

The

# Sino-Tibetan Languages

Edited by  
Graham Thurgood  
and Randy J. LaPolla

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Edited by  
Graham Thurgood 杜冠明  
and  
Randy J. LaPolla 罗仁地

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# PREFACE

In deciding what to put into this volume on the Sino-Tibetan languages, Randy LaPolla and I have had been guided by several considerations. First, the volume provides a broad overview, attained by a combination of overview articles and a wide array of articles on individual languages, with an emphasis on less commonly described languages. For Sino-Tibetan as a whole, there are three overviews, one on both genetic classification and language contact (Graham Thurgood), one on Sino-Tibetan syntax and morphology (Randy LaPolla), and one on Sino-Tibetan word order typology (Matthew Dryer).

For the Sinitic side of the family, there are general articles on the phonology (Jerry Norman), the syntax (Anne Yue), and the writing system (Mark Hansell). Supplementing this overview are articles on Mandarin dialects (Dah-an Ho), Shanghainese (Eric Zee and Leijiong Xu), Cantonese (Bob Bauer and Stephen Matthews), and Late Zhou Chinese (Derek Herforth).

For the Tibeto-Burman side of the family, in addition to the Thurgood, LaPolla, and Dryer articles, there are several overviews of geographical or genetic subgroups, specifically, Burling discusses Northeast India, Karen Ebert discusses Kiranti, and Jackson Sun discusses Tani (Abor-Miri-Dafla). Complementing the overviews are detailed descriptions of more than thirty individual Tibeto-Burman languages, in all cases by one of the world's leading experts. It is possible to quibble about the omission of this language or that, but the chapters in the volume manage to achieve a remarkable depth and considerable breadth.

All the languages mentioned in the individual chapters are found with tentative subgroupings in the Thurgood overview. In that article, the ninety-three languages which Dryer based his typological survey on are followed by •, thus, Lahu• indicates that Lahu was one of his source languages. Alternative names for languages are listed in various ways: where the alternative name is an older designation, it is put into square brackets; where it is simply an alternative, it is listed on the same line.

Tibeto-Burman subgrouping is an area rife with controversy, but despite this, Randy and I were, with quibbling here and there, able to agree. While there were, of course, differences of opinion, the degree of consensus was striking. Where the subgrouping was clear, we agreed on it; where it was unclear, we agreed that it was unclear.

Various people have helped make the volume possible: Jonathan Price, who has been supportive and helpful; the individual contributors, who have put up with Randy and me harassing them and have helped out whenever we asked; and others, such as Frank Li, who checked aspects of several papers for me. The frequent suggestions and helpful comments from contributors and non-contributors alike have added to the value of this unique collection.

Finally, Randy LaPolla has left his distinct imprint on the volume. His command of Chinese, of Tibeto-Burman, and of syntax have influenced every chapter in the volume. Working with him has been a pleasure and, in the most positive of senses, a learning experience.

---

# ABBREVIATIONS

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BLSn	<i>Proceedings of the nth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society</i>
BSOAS	<i>Bulletin of the School for Oriental and African Studies</i>
BIHP	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology</i>
LTBA	<i>Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area</i>

A	'actor' of transitive clause
ABL	ablative
ABS	absolutive
ACC	accusative
ADV	adverb
AFF	affix
AGT	agentive
AMG	location in or among
ANIM	animate
ANT	antipassive
ANTC	anticausative
APPLIC	applicative
APPR	approximative
APUD	location near
ART	article
ASP	aspect
AUG	augmentative
AUX	auxiliary
BEN	benefactive
CAUS	causative
CL	numeral classifier
CMPL	completive
COLL	collective
COMIT	comitative
COMP	complementizer
COMPAR	comparative marker
COND	conditional
CONT	continuous
CSM	change of state marker
CVB	converb
DAT	dative
DECL	declarative
DEF	definite
DEM	demonstrative

DEP	dependent
DETR	detransitivizer
DIM	diminutive
DIR	directional
DS	different subject (switch reference)
DTV	derived transitive verb
du	dual
DUR	durative
DYN	dynamic
E	extension to core
EMPH	emphasis/emphatic
ERG	ergative
ESS	essive (location at)
EVID	evidential
ex	exclusive
EXCL	exclusion particle
F	feminine
FOC	focus
FRUST	frustrative
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
GENL	general
HAB	habitual
HON	honorific
HORT	hortative
HS	hearsay
ICSTLL	International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics
IMAG	imaginative
IMMED	immediate
IMP	imperative
IMPERF	imperfect
IMPERS	impersonal
IMPFV	imperfective
IN	location in
inc	inclusive
INDEF	indefinite
INDEP	independent
INDIC	indicative
INDTV	indirect directive
INF	infinitive
INFR	inferred
INST	instrumental
INTR	intransitive
L	local gender/derivational suffix
LAT	lative (motion towards)
LGR	level-pitch type
LINK	linker
LOC	locative
M	masculine/male

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MAL	malefactive
MID	middle/middle voice
MIR	mirative (just discovered)
NF	non first person actor
N-PAST	non-past affirmative
NR	near
N-SG	nonsingular
NEG	negation
NGR	nasalizing grade
NOM	nominative
NOMZR	nominalizer
NRPAST	near past
OBJ	object case
OBLQ	oblique (non-subject) case
OCHBP	body part
OPT	optative
P	'undergoer' of transitive clause
PART	participle
PASS	passive
PAST	past
pauc	paucal
PERF	perfect
PFV	perfective
pl	plural
PN	pronoun
POSI	positional
POSS	possessive
POT	potential
PREF	prefix
PREP	preposition
PRES	present
PRSNTV	presentative
PROG	progressive
PROH	prohibitive
PURP	purposive
Q	interrogative/question
R	co-referential
R/M	reflexive/middle
REC	recent
RECIP	reciprocal
REDUP	reduplicated
REFL	reflexive
REL	relative
REM	remote
REQU	request marker
RES	resultative
REV	reverential second person
RTV	root transitive verb
S	single direct argument of intransitive clause

Sa	S marked like A
Sd	S marked like dative
sg	singular
Sirr	irregular S
Sp	S marked like P
SS	same subject (switch reference)
STAT	stative
SUB	subordinative
SUBJ	subjunctive
SUPER	superessive (location on a horizontal surface)
TAM	tense-aspect-mood
TMdys	past tense marker, 1 day–1 year ago
TMhrs	past tense marker, within today
TMyrs	past tense marker, years ago
TOP	topic
TR	transitive
UNW	unwitnessed
VERT	vertical
vi	intransitive verb
VIS	visual
VN	verbal noun
vt	transitive verb
WIT	witnessed
1	1st person
2	2nd person
3	3rd person

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**PART 1**

**OVERVIEW CHAPTERS**



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