

BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY REVIEW

NGUYỄN KIÊN TRƯỜNG (chief editor). **Language contact in Viet Nam. Ho Chi Minh City: Social Sciences Publishing House, 2005, pp. 305, Vv 7159.**

Based on the theory of language contact, in addition to the employment of the methods and findings of phonetics, lexicon, dialectology, stylistics, social linguistics, etc., the researchers have introduced to readers documents about the history and impacts of the process of contacting and exchange between Vietnamese and other languages English, French, Chinese, especially the exchange between the Vietnamese and Cham languages in HCMC a typical area for language exchange in Vietnam.

The book comprises two main parts:

The first part presents problems of language influence in Vietnam through the analysis of the language contact theory, problems of French pronunciation by Vietnamese, of Vietnamizing French, English in the current Vietnam newspapers, and the foundation of affixes creating Chinese-Vietnamese roots in contemporary Vietnamese. The authors pay great attention to other aspects of language contact, namely bilingual education, the employment of criteria of language features in studying the ethnic groups in Vietnam. The second part gives analysis on the real situation of language contact in the area of HCMC, particularly the problem of language exchange in the process of creating the urban cultural space, the problem of dialect mixing, addressing, and the problem of foreigners learning

Vietnamese. The authors also introduce a selective directory of language contact and the problems of the Cham language in HCMC.

HOANG DUNG

PHÚ VĂN HẸN (chief editor). **The Cultural and Social Life of the Cham in HCMC. HCMC: National Culture Publishing House, pp. 183, Vv 7158.**

The book includes research papers that thoroughly address the economy, culture, society, religion, matrimonial family, education, communal social organization, etc. of the Cham in HCMC. The authors present investigation into the world of religious Chama contemporary problem calling for new research with an interdisciplinary approach. Through the book, readers can imagine the changes conforming to the urban life of a group of Cham people in HCMC on the traditional basis of the Cham.

This book consists of two main parts.

The first part gives an overview of the generalities of Cham culture, the Cham language in HCMC, and cultural features of the Islamic Cham community. The authors also strongly emphasize the urban culture and the social organization of the Islamic Cham community in HCMC.

The second part goes in-depth with specialized fields, such as endeavors to develop and solutions to enhance the economical and social life of the Cham community, demands to raise intellectual standards of the Cham in HCMC, the

matrimonial patterns of Islamic Cham in this area, and the roles of Islamic Cham women in HCMC.

MINH ĐUC

ĐÀO HUY QUYÊN. A study on the specific characteristics of Jrai- Bahnars folk songs. *HCMC: Social Sciences Publishing House. 2005, pp. 290, Vb 44330.*

This book presents the findings of a meticulous research project of the author on “Tây Nguyên” folk songs. Through the information and folk songs collected and introduced, readers can see a diverse scale of the system of sound and tune of Jrai Bahnars folk songs, which share similarities with but also are different from those of other ethnic groups in Vietnam and in Southeast Asia. The book comprises five main chapters:

The first chapter briefly introduces Tay Nguyen and the basic features of Jrai Bahnar, including the attribute languages of Mon- Khmer and Malayo - PolinĐsien.

The second chapter analyses the features of Jrai and Bahnars folk songs, especially in the singing style and the artistic images.

The third chapter categorizes Jrai and Bahnar folk songs into three groups according to their social functions: folk songs of labour, of traditions and customs, and of faith, each with their own outstanding features.

The fourth chapter introduces the various tunes of Jrai and Bahnar folk songs, the primary methods applied, the special tunes and the comparison between the tunes of Jrai and Bahnars folk songs with those of Europe.

The fifth chapter details the sound scale

and tunes in Jrai and Bahnar folk songs.

At the end of the book is the Conclusion and the Jrai and Bahnars folk songs that the author has collected.

HOANG MINH

NGUYỄN ĐĂNG DUNG (chief editor). Organizing the Vietnamese government apparatus according to the Constitutions of 1946, 1959, 1980, 1992 and the amendments and supplements to the 1992 Constitution in 2001. *H.: National Political Publishing House, 2006, pp. 278, Vb 44460.*

This book analyzes the organization of Vietnamese State agencies like the Congress, the Government, the local administration level and the tribunal agencies, according to the Vietnamese Constitutions over various periods of time.

The book consists of six main chapters.

Chapter I presents an overview of the regulations on organizing the government apparatus in Vietnamese constitutions since 1946.

Chapter II analyzes the basic features of the Vietnamese government apparatus in the period when Constitution 1946 was in place.

Chapter III presents the background of introducing and organizing the government apparatus and its development, in terms of theory and practice, during the period under the Constitution of 1959.

Chapter IV analyzes the changes in the organization of the government conformable to the regulations of Constitution 1980.

Chapter V discusses the problems of the government organization according to Constitution 1992 and the needs of

amending the Constitution due to lifestyle demands.

Chapter VI analyses the characteristics of the Vietnamese government in the period of Constitution 1992, as amended and supplemented in 2001.

HAI BINH

LÊ THỊ VINH THI (chief editor). **Encyclopedia of knowledge for Vietnamese women. First volume: anatomical, physical, psychological and aesthetic characteristics.** H.: Medical, 2006, pp. 335, Vb 44456.

The book provides readers with knowledge of Vietnamese women in both theoretical and practical respects. In the first volume, the writers introduce the results of anatomical, physical, psychological and aesthetic studies of Vietnamese women. The first volume comprises four main chapters.

Chapter 1 introduces the approach and method of compiling the Encyclopedia of knowledge for Vietnamese women. With a more scientific and general view, the researchers consider the various angles from which the topic of women can be

approached. These researchers have taken the approach and survey of Vietnamese women as they compare with those worldwide, particularly in developed countries.

The second chapter introduces the knowledge of anatomical and physical characteristics of Vietnamese women of different age groups, phases of physical development such as puberty, child-bearing age, and menopause.

The third chapter analyses the psychological life of Vietnamese women, the most prominent of which is the sentiments to family, the concept of sex and love, and the issue of virginity.

The fourth chapter focuses on the introduction of Vietnamese women's beauty through the analysis of the concept of beauty; of female beauty in different age groups; of problems of preoccupation with outward beauty; etc. At the end of the book are the Conclusion, Appendices and References.

BINH AN