

Problem 4: Tibetan བོད་སྐད།

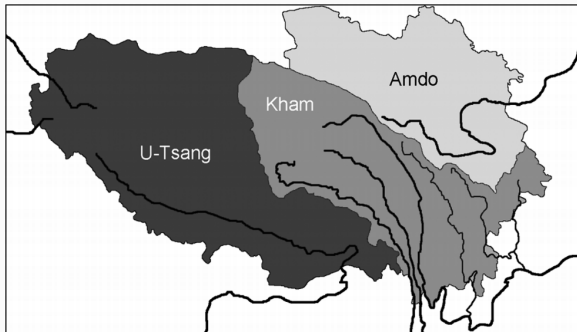
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Preface: Beyer (1992); DeLancey et al. (2003)

The Tibetic languages, consisting of a number of modern dialects such as Central Tibetan (དབུས་གཙང་།), Kham Tibetan (ཁམས་སྐད།) and Amdo Tibetan (ཨ་མདོ་སྐད།), 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).



Roche (2017)

Question 1: The Wylie Transliteration

The Wylie scheme is a method for transliterating the Tibetan script into Latin letters (Wylie, 1959). Some examples of the Wylie transliteration are illustrated in the following table.

གི་	ཁ་	ཏ་	འཕུར་	མོ་	སྐལ་	དེ་	བརྗོད་	ང་	ན་	ལྷ་
gi	khra	ta	'phur	mo	sbal	de	brjod	nga	na	lda
སོག་	བསམ་	ཀུན་	གཡུ་	ཐབ་	རྒྱལ་	བཟོས་	སྐྱེ་	དཔྱིད་	སྐྱོད་	བྲག་
sog	bsam	kun	g.yu	thab	rgyu	bzlos	skye	dpyid	spyod	brag

Read the examples given above and transliterate the following Tibetan texts (13')

Answers:

བང་	གྲོ་	ལྷ་	ལུགས་	བསྐྱེད་	བསྐྱིགས་	བརྒྱལ་	རྣམ་	ཁྱེད་	གཟང་
bdang	grol	lta	lugs	bsleb	bsgrigs	brkyang	rnam	khyed	gzang
ཕུག་	འཕྲམས་	རྩལ་							
phrug	'thams	jus							

Question 1: The Wylie Transliteration

Step 1. Decode the phonology.

Classical Tibetan has complex consonant clusters—brag (CCVC), sbal (CCVC) and brjod (CCCVC).

Then, since Tibetan is an alphabetic script, how is phonology mapped onto orthography?

Step 2. Reorder the examples according to the complexity of the syllable and text.

གི	ད་	མོ་	དེ་	ང་	ན་
gi	ta	mo	de	nga	na
ཁ་	ལ་	རྒྱ་	སྐྱ་		
khra	lda	rgyu	skye		
ཤུར་	སོག་	བསམ་	ཀུན་	གཡུ་	ཐབ་
'phur	sog	bsam	kun	g.yu	thab
སྐལ་	བརྟེན་	དཔྱིད་	སྐྱེད་	བརྒ་	
sbal	brjod	dpyid	spyod	brag	

Question 1: The Wylie Transliteration

Step 3. Decipher the vowels and roots.

What are the vowel signs for i u o a e? མི་མུ་མོ་མེ་མ།

What is the root consonant for a syllable? སྐ་སྐལ་སྐལ་སྐལ། རི་དུ་རོ་རོ་ད།

!! A consonant with a vowel is typically the root and letters with superscripts or subscripts are root consonants.

གི་	ར་	མོ་	ད་	ང་	མ་
gi	ta	mo	de	nga	na
ཁ་	ལ་	རྟེ་	སྐ་		
khra	lda	rgyu	skye		
ཕུ་	སྐ་	བསྐ་	ཀུ་	གཡུ་	ཐབ་
'phur	sog	bsam	kun	g.yu	thab
སྐལ་	བརྐ་	དཔྱི་	སྐྱེད་	བརྐ་	
sbal	brjod	dpyid	spyod	brag	

Question 1: The Wylie Transliteration

Step 4. Decipher the superscript, subscript, prefix, suffix and secondary suffix.

Now we have decoded the root, what do these extra scripts stand for?

Super- and subscript: r: རྩུ་བརྗོད་ཁྲ་གྲག་, l: ལ་, y: རྩུ་སྐྱེ་དབྱིང་, s: སྐྱེ་སྤྱལ་སྦྱོང་

prefix, suffix and secondary suffix: ' : འཕུར་, r: འཕུར་, g: སོག་གྲག་གཡུ་, b: བསམ་བརྗོད་གཅེན་, m: བསམ་, n: ཀུན་, d: བརྗོད་སྦྱོང་དབྱིང་

!! If a character appears in these positions, an additional consonant is attached to the root and no vowels should be added, e.g., རྩུ་ཀུན་ སོ་བསམ་

དེ་བརྗོད། དབྱིང་སྦྱོང། གི་གྲག། བསམ་སོག་སྦྱོང་སྦྱང་སྤྱལ་.

དབང་ is not **dabanga**, but **dbang**.

གི	ད་	མོ་	དེ་	ང་	ན་
gi	ta	mo	de	nga	na
ཁྲ་	ལ་	རྩུ་	སྐྱེ་		
khra	l da	rgyu	skye		
འཕུར་	སོག་	བསམ་	ཀུན་	གཡུ་	གཅེན་
'phur	sog	bsam	kun	g.yu	thab
སྤྱལ་	བརྗོད་	དབྱིང་	སྦྱོང་	གྲག་	
sbal	brjod	dpyid	spyod	brag	

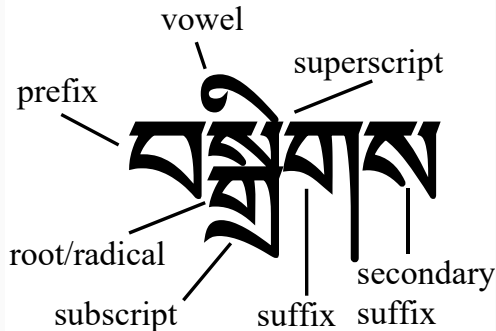
Question 1: The Wylie Transliteration

bsgrigs

prefix(b)+superscript(s)+root(g)+subscript(r)

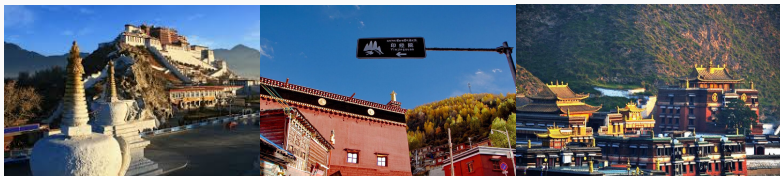
+vowel(i)

+suffix(g)+secondary_suffix(s)



Question 2: Sound change in Tibetan

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 (Central དབྱུང་གཙང། Khams ཁམས། Amdo ཨ་མདོ།). Read the examples given and write down the modern pronunciations of the following Tibetan words (17').



Lhasa ལྷ་ས། Dege རྩེ་དགོ། Bra-blang ལྷ་བྲང།

Question 2: Sound change in Tibetan

CT		>	NT			
			Central: Lhasa	Khams: Dege	Amdo: Bla-brang	
1	སྐྱ	skra	>	t̥sa	t̥sa	ht̥ɕa
2	རི	ri	>	ri	ri	rə
3	བྱེ	bres	>	t̥ɕe	ndzɛ	ndzɛ
4	བུན	bdun	>	t̥ȳ	den	hdən
5	འཇུག	drug	>	t̥ʂu	t̥ʂu	t̥ɕək
6	བུ	bu	>	phu	pu	wə
7	དགའ་	dga'	>	ka	ga	hga
8	མཇུག	khyod	>	chø	t̥chø	t̥chol
9	གོང	gon	>	khõ	t̥çen; ken	kon
10	མེ་ཏོག	me tog	>	me to	me thu	me tok
11	མངོ	mgo	>	ko	ngo	ngo
12	ཏ	da	>	tha	ta	ta
13	ལྷོ་	nyin	>	ɲĩ	ɲin	ɲən
14	ཡིག	yig	>	ji	ji	jək
15	ལོ	lo	>	lo	lo	lo

sprin (1/ 3/ 4/ 9/ 13), 'brug (3/ 5), mda' (7/ 11), yod (8/ 14), lud (4 5 6/ 8 9 10 11 15), dgu (6/ 7), gri (1/ 2/ 5 6 9 12)

Question 2: Sound change in Tibetan

Answers:

CT	>	NT			
		Central: Lhasa	Khams: Dege	Amdo: Bla-brang	
ལྷན་པོ་	sprin	>	tʃī	tʃin	ʃən
བྱུང་བ་	'brug	>	tʃu	ndzu?	ndzək
མདུན་པོ་	mda'	>	ta	nda	nda
ལྷན་པོ་	yod	>	jø	*	jol
ལྷན་པོ་	lud	>	ly	lu?	ləl
ལྷན་པོ་	dgu	>	ku	gu	hgə
ལྷན་པོ་	gri	>	tʃ ^h i	tʃi	tçə

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Thank you for your attention!