

This work deals with the lingual and resulting cultural problems of the Cham minority ethnic living in central and southern Vietnam. Between the 2nd and 15th centuries, the Cham people had created their own hinduized state with an original culture in this area. We consider the Cham language the crucial problem for finding the identity and the integration of this ethnic into the contemporary multiethnic society in Vietnam, as well as in greater scope, in the whole region of South-East Asia.

The work is divided into two basic parts: the first part considers the characteristics of the Cham language, where our attention is focused especially on the Cham dialects and typological classification. The second part addresses the contemporary position of the Cham language in Vietnam, the official and true approach to these problems, the bilingual Cham names and the Cham literary traditions.

The interest in Cham language dates from about mid-19th century. After being first described by John Crawfurd, it has been the concern of the French linguists from EFEO for a long time. On account of these stated investigations, we mention in this work the genealogical classification of the Cham language. We had paid great attention to the Cham dialects, especially in relation to religious problems. ...