

# A cross-linguistic study of Bhutanese grains

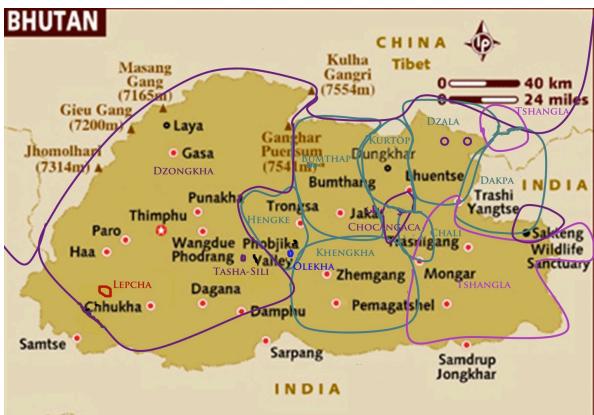
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## 1. Introduction

- 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, Khengka: 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. t̥e  
 Bu. konbu  
 Kh. konpu  
 Ts. mo  
 Ol. kombala



- 'Foxtail millet' *Setaria italica*

Dz. khe:  
 Krt. ran  
 Bu. yanre  
 Kh. yanra  
 Ts. yanra

- 'Broomcorn millet' *Panicum miliaceum*

Dz. pcʰam  
 Ts. konpu  
 Lh. cāʔkto

### 3.2 Barley

Dz. na:  
 Krt. nas ~ na:  
 He. nes  
 Ts. pʰemung  
 Ol. nápʰa



### 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. chuj  
 He. sem  
 Kh. ipa  
 Ol. corj



- 'cooked rice'

Dz. to  
 Da. topce  
 Krt. ipa, Bu. zama ~ zam  
 Kh. konpu  
 Ts. to  
 Le. pázom  
 Ol. to



### 3.4 Maize

Dz. geza  
 Dza. ajam  
 Krt. bacʰukpa, aʒom  
 Ts. ajam  
 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. branma,  
 He. bräm  
 Ts. kʰalu  
 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, k̥e~t̥e, konju~kombala, yanre~ran. It is not clear if the forms for *Panicum* (pcʰam, cāʔkto, cʰera) are related.

Rice :mras~bja:, zoma~sem, re, cʰung, ipa

Maize: geza, bacʰukpa, sham, domba

Buckwheat: gere~cara, kʰalu, guntsun

Wheat: go, ka:, boŋ

Barley: nas~napʰa, pʰemung

## 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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