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# MEDIEVAL TIBETO-BURMAN LANGUAGES

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EDITED BY

CHRISTOPHER I. BECKWITH



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THE OLD ZHANGZHUNG MANUSCRIPT STEIN OR 8212/ 188

TSUGUHITO TAKEUCHI (KOBE CITY UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES)

## INTRODUCTION

In addition to the Old Tibetan texts found in the Dunhuang cave, there are a considerable number of texts in non-Tibetan languages written in Tibetan script. They include phonetic transcriptions of Chinese, Sanskrit, Uighur, Khotanese, and Tangut. In addition, there exist a number of unidentified or only partly identified texts.<sup>1</sup> Their identification is difficult because the languages written in these texts seem to have become extinct without leaving any comparable records in other scripts.

F.W. Thomas studied one of these languages, which he called 'Nam', and published a manuscript in Nam from the Stein Collection (Thomas 1948). According to Thomas, Nam belongs to the Tibeto-Burman language group. Another language identified and studied by Thomas is Zhangzhung, though he published only part of the texts and results of his research (Thomas 1926, 1933, 1967), leaving the task of more detailed research as well as decipherment of these texts to the future.

In two consecutive research projects on Bon studies (1997-1999 and 2000-2002) headed by Professor Yasuhiko Nagano of the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, I was put in charge of the Zhangzhung texts, in collaboration with Professor Nagano and Dr. Sumie Ueda, an expert in computers and statistics, who did computer analyses of the data.

The purpose of our research is to decipher the texts—the oldest written records of what may be the Zhangzhung language—and reconstruct the linguistic forms behind them in comparison both with the Zhangzhung language corpus found in later texts as well as with other Tibeto-Burman languages. So far we have databased the major

<sup>1</sup> Pelliot tibétain 1242, 1243, 1246, 1248, 1250 (the same language as 1243), and 1255 (the same language as 1242). The Berlin Collection also contains one text in an unknown language written in Tibetan script, though the text is from Turfan, not Dunhuang (Francke 1927).

texts and made a preliminary analysis of the linguistic constructions, including phonological, morphological, and syntactic structures. A preliminary report on our research was presented at the international symposium, "New Horizons in Bon Studies," held in 1999 at the National Museum of Ethnology, in Osaka. I read a second report at the 9th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies held at Leiden in 2000. The two reports were combined and published in a paper (Takeuchi, Nagano, and Ueda 2001) that outlines our research and results up to 2000.

In this paper I wish to focus on one unpublished Zhangzhung manuscript, Stein Or 8212/ 188, and present a transliterated text to serve as data for further analysis.

#### I. WHAT IS ZHANGZHUNG?

Before going into the text at hand, let us briefly explain what Zhangzhung is, and look at the materials regarding Zhangzhung.

Zhangzhung is an extinct Tibeto-Burman language once spoken in the powerful kingdom of Zhangzhung in western Tibet. The kingdom was conquered and incorporated into the expanding Tibetan Empire in the seventh century A.D. Subsequently, the Zhangzhung people were gradually assimilated by the Tibetans; their language was eventually replaced by Tibetan and died out. Other than a few personal names scattered in Old Tibetan texts, the Dunhuang texts with which we are concerned are the only contemporaneous written records of Zhangzhung which have come down to us from the time the language was still apparently alive.

However, the Zhangzhung language did not vanish completely. Its tradition seems to have been maintained for a long time by Bonpo priests, for whom it was their sacred written language. In the 1960s, Tibetan Bonpo scholars published a Tibetan-Zhangzhung dictionary, and a bilingual text in Tibetan and Zhangzhung, the *Mdzod-phug*. Although the *Mdzod-phug* is ascribed to an eighth century Bonpo scholar, the text seems to have been written later, and the language described is significantly different from that found in the Zhangzhung manuscripts from Dunhuang. We therefore call it 'New Zhangzhung' in contrast to the 'Old Zhangzhung' language of the Dunhuang texts.

A comparison of Old Zhangzhung and New Zhangzhung reveals that the difference between the two is greater than can be explained as a result of natural historical change. In other words, New Zhangzhung is likely to have developed as a result of Tibetan Bonpos combining their knowledge of Old Zhangzhung with that of Tibetan and Sanskrit (Takeuchi, Nagano, and Ueda 2001: 56-57). Thus, although New Zhangzhung provides important information for the decipherment of Old Zhangzhung, especially the identification of lexical items, we need to formally analyze the Old Zhangzhung data first.

#### II. SOURCES

Three manuscripts in Tibetan script were previously identified as (or alleged to be in) the Zhangzhung language. Here we call them OZ (= Old Zhangzhung Texts) 1, 2 and 3. OZ 1 and OZ 2 are in the Stein Collection, now preserved in the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library. OZ 3 is in the Pelliot Collection at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

In 1999, while examining manuscripts bearing unknown languages in Tibetan script at the Bibliothèque Nationale, I found two more manuscripts that appear to belong to the same linguistic corpus. We will call them OZ 4 and OZ 5.

Thus we have five Old Zhangzhung texts, all of which were found in the famous Dunhuang cave. They are written on the backs of scrolls with Chinese Buddhist texts on the other side. All of them seem to be medical texts. In spite of these common features, they are apparently different texts—in other words, they are not pieces of the same text.

The basic palaeographical features and approximate size of each text are given below. OZ 1 and OZ 2 contain a similar amount of text. OZ 3 is the most extensive. OZ 4 and OZ 5 are much smaller. Due to its size, OZ 3 is the only one that has not yet been databased. Although palaeographical evidence indicates that the Zhangzhung texts were written after the Chinese texts, the Zhangzhung sides are designated as *recto* in the following descriptions.

##### 1. OZ 1: VP 755 (Ch. Fragment 43)

This text is catalogued by de la Vallée Poussin under the catalogue number 755. It bears the site number Ch. (= Ch'ien-fo-tung) Frag-

ment 43. The text is written on the back side of a scroll which has a Chinese vinaya text on the other side. It lacks the beginning due to paper damage. The remaining part measures 187 x 25 cm and contains 126 lines, in which we count 578 different syllables, for a total of about 2,000 syllables.

A transliterated text of OZ 1 was published by F.W. Thomas (1967). I checked his transliteration against the original manuscript and revised the reading, then databased it.

#### 2. OZ 2: Or 8212 / 188

F.W. Thomas also made an unpublished transliteration of OZ 2, which was found among his unpublished drafts preserved in the Collection of European Manuscripts of the Oriental and India Office Collections. In 1999 I checked his transliteration against the original manuscript and revised his reading. I present a revised reading of OZ 2 in the present paper.

#### 3. OZ 3: P 1251

This text lacks the beginning (the top edge is torn off). The remaining part measures 285 x 25.5 cm and contains 287 lines, with a total of c. 6,300 syllables. OZ 3 has not really been touched. Though we quickly went through it, it will take some time to database it.

#### 4. OZ 4: P 1247

This text lacks the beginning (the top edge is torn off). The remaining part measures 72 x 25.5 cm, and contains 46 lines of most probably Old Zhangzhung, in total c. 790 syllables. I have examined and databased OZ 4.

#### 5. OZ 5: P 1252

Written on the back of the Chinese sutra *Guan-yin-jing*. Although the bottom edge is torn off, the text is complete with 47 lines of most probably Old Zhangzhung, in total c. 850 syllables. Two more lines are written on the Chinese side, but their relation to the *recto* text is not clear. I have examined and databased OZ 5.

### III. OZ 2 (STEIN OR 8212/ 188)

This text is found among the group of texts with the requisition number Or. (= Oriental Manuscript) 8212, in which it bears the number 188 together with another totally independent manuscript. The text is written on the back of a scroll with the Chinese *Buddha-nâma sūtra*. It lacks both the beginning and the end. What remains measures 115 x 26.3 cm and contains 86 lines. Eight more lines are written on the Chinese side; they are probably a continuation from the *recto* side. There are a total of 94 lines with 593 different syllables, i.e., about 2,200 syllables in all.

#### TEXT

##### *Recto*

1. ] [/ pa zur ŋag na gra tan]
2. [±12] rag zu [tsins?] tad mīn pī rhyelse graŋe gva re rhi laŋ run
3. bug rhiŋ yos mu chīl cib mīn chīl cib na ?aŋ da phyend mīn da phyen nve run graŋ ŋog [ŋag]
4. luŋ rhyun nu cha tu blun blan kun bun ci tsis tad mīn pi bu shag ci pi rhyelas graŋŋe rdim le
5. len ga sub rchusi rgyiŋs go phal rag mu saŋ graŋ se kha than si lja graŋ yu run mīn lun saŋ ci ni[ŋ]
6. than saŋ we ma rgyiŋs khar ŋog ŋag gra rtho [pu=du] tse mu maŋ kye saŋ graŋ nī win shvin shvin mar myag ti tse
7. [ci=rī] sa [rh]yasaŋ graŋ run graŋ ŋog ŋag tiŋ ci rad khve su gu ŋog ŋag [zho=no] rtho zu bo run graŋ na lo daŋ
8. nyo luŋ mar bag yil yil graŋ ge chvi ye pi khhe khes ge khyun ryuŋ rhelse zva slig ci rhiŋ niŋ tsamed
9. [mīn=sni] sa gver gver mu tiŋ yaŋ ge tod lja mle ma tha mīn slig saŋ na bun ma lja mu zhī kye na ma lod di pi
10. lī ŋog ŋag rī khum tshugs mīn rī shil rkhyā pra nve bun ma lja rī zhi rkhyā na ma lo di yil yil baŋ baŋ bī sug
11. [fiaŋs] ge ryvege bī nu rthuls bun ma lja bizhi ryvad na ma lo di kvi po kya mīn mans saŋ cī bun ma lja kvi
12. [mans] na ma lo di / pi khe khe ge gyun ryuŋ rhyelse gva re rhi lja run bug rhiŋ yos mu chīl cib mīn chīl
13. [cib] na ?aŋ da phyend mīn da phyed nve run graŋ ŋog ŋag gu bag cī tsis tad mīn pi yig bu tiŋ liŋs tha

14. [nim] lem ga sub rchu si pu zhi na gyin chud lan skyin wing bran  
 ban mu ge toye rho khug shud ge ryvege ze ma  
 15. to tags putse mu run kye run ryon na lod no takhe khe no gyun  
 ryon ni / ti zhi nve gyin chud lja ma sa rjalde  
 16. la khram rme ge ryvege ?i di snal tshars ti tse sa run ?i run ryon  
 na lod no [zhis] gekhe no gyun ryon ni khve si nu  
 17. gyin chud lja man san shid ge run san shinge ryvege san khve mar  
 mans san run ryon na lod no mu  
 18. mum khe khe no gyun ryon ni zu zhi ci gyin chud lja pi mu tos  
 shing pham ryan rme ge ryve ge glun glan  
 19. bag mu thun min [cha=tsa] zog ryon se tad min zva tha pi khekke  
 no gyun ryon ni rhi ni mu rve rumb min rve ru  
 20. na zhi kye star gad min star gad nve lja ni shig mu ran rvi / pi  
 khe khe ge gyun ryon rhyel se gva re rhi lja rbur kho  
 21. ga tog dad du ryug tso ?an rya mar byun stes ryon tin lins gun  
 tsa[b] ce skyin chu nul nal ka pye  
 22. ras na ma run khlang khlang stes po kya min slig san nve mu win  
 tha min la gra nu shim ngog ngag  
 23. gra rthas ci [tsis] tad min pi yig ryon tin lins [tha?] chud lja skyin  
 chu nul nal ka phyeras na tse ze ma to tag  
 24. tags mu run ryon tog ra lja mu zhi kye sthe bard de rho yu ngog  
 mar / cond ryon ge zva slig ci rhi  
 25. nin tsamed go ma ran min la skams na no mu ran min tin gyuns  
 nve drun mu ran min zhas sthans  
 26. nu rgvil mu rane ca ton tab tse tade ryvan tse du rhyun lumse pi  
 yig mu ran byer re zva slig ci // ma run khlan  
 27. khlang stes po kya min slig san nve tse ?i di snal tshars sa run  
 ryon tog nar lhas zhi ?i ge bag ci  
 28. ga nul nal ?i run tshum me rho yu dru dra mar zhegs ryon ge zva  
 slig ci rhi tsamed sko fum sko fpab shan  
 29. thal rin se rva fu drin drin se skhyers na rmo ma nul du phyud  
 kyere phan yas nve tsha gya khan kar mil / purd  
 30. tab min khan ryams nu ?al da ge rha ryams rvan ri ran min se  
 skhros ci skyin rjel bran brugs ti ri  
 31. phyud kyer min sar skhro tse tsis tad min rbu ri khog tog dad du  
 ryug lja na yig sa khla su ye zun lod di  
 32. [du?] tse san sthe par [mans] san run ryon tog ra lja khye khye  
 thrim thrim san pyam phod lja ken sig sa  
 33. na run ryon rhi nin [min=sn] shig san run rvi yi de lo ci tse  
 glun glan bag mu thunge tsha zog ryon tog ra lja chiri

34. ga zug du blun blan pi mu lab tog du ci dags ge ta ye gan khus  
 blun blan dun da ryon ge zva slig  
 35. ci rhi nin ham sig spujs mu nam tog dad de la na hams bi shos  
 zhag rag nam tog  
 36. dad de zhag nve lend / rhu spujs lun thad nam tog dad de pe lun  
 shvin shvin gan rha nu car spujs rme thad  
 37. nam tog dad de mu byun rimb min san ryams ci she spujs spru  
 thad nam tog dade rhild go  
 38. grag min go grags tse rhyvid spujs gyva thad nam tog dade  
 gyva wans mi nva spujs  
 39. smyer thad nam tog dade sham lun dru dra smyer cerd tan tsis tad  
 min dun ryon rhi yos [min=sn] shig dun  
 40. tin lins na lodo // tha ye ne thod ryvan tsig du rphan lummse pi  
 yig mu ran byer shis mu zhi kye sthe barde  
 41. rho yu ngog ngag mar cond ryon ge tsugs min no mu pho bran gra  
 rta gab ge zhi min tin rhyun glun glun  
 42. mu pho bran phal ma ni so na ga gve nyen bin no dra rjad ni ru  
 ma tha sho byun rhyvid mar dan drum drum shing  
 43. ge ru ye mu san pho rmad ma ta sho khre ma fieg rhyels skar ge  
 [nye de=rtse] mu san pho rban ma ta sho pi pe kha thur  
 44. yil yil snan ge rban no mu san pho mu san ye kye ti tane ba min sa  
 ni go mu chvide ma shi min gvas gvas  
 45. tin ru pu tse mu san pho no mu chvid de sla pan gva gva kun lyan  
 ti tse mu san pho drun mu chvide kha thur  
 46. yil yil snan rphan khve tse mu san pho rgvil mu chvide seg tsham  
 bis bas li ryugs zu tsis tad min  
 47. pi yig mu san pho she san pho gum gun rva len ?ag tha pi ma skhu  
 mur zhur ca pho khyu wan logs  
 48. lja: slye tha summ zun rman san lyag ga na bran tran la shi min  
 tin cond ngog ngag / ryon miskhye  
 49. ra ga rhyu gru nun gyu kharce phlud ka wa yun thul bud bud bu  
 khvi khye ga de se rvan bag khar ce khvis khyerd  
 50. ni chi sa nus gun pho rhyam ni ma sa nas gun nal rgyi ni de gligs  
 gligs gun pho war ni ma gligs  
 51. gun pho war ni de prand prand tog pho spald ni de khruud:  
 khruud tog pho rgi ni de dvabs dvabs to  
 52. tog pho khvil ni ma dvabs dvabs tog pho khvil ni rha ru mar rjel  
 shang shang pho ge chim wa ri ma se  
 53. bi phud ni ti bi gu san shing gun tsan ce gyim bi la rug mu san kye  
 san shinge tho thvi ni ryon rhyid mar dan

54. drum drum shiŋge tshame kaŋ smur tha se ram rgvag nī phoge  
tsham zhi: shiŋge tsham l̥a n̥is gyiŋ ku runo
55. tsham phar nī tiŋ spin gril no rm[e] sthabs nī maŋ star fiŋag m̥in  
star fiŋag na tog phar ma sthab
56. m̥in len ne yi lod nī lo dril drib min dril drab nve tog pan ga  
[ŋag=rŋag] m̥in len ne yi lo di // ri ma zheg
57. zheg pham rbe nu gun riŋ m̥in len ne yi lod do / ri rul gyol gyal  
rphī skhros cī gun ran [gkhla=gakhla] min
58. lene yi lo di [sgo=sto] l̥a gva gva shaŋ thal [ryiŋs=rviŋs] ga mu  
ran nī rmo ma nul nal du phyud kyer ga mu rani tsha gya
59. khan kar rni̯l purd / tab ga mu ran nī thaye go mu: ran min la  
skams na tsis ran min mu ye spal gle glaŋ ŋe
60. ba mins ni go mu khlaŋ khlaŋ rhan rta na tse ti go mu yil tsuŋ  
phuŋg skar zhib [zhib=zhiŋ] byun byabs nve mi ryan
61. khvi rtis ri sho nutse chi go mu mi byus sa rivas: rya sho la skams  
kyese: tad min pi yig chi go mu: ye: mu
62. ran ni: la skams kye ye kye khla ni / tha: ci mi ryand // khvi rtis  
mu: go ya gabs shu zu bras skar tsu ri chi go mu
63. go mu tur l̥a: nyas zhers zhi go mu rhil min plan thal kar tha chi  
go mu ye mu rhil ni gabs kye sthal m̥in
64. lo rho ma tha la ya kye ye kye sthal ni // ŋo mu ran min tiŋ gyuŋs  
nve tsis ran min mu ye sla gle glaŋ ŋe
65. ba mins nī lig yil go ye skar te si sa buld / ga nan de: grab kri skar  
se mu byun byun no kye gyvad
66. [khr̥im?] shi min byun mu gluŋ glaŋ spal phaŋ pu tse ti ŋo mu mu  
yil go ye skar te so: ze buld ga
67. nan de grab liŋ skar se mu byun byun no kye gyvad nī yil tsuŋ  
mar skar ryan ryan byun byas
68. ti nyu tsha go ye shel [ŋla=laŋ] skar ze buld ga nan de grab gyuŋ  
skar ze mu byund byund no kye gyvad ni
69. ŋo mu gluŋ glaŋ braŋ [ph̥a=phaŋ] khve ba tsha go ye re ba  
[ŋla=laŋ] skar ze buld nan de grab / rafi skar ze fiog ci mu
70. byun byun no kye gyvad nī zu zu ŋo mu spal gle glaŋ se tad go  
mar ti chas dus driŋ min pi ŋo
71. mu ye mu ran nī rgvil mu ran m̥in cī tiŋ tab tse ran min mu ye  
spal gle glaŋ ge ba m̥ins ni
72. bu yaŋ gluŋ gluŋ she ge mu bu yaŋ bya bya she ge skar re bu yaŋ  
gluŋ gluŋ spru yand pu tse lyu mu na
73. so kro kye na rho yu gluŋ gluŋ mar ge mu yer yu bya bya tod ge  
skar re rho yu gluŋ gluŋ mar

74. ?and ti tse lvi mu na so kyil kye na ma shī min gluŋ gluŋ tiŋ ge  
mu ye [tsha] chil bya bya
75. shel ge skare ma shī min tiŋ rhyun gluŋ gluŋ gra ?and khve rab  
lyo chun suŋ don dan guŋ mu
76. shugs su gru gluŋ gluŋ myur ge mu su gru bya bya myur ge skar  
re su gru gluŋ gluŋ myur ?ub zu tse ba
77. mu na so reb gye na / pi rgval mu zud lo di nu tsis ran m̥in mu ye  
spal gle glaŋ ba m̥ins ni
78. rma bya druŋ mu gluŋ glaŋ zhas sphaŋs [pu] [rthi=cvi] pi druŋ  
skar bya bya byun byab ti skhroŋs du blun blan ryva
79. na phaŋ khve zu tsig druŋ mu thaŋ zhas kyese tad m̥in pi druŋ mu  
se tad m̥in [rtha=cva] trug ran m̥in tiŋ mu
80. spal gle glaŋ ŋe zva slig ci [zhuŋ=nyuŋ] ge bilse nyuŋ ge ryams ce  
mu ge to ye rho khug shurd ge ryvege ze ma
81. to tags mu run ryuŋ ze mu to ni ward mu lab tse ma sa r̥al de la  
khram rme ge ryvege ?i di s̥al
82. tshars sa run ryuŋ / mu to ni tsva mu lab ce saŋ shiŋge run saŋ  
shiŋge ryvege saŋ sthe mar mans
83. saŋ run ryuŋ se mu to ni tu da mu lab ce pi mu tos shiŋg pham  
rhaŋ rme ge ryvege gluŋ glaŋ bag mu
84. thuŋe tsha zog ryuŋ se mu to ni guŋ gun gver gver mu srub pi mu  
srub tse mu sth[v]ub nī ryan ryan
85. kye rgyed ŋa kye rgyese kye rgyed nī guŋ gun she la mu khu zug  
m̥in lig wer rhyelse gluŋ zho mu to ni zun
86. cī m[u] shig ce [chubs ma] ni khas ba ce [chab=chub] nī re  
[ram=r̥um] [ma-mu] nī [sas=sus] re [

## Verso

1. [-] thod mu rve rumb m̥i
2. ci tsis ran m̥in rva sa la bar spogs se ba m̥ins nī ŋo [rhil] zher zher  
tso tsvad pu ŋo
3. rvaŋ yen yen rha ryams ti ŋo rum byo bya rbe zhegs khve / ngo ti  
min mar braŋ brugs zu
4. [si] tsig ŋo rva sa ye la bar spogse tad m̥in ŋa yig ŋe rva sa laŋ la  
bar spogs
5. [se]s thva slig cī che tsis ran m̥in sa ye la bar spogse ba mins ni ri  
liŋ mer [zhe?]
6. pham thiŋg pu pho zur shvin shvin dad ryams ti ŋags d̥il dal re  
zhegs khve rkhu

7. d[i]l dal la skrags zu ri ma tha ye skrags po mǐd tsǐs tad mi zu tha ri liŋ pa  
 8. [-iŋg] myer myer nǐ sa ŋa yo rvam mǐn rva sa la bar spogs na lodo //

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