

The 42nd international conference on Sino-Tibetan languages and linguistics

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The 42nd international conference on Sino-Tibetan languages and linguistics was hosted by Payap University, Chiangmai, Thailand, from 2-4 November 2009. The conference was co-sponsored by SIL International and the Royal Institute of Thailand. The primary focus of the conference was on languages and linguistics in the Sino-Tibetan area. The conference was conducted in a friendly atmosphere with the opening welcome on the 2nd being given by Dr. Pradit Takerngrangsarit, Payap University President in the Main Hall.

Plenary session: All three days of the conference began with plenary sessions. On the first day, James A. Matisoff (University of California, Berkeley) gave the opening plenary talk which consisted of three parts: Part I: an explanation of STEDT Root Canal and the Consortium idea; Part II: a sample “Extraction” from the Root Canal, involving about 30 roots with meanings; Part III: Toward a Eurasian bestiary: the OTTER and JACKAL.

The second day plenary session, entitled “Resilience Thinking and Languages Endangerment”, was given by David Bradley (La Trobe University, Australia).

The third plenary session, on the last day (4 November 2009), included a panel discussion. Tien Schwe, Jim Chamberlain and Kirk Persons discussed the topic: “Minority Languages and Macro Socio-Economic Change in SE Asia: Reality and Response”.

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Parallel session: There were 27 parallel sessions with 77 papers classified according to language groups and linguistic categories.

On 2 November 2009, after the morning break, from 11.00-12.00, there were three parallel sessions conducted on three topics: Chinese 1, Language Vitality 1, and Southern Ngwi. In the afternoon, from 1.15-3.00 pm., parallel sessions were conducted on the topics: Austroasiatic, Himalayish 1, and Language Vitality 2 followed by late afternoon parallel sessions on three topics: Chinese 2, Tai 1, and Tibeto-Burman 1.

The second day's morning parallel session ran from 10.30-12.00 and covered three topics: Qiangic and Nungish, Chinese 3 and Burmese. After the lunch break, there were six parallel sessions from 1.00-5.00 pm. with an afternoon break in the middle. The parallel sessions were conducted on the topics of Karen and Tibeto-Burman, Zhuang and others, Tai 2, Himalayish 3, Chinese 4, and Mon.

On the last day, 4 November 2009, the morning parallel sessions were conducted on the three topics: Tibeto-Burman 2, Wide-Comparison 2, and Hakka or Min. After a lunch served next to the conference room, the early afternoon parallel sessions were conducted on the topics of Tibeto-Burman 3, Kuki-Chin-Naga, and Min followed by an afternoon break. Himalayish 2, Tai or Typology, and Wide-Comparison 1 were the topics for the late afternoon parallel sessions.

The next conference, the 43rd international conference on Sino-Tibetan languages and linguistics, will be hosted by the Center for Languages and Literature at Lund University, Sweden, 15-18 October 2010.