The Journal of Chinese Linguistics vol.53, no.1 (January 2025): 56-97

© 2025 by the Journal of Chinese Linguistics. ISSN 0091-3723/ Probing the evolution history of Naish languages with reference to Tibetan, Burmese and rGyalrong: The opensyllable rhymes. By Zihe Li. All rights reserved.

# PROBING THE EVOLUTION HISTORY OF NAISH LANGUAGES WITH REFERENCE TO TIBETAN, BURMESE AND RGYALRONG: THE OPEN-SYLLABLE RHYMES

### Zihe Li

Zihe Li Peking University, Beijing ABSTRACT This paper reconstructs the Proto-Naish open-syllable rhyme system. Data from 3 Naish languages-Lijiangba, Malimasa, and Yongning-are employed in the reconstruction. Rhyme correspondences revealed by comparing the three languages are interpreted by referring to conservative languages of the Sino-Tibetan family, in particular Tibetan, Burmese and rGyalrong. Other related languages, such as Tangut, and other Naic languages, such as Namuyi and Xumi, are taken as references. Five opensyllable rhymes, \*-a, \*-e, \*-i, \*-u, \*-o, are reconstructed to Proto-Naish. Some general tendencies of the sound changes of the Naish languages are summarized, and their implications for the topical issue of the genetic position of the Naish languages are set out.

### **KEYWORDS**

Rhyme Naish languages Tibeto-Burman languages Historical phonology

Acknowledgements The author would like to thank Professor Alexis Michaud, Professor Katia Chirkova, and Dr. Yunfan Lai for providing useful advice during an online discussion, and the anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments. This research was supported by the Funding of the Ministry of Education of China #22JJD740002 and the National Social Science Foundation of China #22&ZD218.

Zihe Li (李子鹤) [lizh5635@163.com]; Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University, 5 Yiheyuan Road, Beijing, China. D http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9083-2649

以藏语、缅甸语和嘉戎语为参照探索纳语组语音史: 开音节韵母

## 李子鹤 北京大学

摘要

本文重构了原始纳语的开音节韵母系统。重构中利用了三个纳语组语 言的材料: 丽江坝纳西语、玛丽玛萨话和永宁纳语。首先通过建立三 个语言之间的语音对应,确定原始语韵母的类,然后再比较保守的汉 藏语言,主要是藏语、缅甸语和嘉戎语,以此为原始纳语的韵母对应 提供解释。其他亲属语言,例如西夏语,以及其他纳语支语言,例如 纳木依语和旭米语,在本文的构拟中也用来作为参照。重构的原始纳 语开音节韵母系统包括\*-a、\*-e、\*-i、\*-u和\*-o。在重构中还总结了纳 语组语言的音变规律,以及这些音变规律对确定纳语组的历史地位提 供的启示。

关键词 韵母 纳语组 藏缅语 历史音韵