

A Comparative Study of the Inflected Forms of Tibetan and English Verbs*

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Abstract—Based on the literature, this paper compares and analyzes the forms of regular verbs in Tibetan and English from the perspective of morphology by combining diachronic and synchronic methods. The Tibetan suffix is free morpheme and the English suffix is adhesive morpheme. The suffix of regular verbs in English is the inflection of morphological components, while the suffix of regular verbs in Tibetan is the inflection of morphological components, root factors or both. The roots of regular verbs in English are present tense, while those in Tibetan are more inclined to past tense. Except for the zero form of the present tense of Tibetan English verbs, there is no one-to-one correspondence between the morphological components of other verbs and their grammatical meanings.

Keywords—Tibetan; English; verb; inflection

I. INTRODUCTION

Tibetan belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family, and English belongs to the Indo-European language family. They seem to have nothing to do with each other, but they are actually inflections. The verb forms of Tibetan and English are well developed, both in grammatical categories such as tense, aspect, mood and form. Thus there is the possibility of comparative study. The forms of English verbs are embodied in regular verbs and irregular verbs. Regular verbs are very regular in form, and this rule covers the past tense and past participle of English verbs. Regular verbs in modern English generally have the third person singular simple present tense, general present tense, present participle and past simple tense, and there are four forms, such as walks walk walking walked. [1] The verb forms in Tibetan are various, but they also show some regularity. Compared with the classical Tibetan materials in the later stage, the verbs with different morphological forms have basically the same morphological change methods and means except the past tense and the command suffix d-disappear. As early as the eighth and ninth centuries, the forms of classical Tibetan existed in the ancient Tibetan language. [2] Coblin has formulated the following eight types of ancient Tibetan verbs [3]: (see "Table I")

TABLE I. EIGHT TYPES OF ANCIENT TIBETAN VERBS

	present	perfect	future	imperative
Class 1	`...	b...s	b...	...s-*o
Class 2	‘...d	b...s	b...	...s-*o
Class 3	...d	b...s	b...	...s-*o
Class 4	g...	b... s	b...	...s-*o
Class 5	g...	b...	d...	...s-*o
Class 6	‘...d	b...	d...	...s-*o
Class 7	‘...	b...s	d...	...s-*o
Class 8	‘...d	b...s	d...	...s-*o

In terms of large categories, the above eight types of verbs are considered regular verbs in Tibetan, while the rest are irregular verbs. Of course, among these eight types of verbs, those that strictly follow the morphological rules of each type are regarded as regular verbs, and some verbs with slight morphological differences are regarded as irregular verbs. But to be sure, regular verbs in Tibetan are no more than these eight categories. There are two types of verb inflections in Tibetan. One is the present, future, past tense, and the imperative. One class represents the voice (self-dynamic, make dynamic). [4] This paper compares the present and imperative forms of regular verbs in Tibetan and English, in order to find out the morphological characteristics of inflected verbs.

II. TIBETAN AND ENGLISH BASE VERBS

A. Tibetan Base Verbs

The present tense of a Tibetan verb is its original form. The present tense is directly related to the change of other forms of the verb triplicate. The consonant changes invariant and the change way are different, depending on the different consonant type of the present tense. [2] This also makes the present tense of Tibetan verbs very stable as the original form of verbs. Coblin has drawn up the following four forms of the present forms of ancient Tibetan verbs: `-, `-d; -d; g-.

Throughout Tibetan rules of the verb form, verbs in ancient Tibetan present type prefix is respectively fi, g and zero prefix, d as suffix. In the past tense and imperative form in the 8th and 9th centuries, the suffixes d gradually disappeared. During this period, the verb forms with the suffixes d and the verb forms without the suffixes d existed side by side. At the latest, the suffixes d completely

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disappeared after the 10th century. [2] It can be seen that, as the suffix of the past tense and imperative, d plays a more prominent role. With the disappearance of the d suffix, the present form of the zero prefix verb becomes zero form. For example, the root of *lta-blta-bltas-ltos "look" is lta, and the present tense is the root. For verbs with zero form, the root form is the same as the present form, which is more obvious. [4]

B. English Base Verbs

English verbs are inflected on the basis of the base verbs in the form of simple form, past form, past participle, present participle and gerund. Whatever the change of verb form, its actual meaning is subject to the original form of the verb. English has evolved from a complex form into today's form, simplified a lot. The Old English period single triad has the -ee or -e ending, changes to the -eth end of middle English, and then to the -s of modern English. The third person plural changes from -ae to the -en of middle English, and then to the zero suffix of modern English. [5] The third person singular and plural suffix phonemes are relatively reduced in English. The present form of a modern English verb is zero, with no prefix or suffix. The present tense is the root. The subject is the third person singular with the suffix -s; when the subject is another person, the predicate verb agrees with its original form. Suffix -s adhesive morpheme, morphological component of the inflectional changes.

C. The Similarities and Differences of the Base Forms of English and Tibetan Verbs

The present tense of regular verbs in Tibetan can be zero or prefixed. In English the present tense is zero except when the subject is the third person singular. The present tense of the Tibetan verb is the original form of the verb, on which all other forms are inflected. The English root of a verb is always in the present tense whether it is a regular verb or not. The root of regular verbs in Tibetan is present tense in zero form. In English, the suffix s is added to the base form of the verb if the subject is third person singular. This is also a prominent manifestation of the personal category in English, but not in Tibetan. The adjustment of prefixes, suffixes and other structures in the Tibetan language according to the different consonants of the present form reflects the stipulation of character in the traditional Tibetan grammar. The English suffix s is the inflectional change of morphological components. The Tibetan verb prefixes have the inflectional change of morphological components as well as the inflectional change of root factors, or the inflectional change of both root phoneme and morphological components.

III. PAST TENSE OF ENGLISH AND TIBETAN VERBS

A. Past Tense of Tibetan Verbs

Coblin has drawn up the following two forms of the past forms of ancient Tibetan verbs: b-s; b-.

b as past prefix exception, it also confirms the traditional grammar ba ni ads dang gzhan bas pyir function point. b- and -s are free morphemes. A morphological component has

no fixed relation with a grammatical meaning, but different grammatical meanings are reflected in the comparison of different morphological components. As morphological components, -g, -b and so on are not fixed to express future tense and past tense (such as gsod "kill" [present] bgji "zuo" [future]), so the difference in tense and type of verbs is still reflected in the comparison of different morphological components and root factors. [4] As the morphological components of the past tense, b and s are not absolute representatives of the past tense. Prefixes and postfixes may be morphological components or root phonemes, and the recognition method is based on their variability. A morphological component of a genus that changes and a phoneme of a generic root that does not change. Such as: sgrim-bsgrim-bsgrim-sgrim "twist" where the word "b" is added before and the word "s" is the variable component, which is the morphological component; After adding the word s, add the word m as the invariant component, belonging to the root phoneme. [4] Therefore, in the past tense prefix and suffix is morphological component or root factor is not necessarily. Many verbs have roots that never come alone. For example, the root of htchag-btcag-btcags-tchogs is tcag (tchag), while the root of hdul-gdul- btuld-thuld is tul (thul). In the past simple form, the inflection of the root rarely occurs, and it is often close to the form of the root. [4]

B. Past Tense of English Verbs

Regular verb forms in English the past tense and past participle by ending them with -ed. For verbs with the same form of past participle and past tense, we should judge whether they are past participle or past tense according to their syntactic structure, function and semantics in the sentence. Old English verbs are divided into strong and weak verbs. Weak verbs correspond to regular verbs in modern English. In Old English most verbs, or weak-inflected verbs, were formed in the past tense by adding -ede, -ode, or -de to their stem; The past participle is formed by adding -ed, -od or -d. In middle English, almost one-third of Old English verbs were converted to weak verbs, making most English verbs regular verbs. In middle English, singular and plural past tense and past participle forms of verbs tended to agree, for example, finde found only one form found, which greatly simplified the endings of verbs. Regular verbs in modern English form past tense and past participle according to a unified ending. [5] -ed, the end of the past tense and past participle in modern English, is an adhesive morpheme, a morphological inflectional change.

C. The Similarities and Differences of the Past Tense Between Tibetan and English

The past tense of regular verbs in Tibetan requires prefixes and suffixes. English regular verbs only need suffixes. Regular past verbs in English are all inflections of morphological components. The past tense of regular verbs in Tibetan has the inflectional changes of morphological components or root factors as well as the comprehensive changes of morphological components and root factors. Tibetan morpheme is free morpheme, English morpheme is adhesion morpheme. The tenses of Tibetan verbs are mainly

reflected in prefixes which determine the tenses to a great extent. As for the suffix of the past tense, we cannot properly explain its function. [6] Among the regular verbs in the past tense, there is one type of verb that has the same future prefix as the past tense. The past tense and past participle suffixes of regular verbs in English are also compared from the perspectives of syntactic structure, semantics and pragmatics. The past tense of some regular verbs in Tibetan is the root of a word. The past tense of regular verbs in Tibetan has both inflectional changes of morphological components and synthetical changes of root factors. The past form of regular verbs in English only has inflections of morphological components.

IV. CONCLUSION

Compared with the formation of regular verbs in Tibetan, the formation of regular verbs in English is much simpler. Relatively speaking, English is highly simplified. Tibetan three-time homographs are included in regular verbs, while English three-time homographs are not included in regular verbs. In English, only regular verbs with the same morphological component are added. The suffix of regular verbs in Tibetan is free morphemes, which can be formed into words independently. The suffix of regular verbs in English is adhesive morphemes. Regular verbs in Tibetan have not only morphological components and inflectional changes of root factors, but also comprehensive changes. The inflections of regular verbs in English belong to the inflections of morphological components. The morpheme prefix is missing in English verb form. Moreover, the form of Tibetan verbs is prefixed, and English verbs are formed by suffixes. Prefixes are particularly important among Tibetan verbs as a prerequisite for expressing tenses. In English, all tenses are suffixes of different forms of verbs. Both Tibetan and English have primitive verbs and the past tense, which also shows that the present and past tense are the basic and primary tenses in the inflectional languages. English verb roots are always in the present tense, and Tibetan regular verb roots are both present and past tense. Except that both Tibetan and English zero-form verbs are absolute present tense, all other tenses in Tibetan English are reflected in contrast. The general trend is that the irregular verbs of English verbs change to regular verbs, and the forms of Tibetan verbs change from regular verbs to irregular verbs.

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