Argument Indexation Patterns in Horpa Languages:
A Major Rgyalrongic Subgroup

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ABSTRACT

Horpa is a little-studied major Rgyalrongic subgroup (Qiangic branch, Sino-Tibetan family) spoken in several counties across Ngaba (阿壩) and Dkarmdzes (甘孜) prefectures in northwestern Sichuan.

The predominant pattern of argument indexation among Rgyalrongic languages is a split system where the arguments registered on the verb vary according to different discourse-pragmatic scenarios. However, argument indexing morphology has been greatly revamped in the Horpa subgroup, resulting in impoverished paradigms, indexation of dative-marked arguments and S/A subjects, and a typologically unusual remedial strategy for marking participant number (as opposed to event number) via stem reduplication.

Based on results from our recent ongoing fieldwork, this paper will attempt to provide, for the first time, a full survey of argument indexation forms and patterns across all four known members of the Horpa subgroup, and discusses the typological significance of the phenomena under study.

REFERENCES