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1. Introduction

- Is there a correlation between Bhutanese language classification and grain terminology?

2. Tibeto-Burman languages of Bhutan



TB languages of Bhutan, according to sub-classification:

Dzongkha, Tasha-Sili: Central Bodish
Dakpa, Dzala, Kurtöp, Bumthap, Hengke, Khengkha: East Bodish
Tshangla: unknown
Lepcha: unknown
Olekha: unknown
Lhokpu: unknown

Linguistic map of Bhutan (L)

3. Data

3.1 Millets

- 'Finger millet' *Eleusine coracana*

Dz. *mömbja*
Krt. *ŋ'e*
Bu. *koŋbu*
Kh. *koŋpu*
Ts. *mo*
Ol. *kombala*



- 'Foxtail millet' *Setaria italica*

Dz. *khe:*
Krt. *ran*
Bu. *yaŋre*
Kh. *yaŋra*
Ts. *yaŋra*

- 'Broomcorn millet' *Panicum miliaceum*

Dz. *pc'am*
Ts. *koŋpu*
Lh. *cä?kto*

3.2 Barley

Dz. *na:*
Krt. *nas ~ na:*
He. *nes*
Ts. *p'emung*
Ol. *náp'a*



3.3 Rice

- 'paddy'

Dz. *bja:*
Krt. *mra:*, *mras*
Bu. *mrat*
He. *sem*
Ts. *bara*
Ol. *zoma*



- 'threshed rice'

Dz. *re*
Krt. *mra:*
Ts. *bara*
Ol. *zoma*



- 'milled rice'

Dz. *chum*
Krt. *chuŋ*
He. *sem*
Kh. *ipa*
Ol. *coŋ*



- 'cooked rice'

Dz. *to*
Da. *topce*
Krt. *ipa*, Bu. *zama ~ zam*
Kh. *koŋpu*
Ts. *to*
Le. *ʔázóm*
Ol. *to*



3.4 Maize

Dz. *geza*
Dza. *aŋam*
Krt. *bac'ukpa*, *a3om*
Ts. *aŋam*
Ol. *domba*

3.5 Buckwheat

- 'Sweet buckwheat' *Fagopyrum esculentum*

Dz. *gere*
Krt. *cara*, Bu. *carai*, He. *gere*
Ts. *guntsun*
Ol. *carama*

- 'Bitter buckwheat' *Fagopyrum tataricum*

Dz. *bjo*
Krt. *brama*, Bu. *branna*,
He. *brəm*
Ts. *k'alu*
Ol. *máma*



3.6 Wheat

Dz. *ka:*
Krt. *go*
He. *kar*
Ts. *boŋ*
Ol. *ka:*

4. Summary

There are several distinct roots for most grains in this study.
Millets: *mömbja*, *k'e-ŋ'e*, *koŋju~kombala*, *yaŋre-ran*. It is not clear if the forms for *Panicum* (*pc'am*, *cä?kto*, *c'era*) are related.
Rice: *mras-bja:*, *zoma~sem*, *re*, *c'ung*, *ipa*
Maize: *geza*, *bac'ukpa*, *shamm*, *domba*
Buckwheat: *gere~cara*, *k'alu*, *guntsun*
Wheat: *go*, *ka:*, *boŋ*
Barley: *nas~nap'a*, *p'emung*

Conclusion

While there are some common roots across the languages, the several disparate roots do not appear to line up according to language sub-family. This may suggest the forms have been borrowed or that the languages are not related as proposed. More data are needed from all the languages before we can draw concrete conclusions.

References

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