
Im analytischen Teil steht der Verfasser auf sichererem Boden und dieser Teil kann, wie gesagt, dem einen oder anderen vielleicht etwas Neues bieten, obgleich auch hier gegenüber den klassischen Arbeiten Chamberlains, Astons, Florenz usw. ein sichtbarer Fortschritt schwerlich festzustellen sein dürfte.

So erweist sich das Werk als eine fleissige, aber nicht ohne Vorsicht zu benutzende Arbeit.

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——, Karlgren's Glottal Stop Initial in Ancient Chinese, with particular Reference to the hPhags-pa Alphabet and to certain Points of Linguistic Psychology. — Ottawa 1953. (GSt).

Before starting the review of these two works, privately published by the author, it is well to give some quotations to illustrate the tone and aims of these pamphlets: “All I have been able to offer, on the positive side, is this: the loose ends of a clew of ideas.” (LP p. 10) “It is a worriedly revised, repetitiously emphatic, and certainly exasperated version of a treatise” of 1944 “presenting some thoroughly unfashionable ideas and some facts which have decidedly not been welcome.” (LP p. iii). “A number of topics which it is necessary to expand severally and in detail". “The present paper (GSt) is the first of these detailed arguments. My belief is that Karlgren has here (for initial YING (形) reconstructed a glottal stop to explain a phonetic distinction which did not exist, at least in the terms which he assigns to it.” (GSt, p. 2).

The author relates in detail his unhappy experiences and unsuccessful attempts to have his
findings published. The exposition of his linguistic theories is continually interrupted and confused by repeated outbursts against the 'orthodox', 'dogmatists', 'experts', who refused first to approve and later to discuss his ideas. To Mr. H. this is not only unjust and unfair, but it is a conspiracy to suppress the truth and facts he wanted to present, because they happened to be against the partyline of the 'Modern Linguists'. He thinks his opponents have not answered him adequately and he announces his will to persevere in his fight until they listen. The text of the first draft of his work, which was rejected by the 'experts', is not known to the reviewer; M. H. has entirely revised and greatly augmented his pamphlet by adding polemic notes. The 'expert's' criticism against him is known only through his quotations. This review will discuss some of his theories, not every topic M. H. happens to mention, and not his quarrels with 'expert' S or F.

The theses of M. H. are directed against 1) the orthodox dogmatic school in Chinese Historical Linguistics, which he calls 'Karlgrenism'. 2) the 'Modern Scientific Linguists' in connection with problems of phonemic analysis, alphabetization, orthography. Here he has a whole set of pejorative terms: 'reppazennativism', 'Ollendorfism', 'militant illiteracy', 'trivialism'. The opponents are 'neurotics', 'paranoiacs' .... "Passons aux thèses."  

I. Karlgrenism. Mr. H. bemoans the fact that Karlgren's reconstruction of Ancient Chinese has been too easily accepted and considered as dogmatic final truth; a fact which has had detrimental effect into the field of Tibetan, Mongolian and Japanese studies. He criticizes many details in the work of Karlgren, but when these criticisms touch upon more than general principles, and go into complicated details it takes more than a casual note to prove Karlgren's errors. The only point he has discussed in detail is the Glottal stop initial in Ancient Chinese.

This reconstruction is rejected by M. H., who explains the difference between the initials yù and ying as one of two different tone pitches only. This difference of tone pitch is already integrated in Karlgren's system, and is concomitant with the difference of consonantal or vocalic anlaut, voiced and voiceless opposition. The arguments adduced by H. to prove the tone pitch difference strengthen Karlgren's system; they do not invalidate it until it is positively shown that there is no difference of initials or that this difference is phonemically irrelevant, and that the tonal difference is the only essential opposition with exclusion of everything else. The point under discussion is the Ancient Chinese pronunciation, and the modern Chinese dialects are not direct proofs pro or contra. M. H. shows that in the modern dialects the opposition voiced: voiceless anlaut, where it exists, is not phonemic, and where a glottal stop initial is found dialectally (as in Wu) it has no phonemic importance. Originally Karlgren's proof for a glottal stop initial in Anc. Ch. was not directly built on modern dialects, but on the interpretation of the whole group of initials k-, k̂-, ĝ-, ng- γ- x- found in the Chinese Dictionaries, and by elimination of possibilities, a conclusion was drawn that the opposition yù-ying was not only one of tone difference, or simply sonant: surd, but of explosive: smooth vocalic anlaut. ("Etudes de Phonol. p. 379). It could not be any of the consonants already represented by other initials: 見, etc. nor an initial faucal k, since no modern dialect shows such a feature. Comparison with the Sung phonetic tables gave additional evidence: the signs (white circle, black circle, half filled circle, etc) added to those initials, show that ying was marked like k- and yù like ng-, suggesting a contrast of explosive: non explosive. This proof has not been retracted by Karlgren, and if it has any value, it would show that the glottal stop still existed in Sung times. Later (and recently in Compendium of Phonetics in Ancient and Archaic Chinese, BMFEA vol. 26, 1954, p. 228) Karlgren has used the presence of the glottal stop in the Wu dialects as another evidence. Clearly he admits that the modern dialects do not follow the complete phonetic system of the Ancient Chinese, but he takes the Wu glottal stop as a revealing relic of the Ancient Chinese system. By showing that the glottal stop initial in Wu is not phonemic, one has not proved that it was never a phonemic relevant element in Ancient Chinese, nor that the tone pitch difference was the only important difference between yù and ying initials.