

# みんなくりポジトリ

国立民族学博物館学術情報リポジトリ National Museum of Ethnology

## SER no.79; Preface

メタデータ	言語: en 出版者: National Museum of Ethnology 公開日: 2018-03-02 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10502/00008849">http://hdl.handle.net/10502/00008849</a>

## Preface

Yasuhiko Nagano

This volume is mainly a report of some results of three successive research projects conducted under the sponsorship of Monbukagakusho Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Japan. These projects are: *An International Interdisciplinary Field Survey of the Bon Culture in Tibet* (1996-1999, #08041040), *Reconstruction of the Zhangzhung Language and Formation of Written Tibetan* (1999-2001, #A2-11691050), and *Linguistic Substratum in Tibet* (2004-2008, #16102001).

The Gyarong (*rGyal rong* in Written Tibetan; *Jiarong* in Chinese pin yin) language has attracted many scholars' attention because of its striking similarity to Written Tibetan. Looking into the lexical items and grammatical systems more carefully, however, the language occupies a rather closer position to proto-Tibeto-Burman than to Written Tibetan, and functions as a so-called 'link language' along with Kachin (Jingphaw). We have, on the other hand, an ultra-linguistic fact that Gyarong area has been one of the big shelters of Bon followers since the Zhangzhung political power was expelled from Central Tibet in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Bon was a main folk religion in Zhangzhung.

To sum up, Gyarong is an indispensable clue for Tibeto-Burman historical linguistics in general. We have had recently a significant number of works concerning Gyarong, but, more thorough descriptive works are needed to draw a whole picture of the language group. The present volume is a contribution for that attempt.

The author, bTsan lha Ngag dbang Tshul khriims (Zanla Awang Cuocheng, in Chinese), is a native speaker of bTsan lha (Zanla) dialect of Gyarong and has long been working on classical Tibetan and Gyarong language in the South West University for Nationalities, Chengdu, Sichuan, China. He compiled a huge handwritten draft of his own tongue, which came to my attention in the summer of 1998. Marielle Prins, a colleague of his at the University, had recognized its value, and we agreed in that his materials must appear in public. Prins and I carefully selected entries for this lexicon, and then she started accurate description of the author's utterance. After several rounds of observation and editing, we reached this fruit. I hope this volume will be an impetus for continued interest in research in Bon studies and Tibeto-Burman historical linguistics.

Finally, I would like to express my warmest thanks to Mr. Takumi Ikeda, Dr. Han Min, Dr. Shin'ichi Tsumagari, Ms. Rina Matsumura and Mrs. Satoko Suzuki for their vital practical help, without which this lexicon would never have appeared in such a sharp and legible shape.