

P103**Evolutionary origins of major Eurasian language families from different branches of Austronesian language family. Towards a new perspective based on establishing sound-correspondence laws**

Koji Ohnishi (Faculty of Science and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Niigata University, Ikarashi-2, Niigata 950-2181, Japan. E-mail: ohnishi@sc.niigata-u.ac.jp)

(1) Language (Lg) is a semiotic cultural system in human societies. Evolutionary relation of Lg diversification to gene-pool diversification is a current problem to be solved. Many efforts have had failed to find satisfactory sound-correspondence laws (SCL's) between Lg families. However, recent macro-comparisons of Eurasian Lg's with 80 Austronesian (AN) Lg's (of AN family) have revealed that most of major Eurasian Lg groups (excepting Afro-Asiatic, Etruscan, etc.) share many basic words with AN (Ohnishi, "Evolution of Mongoloid Languages", Shokado, Kyoto, 1999).

(2) In this study, ca. 700 basic words of 80 AN Lg's (from "Comparative Austro-nesian Dictionary" (Tryon(ed.),1995) were extensively compared, for finding cognates, with the words from major language groups in Eurasia. Complete or nearly complete SCL's for word-initial consonants were found, without exceptions, between (btw.) Uralic and AN, and btw. Korean and AN, resulting in concluding Uralic's close affinity to Slawesh Lg's of Western Malayo-Polynesian (W.MP) sub-family of AN, and Korean's close affinity to Bali-Sasak group (W.MP) and Ngada-Manggarai (Central MP). Similar comparative analyses of Tibeto-Burman (TbB), Mongolic (MG), Tungus (TG), Turkic (TK), Indo-European (IE), Japanese-Ryukyuan (JR), Ainu, Eskimo (ESK), and Gilyak revealed that all of these groups are evidently related to AN. Tentatively obtained SCL's btw. TG and AN, MG and AN, TK and AN seem to suggest that TG, MG, and TK have had derived from different ancestral branches in AN. TG and MG are kin to W.MP, whereas TK is kin to Oceanic, rather than to W.MP. Most of the so-called Tungus-elements in JR would be explainable by independent origins of TN and JR from related branches of MP.

(3) Macro-comparison of basic 100 words viewed based on SCL's suggests that most basic words would have evolved by sound-conversions, conversions of word-meanings, and recombination and replications of words or word-elements. Emergence of new words independent of pre-existing words are very few and rare, probably limited to onomatopoeic words. Lg is a semiotic system consisting of "words", which are "codes" corresponding to their respective meanings or functions. Genomes in terrestrial organisms are also semiotic system consisting to "genes", which are also "codes" corresponding to their respective meanings. Both have had hitherto evolved by evolutionary changes, modifications and duplications of pre-existing codes in early primitive Lg or genome. The underlying evolutionary rules of Lg and genome are very similar, and seems to represent basic evolutionary pattern of semiotic systems. Elucidating origin and evolution of such common semiotic rules will give rise to efficient analysis of generalized semiotic and intelligent systems on earth, which would be called "Search for Terrestrial Intelligence (STI)". Genome is a kind of terrestrial intelligence which has had succeeded in creating divergent biomachines. STI is a most important basis of SETI, since SETI cannot be successfully proceed without knowing STI.