Comparative Dictionary of Tibetan Dialects (CDTD)

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Comparative Dictionary of Tibetan Dialects (CDTD)

Volume 2: Verbs

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Foreword

This Comparative Dictionary of Tibetan Dialects is the work of my predecessor in Bern, Professor Roland Bielmeier, and his students. Professor Bielmeier's untimely death prevented his seeing the publication of this work. Moreover, his early parting also prevented the completion of his unifying exposition and discussion of the phonological developments in the Tibetan dialects over the course of twelve centuries. The manuscript of this wonderful study was in the process of unfolding, but this crowning jewel could not now be included in the present posthumous edition of the dictionary.

The analyses and correspondences compiled here, however, will enable others to glean what Roland saw so clearly and wished yet to put into a final draft. The many files of notes and the discussions and correspondence with research team members and colleagues make amply clear that Roland had a precise and detailed conception of the diverse processes and developments in the various Tibetan dialects, particularly regarding the specific processes of language change affecting initial clusters, rhymes and a diversity of tonogenetic evolutionary pathways, whether fully completed, as in Lhasa Tibetan, or only partially developed and seemingly arrested in mid-development with as yet only a limited phonological functional load, as in Dzongkha, or entirely lacking, as in the toneless dialects of Western Archaic Tibetan dialects and Amdo Tibetan.

All these insights were already fully articulated and just waiting to be presented in a piece of prose which we shall now never see. Furthermore, the unifying text which the now deceased editor intended to provide, as his notes show, would also have contained an historical exposition of the earliest attestations of Tibetan in Western and Japanese sources from the time of Nicolaes Witsen and Athanasius Kircher as well as a discussion of earlier classifications of Tibetan dialects made by an array of previous linguists and Tibetologists. The notes also include observations on Shafer's Proto-West Bodish hypothesis, lexical change phenomena, and phenomena as disparate as the loss of the subscripted r with labials in the Hor dialects to the chronology of fricativisation and de-affricativisation in Western Innovative Tibetan.

Although work on the Comparative Dictionary of Tibetan Dialects commenced in 1992, the scourge of planned obsolescence and compounded software incompatibilities turned out to be one of the principal factors delaying the publication of the dictionary. As a consequence, in 2011 and 2012, the CDTD database was reengineered in order to enable to the physical publication of the

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dictionary, financed with the *Berufungskredit* of Professor Bielemeier's successor. These volumes stand as an enduring tribute to their author, Roland Bielmeier, and to the team of students whom he inspired.

George van Driem

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Introduction

This dictionary is the outcome of now more than twenty years of project work. Most of the data were collected by project members in the field. Other data were taken from recent and reliable publications. We started our first project in 1992 with the title 'Historical-comparative lexicon of Tibetan dialects' which was financed by the Swiss National Foundation. This first phase ended in 1995, and the Swiss National Foundation agreed to follow up funding for a second project entitled 'Foundations of a historical grammar of Tibetan', which lasted until 2000, with a few breaks in between.

Goals

The comparison of the lexicon of Written Tibetan, i.e. of the classical and preclassical language, with the lexicon of the modern spoken Tibetan dialects shows that the modern spoken varieties have undergone a simplification of syllable structure. However, the kind and degree of simplification resulting from language change in Tibetan varies considerably between the different areas where Tibetan is spoken as a mother tongue. The documentation of this historical language change in Tibetan on the phonetic, phonemic and lexical levels represented the goal of our first project 'Historical-comparative lexicon of Tibetan dialects'. To work towards this goal, we set out to collect a limited selection of vocabulary items in as many spoken varieties as possible, and to compare this vocabulary with the etymologically corresponding lexical forms in Written Tibetan. The main aim was to discover the principles of sound change in Tibetan in the course of the last twelve centuries.

The second project was linked to the preceding project both in terms of data and goal. On the one hand, we continued our work with the dictionary, and, on the other hand, we aimed to extend our research to all linguistic levels. In the first project, we had mainly dealt with the phonetic, phonemic and lexical levels from a diachronic point of view. Now grammar was to be integrated into our diachronic approach. The basic methodological idea remained the same, i.e. to enable the comparison between the grammars of spoken varieties and the grammar of Written Tibetan. We decided on a selection of spoken Tibetan varieties for which to write grammars. We made our choice on the basis of two criteria. Firstly, we intended finally to produce reliable grammars from all main areas of the Tibetan linguistic area. Secondly, archaic or conservative varieties were to be given first priority. Furthermore, we aimed to establish a new genetic classi-

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fication of the Tibetan dialects based on the principles of sound change and to establish the dialect geography of linguistic Tibet based on sound change and lexical change.

Processing the data

The fieldwork data were recorded on tape, transcribed by developing the phonemic analysis of the different varieties, and entered into the computer. For the verbs, simple sentences were elicited and entered together with notes on the classification of each verb, documented with the sentences. In the case of published sources, the material was culled from the texts, and the phonemic systems were adapted. In both cases, the English or German translations were entered, as well as the source references. The last step in processing the data was aimed at establishing the inner Tibetan etymology. This was achieved by applying the historical-comparative method, well known from Indo-European studies, to establish regular sound correspondences between the orthographical forms of Written Tibetan and the spoken dialectal forms. The highly labour-intensive task of assigning the correct etymology to every dialect item was shared amongst all the members of the research team. Basically the field workers were responsible for 'their' dialects, whereas the data from the published sources were dealt with mainly by Marianne Volkart and myself.

Dictionary

It was our aim from the outset ultimately to make this documentation accessible in the form of a dictionary modelled after R. L. Turner's *A Comparative Dictionary of the Indo-Aryan Languages* (Oxford 1966/1969). Following Turner, who had arranged all the Middle and New Indo-Aryan words under the etymologically corresponding Sanskrit word, we decided to arrange all the Tibetan dialectal words according to a new dialect classification under their etymologically corresponding Written Tibetan words, arranged alphabetically according to the traditional Tibetan system. It was in the early stage of the second project that we decided — still following Turner to a certain extent — to call our dictionary the *Comparative Dictionary of Tibetan Dialects* (CDTD).

Two pre-prints of the verb volume of the CDTD were printed in September 1997 and September 1998. The first consisted of a main volume comprising 253 pages in two columns, including 1,532 main entries of Written Tibetan verbs and the corresponding forms from 32 dialectal varieties. The second pre-print

consisted of a main volume comprising 272 pages in two columns with 1,567 main entries of Written Tibetan verbs and the corresponding forms from 34 dialectal varieties. Each of the two pre-prints contained an introductory section with a preliminary new classification of Tibetan dialects, their phonemic inventories and so forth, and accompanied by an index volume.

In order to present our results to the international community, we printed a third pre-print of the verb volume in September 2002 which we disseminated at the 8th Himalayan Languages Symposium which we organised at the University of Berne from the 19th to the 22nd of September 2002. The main volume comprised 325 pages in two columns and contained 1,602 main entries of Written Tibetan verbs with their dialectal correspondences from 67 different varieties. This volume was accompanied by two index volumes. One index volume was 209 pages in length and contained all Written Tibetan verbs and all dialect records. The second index volume was 199 pages in length and contained the English and German translations together with their lexical type based on the Written Tibetan entry as well as the dialect varieties in which reflexes of these same etyma had been documented.

The first two pre-prints of the noun volume of the CDTD were printed in April 2000 and in and July 2001, and both pre-prints were organised in the same manner as the verb volume and were likewise accompanied by index volumes. The first noun volume pre-print consisted of a main volume comprising 557 pages in two columns, containing 5,710 main entries of Written Tibetan nominal formations and the corresponding forms from 57 dialectal varieties. The second noun volume pre-print consisted of a main volume which was 646 pages in length, printed in two columns and containing 6,006 main entries of Written Tibetan nominal formations along with the corresponding forms from 67 dialectal varieties. Since we were unable to finish the revision of the noun volume before the 8th Himalayan Languages Symposium, we presented a third pre-print that only contained the first revised half of the main noun volume together with the corrresponding index volumes.

Roland Bielmeier

Research group and fieldwork

Roland Bielmeier and Ngawang Tsering

In Western Tibet, the fieldwork was conducted by **Ngawang Tsering** and **Roland Bielmeier**. Roland Bielmeier started doing fieldwork on Balti and Ladakhi in the years between 1986 to 1988 and continued this work after the beginning of the first project in 1992. In this endeavour, he was supported by Ngawang Tsering, who is a native speaker of the Lower Ladakhi dialect of Nurla and who also collected an impressive amount of dialectal data on the different varieties all over Ladakh in the years between 1995 and 1997, which he and Roland Bielmeier afterwards transcribed and evaluated together.

Felix and Chungda Haller

Fieldwork

We collected, transcribed and etymologised new material for the CDTD:
In order to contribute new material to the CDTD, my wife Chungda and I travelled to a number of places in eastern Tibet listed below.

Amdo

Them chen, Chab cha, Rma stod, Mdzo rgan rwa bar, Bla brang and Rnga ba. Of these places, Them chen and Rnga ba were closed to foreigners, but we were able to obtain travel permits. We were, however, not able to get a permit for Rkang tsha and Mkhar dmar and, therefore, had to find informants in Xining. In addition, we had the opportunity to collect a smaller amount of material from two informants in Xining, one from Pad ma and another one from Bya mdo.

Kham

Dar rtse mdo, Dkar mdzes, Sde dge, Li thang and 'Ba' thang. All of these places were closed to foreigners, but we were able to obtain a travel permit.

During this fieldwork my responsibility was to collect material from the informants on the basis of a questionnaire which Roland Bielmeier and I had compiled. We communicated with the informants mainly in Chinese for two rea-

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sons: 1) Tibetans from outside of Central Tibet rarely understand Central Tibetan. 2) Using one variety of Tibetan while eliciting material of another variety of Tibetan could have influenced the informants. My wife Chungda provided me with indispensible assistance in many ways, especially in communicating with the local authorities and in finding suitable informants.

The materials collected consist of a noun corpus and a verb corpus for each dialect. The average noun corpus comprises about 700 nouns and the average verb corpus about 170 verbs. The Them chen material is, however, larger, because it contains all the data from my book *Dialect and folktales from Themchen* (2004). We only collected a smaller amount of material from the Pad ma and Bya mdo informants for lack of time.

After we had collected the materials, I transcribed and etymologised them. In the case of the verb material, I also had to include interlinear morphemic glosses.

In addition, we were able to contribute Shigatse material to the CDTD. The informant from whom the material has been elicited is my wife Chungda, a native speaker of Shigatse Tibetan. The material contains not only the data of my dissertation *Dialect and folktales from Shigatse* (2000) and my textbook *Introduction to modern Central Tibetan* (in preparation), but also includes many more etyma that have been elicited separately.

We also etymologised the Balti-material marked 'Bal/ Raja' contained in the publication Bielmeier, Roland, and Felix Haller (eds.). In preparation. *A Balti-Urdu-English Dictionary by Muhammad Ali Shah, Raja of Shigar*.

Published sources

We made accessible published data for the CDTD:
This task did not only involve the entering of published data in the computer. Often the data had to be etymologised too, and in the case of some material from China, the Chinese renderings of etyma had to be translated into English. My main responsibility was the etymologising of the material and the translation of the Chinese renderings into English while my wife Chungda entered the data in the computer. We made the following material accessible:

1) *Ngari Tibetan* by QU Aitang and TAN Kerang (1983) (in Chinese): The dialects of Lhasa, Sgar, Ru thog, Spu hreng, Mtho lding, Dge rgyas, Mtsho chen and Sger rtse.
2) *A Tibeto-Burman Lexicon* by DAI Qingxia et al. (1992): The dialects of 'Ba' thang and A rig.
3) Golok material contained in several articles by Sprigg.

4) *Dzongkha* by George van Driem (1998), some articles about Dzongkha by George van Driem and Martine Mazaudon.
5) *Vocabulary of Amdo Tibetan Dialects* by HUA Kan (2002): The dialects of Them chen and Ba yan (Dpa' lung).

In addition, I looked through the English translation of the BTC and made some suggestions for improvements where I found it necessary.

Informants

Central Tibet

Shigatse

Chung bdag (Chungda) Haller was born in 1964 in Shigatse City. She attended primary school in Shigatse and the middle school attached to the Central Institute for Nationalities in Beijing and studied at the Department for English Literature of the Tibet University in Lhasa. She speaks Tibetan, Chinese and German and was the main informant for the Shigatse material of the CDTD.

Fig. 1: Chung bdag (Chungda) Haller

Mr Phyug ra tshe brtan was one of the storytellers who contributed to the dissertation of F. Haller (2000). He was a member of the former secular upper class in Shigatse and was married to a Tibetan from Lhasa. His family name Phyug ra means 'rich courtyard'. He was a personality respected for his learning, espe-

cially in the fields of literature, history and calligraphy. Before retirement, he worked as a middle-school teacher in Shigatse. At the time of the recording (1990), which took place in Shigatse, he was about 60 years old.

Mrs Nyi ma phan thogs was one of the storytellers who contributed to the dissertation of F. Haller. She was an illiterate construction worker from Shigatse and lived in Lhasa for a long time. Famous for her knowledge of folktales, she was employed by public authorities and private individuals as an informant. Some of her stories were published in written Tibetan or Chinese versions or adapted into plays. At the time of the recording (1990), which took place in Shigatse, she was about 60 years old.

Mr Bstan 'dzin was one of the storytellers who contributed to the dissertation of F. Haller. He was an educated monk of Tashilhunpo monastery who lived in Lhasa for some time. At the time of the recording (1990), which took place in Shigatse, he was about 50 years old.

Amdo

Them chen

Mrs Bde skyid sgrol ma was born in 1976. She comes from the township of Brag dmar, and her family formerly belonged to the tribe of the Bra tsha. She attended primary and middle school in Them chen and studied at the Department for Languages and Literatures of the National Minorities of the Qinghai Institute for Nationalities (field of study: Tibetan) in Xining. Mrs Bde skyid sgrol ma was employed as the main informant for F. Haller's grammar of Them chen Tibetan (2004). At the time of printing she was said to work as a middle school teacher in Them chen. The recordings took place in Xining in 1995, 1996 and 1997.

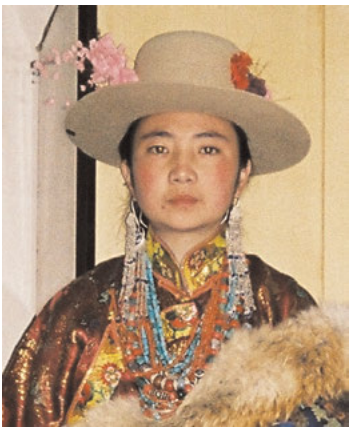

Fig. 2: Bde skyid sgrol ma

Mr Yong bha was born in 1971. He comes from the township of Bka' 'gyur and his family formerly belonged to the tribe of the Sngags pa. He attended primary and middle school in Them chen and studied at the Department for Languages and Literatures of the National Minorities of the Qinghai Institute for Nationalities (field of study: Tibetan) in Xining. Mr Yong bha was consulted as an additional informant for F. Haller's grammar of Them chen Tibetan and is now working as a translator and dubber in Xining. The recordings took place in Xining in 1995, 1996 and 1997.

Mr Hrin pe was born in 1964. He comes from the township of Seng ge and his family formerly belonged to the tribe of the A sgur. Both of his parents and his wife are also from Them chen. He attended primary school and the lower stage of middle school in Them chen, the Normal School for Nationalities of the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Rma lho and studied Tibetan at the Department for Languages and Literatures of the National Minorities of the Qinghai Institute for Nationalities in Xining. Mr Hrin pe was also consulted as an additional informant for F. Haller's grammar of Them chen Tibetan. At the time of printing, he was said to work as a government official in Them chen. The recordings took place in Them chen in 1992 and 1994.

Mr Tshe ring rgyal comes from the township of Brag dmar and both of his parents and his wife are also from Them chen. He attended primary school for one year and was about 40 years old at the time of the recording. Mr Tshe ring rgyal contributed the folktales to F. Haller's grammar of Them chen Tibetan. At the time of printing, he was said to work as a trader in Them chen. The recording took place in 1994.

Chab cha

Mr **Gnam lha yag** is a nomad from Khri ka. Both of his parents are also from Khri ka and his wife comes from Chab cha. He attended primary school and the lower stage of middle school in Khri ka, the Normal School for Nationalities in Chab cha and the Graduate School of Education of Qinghai in Xining.

At the time of the recording (1992), which took place in Chab cha, he was 25 years old and was working as a teacher of Tibetan at the Middle School for Nationalities in Chab cha.

Bla brang

Mr **Sangs rgyas mkhar** is a nomad from the township of Rgan gya (about 50 km from Bla brang). Both of his parents and his wife are also from Rgan gya. He attended primary school and middle school in the vicinity of Rgan gya and the Normal School for Nationalities in Bla brang.

At the time of the recording (1992), which took place in Bla brang, he was 29 and was working as a teacher of Tibetan at the Tibetan middle school in Bla brang.

Mdzo rgan rwa bar

Mr **Tshe tshe** is a nomad from the township of Mdzo rgan rwa bar belonging to Rma stod County. Both of his parents are from Mdzo rgan rwa bar and his wife comes from the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Rma lho. He attended the Normal School of the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Mgo log for three or four months. At the time of the recording (1992), which took place in Mdzo rgan rwa bar, he was 30 years old and was working as an elementary school teacher.

Mkhar dmar

Mr **Blo bzang don grub** is a nomad from the township of Mkhar dmar belonging to Chi len County. Both of his parents are also from Mkhar dmar. He became a monk in Chi len County at the age of 18. When he was 25 years old, he entered the Tibetan Institute for Buddhology of Sku 'bum Monastery (near Xining).

At the time of the recording (1992), which took place in Xining, he was 28 years old and still a student.

Pad ma

Mr **Bzang po** did not receive any formal education. At the time of the recording (1997), which took place in Xining, he was 47 years old.

Rkang tsha

Mr **Lha mo skyabs** is from the county seat of Rkang tsha. Both of his parents are also from Rkang tsha and were nomads before they moved to the county seat. He is married to the Bya mdo informant. He attended primary and middle school in Rkang tsha and studied at the Tibetan Department of the Northwest Institute for Nationalities in Lanzhou and speaks some Lhasa Tibetan.

At the time of the recording (1992), which took place in Xining, he was 29 years old and worked as a translator and reporter.

Rma stod

Mr **Nor bu tshe ring** is a nomad from the county seat of Rma stod. Both of his parents and his wife are also from Rma stod. He first completed a special four-year training for nomads that summarises primary and middle school in Rma stod. Following that, he attended a graduate school of education in Xining for three years.

At the time of the recording (1992), which took place in Rma stod, he was 32 years old and worked at the National People's Congress (section Rma stod).

Rnga ba

Mr **Bzod pa rgya mtsho (Bzod kho)** is a peasant from Middle Rnga ba. Both of his parents are also from Rnga ba. He attended primary school in Rnga ba, middle school in Mdzod dge and the Tibetan School of Sichuan Province in Rta'u.

At the time of the recording (1993), which took place in Rnga ba, he was 25 years old and was working as a teacher of Tibetan at the Tibetan Middle School of the County of Rnga ba in the county seat of Rnga ba.

Bya mdo

Mrs **'Jam dbyangs skyid** was born in 1965 and is a peasant from Bya mdo. Both of her parents are from Dpa' lung. She is married to the Rkang tsha informant. She attended a normal school for nationalities and a graduate school of education. Mrs 'Jam dbyangs skyid is a noted singer and writer. The recording took place in Xining in 1997.

Kham

'Ba' thang

Mr **A bstan** is a peasant from the county seat of 'Ba' thang. Both of his parents are peasants from 'Ba' thang. He attended a monastery school for two years and

primary school for one year. When he was 23 years old, he joined an opera group. He understands some Lhasa-Tibetan.

At the time of the recording (1993), which took place in 'Ba' thang, he was about 50 years old.

Dar rtse mdo

Mr **Phun tshogs rgyal mtshan** is a peasant from the township of Lcags gad pa. Both of his parents are peasants from Lcags gad pa. He attended primary and middle school in Lcags gad pa and the Tibetan School of Sichuan Province in Rta'u.

At the time of the recording (1993), which took place in Dar rtse mdo, he was 27 years old and was working for an office in Dar rtse mdo that was responsible for the reception of Tibetans in exile.

Sde dge

Mr **Rta mgrin tshe dbang** is from the township of Dpal spungs. Both of his parents are also from Dpal spungs and were nomads. He went to a monastery school in Dpal spungs for 8 years and then attended the Central Institute for Nationalities in Beijing for 2 years in order to improve his knowledge of Tibetan and Chinese. The informant is the younger brother of Prof. Thub bstan phun tshogs affiliated to this institute.

He understands some Lhasa Tibetan and had a girlfriend from Shigatse, when we met him. At the time of the recording (1993), which took place in the county seat of Sde dge, he was 22 years old.

Dkar mdzes

Mr **Phun tshogs dbang 'dus** is a peasant from the township of Mda' mdo. Both of his parents are peasants from Mda' mdo. He attended primary school in Mda' mdo, the Middle School for Nationalities in Dkar mdzes for three years and the Normal School of the City of Dkar mdzes for 4 years. In addition, he took a three-month course of Tibetan mathematics in Dar rtse mdo.

At the time of the recording (1993), which took place in Dkar mdzes, he was 24 years old and had been a teacher of Tibetan for three years in Datongma, a nomadic area in Dkar mdzes.

Li thang

Mr **Bstan pa** is an incarnate lama from the county seat of Li thang. Both of his parents are peasants from Li thang. He attended primary school and middle

school in Li thang, a normal school in 'Ba' thang and Tibet University in Lhasa for two years. The informant understands Lhasa Tibetan.

At the time of the recording (1993), which took place in Li thang, he was 27 years old and was working as a middle-school teacher of Tibetan in Li thang.

Veronika Hein

Veronika Hein started her research on the dialect of Tabo/Spiti in 1995 and has been doing field work in Spiti and Upper Kinnaur regularly since then.

The first focus of her work was collecting lexical data for the CDTD (nouns) and working out the phonology of Tabo Tibetan. She was first supported in her field work by the late **Pema Dorje** of Tabo Village, who had left Tabo Monastery a few years before and was at the time a young family man without formal education but with an excellent knowledge of the local Tibetan culture and language as well as a good command of Tibetan and English. Pema Dorje was therefore an ideal local assistant, highly motivated to work for the benefit of the local community and their culture. With his outgoing personality and keen interest in the local culture, he could open many doors and make an important contribution by acting as a language informant but also as a personal assistant and translator introducing the field worker from Switzerland to storytellers and other specialists of local culture. In the first three years, the cooperation with Pema Dorje as her main language informant took place as one-month working periods in Tabo with daily sessions in which the lexemes in the target language were elicited on the basis of a word list of a related Tibetan dialect (Southern Mustang) or the written Tibetan forms, or, if neither was known to the informant, with the help of an English translation. After a preparatory round of a section of about 100 words of the full list, the prepared words were recorded (on audio tape) and in a third round transcribed and translated into English. With the recording of about 750 Tabo verbs and their use in sentences the focus of the research shifted to morphology and syntax, thus forming a good basis for a dissertation project of a comprehensive linguistic description of the Tibetan dialect of Tabo.

Apart from the recording sessions with Pema Dorje for the CDTD, there were also story telling sessions, to which Pema Dorje invited a well known village lady (**Ane Phuntsok Dolma**, about 55 at the time of the first recordings), who often sat with other local women telling stories and singing songs before the arrival of TV at Tabo Village. Ane Phuntsok Dolma told several parts of the Epic of King Gesar (in Tabo called Ling Singsing Gyalwo) to Pema Dorje and the Swiss field worker in a kind of semi-studio recording session of 1-2 hours length

each, in which Pema Dorje acted as the audience, putting in short reactions or questions to keep the storytelling going. Like this, with the help of Pema Dorje, a lot of lexical data and about 10 hours of storytelling could be recorded up to 1998.

Unfortunately, the projects got interrupted by the untimely death of the main informant, Pema Dorje, in 1999. But due to the cooperation of Pema Dorje's youngest brother, **Sonam Tsering**, who was ready to step in, the research could be continued. Sonam Tsering was 21 years old when he joined the research project in 2000 and was at the time studying Mathematics and Economics in Dharamsala. Although he had not been living in Spiti for some years, he has turned out to be highly qualified for assisting linguistic fieldwork. Apart from his native Tabo Tibetan, he is fluent in Hindi (spoken and written) and not only speaks very good English and Nepali, but also the Central Tibetan dialect spoken among the Tibetan refugee community in Dharamsala and some Pahari dialects of the hill villages near Dharamsala. Sonam Tsering has some working knowledge of written Tibetan as well. His profound knowledge of the local culture and his great interest in the history and the traditions of Spiti are also the foundations for his respected position in the village society although he is not from any of the most important families of Tabo.

Fig. 3: Sonam Tsering, Tabo 2009

In the summer of 2000, Sonam Tsering first contributed to the CDTD by adding new lexemes to the collection of Tabo nouns (added up to about 2700). His main contribution though consisted in going through the sentences illustrating the Tabo verbs and helping work out verb patterns and stems of the collected verbs. On short excursions in the area of lower Spiti and upper Kinnaur, some linguistic geography could be done and with a short questionnaire some phonological isoglosses could be established. The relevant data have also gone into the CDTD under the names of the places in upper Kinnaur: Nako, Namgya and Nesang.

Alongside these important additions to the CDTD, Sonam Tsering also assisted with the transcription of the stories recorded with Ane Phuntsok Dolma and his brother Pema Dorje and finally helped translating them into English. Because of Sonam Tsering's special interest in music and songs, a new project could be started in 2001. Apart from consolidating the grammar of Tabo Tibetan, an additional focus was set on recording oral traditions, i.e. mostly old songs but also more stories and formal speeches. Since 2001, Sonam Tsering has made invaluable contributions to the CDTD by checking and rechecking many of the entries in the dictionary mostly with older speakers of the Tabo dialect, and he has patiently answered lots of questions related to the morphology and syntax of Tabo Tibetan. His many illustrations, examples and explanations have all gone into the field notes and contribute to the rich data collected for the grammar of the Tabo dialect soon to be completed.

Fig. 4: The late Pema Dorje, Tabo † **1999**

Fig. 5: Ane Phuntsok Dolma with her grandniece, Tabo 2003

Brigitte Huber

Brigitte Huber started her work for the Tibetan Dialects Project and the CDTD in 1996, first preparing and analysing existing data of various Tibetan dialects. Then she focussed on her research on the Lende dialect of Kyirong. The outcome, a descriptive and historical grammar of the dialect, was published in 2005: Brigitte Huber, *The Tibetan Dialect of Lende (Kyirong): a grammatical description with historical annotations*, Beiträge zur tibetischen Erzählforschung (BTE), edited by Prof. Dr. Dieter Schuh, Band 15.

The Kyirong data are based on data Brigitte Huber collected during fieldwork in Nepal (Kathmandu and Syabru Besi) in 1998 (4 months), 1999 (3 months), 2000 (2 months), and 2001 (2 months). She mainly worked with two informants, both of whom were born and at that time still lived in Lende: **Dekyi** from the village Ko and **Pemba Thondrup** from the village of Salle, both around 25 years old. Neither of them ever got a chance to go to school, and they were thus not familiar with the Tibetan writing system. Neither were they familiar with other languages, except a handful of Chinese expressions that they knew. Both of them had mostly lived in Lende – Kyirong, and both were not married, still living at home. Dekyi was helping her parents, Pemba Thondrup sometimes worked as a merchant.

At the beginning Brigitte Huber was supported by the field assistants/translators **Khamsum** and **Ngawang**. Both originally came from the Kyirong region

and could understand the dialect, which they translated into English. Later on, when she had become familiar with the Kyirong dialect, Brigitte Huber conducted her research with the support and interpretation of Dekyi. Thus, most of the data are based on interviews with either an informant and a translator or with only an informant.

Fig. 6: Dekyi

Furthermore, important contributions came from the 77 year-old **Nyima Wangchuk** and from **Tsering**, a woman in her sixties. Both were originally from Salle and lived in Nepal at that time. With Nyima Wangchuk several traditional stories were recorded, and Tsering agreed to tell stories from her life. The texts were then transcribed and analysed with the help of Dekyi and Ngawang.

Fig. 7: Nyima Wangchuk

Fig. 8: Kyirong dance 1

Fig. 9: Kyirong dance 2

Marius Zemp

Marius Zemp first worked for the CDTD as a pre-graduate student from 2004 to 2006. In that time, he mainly contributed to the cross-referencing of the Written Tibetan entries from Jäschke's Tibetan-English and Tibetan-German Dictionary to the dialectal entries of the CDTD. He started doing his own fieldwork in Kargil (J&K, India) in 2005 and finished his master's thesis on the synchronic and diachronic phonology of the Purik (WAT) dialect spoken there in November 2006. Further data that he collected at the same place in 2007, 2009, and 2010 are the basis of his comprehensive synchronic and diachronic grammar of Purik that was completed at the end of 2013. Between 2010 and 2012, Marius Zemp worked for the follow-up project of the CDTD on the comparative syntax of Tibetan. This time, he integrated his own data on Purik into the CDTD, which includes 2934 nouns and 686 verbs, along with more than 2000 sentences illustrating the valency of these verbs.

Zemp's fieldwork on Purik was launched in 2006 when he was introduced to **Syed Abbas** of Gongma Kargil, who spent a vast amount of time – often assisted by other family members – providing Zemp with vocabulary from every imaginable domain of the local culture, inviting him to herd the goats of the village in the mountains and showing him around in the fields, orchards, the mill, etc. Zemp's understanding of the Purik grammar was boosted when **Syed Mehdi** helped him in analysing the stories his father had told. In 2007, Zemp started to also regularly work with **Kacho Shabir Jawed** of Yabgo, lower Gongma Kargil, allowing him to double-check everything he had learned from Syed Abbas' family.

Fig. 10: (A part of) 'my' family in Gongma Kargil: (from left to right) Syed Mehdi and his son Syed Irfan, Amatse Hajira, Syed Ali, Syed Sajjad, Syed Hyeder Shah, Syed Abbas, and myself.

Fig. 11: Syed Irfan and Hajira listening to recordings

Fig. 12: Syed Mehdi grafting an apricot tree

Fig. 13: Syed Abbas herding the goats

Fig. 14: My informant and field assistant Kacho Shabir Jawed with his two kids Nasrin (to the right) and Zahir Khan, and myself (on the walls of their future new home)

Thomas Preiswerk

Thomas Preiswerk started to work for the CDTD as a PhD-Student in 2007. The goal of his dissertation project is a comprehensive description of the Tibetan dialect spoken in the region of Zanskar, to the southeast of Kargil. He visited Zanskar in Summer 2007 for the first time. After his visit, he returned every year to Ladakh and Zanskar for fieldwork, mainly during the summer months (2007-2010).

Thomas Preiswerk worked for the follow-up project of the CDTD on the comparative syntax of Tibetan. For this purpose he mainly collected Zanskari sentence data to document the Phonology and Valency of important Zanskari Verbs.

Fig. 15: On the right side: Thomas Preiswerk, his main informant Tsetan Stanzin and Stanzins family.

Katrin Häsler

Technical notes on data collection – data organisation – data presentation

The data collected in the field were recorded on tape, transcribed by developing the phonemic analysis of the different varieties, and entered into the computer. For this the program Hypercard with its concept of stacks, cards, and fields for data sets, data records and data fields was used because it was easy to use and easy to adapt to the needs of the different researchers. At the beginning of the project, a standard IPA font was used for all transcriptions.

Over the years the amount of data for the dictionary grew, and in 1994 it was decided to reorganise the database completely, an undertaking which was headed by Katrin Häsler.

In the first step, she simplified the structure of the database and eliminated redundancies by creating a separate data set for the Written Tibetan lemmas and assigning a unique key number to each lemma. This allowed the researchers who were working on the different varieties to directly link a word to a proposed etymologically corresponding Written Tibetan lemma. Thus we were able

to prevent the problem that the slightest difference in word spelling or proposed reconstruction from different researchers would lead to redundancies in the database. Because verb entries contain a different set of information and raise different questions for the analysis than non-verbal entries, it was decided to keep two separate data sets: one containing the verbs, aiming at completeness, and one containing all the nouns, adjectives, numbers. For Written Tibetan the second data set contains only those Written Tibetan words for which we have dialectal evidence. This division is reflected in the two volumes of the CDTD, one for the verbs, and one for all the other entries.

Then Katrin Häsler developed special configurable sorting algorithms for the phonological entries in the dialect data sets as well as for the Written Tibetan data, thus enabling the researchers to enter new or reconstructed forms into the sorting order as needed.

An important question was how the data should be extracted from the database and how the actual dictionary should be compiled. At the beginning of the project it was planned to extract the data records directly to a Word file. The idea was to do the compilation of the dictionary in that document. As the project grew, it became clear that this process did not scale with the amount of data. So the second important change implemented by Katrin Häsler was the decision to write a compilation algorithm, which can be run from within Hypercard. With this algorithm the data from the different datasets is first compiled and then synthesised into lemmas. The algorithm can be configured with several parameters allowing, for example, to adjust the order and grouping of the varieties within the lemma in accordance to the findings of our researchers. The output of the compilation process is a preformatted QuarkXPress document containing the finished lemmas as well as all the different indices. To facilitate the type setting of the dictionary a special font 'ToblerOne'[1] was developed with the help of Moritz Vögeli, which is now used throughout the whole project. In this special font the basic letters and the diacritics are combined into one glyph, thus allowing for kerning.

Marianne Volkart

Marianne Volkart's main contribution to the CDTD has been to build up and maintain the data files containing the Written Tibetan material. The core ele-

1 The research project was located at the University of Berne, specifically in the building called 'Tobler' – an old chocolate factory. As it was the first font we compiled, we called it 'ToblerOne'. It is based on 'Times Roman'.

ment of these files are the CDTD main entries, to which the dialectal evidence (contained in separate files) is then assigned by a key number. If the lexemes constituting our main entries are listed in one or more of the four Written Tibetan dictionaries used (see section 'Written sources and their abbreviations'), the quotations from these dictionaries have also been entered, mostly by her, into the same file. As a consequence following from this task, she was also substantially involved in editorial decisions about the structure of the CDTD entries, i.e. about which dialectal evidence should be listed under one main entry, or whether it would be better to split up an entry into two or more entries.

Furthermore, Marianne Volkart built up the data files for Jirel, extracting the data from the work of the SIL authors (see again section 'Written sources and their abbreviations') and identifying the lexemes etymologically as far as possible. She has also entered the example sentences for the Jirel verbs into the file and added the glosses.

Manuel Widmer

Manuel Widmer was a member of the CDTD project group from April 2009 to March 2010. He was responsible for the incorporation of Hari's (2004) Yolmo dictionary into the project database. His tasks involved the writing of lexical entries for the noun and verb volumes, the compilation of example sentences for the syntax volume, and the creation of interlinear glosses for the example sentences. The writing of interlinear glosses proved to be a rather complex issue, as a comprehensive grammatical description of Yolmo was not available at that time. In absence of a detailed grammatical account, interlinear glosses were created based on the grammar sketch provided by Hari (2004) as well as on comparisons with the closely related Tibetan variety of Kyirong (Huber 2005).

A short guide

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1a Introductory remarks

At present, the *Comparative Dictionary of Tibetan Dialects* (CDTD) consists of two volumes, the verb volume and the noun volume. This short guide is intended as an aid for using the CDTD. For the time being, the main focus is on the verb volume. However, with the exception of sections two and seven below, the sections of this short guide will also have bearing on the noun volume.

1b Some methodological notes

Sometimes the phonemic representation of a dialect form is not as streamlined as a phonologist might wish for in the sense of an idealised representation. Rather, we have naturally opted to use phonemic transcriptions which retain as much phonetic, i.e. possibly sub-phonological, detail as might potentially be relevant for comparative historical study. Moreover, representations that more or less explicitly indicate the phonetic details are also more user-friendly in that they provide users with precise information that is otherwise lost in an idealised phonological representation.

The seminal importance of semantics is not denied by the working premiss that the phonological form of each etymon and its many reflexes in both Written Tibetan and the many documented dialects must form the red thread unit-

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ing the entire dictionary and the organising principle of the thesaurus as a whole.

Obviously loan words have been excised from the etymological analyses as much as possible.

Much ink has been spilt on what constitutes the distinction between a dialect and a language. Rather than resorting to some of the more ponderous contemplations on this topic, the CDTD has operated on principles of practicality, as if speaking to an audience of historical linguists who understand the diverse processes of language change. In order to understand the terminology used in the CDTD, it is therefore useful to quote a passage by Róna-Tas (1985: 153), which Roland Bielmeier found to be of great utility because it expressed insights with which he inculcated the members of his research team from the outset.

> Meine Einteilung geht davon aus, daß in einer Gruppe der tibetischen Dialekte die alte Konsonantenstruktur des Anlautes noch mehr oder weniger erhalten und der Auslaut noch nicht abgeschliffen ist. In dieser Gruppe sind die suprasegmentalen Töne noch nicht vorhanden oder haben keinen tonematischen Wert. Diese Gruppe nenne ich »archaisch«. Die andere Gruppe zeigt die Vereinfachung der anlautenden Konsonantengruppen, das Verschwinden der Auslautkonsonanten und das Entstehen der Toneme. Diese Dialekte nenne ich »nicht-archaisch«.
>
> Die Benennung ist natürlich, wie immer, relativ. Alle Dialekte enthalten immer einerseits bewahrtes altes Sprachgut und weisen andererseits Neologismen auf. Es ist immer nur eine Frage des Standpunktes der Betrachtung, was im gegebenen Fall wichtig oder unwichtig ist. Zweifellos ist es richtig, dass in den von mir als »nicht-archaisch« bezeichneten Dialekten viele solche Elemente zu finden sind, die in anderen, »archaisch« genannten Dialekten, verschwunden sind.

2 The organisation of the verb volume

The verb volume is 970 pages in length and contains 1,364 lemmata or main entries and indices of the Written Tibetan (WT) and dialectal forms as well as English and German translations of the dialectal forms. The transcriptions of the dialectal forms are given using the symbols of the International Phonetic Alpabet (IPA).

The main part of the verb volume, comprising pp. 133–538, is the verb dictionary with its 1,364 main entries of WT verb forms, arranged alphabetically with a running number. A main entry consists of the WT form taken from four dictionaries of WT, i.e. BTC (Beijing 1985), the German and English versions of Jäschke's famous dictionary (Gnadau 1871, London 1881), and the New Tibetan-

English Dictionary of Modern Tibetan (Berkeley, Los Angeles, London 2001), edited by Melvyn Goldstein. For further details see the section 'Written sources and their abbreviations'.

These entries are followed by the etymological correspondences in the different dialects together with their dialectal meaning in English. In the case of dialectal material taken from published sources in German, the German translations are quoted and translated into English. The dialectal entries are ordered according to the seven main dialect groups of Tibetan. For further details see the section 'Tibetan dialects – Main groups'. Within the main groups, the dialects are ordered roughly from west to east. For further details see the section 'Tibetan dialects – Dialect names and their abbreviations, order of the dialects'. Of course, our information on the dialects is by no means complete. The absence of a dialectal form in a main entry does not, therefore, imply its non-existence, but merely reflects the fact that it has not been recorded. The same usually holds true for gaps in the recorded meanings and in the recorded aspect-tense or mood forms of the dialectal entries. A dialect entry followed by a question mark means that the attestation in the dialect in question does not correspond in a completely regular fashion to the WT form either phonologically or semantically.

In translations of dialectal verb forms given as 'with' or 'mit' followed by a noun, this noun is to be understood as having only semantic but no syntactic implications. To save space, dialectal entries that are the same in form and meaning within one main dialect group are given only once after the abbreviations of the names of the dialect varieties. As a consequence, the order of the dialectal entries and the names of the dialects varies slightly but basically follows the genetic arrangement from west to east. With material from some written sources, the entry and its translation are followed by the page or running number of the source in brackets. In the case of other sources where the material was arranged alphabetically, this addition was not necessary. For further details see the section 'Written sources and their abbreviations'. In those cases where the necessary senctence material is available, dialectal verbs are classified according to a newly developed system. For further details see the section 'Tibetan dialects – Verb forms'.

An index of WT verb forms follows the main body of the verb volume, on pp. 539–578. Like all other indices in the CDTD, this index too refers to the running number of the main entries. Following this, on pp. 579–752, are alphabetically arranged dialect indices with all the dialectal forms quoted in the verb volume.

Next is the index of the English translations, on pp. 753–1030. All translations are characterised by (v), because in the final print version, the indices of

the translations of the verbs and nouns will be taken together. The translations do not only refer to the running number, under which they are found, but also provide the WT etymological correspondence. Consequently, the different lexical types of a certain meaning can be found quickly. Finally, the dialects are listed in which a certain lexical type is used. At the end we provide the index of the German translations on pp. 1031–1102, and this is structured in the same way as the index of the English translations.

3 Tibetan dialects – Main groups

Overview of the main dialect groups in their geographical distribution as used for the *Comparative Dictionary of Tibetan Dialects* (CDTD), by Roland Bielmeier et al., Bern, Switzerland

WAT **Western Archaic Tibetan**
Balti dialects (Pakistan, India)
Purik dialects (India)
Ladakhi dialects (India)

WIT **Western Innovative Tibetan**
Ladakhi dialects of Upper Ladakh and Zanskar (India)
Border Area dialects of North West India: Lahaul, Spiti, Uttarakhand (India)
Ngari dialects: Tholing (Tibet Aut. Region: Ngari Area)

CT **Central Tibetan**
Ngari dialects (Tibet Aut. Region: Ngari Area)
Border Area dialects of Northern Nepal
Tsang dialects (Tibet Aut. Region: Shigatse Area)
Ü dialects (Tibet Aut. Region: Lhoka Area, Lhasa municipality)

ST **Southern Tibetan**
dialects of Sikkim
Tsang dialects (Tromowa valley)
dialects of Bhutan

HT **Hor Tibetan**
Ngari dialects (Gertse)
dialects of Nakchu Area (Tibet Aut. Region)
dialects of Southern Qinghai Province (Nangchen)

KT **Kham Tibetan**
Kham dialects of Chamdo Area (Tibet Aut. Region)
Kham dialects of Sichuan Province
Kham dialects of Yunnan Province

AT **Amdo Tibetan**
Amdo dialects of Qinghai Province
Amdo dialects of Gansu Province
Amdo dialects of Sichuan Province

4 Tibetan dialects – Dialect names and their abbreviations, order of the dialects

Abbreviations of the 76 Tibetan dialect varieties of the CDTD (arranged genetically from west to east)

	dialect group	abbr.	name	local area
1.	WAT	Bal	Balti	Baltistan
2.	WAT	Har	Hardas	Purik
3.	WAT	Tur	Turtuk	Nubra
4.	WAT	Kar	Kargil	Purik
5.	WAT	KarMZ	Kargil	Purik
6.	WAT	Tsha	Tshangra	Purik
7.	WAT	Par	Parkachik	Purik
8.	WAT	Thuw	Thuwina	Purik
9.	WAT	Dar	Darket	Purik
10.	WAT	Sod	Sod	Purik
11.	WAT	Hanu	Hanu	Purik
12.	WAT	Chik	Chiktan	Purik
13.	WAT	Sapi	Sapi	Purik
14.	WAT	Shar	Shargol	Purik
15.	WAT	Mul	Mulbek	Purik
16.	WAT	Lam	Lamayuru	Ladakh
17.	WAT	Wan	Wanla	Ladakh
18.	WAT	Khal	Khalatse	Ladakh
19.	WAT	Ling	Lingshet	Ladakh
20.	WAT	Dib	Dibling	Ladakh
21.	WAT	Nur	Nurla	Ladakh
22.	WAT	Nim	Nimu	Ladakh
23.	WAT	Leh	Leh	Ladakh
24.	WAT	Nub	Nubra Charasa	Ladakh
25.	WIT	Trang	Trangtse	Ladakh
26.	WIT	MM	Man-Merak	Ladakh
27.	WIT	ZkTP	Zanskar	Ladakh
28.	WIT	Trashi	Trashitongde	Ladakh
29.	WIT	Tabo	Tabo	Spiti
30.	WIT	Nako	Nako	Kinnaur
31.	WIT	Nam	Namgya	Kinnaur
32.	WIT	Nes	Nesang	Kinnaur

dialect group	abbr.	name	local area
33. WIT	Thol	Tholing	Ngari
34. CT	Ru	Ruthok	Ngari
35. CT	Gar	Gar	Ngari
36. CT	Gerg	Gergye	Ngari
37. CT	Pur	Purang	Ngari
38. CT	Nu	Nubri	Nepal
39. CT	SMu	Southern Mustang	Nepal
40. CT	WDro	Western Drokpas	Tsang
41. CT	Tsho	Tshochen	Ngari
42. CT	Kyir	Kyirong	Tsang
43. CT	Yol	Yolmo	Nepal
44. CT	Kag	Kagate	Nepal
45. CT	Jir	Jirel	Nepal
46. CT	Ding	Dingri	Tsang
47. CT	Shi	Shigatse	Tsang
48. CT	LhaQT	Lhasa	Ü
49. ST	Dzo	Dzongkha	Bhutan
50. HT	Hor	Hor	Hor
51. HT	Ger	Gertse	Ngari
52. HT	Nak	Nakchu	Hor
53. HT	Am	Amdo	Hor
54. HT	Bach	Bachen	Hor
55. KT	Na	Nangchen	Kham
56. KT	De	Derge	Kham
57. KT	Ka	Kardze	Kham
58. KT	Ba	Bathang	Kham
59. KT	BaTBL	Bathang	Kham
60. KT	Li	Lithang	Kham
61. KT	Da	Dartsedo	Kham
62. AT	The	Themchen	Amdo
63. AT	TheHua	Themchen	Amdo
64. AT	Mkha	Mkharmar	Amdo
65. AT	ArTBL	Arik	Amdo
66. AT	Rka	Rkangtsha	Amdo
67. AT	Chab	Chabcha	Amdo
68. AT	BayHua	Bayan	Amdo
69. AT	La	Labrang	Amdo
70. AT	Rnga	Rngaba	Amdo
71. AT	Gol	Golok (Sertha)	Amdo

dialect group	abbr.	name	local area
72. AT	Shan	Shando	Amdo
73. AT	Pad	Padma	Amdo
74. AT	Ndzo	Ndzorge	Amdo
75. AT	Rma	Rmastod	Amdo
76. AT	Mdzo	Mdzorganrabar	Amdo

Abbreviations of the 76 Tibetan dialect varieties of the CDTD (arranged alphabetically)

abbrev.	name	dialect	group	area
1.	Am	Amdo	HT	Hor Nakchu
2.	ArTBL	Arik	AT	Amdo NE Qinghai
3.	Ba	Bathang	KT	Kham Sichuan
4.	Bach	Bachen	HT	Hor Nakchu
5.	Bal	Balti	WAT	Baltistan
6.	BaTBL	Bathang	KT	Kham Sichuan
7.	BayHua	Bayan	AT	Amdo E Qinghai
8.	Chab	Chabcha	AT	Amdo E Qinghai
9.	Chik	Chiktan	WAT	Purik Ladakh
10.	Da	Dartsedo	KT	Kham Sichuan
11.	Dar	Darket	WAT	Purik Ladakh
12.	De	Derge	KT	Kham Sichuan
13.	Dib	Dibling	WAT	Lower Ladakh
14.	Ding	Dingri	CT	Tsang
15.	Dzo	Dzongkha	ST	Bhutan
16.	Gar	Gar	CT	Ngari
17.	Ger	Gertse	HT	Ngari
18.	Gerg	Gergye	CT	Ngari
19.	Gol	Golok (Sertha)	AT	Amdo Sichuan
20.	Hanu	Hanu	WAT	Purik Ladakh
21.	Har	Hardas (Balti)	WAT	Purik Ladakh
22.	Hor	Hor	HT	Hor Nakchu
23.	Jir	Jirel	CT	NE Nepal
24.	Ka	Kardze	KT	Kham Sichuan
25.	Kag	Kagate	CT	Nepal
26.	Kar	Kargil	WAT	Purik Ladakh
27.	KarMZ	Kargil	WAT	Purik Ladakh

abbrev. name	dialect	group	area
28. Khal	Khalatse	WAT	Lower Ladakh
29. Kyir	Kyirong	CT	Tsang
30. La	Labrang	AT	Amdo Gansu
31. Lam	Lamayuru	WAT	Lower Ladakh
32. Leh	Leh	WAT	Central Ladakh
33. LhaQT	Lhasa	CT	Ü
34. Li	Lithang	KT	Kham Sichuan
35. Ling	Lingshet	WAT	Lower Ladakh
36. Mdzo	Mdzorganrabar	AT	Amdo SE Qinghai
37. Mkha	Mkharmar	AT	Amdo NE Qinghai
38. MM	Man-Merak	WIT	Changthang Ladakh
39. Mul	Mulbek	WAT	Purik Ladakh
40. Na	Nangchen	KT	Kham Qinghai
41. Nak	Nakchu	HT	Hor Nakchu
42. Nako	Nako	WIT	Kinnaur Himachal Pradesh
43. Nam	Namgya	WIT	Kinnaur Himachal Pradesh
44. Ndzo	Ndzorge	AT	Amdo Sichuan
45. Nes	Nesang	WIT	Kinnaur Himachal Pradesh
46. Nim	Nimu	WAT	Lower Ladakh
47. Nu	Nubri	CT	NW Nepal
48. Nub	Nubra	WAT	Nubra Ladakh
49. Nur	Nurla	WAT	Lower Ladakh
50. Pad	Padma	AT	Amdo E Qinghai
51. Par	Parkachik	WAT	Purik Ladakh
52. Pur	Purang	CT	Ngari
53. Rka	Rkangtsha	AT	Amdo NE Qinghai
54. Rma	Rmastod	AT	Amdo Sichuan
55. Rnga	Rngaba	AT	Amdo Sichuan
56. Ru	Ruthok	CT	Ngari
57. Sapi	Sapi	WAT	Purik Ladakh
58. Shan	Shando	AT	Amdo E Qinghai
59. Shar	Shargol	WAT	Purik Ladakh
60. Shi	Shigatse	CT	Tsang
61. SMu	Southern Mustang	CT	NW Nepal
62. Sod	Sod	WAT	Purik Ladakh
63. Tabo	Tabo	WIT	Spiti Himachal Pradesh
64. The	Themchen	AT	Amdo NE Qinghai
65. TheHua	Themchen	AT	Amdo NE Qinghai
66. Thol	Tholing	WIT	Ngari

abbrev. name	dialect	group	area
67. Thuw	Thuwina	WAT	Purik Ladakh
68. Trashi	Trashitongde	WIT	Zanskar Ladakh
69. Trang	Trangtse	WIT	Changthang Ladakh
70. Tsha	Tshangra	WAT	Purik Ladakh
71. Tsho	Tshochen	CT	Ngari
72. Tur	Turtuk (Balti)	WAT	Nubra Ladakh
73. Wan	Wanla	WAT	Lower Ladakh
74. WDro	Western Drokpas	CT	Tsang
75. Yol	Yolmo	CT	NC Nepal
76. ZkTP	Zanskar	WIT	Zanskar Ladakh

In two of these varieties, only nominal formations were collected. Consequently, they are lacking in the verb volume, viz. Dib(ling) in Lower Ladakh (WAT) and Nes(ang) in Kinnaur (WIT). Likewise, the four HT varieties of Hor, Nakchu, Amdo, and Bachen, are not found in the verb volume, but will be integrated into the noun volume. The data listed as “Bal” are usually from the variety of Skardu. When there are lemmata from Khaplu, they have been individually marked by the label “Khaplu”.

5 Tibetan dialects – Preliminary classification

In the preliminary classification of the Tibetan dialects presented below, linguistic and geographical criteria as well as native classification conceptions are used. Proceeding roughly from west to east, seven main groups are distinguished, viz. WAT, WIT, CT, ST, HT, KT, AT. Within each group, the geographical allocation of the varieties concerned is first given broadly in current political administrative terms. Then, the single varieties follow, further distinguished by subgrouping. The names of the included varieties refer to the names of the people who speak that variety, or to the places where the variety is spoken. Varieties are listed whenever we have reason to believe that they represent independent varieties based on oral or written information. Therefore, in some cases, sources for varieties are added in brackets. As a rule, these sources are not included in section 8. The present classification contains 141 varieties, but is not complete. Further varieties can be entered into the structural schema without difficulty. This schema represents the genetic affiliations between varieties but is still dominated by geographical criteria. The linguistic criteria are mainly based on sound change phenomena, but supplemented by morphological and syntactical criteria.

The abbreviations for the varieties are based on popularised forms. Official Chinese forms of the place names within the Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan are added in brackets.

Dialectal varieties integrated in the CDTD are marked bold.

P = Pakistan, I = India; (m) = area with Muslim, (b) = area with Buddhist, (m/b) or (b/m) = area with mixed population; s/o = south of, n/o = north of.

WAT **Western Archaic Tibetan**

Balti dialects (Pakistan, India)
Purik dialects (India)
Ladakhi dialects (India)

Western Balti dialects

Ron	Rondu (m) (P)
Skar	Skardu (m) (P) (contained in "Bal", see p. 37)
Shig	Shigar (m) (P)

Eastern Balti dialects

Khap	Khaplu (m) (P) (contained in "Bal", see p. 37)
Khar	Kharmang (m) (P)
Chor	Chorbat (m) (P)
Har	Hardas (m) (I)

Balti dialects of Nubra (Bogdang, Tsulungkha, Tyakhsi, Thang, Turtuk)

Tur	Turtuk (m) (I)

Western Purik dialects

Kar	Kargil (m)
Tsha	Tshangra (Suru valley) (m)
Par	Parkachik (Suru valley) (m)
Thuw	Thuwina (Kartse valley) (m)
Dar	Darket (m)
Sod	Sod (m)
Hanu	Hanu Gongma (b)
Chik	Chiktan (m)
Kuk	Kuksho (b/m)

Eastern Purik dialects

Sapi	Sapi (b/m)
Shar	Shargol (b)
Mul	Mulbek (b)
Wa	Wakha (b)
Khang	Khangral (m)
Hen	Henaskut (b)
Bot	Botkharbu (b)
Kan	Kandshi (b)

Ladakhi dialects of Lower Sham

Ach	Achinathang (b/m) (1st Sham village n/o Indus)
Ledo	Ledo (b)
Skju	Skjurbuchan (b)
Dom	Domkhar (b)
Tak	Takmachik (b) (1st Sham village s/o Indus)
Skin	Skindiang (b)
Lam	Lamayuru (b)

Wan Wanla (b)
Khal Khalatse (b)

Ladakhi dialects of Central Sham
Ling Lingshet (b)
Dib Dibling (b)
Nur Nurla

Ladakhi dialects of Upper Sham
Nimu Nimu

Ladakhi dialects of North Western Zhung
Leh Leh

Ladakhi dialects of Nubra
dialects of Nubra Sham (Lower Nubra)
dialects of Nubra Zhung (Central Nubra)
Nub Nubra Charasa
dialects of Nubra Yarma
dialects of Nubra Changthang or Stot (Upper Nubra)

Ladakhi dialects of Khardong
Kha Khardong
KhaRo Khardong-Rongdshuk

WIT **Western Innovative Tibetan**

Ladakhi dialects (India)
IBA = North West Indian Border Area dialects (India)
Ngari (Ali) dialects (Tibet Aut. Region: Ngari Area)

Ladakhi dialects of South Eastern Zhung
She She
Mar Markha
Thik Thikse

Ladakhi dialects of Zanskar and Rangdum
dialects of Zanskar Sham
Pi Pishu

dialects of Zanskar Stot
Man Manda (Hoshi)
Ab Abran

dialects of Rangdum (Zhuldo, Rangdum Gonpa, Trashitongde)
Trashi Trashitongde

dialects of Zanskar Zhung
Lhta Lhtara
Ruk Rukruk

dialects of Zanskar Lungnak

Ladakhi dialects of Stot (or Ken) and Indian Changthang
dialects of Stot
Igu Igu
Gya Gya

dialects of Changthang Lalok
Trang Trangtse
MM Man-Merak

dialects of Changthang Rupsho
Kharn Kharnak
Han Hanle

dialects of Changthang Churgyut
Lik Liktse
Him Himnya
Kyu Kyunggyam
Ngi Ngi

IBA dialects of Lahoul
Kol Kolong or Tod (Roerich, D.D.Sharma)
Khok Khoksar (Roerich)

IBA dialects of Spiti

Tabo Tabo

IBA dialects of Kinnaur: Nyamkat

Nako Nako
Nam Namgya (LSI, D.D.Sharma)
Poo Poo (Puh)
Nes Nesang

IBA dialects of Uttarakhand (Tehri Garhwal): Jad dialect or Rangba kät

Nil Nilang (LSI, D.D.Sharma) or Rangba kät (Zoller)
Jad Jadthang

Ngari dialects of Tsanda (Zhada)

Thol Tholing (Tuolin) or Tsanda (Zhada) (Qu/Tan 1983)

CT Central Tibetan

Ngari (Ali) dialects (Tibet Aut. Region: Ngari Area)
NBA = Northern Nepalese Border Area dialects (Nepal)
Tsang dialects (Tibet Aut. Region: Shigatse Area)
Ü dialects (Tibet Aut. Region: Lhoka Area, Lhasa municipality)

Ngari dialects of Ruthog (Ritu)

Ru Ruthok (Qu/Tan 1983)

Ngari dialects of Gar (Ga'er)

Gar Gar (Qu/Tan 1983)

Ngari dialects of Gergye (Gejie)

Gerg Gergye or Naphuk (Qu/Tan 1983)

Ngari dialects of Purang (Pulan)

Pur Purang (Qu/Tan 1983)

NBA dialects of Western Nepal

Limi	Limirong (Jest, Levine)
Mugu	Mugu(m) (and Karmarong?) (Jest)
Dol	Dolpo (Jest)
Nu	Nubri (Kretschmar, ms.), subdialects of Trok (T) and Rö (R)
SMu	Southern Mustang (Kretschmar 1995)
NMu	Northern Mustang or Lo (Nagano)

Tsang dialects of Drongba (Zhongba)

WDro	Western Drokpa (Kretschmar 1986)

Ngari dialects of Tshochen (Cuoqin)

Tsho	Tshochen or Mendong Gompa (Qu/Tan 1983)

Tsang dialects of Kyirong

Kyir	Kyirong-Lende

NBA dialects of Eastern Nepal

Tsum	Tsum
Lang	Langtang
Yol	Yolmo or Helambu Sherpa (Hari/Chhegu Lama 2004)
Kag	Kagate (Hari/Hoehlig, ms.)
Jir	Jirel (Strahm/Maibaum 2005, etc.)
Sher	Sherpa (SIL)
Khum	Khumbo (Diemberger)

Tsang dialects (Töke)

Nyal	Nyalam or Nyenam (Qu: Sharpa) (Nielamu)
Ding	Dingri (Dingri) (Herrmann 1989)
Shek	Shekar (Xiega)
Ting	Tingkye (Dingjie)

NBA dialects of Eastern Nepal

Lhomi	Lhomi (SIL)
Hal	Halung or Wal(l)ung (Jest)
TG	Tokpe Gola (Caplow)

Tsang dialects

Shi	Shigatse town (Xigazê)

Ü dialects

Lha	Lhasa (Lasa) (ZMYYC, TBL, QT, Chang/Shefts 1964, etc.)
Dri	Drigung (Zhigong)
Lho	Lhoka (Shannan)
Kong	Kongbo (Gongbu)

ST **Southern Tibetan**

dialects of Sikkim (Sikkim/India)
Tsang dialects (Tibet Aut. Region: Shigatse Area)
dialects of Bhutan (Bhutan)

dialects of Sikkim

Dre	Drenjongke (Sikkim) (Sandberg 1895)

Tsang dialects

Tro	Tromowa (Yadong, Zhuomu) in the Chumbi valley (Walsh 1905)

dialects of Bhutan

Cho	Chocangacakha (NW Bhutan) (van Driem, Michailovsky, Imaeda/Pommaret)
Dzo	Dzongkha (Bhutan) (van Driem, Mazaudon, Michailovsky, Imaeda/Pommaret)

HT **Hor Tibetan**

Ngari dialects (Gertse)
dialects of Hor in Nakchu Area (Tibet Aut. Region)

Ngari dialects of Gertse (Gaize)

Ger	Gertse or Lumaringbo (Qu/Tan 1983)

dialects of Hor in Nakchu Area

Am	Amdo of Hor (Tournadre)
Bach	Bachen of Hor (Tournadre)
Hor	Hor of Hor (Tournadre)
Nak	Nakchu of Hor (Naqu) (Tournadre)

KT **Kham Tibetan**

Kham dialects of Southern Qinghai Province
Kham dialects of Chamdo Area (Tibet Aut. Region)
Kham dialects of Sichuan Province
Kham dialects of Yunnan Province

dialects of Southern Qinghai

Na	Nangchen (Niangqian) (Causemann 1989)

dialects of Chamdo Area

Cham	Chamdo (Changdu) (Jin Peng 1958)
Dag	Dagyab (Chaya) (Schwieger 1989)

dialects of Sichuan

De	Derge (Dege)
Ka	Kardze (Ganzi)
Nya	Nyarong (Xinlong) (Weidert)
Ba	Bathang (Batang)
Li	Lithang (Litang)
Da	Dartsedo (Kangding)

dialects of Southern Sichuan

Mi	Mili or Kami (Muli)

dialects of Northern Yunnan

Rgya	Rgyalthang (Zhongdian) (Hongladarom 1996, Wang Xiaosong 1996)

AT **Amdo Tibetan**

Amdo dialects of Qinghai Province
Amdo dialects of Gansu Province
Amdo dialects of Sichuan Province

CAN **Conservative Amdo Nomad dialects**

dialects of North Eastern Qinghai

The	Themchen (Tianjun)
Mkha	Mkharmar (Qilian)
Rka	Rkangtsha (Gangcha)
Arik	Arik (Alike) (TBL)

dialects of Eastern Qinghai

Chab	Chabcha (Gonghe)
Rtse	Rtsekhog (Zeku) (ZMYYC)
Reb	Rebkong (Tongren) (Roerich 1958)

dialects of Southern Gansu

La	Rgangya near Labrang (Ganjia near Xiahe)

dialects of Northern Sichuan

Rmag	Rmagsar (Prins, ms.)
Rnga	Rngaba (Aba)
Ser	Sertha/Golok (Seda)

CAF **Conservative Amdo Farmer dialects**

dialects of Eastern Qinghai

Hua	Huang-chung-hsien (Nishida 1970)
Shan	Shando (Shagou/Guinan)

dialects of South Eastern Qinghai (Golok prefecture)
Pad Padma (Banma)

IAN **Innovative Amdo Nomad dialects**

dialects of Northern Sichuan
Ndzo Ndzorge (Ruo'ergai) (Sun 1986)

IAF **Innovative Amdo Farmer dialects**

dialects of Southern Gansu
Bai Baima (Zhang Jichuan 1994)
Thewo Thewo (Tournadre)
ASher Amdo Sherpa (Nagano 1980)

dialects of South Eastern Qinghai (Golok prefecture)
Rma Rmastod (Maduo)
Mdzo Mdzorganrabar (Huashixia)

6 Tibetan Dialects – Phonemic systems

The phonemic systems given below cover the dialects integrated into the CDTD. Varieties with identical systems are presented together. Varieties for which not enough material has been collected to set up a separate phonemic system are transcribed according to the presumably closest neighbouring system, as mentioned in the notes below these systems.

Skardu (Western Balti)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tʃ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tʃʰ*
vd.					*dʒ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ʃ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʒ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*u*
e	*o*
a	

x and *ɣ* are postvelar; *pʰ* is often realised as *[ɸ]* or *[f]*; *ʈ*, *ʈʰ*, *ɖ*, *ɽ*, *dʒ* occur mainly in loans; *ʂ* initially before vowels is rare; *ʐ* is rare (few speakers, in some loans); *ɲ* occurs only in Balti varieties outside of Skardu, mainly in Rondu (and also in Khaplu, cf. next page).

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ		k	q	
ʈʰ		kʰ		
ɖ		g		
ʈʂ				
ʈʂʰ				
ɖʐ				
ʂ		x		h
ʐ		ɣ		
		ŋ		
ɾ				
	j			

Khaplu (Eastern Balti), Kargil, Tshangra, Chiktan (Western Purik)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tʃ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tʃʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʒ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ʃ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʒ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*u*
e	*o*
a	

x and *ɣ* are postvelar; *ʈ, ʈʰ, ɖ, ɽ, ɖʒ* occur mainly in loans; *ʂ* initially before vowels is rare; *r* following *pʰ* may occasionally become devoiced.

This phonemic system is also valid for the data of the Eastern Balti speaking villages of Hardas (Ladakh, India) and Turtuk (Nubra, India). The system is also

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ		k	q	
ʈʰ		kʰ		
ɖ		g		
ʂ		x		h
		ɣ		
	ɲ	ŋ		
ɾ				
	j			

valid for data of the Western Purik speaking villages of Thuwina, Darket, Sod and Hanu in Ladakh, India.

Sapi, Mulbek (Eastern Purik), Wanla, Khalatse, Nurla (Ladakh Sham)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tʃ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tʃʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʒ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ʃ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʒ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*u*
e	*o*
a	

Final *k* after *o* and *a* is postvelar; *x* and *ɣ* are rare, mainly in loans, but note Sapi and Khalatse *ɣa* 'five'; especially in Sapi and Wanla the retroflex stops may occasionally become slightly affricated. In the Purik varieties, *r* following *pʰ* may occasionally become devoiced.

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ		*k*		
ʈʰ		*kʰ*		
ɖ		*g*		
ʂ		*x*		*h*
		ɣ		
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

This phonemic system is also valid for the data of the Eastern Purik speaking village of Shargol in Ladakh, India. The system is also valid for data of the Lower Ladakhi speaking villages of Lamayuru, Lingshet, Dibling and Nimu in Ladakh, India.

Leh (Ladakh Zhung), Nubra (Zhung)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tʃ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tʃʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʒ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ʃ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʒ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*u*
e	*o*
a	

Final *k* after *o* and *a* is postvelar. *ɣ* is rare in Nubra-Zhung, occurring only in words of unclear origin.

With a few modifications, this phonemic system is also valid for the data of the village Trashitongde in Rangdum near Zanskar in Ladakh and for the villages of Trangtse and Man-Merak in the Indian part of Changthang in Ladakh.

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ		k		
ʈʰ		kʰ		
ɖ		g		
ʂ				h
		ɣ		
	ɲ	ŋ		
	j			

Perhaps this system is also valid for the variety of She, southeast of Leh. But no data from this speech community have been integrated into the CDTD so far.

She possibly shows features of Upper Ladakh and Zanskar: e.g. *ɸ* in *luɸo* ‘wind’, *tʰikɸa* ‘drop’.

Due to lack of suitable material, the consonant phonemes of the varieties of Upper Ladakh are unclear. For Trangtse and Man-Merak *q* has to be added. It remains to be verified whether the speakers use *ʈ* etc. or *ʈʂ* etc.

Tabo (Spiti)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p*^{h}			*t*^{h}	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts*^{h}	*tɕ*^{h}
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.					
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*		*u*	*i:* *y:*	*u:*
e	*ø*		*o*	*e:* *ø:*	*o:*
		a		*a*:	

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*
This phonemic system is also valid for the data of the villages of Nako, Namgya and Nesang in Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh, India.

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ	c	k		
ʈʰ	cʰ	kʰ		
ɖ	ɟ	g		
ʂ				h
	ɲ	ŋ		
	j			

Tholing or Tsanda (rtsa mda'; Zhada) (Ngari)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p^h*			*t^h*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts^h*	*tɕ^h*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*i:*	*u:*		
e	*ø*	*o*	*e:*	*o:*	*ẽ:*	*õ:*
ɛ					*ɛ̃:*	
	a		*a:*		*ã:*	

diphthong sequences: *ia, iu, ao, au, oa, ua*
nasalised diphthong sequences: *iã, iõ, eõ, aũ, oã, uã*
2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā, a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʦ	*c*	*k*		*(ʔ)*
ʦʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʣ	*ɟ*	*g*		
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Ruthok (ru thog; Ritu) (Ngari)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p*^{h}			*t*^{h}	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts*^{h}	*tɕ*^{h}
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*	*ĩ:*	*ỹ:*		
e	*ø*	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*	*ẽ:*	*ø̃:*		*õ:*
ɛ			*ɛ:*			*ɛ̃:*			
	a			*a:*			*ã:*		

diphthong sequences: *ia, iu, ao, au, oa, ua*
nasalised diphthong sequences: *ɛĩ, aũ, uã*
2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā, a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʦ	*c*	*k*		*(ʔ)*
ʦʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Gar (Dzong) (sgar; Ga'er) (Ngari)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p^h*			*t^h*	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts^h*	*$tɕ^h$*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*	*ĩ:*	*ỹ:*	*ũ:*
e	*ø*	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*	*ẽ:*	*ø̃:*	*õ:*
ɛ			*ɛ:*			*ɛ̃:*		
	a			*a:*			*ã:*	

diphthong sequences: *ia, iu, ea, ao, au, oa, ua; ou, iə*
nasalised diphthong sequences: *iã, iõ, eã, eõ, ɛĩ, aõ, aũ, oã, uã*
2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā, a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʦ	*c*	*k*		*(ʔ)*
ʦʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Gergye or Naphuk (dge rgyas; Gejie) (Ngari)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*			*u*		*i:*	*y:*		*u:*				
e	*ø*			*o*		*e:*	*ø:*		*o:*				*õ:*
ɛ		*ɤ*											
		a						*a:*					

Instead of **ɵ** the symbol *ɤ* is used.
diphthong sequences: *ia, iu, ea, au, oa*
nasalised diphthong sequences: *iũ, eõ, aũ*
2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā, a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʦ	*c*	*k*		*(ʔ)*
ʦʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Purang (spu hreṅ, pu hraṅ; Pulan) (Ngari)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p^h*			*t^h*	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts^h*	*tɕ^h*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*		*u*		*i:*	*y:*		*u:*						
e	*ø*		*o*		*e:*	*ø:*		*o:*						*õ:*
ɛ					*ɛ:*									
		a					*a:*					*ã:*		

diphthong sequences: *ia, iu, ea, ao, au, oa, uɛ, ua*
nasalised diphthong sequences: *iã, iõ, eã, eõ, aũ, oã, uã*
2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā, a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʦ	*c*	*k*		*(ʔ)*
ʦʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Nubri (Nepal)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.				*nʰ*	
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*
e	*ø*	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*
ɛ			*ɛ:*		
	a			*a:*	

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ	*c*	*k*		*ʔ*
ʈʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʂ				*h*
	ɲʰ	*ŋʰ*		
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Southern Mustang (Nepal)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tʃ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tʃʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʒ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ʃ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.	*mʰ*				
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i *y* *u*
e *ø* *o*

a

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ	c	k		
ʈʰ	cʰ	kʰ		
ɖ	ɟ	g		
ʂ				h
	ɲ	ŋ		
	j			

Western Drokpa (Tsang)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p^h*			*t^h*	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts^h*	*tɕ^h*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.	*m^h*				
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*
e	*ø*	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*
ɛ			*ɛ:*		
	a			*a:*	

4 tonemes: high vs. low register tone and level vs. falling contour tone, e.g.: *ā, a̱, à, à̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ *ʈʰ*	*c* *cʰ*	*k* *kʰ*		*ʔ*
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Tshochen or Mendong Gompa (mtsho chen; Cuoqin) (Ngari)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p*^{h}			*t*^{h}	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts*^{h}	*tɕ*^{h}
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*	*ĩ:*	*ỹ:*		
e	*ø*	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*				*õ:*
ɛ			*ɛ:*						
	a			*a:*				*ã:*	

diphthong sequences: *ia, iu, au, oa*
nasalised diphthong sequences: *iã, iũ, aũ, oã*
2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā, a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʦ	*c*	*k*		*(ʔ)*
ʦʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Kyirong (Lende) (Tsang)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*iː*	*yː*	*uː*	*ĩː*	*ỹː*	*ũː*
e	*ø*	*o*	*eː*	*øː*	*oː*	*ẽː*	*øː*	*õː*
ɛ			*ɛː*			*ɛ̃ː*		
	a			*aː*			*ãː*	

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ	*c*	*k*		*ʔ*
ʈʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ɖ	*ɟ*	*g*		
				h
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Jirel (Nepal)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p*^{h}			*t*^{h}	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts*^{h}	*tɕ*^{h}
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*u*	*ĩ*	*ũ*
e	*o*		
a	*a*	*ã*	

On the phonemic status of nasal vowels, vowel length and *a* see Strahm/Maibaum 2005: 857-9.
4 tonemes: high vs. low register tone and level vs. falling contour tone, e.g.:
ā, a̲, à, à̲

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ	*c*	*k*		
ʈʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ɖ	*ɟ*	*g*		
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Dingri (Tsang)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p^h*			*t^h*	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts^h*	*tɕ^h*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.	*m^h*				
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*
e	*ø*	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*
ɛ			*ɛ:*		
	a			*a:*	

4 tonemes: high vs. low register tone and level vs. falling contour tone, e.g.: *ā, a̱, à, à̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ *ʈʰ*	*c* *cʰ*	*k* *kʰ*		
				h
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Shigatse (Tsang)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*	*ĩ:*	*ỹ:*	*ũ:*
e	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*	*ẽ:*	*ø̃:*	*õ:*
a		*a:*			*ã:*		

As second members of a sequence of two vowels nasalised vowels are noted as short vowels.
4 tonemes: high vs. low register tone and level vs. falling contour tone, e.g.:
ā, a̲, à, à̲

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
	c *c*^{h}	*k* *k*^{h}		
ʈʂ *ʈʂ*^{h}				
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Lhasa (QT) (lha sa; Lhasa) (Ü)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p^h*			*t^h*	
vd.					
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts^h*	*tɕ^h*
vd.					
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.					
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*	*ĩ(:)*	*ỹ(:)*	*ũ(:)*
e	*ø*	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*	*ẽ(:)*	*ø̃(:)*	*õ(:)*
ɛ		*ɔ*	*ɛ:*			*ɛ̃(:)*		
	a			*a:*			*ã(:)*	

diphthong sequences: *iu, au*
no nasalised diphthong sequences
Nasalised vowels occur as long and as short vowels.
2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā, a̲*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʦ	*c*	*k*		*(ʔ)*
ʦʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʂ	*ç*			*h*
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Dzongkha (Bhutan)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*u*	*i:*	*y:*	*u:*
e	*o*	*e:*	*ø:*	*o:*
		ɛ:		
a			*a:*	

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ		k		
ʈʰ		kʰ		
ɖ		g		
ʂ				h
	ɲ	ŋ		
	j			

High tone on the second syllable is only marked if the first syllable has low tone. If the first syllable has high tone, the high tone on the second syllable is not marked. Second syllables without tone are not marked either.

Gertse or Lumaringbo (sger rtse; Gaize) (Ngari)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.					
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.					
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*						*iː*	*yː*						*ỹː*	
ɨ			*u*				*ɨː*			*uː*					*ũː*
e		*ə*		*o*			*eː*						*ẽː*		*õː*
		ɤ									*ɔː*				
		a							*aː*						

Instead of **ɵ** the symbol *ɤ* is used. Instead of **ɪ** the symbol *ɨ* is used. Instead of **ʊ** the symbol *u* is used.
diphthong sequences: *iu, ai, au, oi, oa*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʦ	*c*	*k*		*(ʔ)*
ʦʰ	*cʰ*	*kʰ*		
ʣ	*ɟ*	*g*		
ʂ	*ç*			*h*
	ɲʰ			
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

no nasalised diphthong sequences
2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̲*
Due to the scarcity of data no phonemic systems could be established for the varieties of the villages of Amdo, Bachen and Nakchu of Hor, north and north-east of Lhasa.

Nangchen (Kham)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p^h*			*t^h*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts^h*	*tɕ^h*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.				*s^h*	*ɕ^h*
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.	*m^h*			*n^h*	
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.					
Flap				*r*	
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*		*u*	*i:*		
e	*ø*	*ɨ*	*o*	*e:*	*o:*	
ɛ	*ɛi*		*ɔ*			
		a			*a:*	

Phonemic breathy voice is represented by low register. The marginal voiceless single flap is represented by *ʂ*.
The phonemic sequences /an, in, en, un, on/ are phonetically realised as [*ã:, ĩ:, ẽ:, ũ:, õ:*], cf. Causemann 1989: 36.

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
ʈ		k		ʔ
ʈʰ		kʰ		
ɖ		g		
ʂ				h
	ɲʰ	ŋʰ		
	ɲ	ŋ		
	j			

Derge (Kham)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.				*sʰ*	*ɕʰ*
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.	*mʰ*			*nʰ*	
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i		*u*		*iː*		*uː*		*ĩː*				*ũː*
e		*o*		*eː*		*oː*		*ẽː*				*õː*
	ə				*əː*					*ə̃ː*		
ɛ				*ɛː*				*ɛ̃ː*				
	a	*a*			*aː*	*aː*			*ãː*		*ãː*	

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
		k *k*^{h} *g*		*ʔ*
ʦ *ʦ*^{h} *ʣ*				
ʂ		*x* *x*^{h} *ɣ*		*h*
	ɲ^{h} *ɲ*	*ŋ*^{h} *ŋ*		
	j			

Kardze (Kham)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.				*sʰ*	*ɕʰ*
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.	*mʰ*			*nʰ*	
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i		*y*				*u*		*iː*		*yː*			*uː*		*ĩː*		*ỹː*			*ũː*
e						*o*		*eː*		*øː*			*oː*		*ẽː*					*õː*
			ə								*əː*								*ə̃ː*	
ɛ								*ɛː*							*ɛ̃ː*					
		a		*a*						*aː*			*aː*				*ã́ː*			*ãː*

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
		k		*ʔ*
		kʰ		
		g		
ʈs				
ʈsʰ				
ɖz				
ʂ				*h*
		ɣ		
	ɲʰ	*ŋʰ*		
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

Bathang (Kham)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*p^h*			*t^h*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*ts^h*	*tɕ^h*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.				*s^h*	*ɕ^h*
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.	*m^h*			*n^h*	
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*		*u*	*i:*	*y:*		*u:*	*ĩ:*	*ỹ:*		*ũ:*
e	*ø*		*o*	*e:*	*ø:*		*o:*	*ẽ:*	*ø̃:*		*õ:*
ɛ				*ɛ:*							
		a	*a*			*a:*	*a:*			*ã:*	*ã:*

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
		k		*ʔ*
		kʰ		
		g		
ʦ				
ʦʰ				
ʣ				
ʂ		*x*		*h*
		xʰ		
		ɣ		
	ɲʰ	*ŋʰ*		
	ɲ	*ŋ*		
	j			

The data of Bathang TBL (BaTBL) are transcribed according to this phonemic system as well. For the inventory cf. TBL, p. 631-2. Instead of *ʂ* it gives *ʂʰ*, but there is only one example. It also gives *ʐ*, which is again very rare but does occur, *cf. ʐa* 'goat'.

The vowel inventory contains no *ã:*. Phonemic tone 55 is transcribed as high - level - long, tone 53 as high - level - short, tone 13 as low - level - long, tone 35 as low - level - short.

Lithang (Kham)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.				*sʰ*	*ɕʰ*
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.	*mʰ*			*nʰ*	
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i		*y*				*u*		*iː*		*yː*				*uː*		*ĩː*		*ỹː*				*ũː*
e		*ø*				*o*		*eː*		*øː*				*oː*		*ẽː*		*øː*				*õː*
				ə								*əː*								*əː*		
ɛ								*ɛː*														
			a			*a*					*aː*			*aː*					*ãː*			*ãː*

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
		k *k*^{h} *g*		*ʔ*
ʈs *ʈs*^{h} *ɖz*				
ʂ		*x* *x*^{h} *ɣ*		*h*
	ɲ^{h} *ɲ*	*ŋ*^{h} *ŋ*		
	j			

Dartsedo (Kham)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.				*s*	*ɕ*
asp.				*sʰ*	*ɕʰ*
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.	*mʰ*			*nʰ*	
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i	*y*		*u*	*i:*	*y:*		*u:*	*ĩ:*	*ỹ:*		*ũ:*
e	*ø*		*o*	*e:*	*ø:*		*o:*	*ẽ:*	*ø̃:*		*õ:*
		ə				*ə:*				*ə̃:*	
	a				*a:*		*a:*		*ã:*		*ã:*

2 tonemes: high vs. low register tone, e.g.: *ā*, *a̱*

Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
		k *k*^{h} *g*		*ʔ*
ʈs *ʈs*^{h} *ɖz*				
ʂ				*h*
	ɲ^{h} *ɲ*	*ŋ*^{h} *ŋ*		
	j			

Themchen (Amdo)

consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolopalatal
Plosive					
vl.	*p*			*t*	
asp.	*pʰ*			*tʰ*	
vd.	*b*			*d*	
Affricate					
vl.				*ts*	*tɕ*
asp.				*tsʰ*	*tɕʰ*
vd.				*dz*	*dʑ*
Fricative					
vl.	*ɸ*			*s*	*ɕ*
asp.				*sʰ*	
vd.				*z*	*ʑ*
Nasal					
vl.	*mʰ*			*nʰ*	
vd.	*m*			*n*	
Lateral					
vl.				*ɬ*	
vd.				*l*	
Trill					
vd.				*r*	
Flap					
vd.					
Approximant					
vd.	*w*				

vowel phonemes

i *u*

e *o*

ə

a