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A special case marking system in the Sinitic languages of Northwest China. By Chenlei Zhou.
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A SPECIAL CASE MARKING SYSTEM IN THE SINITIC LANGUAGES OF NORTHWEST CHINA

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes a special case marking system in the Sinitic languages of Northwest China, by examining the materials from fieldwork and literature. This marking system represents a nominative-accusative system, in which A(gent) and S(ubject) are zero-marked while P(atient) is marked by the accusative marker. It is special in the sense that (1) it is neither the same as the nominative-accusative system in the Altaic languages nor akin to the ergative-absolutive system in Tibetan, let alone Mandarin Chinese, in which case markers are absent; and (2) the dative-accusative syncretism is not seen in the nearby Tibetan and Altaic languages. This paper points out that Hezhou is a district in Northwest China in which many languages have long been in contact with each other, creating a linguistic area. The special case marking system discussed in this paper is the outcome of the language contact in the very linguistic area.

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中国西北地区汉语方言中特殊的格标记系统

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摘要

本文利用田野调查和已有文献材料, 通过跨语言比较, 详细描述中国西北地区汉语方言中存在的一种特殊格系统。这种格标记系统大体上是主宾格系统, 即及物句和不及物句的施事零标记, 及物句的受事加宾格标记。该格标记系统的特殊之处在于: (1) 不同于该地区的藏语(作通格)、阿尔泰语(主宾格, 但领有者和感受者上不加标记)和汉语(没有格标记), 是一种混合的状态; (2) 宾格和与格标记同音, 也不见于周边的藏语和阿尔泰语。文章指出古河州地区是我国西北地区特定的一个语言区域, 多种语言在该地区发生接触, 形成了一些特定的区域特征, 这种特殊的格标记系统正是语言接触的产物。

关键词

格标记系统 西北汉语 语言接触 语言区域