

Academic Year 2022-2023
Centre of Buddhist Studies The University of Hong Kong
BSTC2015 Tibetan Language I
(6 Credit)

(The course is open to students from all faculties as an elective course)

Course Description: This is an introductory course on learning how to read Tibetan Buddhist texts and does not require prior knowledge of literary Tibetan. It is run for the first academic semester. The students will learn to read and write Tibetan, while acquiring a practical understanding of grammar and the ability to translate sentences and short passages mainly from Tibetan to English, but also from English to Tibetan.

Course Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course, the students are expected to understand Tibetan grammatical functions, and to gain the ability to read and write simple sentences in Tibetan.

Teaching and Learning Method: Lectures, class discussions and tutorials.

Lecturer: Dr. Phuntsok Wangchuk
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Email: wangchuk@hku.hk
Offering Semester: First Semester
Class Schedule: Wednesday 10:30 – 12:20
Classroom: CPD LG. 18

Course Assessment: Quizzes, attendance and assignments (50%), Final exam (50%).
(Weekly lectures and lesson plans will be made available on Moodle)

Grade Expectations in Faculty of Arts:
http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The University upholds the principle that plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and any student found plagiarizing is liable to disciplinary action in addition to failing the assessment concerned. Please read the following webpage on "plagiarism" for details:
<http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism>

Course Outline (tentative)

Lesson I	30 Alphabets and 4 vowels Romanization (Wylie system) Pronunciation (following Central Tibetan dialect) Punctuation markers
Lesson II	Superfixed letters (mgo can yi ge) Suffixes (rjes 'jug) Prefixes (sngon 'jug) Practice pronunciation
Lesson III	Subfixed letters ('dogs can yi ge) Post suffixes (yang 'jug) Identification of root letter Practice pronunciation
Lesson IV	Nominal particles (bdag sgra) Forming nouns (ming tshig sgrub tshul) Forming adjectives (ming tshig gi khyad chos ston pa'i tshig srgub byed) Gender markers (pho dang mo'i khyad par ston pa'i rtags) Forming verbal infinitives and verbal nouns (bya tshig ming tshig tu sgyur tshul)
Lesson V	Plural particles (mang tshig) Personal pronouns (ming tshab) Demonstrative pronouns (tha snyad gsal bar ston pa'i ming tsab) Possessive pronoun (bdag sgra'i ming tshab) Possessive particles (dngos po gang la ldan par ston pa'i sgra) Linking verbs/ verb to be (mtsam sbyor byed kyi bya tshig) Possessing expression (dngos po and khyed chos sogs ldan par ston byed) Declarative particles (rdzogs tshigs) Locative particles (la don gyi phrad)
Lesson VI	Cardinal/ Ordinal number (gzhi grags dang rim pa bstar chags kyi grags) Conjunctive particles (dang sgra) Genitive particle between two nouns (ming tshig gnyis kyi bar gyi 'brel sgra) Genitive particle between noun and adjective (ming dand khyad tshig bar gyi 'brel sgra) Genitive particle between adjective and noun (khyad tshig - ming tshig bar gyi 'brel sgra) Genitive particle between verb and noun (bya tshig dang ming tshig bar gyi 'brel sgra)
Lesson VII	Agentive particles (byed sgra) The source particles ('byung khungs kyi sgra)
Lesson VIII	Connective particles (lhag bcas kyi sgra) Concessive particles (rgyan sdug kyi sgra)
Lesson IX	Conditional particles (ni sgra) Interrogative pronouns (dri ba'i tsab tshig) Verb tenses (dus gsum)
Lesson X	Relative pronouns ('brel sgra'i tsab tshig) Agentive verbal particle (byed pa ldan pa'i tshig) Clause connective: (brjod pa mtsham sbyor byed)
Lesson XI	Reading: Four immensurable prayer (tshad med bzhi) Quotation particles (lung 'dren gyi srga) Review: previous lessons
Lesson XII	Vocative particles ('bod sgra) Review: previous lessons

Textbook:

1. An Introduction to Classical Tibetan by Stephen Hodge. Bangkok: Orchid Press, 2003.
2. A Tibetan Verb Lexicon: Verbs, Classes, and Syntactic Frames by Paul G. Hackett. Boston and London: Snow Lion Publications, 2003.
3. A Tibetan-English Dictionary by H. A. Jäschke. Reprint. NY: Dover Press, 2003.
4. The Great Tibetan-Tibetan-Chinese Dictionary
5. A Textbook of Lhasa Tibetan by Ellen Bartee and Nyima Droma. Lhasa: National Press for Tibetan Studies, 2000
6. Essential of Modern literary Tibetan: A reading course and reference grammar with Gelek Rinpoche and Lobsang Phuntsog by Melvyn C. Goldstein. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2007.

Reference Sources

I. Dictionaries / Glossaries

1. Das, Sarat Chandra. 1970. A Tibetan-English Dictionary with Sanskrit Synonyms. Reprint. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
2. Csoma de Korös, Alexander. 1842. A Dictionary of Tibetan and English. Reprint. 1834. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.
3. Goldstein, Melvyn. 2001. The New Tibetan-English Dictionary of Modern Tibetan. CA: University of California Press.
4. Nagano, Yasuhiko. 1997. A Morphological Index of Classical Tibetan. Tokyo: Seishido.
5. Rikey, Thubten and Andrew Ruskin. 1992. A Manual of Key Buddhist Terms: a Categorization of Buddhist Terminology with Commentary by Lotsawa Kaba Paltseg. Dharamsala: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives.
6. Thubten Nyima (Alak Zenkar Rinpoche) & Dr. Gyurme Dorje. An Encyclopaedic Tibetan-English Dictionary. Volume 1. The Nationalities Publishing House & The School of Oriental and African Studies.
7. Tsepa Rigzin. 2008. Tibetan English Dictionary of Buddhist terminology (Revised and Enlarged Edition). Reprint. Dharamsala: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives.

II. Grammars

1. Bacot, Jacques. 1946. Grammaire du Tibétain littéraire. Paris: Paris Libraire d'Amérique et d' Orient.
2. Bell, C. A. 1998. Grammar of Colloquial Tibetan. New Delhi: Asian Educational Services.
3. Beyer, Stephen. 1992. The Classical Tibetan Language. NY: State University of New York Press
4. Das, Sarat Chandra. 1972. An Introduction to the Grammar of the Tibetan Language, with the texts of Situ sum-tag, Dage-je salwai me-long, and Situi shal lung. Reprint. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
5. Denwood, Philip. 1999. Tibetan. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

6. Hannah, Herbert Bruce. 1973. *A Grammar of the Tibetan Language, Literary and Colloquial*. Reprint. Delhi: Cosmo Publications.
7. Jäschke, H. A. 1989. *Tibetan Grammar*. Reprint. Delhi: Sri Sat Guru Publications.
8. Lalou, Marcelle. 1950. *Manuel élémentaire de tibétain classique: méthode empirique*. Paris.
9. Miller, Roy Andrew. 1993. *Prolegomena to the first two Tibetan Grammatical treatises*. Vienna: *Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde* 30.
10. Preston, Graig. *How to Read Classical Tibetan, Vol. I and II*. Boston & London: Snow Lion Publications.
11. Sangya Tandar Naga. 2012. *Tibetan: Language, Literature and Grammar*. Dharamsala: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives.
12. Tournadre, Nicolas. 2010. "The Classical Tibetan cases and their trans categorially: From sacred grammar to modern linguistics." *Himalayan Linguistics*, Vol. 9(2): pp. 87-125.
13. Tournadre, Nicolas. 2003. *Manual of standard Tibetan*. Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications.
14. Wilson, Joe B. 1992. *Translating Buddhism from Tibetan: An Introduction to the Tibetan Literary Language and the Translation of Buddhist Texts from Tibetan*. Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications.

III. Other

1. Cabezon, José Ignacio and Roger Jackson. *Tibetan Literature: Studies in Genre*. New York: Snow Lion Publications. <http://www.thlib.org/encyclopedias/literary/genres/genres-book.php#!book=/studiesin-genres/a2/>
2. Laufer, Berthold. 1918. "Origin of Tibetan Writing." *Journal of American Oriental Society*, Vol. 38: 34-46.
3. Wylie, Turrell. 1959. "A Standard System of Tibetan Transcription." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Vol. 22: 261-267.
4. Van der Kujip, Leonard. 1996. "The Tibetan Script and Derivatives." In *The World's Writing Systems*, eds. P. Daniels and W. Bright, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 431-441.
5. Verhagen, Pieter Cornelis. 2000. *A History of Sanskrit Grammatical Literature in Tibet. Volume 2: Assimilation into Indigenous Scholarship*. Leiden: Brill.