Some Historical Records on the Lyuzu Language in Southwest China

IKEDA Takumi
Institute for Research in Humanities,
Kyoto University
ikeda@zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp

The Lyuzu language is one of the Tibeto-Burman languages spoken in Sichuan, China. We have two historical records made by western scholars who explored southwest China in the early 20th century. They recorded tens of words under the name of “Menia” language, but I found this was not a record of the Mu-nya language, but they actually recorded the Lyuzu language. On the other hand, we have important historical documents on Tibetan languages recorded during the Qing Dynasty. One of these, a list of Tibetan-Chinese vocabulary (Xifan yiyu) also recorded the Lyuzu language which includes 740 words with Chinese characters using their pronunciation. In this report I will discuss the correspondences and differences among these materials and identify the languages in these documents as the Lyuzu language, referring to field data collected by HUANG Bufan and myself.