

Some Linguistic Questions on Genetic and Phylogenetic Studies of East Asian Languages

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The main goal of this study is to provide a linguistic perspective on the findings of recent genetic and phylogenetic studies of East Asian languages. The following studies are the subjects of examination:

HUGO Pan-Asian SNP Consortium. 2009. Mapping human genetic diversity in Asia. *Science*, 326:1541-1545.

ROBBEETS, Marine et al. 2021. Triangulation supports agricultural spread of the Transeurasian languages. *Nature*, 599:616-621.

SAGART, Laurent et al. 2019. Dated language phylogenies shed light on the ancestry of Sino-Tibetan. *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(21):10317-10322.

ZHANG, Hanzhi et al. 2020. Dated phylogeny suggests early Neolithic origin of Sino-Tibetan languages. *Scientific Reports*, 10:20792.

ZHANG, Menghan et al. 2019. Phylogenetic evidence for Sino-Tibetan origin in northern China in the Neolithic. *Nature*, 569:112-115.

This study will first examine the genetic study of Asian populations conducted by HUGO (2009) and evaluate their claim that languages are closely related to genetics. Secondly, it will analyze the phylogenetic studies and assess the validity of their claims regarding the origins of Sino-Tibetan and Japonic languages. It will also address some issues in these studies from a historical linguistics perspective. The following are the problems and questions raised regarding their research:

- a. Considering migration and language contact, genetics may not be crucially related to languages, unlike HUGO (2009).
- b. The results of phylogenetic studies may vary depending on the source data and methods employed, as shown in Sagart et al. (2019), Zhang et al. (2019), and Zhang et al. (2020).
- c. Korean and Japanese are classified as isolating languages, rather than Altaic or Transeurasian languages, unlike Robbeets et al. (2021).
- d. Recent archeological excavations of rice seeds in the Korean peninsula date back long before the proposed time of rice agriculture transmission suggested by Robbeets et al. (2021)

Keywords: genetics, phylogeny, East Asian languages, historical linguistics