МОВИ ТА ЛІТЕРАТУРИ

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RESEARCHES ON ADMINISTRATIVE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES STEMMING FROM SOUTHWEST MANDARIN DIALECT (SMD) IN THE NORTHWEST MOUNTAINOUS PROVINCES OF VIETNAM

1. Introduction

The issue of geographical names in Vietnam has been interested in by many linguists for so long. We can explore it through a series of typical researches by Hoang Thi Chau [Hoàng Thị Châu 1964], Le Trung Hoa [Lê Trung Hoa 1991, 2001], Nguyen Kien Truong [Nguyễn Kiên Trường 1996], Tran Tri Doi [Trần Trí Dõi 2001], Tu Thu Mai [Từ Thu Mai 2004] etc. Among these researches, the authors have viewed the geographical names in different aspects like constituent characteristics, origins, meanings, the changes of geographical names through history and the relations among geographical names. By these researches, the researchers show us that in Vietnam, besides the classes of pure Vietnamese geographical names, there are a universal number of Sino-Vietnamese ones or the ones originating from the ethnic minorities' languages in our country. As a matter of fact, in the ethnic areas (especially, Hmong-Yao group areas) in the Northern mountainous provinces which are located along the Vietnam-China frontier such as Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Ha Giang appear fairly commonly the geographical names with Southwest Mandarin Dialect (SMD) origin (which is called Quan Hoa by the local).

E.g.	**Vietnamese**	**SMD**	**Sino-Vietnamese**	**Meaning**
	Lao Chải /law cɑj/	-老寨 /lau tsai/	lão trại	the old village
	Má Cha/ma ca/	-马家 /ma tɕa/	mã gia	the Mass family
	Tả Phìn /ta fin/	-大坪/ta pʼin/	đại bình	the big delta

By these examples we can see that initially those were geographical names whose pronunciation was based on SMD and to have such geographical ones in Vietnamese script as today's, they did undergo a Romanization process (using Vietnamese script to record those names in accordance with the SMD spoken sounds). In this paper, we will carry out exploring the class of geographical names with SMD origin in Vietnam which mainly are administrative geographical units in Hmong-Yao areas of Northwest mountainous provinces, Vietnam. With those geographical names, we hope to take a systematized look at the SMD-origin geographical names of Vietnam in 3 dimensions: 1/ View them in terms of phonetics (starting to suggest some rules for transferring SMD reading sound geographical names to Vietnamese script on the base of synchronic comparison), 2/ View them in terms of constitution of geographical name units, 3/ View them in terms of semantics. From this dimension, we will bring out some cultural features of geographical names here.

2. Contents

2.1. Considering in terms of phonetics

When the SMD-origin geographical names appeared and were Romanized into those as today, the process of Romanization had occurred for a fairly long time. Therefore, to view the SMD-root geographical names written in the form of Vietnamese script based firstly on the synchronic aspect is essential, through which, we will see the differences between the SMD sound system and the Vietnamese correspondence and can partially get the first imagination of the Romanization process of the geographical names in Vietnam.

First, it is easy for us to find SMD phonetic system dissimilar to Vietnamese one. Thus, the process of using Vietnamese script to record geographical names with SMD reading sounds would have a lot of difficulties. In respect of the consonants and rhymes similar to the Vietnamese ones, most of the records to illustrate the pronunciation reveal no change compared with the SMD reading sounds.

With respect to the system of first consonant, when transferred to Vietnamese the ranges of obtrusive, fricative or nasal consonants still can be retained by the corresponding consonants present in Vietnamese /f/, /k/, /p/, /t/, /ʂ/, /ŋ/, /tʼ/, /h/...

Some examples of the first consonant correspondences

Phonetic		Examples	
Vietnamese	*SMD*	*Vietnamese*	*SMD*
/f/	/f/	Ngải Phong Chồ /ŋai fɔŋ co/	崖 风 脚 /ŋai fəŋ tço/
/k/	/k/	Ki Quan San /ki kwan ʂan/	鸡冠 山 /tçi kuan san/
/p/	/p/	Pờ Phú Chải /pɣ fu caj/	白虎寨 /pɣ fu tʂai/
/t/	/t/	Tả Đông Hồ /ta doŋ ho/	大东河 /ta tuŋ ho/

The divergences between SMD and Vietnamese in terms of first consonants are SMD's affricate ranges. When transferred to Vietnamese, due to its lack of that kind of sound, they are transferred to the nearly similar consonants to a certain rule such as /ts/, /tɕ/ (Mandarin) – /c/ (Vietnamese), /tsʼ/, /ɕ/ – /ʂ/ ... For this reason, it should be accepted that there are many cases in which one Vietnamese sound can express multiple SMD sounds, e.g. /f/, /pʼ/ (Mandarin) – /f/ (Vietnamese)… and vice versa, e.g. /tɕ/ (Mandarin) – /c/, /ʈ/, /k/ (Vietnamese), /ts/ -/c/, /ʈ/...

Examples of some consonant differences

Phonetic		Examples	
Vietnamese	*SMD*	*Vietnamese*	*SMD*
/c/	/ts/ /tɕ/	Phìn Chư /fin cɯ/ Má Cha /ma ca/	坪 子 /pʼin tsɫ/ 马家 /ma tça/
/ʈ/	/tɕ/ /ts/	Ngải Trồ /ŋaj ʈo/ Giàng Trù /zaŋ ʈu/	崖脚 /ŋai tço/ 杨 竹 /yaŋ tsu/
/f/	/f/ /pʼ/	Kha Phàng /xa faŋ/ Phìn Páo /fin paw/	卡防 /kʼa faŋ/ 坪 宝 /pʼin pau/

Besides, the same Mandarin sound can be transferred to many Vietnamese different variants such as: /t/ (Mandarin) – /t/, /d/ (Vietnamese), /p/ (Mandarin) – /p/, /b/ (Vietnamese), e.g.

Phonetic		Examples	
Vietnamese	*SMD*	*Vietnamese*	*SMD*
/d/ /t/	/t/	Tả Đông Hồ /ta doŋ ho/	大东河 /ta tuŋ ho/
/p/ /b/	/p/	Pờ Phú Chải /pɣ fu caj/ Bản Phố /ban fo/	白虎寨 /pɣ fu tsai/ 半坡 /pan pʼo/

With regard to rhymes, Mandarin rhymes are divided into 3 main kinds: 1/ Single rhymes, 2/ Compound rhymes, 3/ Nasal rhymes. In terms of the first kind, mostly when transferred to Vietnamese they still can retain the corresponding sounds such as: /a/, /o/, /u/, /ɣ/... The other 2 kinds also have rhymes correspondence with Vietnamese and therefore the transference remains unchanged, such as: /uŋ/, /aŋ/, /in/...

Examples on the corresponding rhymes

Phonetic		Examples	
Vietnamese	*SMD*	*Vietnamese*	*SMD*
/uŋ/	/uŋ/	Lùng Pao/luŋ paw/	龙宝 /luŋ pau/
/aŋ/	/aŋ/	Nhiều Sáng/ɲiew ʂaŋ/	牛场 /niu tsʻaŋ/
/a/	/a/	Ta Pa Cheo /ta pa cɛw/	大芭蕉/ta pa çiau/
/ai/	/ai/	Xa Khái Tủng/sa xaj tuŋ/	下开洞/çia kʻai tuŋ/
/o/	/o/	Tả Cán Hồ /ta kan ho/	大干河/ta kan ho/

Besides, there are some syllables non-existing in phonic system of Vietnamese. Therefore, when translating, Vietnamese uses syllables in the system to record syllables which is different in kind but slightly similar to SMD. Primarily here are diphthongs which are vowels or syllables which have sounds, nasal tones such as /iaŋ/, /iau/, /iu/...

Examples about some differences of syllables

Phonetic		Examples	
Vietnamese	*SMD*	*Vietnamese*	*SMD*
/iew/	/iu/	Nhiều Lan /ɲiew lan/	牛兰 /niu lan/
/ɛw/	/iau/	Seo Tủng /ʂɛw tuŋ/	小洞 /çiau tuŋ/
/ɛŋ/	/iaŋ/	Sả Séng/ʂa ʂɛŋ/	下鄉 /þia çiaŋ/

In geographic names of SMD origin, there is a phenomenon that a syllable having vowels /y/ in SMD sound will be translated into /z/ consonant in Vietnamese and displayed by "gi" or "d" letters. For example: 杨家／ yaŋ tçia/ – Giàng Cha /zaŋ ca/; 鱼塘 /yi tʻaŋ/ – Dì Thàng / zi tʻaŋ/; 银井 /yin tçiŋ/-Dìn Chin /zin cin/...

Through phonic correspondence, we can see that geographic names of SMD origin are made national language according to certain translational rules. When comparing in synchronic aspect, we can still recognize the geographic names with the correlative way of reading.

2.2. Considering the structure of geographic names of SMD origin

When considering the problem of structuring geographical names of SMD origin, predecessor authors all thought that it was necessary to distinguish a complex geographic name including 2 components: the front component "having the function of showing the type of the named subject in the behind second component" [Từ Thu Mai 2004, *57*]. According to each author, there are different names for these 2 components in each complex geographic name in which the first component is general name, general component, general noun… and the second component is geographic name. In this article, we survey materials which are administrative geographic names from hamlet level to district level so we only consider the part of geographic name, except for the part of general component in a complex geographic name.

First of all, we realize that all geographic names of SMD origin in this area have compound structure with 2 constituent elements or more. And in which almost all are geographic names having 2 or 3 constituent elements. Geographic names having 4 elements only appear one sole case. According to obtained documentation block, we determine that here geographic names of SMD origin have 2 main relative types: principal and accessory relation, and coordinated relation, and subject and predicative relation doesn't appear as in types of geographic names in other areas.

2.2.1. In general, here geographic names are ones of SMD origin. Therefore, the most easily realizable characteristic is that they are created in SMD structure. In the principal and accessory reaction in each geographic name, the main element usually stands behind the auxiliary element. As in cases of geographic names: Nàn Hồ (南 河 – Nam Hà "South River"), Si Ma Cai (新 马街 – Tân Mã Nhai "New Horse Street"), Lùng Phình (龙 坪 – Long

Bình "Dragon field"), Cu Tỷ Chải (谷 地 寨 – Cốc Địa Trại "Hill Rice village")…, the main elements "Hồ" (河), "Cai" (街), "Phình" (坪), "Chải" (寨) stand forward, the auxiliary elements "Nàn"(南), "Si Ma" (新 马), "Lùng"(龙), "Cu Tỷ" (谷 地) stand behind to set a limit to the main elements.

To geographic names including 3 constituent elements, the second element will limit the first element and the third element will limit the second and third elements. For example, in Sin Lùng Chải (新龙寨 – Tân Long Trại "New dragon village"), Cu Seo Tủng (古小洞 – Cổ Tiểu Động – "Small old cave"), Tả Dì Thàng (大鱼溏 – Đại Ngư Đường "Big fish puddle")..., the first elements "Sin" (新), "Cu" (古), "Tả" (大) will limit the behind elements.

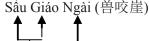Sin Lùng Chải (新龙寨)   Tả Dì Thàng (大鱼溏)

In some other geographic names, the limit elements can constitute a principal and accessory structure in which the element 1 and element 2 combine to limit the back element. For example, Pùa Chu Ván (白竹湾 – Bạch Trúc Loan "White small-bamboo bend"), Mà Sa Phìn (马草坪 – Mã Thảo Bình "Horse grass field"). Here we see that the element "Pù" 白 combines with the element "Chu" (竹) to limit the main element "Loan" (湾), the element "Mà" (马) combines with the element "Sa" (草) to limit the main element "Phìn" (坪).

Pù Chu Ván (白竹湾)   Mà   Sa Phìn (马草坪)

There are also some geographic names having limit elements which can constitute a coordinated structure in which the elements 1 combine the elements 2 to limit the behind elements. For example, Cồ Dì Chải (果叶寨 – Quả diệp trại "Leaf fruit village"), Hồ Mù Chải (火木寨 – Hỏa mộc trại "Fire tree village"), Thải Giàng Phố (太阳坡 – Thái dương pha "Sun mountain"). The elements "Cồ" (果), "Hồ" (火), Thải (太) combine with the elements "Dì" (叶), "Mù" (木), "Giàng" (阳) according to the coordinated relation to limit the main elements "Chải" (寨), " Phố" (坡).

Hồ Mù Chải (火木寨)   Thải Giàng Phố (太阳坡)

Besides, we can find the subject and predicative structure in the structures of the auxiliary elements to limit the main elements such as Sẩu Giáo Ngài (兽咬崖 – Thú Giảo Nhai "Animals gasping wattle"), Hồ Sao Chải (火烧寨 – Hoả Thiêu Trại "On-fire village")...

Sẩu Giáo Ngài (兽咬崖)   Hồ Sao Chải (火烧寨)

Particularly the main elements have specific combinations of SMD structures. The main elements can combine and stand forward the element "Chử" or "Chư" (子-Tử), for example in the geographic names such as Càn Sư Chử (干树子 – Can thụ tử "Dry plant"), Phìn Chư (坪子 – Bình tử "Plain field"), Tả Ván Chư (大弯子 – Đại loan tự "Big bend"). In these cases, the element "Chử" or "Chư"[2] (子-Tử) has the function of following nouns to show human beings or objects. Nowadays, this structure is still used popularly in the modern common SMD. For example, 桌子 (a table), 帽子 (a hat)... Therefore, we can easily realize that geographic names of SMD origin in this area still bring clear specific trait of SMD structures.

There are also some exceptions. Geographic names have the structure in which the auxiliary elements stand behind the main elements such as Phìn Páo (坪宝 – Bình Bảo "Gem field"), Tỉ Hừ (地黑 – Địa hắc "Black ground")… This can be explained that the geographic names were transformed according to Hmong-Yao structure. However, these cases rarely appear,

only make up approximately 1% of the total number of documentations and SMD structure is still basic.

In the principal and accessory structure of the geographic names of SMD origin, the auxiliary elements combine with the main elements to make series of geographic names. If a geographic name begins with an auxiliary element "Tả" (大 – Đại"Big"), there will be series of geographic names according to **Tả + Xn** structure (in which Xn is different main element) existing, for example, Tả Ván Chư (大 弯 子), Tả Chồ (大 脚), Tả Cán Hồ (大 干河)... If a geographic name has the main element "Chải" (寨-Trại "Village"), there will be series of **Yn + Chải** structures (in which Yn is the auxiliary element to limit the main elements), for example, Cắn Chải (干寨), Sín Chải (新寨), Chúng Chải (中寨)...

2.2.2. The number of geographic names of SMD origin constructed according to the coordinated structure is not a lot (10/320 cases), in which bi-syllable geographic names including 2 elements are main, for example, Lù khấu (路口 – Lộ khẩu "T-junction"), Phìn Ngan (平安 – Bình an "Peace")... In these cases, the elements "Lù" (路), Phìn (平) combine with the elements "Khẩu" (口), "Ngan" (安) to make geographic names in whose structures roles of elements are equal.

Lù Khấu   Phìn Ngan

2.3. The semantic aspect of SMD geographical names
2.3.1. Survey and classification

Generally, the meaning of a SMD geographical name is the meaning of each of the elements forming that geographical name. Therefore, the meanings of SMD geographical names are often defined by this formula: The meaning of the main element + the meaning of the subordinate element = the meaning of geographical names. In the formula, the main element is considered to be the basic meaning and the subordinate element is considered to be limited in the meaning. The main elements of SMD geographical names are classified into following groups of meaning:

– *Group 1: Main elements are named according to the flat of the terrain such as Phìn (坪-Bình "field"), Sáng (场-Trường "yard, field"), Pến (片-Phiến "board")...*

– *Group 2: Main elements are named according to the unevenness of the terrain such as Thàng (塘 "creek"), "Tủng" (洞 "cave"), "Ván"(弯 "curve")...*

– *Group 3: Main elements are related to river, water such as Hồ (河 "river"), Chéng (江 "river"), Sui (水 "water")...*

– *Group 4: Main elements refer to residential area such as Chải (寨 "village"); Cài, Cai (街 "market, street"); Chấn (镇 "quarter"); Séng (乡 "hamlet")...*

– *Group 5: Main elements are related to mountain such as Ngài (崖 "mountain side"), Sán (山 "mountain"), Phố (坡 "mountain")...*

– *Group 6: Main elements refer to specific things such as Sử (树 "tree"), Mần (门 "door"), Lủ (路 "road")...*

We easily recognize that there are many geographical names which are initially formed from general components referring to different kinds of geographical objects such as physiography and hydrography such as Chéng (江 – Giang "river"), Ngài (崖 – Nhai "cliff"), Sán, San (山 – Sơn "mountain"), Phố (坡-Pha "mountain"), etc. Then, these elements are transformed into main elements referring to administrative geographical names for instance Pờ Hồ (白河), Tu San (都山), Tung Chung Phố (宋东坡), etc. In some cases, general elements themselves refer to residential geographical names and they are transformed into main elements of the geographical names: Chải (寨 – Trại "village"), Cài, Cai (街 – Nhai "market, street"), Chấn (镇 – Trấn "hamlet")… à Chúng Chải (中寨), Sang Chỉu Cài (上旧街), Sả Séng (下乡), etc.

Subordinate elements which have limited meanings for the main elements are classified into the following popular groups:

– Group 1: Quality limitation for the main elements: Lao (老 – Lão "old"), Sín (新 – ân "new"), Hoà (滑-Hoạt "brandnew")...

– Group 2: Size limitation: Tả (大 – Đại "big"), Séo (小 – Tiểu "small")...

– Group 3: Position limitation: Sảng (上 – Thượng "over"), Chúng (中 – Trung "middle"), Xà (下 – Hạ "under")...

– Group 4: Geographical shape limitation: Chín Chư (金字 – Kim Tự "letter kim"), Mã Pỳ (马鼻 – Mã Tỵ "horse nose"), Ky Quan (鸡冠 – Kê Quan "cockscomb")...

– Group 5: Specific thing limitation: Khu Chu (苦竹 – Khổ Trúc "reed"), Chin Chu (金竹 – Kim Trúc "Yellow reed")...

– Group 6: Proper names limitation: Giàng (杨 – Dương "Duong family"), Lồ (罗 – La "La family"), Má (马 – Mã "Ma family")...

– Group 7: Direction limitation: Nàn (南 – Nam "southern"), Tùng (东 – Đông "eastern")...

– Group 8: Quantity limitation: Sừ Pà (十八 – Thập Bát "eighteen"), Sán Khổ (三个 – Tam Cá "three things"), Bả Tả (八代 – Bát Đại "eight generations")...

2.3.2 Through semantic analyses of the geographical names, there are some remarks following:

2.3.2.1. We easily recognize that there are many geographical names which are initially formed from general components referring to different kinds of geographical objects such as physiographic and hydrographic ones such as Hồ (河 – Hà "river"), Chéng (江 – Giang "river"), Ngài (崖 – Nhai "cliff"), Sán, San (山 – Sơn "mountain"), Phố (坡 – Pha "mountain"), etc. Then, these elements are transformed into main elements referring to administrative geographical names for instance Pờ Hồ (白河), Tu San (都山), Tung Chung Phố (宋东坡), etc. In some cases, general elements themselves refer to residential geographical names and they are transformed into main elements of the geographical names: Chải (寨 – Trại "village"), Cài, Cai (街 – Nhai "market, street"), Chấn (镇 – Trấn "hamlet")...→ Chúng Chải (中寨), Sang Chỉu Cài (上旧街), Sả Séng (下乡), etc.

2.3.2.2. In general, when naming a unit place, many residents here often watch carefully the natural world around their places. Through the characteristic cultural eyes, they had chosen for the new places different names, however, they have the same common ones to express truthfully the world around them.

One of the most different characters of these places is the existence of unplanned area such as San (山 – mountain), Nhai (崖 – mountainside), Pha (坡 – mountain), Tủng (洞 – cave)… which is the character of mountainous areas. Those were the first image they saw when they immigrated from the North. They used the image of these places to name new places according to the appearance of living areas such as: Seo Tủng (小洞), Pờ Xì Ngài (白石崖), Liền Sán (两山)… Beside the characters of high mountainous areas, frequently, when choosing a new place to set up new village, these residents often choose similarly planned area to build up new houses. Therefore "Phìn (坪 – planned)" element was chosen to name for many areas for example: Tả Phìn (大坪), Phìn Chư (坪子), Sú Dí Phìn (树叶坪)…

Through the main elements, we can see a general picture about the cultural character of this mountainous area including: 29 related to mountain (Sán – 山, street – 坡), 13 mountainous (ngài – 崖)), 24 planned (Phình, phìn – 坪), 29 rivers, water, (Hồ – 河, stream, sui – 水), 25 caves, 58 factors related to residential area (Chải – 寨, Cai – 街)… these numbers expressed both structure of places and cultural colors in naming way of resident here.

In addition, the resident here had chosen a plant-animal system characterizing for mountain and cave. They had chosen the image of some plants like bamboo (竹), alang grass (茅), cherry (桃)… or animals such as: tiger (虎), chicken (鸡), forest pig (野猪), horse (马) to identify the geographical names here. Look at these naming factors; we can see that the resident here used the mountainous area culture to choose the elements to name areas.

2.3.2.3. We can find many places in this region named by element which was related to river (-河), street (-路). These naming ways also expressed the immigrating culture of people

here; they are very close to Han and Viet culture. Because nowadays, Vietnamese always want their houses to be near river, traffic system and it become a standard "first is near the road, second is near the river"…

2.3.2.4. When considering these places to know if there is existence the standing factor, we noticed the factors "Nàn" (南 – South) was chosen to be the popular element here such as: Nàn Sán (南山-Nam Sơn), Nàn Hồ (南河 – Nam Hà), Sảng Nàn Cang (上南岗 – Thượng Nam Cương)… This thing proved that when people immigrated down from the North (South China) to this area, they have known that their new place was in the more South than their start. Also for this reason, there are no North factors in the place here (which was considered to be their start). This also proved that residents came here from South China (North of Vietnam).

2.3.2.5. There is popular existence of pairs of factors that have contrast character: old/new (老/新) such as: Sín Chải (新寨 – New farm), Lao Chải (老寨 – Old farm)… we offer theories about this problem in the easiest way. When civilians moved to this region to name the places in their own way besides basing on characteristics or geographic qualities that they selected to name the places, they were also capable to use the old names to mark where they had moved from to name them again for new areas. It was then that the factors of old/new (Lao/Sin) will exist (existed) to characterize the origin places like Lao,Sin+S (S is origin place). There are two ways to understand. Firstly, upon coming here, they thought that new places must be newer than old places so they used Sin (new)+S= Place such as: Sín Chải (新寨 – New farm), Sín Pao Chải (新宝寨 – New gem farm), Sìn Hồ Sán (新火山 – New fire mountain)… Secondly, when coming here, these residents still wanted to keep their old places so they added element Lao(old)+S=Place such as Lao Chải San (老寨山 – Old farm mountain), Lao Pao Chải (老宝寨 – Old gem farm)… From which we also noticed that where the origin elements were and these elements were kept in the naming way of the people here. Researching this character deeply and comparing with other areas on an immigrating way of some ethnic groups, we certainly have a historical picture of minor ethnic groups through these geographic names.

2.3.2.6. In fact, it may be still early to conclude that the SMD originated names in the area appeared when the Hmong-Yao people migrated from the South of China to inhabit. But among these places, we can conclude that there are many SMD origin places and they were surely named by Hmong people. This is expressed quite clearly in some places for which they used Hmong's family name to name such as: Mã family (马家), Dương family (杨家), Lầu (La) family (罗老寨), Lý family (李老寨)… These family names were considered quite big in Vietnam and also in Hmong majority in these areas. This expressed high majority character in immigrating process of Hmong people when they first came here. And therefore, we can say that the appearance of these areas here attached with the immigration from the North, especially Hmong-Yao group.

3. General conclusion

Through the analyses above, we can conclude that in some areas of Hmong-Yao near Viet-China border which are mainly in Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Ha Giang SMD origin geographical names (according to the pronunciation of Southwest China) exist.

In pronunciation aspect, these geographic names have been nationalized in the maximum way. When compared with SMD pronunciation in West-South style in contemporary aspect, we still noticed pronunciation traits similar to Vietnamese. They will be kept and some distinction in pronunciation will be expressed in Vietnamese by sounds like SMD the most. In general national language of those geographical names is rather on the agreement so this makes reading converted sound system of SMD language similar.

About formation and semantics, those geographical names have still kept basically the same structure of SMD with two main types: *main-subordinate* and *coordinate* relationships in which subordinate relations always have absolute dominations. The citizens there often use

natural geographical factors and practical observations of the environment to decide names for the administrative units.

Thus, SMD originated geographical names are translated and converted into national language, however the phonetic nature, formation, and semantics of those geographical names still strongly bear SMD characteristics. This type of geographical name should be considered one type in the Vietnamese geographical names system.

In terms of semantics, the civilians there often use the natural geographic factors and practical observations about living environment to name the administration units here. Through characterized typical cultural prism of their groups, they chose to call new lands with many different names, however they still have a common thing that expresses loyally the objective world which they have already witnessed such as: topographic factors, typical floral and faunal system of highland area. Those elements create a quite vivid geographic-cultural picture of this region.

Through the identifying way and the factors being used to identify, we can find many proofs that the ethnic minorities migrating from the North came and named their new land. Among them, people of Hmong-Yao group are of the important subjects contributing to make up SMD originated geographical names here. The continuation in researching SMD originated geographical names in the direction of culture will surely be open and promising to greatly contribute to the interdisciplinary studies in linguistics, culture and ethnology.

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[1] Quan Hoa is regarded as Southwest Mandarin Dialect, being widely used in Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, China [*Yuan Jia Hua* 1982, *24*]. In this paper, we will utilize simplified SMD to write the examples for the sake of track keeping.

[2] These are two variables of (子-Tử) /tsɤ/ when transferring into Vietnamese.

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