

Introduction of the Words with Morpheme qp⁵⁵ in Lahao Hmong Language of the Great Wall of the South

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, the Lahao Miao (also called Hmong) Village in Phoenix, Hunan in China is a "stone village" located on the checkpoint of the Great Wall in the South (founded in Tang Dynasty and flourished in Ming and Qing Dynasties). It is a stone village, which has the natural advantages of language contact and ethnic exchanges and research. The study of the Miao language in Lahao Miao Village will help us to clarify the historical level of the local Miao language, and it will also help us to look back at the study of Chinese. This paper conducts field investigation and research on the words with the morpheme qp⁵⁵ in the Lahao Hmong language, and proposes that the morpheme qp⁵⁵ is related to the Chinese word "you (Chinese characters written as [你])".

Keywords: *The Great Wall of the South, Lahao Miao language, language contact, morpheme qp⁵⁵, the word "you[你]" in ancient Chinese*

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE SOUTHERN GREAT WALL LAHO YIN3PAN AND THE LAHO HMONG PREFIX qp⁵⁵

Lahao Miao Village, located on the wall of the Great Wall in the south, has natural conditions and advantages for language contact research.

The Fenghuang Miao language belongs to the first local language area among the six local language areas of the Miao language in western Hunan. [Yang Zaibiao. Comparison of Eastern Miao Dialects and Native Languages [M]. Beijing: Minzu Press, 2004 May 1st Edition, p. 1.]^[1] Possessing word-formation prefixes is a major feature of Xiangxi Miao vocabulary. The Southern Great Wall Lahao Hmong has the prefix qp⁵⁵. [Due to the differences in the specific pronunciation of q^{***} in different dialects, it is inconvenient to describe them one by one. This article is expressed in Lahao Hmong qp⁵⁵.]

There is no unified "standard answer" for what kind of linguistic academic term should the qp⁵⁵ added to the noun in Hmong be named. Some researchers call it "prefix", and some researchers call it "virtual morpheme". There is still no consensus in the academic community on the research of qp⁵⁵. This itself also shows that the research on qp⁵⁵ in front of Hmong nouns still needs to be in-depth. This paper refers to qp⁵⁵ with morphemes.

A morpheme is the smallest combination of sound and meaning in a language. A word composed of two or more morphemes is called a "composite word", and Chinese words, such as "teacher" and "window". The root is a type of morpheme, which has real meaning. It is a free morpheme and a sticky morpheme whose position is not fixed in a compound word, such as "你" in "你你". Affix is also a type of morpheme, but its meaning is not real. It has a fixed position in a compound word. It is a sticky morpheme, and can be divided into three categories according to different positions: prefix, infix and suffix.

In Lahao Hmong, "tree" is pronounced qp⁵⁵ntvo²⁴, "seed" is pronounced qp⁵⁵ηvu⁴², and "bran" is pronounced qp²⁴sa²⁴ (There is a tone shift, which is regarded as qp⁵⁵ in this article). Then, we can say that these Lahao-Hmong words are all composite words composed of two morphemes. In these bimorphological compound words, qp⁵⁵ is the prefix in the word, and ntvo²⁴, ηvu⁴², sa²⁴ are the roots.

2. RESEARCH ON THE MIAO LANGUAGE MORPHEME qp⁵⁵

The research on compound words with morpheme qp⁵⁵ mainly focuses on three aspects: the article theory of the morpheme qp⁵⁵, the prefix theory of the morpheme qp⁵⁵, and the category word theory of the morpheme qp⁵⁵.

2.1 The article theory of the morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$

Luo Anyuan in "Articles in Songtao and Miao Dialects in Guizhou" (1980) [Luo Anyuan. Articles in Songtao and Miao Dialects in Guizhou [J]. National Languages, 1980, No. 4.]^[2] In the article, it is clearly pointed out that there are articles in the Hmong language. In Wang Fushi (1982), the chapter "1. What is a word" talks about "the so-called problem of prefixes and prefixes". [Wang Fushi. My Views on Several Issues in Miao Language Grammar [C]. Editorial Department of "National Language and Literature". Anthology of Ethnic Language Research. Xining: Qinghai Publishing House, 1982.]^[3]

First, fully explain what the Indo-European "prefix problem" is. For example, angular "has angular", after adding the prefix bi- which means "two", it becomes biangular, which means "has two corners"; large "large", adds the prefix that means "to increase" After en-, it becomes enlarged. However, he added another point: "I want to make a statement here, I am not claiming that *ab*, *ghab*, and *ghaob* in Hmong language are not prefixes. If you remove them, they have no meaning or change the meaning, and they should still be regarded as prefixes.

Luo Anyuan discussed the words with the prefix $q\text{p}^{55}$ in the "Modern Xiangxi Miao Grammar" (1990). "Still life article *ghaob* is a word that specifies the grammatical function of still life nouns, and it is also a sign of the materialization of real words other than nouns." And a total of 13 rules are listed. Article is a kind of function word, which is commonly found in Indo-European and Semitic languages. There is no article in Chinese. Although Miao and Chinese are most similar in word order and parts of speech to Chinese, "Can we just apply Chinese grammar? No. We must not apply Chinese grammar when writing Hmong grammar." [Wang Fushi. Views on Several Issues in Linguistics and Grammar [C]. Editorial Department of "National Language and Literature". Anthology of Ethnic Language Research. Xining: Qinghai Publishing House, 1982.]^[4] From the above discussion of Luo Anyuan and Wang Fushi, we can neither be completely sure that the morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$ is an article, nor can we be completely certain that it is a prefix.

2.2 The prefix theory of the morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$

Chen Qiguang (1993) Expounds the influence of affixes on the tonal changes of the formed words. After Western linguistics was introduced and practiced in many languages in my country, many inapplicable phenomena appeared. The same is true in the "prefix saying of the morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$ ". "Miao-Yao language has almost no formative affixes, and most formative affixes are prefixed." [Chen Qiguang. Miao-Yao Prefixes [J]. National Languages, 1993, No. 1.]^[5] Chen Qiguang believes that the role of prefixes has the following three points:

(1) The morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$ plays the role of distinguishing words. With or without prefixes, the meanings of words are different, and some not only have different meanings, but also different types of conjunctions. For example: tu^{55} of YangHao [We use the pronunciation and intonation description summarized by Chen Qiguang's original text.] means "door", and after adding the morpheme qa^{33} , it becomes $qa^{33}tu^{55}$, which means "doorway", not the item "door".

(2) The morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$ plays the role of marking the noun part of speech. For example, $q\text{p}^{35}z\text{p}^{42}$ means "garden", which is a noun at a glance. But the signs of nouns are not limited to only the morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$, there are other prefixes such as tei^{44} , ta^{35} , etc.

(3) The morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$ plays the role of distinguishing subclasses in the class of nouns. For example, $q\text{p}^{35}z\text{p}^{42}$ is a subclass of nouns, meaning "garden".

Chen Qiguang (1993) believed that the development of prefixes in Miao-Yao language is nothing more than two paths: one is that there were few words with prefixes in the past, and some dialects later expanded the use of prefixes and added many derivatives with prefixes by analogy; the other That is, the original prefix was very developed, and then fell off one after another due to phonetic evolution and other reasons. More often the latter. In addition, Long Jie (2015) believes that there are not only word-formative prefixes but also form-formative prefixes in the Miao language of Western Hunan. [Long Jie. Word-formation prefixes and morphological prefixes in the Miao language in western Hunan [J]. Journal of Chinese Language and Literature, No. 6, 2015.]^[6]

2.3 And the category word theory of the morpheme $q\text{p}^{55}$

Guan Xinqiu (2006) believes: " $q\text{p}^{35}$ [the original tone of voice in Guan Xinqiu's article that we use.] is a classifier to indicate semantic classification, which is used to indicate that words with $q\text{p}^{35}$ belong to non-animal categories. The $q\text{p}^{35}$ has both The function of the prefix and the article." [Guan Xinqiu. The $q\text{p}^{35}$ of the Miao language in western Hunan [J]. Journal of South-Central University for Nationalities (Humanities and Social Sciences Edition), May 2006, Vol. 26, No. 3.]^[7] From the perspective of research on categorical words, Guan's inferred and hypothesized that in the early stage of the production of the Miao language, the Miao people regarded these words as words belonging to the same category, so they used a class symbol $q\text{p}^{35}$ to identify these words belonging to the same category. In such an assumption, from the perspective of epistemology, the above-mentioned prefixes (which can also be regarded as additional components) and articles can be compatible to a greater extent, so as to avoid the contradictions between the two.

Ling Chunsheng and Rui Yifu's research work "Investigation Report on the Miao Nationality in Western Hunan" in the 1930s included the last paragraph: "3. There are many clearly identifiable Chinese loanwords in terms of vocabulary, among the vocabulary collected in this report. About 70%." [Ling Chunsheng, Rui Yifu: "Investigation Report of the Miao Nationality in Western Hunan", December 2003, first edition, p. 375.] [8] This shows that studying the Hmong language in combination with Chinese is a path that is likely to gain greater benefits.

Dai Qingxia has also repeatedly emphasized the important value and significance of combining Chinese studies with minority languages. The southern Great Wall of Lahao Miao Village is located on the "border wall dividing line" between the Miao and Han nationalities in Hunan. It is a typical bilingual contact language point and has natural language contact research advantages. For the study of the Miao language in Lahao Miao Village, the best entry point is the sub-historical level study of the Miao-Han relationship.

3. INVESTIGATION AND SORTING OF RELATED WORDS OF LAHAO HMONG MORPHEME qp⁵⁵

We recorded 165 plant nouns, 100 production tool nouns and 219 daily necessities in the Miao language of Lahao Miao Village on the wall of the South Great Wall. The common feature of these words is that many new Hmong words can be formed from the morpheme qp⁵⁵.

Among these two-syllable words, we can clearly see that some words are compound words composed of morpheme qp⁵⁵ and Chinese pronunciation, such as: qp⁵⁵ntwo²⁴ (tree), qp²⁴teiã⁴² (rose), qp⁵⁵ηa¹²(bud), qp⁵⁵jaj⁴² (seedling), qp⁵⁵mo⁴²(wheat), qp⁵⁵mei²²

(buckwheat), qp⁵⁵ηtao²⁴ (beanpod), qp⁵⁵shao⁴² (grass), qp⁵⁵zõ²² (velvet), etc.

In addition to two-syllable words, there are also many three-syllable and four-syllable words with morpheme qp⁵⁵. For example, qp⁵⁵mjə²⁴ (leaf), itself is a two-syllable word with a morpheme qp⁵⁵, but when tobacco leaves were planted in western Hunan, the three-syllable word tobacco leaf qp⁵⁵mjə²⁴jẽ⁴² was produced.

In the process of contact between Miao and Chinese, Miao people can form many new Miao words according to the traditional way of word formation in Miao language. For example: qp²⁴fven²⁴shaj⁴²(onion), qp²⁴teiao²⁴thao⁴²(scallion), qp²⁴pr⁵⁵mr⁵⁵fva⁴²(seedcotton). They reflect the powerful word-forming ability of the morpheme qp⁵⁵ in the Miao language.

4. THE POSSIBILITY OF COMBINING THE MIAO LANGUAGE MORPHEME qp⁵⁵ WITH THE CHINESE CHARACTER "YOU[□]"

In ancient Chinese classics such as The Book of Songs and Shangshu, there are many disyllabic nouns beginning with the character "you".

The oracle bone script form of the character "□" is "□", and the form of the golden script is "□". Many researchers believe that "□" should be interpreted as "right hand holding meat", which means "holding something in the hand". In fact, it is not "right hand holding meat", but related to solar and lunar eclipses. During a solar eclipse, the moon passes from right to left. In addition, the word "meat" is related to the word "month", and "meat" can also be related to mussel meat. The ancients regarded the pearls hidden in the mussel meat as a symbol of the sun and the moon. An astronomical map of mussel shells was unearthed at the Hongshan Cultural Archaeological Site, and there is a western white tiger constellation in the picture. This is the archaeological site's excellent interpretation of the principle of ancient script creation.

In ancient Chinese, not only does the word "you" have no specific meaning before nouns, but also has no specific meaning when placed before adjectives, such as "□□□□□□□□" "□□□□□□□□□□"

We will find that there is a certain phonological and semantic connection between the Miao language and ancient Chinese, □——qp⁵⁵pr⁴²□□□——qp⁵⁵nto⁴²□□□——qp⁴²hã¹³□

The ancient pronunciation of "you" is gwu?.[Lin Tongtong, Zheng Zhangshangfang editor-in-chief. Chinese Character Phonetic Evolution Dictionary [D]. Jiangxi: Jiangxi Education Press, December 2021 first edition, p. 960.]^[9] It is a round-lipped uvula unaspirated stop sound, which is very close to the Lahao Miao initial uvula qp⁵⁵, and is also very close to the Miao language in other parts of western Hunan.

5. CONCLUSION

We believe that there is a connection with the Chinese word "you" with the morpheme qp⁵⁵. Under the premise of this assumption, we can analyze the words formed by the morpheme qp⁵⁵ in three aspects: (1) from the perspective of content words; (2) from the perspective of affixes; (3) from the perspective of function word particles. The angle is analyzed. Of course, we need to emphasize that the Miao language has its own characteristics. We can only use the research method of the Chinese character "you" to study the words with the morpheme qp⁵⁵ in the Miao language, but cannot conduct a complete equivalent study. In addition, this is only a

hypothetical study of ours, and there is a possibility that it will not work.

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