

Issues on the reconstruction and affiliation of Proto-Miao-Yao

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In this talk, I present a new look at the phonological reconstruction of Proto-Miao-Yao. Particular attention is devoted to the outstanding problems concerning the reconstruction of initial consonants and clusters. Based on the new reconstructed system, I discuss the viability of some proposed lexical items shared between Miao-Yao and other language groups. A modest goal is to put the long-ranged comparisons on the firmer ground based on established sound correspondences.

Key words: Miao-Yao, phonological reconstruction, lexical comparison, genetic relationship, East Asian language family