

Project Title	
Assessing Micro Level Linkages between Humans, Livestock, and the Environment in Amdo, Tibet: The Outgrowth of the Compilation of an Ethnographic Dictionary of Nomadic Vocabulary	
Length of Project	April 2014–March 2017 (3 years)
Number of Project Participants	7 people
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Outline of the Project	
<p>Nowadays, the nomadic pastoral lifestyle on the Tibetan High Plateau is facing the huge impact of “sedentarization” and “rationalization” by the national policy of the Chinese central government. In this joint research, we will approach the micro-life knowledge of the nomadic herders in the Amdo (Qinghai) Tibet region through nomadic vocabulary collection using multidisciplinary research, for example, Linguistics, Anthropology, Religious studies, and Ecology.</p> <p>By summarizing the results of our research into a compact dictionary, we will build a mutually complementary analysis about the macro level of grassland ecology and also make a contribution to local society in expectation of future restoration of pastoral life in this region. In recent years, grass-roots "native language preservation movements" have been deployed in private sector schools and in the monasteries at the local society level, and this study will be promoted in a form which synchronizes with certain needs already existent..</p> <p>In addition, this study will create a publication of a nomadic vocabulary dictionary as part of activities of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's special ? "Linguistic Dynamics Science Project 2: Project for Building an International Network of Collaborative Research on Endangered Linguistic Diversity" (LingDy2).</p>	
Aim of the Project	
<p>In China currently, a government? development policy under the name of "environmental protection" and "water-use adjustment" is underway to make nomadic herders who live in the water source region of the Tibetan High Plateau move to urban areas. In this study, nomadic pasturage vocabulary about livestock management lost by the halt of natural pasturage will be systematically collected from both a sustenance/technical aspects and symbolic/cultural aspects, which will help to assessing the overall picture of the living language cherished in the micro level linkages which consist of the close relation between humans, livestock, and the environmental system. Because this development policy will most likely continue over the long term, it is essential to capture the folk-cultural vocabularies and lifestyle vocabularies of the nomadic pastoral lifestyle on the Tibetan High Plateau</p>	

Significance of the Project

The purpose of this study as joint use and collaborative research plan is summarized in following three points.

(1) The first systematic international dictionary that specializes in livestock vocabulary will be created by team members working in interdisciplinary fields. (2) The actual dictionary serving as the direct result of this study will first consider practical applications at the ground level. Furthermore, in addition to the typical paper medium of this dictionary, electronic media will also be released in the form of a smart phone application. In addition, for practical reasons, this dictionary will not only simply describe the sound of the vocabulary, but will also use pictures and images to show the situations and areas visually where the vocabulary is used.

(3) Since systematic resource materials of nomadic vocabulary are deficient, this study will contribute to the local young scholars' skills in Tibet through the preparation of a "Fieldwork Training Program". We will have joint workshops for young researchers with Qinghai Normal University, China, which is a cooperation research institution for this study,