

WHY DO LANGUAGES CHANGE?
A REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
LANGUAGE AND HUMAN COMPLEXITY

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ABSTRACT

The International Workshop on Language and Human Complexity took place on October 25-28, 2014 at Peking University, with language change as the theme. This four-day workshop covered eight important topics of language change, i.e. the emergence of syllabic languages, special changes in Tibeto-Burman languages, Literal/Colloquial competition, formation of the Huihui language, bilingual development, phonemic load, dynamic studies of Chinese, and the Sino-Tai hypothesis.

SUBJECT KEYWORDS

Language change **H**uman complexity **C**hinese

语言为什么变？
“语言与人类复杂系统”国际研讨会述评
汪锋
北京大学

提要

“语言与人类复杂系统”国际研讨会于2014年10月25日至28日在北京大学召开。会议的主题是语言变化。四天的研讨会涵盖了语言变化研究中的八个重要议题，分别是：音节语言的涌现，藏缅语中的特殊变化，文白竞争，回辉话的形成，双语发展，音位负担，汉语的动态研究，汉台假说。

主题词

语言变化 人类复杂 汉语

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