

The orthography of the Zhang-zhung language

Prefixes: The following single prefixes are employed: *g, d, b, ' , r, l, s*, and only one double prefix *bs*. They occur in connection with stem-consonants as shown in the table on the preceding page [11].

Subscribed characters: The following combinations with subscribed characters are employed in the Dictionary:

	k	kh	g	t	d	p	ph	b	bh	m	dz	z	r	s	h
-y-	-	+	+			+	+	+	+	+					
-r-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+					+	
-l-	+		+					+				+	+	+	+
-w-											+		+	+	

The phonetic range of the characters employed: The Zhang-zhung language as described through the Tibetan characters employs voiced aspirates, which are not found in Tibetan. Adding this to the circumstance that subscribed *-y-* and *-r-* are most probably employed to indicate palatalized and retroflex or cacuminal sounds respectively, we must consider the Zhang-zhung language to have the following phonetic range:

ka	kha	ga	gha	nga		velars, gutturals
	ha	'a				
kya	khya	gya				palatalized { gutturals dentals labials
ca	cha	ja		nya		
pya	phya	bya	bhya	mya		
kra	khra	gra	hra			retroflex { (gutturals) dentals (sibilants) (labials)
tra		dra				
sra	phra	bra				
pra						
ta	tha	da	dha	na		front dentals
pa	pha	ba	bha	ma	wa	labials
tsa	tsha	dza				front dental affricates
za	sa					dental fricatives
zha	sha					palatals
ya	ra	la				laterals
a	i	u	e	o		vowels

11. + indicates that the combination is found in the Dictionary. ○ indicates that the combination is listed by F. W. Thomas as occurring in the manuscript from Turkestan; see F. W. Thomas, *Nam. Publications of the Philological Society* 14, London 1948, p. 206.

Finals: The words may end in a vowel or in a consonant: *a, i, u, e, o, e'u* or *g, ng, ngs, d, n, b, m, r, l, s*. In certain cases the final *g, ng, n, m, r* and *l* disappear and the final sound changes into a vowel.

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Language of the Tibetan Bonpos*

By
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