

## The Basay in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century

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### ABSTRACT

This paper mainly explores the role of the Basay in regional trade during the first half of the seventeenth century. The Basay was an ethnolinguistic group scattered along the northern and northeastern coast or river mouths of Taiwan. This paper discusses the collective characteristics, economic activities, and intervillage relationship of the Basay, as well as examines the contemporary socio-economic status of the Basay in North Taiwan. It then utilizes the research data to conduct a gross comparison with other related cases in Southeast Asia and further attempts to explain the failure of the Basay in achieving the stage of political dominance as their contemporaries did.

**Keywords:** Basay, Formosan Plains Austronesians, History of Taiwan, the Indigenous Peoples of Taiwan