

Problem 4 (20 points). Tibetan

The Tibetic languages, consisting of a number of modern dialects such as Central Tibetan, Khams Tibetan and Amdo Tibetan, are typically written in the Tibetan alphabet. The writing system of Tibetan is relatively conservative, reflecting the phonology of the prestigious Classical Tibetan. The modern Tibetan dialects (New Tibetan, NT) have undergone tremendous changes in their phonological systems compared with Classical Tibetan (CT).

- (1) The Wylie scheme is a method for transliterating the Tibetan script into Latin letters. Some examples of the Wylie transliteration are illustrated in the following table.

གི	ཁྲ	ཏ	འཕུར	མོ	སཔ	དེ	བརྗོད	ང	ན	ལ
gi	khra	ta	‘phur	mo	sbal	de	brjod	nga	na	lda
སོགས	བསམ	ཀུན	གཡུ	ཐབ	རྟུ	བརྗོས	སྐྱེ	དཔྱིད	སྐྱོད	བྲག
sogs	bsam	kun	g.yu	thab	rgyu	bzlos	skye	dpyid	spyod	brag

Read the examples given above and transliterate the following Tibetan texts.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
དབང	གྲོལ	འཐམས	ཡུག	བསྐྱེབ	བརྗོས	བརྗོད

- (2) The following table displays some examples of the typical sound changes that have occurred in the development of the Tibetic languages from CT to NT.

CT		>	NT			
			Central: Lhasa	Khams: Dege	Amdo: Bla-brang	
1	མ	‘hair’	>	tʂa	tʂa	htea
2	ར	‘mountain’	>	ri	ri	rə
3	འབྲེས	‘rice’	>	tʂe	ndʒe	ndʒe
4	བདུན	‘seven’	>	tʃ̥	den	hdən
5	ལྔ	‘six’	>	tʂhu	tʂhu	tʂək

6	བུ	‘son’	>	phu	pu	wə
7	དགའ	‘glad’	>	ka	ga	hga
8	ཁྱེད	‘you’	>	chø	təhø	təhol
9	གོན	‘wear’	>	khõ	teen; ken	kon
10	མེ་རྟོག	‘flower’	>	me to	me thu	me tok
11	མགོ	‘head’	>	ko	ngo	ngo
12	ད	‘now’	>	tha	ta	ta
13	ཉིན	‘day’	>	ɲĩ	ɲin	ɲən
14	ཡིག	‘letter’	>	ji	ji	jək
15	ལོ	‘year’	>	lo	lo	lo

Read the examples given above and write down the modern pronunciations of the following Tibetan words.

CT		>	NT			
			Central: Lhasa	Khams: Dege	Amdo: Bla-brang	
1	མཁའ་ལྔ་	‘cloud’	>	_____	_____	*
2	འབྲུག	‘dragon’	>	_____	*	_____
3	མདའ	‘arrow’	>	_____	_____	_____
4	ཡོད	‘exist’	>	_____	*	_____
5	ལྗང	‘fertilizer’	>	_____	*	_____
6	དུམ	‘nine’	>	_____	_____	_____
7	ལྗོ	‘knife’	>	_____	_____	_____

Note:

1. The sign > denotes “changes into”.
2. The modern pronunciations are transcribed according to *International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)*.
3. The data are from the online database The Sino-Tibetan Etymological Dictionary and Thesaurus. URL: <http://stedt.berkeley.edu/~stedt/cgi/rootcanal.pl>