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I. Introduction¹

Taishun (泰順) is a dialect of Northeastern Min, or as it is often termed, Mindung (閩東). According to Norman (1977-78), the Mindung area covers seven counties of Fujian (福建) Province, stretching from the Zhejiang (浙江) border south to the county of Ningde (寧德) and from the coast to the Jiufeng (鷲峰) mountain range. Taishun actually lies within Zhejiang Province, just across the north-central border of Fujian. It is approximately ninety kilometers inland from the coast.

Norman (1977-1978) has presented descriptions of four Mindung dialects: Fuding (福鼎), Ningde (寧德) Zheyang (柘洋), and Fuan (福安). In addition, he has included data for Fuzhou (福州), the prestige dialect of the northeastern region. Taishun is located fifty to sixty kilometers northeast of Fuding and approximately forty kilometers north-northwest of Fuan. Taishun may be the most northern Mindung dialect studied to date.

