

Structural borrowing and metatypy in Tangwang and Dongxiang

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The Dongxiang language, spoken in Southern Gansu province in the People's Republic of China, is a Mongolic language that has been in contact with its neighbouring Chinese dialects. These contacts have induced massive phonological and lexical changes in the Dongxiang language, but only a few syntactic changes due to the influence of Chinese can be traced. On the other hand, Tangwang, a Chinese dialect spoken at the periphery of the district of Dongxiang, has been heavily influenced by Mongolic syntax and morphology, and features characteristics usually absent in Chinese dialects, such as SOV word order, case markers, reflexive markers.

For this presentation, I will give an introduction about the subject of metatypy by analysing structural borrowings and calques in the Dongxiang language and the Chinese dialect of Tangwang.

I will first describe how the Tangwang language has calqued the case and aspectual markers systems from Mongolic and will compare them with Dongxiang. I will then describe the direct grammatical borrowing process in Tangwang by discussing the borrowed demonstrative *ene*, the borrowed reflexive markers *-ne* and *-ni*, and the interrogative pronoun *ali*.

I will then discuss the process of « calquing of calques » in Dongxiang by giving examples about grammatical function expansion of two suffixes *-ni* and *-ji* used with adjectives in Dongxiang the use of the Dongxiang reflexive possessive marker *-nugvun* as a reflexive pronoun.

From those examples, I try to show that there is a difference between two phenomena present in the Dongxiang language, one being closer to a calque and the other closer to grammaticalization, and eventually metatypy. I will show that Tangwang has calqued the syntactic functions of Mongolic languages while Dongxiang has calqued the forms of the same syntactic functions from Chinese. I will also try to show that metatypy has probably occurred in Tangwang. I will describe a hypothetical borrowing process reflecting the grammatical integration of these suffixes in Tangwang and in Dongxiang.

Key words: Dongxiang - Tangwang - calque - grammatical borrowing - metatypy

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