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SOME LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF ZHABA – A TIBETO-BURMAN
LANGUAGE IN WEST SICHUAN, CHINA

Zhaba is the native language of around nine thousand Tibetan people in the high mountains along a river valley in West Sichuan, it is one of the minority languages in China that were not discovered and documented in the large scale survey in the 1960s. This talk is a brief introduction of the phonological, morphological and syntactic features of the language based on fieldwork. Topics such as consonantal clusters, disyllablization, tonogenesis, loanwords from both Tibetan and Chinese, the system of directional affixes for verbs, existential verbs, clause nominalization, etc., will be addressed or touched upon in the talk.

Qunhu Gong is professor of linguistics of Fudan University, Shanghai, China. He got his PhD in Shanghai Normal University and worked one year as Postdoctoral Fellow at National University of Singapore. He is currently a visiting professor at Wayne State University. Professor Gong's research interests include Chinese Sign Language and Sino-Tibetan Linguistics. He is the author of *Hantai Guanxici de Shijian Cengci* (Chronological strata of Sino-Thai corresponding lexical items, 2002), *Zhabayu Yanjiu* (A reference grammar of Zhaba, 2007). He is also the Chinese Translator of *Roots of Old Chinese* (1999) by Laurent Sagart.

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