

Sino-Vietnamese Grammatical Vocabulary and Sociolinguistic Conditions for Borrowing

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ABSTRACT

This paper considers the sociolinguistic conditions under which Chinese grammatical vocabulary (which presupposes a substantial quantity content vocabulary) was borrowed into Vietnamese. While the early Sino-Vietnamese borrowing was largely through spoken bilingualism, over time, the means of transmission increasingly became biliteracy, namely, through the Vietnamese literary elite who could read and write in both Chinese and Vietnamese Nôm. Supporting data include the nature of Sino-Vietnamese grammatical vocabulary and historical details relevant to Sino-Vietnamese language contact.

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