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Study on the Dongba Script Compound Glyph in Lijiang Area

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Abstract

Dongba scripture is an important hieroglyphs, and the study of dongba script helps to study the origin and development of writing. Through Lijiang dongba scripture, we find there are many compound glyphs. Compound glyph refers to a combination of more than two glyphs or non-morphed components, which collectively represent a segment larger than the term. This article researchs on the compound glyph.

Key words: Dongba script; Compound glyph; Lijiang area

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INTRODUCTION

The Dongba Manuscript in Lijiang region centers on the Dayan Town, including the surrounding Baisha Town, Tai'an Town, Huangshan Town, Qihe Town and other places.

Because there have been many famous dongba in Baisha Town, Dayan Town and other regions on history, and Dongba culture are more popular in these places, so we selects four sites in Lijiang as the typical study of Dongba Manuscript and Dongba script in Lijiang area, of which is Baisha Town, Dayan Town, Huangshan Town and Qihe Town.

An Annotated Collection of Naxi Dongba Manuscripts is the biggest collection of Dongba manuscripts until now, being published in 1999, covering almost all aeras of Lijiang Dongba manuscripts, we selected the Dongba manuscripts in Dayan Town, Huangshan Town, Qihe Town to study. And the materials quoted from the An Annotated Collection of Naxi Dongba Manuscript will mark the volume and the page, "37.21" means the materials come from volume 37, page 21.

But An Annotated Collection of Naxi Dongba Manuscripts misses famous Dongba manuscripts in Baisha area, we are luckly to find them in Naxi Dongba manuscripts collected by Harvard—Yenching Institute, which is also a big collection of Dongba manuscripts, and the materials comes from Harvard—Yenching Institute. And the materials quoted from the Naxi Dongba manuscripts collected by Harvard—Yenching Institute will mark the volume and the page, "H4.471" means the materials come from volume 4, pag 471.

1. COMPOUND GLYPH IN DONGBA MANNUSCRITS

Compound glyph refers to a combination of more than two glyphs or non-morphed components, which collectively represent a segment larger than the term.

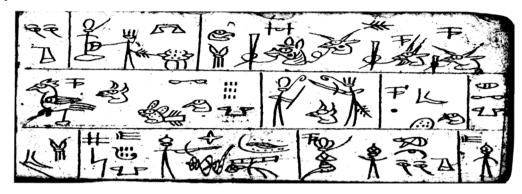
Compound glyph is a relatively primitive way of recording language in Dongba language, which shows strong characteristics of segment. Compound glyph has the following characteristics:

First, compound glyph consists of two or more glyphs or non-morphed components, representing a greater unit of speech than word.

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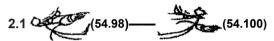
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Second, each glyph in the compound glyph is arranged in a certain order, and the positional relationship involved in ideographic. Third, the combined glyphs in compound glyph change as the contextual need, which differs from the current one.



37.21

2. LIJIANG REGION COMPOUND GLYPH EXAMPLES



The translation of the scriptures is "The Shalaogongbu is dead, but his eyes always look at the living at home, his feet always extend to the living at home, and his hands always help the living at home."

Compound glyph is consisted by "lying human" and "hand", "eye", and "foot". And the compound glyph expresses a complete paragraph, basing on a certain relationship of logic and position.

The translation of the scriptures is "The hair scattered in the sky, the hands indiscriminate attack, spit towards the sky, and feet step on the ground fiercely."

Compound glyph is consisted by a hair scattered human form, spit and clapping movements, basing on a certain affair and location of a combination of positions, and expressing a complete paragraph.

The translation of the scriptures is "the two men, Meilidongzhu and Meilishuzhu, keep quarrel with each other, and the hands indiscriminate attack."

Compound glyph and is consisted by Humanoid, and movements of spitting and clapping, basing on a combination of certain affair and location,

indicating a complete paragraph.



The translation of the scriptures is "Cover the corpse with soil, dig the ditch in the soil, drain in the ditch, and spread chaff on the water."

Compound glyph is consisted by "buried", "ditch" , "water", and "points" (chaff), basing on a combination of certain positional relationship, indicating a complete expression.

The compound glyph can be divided into layers, means "cover the corpse with soil", means "drain in the ditch", and means "spread chaff on the water".

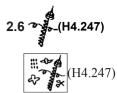
The translation of the scriptures is "Dong's stockade was set on fire."

Compound glyph, is consisted by "house", "fire" LLL and fire symbol \(\frac{5}{3}\). "House" is borrowed for the village and "fire" LLL and \(\frac{5}{3}\) indicates a complete paragraph, basing on a certain combination of location, if the symbol is split, it cannot express the full meaning.

Here is the same example:

The Chinese translation of the scriptures is "in the fiery raging stockade, like making a plowshare."

Compound glyph is consisted by , and . and the fire, in accordance with the logical relationship, indicating the fiery village.



The translation of the scriptures is "tie nine kinds of auspicious items with the cedar ladder"

Compound glyph is consisted by "ladder", "cypress", "rope", according to a certain relationship of location and logic, indicating "tied on the cypress".

The translation of the scriptures is "Shalaogongbu takes a turquoise bow, and takes roe-skin pocket with field rations".

The compound glyph is consisted by "person", "roe pocket", "bow", according to a certain relationship between the logical relationship, indicating a complete paragraph.

The translation of the scriptures is "Sha Xu's three sons, wish you low sound and peaceful soul, pond full of water, no disease, happiness and good luck."

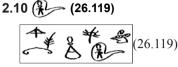
The translation of the scriptures is "willing for peace of mind, pond full of water, willing to give birth to children, willing to live a prosperous life."

The above two materials , [dzi²¹ i³³ dər³³ sər³³] is a compound glyph. [hw⁵⁵] "lake", Here read as [dər³³] "pond", ¿ [dzi²¹] water, glyph also add some points to express the meaning of more water. According to the sequence of events, the water is placed on the pond, indicating that the water overflows.

The water full of ponds is a Naxi saying, generally refers to the smooth family, prosperous prosperity.

The translation of the scriptures is "Gao Lequ go to the hillside to see."

is consisted by the Gao leque, "look" and "feet:", basing on a certain positional relationship together, indicating a complete discourse.

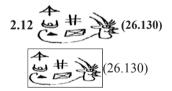


The translation of the scriptures is "Meilidongzhu says: 'My father is a heavenly clan.' He fled to heaven. Dongruoalu says: 'My uncle lives in a lake.' Then he hid in the lake and hid."

is consisted by [du²1] Dong and [hus55] lake, which means Dongruoalu is hiding in the lake.

The translation of the scriptures is "the demon ghost stoned to the room, a demon ghost made cuckoo calling on the roof, and a demon ghost who made wasp built house on other's house."

expressing several paragraphs. In this compound glyph, the combination position of the roof stone and cuckoo, and the honeycomb on the house, participates in the sense of meaning. Stone is on the roof, said to be thrown on the roof.



The translation of the scriptures is: "There are severe disastrous years in the twelve years. In twelve monthes of the year, there was an unforgiving disaster. To solve the problem of disastrous diseases and painful disasters, goat's head should be thrown out as a substitute."

Here the long line behind the sheep means that it will be taken away the disastrous diseases and painful disasters

3. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LIJIANG COMPOUND GLYPH

Compound glyph is a relatively common phenomenon in Dongba. Forming a compound glyph with the multiple glyphs, and representing a complete passage is one convinence way for Dongba to write the scripture, using the compound glyph can save the trouble of writing all the scripts of the scriptures.

3.1 Composing of Two or More Glyphs to Form a Composite Body

Complex glyph is consisted by more than two glyphs, sometimes include non-glyphs.

For example, compound glyph combined by lying human shape, hand , eye and foot.

Compound glyph is made up of house, fire and symbol \$ \$ \(\).

From the material above, we can conclude that the composition of compound glyph is relatively extensive, which is also the reason that so many compound glyph exists

3.2 The Relationship Between the Location of Words and Participation in the Meaning

Such as compound glyph, expressing the meaning that Dongruoalu hides in the lake. The glyph $\{[du^{21}]\}$ Dong is included by the glyph $[hu^{55}]$ Lakes, and

through this positional relationship shows Dongruo Road hides in the lake.

3.3 There Is a Logical Relationship Between Words and Words

Logical relationship between words and words is very important in compound glyph.

Such as compound glyph, in order to

express the meaning that the stones thrown on the roof, and indicate cuckoo tweeted on the roof, the layout of stone and cuckoo should be on the roof according to the logic.

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