# PHONOSEMANTIC VARIATION AND THE STEDTISCHE DÄMMERUNG JAMES A. MATISOFF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

### ABSTRACT

EVERY SPOKEN LANGUAGE IS RIFE WITH VARIATION ON BOTH THE PHONOLOGICAL AND SEMANTIC PLANES, SOME OF IT RULE-GOVERNED AND SOME OF IT SPORADIC. THUS, DESPITE THE QUALMS OF CERTAIN EXTREME NEOGRAMMARIANS, WE MUST ASSUME THAT THIS IS TRUE FOR PROTO-LANGUAGES AS WELL.

#### PHONOSEMANTIC VARIATION IN TIBETO-BURMAN VS. INDO-EUROPEAN

- --PATTERNS OF PHONOLOGICAL VARIATION IN TB [JAM 2003 (491-534); 2008 (XXXV-XXXVIII)].
- --STEDT'S "PAN-ALLOFAMIC FORMULAS" (PAF'S). VARIOUS NOTATIONAL DEVICES.
- -- CLARIFICATION OF STEDT'S RECONSTRUCTIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO PREFIXES.
- --STRIKING EXAMPLES: SUCK/BREAST; TONGUE/LICK; FIRE/BRIGHT.
- --LANGUAGE-INTERNAL MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES VS. BORROWING BETWEEN RELATED LANGUAGES.
- -- THE CONCEPT OF WORD FAMILY: BLOOD RELATIVES VS. ADOPTIVE ONES.
- -- VARIATION VS. PROTO-FORM STUFFING.
- --THE MORE STRUCTURED MORPHOPHONOLOGICAL PATTERNS OF VARIATION IN INDO-EUROPEAN, AND THEIR UNSTRUCTURED OUTCOMES IN MODERN LANGUAGES.
- -- REFLEXES OF \*WED- × \*WOD- × \*UD- WATER IN MODERN ENGLISH.
- -- REFLEXES OF \*STA- STAND IN MODERN ENGLISH.
- --INDO-EUROPEAN "ROOT EXTENSIONS" OR "AUGMENTS".
- --SEMANTIC VARIATION
- --MUCH LESS STRUCTURED THAN PHONOLOGICAL VARIATION, IN ALL LANGUAGE FAMILIES.
- -- PIONEERING ARTICLE BY BENEDICT (1939).
- --STEDT'S "METASTATIC FLOWCHARTS".
- --ENG. BLACK AND BLANK: FROM THE SAME PIE ROOT.
- --WE TIBETO-BURMANISTS NEED NOT APOLOGIZE TO INDO-EUROPEANISTS, OR BE ENVIOUS OF THEM.

## THE END/CULMINATION OF THE STEDT PROJECT, 1987-2014.

- --THOUSANDS OF RECONSTRUCTED ROOTS, BOTH AT PTB AND SUBGROUP LEVELS, ALONG WITH CHINESE COMPARANDA.
- -- THE ONGOING PROCESS OF ROOT RECTIFICATION: ACCEPTANCE VS. REVISION VS. REJECTION.
- --FINAL PRODUCT: A 3000 PP. PRINTED VOLUME (ONLY A FEW COPIES FOR LIBRARIES!), TO BE MADE GENERALLY AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY.
- --AS STEDT GOES OFF INTO THE TWILIGHT, THERE ARE HOPES THAT IT WILL CONTINUE IN MORE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WAY. CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM: THE INTERACTIVE "ROOT CANAL".

# PHILOSOPHICAL RUMINATIONS

-- TREATMENT OF ERRORS: THE "GOTCHA ATTITUDE" VS. COLLEGIALITY.

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BENEDICT, PAUL K. 1939. "SEMANTIC DIFFERENTIATION IN INDO-CHINESE." HJAS 2:213-229. MATISOFF, J.A. 1994. "REGULARITY AND VARIATION IN SINO-TIBETAN."

- -----. 2003A. HANDBOOK OF PROTO-TIBETO-BURMAN.
- -----. 2003B. "ON ETYMOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY."
- ----- 2008. THE TIBETO-BURMAN REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM.