Zangyu Yanjiu Wenlun 藏语研究文论(Collected Articles on Tibetan Language Study) by HU Tan 胡坦. Beijing: China Tibetology Press, 2002. 743 pages.

WANG Chaowanli
University of Pittsburgh, USA
LI Yongbin
Huanghuai College, China

I

In China today, Hu Tan is regarded as the most acknowledged and authoritative master in the Tibetan language research field. He devotes himself to combining contemporary linguistics theory with Chinese language reality, actively uses modernized methods, and achieves outstanding success in linguistics and the Tibetan language studies. As the first scholar who has systematically and deeply studied Tibetan language after new China was founded, Hu Tan's typical and influential academy achievements are mainly manifested in the field of contrast on the tone of Tibetan language, Tibetan pronunciation history, Tibetan vocabulary, Tibetan grammar, and etc. Since the 1980s, he has presented many articles at the International Conferences of Sino-Tibetan Languages, which has drawn strong responses and been successively translated and published in foreign languages.

In 2002, on the invitation of China Tibetology Press, Hu Tan selected and compiled his important articles into a collection titled *Zangyu Yanjiu Wenlun* 藏语研究文论(*Collected Articles on Tibetan Language Study*) for publication, which actually contains his most important works in Tibetan language research and has great academic value.

II

The *Zangyu Yanjiu Wenlun* consists of four parts: I. general theory, II. pronunciation, III. vocabulary, and IV. grammar.

In part I, "Tonglun"(通论 general theory), there are mainly articles on Tibetan language, Tibetan writing, the present status and future development of Tibetan language, and critical reviews on foreign studies on Tibetan grammar as well. In section 1 titled "Zangyu"(藏语,Tibetan language), the author briefly discusses the Tibetan people, general situation of Tibetan language, the creation of Tibetan writing and the establishment of the written Tibetan, and systematically studies the structure and characteristics of written Tibetan language, the historical division of the ancient Tibetan language, ancient Tibetan phonology, the characteristics of ancient Tibetan grammar, the division of modern Tibetan dialect, the pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar systems of the various Tibetan dialects in Dbus-Gtsang and Khams and Amdo, and the common tendency of Tibetan language development.

In section 2 titled "Zang Yuwen Yanjiu"(藏语文研究，Studies on Tibetan Language and Writing), Hu Tan makes a general introduction to the situations of the traditional Tibetan language studies, modern linguistics and Tibetan language, Tibetan language and its application since 1949, etc.

In section 3 titled "Zangzu Yuyan Wenzi de Xianzhuang yu Zhanwang"(藏族语言文字的现状与展望, the present situation and prospect of Tibetan language), the author mainly discusses the situation of the Tibetan language use covering the following items such as population, fields, literacy, publications, modern communication means, modern vocabulary and the foreign Tibetan language learners, etc. This section also analyzes the consistency of spoken and written Tibetan language, dialects and common language, new words and terms, orthography specification, bilingual education, etc.

In the end, section 4 titled "Guowai Zangyu Yufa Yanjiu Shuping"（国外藏语语法研究述评, the Critical Reviews on Foreign Studies on Tibetan Grammar) mainly summarizes the several aspects of foreign colleagues' achievements on the case marking system, verb characteristics and word order.

In Part II, "Yuyin" (语音, Pronunciation) consisted of five papers including the "Studies on the Tones of Tibetan Language (Lhasa Dialect)", the author mainly studies on the following problems: the tone category and tone pitch, the relationship between tone and simple or compound vowels, the relationship

between Tibetan tone and the initial consonant, Tibetan continuous modulation, and the tonal origin. This part holds that there was no tone in the ancient Tibetan language. Lhasa dialect belongs to Dbus-gtsang dialect, and its tone can be divided into two types, high and low. There are different opinions on tone position. Continuous modulation of Lhasa dialect is very common, and its tone belongs to the later phenomenon; the comparison between tonal Tibetan language and non-tone Tibetan language is mainly made from the perspectives of pronunciation divergence, vocabulary and grammar differences. The types of Tibetan phonetics mainly include three aspects, the variations and origination of tone quality phonemes, non-tone quality phonemes, and irregular morphemes phonetics changes. The discussion on the looming of Tibetan language's tail vowel mainly includes modern Lhasa Tibetan language's consonants tail, dominant tail vowel and looming tail vowel, common examples, conditions of dominant and looming tail vowel and its relative appearances and origins. The simple analysis of rules and exceptions mainly involves irregular pronunciation and asymmetric distribution, etc.

Part III "Cihui"(词汇, Vocabulary) is consisted of 7 papers. Hu Tan successively studies the following problems, 1) Tibetan vdod rgyal gyi miq and rges grub kyi miq name's concepts, characteristics, origin and development and its close relationship with cultural studies; 2) the characteristics of Tibetan language's parataxis compound words, such as its increasing in number, is common in languages of Sino-Tibetan system, relating with syllable tiding and structure symmetry; 3) Tibetan word denoting time is mainly on word of spatial and orientation, name of specific objects, word of spatial moving, and more words of spatial are transformed from words of meanings of spatial and visual. This part also includes other important discussions, such as, relations and the creasing of Tibetan scientific and technical words, issues of creating and standardizing of Tibetan technical terms, the characteristics of Tibetan transliterating terms from the perspective of chemical elements' naming of written Tibetan language, morpheme variation and pronouncing variation.

In Part IV, "Yufa"(语法 Grammar), the verb-sentence patterns of Lhasa dialect has been analyzed based on the predicate verbs and divided into three directions of one-way, two-way and three-way. The discussion on Tibetan language comparative sentences was organized into complicated type and simplified type, overt and covert comparison, one-way and two-way and many-way comparison, the comparison of similarities and differences, the comparison of the high and low, and comparison on people and things and objects. The study on the normalization of Tibetan language verbs mainly focuses on the differences between Tibetan