

## Foreword

This dictionary is a revised and expanded version of the *English Amoy Dictionary* published by the Maryknoll Language Service Center in 1979. It contains many new words and phrases. It is called *English Taiwanese Dictionary* rather than *English Amoy Dictionary* because it concerns itself for the most part with the language used in central Taiwan today rather than the entire area in which the Amoy dialect is used.

The introduction given in the 1976 edition can be applied for the most part to this edition also. From that introduction it might be good to point out the following. Like the previous edition it is a work geared to the spoken language, not literary language form. Thus it more easily lends itself for use by any student at any stage of Taiwanese language study. No effort has been made to include any specialized vocabulary but many religious terms are included since it is prepared by religious communities for use of missionaries among Taiwanese-speaking people.

As in the first edition, no definitive attempt is made to categorize words according to precise meanings. Our computer also took into account punctuation marks and articles when determining alphabetical order of “same letter” entries. This may cause some confusion and require searching of before and after entries.

A word about indicators used in this volume:

- 1) If (phonetic) is inserted behind a word, it denotes the word is adapted from a foreign sound. The word is ordinarily pronounced without tone changes.
- 2) Most religious terms are identified by (Catholic), (Protestant) or (Buddhist) inserted after the term.
- 3) When (polite) is inserted after a word, this indicates that the term is a modest, unassuming, self-effacing expression used when referring to oneself or things pertaining to oneself, e.g., sió-tī (young brother) instead of góa (I or me). If the term refers to someone else, (polite) indicates the term is an honorific term or title meant to praise the person spoken of.
- 4) Proper classifiers for nouns and parts of speech as in the first edition are also omitted. The user is referred to our previous publication *Amoy-English Dictionary* (Maryknoll, Taiwan, 1976) for a more comprehensive treatment of classifiers.

This volume is not intended to be a definitive work. For any omissions or mistakes, we beg your indulgence. We have found that even most careful proof readings are rarely infallible.

Our sincere thanks for the continuing and finalizing work done by members of the teaching staff at the Maryknoll Language Service Center, Mr. Tân Liông-hiông 陳良雄, Ms. Tân Siu-ngo̍ 陳秀娥, Mr. Chan Chhun-lông 曾春郎 and Mr. Ĩ Ka-hui 余嘉惠. Special gratitude is due Ms. Ko Chhiàn-gĩ 高倩宜 and Ms. Khó Giok-koan 許玉絹 of the Maryknoll Taiwan Information Service who spent many hours of detailed editing and correcting to prepare this volume for publication.

Maryknoll Language Service Center  
Maryknoll Taiwan Information Service  
February 2013