FROM PROXIMATE/OBVIATIVE TO NUMBER MARKING:
REANALYSIS OF HIERARCHICAL INDEXATION
IN RGALRONG LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT
This paper documents the inverse marking system in Brag-bar dialect of Situ Rgyalrong, a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in south-west China. It describes a case of reanalysis of proximate/obviative marking in the non-local domain as number marking, and uses this development as a model to account for person indexation pattern found in Kiranti languages, another subgroup of the Sino-Tibetan family which has never been in contact with Rgyalrong languages.

KEYWORDS
Direct-inverse system  Proximate/obviative  Empathy hierarchy  Rgyalrongic languages  Brag-bar  Bantawa

Acknowledgments  I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Guillaume Jacques, my research supervisor, who has guided my fieldwork in Barkam, generously shared his expertise on Rgyalrong languages, linguistic typology and historical linguistics, and provided valuable comments after reading every version of this paper. I wish to thank my informant Dpalldan for his participation in recording all the data. This paper has also benefited from discussions with Lai Yunfan, Gong Xun and Ryan Winning. And finally, I would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their insightful and detailed comments.

There is no conflict of interest to publish this paper in Journal of Chinese Linguistics.

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