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Once Again on the Agreement of the Tangut Verb

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The present article is a supplement to our article that appeared earlier in this journal and in which, in spite of the concepts that have been established by M.V. Sofronov, we presented evidence that the Tangut verb does agree in person and in number with the subject and sometimes also with the object. Three auxiliary words, namely 𗅋 nga^2, 𗅋 na^2, and 𗅋 ni^2 are affixed to the verb to indicate either the object or the subject of the verbal action but which, in their original function, represent pronouns of the first person singular, the second person singular and the first or second person plural respectively. Whereas we were correct in indicating the capability of the Tangut verb to agree with both the subject and the object of the verbal action, we erroneously associated these affixes with verbal lexical categories. From the research on this subject, it was determined that the rules for the agreement of the Tangut verb are more complex than initially put forth.

Before proceeding with a more detailed analysis, it is necessary to point out that third person pronouns and substantives, *singular or plural, are not reflected in the conjugation of the Tangut verb. We have already written about this, albeit only with* hypothetical examples. We did establish that in Tangut there is

verbal agreement only with the first and second person pronouns, whether singular or plural.

Intransitive Verbs

The agreement of intransitive verbs does not present any difficulties. The verb agrees with the noun that functions as the object of the action. The following examples can be cited:

1) [illegible] (12 ts)

nga^{2} sie^{1}-ndIə^{1}-nIwo^{1} riə^{2}-ldIe^{2}-nga^{2}

I ? ? back PERF-come-1st

'I (=the official) just arrived from another state'[b]

2) [illegible] (12 ts)

mei^{1} swen^{1} tha^{2} si^{2} nga^{2} tsI^{1} mi^{1}-khwa^{1} sI^{1}-nga^{2}

Mei sun PERF die I and/but soon die-1st

'Mei Sun has died and I too will die soon'

3) [illegible] (12 ts)

thI^{2} su mi^{1} ndzIe^{1} In^{1} In^{1} tsI^{1} nga^{2} kem^{2} riə^{2}-ldIe^{2}-na^{2}

? ? not ? ? ? and/but I ? PERF-come-2nd

'(You) at such an improper time, humbling yourself, came to me'

4) [illegible] (LK VI)

ni^{2} ndźIə^{1}-la^{1} ni^{1}-ndo^{2} riə^{2} lhiə^{2} na^{2}

you quickly house-to PERF -return-2nd

'You, quickly return home'

5) [illegible] (Nevskii, I, 285)

ni^{2}-nI^{2} tIei^{1} rIə^{2} thi^{2} ni^{2} rIe^{1} tha^{2} siə^{1} ni^{2}

you-PL time PERF -eat- PL PERF-go- PL

'When you have eaten the food, then go'

6) [illegible] (LK V)

xiwe^{2} we^{1} nI^{2}-IdIe^{2} mbu^{1} ₒi^{1} mbi^{2} ndo^{2} ʑu^{1}-ndʑie^{1} nda^{2} .I^{1}

Fei I arrive-come because all official to command word

ɕiu^{1} ʑəɯ^{1}-ɕiə^{1} nI^{2}-la^{1} ʑIe^{1} ni^{2}-nI^{2} ti^{2} wuo^{1}-ni^{2} .I^{1}

Shu send-messenger arrive-come when you-PL do not stand-PL

'Since Fei I arrived, (...Wang) ordered all the officials: when the emissary (of the kingdom of) Shu arrives, you do not arise'

It should be pointed out that the noun functioning as the subject of the action of the intransitive verb is frequently omitted. In those instances, the person of the subject of the verbal action is indicated solely by an auxiliary noun, an agreement indicator. For example:

7) [illegible] (LK VIII)

pI^{1} nə na^{2} mu^{1} rie^{2} ndIn^{2} sI^{1}-nga^{2}

thou die-1st

'Let it be this evening (I) die before your eyes'

8) [illegible] (12 ts)

ngi^{2} * * * mi^{1} ngu^{2}-na^{2} ta^{1} thIn^{2} ê i^{2}

one not weep-2nd

'(Your) son died, why do (you) not weep?'

When, however, the subject of the verbal action is a pronoun of the first or second person, singular or plural, the use of the agreement indicators following intransitive verbs is optional. For example:

9) [illegible] (LK VI)

nga^{2} ndIe̱i khiu^{1} ndzie^{1}

I be located

'I am located in hell'

10) [illegible] (S)

na^{2} via^{1} tha^{2} si^{1} nIwo^{1} lhio xwa^{2} lie^{1}

you father PERF die back retreat what await

'Your father died, (but you) do not retreat, what do you await?'

Transitive Verbs

With transitive verbs the agreement takes place according to two principal rules, namely:

a) When in a clause governed by a transitive verb, the agent or the subject of the action is expressed by a pronoun of either the first or second person, singular or plural, the transitive verb will agree with this pronoun irrespective of its function within the clause. Thus, in two identical clauses in which there