Typology of Generic-Person Marking in Tshobdun Rgyalrong

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All languages have expressions that refer to the generic person (GP), or ‘people in general’. This paper investigates from a typological perspective GP-representation in Tshobdun Rgyalrong, a morphologically complex Sino-Tibetan language spoken in Sichuan. Tshobdun marks GP predominantly with cross-linguistically the least common GP-encoding device, namely dedicated verbal morphology evolving from erstwhile nominalizers. The integration of GP into the inflectional person category as a ‘fourth person’ is a manifestation of the remarkable prominence of humanness marking in Rgyalrong grammar.

Key words: Sino-Tibetan, Rgyalrong, morphosyntax, generic person, verbal person-marking

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人類語言都有「泛指人稱」，用以寬範圍引指「人們」。草登嘉戎語是四川境內一種形態複雜的漢藏語。本文從類型學的角度探討草登話泛指人稱，發現本語主要採用源自名物化成分之動詞形態標記泛指人稱，屬於較罕見之跨語言類型。此類形態標記已進一步融入人稱體系，成為動詞「第四人稱」，顯示嘉戎語形態句法充分反映「屬人」語意之醒目特徵。

關鍵詞：漢藏語系，嘉戎語，形態句法，泛指人稱，動詞人稱範疇