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*r and the cluster initials in Proto-Hmong-Mien

Abstract

Among over 700 proto-initials of Proto-Hmong-Mien (PHmM) reconstructed by Wang Fushi and Mao Zongwu (1995), there are several proto-initials which indicate aberrant correspondences in their reflexes. Initials No.580-606 are among them. We regard them as “aberrant” in that their correspondence patterns exhibit extreme complexity, and it seems difficult to set up proto-forms for them. We find a variety of segments here, including plosives, fricatives, approximants, laterals, and nasals as the reflexes of a single set of proto-initial.

In this paper, I take up the case of the initials No.580-606, and argue that the proto-initials should be a set of simple rhotic. I will also reconsider the configuration of the cluster initial system of PHmM relevant to the rhotic set.

References

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