

**Grammatical Phenomena of Sino-Tibetan Languages 3**  
*Function of Directional Prefixes*

シナ=チベット系諸言語の文法現象 3  
方向接辞の機能

ARAKAWA Shintaro and IKEDA Takumi (eds.)  
荒川慎太郎・池田 巧 編

## Preface

This volume presents part of the results\* of the research project: Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) from the Japan Society of the Promotion of Sciences in 2016–2018: Aspects of Tibeto-Burman Languages through Analysis of Directional Prefixes. The purpose of this research project was to clarify the diversity and universality of grammatical expressions of directionality in Tibeto-Burman languages, including Tangut.

Some Tibeto-Burman (TB) languages have directional affixes (directionals), verb affixes to express the direction or movement of the action named by the verb. Some languages present grammatical phenomena in which directionals function serve to express mood and aspect. Notably, there exist similar directionals with common features in modern minority languages and ancient Tangut. However, the features of directionals such as word form, function, and meaning show rich variation across languages, and they are thus not easily analyzed typologically. Language data should be carefully corrected with descriptive analyses and compared to grasp the directional system and its features through contrastive studies of related/adjoining languages.

Most of the directional affixes in TB languages represent the prefix type; that is, the directional precedes the verb in the predicate. Conversely, the directional affix follows the predicate, which is placed between the verb and auxiliary verb, and as a result, the languages in this type place the directional after the verb, representing a suffix of the verb. For example, Tangut belongs to the former type: Prefix-Vstem (-AUX), while Jingpaw belongs to the latter type: Vstem-Suffix (Predicate elements). Directionals are considered a typological feature of certain TB languages.

The purpose of this project was to compare the functions and types of directionals of each language in collaboration with major domestic researchers as well as to expand the research on the directionals of each language, and clarify the similarities and differences between directionals within the same language family. This research is expected to contribute to the study of the historical development of directionals and the study of similar affixes in other languages.

In order to consider the above problems, the following objectives were set.

- (1) To understand the grammatical features of each language, members shared a common understanding of verb phrase structure and affixes in TB languages.
- (2) To compare the situation of each language, we examined the function of directionals together with many sample sentences.

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\*We would like to thank Editage ([www.editage.com](http://www.editage.com)) for English language editing in this volume.

- (3) To develop this research for future studies, a variety of information, such as the etymological origin of the directionals and their co-occurring verbs, was collected.

We believe that this research has contributed not only to the study of TB languages, but also to the study of the “directionality” in language in general.

To clarify the functions and effects of directional affixes in TB languages, we organized a study group and held five workshops to discuss the variety and common features of directionals. Our research members were (the affiliation is at the time of the meeting):

ARAKAWA Shintaro 荒川慎太郎 (ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), IKEDA Takumi 池田 巧 (Kyoto University); KURABE Keita 倉部慶太 (JSPS/ILCAA, TUFS); NAGANO Yasuhiko 長野泰彦 (National Museum of Ethnology); OTSUKA Kosei 大塚行誠 (ILCAA, TUFS); SHIRAI Satoko 白井聡子 (Language Research Center, Reitaku University),

And supporting researchers are:

†TAKEUCHI Tsuguhito 武内紹人 (Kobe City University of Foreign Studies), HAYASHI Norihiko 林範彦 (Kobe City University of Foreign Studies), IWASA Kazue 岩佐一枝 (JSPS/Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University), SATO Takayasu 佐藤貴保 (Morioka University), KIRYU Kazuyuki 桐生和幸 (Mimasaka University)

Furthermore, we hosted guest scholars from abroad:

Nathan HILL (SOAS, University of London), LAI Yunfan 赖云帆 (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History), ZHANG Shuya 章舒娅 (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales orientales)

The following records provide details of the workshops we held.

■ **The first workshop on “Aspects of Tibeto-Burman Languages through Analysis of the Directional Prefixes.”**

July 2–3, 2016

At Room #306, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Saturday, July 2. 13:30–17:30

ARAKAWA Shintaro:

On the research project.

SHIRAI Satoko:

Directional prefixes in nDrapa.

IKEDA Takumi:

Grammatical function of the directional prefixes in Mu-nya.

NAGANO Yasuhiko:

Directives in rGyalrong.

All participants: discussion

Sunday, July 3. 10:00–15:00

KURABE Keita:

Directional prefixes in Jinghpaw.

OTSUKA Kosei:

Directional suffixes of Tiddim Chin.

ARAKAWA Shintaro:

Directional prefixes in Tangut.

All participants: discussion for this project and research activities.

#### ■ International workshop

January 21–22, 2017

At Room #304, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Saturday, January 21. 13:30–18:00

International workshop: Studies of Tibeto-Burman languages, based on the corpus.

Nathan HILL:

Linguistic research of Tibetan based on the corpus.

ARAKAWA Shintaro:

Linguistic research of Tangut based on the corpus.

Commentators: TAKEUCHI Tsuguhito, IKEDA Takumi, HAYASHI Norihiko, IWASA Kazue

Sunday, January 22. 10:00–15:00

The second workshop on “Aspects of Tibeto-Burman Languages through analysis of the Directional prefixes”

ARAKAWA Shintaro:

On the project. / Directional prefixes in Tangut.

IKEDA Takumi:

Directional prefixes in Mu-nya.

NAGANO Yasuhiko:

Directional prefixes in rGyalrong.

SHIRAI Satoko:

Directional prefixes in nDrapa.

Commentators: TAKEUCHI Tsuguhito, Nathan HILL, HAYASHI Norihiko, IWASA Kazue

■ **The second workshop on “Aspects of Tibeto-Burman Languages through Analysis of the Directional Prefixes.”**

November 19, 2016

At Seminar Room, Hongo Satellite office, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Sunday, November 19. 09:00–17:00

ARAKAWA Shintaro:

On the research project.

OTSUKA Kosei:

Directional suffixes of Tiddim Chin and Jinghpaw.

SHIRAI Satoko, NAGANO Yasuhiko:

Directional prefixes in nDrapa and rGyalrong.

ARAKAWA Shintaro, IKEDA Takumi:

Directional prefixes in Tangut and Mu-nya.

All participants: discussion for this project and research activities.

■ **The 155th Meeting of the Linguistic Society of Japan.**

November 25–26, 2017

At Ritsumeikan University. Workshops at Igakukan Hall 3F Room #4

Sunday, November 26. 10:00–12:00

Organizer/Chair: ARAKAWA Shintaro:

A comparative study of directional affixes in Tibeto-Burman languages.

ARAKAWA Shintaro, IKEDA Takumi:

Directional prefixes in Tangut and Mu-nya.

SHIRAI Satoko, NAGANO Yasuhiko:

A contrastive analysis of directional prefixes in nDrapa and rGyalrong.

OTSUKA Kosei, KURABE Keita:

A contrastive analysis of directional prefixes in Tiddim Chin and Jinghpaw.

■ **The third International Workshop: Directional Prefix in Tibeto-Burman Languages**

March 29, 2019

Room #304 Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo  
University of Foreign Studies.

Friday, March 29.                    10:00–16:00

ARAKAWA Shintaro:

Opening remarks.

LAI Yunfan:

Directional prefixes in Rgyalrongic languages: a new computer-assisted approach.

ZHANG Shuya:

The indefinite direction and associated motion in Brag-bar Situ.

ARAKAWA Shintaro and IKEDA Takumi:

Directional prefixes in Tangut and Munya.

SHIRAI Satoko and NAGANO Yasuhiko:

Grammaticalization of directional markers in nDrapa and Situ rGyalrong: A  
contrastive study.

OTSUKA Kosei and KURABE Keita:

The cis- and translocative prefixes in Tiddim Chin and Jinghpaw.

All participants: discussion

As a result of these workshops, we are pleased to include 11 articles on directionals in this volume. The distribution areas of these languages are marked on the map in Appendix II.

When we started our research project on directionals in TB languages, including Tangut, all the research members were required to read the pioneering work of Nishi (1984) to ensure that we shared basic knowledge and methods of analysis of directionals. We recognized this as an important article on this subject that every TB researcher must read, and thus have translated it into English and included it in this volume (Appendix I). We hope that these analyses and descriptions can serve as an impetus for TB linguistics.

After the expiration of the research project headed by ARAKAWA Shintaro during the academic years 2016–2018, the main project members participated in the new enlarged research project: “A Study of the Historical Development of the Sino-Tibetan Languages and their Typological Geography” (ID: 18H05219, headed by IKEDA Takumi), to continue their own research focusing on the historical development and typological varieties of TB languages. Finally, the publication of this volume was supported by a Grant-in-Aid from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (18H05219).

February 2022

Editors

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