

Sūn Hóngkāi 孙宏开, Huáng Chénglóng 黄成龙, Zhōu Máocǎo 周毛草. 2001. *A study of Rouruo* [Róuruoyǔ yánjiū 柔若语研究]. Beijing: Central Nationalities University Press. 308 pp.

Zauzou (Chinese Róuruò 柔若, autonym [zau<sup>55</sup>zou<sup>33</sup>]) is a language spoken by approximately 2100 members of the Nù 怒 nationality mostly living on the banks of the Lāncāng River 澜沧江 in the Tù'è 兔峨 region of Lánpíng County 兰坪县, Nùjiāng Prefecture 怒江州, •ú• á• Province 云南省.<sup>1</sup> It was not known to Chinese linguists until the 1960s. Other than a brief report published in the journal *Mínzú Yǔwén* 民族语文 and a collection of Rouruo data published in Yunnan, the language has not been described.<sup>2</sup> With the publication of *A study of Rouruo*, we now have the first substantial grammar of this Lolo-Burmese language of the Tibeto-Burman family.

*A study of Rouruo* is one of the publications in the series *New found minority languages in China* 中国新发现语言研究丛书, and is organized according to the general framework of the grammars in this series.<sup>3</sup> There are six chapters (1 Overview; 2 Phonology; 3 Lex-

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1. Chinese terms are given in *pīnyīn* romanization and, at the first occurrence, simplified Chinese characters. After the first occurrence, language names will be given without tone marks. I will refer to Zauzou by the Chinese term Rouruo throughout this article.

2. Sūn Hóngkāi 孙宏开 1985. An outline of the Rouruo language of the Nu nationality [Nùzú Róuruoyǔ gài kuàng 怒族柔若语概况]. *Mínzú Yǔwén* 1985.4. Lǐ Shào'ēn 李绍恩 and Lǐ Zhì'ēn 李志恩 1993. Collected materials of the Rouruo language of the Nu nationality [Nùzú Róuruoyǔ zīliào jí 怒族柔若语资料集]. Yunnan Nationalities Press.

3. For an overview of this series, see Graham Thurgood and Li Fengxiang, in press. Review of *New found minority languages in China* series. To appear in *Language*.

icon; 4 Syntax; 5 Dialects; 6 Affiliation within Tibeto-Burman), two appendices (1 Word lists; 2 Texts), a bibliography, and a postface. A handsomely-bound hardcover volume, the book provides a comprehensive description of the language. While by no means the final word on the language, this grammar contains sufficient detail to be of substantial benefit to scholars interested in the study of the Lolo-Burmese languages of southwest China.

The contributions of the three authors are detailed in the postface. The phonology chapter was written by Zhōu, the lexicon chapter by Huáng, and the rest of the book, including the extensive word lists, was the responsibility of the principal author Sūn. Because of this division of labor there are some inconsistencies within the book, which will be detailed below.

In the overview chapter, Sūn lays out his views of the cultural, ethnic, and linguistic position of the Rouruo language, and provides some anthropological background. According to Sūn, the Nù nationality is divided into four distinct branches: (1) the Nùsū 怒苏, who speak the Loloish language of the same name; (2) the Ānóng 阿侬 of Fúgòng 福贡 County, who speak Anong, a language Sūn relates to Jingpo; (3) the Anong of Gòngshān 贡山 County, who speak a variety of Dúlóng 独龙 (also known as Trung); (4) the Rouruo, who speak the Loloish language Rouruo. Sūn's justification for the classification of Rouruo as Loloish is given in Chapter 6, which will be discussed below. In 1995, there were approximately 2100 Rouruo speakers. The majority (about 1800) live in a series of villages along the Lāncāng River, while the remaining 300 live in three villages in Hùshuǐ County 泸水县 in the Nù River region. Rouruo speakers are

being assimilated by surrounding ethnic groups, so the future survival of the language is not assured. The autonym [*zau*<sup>55</sup>*zou*<sup>33</sup>] is apparently cognate to 'Lolo', which is now viewed as a pejorative term for the ethnic group known in Chinese as the Yí 彝 (although the term Lolo survives in the linguistic designations Loloish and Lolo-Burmese). Most speakers of Rouruo also speak Lisù 傈僳, and some speak Bái 白. The Rouruo lexicon contains borrowings from Chinese, Lisu, and Bai.

Dialectal variation within Rouruo is minimal, as the two main varieties are mutually intelligible. Because of their similarity, Sūn prefers to call them "local varieties" (*tǔyǔ* 土语) rather than "dialects" (*fāngyán* 方言), and notes that their differences lie primarily in phonology. The representative forms of the two varieties are Guǒlì 果力 dialect (representing also the villages Sānjiācūn 三家村 of Hùshuǐ County and Shuǐlìzhài 水利寨 of Lǔzhǎng Town 鲁掌镇) and Jiāngmò 江末 dialect (representing also the villages Xiǎocūn 小村, Tù'é, Wúpījiāng 吾批江 and Bìjīgǎng 碧鸡岗). The lexicon and syntax chapters deal primarily with Guǒlì data, while the phonology chapter gives a detailed description of both varieties. The first appendix gives word lists for both varieties. It is apparent, however, that the variety of Guǒlì described in the main body of the book differs slightly from the form represented in the word list. This is perhaps because the data on Rouruo were collected over a series of fieldwork expeditions from several different speakers. This provides some difficulty for the user of the book who wishes to cite a particular lexical item: should he take the word list form or the form found in the grammatical section? While many words are identical in both sections, a

significant number are not. For example, consider some of the Guǒlì forms appearing in the text in comparison with those found in the word list:

	<u>text</u>	<u>word list</u>
'big'	<i>ie</i> <sup>33</sup> (p. 20)	<i>i</i> <sup>33</sup> (p. 267)
'cow'	<i>ɲu</i> <sup>31</sup> (p. 55)	<i>nu</i> <sup>33</sup> (p. 211)
'to fear'	<i>kā</i> <sup>53</sup> (p. 18)	<i>kā</i> <sup>53</sup> (p. 262)

The Jiāngmò forms given in the phonology chapter do match the forms given in the Jiāngmò column of the word list.

I will now summarize and discuss the contents of the remaining book chapters and appendices, some in more detail than others.

## Chapter 2: Phonology

Following traditional Chinese linguistic practice, Rouruo syllables are analyzed as composed of three parts: an initial consonant (*shēngmǔ* 声母), all the remaining segments of the syllable (*yùnmǔ* 韵母), and the tone (*shēngdiào* 声调). Each of these three parts is described separately. The phonology of the Guǒlì variety is described first, then that of the Jiāngmò variety.

Both varieties have similar phonological structures. All syllables have the basic shape CV. Rouruo is tonal, so that each syllable is pronounced with a lexically determined distinctive pitch contour. There is a two-way manner distinction of initial obstruents, voiceless unaspirated and voiceless aspirated, and a different two-way manner distinction of fricatives, voiced and voiceless. Vowels are described as occurring in four phonations (referred to in Chinese simply as "types" *lèi* 类): plain, nasal, tense, and nasal tense. This four-way