

The Tibetan Dialects in the South of Qinghai

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Abstract: The south of Qinghai refers to Guoluo and Yushu. This region adjoins the north of Sichuang, the south of Gangsu, and the southeast of Tibet, which is also a place where Tibetan dialects, namely Anduo, Kang and Weizang merge and transit, so the distribution and the characteristics of the Tibetan dialects are very complex here.

We made a very detailed investigation of Tibetan-Anduo dialects of the south of Qinghai, the north of Sichuang, and the south of Gangsu. Currently we are investigating Kang dialects of the south of Qinghai and the north of Sichuang, and having a preliminary understanding about the dialects in this region, which have characteristics of both A and B dialects, even C dialect, thus they can offer distinct perspective to observe the evolution of languages, and can be key links connecting different dialects on the chain of language evolution. Taking Chu dmar leb Tibetan in the south of Qinghai as an example, its initial consonants are nearly the same to the ones in dialects such as Kang and some other places in Sde dge of the north of Sichuang, but its rimes are correspondence with Anduo dialect, so does Rma stod of Anduo dialect near Chu dmar leb. Furthermore, tones with functions of phoneme are beginning to arise in these dialects; therefore, it is of great significance to carry out investigations to the Tibetan dialects in this region.

Key words: the south of Qinghai; the north of Sichuang; Tibetan dialects; characteristics of dialects