



AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE KYIRONG, YÖLMO, AND STANDARD SPOKEN
TIBETAN SPEECH VARIETIES

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ABSTRACT

It should be stated at this point that the following paper is not a historical comparative analysis. It is an investigation of the current linguistic relationship, that is, the degree of similarity and variation that exists today, between three Himalayan speech varieties: Kyirong (KD), Yòlmo (YD), and Standard Spoken Tibetan (SST). The purpose of the research was to determine which dialect, Yòlmo or SST, is closer to Kyirong in selected areas of the lexicon, pronunciation, grammar, and semantics. The instruments for data collection were a 100 word wordlist compiled by Noel Mann, existing grammars of the three varieties by Brigitte Huber, Anna Maria Hari, and Nicolas Tournadre, language helpers from each speech community, and texts, both literary and colloquial. The research was carried out from November 2008 to November 2010, and was conducted in the Kathmandu Valley and in the Rasuwa District of Nepal. Based on historical readings, discussions with the Tibetans, and analysis of data relating to the lexicon, pronunciation, and grammar, it became clear that the Kyirong and Yòlmo speech communities share a relatively recent history, and are closer speech varieties than Kyirong and SST. Data relating to the area of semantics did not contribute significantly to the research question. The implication of the research is that oral and written materials which have been developed in Yòlmo may be adaptable for use by the Kyirong, that is, may be more readily adaptable than SST materials, and that consequently the need for original Kyirong materials may be lessened.

ชื่อเรื่อง: การศึกษาความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างวิชาภาษาเกียง โยลโม
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บทคัดย่อ

งานวิจัยฉบับนี้ไม่ได้เป็นการศึกษาวิเคราะห์ทางด้านภาษาศาสตร์เปรียบเทียบเชิงประวัติ แต่เป็นการศึกษาระดับความคล้ายคลึงของวิชาภาษาทิเบตสามวิชา คือ ภาษาคิริง ภาษาโยลโม และภาษาพูดทิเบตมาตรฐาน โดยมีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อตัดสินว่าภาษาโยลโมหรือภาษาพูดทิเบตมาตรฐานมีความใกล้เคียงกับภาษาคิริงมากกว่ากันในด้านคำศัพท์ การออกเสียง ไวยากรณ์ และอรรถศาสตร์ ข้อมูลที่ใช้ในการวิเคราะห์ได้มาจากแหล่งต่าง ๆ ดังนี้ รายการคำศัพท์ 100 คำของโนล แมน งานวิจัยด้านไวยากรณ์ใน 3 วิชาของบริจิตท์ ฮิวเบอร์, แอนนา มาเรีย ฮารี และนิโคลัส โทนาเดอร์ ข้อมูลจากผู้บอกภาษา และข้อความต่อเนื่องทั้งที่เป็นภาษาพูดและเขียน งานวิจัยนี้เริ่มดำเนินการตั้งแต่เดือนพฤศจิกายน 2551-2553 พื้นที่เก็บข้อมูล ได้แก่ หุบเขากาสุมาณฑู และ เมืองราชูวา ประเทศเนปาล ผลการวิเคราะห์ทางด้านคำศัพท์ การออกเสียง และไวยากรณ์ รวมทั้งจากการสนทนากับชาวทิเบต และข้อมูลทางประวัติศาสตร์แสดงให้เห็นว่าภาษาคิริงและภาษาโยลโมมีความคล้ายคลึงกัน มากกว่าภาษาคิริงกับภาษาพูดทิเบตมาตรฐาน อย่างไรก็ตาม ผลการวิเคราะห์ทางด้านอรรถศาสตร์ ไม่สามารถยืนยันคำตอบที่ชัดเจนได้ แนวคิดโดยนัยที่ได้จากการศึกษาวิจัยครั้งนี้ คือ ข้อมูลที่เป็นภาษาพูดและภาษาเขียนที่มีการพัฒนาขึ้นในภาษาโยลโมอาจสามารถนำไปปรับใช้ในภาษาคิริงได้ กล่าวคือ อาจจะเป็นข้อมูลที่พร้อมสำหรับการปรับใช้ได้มากกว่าข้อมูลภาษาพูดทิเบตมาตรฐาน ด้วยเหตุนี้ข้อมูลดั้งเดิมในภาษาคิริงจึงอาจมีความจำเป็นน้อยลง

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1 ¹	first person	EXPER	personal experience	PFV	perfective aspect
2	second person	F	feminine	PL	plural
3	third person	FUT	future tense	POSS	possessive
A	Agent	GEN	genitive	Post	postposition
Accompl	accomplished	GENER	generic knowledge	PRF	perfect
ABL	ablative	Gk	Greek	PRS	present tense
ABS	absolute	Gram	grammaticalizing affix	Pro	pronoun
Absol	absolute	GUAR	guarantee	Prob	probable
ADJ	adjective	H	honorific	PROX	proximal
ADV	adverb	Hab	habitual	PST	past tense
AOR	aurist tense	IMP	imperative mood	PTCP	participle
ART	article	INCL	inclusive	Q	question
ASSER	assertive	IND	indicative mood	QUOT	quoted speech
Attr	attributive	INDF	indefinite	R	Recipient
AUX	auxiliary	INF	infinitive mood	Recep	receptive
AUX:TA	auxiliary - tense-aspect	INFER	inference	REFL	reflexive
AUX:S	auxiliary - secondary	INS	instrumental	Repo	reported speech
CLF	classifier	IPA	international phonetic alphabet	REVE L	revelatory
Comp	comparative suffix	IPFV	imperfective aspect	RL	root letter
COND	conditional	IRR	irrealis	RWT	religious WT
Conj	conjunction	KD/KT	Kyirong variety	S	Subject
COP	copula	Lit	literary particle	SBJV	subjunctive mood
DAT	dative	LOC	locative	Sbst	substantive
DES	desiderative mood	LT	literary Tibetan	SE	sentence-ending literary particle
DEF	definite	M	masculine	SENS	direct sensory evidence
DEM	demonstrative	Med	medial	SG	singular
DET	determiner	MC	modern/Mandarin Chinese	Skt	Sanskrit
DIST	distal	MIR	mirative	SST	standard spoken Tibetan variety
DU	dual	MV	main verb	Super	superlative suffix
E	east	NEG	negation	T-A	tense-aspect
e.e.PST	expressive emphatic PST	Nep	Nepali loan word	TEST	testimonial
Emph	emphatic	NMLZ	nominalizer	TOP	topic
ERG	ergative	Num	number	VBLZ	verbalizer
ESSEN	essential	O	Object	VOL	volition
Evid	evidential mood	OBL	oblique	W	west
EXCL	exclusive	OT	Old Tibetan	WT	written Tibetan
EXIST	existential	P	Patient	YD	Yömo variety
		Par	particle		

¹ Abbreviations which are fully capitalized are from the Leipzig Glossing Rules, with the exception of the following: ESSEN, EXIST, EXPER, GENER, INFER, IPA, KD/KT, MC, MIR, O, OT, RL, S, TEST, WT/WT, and VBLZ. Abbreviations with only the initial letter capitablized are not from the LGR.

GLOSSARY

In the following list, related terms have been grouped while independent terms are in alphabetical order:

Independent terms

Ergative system: an ergative speech variety is one that treats the Agent (A) of transitive verbs distinctly from the Subject (S) of intransitive verbs and the Object (O) of transitive verbs (A is marked differently from S and O, which are marked the same). Ergative varieties contrast with nominative-accusative varieties which treat the Agent of transitive verbs and the Subject of intransitive verbs alike, and distinct from the Object of transitive verbs.

Grammaticalization: the term 'grammaticalization' generally refers to the change of a content word to a grammatical affix. In this research, the process of grammaticalization refers specifically to 1) the change of a WT verb to a serial verb (affix), 2) the change of a WT verb to a copula (affix), 3) the change of a copula to a tense-aspect auxiliary (affix), e.g., by using the SST grammaticalizing affixes *-pa* (PST) and *-ki* (FUT).

IPA: International Phonetic Alphabet

Related terms (in groups)

Closer/closeness: the words 'closer' and 'closeness' are used in the sense of lexical, phonological, grammatical, or semantic closeness or similarity or sameness. This linguistic relationship may or may not indicate that the two or three varieties belong to the same dialect group.

Primary indicator: the term 'primary indicator' is used specifically to refer to a linguistic feature which is considered to illustrate a cross-dialect similarity between, or a closeness or sameness of, two or more speech varieties with respect to a particular aspect of the lexicon, pronunciation, grammar, or semantics.

Significant: the term 'significant' refers specifically to cross-dialect variation data which directly contributes to an answer to the research question.

Variety (speech variety): the term 'variety' is used in the generic sense to refer to a system of oral communication, whether this system is a language, standard dialect, dialect, or other.

Language: a language is equated to a dialect group.

Dialect: the term 'dialect' is used specifically in the contexts of 'cross-dialect variation' and 'cross-dialect similarity.' According to Wardaugh (2003:40), a dialect is a subordinate variety of a language.

Root: the basic form of the main verb. The verb root contains the meaning of the verb (see lexical (infinitive) forms in Jäschke).

Stem: the inflected form of the main verb, that is, the form which has been inflected for tense-aspect, or the imperative mood.