many people in Stone Tablet have gone to work or engage in other economic activities. Vernacular has become increasingly important, thus promoting villagers, especially the younger generation, to learn vernacular more actively to meet the needs of foreign exchanges. It is conceivable that colloquialism will gradually enter the family of the Stone Tablet people and form a two-way communication pattern coexisting with Hakka dialect, while vernacular will eventually completely withdraw from the communication system of the Stone Tablet people.

Judging from the survey of language use in shipu village in 2016, we think Kuang yonghui and others are right. from this, we can roughly infer that "ah Wu VP" is an inherent sentence pattern of Shima dialect, while "VP Wu VP" and "VP ru" may be influenced by Cantonese and Hakka.

#### Types and Functions of ZhenjiangShima Diaect "F-neg-VP" Questions

Shi Pi Shima dialect has the sentence pattern of "F-neg-VP", which can be divided into three types according to the negative words and the following components: ① "a wuVP" Interrogative sentence, as "Ni a wuqu?" ② "amouVP"Interrogative sentence, as "Niamoushu?" "Niamoushifan?" ③ "ameiVP/NP"Interrogative sentence, as "Niameiwushiqu?"

#### 2.1 "a wuVP"Interrogative sentence

The negative word is "wu[m]", which can only be preceded by predicate components, which can be monosyllabic verbs, verb-verbal phrases, as well as linked phrases, supplementary phrases, partial positives, and adjectives of nature, such as:

- (1)Ni a wushi?—shi. / wushi.
- (2)quameiyibenshu?
- (3)qua wuxiaodeyashinaizhi?
- (4)shui a wu gun?
- (5)a wuhanNitongxuelaiwuxiashifan?—han. /wuhan.

The VP in the "Ah-uh VP" question can be a single verb. Generally, the verb that can be used as a predicate alone can form the "Ah-uh VP" question after the "Ah-uh", which is mostly a question of the unattached. Such "AVP" questions are relatively simple, mostly questions about the unaccomplished. The affirmative answer is expressed in the affirmative or nodding form of the verb, while the negative answer is expressed in the form of "uh + verb" or shaking one's head. The object can be a noun object, as in example 2, or a predicate object or a subject-predicate, as in examples 3 and 4. When VP is a linked phrase, "a wu" is generally located before the first verb. At this time, the question center of gravity is in the first verb, and the answer is only answered with the first verb, as in Example 5.

The predicate component is composed of a partial phrase, usually a structure in the shape. The preceding adverbial can be played by an adverb or a verb, or it can be played by a predicate phrase.

- (6)qua wuchangguiwuxia?
- (7)qua wukentongNiyiqiqu?
- (8)Nigejiana wugouda?
- (9)Niamouzhuozaogiangedengxiao?
- (10)yijianshia wujiuqujiang?
- (11)ameizhuodanche[uŋ24]daojianliqu?

If it is in front of the adverb, as in the case of Example 6 "a wu" in front of "often", it is questioning the frequency; in front of "Ken", it is asking questions about the will, as in Example 7. If "a wu" is in front of a prepositional phrase, it is usually a question for the object or location that

is cited, as in Example 8-11.

The form of the positive and negative questions in the Shima dialect indicating the possible complement structure and the representation structure of the state is also different, such as: "a wu + V + get + complement" form, which can be used to indicate whether it is possible to represent the state. The structure of the question, "V + get / down + aunt + complement" form is generally only used to indicate the state of the structure of the supplementary structure, such as:

(12) aquxiegeziNi a wurenchedeu?

bquxiegeziNirena wudechu?

(13) ayijianshana wuxidejing?

byijianshanxidaoa wujing?

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gaizhongyaoNi a wushide?

(15) hea wugedela?

The adjective component behind "a wu" can be a monosyllabic adjective, a two-syllable adjective or an adjective phrase.

(16) shuia wufei?

(17) Ni a wujinzhang?

(18) quzuoshia wurenzhen?

Some adjective phrases can serve as the "VP" of the "a wu VP" question, and some can't, depending on the composition of the adjective.

## 2.2 “amouVP”Interrogative sentence

The negative word is "mou[mau55]", and the "mou" in the can be used as a negative verb or as a negative adverb. After the question can be followed by nouns or noun phrases, you can also ask questions about the body, such as:

(19) Niamoushu?

(20) Niamoumaishu?

(21) shuiamougun?

(22) Niamoujiandaoqu?

## 2.3 “ameiVP/NP”Interrogative sentence

The negative word of this sentence is actually "wu[m]", and "mei[mei]" is the chorus of "wu[m]" and "xi[hei]". The "a wu" usually does not add a clause and a part-of-speech component. If the focus of the question is on the part-of-speech component, add "mei" [mei31] ("wu") in front of the component. Ask questions like:

(23) ameiNimaicai?

(24) Nimaigeameiniurop?

"Axu VP/NP" can also be followed by predicate elements, most of which are state adjectives, vivid forms of adjectives and non-predicate adjectives, such as:

(25) ayagemiana wuhong?

\*byagemiana wu[hei31]hong?

cyagemianamei[hei31]hong?

(26) ayileiwengcaia wunena?

\*byileiwengcaia wunennenyia?

cyileiwengcaiaeinenenenyia?

(27) \*ayizhijiezha wuyinna?

byizhijiezhaimeiyinna?

In addition, if the first verb of a conjunctive phrase is followed by a dynamic auxiliary "jin"/ "wen"/ "deng"(zhe)oryi(le), You can't directly use "a" as a question to ask questions, but you can

use "amei" to ask questions.

- (28)\*aNileialaiwenyawuxiashifan?  
bNileiameilaiwenyawuxiashifan?

### 3. "F-(neg)-VP" Interrogative sentence distribution area at the junction of Guangdong and Jiangxi

From our analysis of the structure and function of the Ah-Wu VP Interrogative sentence in Shima dialect, we can see that this sentence pattern, like the reported Ah-VP and Ke-VP Interrogative sentences, is a special sentence pattern in Chinese dialect. Except for the Hunan dialect, there are many cases that can be used in all the major dialect areas of our country at present. Distribution is not balanced, and the depth of research is different. Among them, Wu dialect and Jianghuai Mandarin, Southwest Mandarin and Central Plains Mandarin are the most popular, followed by Fujian and Cantonese dialects, while Hakka and Gan dialects have relatively few achievements. According to the author's recent investigation, it is found that there is a special "F-neg-VP" distribution area in the area of the border between Guangdong and Fujian. The "F-neg-VP" Interrogative sentence in this area is characterized by the question "F" itself. It is a negative word or a negative component. According to the phonetic form of the question, it can be divided into three types:

First, Longchuan, Heping in Guangdong Province, and Quannan, Longnan, Dingnan and other counties in Ganzhou, Jiangxi, and parts of Heyuan City, Lianping, and Dongyuan. The phonetic form of the question "F" is usually zero initials. Yang Shengyun, we call it the "A (wu) VP" area; the second is the Wengyuan and Xinfeng counties. The "F" of these two counties is pronounced with the tongue rhyme [h], which we call "The salty (wu) VP" area; the third is the search for Wu and Anyuan. The pronunciation of "F" is directly in the form of a negative word. We call it the "(wu)VP" area. Select one representative point below to observe.

Table 3: Three types of "F-neg-VP" at the junction of Guangdong and Fujian

	Longchuan	Xinfeng	Xunwu
Are you going?	Nia(wu)qu?	Nixianwuqu?	Niyouwuqu?
Are you hot?	Nia(wu)re?	Nixianwure?	Niyouwure?
Do you have brown sugar?	Niamouhongtang?	Nixiamouhongtang? Niyoumouhongtang?	Niyoumouhongtang?
Have you ever been there?	Niamengqugou?	Niqudemeng?	Niyoumengqugou?

#### 3.1 The Phonetic Form of "F"

Compared with Shima dialect, Longchuan Hakka dialect has a much richer phonetic form of questionnaires, and there are some differences among the towns, such as Ah Wu 1 [a44m 31], Ah Wu 2 [am31], Ah [a44], Ye [za44], [aqen 31], dark [Yunn 31], Ah Bu [aqiphut3], etc. Huang Ni anfeng (2015) believes that Longchuan's "AVP" Interrogative sentence should be "AVP" Interrogative sentence. The northern towns still retain the form of "Ah Wu VP" completely, while the southern towns' Ah Wu VP sentences fall off the negative words and develop. Longchuan's "a wu VP" Interrogative sentence has developed into an "AVP" Interrogative sentence that has undergone such a stage: (a) "a wu VP" type, the negative adverb "wu" is an independent syllable (nasalized initials) → (b) "wu" and the previous "A" chorus, nasal consonant m to n transition, pronounced "dark" [ən] → (c) nasal sound n weakened → (d) completely detached, forming "A VP" Type, only the commonly used zero vowel syllables that coincide with "wu" retain the "a wu VP" form.

Shaoguan Xinfeng County is asking the commonly used "F" voice form is "salty" [ham24]. If the speaker's speech rate is slow, it is generally read as "salty" and "skull" two syllables. VP" is similar. Such Interrogative sentences in Xunwu County, Jiangxi Province are generally read as two syllables.

### 3.2 Coexistence with Other Sentences

Mr. Zhu Dexi (1985) argued that "two kinds of repeated Interrogative sentences,'KeVP'and'VP does not VP', have always been mutually exclusive in history and in modern times, and do not coexist in the same dialect." In 1991, he further believed that if the two sentence patterns coexist in dialect, they generally belong to different historical levels, and one of them must have come into being later.

Quannan, Longnan, Dingnan, Longchuan and Heping are all relatively pure "F-VP", but besides using "F-VP", there are also "VP not VP" and "VP not".

Compared with the strong position of "ah (uh) VP" in Longchuan, the "xian (uh) VP" in Xinfeng dialect does not constitute a unified situation in the local suspected Interrogative sentences, but two forms of "VP not VP" and "xian (uh) VP" coexist. All "VP-Wu-VP" type of interactive sentence can be converted into "salty (Wu) VP" type of interactive sentence, meaning the same. However, in daily language life, people, especially the elderly, use "salty (yum) VP" more often. In contrast, young people have higher acceptance of "yum VP" than the elderly.

### 3.3 Guessing the Source of Sentences

We speculate that "Xian" may be the consonant of the question conjunction "ah" and the negative word "wu" in Xinfeng dialect. This conjunction may be the conjunction "return" in the Interrogative sentence, which is a choice in ancient Chinese and other dialects, and "salty" may be the consonant of "return" and "not".

From the current research results, the distribution of "F-VP" in Chinese dialects is concentrated around Jiangsu and Anhui provinces, and the Hakka people are Han people who migrate from north to south. So, is it possible that "F-VP" in Guangdong and Jiangxi is brought by the northern Han people in Jiangsu and Anhui? Because Jiangsu and Anhui were important ways for the people of the ancient Central Plains to move southward. Tan Qiqian (1934) believed that most of the northern Han people who moved to the south of Yongjia in the late Jin Dynasty flowed into Jiangsu and Anhui provinces, but few of them really arrived in Jiangxi as Luo Xianglin said. According to Wu Songdi (1996)[ Wu Songdi. Northern Immigrants in Jiangnan Area of the Five Dynasties in Late Tang Dynasty [J]. Chinese Historical and Geographical Theory Series, 1996(3), pp. 99-113. ] "Today, Zhejiang and Shanghai provinces and cities and the southern part of the Yangtze River south of Jiangsu and Anhui provinces have absorbed the largest number of immigrants and are one of the main immigration areas ... Northern immigrants are particularly widespread in the southern part of the Yangtze River, with Suzhou, Changzhou, Shengzhou, Hangzhou, Yuezhou, Xuanzhou and Shezhou in the mountainous areas of southern Anhui being more densely populated." The place where these immigrants are distributed is exactly where the "F-VP" distribution is concentrated. Later, some of these northern Han people stayed in Jiangsu and Anhui, some moved back to the north, and some continued to move south to Jiangxi, Fujian and Guangdong. According to Zhang Min (1990), the structural pattern of "F-VP" has been formed in the Han, Wei and Six Dynasties, with a large number of "Qi VP" and "Ning VP" such as "Interactive Sentencing". In the Song and Yuan Dynasties, the "Ke VP", which means neutral inquiry, has developed into a mature form and has become a common and repeated form of "Interactive Sentencing" in some dialects. By the Ming Dynasty, "Ke VP" had appeared in large numbers. Judging from the time, this possibility exists. But there is another question: from the source of immigrants, we find that immigrants from Meizhou, Xingning, Wuhua and other places also come from the north to the south. then why do these areas not have "f-VP" reciprocal sentence? We try to quote the current academic assertion that Longchuan dialect belongs to the old Hakka dialect. Zhuangchusheng (2008) distinguished the concepts of "old guest" and "new guest" in "Definition, Division and Related Problems of Hakka Dialect in Guangdong Province". He believed that "after the Tang and Five Dynasties, especially during the Song Dynasties, migrants from Jiangxi and other places directly entered the middle and upper reaches of Dongjiang River in Guangdong Province and the middle and upper reaches of Beijiang River and basically no longer migrated. The dialects brought about by these migrants have become today's migrants." The "F-VP" sentence pattern of the Hakka dialect in Guangdong

Province belongs to the "old Hakka dialect" of the Dongjiang River Basin. [The "local dialect" of the Dongjiang River Basin is distributed not only in the urban and suburban areas of Huizhou, but also in (1) Pingtan, Liangjing, Yonghu, Qiuchang, Zhenlong and other townships in Huiyang District; (2) Longhua, Longxi, Taimei and Guanguan in the plain area along the Yangtze River in of Boluo County. Yinge and other townships; (3) the area where the northwest corner of Huidong County meets Huicheng District; (4) the most areas of Yuancheng District and Dongyuan District; (5) the towns of Linjiang and Guzhu in the west of Zijin County; (6) the townships of Tuocheng, Laolong and Sidu in the south of Longchuan County; (7) the townships of Zhongxin, Youxi, Gaoguan, Triangle, Dahu, Xiusatin the southeast of Lianping County and the southwest. Longjie, Tianyuan, Xishan and other townships; (8) Dongshui, Linzhai, Pengzhai and other townships in Heping County; (9) Fengcheng, Ma Tou, Shijiao, Daxi, Meikeng and other townships in Xinfeng County. ] "Xinke" refers to the migration from Jiangxi to Ninghua and Changting in Western Fujian after the Tang and Five Dynasties, from the turn of Song and Yuan Dynasties to the end of Ming Dynasty, and then to Eastern Guangdong and Northern Guangdong. The "old Hakka dialect" is distributed in the middle and upper reaches of the Middle East River Basin and the North River Basin in Guangdong Province, interlacing with the "new Hakka dialect". Zhuangchusheng (2008) believes that "the middle and upper reaches of the Dongjiang River are one of the earliest developed areas in Guangdong. The source of the Dongjiang River, Xunwu and Dingnanshui, are located in Xunwu County in the southwest of the Yangtze River. They are natural passages for residents of Jiangxi and other places to enter the Dongjiang River Basin in history. It can be seen that the "F-VP" sentence pattern of Guangdong Province and the related sentence pattern of Jiangxi should have a certain origin. Because of the different time and source of immigration, the "old Hakka" and "new Hakka" have formed two different types of positive and negative Interrogative sentences.

#### 4. Conclusion

There are many types of positive and negative Interrogative sentence in Shima Dialects, which is related to Shima Dialects' frequent contact with surrounding dialects such as Hakka and Cantonese, as well as the influence of Putonghua. Among them, Shima dialect's inherent positive and negative Interrogative sentence pattern is "F-neg-VP", with different interrogations such as "Ah-VP", "A-No VP", "A-Ni VP/NP", etc.

At the junction of Guangdong and Jiangxi, there is a special distribution area of "F-neg-VP". the characteristic of "f-neg-VP" in this area is that the interrogative word "f" itself is a negative word or contains negative elements. The core area of the "F-(neg)-VP" distribution area is Longchuan, and "F-(neg)-VP" is the only sentence pattern of local neutral inquiry. The closer to Longchuan, the more frequently "F-(neg)-VP" is used locally. On the contrary, other Gulongchuan territories far away from Longchuan County no longer use this sentence pattern.

#### Acknowledgement

Template:[Fund Project] Special Task of 2016 Ministry of Education's Chinese Language Resources Protection Project, investigation of Endangered Chinese Dialects, Guangdong Zhenjiang "Shimasheng", ProjectNo.:YB1618A006, Project Leader: Huang Ni anfeng.

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