

## Identification of “Hoanya”

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### ABSTRACT

In the contemporary ethnic classification of the indigenous peoples in Taiwan, the Plain Indigenous peoples in today’s Chiayi and Yunlin are categorized as “Hoanya.” However, this ethnic name did not appear until the 1930s and was proposed by Japanese linguist Ogawa Naoyoshi with reference to an unpublished manuscript of early anthropologist Inō Kanori. As seen in his handwriting, Inō wrote g like y; hence, transcribers or compositors might have misread Inō’s Hoanga as Hoanya and by chance invented this ethnic name. If Hoanya is merely an unintentional invention, one must further ask how the indigenous peoples were classified under Dutch and Qing rule. This study found that both Dutch and Qing classification systems agree with each other, showing consistency in the ethnic names used from the seventeenth to the eighteenth century. These systems classified indigenous peoples not only according to their languages but also the interactions between ethnic groups. On the basis of Dutch and Qing records, this study further argued that indigenous peoples had long been engaged in interactions despite language differences. Hence, caution should be taken not to confine their interactions by linguistic and other boundaries defined by later anthropologists or scholars. It is essential to delve into historical sources to reconstruct the history of the indigenous peoples.

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