



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

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<i>Module Code:</i> SICH6018 <i>Module title:</i> Exegesis	<i>Student number:</i> 2006724
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☐ I have not used AI in my assignment

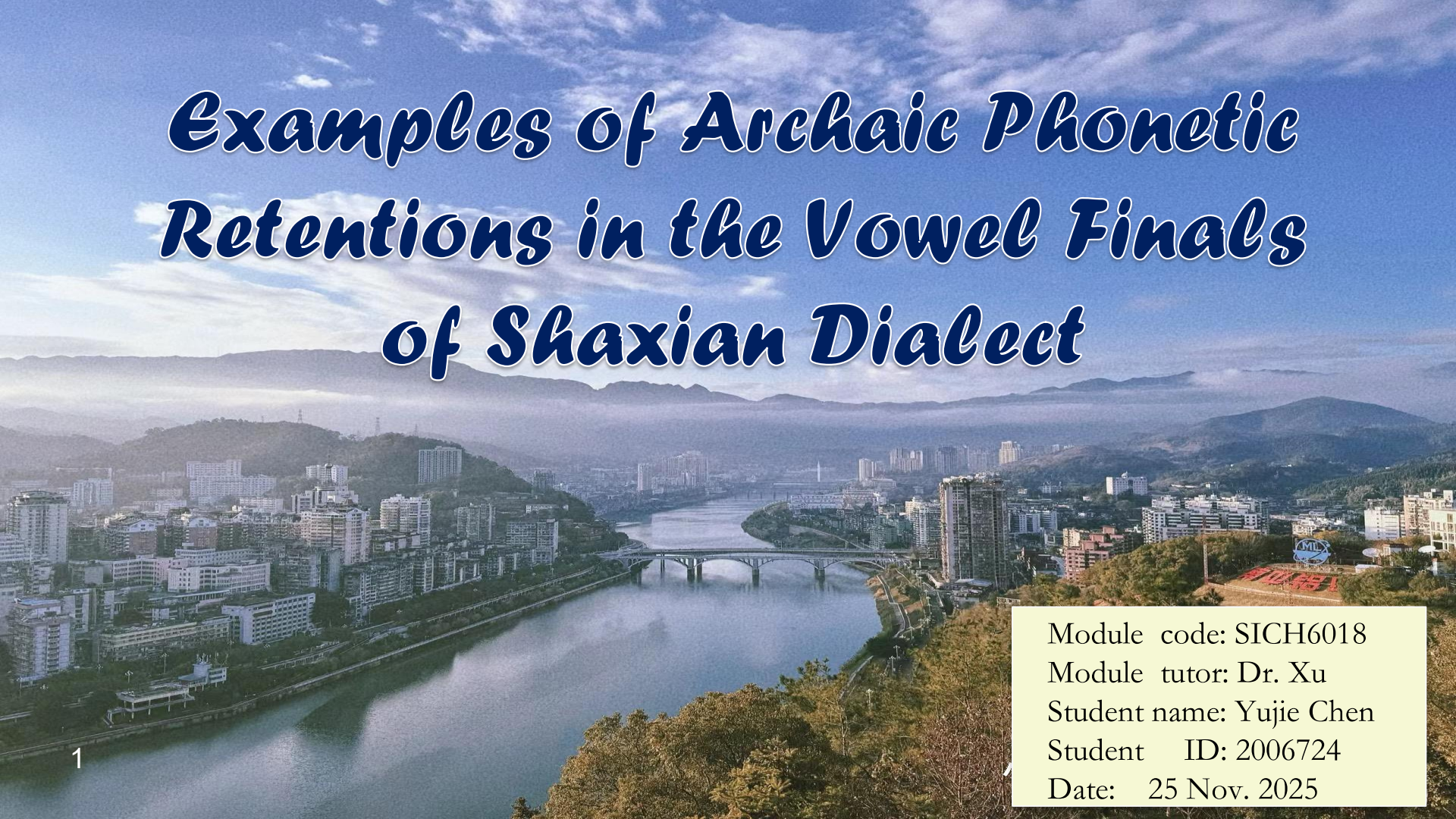
I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI agenerated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

☒ I have used AI in my assignment

I acknowledge the use of ChatGPT and DeepSeek to support my work using the prompt(s):

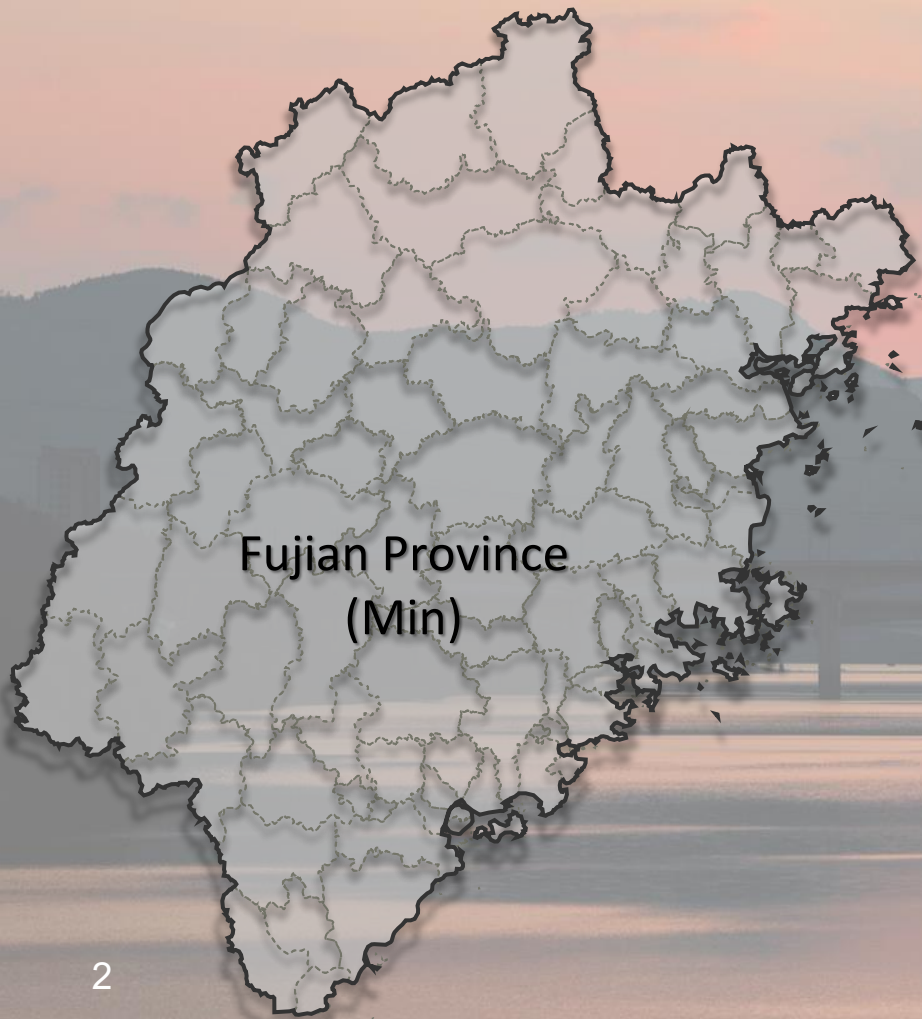
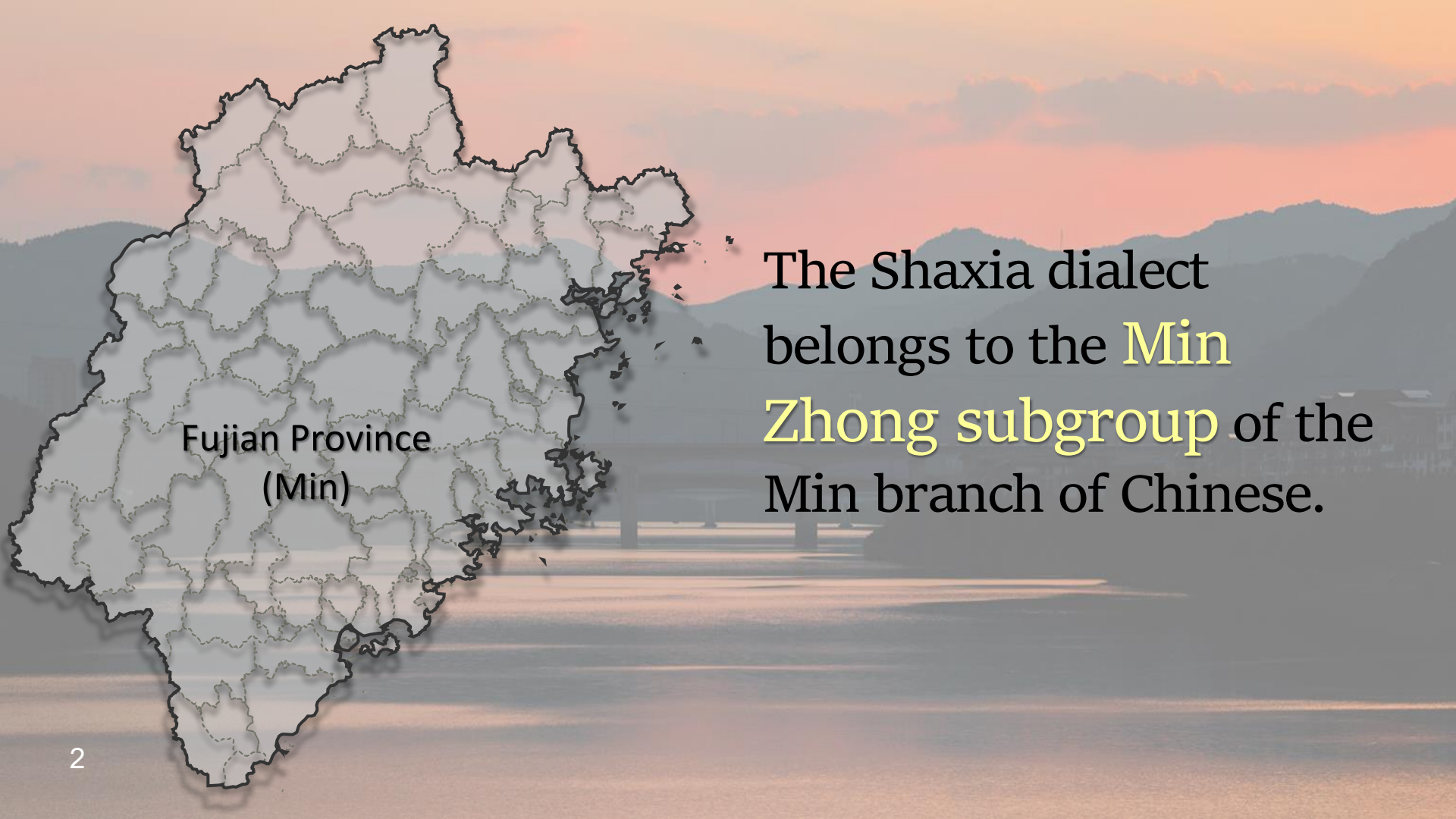
1. please translate it into English.

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The background of the slide is a panoramic photograph of a city, likely in Taiwan, featuring a wide river (Keelung River) flowing through the urban landscape. The city is built on hillsides, with numerous high-rise apartment buildings and commercial structures. In the distance, misty mountains are visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The title text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Examples of Archaic Phonetic Retentions in the Vowel Finals of Shaxian Dialect

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Date: 25 Nov. 2025



The Shaxia dialect belongs to the **Min Zhong subgroup** of the Min branch of Chinese.



The structure of Chinese finals

01 Medial

02 Main vowel

03 Ending





01 The Examples of Medial

The Nature Of Medials

Open Mouth (abbreviated as ‘Open’開): Characters **without a [u] medial**.

Closed Mouth (abbreviated as ‘Closed’合): Characters **with a [u] medial**.

Broad Sound (洪音): Characters **without an [i] or [j] medial**.

Slender Sound (細音): Characters **with an [i] or [j] medial**.

1. From Open to Closed

‘Open’ in Middle Chinese, ‘Closed’ in Modern Standard Mandarin.
‘Open’ in Shaxian.

Character	Dialect	Mandarin	Middle Chinese
所	[so]	[s <u>u</u> o]	[ʃjo]
駝	[to]	[t ^h <u>u</u> o]	[d ^h a]
蘿	[lo]	[l <u>u</u> o]	[la]
妝	[tsaŋ]	[tɕ <u>w</u> aŋ]	[tʃjaŋ]
握	[øɔ]	[ø <u>u</u> o]	[ʔɔk]
雀	[ts ^h io]	[tɕ ^h <u>y</u> e]	[tsjak]
學	[øo]	[ɕ <u>y</u> e]	[ɣɔk]

2. From Closed to Open

‘Closed’
in Middle Chinese

‘Open’
in Mandarin

‘Closed’
in Shaxian.

Character	Dialect	Mandarin	Middle Chinese
門	[m <u>u</u> ĩ]	[mən]	[m <u>u</u> ən]
妹	[b <u>u</u> e]	[mei]	[m <u>u</u> Ai]
盤	[p <u>u</u> ĩ]	[pʰan]	[bʰ <u>u</u> an]
盆	[p <u>u</u> ĩ]	[pʰen]	[bʰ <u>u</u> ən]
本	[p <u>u</u> ẽ]	[pen]	[p <u>u</u> ən]
杯	[p <u>u</u> i]	[pei]	[p <u>u</u> Ai]
雷	[l <u>u</u> i]	[lei]	[l <u>u</u> Ai]
累	[l <u>u</u> i]	[lei]	[lɿ <u>u</u> e]
髮	[p <u>u</u> ɛ]	[fa]	[pɿ <u>u</u> ət]
佛	[x <u>u</u> i]	[fo]	[bʰɿ <u>u</u> ət]
非	[ʃ <u>y</u> i]	[fei]	[pɿ <u>u</u> əi]
骨	[k <u>u</u> e]	[ku]	[k <u>u</u> ət]
物	[g <u>u</u> i]	[øu]	[mɿ <u>u</u> ət]
嫩	[n <u>u</u> ĩ]	[nən]	[n <u>u</u> ən]

3. From Broad to Slender

‘Broad Sound’ in Middle Chinese
‘Slender Sound’ in Mandarin

Middle Chinese Open Mouth
Grade II (開口二等) characters
with velar or laryngeal initials
acquire an [i] medial in Mandarin

Dialect retains the ‘Broad Sound’

Character	Dialect	Mandarin	Middle Chinese
顏	[ŋɔĩ]	[øiɛn]	[ŋan]
亞	[øa]	[øia]	[ʔa]
江	[kõ]	[tɕiɛn]	[kɔŋ]
巷	[xɔuŋ]	[ɕiɛn]	[ɣɔŋ]
皆	[kai]	[tɕie]	[kei]
佳	[ka]	[tɕia]	[ŋæŋ]
眼	[ŋɔĩ]	[øiɛn]	[ɣɔk]
交	[kau]	[tɕiaɯ]	[kau]
孝	[xau]	[ɕiaɯ]	[xau]
嘉	[ka]	[tɕia]	[ka]
甲	[ka]	[tɕia]	[kap]



4. From Slender to Broad

‘Slender Sound’ in Middle
‘Broad Sound’ in Mandarin
Dialect retains the ‘Slender Sound’

This mostly occurs with characters having retroflex initials in Mandarin, as these often derive from Middle Chinese Grade III (三等) finals, which imply a [j] medial.

Character	Dialect	Mandarin	Middle Chinese
網	[t ^h i <u>u</u>]	[tɕʰou]	[d ^h ʝu]
樹	[tɕʰi <u>u</u>]	[ʃu]	[ʝjuo]
趙	[t ^h i <u>o</u>]	[tɕʰau]	[d ^h ʝæu]
紂	[t ^h i <u>u</u>]	[tɕʰou]	[d ^h ʝu]
手	[tɕʰi <u>o</u>]	[ʃou]	[ɕju]
潮	[t ^h i <u>o</u>]	[tɕʰau]	[d ^h ʝæu]
少	[s <u>i</u> o]	[ʃau]	[ɕjæu]
石	[s <u>i</u> o]	[ʃ]	[ʝɛk]
池	[t ^h i <u>e</u>]	[tɕʰ]	[d ^h ʝe]
成	[s <u>i</u> õ]	[tɕʰən]	[ʝɛŋ]
正	[tsi <u>õ</u>]	[tɕʰən]	[tɕjɛŋ]
略	[li <u>o</u>]	[lye]	[ljak]



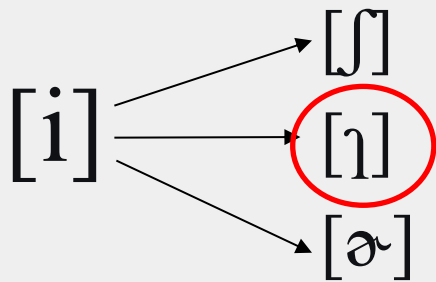
02

The Examples of Main Vowel



1. Apical Vowels

Mandarin has three apical vowels:

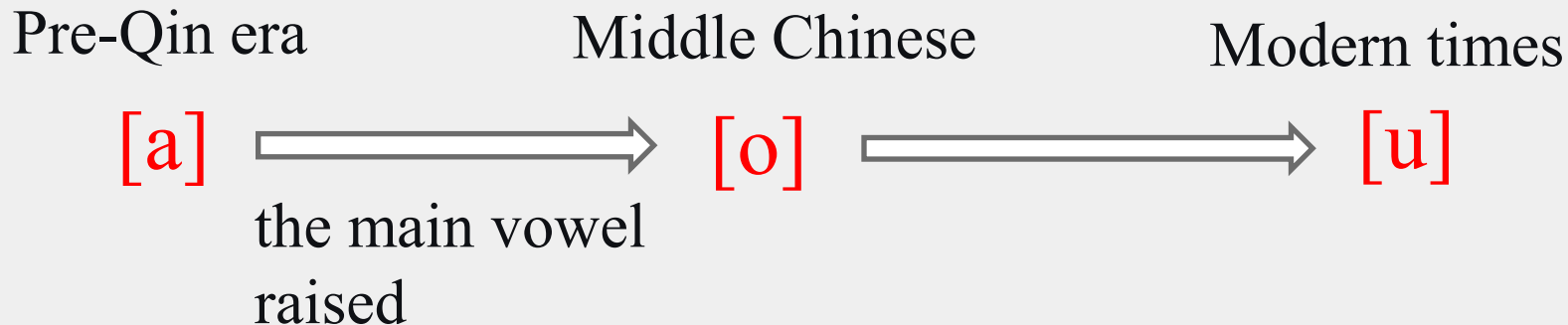


Southern Song Dynasty

Character	Dialect	Mandarin
遲	[ti]	[tʂʰ]
弛	[ti]	[tʂʰ]
蚰	[ti]	[tʂʰ]
知	[ti]	[tʂʰ]
治	[tʰi]	[tʂʰ]
直	[ti]	[tʂʰ]
兒	[øi]	[øə]

2. Evolution of the Old Chinese Yu (魚)

Division Words



For example: 楚 [ts^ho], 土 [t^ho], 虎 [xo], 苦 [k^ho], 去 [k^ho].

3. Evolution of the Ge (歌) and Ge (戈) Rhymes



Shaxian dialect retains the [o] pronunciation for these rhymes.

- Ge Rhyme (歌韻): 鵝 [g^o], 哥 [k^o], 歌 [k^o], 俄 [g^o], 蛾 [g^o], 何 [x^o], 河 [x^o], 荷 [x^o]
- Ge Rhyme (戈韻): 戈 [k^o], 科 [k^ho], 窠 [k^ho], 禾 [x^o]



4. Retention of Middle

Chinese Ma (麻), Ma (馬), Ma (禡) Grade III Finals



For example: 車 [tshia], 謝 [sia], 遮 [tsia], 蛇 [sua], 奢 [sia], 者 [tsia], 姐 [tsia], 野 [ia], 夜 [ia].

03

The Examples of Ending



Final consonant can be divided into three major types :

Yin Sheng Rhymes (陰聲韻) :
ending with a vowel

Yang Sheng Rhymes (陽聲韻) :
ending with a nasal consonant

velar [ŋ], alveolar [n], bilabial [m]

Ru Sheng Rhymes (入聲韻) :
ending with one of the three stop consonants [-p], [-t], [-k]

Shaxian dialect:

Yin Sheng Rhymes are relatively well preserved.

Retains the first two types ([ŋ], [n]).

Ru Sheng Rhymes has completely lost, retaining only the Ru tone category itself.

Conclusion

- Middle Chinese medials are relatively well preserved.
- It retains the Middle Chinese apical vowel [ɿ] and demonstrates its evolutionary phenomenon.
- It preserves the Middle Chinese [o] pronunciation for Old Chinese Yu division words.



Conclusion

- It retains the Middle Chinese pronunciation for finals that correspond to the Mandarin [ʊ] vowel.
- It retains Yin Sheng Rhymes, and the velar [ŋ] and alveolar [n] final consonants of Yang Sheng Rhymes.



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Internet

Xiaoxuetang zhongguyin 小學堂中古音：<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/zhongguyin>

Zhongguo yuyan ziyuan baohu gongcheng cailu zhanshi pintai 中国语言资源保护工程采录展示平台：
<https://zhongguoyuyan.cn/index>



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