

# RECONSTRUCTION OF PROTO-QIANG

Full Presentation

Jennifer L. Wright

La Trobe University

The purpose of this study is to reconstruct Proto-Qiang. Qiang is traditionally divided into ‘Southern’ and ‘Northern’ based on the presence or absence of tone. Nine Qiang dialects from both ‘Northern’ and ‘Southern’ Qiang were used to reconstruct Proto-Qiang. Data for the reconstruction consists of over 3000 lexical items plus grammatical morphemes and some sentences. The reconstruction proposes Proto-Qiang consists of a pre-initial consonant, an initial consonant (cluster), and a rhyme. Syllable-final consonants appear to have developed from the initial consonant of a following syllable.

This reconstruction argues for four places of articulation for stops with three manners, three places and manners of articulation for affricates, seven places of articulation for fricatives with two manners, a series of nasals, and a lateral. Proto-Tibeto-Burman reconstructions provide clear evidence of the historical development of Proto-Tibeto-Burman to Proto-Qiang.

This reconstruction differs from the 2001 reconstruction of Proto-Southern-Qiang by Jonathan Evans in a number of ways. First, this reconstruction does not divide the Qiang dialects into ‘Northern’ and ‘Southern’ Qiang. Rather, this reconstruction encompasses the changes in the nine dialects to determine the pronunciations of Proto-Qiang. The second way this study differs from Evans’s work as it does not reconstruct a tonal system for any Qiang dialects, but assumes a pitch-accent system.

## References

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Linguistics Program  
La Trobe University  
Bundoora, VIC 3083  
(03) 9479 1425  
atkayma@juno.com