

## 【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S)】

### Broad Section A



**Title of Project : A Study on the historical Development of the Sino-Tibetan Languages and their Typological Geography**

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Research Project Number : 18H05219 Researcher Number : 90259250

Keyword : Sino-Tibetan Languages, Old Chinese, Nomad's Type and Farmer's Type, Typological Geography

#### 【Purpose and Background of the Research】

The aim of our research is: to investigate the geographical diversity and continuity among Sino-Tibetan languages, and search common features to trace the historical development reflected in their gradual change of structures distributed in Asia.

We also try to clarify the genealogical correlation of Sino-Tibetan languages including written languages such as Old Chinese and Tangut (Figure 1). We will conduct field research on undescribed languages, analyze the deep structure of their components, and compare with written language data. If there exists any similarity among them, we investigate if the similarity is inherited from parent languages, or a result of language contact, or of shared innovation.

Our research background is the theory of the geographical typology of Asian languages proposed by Prof. M.HASHIMOTO, we will refine and develop this theory and contribute to the descriptive and historical study on Asian languages reinforcing the critical application of a comparative method.

#### 【Research Methods】

Our investigation plans are: (1) Field research on unrecorded languages in Sino-Tibetan. (2) Research on formation of Written Tibetan and its basic languages. (3) Grammatical analysis of the languages written in Ethnic Documents. (4) Study



Figure 1

on the Old Chinese based on excavated documents. (5) Areal transfiguration of the Chinese Dialects. And we organize semiannual workshops in spring

and autumn to investigate the diversity and preserved features among S-T languages. Our topics to analyze are: Structure of noun phrase, Causative, Transitivity, Ergativity, Prosody, Directional system, Verb affixes, Evidentiality, etc. We select and order these subjects based on the accumulation of language data.

#### 【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

We compile new data of unrecorded languages, analyze their structure and components, unravel the mechanism of development. To start with individual analysis of S-T languages, we will find out any significant relationship among them, and reconstruct the process to make up the diversity

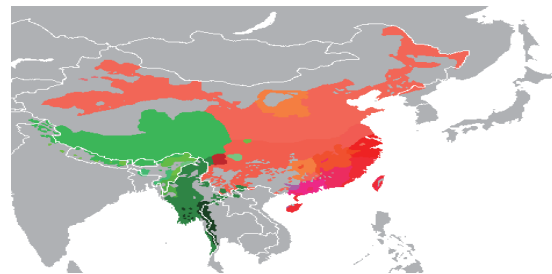


Figure 2

and distribution today (Figure 2). These activities lead us to understand how the geographical gradation of the language structure has been formed over S-T languages, which reflect the process of historical development.

#### 【Publications Relevant to the Project】

IKEDA Takumi(ed.) *Grammatical Phenomena of Sino-Tibetan Languages 1 The Structure of Noun Phrases*. Institute of Research in Humanities, Kyoto University. 2016.

【Term of Project】 FY2018-2022

【Budget Allocation】 130,400 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

[Under Construction]