

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL VIEWPOINTS ON
THE ORIGIN OF TIBETAN TONES

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ABSTRACT

The production and origin of Tibetan tones were studied from multiple viewpoints. The following results and conclusion were obtained: 1) homophone is the internal impetus of the production and the origin of Tibetan tones, but the origin of Tibetan tones was restricted by the phoneme structure; 2) the distributions of homophone in all the Tibetan dialects are close to an exponential curve, which is the basic nature of Tibetan; 3) from the viewpoint of phoneme evolution, the phoneme load could transfer among the initials, finals and tones. The increase of initial loads led to the pitch patterns being transferred to the tone patterns; 4) this study proposed the concept of ‘quasi-phoneme’; 5) from the viewpoint of structure diffusion in the lexicon, the structure diffusion was caused by the decrease of initials and finals; 6) in the production and origin of Tibetan tones, the formation of tones was restricted physiologically and psychologically by phonation and perception. The devocalization of the initial is the basis for the origin of tones.

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藏语声调起源的多维视角

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提要

本文从不同的视角对藏语声调产生和起源进行了研究，研究主要得到了以下结论：1) 同音词的增加是导致藏语产生声调的主要内在动力。从结构的演化来看，声调的产生又受到藏语音位系统结构的制约；2) 同音词的分布在藏语各方言中都是遵循指数曲线，这是藏语音位的基本内在性质；3) 从音位负担的演化来看，在藏语信息量为常数的情况下，声、韵、调三者的音位负担可以相互转换，藏语声母负担的增加直接导致了声调的产生，因此，藏语的音调转换为声调；4) 提出了“准音位”的感念；5) 从语音结构在词汇中的扩散和语音演化看，藏语声、韵母的减少形成了藏语语音结构在词汇中的扩散；6) 声调产生过程中，语音的演化主要受制于发音生理机制和感知机制，声母清化是声调产生的感知基础。

关键词

声调起源 同音词率 音位负担量 词汇扩散 言语生理感知