

**A diachronic comparison of domestic animal name pronunciations  
among the Nisu Yi of China**

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Abstract

The traditional pronunciations of domestic animal lexemes recorded in ancient Nisu Yi manuscripts differ significantly from the vernacular pronunciations of their modern counterparts. Thus, in the process of translating such texts, when a translator substitutes modern Nisu for ancient Nisu, not only can many of the characteristics of the original text be lost, but the original meaning may also be completely modified. Currently a number of specialists and scholars, both in China and elsewhere, are familiar with modern Nisu but have no such familiarity with the language's ancient forms. The paper grants Nisu researchers a better grasp of the differences between the language's ancient and modern forms in order to help others avoid mistakes in translating ancient Nisu manuscripts. This is accomplished through a brief comparative analysis of Nisu names for livestock and fowl—then and now.

Keywords: Nisu Yi of China, domestic animal nomenclature, diachronic comparative pronunciation.

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中国彝族尼苏家禽畜名称古今语音比较

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**内容提要：**彝文古籍中记载的家禽畜名称古语音与现代口语中的家禽畜名称语音有较大的差异。在彝文古籍翻译中，将古彝语用现代彝语来翻译，不仅失去了原古彝语的特色，而且原来的意义也完全改变。目前有些国内外彝语研究专家和学者，只知现代彝语，而不知古代彝语。因此，为避免彝文古籍翻译上错误的同时，让彝语研究工作者更好地掌握古今彝语语音的差别。本文将彝族尼苏支系家禽畜名称的古今语音差别进行了简要的比较分析。

**关键词：**中国彝族尼苏 家禽畜名称 古今语音比较