"Agreement of the Verb in Tangut"

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In an earlier article entitled "Lexical Groups of Verbs and Subject-Object Agreement in Tangut," we pointed to three auxiliary words as verbal prefixes, namely *nga^2, na^2 and ni^2. Although their original function appears to be that of personal pronouns, in the texts investigated, they fulfill one and the same function, namely to make the verb agree in person and number with the subject, and sometimes also with the object (nga^2). Verbal agreement with the subject or the object is associated respectively with intransitive and transitive verbs.

Further research conducted by us showed that 1) if the intransitive verb always agrees with the subject, the transitive verb, however, at times agrees with the object and at times with the agent of action, and 2) that not only *nga^2 but also *na^2 can make the verb agree with the object.

The purpose of the present article is to formulate the rules of agreement of the Tangut verb, in other words, the rules for the use of the auxiliary words *nga^2, na^2 and ni^2.

Intransitive Verbs

With intransitive verbs (V^intr) there is generally a noun—this noun has the function of the subject of an action (N^s): N^s V^intr. (Because of space restrictions, the formation of N^s will not be examined here.)
\( V^{\text{intr}} \) with \( N^S \) indicating a pronoun of the 3rd person singular-plural does not receive any formulation, i.e. there is zero agreement \( V^{\text{intr}} \). In those cases in which \( N^S \) represents a pronoun of the 1st or 2nd person singular, the verb can be followed by the auxiliary words \( *\text{nga}^2 \) and \( *\text{na}^2 \), respectively, making the verb agree with \( N^S \). If, however, \( N^S \) represents a pronoun of the 1st or 2nd person plural then the auxiliary word \( *\text{ni}^2 \) makes the verb agree with \( N^S \).

The paradigm of the conjugation of the Tangut \( V^{\text{intr}} \) is provisionally shown through the use of eight sentences in Russian, sentences that differ in the representation of \( N^S \) (i.e. 1st, 2nd and 3rd person pronouns single or plural, substantive single or plural). After each sentence is shown either the auxiliary word used or zero agreement (\( \emptyset \)) which in Tangut corresponds to a sentence of the type: \( V^{\text{intr}} \) agrees with \( N^S \).

1. Я умираю \( *\text{nga}^2 \) (I die...)
2. Ты умираешь \( *\text{na}^2 \) (You die...)
3. Он/Она умирает \( \emptyset \) (He/She dies...)
4. Мы умираем \( *\text{ni}^2 \) (We die...)
5. Вы умираете \( *\text{ni}^2 \) (You die...)
6. Они умирают \( \emptyset \) (They die...)
7. Человек умирает \( \emptyset \) (A person dies...)
8. Люди умирают \( \emptyset \) (People die...)

As can be seen, the pronouns of the 3rd person singular or plural, as well as substantives, singular or plural, are treated in the same manner without agreement with \( V^{\text{intr}} \) (zero agreement).
It should be pointed out, however, that after \( \overset{\text{intr}}{V} \), the use of the auxiliary words *nga\(^2\), *na\(^2\) and *ni\(^2\) is optional.

**Transitive Verbs**

With transitive verbs, \((\overset{\text{tr}}{V})\), two possible nouns can be used, one with the function of agent of action \((N^a)\), the other with the function of object of action \((N^o)\): \(N^a \overset{\text{tr}}{V} N^o\). (As was the case with the intransitive verbs, the function of these nouns is not examined).

As was stated above, in the texts examined \(\overset{\text{tr}}{V}\) at times agrees with \(N^a\), and at other times agrees with \(N^o\). In order to investigate this problem, we have arranged the Tangut material in the following manner: 1) pronoun of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd person both singular and plural, and 2) substantives, singular and plural.

As in Tangut, subject and object cannot be expressed by one and the same person (when they do coincide the morpheme *in\(^1\) is used, it has a reflexive function and is independent of the person), those type of sentences in which subject and object coincide, fully or partially, have been removed from the table. The exception are those instances in which the subject and the object are expressed by a pronoun of the 3rd person, singular or plural, or by a substantive, singular or plural, for example: "he-him", not himself but another; "servant-servants", not himself but others. In this manner we obtained 56 sentence types, each of which has been given, provisionally, in the table below by a Russian sentence with the verb "сить", "to strike."

Some of the types obtained in this manner were not encountered in our material, for example, no. 3 "Я быть вас", no. 44 "Стуга съет нас", etc.
Types not encountered were omitted from the table below but a unified, continuous numbering of the types has been maintained.

Below, we present a table of sentence types with $V^{tr}$. After each type is indicated either the auxiliary word or the symbol of zero agreement reflecting Tangut usage; the noun with which $V^{tr}$ agrees has been underlined.

1. Я бью тебя 喔 *na² (I strike you)
2. Я бью его/ее 劣 *nga² (I strike him/her)
5. Я бью слугу 劣 *nga² (I strike the servant)
7. Ты бьешь меня 喔 *nga² (You strike me)
8. Ты бьешь его/ее 唃 *na² (You strike him/her)
10. Ты бьешь их 喽 *na² (You strike them)
11. Ты бьешь слугу 喽 *na² (You strike the servant)
12. Ты бьешь слуг 唧 *na² (You strike the servants)
14. Он/Она бьет тебя 喽 *na² (He/She strikes you)
19. Он/Она бьет слугу ø (He/She strikes the servant)
20. Он/Она бьет слуг ø (He/She strikes the servants)
21. Мы бьем тебя 喽 *na² (We strike you)
24. Мы бьем их 喽 *ni² (We strike them)
25. Мы бьем слугу 喽 *ni² (We strike the servant)
26. Мы бьем слуг 喽 *ni² (We strike the servants)
27. Вы бьете меня 喽 *nga² (You (pl.) strike me)
31. Вы бьете слугу 喽 *ni² (You (pl.) strike the servant)
32. Вы бьете слуг 喽 *ni² (You (pl.) strike the servants)