

Berner Zirkel für Sprachwissenschaft

Vortrag vom 13. Dezember 2017

Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern

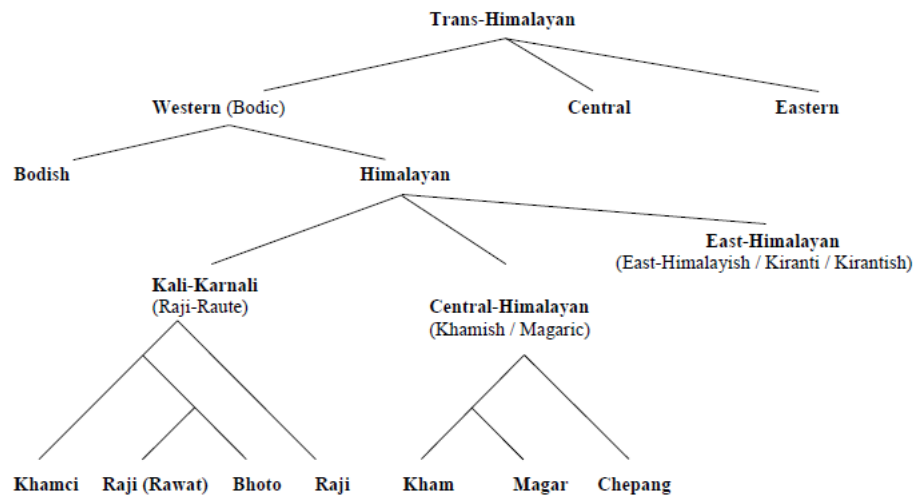
18:15 h, Raum F-105

Morphological evidence for “Raji-Raute” and Genetic Position within Trans-Himalayan

Marie-Caroline Pons, University of Oregon

Abstract

This paper aims to provide morphological evidence for the existence of a third sub-branch of the Himalayan branch, along with East (Kiranti) and Central (Kham-Magar-Chepang), that I propose to call Kali-Karnali (KK). It consists of languages spoken in Mid-Western and Far-Western Nepal in the Karnali river basin, as well as in the eastern parts of the Kali river in Kumaon, Uttarakhand, India. These languages are Khamci, Raji (Rawat), Bhoto and Raji. They have long been left unclassified (Matisoff 1996, Krishan 2001), or classified within different sub-branches of the family under the name of “Raji-Raute”: within East-Himalayan (Breton 1997) or Central-Himalayan (Glover 1974, Hale 1982, Kasankar 1993, Bradley 1997, 2002, van Driem 2001, Matisoff 2003, Rastogi 2012, Schorer 2017). Grierson & Konow (1909), followed by Shafer (1997), classified these languages within the Western-Subgroup of the “Complex Pronominalized Languages”, along with Kinnauri, Rangkas, Darma, Chaudangsi, Byangsi, and Bunan. Recent research (Saxena 1992, Bradley 1997, Widmer 2014) has shown that these latter are part of the Bodish sub-branch of Western TH languages, and do not fall within the Himalayan clade. I show, through internal and comparative reconstruction of independent pronouns and verbal argument indexation, that Khamci, Raji (Rawat), Bhoto and Raji constitute a clade, i.e. descend from a common ancestor, and that this clade shares the higher-level node of Himalayan languages along with Central-Himalayan and East-Himalayan.



References

- Bradley, David. 1997. Tibeto-Burman languages and classification. Tibeto-Burman languages of the Himalayas, Papers in Southeast Asian linguistics, vol. 14, ed. by David Bradley, 1–72. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.
- Bradley, David. 2002. The Sub-grouping of Tibeto-Burman. Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages. ed. by Christopher 73-112.
- Breton, R.J -L. 1997. Atlas of the Languages and Ethnic Communities of South Asia. New Delhi / Thousand Oaks / London: Sage Publications.
- van Driem, George. 2001. Languages of the Himalayas, An Ethnolinguistic Handbook of the Greater Himalayan Region, containing an Introduction to the Symbiotic Theory of Language, 2, Leiden.
- Glover, Warren W. 1974. Sememic and grammatical structures in Gurung (Nepal). Norman: Summer Institute of Linguistics.
- Grierson, George A. & Konow, Sten. 1909. Linguistic survey of India. Vol.III Part I. Delhi / Venarasi / Patna: Motilal Banarsidas.
- Hale, Austin. 1982. Research on Tibeto-Burman Languages. (Trends in Linguistics: State-of-the- Art Report, 14.) In: Trends in Linguistics, State of the Art Report, 14. Mouton and Co.: Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Kansakar, Tej Ratna. 1993. The Tibeto-Burman Languages of Nepal, A general Survey, in: Contributions to Nepalese Studies, 20.2, Kathmandu, p.165–173.

- Krishan, Shree. 2001. A Sketch of Raji Grammar. In Yasuhiko Nagano and Randy J. Lapolla (eds.), *New Research on Zhangzhung and Related Himalayan Languages*, 449-497. Osaka: National Museum of Ethnology.
- Matisoff, James A. 1996. *Languages and dialects of Tibeto-Burman*. (STEDT Monograph Series, 2.) With Stephen P. Baron and John B. Lowe. STEDT Monograph Series #2. Berkeley: Berkeley, California: Center for Southeast Asia Studies. xxx+180pp.
- Matisoff, James. 2003. *Handbook of Proto-Tibeto-Burman: System and Philosophy of Sino-Tibetan Reconstruction*. University of California publications in linguistics, v. 135. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Rai, Purna P. 2008. *A sketch grammar of Raji*. Kathmandu, MA: TU dissertation.
- Rastogi, Kavita. 2012. *A Descriptive Grammar of Raji (Rawat)*.
- Saxena, Anju. 1992. *Finite verb morphology in Tibeto-Kinnauri*. Eugene: University of Oregon dissertation.
- Schorer, Nicolas. 2017. *The Dura Language: Grammar and Phylogeny*, Brill, Leiden/Boston.
- Shafer, Robert. 1967. *Introduction to Sino-Tibetan*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- Widmer, Manuel. 2017. *A Grammar of Bunan*. (Mouton Grammar Library, 71.) Berlin, Boston: DeGruyter Mouton, 777pp.