In an earlier article entitled "Lexical Groups of Verbs and Subject-Object Agreement in Tangut,\(^1\) we pointed to three auxiliary words as verbal prefixes, namely \(\hat{\text{ng}}\text{a}\), \(\text{n}\text{a}\) and \(\text{ni}\). 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 (\(\hat{\text{ng}}\text{a}\)). 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 \(\hat{\text{ng}}\text{a}\) but also \(\text{n}\text{a}\) 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 \(\hat{\text{ng}}\text{a}, \text{n}\text{a}\) and \(\text{ni}\).

### Intransitive Verbs

With intransitive verbs \(V^{\text{intr}}\) there is generally a noun—this noun has the function of the subject of an action \(\text{N}\): \(\text{N}^{s} V^{\text{intr}}\). (Because of space restrictions, the formation of \(\text{N}^{s}\) will not be examined here.)
V_{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_{intr} \emptyset. 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 "$^{\text{2}}\text{ nga}^2$ and "$^{\text{2}}\text{ na}^2$, 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 "$^{\text{2}}\text{ ni}^2$ makes the verb agree with N^s.

The paradigm of the conjugation of the Tangut V_{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_{intr} agrees with N^s.

1. Я умираю $^{\text{2}}\text{ ni}^2$ (I die...)
2. Ты умираешь $^{\text{2}}\text{ na}^2$ (You die...)
3. Он/Она умирает \emptyset (He/She dies...)
4. Мы умираем $^{\text{2}}\text{ ni}^2$ (We die...)
5. Вы умираете $^{\text{2}}\text{ ni}^2$ (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_{intr} (zero agreement).
It should be pointed out, however, that after $V^{\text{intr}}$, the use of the auxiliary words *ngs₂, ʦ₂ *na₂ and ʦ₂ *ni₂ is optional.

**Transitive Verbs**

With transitive verbs, $(V^{\text{tr}})$, 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 ($N^o$): $N^a \ N^o \ V^{\text{tr}}$. (As was the case with the intransitive verbs, the function of these nouns is not examined).

As was stated above, in the texts examined $V^{\text{tr}}$ 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 $\text{ʦ}_1 \ *\text{in}_1$ 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 "сшиб", "to strike."

Some of the types obtained in this manner were not encountered in our material, for example, no. 3 "Я бьют вас", no. 44 "Слуга сбьет 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Я бью тебя</td>
<td>*na²</td>
<td>(I strike you)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Я бью его/ее</td>
<td>*nga²</td>
<td>(I strike him/her)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Я бью слугу</td>
<td>*nga²</td>
<td>(I strike the servant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ты бьешь меня</td>
<td>*nga²</td>
<td>(You strike me)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ты бьешь его/ее</td>
<td>*na²</td>
<td>(You strike him/her)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Ты бьешь их</td>
<td>*na²</td>
<td>(You strike them)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Ты бьешь слугу</td>
<td>*na²</td>
<td>(You strike the servant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Ты бьешь слуг</td>
<td>*na²</td>
<td>(You strike the servants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Он/Она бьет тебя</td>
<td>*na²</td>
<td>(He/She strikes you)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Он/Она бьет слугу</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>(He/She strikes the servant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Он/Она бьет слуг</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>(He/She strikes the servants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Мы бьем тебя</td>
<td>*na²</td>
<td>(We strike you)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Мы бьем их</td>
<td>*ni²</td>
<td>(We strike them)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Мы бьем слугу</td>
<td>*ni²</td>
<td>(We strike the servant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Мы бьем слуг</td>
<td>*ni²</td>
<td>(We strike the servants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Вы бьете меня</td>
<td>*nga²</td>
<td>(You (pl.) strike me)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Вы бьете слугу</td>
<td>*ni²</td>
<td>(You (pl.) strike the servant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Вы бьете слуг</td>
<td>*ni²</td>
<td>(You (pl.) strike the servants)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
39. Они быт слугу о (They strike the servant)
40. Они быт слуг о (They strike the servants)
41. Слуга быт меня * nga1 (The servant strikes me)
42. Слуга быт тебя * na2 (The servant strikes you)
43. Слуга быт его/ее о (The servant strikes him/her)
47. Слуга быт слугу о (The servant strikes the servant)
48. Слуга быт слуг о (The servant strikes the servants)
49. Слуги быт меня * nga2 (The servants strike me)
50. Слуги быт тебя * na2 (The servants strike you)
54. Слуги быт их о (The servants strike them)
55. Слуги быт слугу о (The servants strike the servant)
56. Слуги быт слуг о (The servants strike the servants)

From the table it is possible to derive the following three rules:

1) The verb never agrees with a pronoun of the 3rd person singular/plural, and with a substantive singular/plural;

2) When the sentence contains a pronoun of the 1st or 2nd person singular/plural, the verb agrees with the pronoun regardless of the pronoun's function within the sentence;

3) When the sentence contains two pronouns of the 1st or 2nd person singular/plural, the verb agrees with the pronoun that fulfills the function of object.

It needs to be pointed out that, as was the case with \( V^{\text{intr}} \), the use of the auxiliary words * nga2, * na2 and * ni2 is optimal with \( V^{\text{tr}} \).
In concluding the section on transitive verbs, we should indicate exceptions to the general rules of agreement for the verb.

The first exception is verbs with an action of giving and taking. In these verbs, besides $N^a$ and $N^o$ there generally occurs another noun which has as its function that of addressee of the action $N^a$, thus $N^o$ $N^a$ $V^r$.

When $N^a$ is a noun or a pronoun of the 3rd person singular/plural, $V^r$ agrees with $N^a$. When $N^a$ is a pronoun of the 1st or 2nd person singular, $V^r$ agrees with $N^a$, i.e. $N^a$ functions as $N^o$ with transitive verbs.

In the texts we investigated, the following types of sentences involving verbs to give/to take were found:

Я даю меч тебе *na<sup>2</sup> (I give the sword to you)
Я даю меч ему/ей *nga<sup>2</sup> (I give the sword to him/her)
Я даю меч им *nga<sup>2</sup> (I give the sword to them)
Я даю меч слугам *nga<sup>2</sup> (I give the sword to the servants)
Ты даешь меч мне *na<sup>2</sup> (You give the sword to me)
Ты даешь меч ему/ей *na<sup>2</sup> (You give the sword to him/her)
Ты даешь меч им *na<sup>2</sup> (You give the sword to them)
Ты даешь меч слуге *na<sup>2</sup> (You give the sword to the servant)
Ты даешь меч слугам *na<sup>2</sup> (You give the sword to the servants)
Слуга даёт меч слуге *na<sup>2</sup> (The servant gives the sword to the servant)

No Tangut sentences were encountered in which verbs of giving and taking as $N^o$ pronouns of the first and 2nd person singular/plural (for example,
I will hand you over to the enemy); thus we could not determine rules of agreement in this particular case.

The second exception is when N⁰ is accompanied by a possessive determinative of the 1st and 2nd person singular (for example, "the servant strikes my servant"). In that case, contrary to what can be expected from the rules for Nᵃ and N⁰, the vᵗʳ does not receive zero agreement ∅ for this sentence belongs in those of type 39 mentioned above, i.e. "the servant strikes me." Thus, the agreement takes place according to the possessive determinative of the object.

The following types of sentences in which N⁰ has a possessive determination of the 1st or 2nd person singular were encountered:

1. Слуга бьет моего слугу *nga² (The servant strikes my servant)
2. Слуга бьет твоего слугу *na² (The servant strikes your servant)
3. Мы бьем твоих слуг *na² (We strike your servants)
4. Вы бьете моих слуг *nga² (You (pl.) strike my servants)
5. Слуга бьет его слугу ∅ (The servant strikes his (someone else's) servant)

It is possible that an indication of the plurality of the possessive determinative is also reflected in the form of vᵗʳ. A sentence, which can be assigned to the category "You (pl.) strike our servants," was encountered in which vᵗʳ was followed by the auxiliary word *ni². This case, however, is ambiguous as it is not known whether or not the auxiliary word *ni² indicates a plurality of Nᵃ or of N⁰.
It should be pointed out that in sentences with such a possessive
determinative for $N^0$, it is also possible for $V^{tr}$ to be in agreement
with $N^a$, i.e. sentences of the type "You (pl.) strike my servant"
can on the basis of agreement be equated with sentences of the type
"You (pl.) strike the servant."

As in all other cases, however, the agreement when there is a
possessive determinative for $N^0$ is not required.

Regretfully, because of space restrictions, Tangut examples
of the sentence types mentioned cannot be presented in this article.
Notes

1 The article was published in *Pis'mennye Pamjatniki i Problemy, Istorii Kul'tury Narodov Vostoka, Ak. Nauk. SSSR, Institut Vostokovedeniya Leningradskoe Otdelenie, Moscow, 1977, pp. 169-173.*


2 The material for this investigation were Chinese secular works translated into Tangut.