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## Glossary

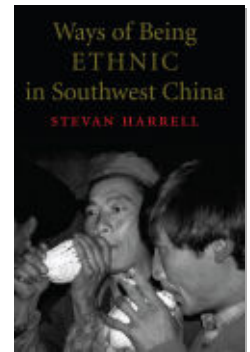
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# Glossary

Chinese terms are followed by Chinese characters.

Nuosu terms appear in boldface type, and words from other languages are indicated as such.

- abo** father's sister; mother's brother's wife
- Abu 阿布 a mistaken ethnonym for Nasu in Puwei
- ada** father
- amo** mother
- assa** female cross-cousin of a man
- Ba (Tib.) self-designation of Khams-pa Tibetans in Muli
- baga** village or hamlet
- Bai 白 the name of a *minzu*
- Bailang geshi 白狼歌诗 "Song of Bailang"
- Baima 白马 an ethnic group in northwestern Sichuan that claims to be separate from the Zang
- baipi shu 白皮书 "white-cover books," first editions of the ethnological reports of the 1950s
- baixing 百姓 the commoner retainers of a *nuoho* lord
- ban** 班 class of students that studies all subjects together
- bazi 坝子 flat alluvial plain
- bazong 把总 local official subordinate to the Muli king
- bimo** Nuosu priest
- bingtuan 兵团 soldier corps, the Xingjiang military construction corps
- bla-ma (Tib.) incarnate lama
- buhao shua 不好耍 doesn't play happily
- buluo 部落 tribe
- buzu 部族 tribal ethnic group
- can dou 餐豆 string beans
- Can tu si; feng niang mi 蚕吐丝; 蜂酿蜜 "Silkworms extrude silk; bees ferment honey"
- chengbao 承包 to lease or contract out an economic asset

- chiong (Prmi) Tibetan-style barley beer
- ci fangyan 次方言 subdialect
- cobi a Nuosu funerary ritual
- cun 村 village or administrative village
- cunxiao 村校 village elementary school
- cyvi Nuosu clan
- dachun 大春 late or summer agricultural season
- da Han minzu zhuyi 大汉民族主义 “great Han chauvinism”
- Dai 傣 a *minzu*, most of whose members call themselves Tai
- dazi 鞑子 a pejorative term for Mongols
- Dedai 德傣 Dai of Dehong
- ddobaq (Naxi) priest of the local tradition, same as *dongba*
- deel (Mong) Mongolian-style riding robe
- dianshi ji 电视机 television set
- diaozhu 吊柱 “hanging” vertical posts
- difang zhi 地方志 local histories or local gazetteers
- diqu 地区 ordinary prefecture
- divaddu small paddle for applying lacquer
- djaba (Naze and Prmi) monk; Buddhist priest
- dongba 东巴 Naxi priest of the local tradition (same as *dobbaq*)
- dongba wen 东巴文 script used by *dobbaq* or *dongba*
- duilian 对联 parallel couplet posted on a doorway or altar
- fangyan 方言 dialect
- fang zhi 方志 local histories; local gazetteers
- fanzi 番子 foreigners; barbarians
- fu 副 vice- or associate- office
- funzoddu pivot-point on a lathe-frame
- fuzhuang 服装 “costume,” referring to ethnic dress
- Gami (Prmi) Khams-pa Tibetans
- gaitu guiliu 改土归流 “replacing the local and restoring the posted,” a reform movement to replace *tusi* with centrally appointed bureaucrats
- gaoshan Yizu 高山彝族 mountain Yi
- gaxy household slave
- Gelug-pa (Tib.) the “orthodox” sect of Tibetan Buddhism
- gemo master artisan
- gongzuo 工作 to work for wages
- grwa-pa (Tib.) monk

- guahao jianshe 挂好建设  
“grasp construction”
- guifan Yiwen 规范彝文  
“regularized Yi writing,” the  
new standard Nuosu script  
based on the traditional  
script
- Hāchu tongxio 汉族同学  
(Liangshan dialect) Han  
classmates
- hangue (Prmi) priest of the local  
tradition
- Hanzu wenhua 汉族文化  
Han culture
- hao ke 好客 hospitable
- hexin diqu 核心地区  
the “nuclear area” of  
Liangshan
- Hou Han shu* 后汉书 *History  
of the Later Han Dynasty*
- huagao 花槁 wild cherry  
wood
- huajiao 花椒 Sichuan  
peppercorns
- huang jiu 黄酒 Tibetan-style  
barley beer
- Huayang guo zhi* 华阳国志  
*Records of Foreign Countries*
- hui shuohua de gongju 会说话的  
工具 “tools that could talk”  
(slaves)
- Huizu 回族 the Hui, or Chinese  
Muslim, *minzu*
- huofo 活佛 “living Buddha,” a  
Chinese term for a Tibetan incar-  
nate lama
- huo huashi 活化石 living fossil
- Hxiemga Han
- Hxiemgamo Han woman
- ichy long-handled wooden spoon
- Ji 吉 a *tusi* surname from  
Puwei, Miyi
- jin 斤 unit of weight equal to .5  
kg.
- jieshy vala pleated felt cape and  
woven fringed cape; distinctive  
Nuosu clothing
- juren 举人 holder of the sec-  
ond, or provincial examination  
degree under the Qing
- Kurshy Nuosu New Year  
celebration
- kuzzur soup tureen
- lama 啦嘛 Chinese term for a  
Tibetan monk, or *grwa-pa* (not  
necessarily an incarnate lama)
- lao baixing 老百姓 common  
people
- laoshi hao 老师好 “We wish  
you well, teacher”
- Laoshih zaijian 老师再  
见 “Goodbye, teacher”
- li 李 plums; also the surname Li

- Lisu 傣傣 the name of a *minzu*
- liti shehui 立体社会 “vertical society” where altitude correlates with ethnicity and social organization
- liuzu fenzhi 六祖分枝 “the breakup of the six ancestors,” the origin of the different Yi peoples
- long de chuan ren 龙的传人 descendants of the dragon
- lu 路 road; trail
- luohou 落后 backward
- Luoluo or Lolo 傣猓 an old, somewhat pejorative term for Yi and related peoples
- mama 妈妈 mama (surprise!)
- Man shu* 蛮书 *Book of Barbarians*
- manzi 蛮子 barbarians
- Manzu the Manchu *minzu*
- maoniu 牦牛 yak
- meiyou shangpin jingji guannian 没有商品经济观念 lacking in a commodity-economy mind-set
- meng 盟 “league,” a Mongolian administrative district equivalent to a prefecture
- Menggu ren 蒙古人 Mongols
- Mengzu 蒙族 or Mengguzu 蒙古族 the Mongolian *minzu*
- mgajie a lower, dependent stratum of Nuosu society
- mgava buckwheat pancakes
- mgehni wild cherry wood
- Miao 苗 the name of a *minzu* that includes Hmong and their relatives
- Miao Man tu ce 苗蛮图册 “Miao albums”; picture albums of southwestern peripheral peoples
- minban 民办 community supported (of a teacher)
- Mingai 民改 short form of Minzhu Gaige
- minwei 民委 nationalities commission
- Minzhu Gaige 民主改革 “Democratic Reform,” revolutionary social transformations in minority areas in the 1950s
- minzu 民族 ethnic group or “nationality”
- minzu ban 民族班 special class for minority students
- Minzu Daxue 民族大学 Nationalities University in Beijing
- minzu gongzuo 民族工作 “nationalities work,” bureaucratic activities concerned with minorities
- minzu jianshi 民族简史 concise histories of *minzu*
- minzu shi 民族史 ethnohistory
- minzu shibie 民族识别 ethnic

- (“nationalities”) identification or classification
- minzu tuanjie 民族团结 unity among *minzu*
- minzuxue 民族学 ethnology; the study of *minzu*
- minzu xueyuan 民族学院 “nationalities institute,” a college for members of minority *minzu*
- minzu zhongxue 民族中学 minorities middle school
- mishuzhang 秘书长 chief-of-staff of a bureaucratic office
- monyi mother’s sister; father’s brother’s wife
- Mosuo 摩梭 a Han-language name for the western Naze
- mu 亩 a unit of land comprising about 1/6 acre or 1/15 hectare
- muluo 木螺 log-cabin building style
- Nari 纳日 one way to write “Naze” in Chinese
- Naxi 纳西 the name of a *minzu*
- ndaba (Naze) priest of the local tradition
- ndeggu mediator
- Ni a classical name for Yi peoples, found in several Yi languages
- nüer guo 女儿国 “kingdom of women”
- nuli 奴隶 slave
- nuo *see* nuoho
- nuoho the aristocratic caste among the Nuosu, called *hei Yi* 黑彝 in Chinese
- Nuosu bburma Nuosu writing
- Nuosu ddoma Nuosu spoken language
- Nuosumo Nuosu woman
- Nuosu muddi Nuosu area; Liangshan
- nzymo the highest stratum of the Nuosu caste system; the stratum that produced *tusi*
- onyi mother’s brother; father’s sister’s husband
- onyisse a woman’s mother’s brother’s son
- pavu father’s brother; mother’s sister’s husband
- pian qu 片区 “slice district,” an area including several townships within a county
- pingba Yizu 平坝彝族 lowland Yi
- pinkun 贫困 poor, impoverished
- pinyin 拼音 romanization system
- pochan dizhu 破产地主 bankrupt landlord
- Pumi 普米 a *minzu* including the Prmi of Yunnan

- puzi 堡子 (Liangshan dialect) village; hamlet
- qiangjiu luohou 抢救落后 rescue the backward
- Qiang yuzhi 羌语支 Qiang branch of the Tibeto-Burman language family
- qiaobuqi 瞧不起 be arrogant toward or have contempt for
- qiema tiny lacquer brush
- qu 区 former administrative unit comprising several townships
- quho the commoner caste of Nuosu, called *bai Yi* 白彝 in Chinese
- qunuo the top stratum of the quho
- ren 人 “people,” a designation for an ethnic group within an officially recognized *minzu*
- Renda 人大 short for Renmin Daibiao Dahui
- Renmin Daibiao Dahui 人民代表大会 People’s Congress, the legislature
- Renmin Zhengfu 人民政府 People’s Government, the administrative bureaucracy
- Renmin Zhengzhi Xietiao Weiyuanhui 人民政治协调委员会 People’s Consultative Conference, a kind of forum for approving policies, which also compiles local history materials
- shaoshu minzu 少数民族 minorities or minority *minzu*
- sheng 生 “raw,” referring to relatively unacculturated peoples
- Shehui lishi diaocha baogao* 社会历史调查报告 *Reports of Social and Historical Investigations*
- shi 市 city or municipality as an administrative unit
- Shi ji* 史记 *Records of the Historian* by Sima Qian, written in the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C.E.
- shi zhai 石寨子 stone-walled village
- shu 熟 “cooked,” referring to semi-acculturated peoples
- shuangwen ban 双文班 bilingual class
- shuangyu jiaoyu 双语教育 bilingual education
- shui 水 water; name of a *minzu* in Guizhou
- Shuiniu shuiniu guo; huangniu huangniu guo 水牛水牛过 黄牛黄牛过 “Water buffaloes

- get it on with water buffaloes;  
oxen get it on with oxen”
- Shuitian 水田 a self-appellation  
of certain lowland peoples whose  
language belongs to the Yi family
- shuohma rhododendron
- shushu 叔叔 father's younger  
brother
- siheyuan 四合院 four-sided  
courtyard house
- shisu 私塾 private school teach-  
ing the traditional Confucian  
curriculum
- ssakuo brave person; war leader
- ssema lacquer brush
- suga wealthy person in Nuosu  
society
- sunyi shaman
- tai Han hua 太汉化 too  
Hanified
- tongban tongxue 同班同学  
schoolmates of the same class
- tongyi duominzu guojia 统一  
多民族国家 unified country of  
diverse nationalities (or ethnic  
groups)
- tubaihu 土百户 very low-  
ranking local ruler
- Tudi Ye 土地爷 the local “earth  
god” deity
- tumu 土目 low-ranking local  
ruler
- tuotuo rou 坨坨肉 “chunk-  
chunk meat,” a Han name for the  
Nuosu style of eating meat
- tuqianhu 土千户 low-ranking  
local ruler
- tusi 土司 local native ruler
- tuyu 土语 local language  
variety
- vala woven, fringed woolen cape
- voshe pork
- wen 文 writing; literary;  
literated
- wen shi ziliao 文史资料 “liter-  
ary and historical materials,”  
compiled by each county's  
*zhengxie*
- xiang 乡 rural township
- xiangcun qiye 乡村企业 town-  
ship and village enterprises
- xiang shijie xuanchuan Yizu  
wenhua 向世界宣传彝族  
文化 propagandizing Yi  
culture to the world
- xiaochun 小春 early or spring  
agricultural season
- Xichu (西族) a local term for  
Prmi, used east of Lugu Lake
- Xidai 西傣 Dai of Xishuang-  
banna (Sipsong Panna)
- Xifan 西番 “Western Bar-



- barians,” an old name for  
Qiangic speakers
- “Xinan yi liezhuan” 西南夷列传  
“Record of the Southwestern  
Barbarians,” from *Records of  
the Historian (Shi li)* by Sima  
Qian
- xiongdì minzu 兄弟民族  
brother nationalities or  
fraternal ethnic groups
- xiucaì 秀才 holder of the lowest  
examination degree under the  
Qing dynasty, also called  
*shengyuan*
- yamen 衙门 office of the imper-  
ial government, applied also to  
the office of a *tusi*
- Yan Huang zisun 炎黄子孙  
children and grandchildren  
of the emperors Yan (Shen  
Nong) and Huang (the  
Yellow Emperor)
- yatou 丫头 female household  
slave in Han society
- Yi 彝 the name of a *minzu*  
“Yi bao” 彝胞 “Yi bros.,” a  
folksy, somewhat condescending  
Han-language name for Nuosu
- yifu 衣服 clothes
- Yiwen ban 彝文班 class taught  
in the Nuosu language
- Yiwen xuexiao 彝文学校 Yi-  
language school
- Yizu chuantong zhishifenzi 彝族  
传统知识分子 traditional Yi  
intellectuals
- Yizu Hanzu shi liang jia 彝族汉族  
是两家 “Yi and Han are two  
separate families”
- Yizu xiang 彝族乡 designated Yi  
township
- yuangen 圆根 mild, flat turnip
- yuoshe 牦牛 mutton
- yuwei 语委 language committee  
of a local government
- yuwen 语文 (Chinese) language,  
referring to a class in school
- Zangyu 藏语 “Tibetan”  
language; also refers to other  
languages spoken by Zangzu
- Zangzu 藏族 the Tibetan  
*minzu*
- Zangzu zizhi xian 藏族自治县  
Zang autonomous county
- zhen 镇 township
- Zhengxie 政协 short for  
Renmin Zhengzhi Xietiao Wei-  
yuanhui
- zhixi 枝系 “branch” of a  
*minzu*
- Zhoguoco 人们 of China  
(translation of *Zhongguo ren*)
- Zhongguo ren 中国人 Chinese  
people; people of China
- Zhonghua minzu 中华民族 the  
Chinese nation

GLOSSARY

zhongzhuan 中专	vocational high school	zizhi zhou 自治州	autonomous prefecture
zizhi qu 自治区	autonomous region, equivalent to a province	-zu 族	<i>minzu</i> (suffix form)
zizhi xian 自治县	autonomous county	zzo	adze
		zzowo	lathe rotor

