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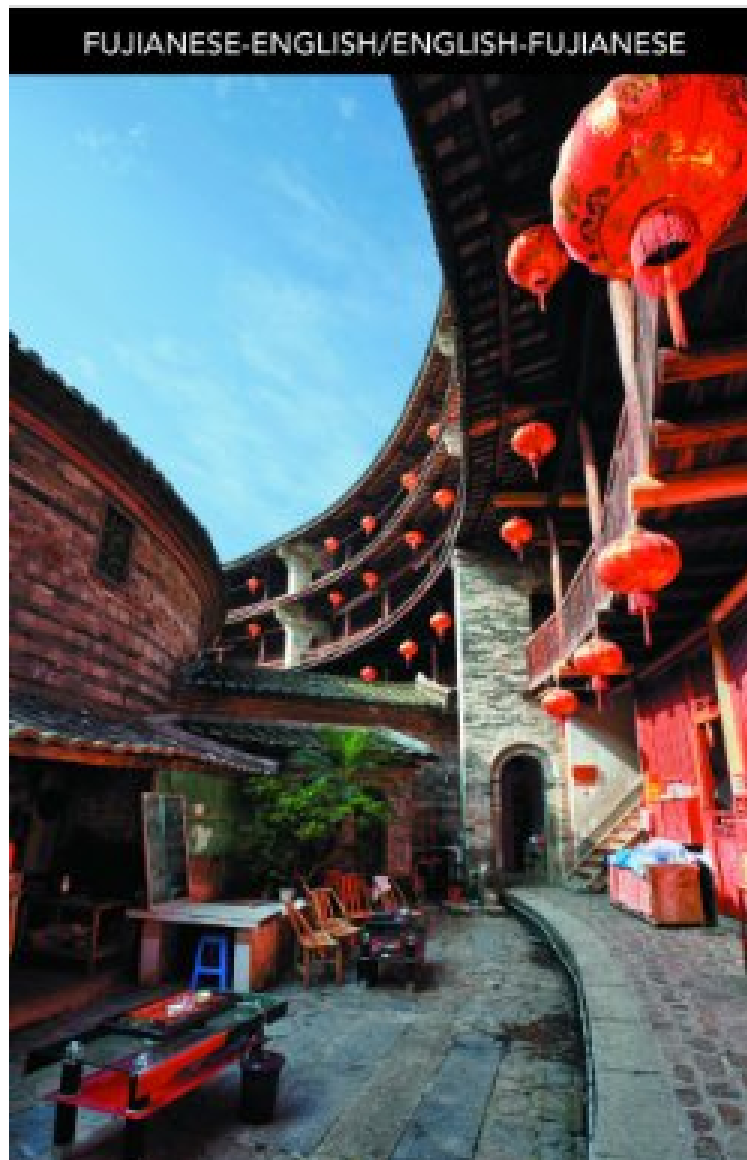
## **Fujianese-English/English-Fujianese Dictionary Phrasebook (Hippocrene Dictionary Phrasebook)**

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# **FUJIANESE**

## Dictionary & Phrasebook



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**From Hippocrene Books : Fujianese-English/English-Fujianese Dictionary Phrasebook (Hippocrene Dictionary Phrasebook)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fujianese-English/English-Fujianese Dictionary Phrasebook (Hippocrene Dictionary Phrasebook):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS FUZHOUNESE (not Minnan/Hokkien) By Viola This is a nice, useful book- if you are looking to learn Fuzhounese! !, not Hokkien/Minnan. The description text is extremely misleading (outright inaccurate). Fuzhounese is not part of the Minnan dialect group, it's the representative dialect of the Mindong group. I wish the editors could have put this crucial info out there- I've already heard of someone looking for a Hokkien-learning book accidentally ordering this book, to realize it's Fuzhounese (AKA Foochow, Hokchiu, Hujiu, etc.). Do not make that mistake! Some features of the book to help you decide if it is right for you- uses IPA-based indication, does not indicate tone sandhi, dictionary section is relatively short, Chinese characters are provided for Mandarin only (not Fuzhounese). Overall quite good considering the price. I also highly recommend "Fuzhou Phonology and Grammar" from Dunwoody Press for serious Fuzhounese learners. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great linguistic reference probably! Terrible for a learner. By Ron So, back in the 1850s a bunch of missionary scholars made a simple method of writing Fujianese alphabetically. It wasn't perfect, of course, but it was close enough to consistently label syllables in a way you could wrap your head around. Now, obviously the language has changed in the past 160 years, so when I ordered this book I was hoping it would have a similar system, maybe using something like Mandarin's pinyin, that would let me start learning some basic phrases. I've had this book for a year, because I really wanted to give it a chance, but it is entirely unworkable. It is in what I can only describe as "sort of kind of IPA." I don't want to learn IPA. I considered doing so briefly, in college, when I flirted with the idea of becoming a linguist. Ever since, though, I have had no reason or practical need to do so. So, you're writing a PHRASEBOOK, for normal people, and you decide that, oh yes, to make this phrasebook even SOMEWHAT functional you better force all of your learners to learn IPA! But not even real IPA, just your approximation of it! Look, pinyin has problems. Jyutping for Cantonese isn't perfect. But you know what? I can TYPE them. Once I've figured out the quirks of their system, I can easily and quickly read ANYTHING written in them. I can learn new things using the phonetic system, even if my understanding of written Chinese is, to be charitable, inadequate. Even if I haven't messed around with Mandarin in forever, I can flip to a page in a phrasebook and figure out how to ask for something. So, do you design your phonetic transcription based on these common, widely used systems that native English speakers are quite likely already familiar with? Like, here, let me give you the exact moment I realized this was written by someone with no concept of practicality. The sound that in English is written with "d" is written in this transcription system as " t ". The sound that in English is written with "t" is written in this transcription system as " t' ". I mean, look, OK, sure it is a cutesy representation of an aspirated consonant but wouldn't it have been A LOT EASIER just to use " d "? Like, on a practical level, sure is a lot easier to quickly tell the difference! Don't even get me started on how they choose to write vowels. Yeesh. It shouldn't be this hard to get useful, LEARNER-centric (not scholar-centric) materials on less widely studied topolects. You'd probably have better luck learning 1850s Fujianese and going from there! The worst part is, there is a little paragraph in the book that says Mandarin and Fujianese grammar are so similar that really all you have to worry about is pronunciation. Gee, thanks book! Too bad you're entirely useless when it comes to helping with that! I'm at the point where I might just try creating software to automatically replace hanzi with (actually useful) phonetic transcriptions of Fujianese and learning stuff that way. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Amazing book, but keep in mind... By Xavier Alfonseca This is an amazing book. It's very hard to find good resources written about Fujianese, and usually the ones you do find are very expensive and difficult to use (usually lack a reverse dictionary). This is definitely the best one I've found. It's a two-way dictionary, uses IPA notation, and has a short section on basic grammar features. The phrasebook is amazing. It's also a very elegant shape and size, perfect learning while traveling. I do have two things to mention about the book that potential buyers should keep in mind.-Fujianese is \*NOT\* Hokkien. It is advertised as such on the book description here and on the back of the book itself, but it's very easy to confuse it with Taiwanese Hokkien. They're both part of the Min Nan language group, but Fujianese is considered Min Dong. Buy this only if you plan to learn Fujianese from Fuzhou. Do your research before buying.-Each definition and phrase comes in Chinese writing, Fujianese pronunciation, and English meaning. There's a note in the book that is very easy to miss: The Chinese characters represent Standard Chinese/Mandarin characters, and not Fujianese words themselves. There are many times where the Mandarin sentence is nothing at all like the Fujianese sentence. Pay more attention to the romanization.

Fujianese is used by more than 47 million native speakers, mainly in China and Taiwan. It has become one of the most common Chinese languages abroad, spoken widely in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, and the United States. Originating from the Fujian province on the southeastern coast of China, Fujianese (or Hokkien) is a part of the Min Nan family of Chinese dialects. This unique, two-part resource provides travelers to south China with the tools they need to communicate in Fujianese and experience the region fully. The bilingual dictionary has a concise vocabulary for daily use, and the phrasebook allows instant communication, from introducing yourself to finding a doctor.

About the Author Translated by Xiao Chu Chen.