

The distribution of post-focus-compression (PFC) in Tibeto-Burman language
Family: Is PFC a genetic linguistic feature?

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Post-focus-compression in F0 and intensity (PFC) has been found to exist in Indo-European and Altaic languages, but not in Tai-Kadai, Austro-Asiatic and Austronesian languages. PFC is hard to acquire in L2 and easy to lose in language contact environment. Based on these findings, Xu, Chen and Wang (2012) has proposed that PFC might be inherited from a proto-language. In this talk, I will firstly introduce the bi-distribution of PFC in Tibeto-Burman (TB) language family. On one hand, Tibetan and Mandarin shows PFC. On the other hand, Yi and Qiang do not show PFC. Specifically, I will discuss about Tujia (Hunan province) and Bai (Yunan province), although they both belong to TB and have indepth contact with Mandarin Chinese, Tujia is a PFC language, but Bai is non-PFC. In this talk, gene studies on peopling in China will also be considered while discussing about the origin and distribution of PFC.