Historic Into of Chinese Phonology

Ziqi Zhou
Timeline

- Sino-Tibetan language ~6000BC
- Earliest Written Record of Old Chinese ~1250BC (Oracle Bone)
- “Classic of Poetry” 詩經 compiled in 500BC
  - Poems 1000BC-600BC
- Old Chinese until 220AD (Han Dynasty)
- Rhyme book “Qieyun” 切韻 601AD (Sui Dynasty)
  - Fanqie 反切 system of notating pronunciation
Timeline

• Rhyme book “Guangyun” 廣韻 1008 (Song dynasty)
  • Revision of “Qieyun” 切韻
  • Organized by vowels and consonants
  • Divergence of northern and southern dialects

• Rhyme book “Zhongyuanyinyun” 中原音韻 1324 (Yuan dynasty)
  • Recorded the northern dialect
Modern Dialects

- *Wu* 吳 (Shanghainese), *Min* 閩 (Hokkien), *Hakka* 客家話 diverges around Han dynasty

- *Yue* 粵 diverges after Tang Dynasty

- Northern dialects diverges after Song Dynasty into Mandarin, *Gan* 贛, *Xiang* 湘
• Wu 吳 (Shanghainese), Min 閩 (Hokkien), Hakka 客家話 diverges around Han dynasty

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Overview of Phonology of Old Chinese

- Medial [j], [l], [r], [w]
- Coda [p], [t], [k]
- Coda [m], [n], [ŋ]
- Coda [l], [w], [wk]
- Long/short vowels
  - Maybe?
- No tones
- Post codas [ʔ], [s]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stop or affricate</th>
<th>Labial</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Laryngeal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>voiceless</td>
<td>*p</td>
<td>*t</td>
<td>*ts</td>
<td>*k</td>
<td>*kʷ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aspirate</td>
<td>*pʰ</td>
<td>*tʰ</td>
<td>*tsʰ</td>
<td>*kʰ</td>
<td>*kʰʷ</td>
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<tr>
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<td>*b</td>
<td>*d</td>
<td>*dz</td>
<td>*g</td>
<td>*gʷ</td>
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<tr>
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<td>*n</td>
<td>*ŋ</td>
<td>*ŋʷ</td>
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<tr>
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<td>*n</td>
<td>*ŋ</td>
<td>*ŋʷ</td>
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<tr>
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<td>*l</td>
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<tr>
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<td>*l</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fricative or approximant</td>
<td>voiceless</td>
<td>(ˀt̜̂)</td>
<td>(ˀs)</td>
<td>(ˀʃ̂)</td>
<td>*h</td>
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<tr>
<td>voiced</td>
<td>*r</td>
<td>(ˀz)</td>
<td>(ˀʃ̂)</td>
<td>(ˀh)</td>
<td>(ˀw)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

上古漢語 [djaŋs kʰæʔ hnaːns nəʔ]
犯我強漢者，雖遠必誅 [bom? nəːlʔ gaŋ hnaːns tjaːʔ]
[sqʰwi ɡʷanʔ plig to]
Reconstruction of Middle Chinese Phonology

- Mostly from Qieyun 切韻, Guangyun 廣韻
Good Reference in Internet Age

- ytenx.org
- Wiktionary