**Approaching the prosodic system of Shǐxīng**

Katia Chirkova (CNRS, CRLAO)
Alexis Michaud (CNRS, LACITO)

**Abstract:** This article focuses on the prosodic organization of Shǐxīng, a tonal Sino-Tibetan language spoken in the South-West of China. It is essentially based on an experiment that explores the derivational relationship between the three contrastive tones on monosyllables, /H/, /L/ and /HL/, and the three contrastive tones on phonological words of two syllables or more, likewise /H/, /L/ and /HL/. The process of tone derivation in phonological words of two syllables or more is determined by the presence or absence of lexical tone on the initial element of the phonological word (a morpheme or a word) as well as by the length and composition of the phonological word. The observed phenomena of tone derivation are here explained under the assumption that a prosodic domain in Shǐxīng is characterized by metrical stress, which is the location for the insertion of either of the three lexical tones. The default location of stress is domain-initial. The lexical tone of a stressed syllable in initial position spreads onto the remaining syllables, followed, in the case of the lexical /L/ tone, by the addition of a postlexical [H] tone. In tonal domains that begin with a toneless syllable (e.g. prefix or proclitic), stress is shifted to the first stressable syllable to its right; the contrast between /L/ and /HL/ neutralizes to /L/, while /H/ remains unchanged. When the first stressable syllable is two syllables apart from the domain-initial position, all three tones are neutralized to /L/.

**Keywords:** Shǐxīng, prosody, tone, metrical stress, boundary tone

**1. Introduction**

This article focuses on the prosodic organization of Shǐxīng (史兴语), a tonal Sino-Tibetan language spoken in the South-West of China. It is essentially based on an experiment that explores the derivational relationship between the three contrastive tones on monosyllables, /H/, /L/ and /HL/, and the three contrastive tones on phonological words of two syllables or more. Earlier versions of this paper were presented at the Workshop on Tibeto-Burman Languages of Sichuan, held at the Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica (Taipei, Taiwan, November 21-22, 2008), at a talk at the National Tsing Hua University (Hsinchu, Taiwan, November 26, 2008), and at a talk at LACITO (Langues et civilisations à tradition orale), CNRS (Villejuif, France, January 26, 2009). We are grateful to Jonathan Evans, Larry Hyman, Martine Mazaudon, Wāng Fēng 汪锋 and the anonymous reviewers of *Language and Linguistics* for useful comments on earlier drafts of the paper. The work reported in this study has been supported by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (France) as part of the research project “What defines Qiang-ness? Towards a phylogenetic assessment of the Southern Qiangic languages of Muli” (ANR-07-JCJC-0063). We are indebted to our language consultant, Mr. Lǔróng Duǒdīng 鲁绒多丁 [dذي-ŋɛ hlu-ŋʊ hto-ŋdi], for most of the linguistic data provided here as well as for his efficient and enthusiastic help in facilitating and assisting this study. We are also grateful to Sūn Hónɡkǎi 孙宏开 and Huánɡ Xínɡ 黄行 of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and to the local authorities of Mūlǐ Tibetan Autonomous County for their support in helping us to prepare and execute our fieldwork.
more, likewise /H/, /L/ and /HL/. The experimental observations are supported and supplemented by non-experimental data derived from a corpus of Shixing narrative texts, of which one is appended to the article to facilitate the assessment of the validity of our analysis and conclusions based on natural speech data.

1.1. Shixing: location and linguistic affiliation
Shixing is spoken by approximately 1,800 people who reside along the banks of the Shuilûô River 水洛河 in Shuilûô Township 水洛乡 of Mûli Tibetan Autonomous County 木里藏族自治县 (WT smi li rang skyong rdzong) in the South-West of Sichuán Province 四川省 in the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

Shixing is currently classified as belonging to the Qiangic subgroup of the Sino-Tibetan language family (Bradley 1997:36-37; Sûn 2001; Thurgood 2003:17).

Shixing is one of the lesser-known Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in the PRC. Only two brief outlines in Chinese exist. They focus on two distinct sub-varieties of this language: that of the Lower Reaches of the Shuilûô river (Sûn 1983), and that of its Upper Reaches (Huáng and Rènzêng 1991). In addition to these two brief outlines, two comparative vocabulary handbooks on Tibeto-Burman languages, Sûn et al. (1991:240-244) and Huáng et al. (1992:646-647), present the phonological system of Shixing as well as approximately

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1 We are grateful to Franz Huber and Caroline Weckerle from the Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zürich, for providing this map.
1,000 and 1,800 Shìxīng words, respectively. This article builds on these studies as well as on the first author’s fieldwork on the Upper Reaches variety of Shìxīng (Chirkova 2007, 2009).

1.2. Shìxīng tones and tone domain

Shìxīng is a phonologically monosyllabic, tonal language with a strong tendency towards disyllabicity in the lexicon through affixation, compounding and reduplication. Most Shìxīng monosyllables are lexically specified for tone (roots), whereas affixes are toneless. The domain of the contrastive tones is the phonological word.

A phonological word in Shìxīng is a unit equal to or larger than one syllable, which, when larger than one syllable, is subject to the processes of consonant lenition and vowel harmony (Chirkova 2009). For example:

(1) [ʰtɕyi] ‘tea’ + [LHbiæ] ‘leaf’ > [ʰtɕyi-Hwæ] ‘tea leaf’
(2) [ʰtɕyi] ‘tea’ + [LHtɕʰĩ] ‘drink’ > [ʰtɕyi-ʰɕĩ] ‘drink tea’

A phonological word in Shìxīng may be equivalent to a lexical word (defined here as representing one unit of meaning), e.g. [ʰtɕyi-Hwæ] ‘tea leaf’, or to a syntactic phrase (defined here as a relatively independent group of words), e.g. [ʰtɕyi-ʰɕĩ] ‘drink tea’. The average Shìxīng phonological word is two syllables long. The longest phonological words do not exceed five syllables in length, e.g. [Lba-Lru-Ldiæ-Lqʰɜ-Hʂɿ] ‘spider web’.

In isolation, the three contrastive tones on monosyllabic phonological words are realized as one level tone, [H], and two contour tones, [LH] and [HL], as in the minimal tonal triplet in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tone</th>
<th>example</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[H]</td>
<td>[ʰtɕʰi]</td>
<td>to measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[LH]</td>
<td>[Lʰtɕʰi]</td>
<td>ploughshare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[HL]</td>
<td>[Hʰtɕʰi]</td>
<td>section, joint</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3 The phonemic transcription adopted in this study essentially follows the conventions proposed for the Upper Reaches sub-variety in Huáng and Rénzêng (1991), with some minor adjustments based on the first author’s fieldwork (Chirkova 2009). Shìxīng has a simple syllabic structure: (C)(G)V, where initial consonant and glide are optional. Since glides have a very restricted distribution, most syllables are simply (C)V.

Superscript letters, /Ha/, /LHa/ and /HLa/, are here adopted for tone notation instead of more current and visually preferable diacritics over the vowels, because currently available IPA fonts do not allow a combination of tone diacritics with the diacritic for nasality (Shìxīng has nasal vowels). Bound morphemes (affixes and clitics) are not marked for tone, if quoted in isolation. Square brackets are used for phonetic transcriptions (surface phonological representations) and slashes for phonemic material (the product of our analysis). The hyphen separates syllables in a word. The dot separates syllables within a monomorphemic polysyllabic word. The pound sign indicates a juncture between two tone domains. The equals sign separates an enclitic from its host word.

4 In terms of Chao Yuen Ren’s tone letters, the three contrastive tones on monosyllabic words are represented as follows: (i) H is ‘55’; (ii) LH is ‘35’ on syllables with voiceless initials (both plain and aspirated) and ‘14’ on syllables with voiced initials; (iii) HL is ‘53’ on syllables with voiceless initials (both plain and aspirated) and ‘341’ on syllables with voiced initials (Huáng and Rénzêng 1991:179-180; Sûn et al. 1991:244). In addition to the three tones that are contrastive on monosyllables, previous studies posit a fourth tone, i.e. ‘33’, said to occur only in polysyllabic words. This tone corresponds to our ‘L’ in phonological words of two syllables or more. For example, Huáng and Rénzêng’s (1991:180) [ma³³-ro³³] ‘high, tall’ is [ma-³³-ro] in our notation.
Table 1. The three-way tonal contrast on monosyllabic phonological words

The three contrastive tones on phonological words of two syllables or more are realized as sequences of level tones, one on each syllable, namely:


- a sequence of L tones on all syllables up to the penultimate and H on the last syllable, i.e. [L-L-…-H], e.g. [[^l]ʁɛ[^l]tsʰi] ‘back of the neck’ (< [[^l]ʁɛ] ‘neck’, [[^l]tsʰi] ‘section, joint’)

- a sequence of H tone on the first syllable and L on all following syllables, i.e. [H-L-…-L], e.g. [[^l]ʁɑ[^l]tsʰi =[^l]gj] ‘want to measure swords’ (< [[^l]ʁɑ] ‘strength’, [[^l]tsʰi] ‘measure’, the volitional marker /gj/), see sentence (5) of the appended text

We analyze the three contrastive tone patterns on phonological words of two syllables or more as the phonetic implementation of the same three contrastive tones as on monosyllabic phonological words. We treat the mode of association of tones to syllables as one-to-one mapping of tones to available syllables, followed by the spreading of the last tone. We note that the [L-L-…-H] tone pattern is distinct from the remaining two tone patterns in that its final [H] level does not spread. The [L-L-…-H] tone pattern is therefore taken to combine a lexical tone, L, which can spread, and a boundary H tone, which cannot spread and which is added to the final syllable of the domain post-lexically. The addition of this boundary tone stems from the prohibition of all-L tonal domains in this language. Cross-linguistically, addition of a final H tone in domains having /L/ tone is common. It is attested in languages as genetically diverse as Tibetan (Sun 1997:499), Japanese (Haraguchi 1999:19), Matengo and Kimatuumbi (Bantu) (Odden 2005:415) and Mükə Qiàng (Evans 2009). This boundary H tone, while dissimilar in origin from a lexical H tone, is inserted on the same level in the final tonal string (surface phonological representation of the utterance). On monosyllabic phonological words with /L/ tone, both the lexical L tone and the boundary H tone crowd on the only syllable there is, e.g. [[^l]ʁォ] ‘horse’. On phonological words of two syllables or more, the boundary tone is assigned to the final syllable of the word, e.g. [[^l][ʁォ =[^l]jì] ‘of a horse’. In sum, the three contrastive tones is Shìxìng are here analyzed as /H/, /L/ and /HL/.

The relationship between the two types of contrastive tones, those on monosyllables versus those on phonological words of two syllables or more, is not straightforward and has hitherto not been systematically investigated. The logical assumption would be that tones on phonological words of two syllables or more derive from the tones of the constituting monosyllables (hereafter we refer to this derivational relationship as “word tone derivation”). The present study uses an experimental approach to explore this assumption.

2. Experiment: Method, speaker, language materials
The experiment that underlies this study sets out to form phonological words by combining two elements (morphemes or words), of which both are lexically specified for tone, or only one is lexically specified for tone whereas the other one is toneless. The aims of the experiment are (i) to examine all possible combinations of toned and toneless elements, and (ii) to compare the tone of each resulting combination with the citation tones of the constituting elements. The range of possible combinations of toned and toneless elements is summarized in Table 2. The symbol ‘Ø’ stands for toneless elements (affixes). Rows represent the first element in a combination, which may be an affix, a root or a word. Columns represent the second element in a combination, which may likewise be an affix, a root or a word. The intersection of a row and a column contains the resulting combination. The combination of two toneless elements within a word is non-existent (the shaded gray cell).
Table 2. Combinations of toned and toneless elements in phonological words of two syllables or more

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tone of the first element</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>HL</th>
<th>Ø</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>H+H</td>
<td>H+L</td>
<td>H+HL</td>
<td>H+Ø</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>L+H</td>
<td>L+L</td>
<td>L+HL</td>
<td>L+Ø</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HL</td>
<td>HL+H</td>
<td>HL+L</td>
<td>HL+HL</td>
<td>HL+Ø</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>Ø+H</td>
<td>Ø+L</td>
<td>Ø+HL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While we aimed at a complete coverage of all possible combinations as summarized in Table 2, not all combinations involving toneless elements (affixes) could have been experimentally tested. More precisely, while the synchronically productive process of word formation through prefixation offered us a chance to study combinations of a toneless element with a toned element (i.e. Ø+H, Ø+L, and Ø+HL), comparable combinations of a toned element with a toneless element (i.e. H+Ø, L+Ø, and HL+Ø) could not have been systematically examined, because word formation by suffixation is of restricted productivity in Shixing. Nevertheless, regularities of word tone derivation revealed through the tested combinations shed some light on tone derivation in words formed through processes with restricted productivity, as detailed in §3.2.1.

The experiment was conducted in March-April 2008 in the town of Qiáowā 乔瓦, the administrative seat of Mülı Tibetan Autonomous County. The reported data were collected in four elicitation sessions from one adult male speaker, Lùróng Duǒdǐng, the principal language consultant of the first author since 2005. Examples with monosyllabic /HL/ words were checked for accuracy and supplemented by additional examples with the same language consultant in March 2009.

The materials for this study are mono- and disyllabic words (both nouns and verbs), taken from the Shixing vocabulary list compiled by the first author during her fieldwork in 2005 and 2006. We used 3–4 words for each tone in each of the studied categories (monosyllabic nouns, disyllabic nouns, monosyllabic verbs, disyllabic verbs). Both native Shixing words, e.g. [t1Hrõ], /t₁rõ/ ‘horse’, [n₂pu-mi], /n₂pu-mi/, and loanwords (from Tibetan), e.g. [t₄sē.₄tce], /t₄sē.tce/ ‘domestic animals’ (WT sems can), were used.

The first stage of the experiment consisted in recording the target items, first in isolation and then inside carrier sentences. The Chinese equivalent of the target elements were provided orally as a prompt. Our language consultant was instructed to repeat each item twice. We used a total of three carrier sentences for nouns and nine carrier sentences for verbs. Here are some examples:

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5 Lüróng Duǒdǐng is a native speaker of the Upper Reaches sub-variety of Shixing, originally from Lánmǎn [l₁lǎ-\mǎ] village in Shuǐlù Township. In addition to Shixing, he is proficient in South-West Mandarin Chinese (a dialectal variety of Mandarin Chinese spoken in Yúnnán and Sīchuān), in Kami Tibetan (the local Mülı variety of Tibetan), and in Prinmi (a Qiangic language spoken in Lǎnpíng and Nínglǎng counties in northwestern Yúnnán, and in Mülı and Jiǔlóng counties in southwestern Sīchuān). He has lived and worked in Qiáowā for several decades, but he visits his home township regularly and speaks his native language at home with his wife, also a native of Shuǐlù, thereby maintaining a good proficiency in Shixing.

6 The following symbols and abbreviations are used in the glosses: 1=first person; 2=second person; 3=third person; <=derived from; >=shows the outcome of a derivation; ?=indicates a morpheme or word whose meaning is unclear; AGT=agent; ANM=animate; CMPR=standard of comparison; COM=comitative; COP=copula; DUR=durative; GEN=genitive; IPFV=imperfective; LOC=locative; NEG=negation; NM=nominal; NMLZ=nominalizer; PL=plural; PFV=perfective; PNT=patient; PRF=perfect; PST=past; PROG=progressive; RES=resultative; SG=singular; TERM=terminative; TOP=topic; VOC=vocative; VOL=volition; WT=Written Tibetan.
The second stage of the experiment consisted in systematic combinations of two elements into di-, tri-, tetra- and pentasyllabic phonological words. The target items were recorded again first in isolation and then in the appropriate carrier sentence.

The use of carrier sentences led to the following observations. First, fully articulated phonological words may be followed by extrametrical syllables, as the copula /ŋõ/ in example (3) (< [iŋõ], /ŋõ/ in isolation), and the verbal clitics /tsʰa/, /wu/ and /sɿ/ in example (4).

These syllables do not acquire any tone from their host word, nor do they surface their inherent tones. Instead, they are realized, phonetically, on a low pitch and are here analyzed as supplied with a phonological L tone before the phonetics. Extrametrical syllables attach to fully articulated phonological words and may influence their tone pattern. Tonal domains combining phonological words and enclitics consequently exhibit a number of additional tone patterns distinct from those on phonological words.

The second observation prompted by the use of carrier sentences is that the realization of tones may change depending on surrounding tones (§3.1).

The experiment reveals that word tone derivation in Shixìng is essentially constrained by the presence or absence of tone on the initial element of the phonological word in question. The presentation of experimental results is therefore organized in three parts, including phonological words in which the initial element is toned (§3.2.1), phonological words in which the initial element is toneless (§3.2.2), and domains containing enclitics (§3.2.3).

3. Results

3.1. Tonal alternations in running speech

A comparison of the realization of target elements in isolation and in carrier sentences revealed the following two differences in the realization of tones (conditioned by the surrounding tones).

First, contour tone simplification. Monosyllabic [HL] words are realized as [H] when followed by a [L] tone (a phonological word with the lexical /L/ tone or an extrametrical syllable). The endpoint of the [HL] contour is delayed into the following [L] syllable, where
it is absorbed into a like [L] tone (cf. “prohibition of contours in like neighbor contexts” among the most recurrent tonal processes cross-linguistically, Hyman 2007b:13). Consider examples (5) and (6), presenting a nominal and a verbal contrastive [H]-[HL] pair, respectively: [H]ʂɿ ‘fishing net’ vs. [HL]ʂɿ ‘tongue’, and [Hp]ũ ‘move’ vs. [HLp]ũ ‘pile’. The contour tone [HL], followed by a syllable with an [L] tone in these carrier sentences, simplifies to [H], so that the tonal contrast in each pair is neutralized.

(5) ¹ha =²[ʐɿ]¹[ŋə].
this =TOP fishing.net COP
tongue
‘This is a fishing net.’ / ‘This is a tongue.’

(6) ¹tʰi =²[ɾɿ]¹[µu]¹[ʨʰi-][ʨʰi]¹[ɛ’h]¹[詹姆]
that =PL move do-do make =PROG
pile
‘They are about to move.’ / ‘They are about to pile.’

This contour simplification may be nullified and the citation [HL] tone “restored” as a strategy to avoid surface homophony of underlyingly distinct forms. For instance, in the absence of a larger context to disambiguate the two homophonous pairs in examples (5-6), our language consultant finally chose to pronounce the members of each pair with their respective citation tones, so that his rendering of the sentence ‘This is a tongue.’ was consequently corrected to [¹ha =²[ʐɿ]¹[ŋə]] and that of the sentence ‘They are about to pile.’ to [¹tʰi =²[ɾɿ]¹[µu]¹[ʨʰi-][ʨʰi]¹[ɛ’h]¹[詹姆]].

Second, late realization of tone. A tone may be realized on a neighboring tone-bearing unit, when this unit is followed by a [L] tone (cf. “horizontal assimilation”, realization of tone on a neighboring tone-bearing unit among the most recurrent tonal processes cross-linguistically, Hyman 2007b:4-8). In disyllabic words, [L-H] sequences may be realized as [L-LH] by left-to-right L tone spreading. In a similar fashion, [H-L] may be realized as [H-HL] by left-to-right H tone spreading. Both patterns, [L-H] vs. [L-LH] and [H-L] vs. [H-HL], are in free variation. For example:

(7) ¹ha =²[ʐɿ]¹[µa-][籀]
i[ŋə].
this =TOP shoes COP
‘These are shoes.’ (< [¹pʰa-][籀], /pʰa-za/ ‘shoes’ in isolation)

(8) ¹ha =²[ʐɿ]¹[ʦʰ][ʦʰ]
i[ŋə].
this =TOP mane COP
‘This is mane.’ (< [¹ʦʰ][ʦʰ], /ʦʰ-ʦʰ/ ‘mane’ in isolation)

3.2. Word tone derivation
3.2.1. Word tone derivation in phonological words in which the initial element is toned
Acceptability of modifying noun-noun combinations as one phonological word, subject to word tone derivation, in the course of the experiment was constrained by the acceptability of the combination as one unit of meaning (a compound or a high frequency combination), e.g. [¹ba-][ɾɤ], /ba-ru/ ‘snake skin’ (< [¹ba-][ɾɤ], /ba-ru/ ‘snake’, [¹ɾɤ] ‘skin’). Combinations not satisfying this condition were treated by our language consultant as those of
two (phonological and lexical) words (with or without the intervening genitive marker /jí/), each with its own tone, e.g. [ba\-rú # lání-bé] ‘the neck of a snake’.

In phonological words of two syllables or more, in which the initial element is lexically specified for tone, the tone of the initial element decides the tone of the resulting combination. Consider these examples, grouped by the tone of the initial element:

/H/
(9) [ʰʔè] ‘sheep’+ [ʰrə] ‘skin’ > [ʰʔè h̩rə], /ʰʔè rə/ ‘sheep skin’
(10) [ʰʔè] ‘sheep’+ [ʰli̩b̩e̱], /ʰb̩e̱/ ‘neck’ > [ʰʔè h̩b̩e̱], /ʰʔè b̩e̱/ ‘sheep neck’
(11) [ʰʔè] ‘sheep’+ [ʰq̩ə] ‘excrement’ > [ʰʔè h̩q̩ə], /ʰʔè q̩ə/ ‘sheep excrement’
(12) [ʰʔè] ‘sheep’+ [ʰk̩h̩a-øy] /ʰk̩a-øy/ ‘footprint’ > [ʰʔè h̩k̩a-øy], /ʰʔè k̩a-øy/ ‘sheep hoofprints’
(13) [ʰʔè] ‘sheep’+ [ʰm̩a-øy'], /ʰm̩a-øy'/ ‘tail’ > [ʰʔè h̩m̩a-øy'], /ʰʔè m̩a-øy'/ ‘sheep tail’
(14) [ʰʔè] ‘sheep’+ [ʰj̩s̩-mi], /ʰj̩s̩-mi/ ‘heart’ > [ʰʔè h̩j̩s̩-mi], /ʰʔè j̩s̩-mi/ ‘sheep heart’

/L/
(15) [ʰl̩r̩], /ʰr̩/ ‘horse’+ [ʰr̩ə] ‘skin’ > [ʰl̩r̩ h̩r̩], /ʰl̩r̩ r̩/ ‘horse skin’
(16) [ʰl̩r̩], /ʰr̩/ ‘horse’+ [ʰl̩b̩e̱], /ʰb̩e̱/ ‘neck’ > [ʰl̩r̩ h̩b̩e̱], /ʰl̩r̩ b̩e̱/ ‘horse neck’
(17) [ʰl̩r̩], /ʰr̩/ ‘horse’+ [ʰq̩ə] ‘excrement’ > [ʰl̩r̩ h̩q̩ə], /ʰl̩r̩ q̩ə/ ‘horse excrement’
(18) [ʰl̩r̩], /ʰr̩/ ‘horse’+ [ʰk̩h̩a-øy] /ʰk̩a-øy/ ‘footprint’ > [ʰl̩r̩ h̩k̩a-øy], /ʰl̩r̩ k̩a-øy/ ‘horse hoofprints’
(19) [ʰl̩r̩], /ʰr̩/ ‘horse’+ [ʰm̩a-øy'], /ʰm̩a-øy'/ ‘tail’ > [ʰl̩r̩ h̩m̩a-øy'], /ʰl̩r̩ m̩a-øy'/ ‘horse tail’
(20) [ʰl̩r̩], /ʰr̩/ ‘horse’+ [ʰj̩s̩-mi], /ʰj̩s̩-mi/ ‘heart’ > [ʰl̩r̩ h̩j̩s̩-mi], /ʰl̩r̩ j̩s̩-mi/ ‘horse heart’

/HL/
(21) [ʰl̩ts̩], /ʰts̩/ ‘goat’+ [ʰr̩ə] ‘skin’ > [ʰl̩ts̩ h̩r̩], /ʰl̩ts̩ r̩/ ‘goat skin’
(22) [ʰl̩ts̩], /ʰts̩/ ‘goat’+ [ʰl̩b̩e̱], /ʰb̩e̱/ ‘neck’ > [ʰl̩ts̩ h̩b̩e̱], /ʰl̩ts̩ b̩e̱/ ‘goat neck’
(23) [ʰl̩ts̩], /ʰts̩/ ‘goat’+ [ʰq̩ə] ‘excrement’ > [ʰl̩ts̩ h̩q̩ə], /ʰl̩ts̩ q̩ə/ ‘goat excrement’
(24) [ʰl̩ts̩], /ʰts̩/ ‘goat’+ [ʰk̩h̩a-øy], /ʰk̩a-øy/ ‘footprint’ > [ʰl̩ts̩ h̩k̩a-øy], /ʰl̩ts̩ k̩a-øy/ ‘goat hoofprints’
(25) [ʰl̩ts̩], /ʰts̩/ ‘goat’+ [ʰm̩a-øy'], /ʰm̩a-øy'/ ‘tail’ > [ʰl̩ts̩ h̩m̩a-øy'], /ʰl̩ts̩ m̩a-øy'/ ‘goat tail’
(26) [ʰl̩ts̩], /ʰts̩/ ‘goat’+ [ʰj̩s̩-mi], /ʰj̩s̩-mi/ ‘heart’ > [ʰl̩ts̩ h̩j̩s̩-mi], /ʰl̩ts̩ j̩s̩-mi/ ‘goat heart’

The process of word tone derivation in phonological words in which the initial element is toned is hence a left-to-right expansion of the tone of the initial element. Tones of non-initial elements are deleted, whereas the tone of the initial element adjusts to the new number of syllables in the resulting combination. This word tone derivation process is schematically presented in Table 3.
Table 3. Word tone derivation in phonological words in which the initial element is toned

Table 4 summarizes this derivation process:

Table 4. Word tone derivation in words formed through suffixation

Notably, the “irregular” /HL/ word [.invalidate] behaves phonologically as a /L/ word also when followed by a suffix, i.e. similar to its behavior in noun-noun combinations, i.e. [ignore], /-omi/ ‘dri, female yak’.

3.2.2. Word tone derivation in phonological words in which the initial element is toneless

The examined phonological words in which the initial element is toneless include verbs formed through prefixation. We examined combinations of monosyllabic verb roots with one or two prefixes, and disyllabic verb roots with one prefix (the remaining option of disyllabic verb roots with two prefixes is non-occurring in this language). Combinations of verb roots with one prefix yielded the following tone derivation patterns:
If the tone of the verbal root is /H/, the prefix assimilates to it, resulting in a /H/ word tone. /H/ is hence anticipated onto the penult and realized on its original syllable. For example:

(35) /miæ- ‘downward’ + [^H][ɕĩ] ‘look’ > [^Hmiæ-][ɕĩ], /Hmiæ-ɕĩ/ ‘look down’
(36) /bɘ- ‘outward’ + [^H][ɕĩ] ‘look’ > [^Hbɘ-][ɕĩ], /bɘ-ɕĩ/ ‘look out’
(37) /kʰu- ‘inward’ + [^H][ɕĩ] ‘look’ > [^Hkʰu-][ɕĩ], /kʰu-ɕĩ/ ‘look inside’
(38) /dzi- ‘upward’ + [^H][ɕĩ] ‘look’ > [^Hdzi-][ɕĩ], /dzi-ɕĩ/ ‘look up’

If the tone of the verbal root is /L/ or /HL/, the resulting word tone is /L/, i.e. neutralizing the contrast between /L/ and /HL/ over the root. For example:

(39) /dzi- ‘upward’ + [^L][pʰiæ], /pʰiæ/ ‘climb’ > [dzi-][pʰiæ], /dzi-pʰiæ/ ‘climb up’
(40) /kʰ- ‘inward’ + [^L][dzõ-], /dzõ-dzõ ‘run’ > [kʰu-][dzõ-], /kʰu-dzõ-dzõ/ ‘run inside’
(41) /miæ- ‘downward’ + [^H][kʰ] ‘throw’ > [miæ-][kʰx], /miæ-x/ ‘throw down’
(42) /miæ- ‘downward’ + [^H][p] ‘pile’ > [miæ-][p], /miæ-p/ ‘pile down, put down’

Combinations of a monosyllabic verbal root with two prefixes, on the other hand, invariably yielded one single tone pattern, namely /L/, irrespective of the citation tone of the verbal root. For example:

(43) 1dzi-Llɜ-Hpʰɜ# 1miæ-Llɜ-Hpʰɜ# 1kʰu-Llɜ-Hpʰɜ#
‘have looked up and down, inside and outside’ (< [^H][ɕĩ] ‘look’)
(44) 1ci-Llɜ-Htsa# 1kʰu-Llɜ-Htsa# 1dzi-Llɜ-Htsa# 1miæ-Llɜ-Htsa#
to-PFV-dig fro-PFV-dig upward-PFV-dig downward-PFV-look
‘have dug to and fro, up and down’ (< [^H][pʰ], /pʰ/ ‘dig’)
(45) 1ci-Llɜ-Htsa# 1kʰu-Llɜ-Htsa# 1dzi-Llɜ-Htsa# 1miæ-Llɜ-Htsa#
to-PFV-jump fro-PFV-jump upward-PFV-jump downward-PFV-jump
‘have jumped to and fro, up and down’ (< [^H][tsa] ‘jump’)

Table 5 summarizes the observed patterns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb root</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>HL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prefix Ø</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø+Ø</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5. Word tone derivation in phonological words in which the initial element is toneless

Notably, the phonetic realization of /L/ tone pattern on verbs formed through prefixation is distinct from that of /L/ tone pattern on nominal compounds (§3.2.1). In verbs formed through prefixation, the syllables carrying /L/ tone (prefixes) are different from that carrying /H/ tone (verbal root) in duration and articulatory precision, whereas no similar difference is observed on /L/ nominal compounds. In verbs, the syllables carrying /L/ tone have more reduced
vowels, which may moreover be subject to regressive vowel harmony, e.g. [³bɔ-ʰgi] ‘pull out, lengthen’, [³bɔ-ʰpɔ] ‘pull out’, [³bu-ᵗʂʰu] ‘spit out’. The distinction in prominence is here taken as indication of the stressed status of the syllable carrying the boundary [H] tone and the unstressed status of the toneless prefixes carrying the phonological [L] tone. This issue is further taken up in §4.1.9.

3.2.3. Tonal domains containing enclitics

Examined combinations of words with nominal and verbal enclitics yielded two distinct types of tone patterns, depending on the overall length of the resulting combination and the number of its constituting elements (the number of attached enclitics).

(i) Word-enclitic combinations may be treated as one phonological word. The tone of the resulting combination is the expansion of the tone of its initial element. For example:

(46) [ʰʔɛ̃] ‘sheep’ + the genitive marker /ji/ > [ʰʔɛ̃ =Hji], /ʰʔɛ̃ =ji/ ‘of a sheep’
(47) [LHrõ], /Lrõ/ ‘horse’ + the genitive marker /ji/ > [Lrõ =Hji], /Lrõ =ji/ ‘of a horse’
(48) [³tsʰ] ‘goat’ + the genitive marker /ji/ > [³tsʰ =¹ji], /³tsʰ =ji/ ‘of a goat’
(49) [³su-ʰhĩ], /³su-ʰhĩ/ ‘a Shixiŋ person’ + the genitive marker /ji/ > [³su-³hĩ =ʰhĩ], /³su-ʰhĩ =hĩ/ ‘of a Shixiŋ person’ (in this combination, the genitive marker /ji/ assimilates to the preceding syllable, /hĩ/)
(50) [tˢᵃ,Hw₃], /tˢᵃ,w₃/ ‘monk’ (WT grwa pa) + the genitive marker /ji/ > [tˢᵃ,₃w₃ =ʰji], /tˢᵃ,w₃ =ji/ ‘of a monk’
(51) [³sĩ-³zu], /³sĩ-³zu/ ‘carpenter’ + the genitive marker /ji/ > [³sĩ-³zu =¹ji], /³sĩ-³zu =ji/ ‘of a carpenter’

The “irregular” /HL/ word /³bɔ/ ‘yak’ behaves as a regular /HL/ word in this type of combinations, as in the following example:

(52) [³bɔ] ‘yak’ + the genitive marker /ji/ > [³bɔ =¹ji], /³bɔ =ji/ ‘of a yak’

---

9 Vowel harmony taken as diagnostic of the unstressed status of the syllables on which it operates helps to identify in Shixiŋ a set of pronominal proclitics. Overall, vowel harmony has very restricted productivity in Shixiŋ and affects, in addition to directional verbal prefixes, only the negator [mV] and the first and third person pronouns in combinations with the plural suffix [-rɛ̃] and nominal clitics, e.g. [ᵗʰi =³hĩ] ‘his’, [ᵗʰɔ =³sĩ] ‘him’, [ᵗʰu-ʷu] ‘his family, they as a family’. If assumed to be derived from the tone of the third person pronoun [⁵tʰi] (§3.2.1), the resulting tone of these combinations is expected to be /HL/, i.e. *⁵tʰi =³ji], *⁵tʰɔ =³sĩ] and *⁵tʰu-ʷu], hence yielding the incorrect tone. If, on the other hand, the initial syllable in these combinations is regarded as unstressed and toneless, as suggested by the assimilation of the vowel of this syllable to the vowel of the following syllable, its tone can be explained as depending on the tone of the adjacent stressed syllable (§3.2.2). The assimilation of both the vowel of the initial syllable and its tone to the vowel and tone of the second syllable of the word [⁵tʰu-ʷu] ‘his family, they as a family’, derived from the root [ʷu] ‘family’, supports this assumption. The same analysis, positing a set of unstressed and toneless pronominal proclitics, can be extended to those pronominal forms that, while not subject to vowel harmony, exhibit tonal behavior inconsistent with the tones of the corresponding free pronominal forms, e.g. [³jni] ‘you (as a family)’ (< [³ni] ‘thou’, [ʷu] ‘family’), [³ni =³wu] ‘with you’ (< the comitative marker /wu/). The same analysis also applies to combinations with the negator [mV], e.g. sentence (7) of the appended text.
Alternatively, only the host word or, variably, the first two syllables of the combination of a word with enclitics may carry tone, deriving this tone from the tone of the initial element of the combination (the host word). The remaining syllables are toneless and surface with a phonological [L] tone. For example:

(53) Hŋɜ# Hqua = ṭsʰa = ṭwu = ṭs₁.  
1SG weep =TERM =RES =PRF  
‘I finished weeping.’ (< [h]qua ‘cry, weep’)

(54) Hŋɜ# LHdz = ṭsʰa = ṭwu = ṭs₁.  
1SG eat =TERM =RES =PRF  
‘I finished eating.’ (< [h]dz, /dʒ/ ‘eat’)

The corresponding /HL/ monosyllabic verb in the same carrier sentence is realized as /H/, i.e. the citation /HL/ tone is simplified due to the adjacent [L] tone:10

(55) Hŋɜ# Htsa = ṭsʰa = ṭwu = ṭs₁.  
1SG weep =TERM =RES =PRF  
‘I finished jumping.’ (< [h]tsa ‘jump’)

The following example illustrates the alternative situation, in which the first two syllables of a combination of a word with enclitics are treated as one fully articulated phonological word, carrying one of the three contrastive tone patterns, /H/, /L/ or /HL/, whereas the remaining syllables are toneless and surface as [L]. Note that in this type of situation, the domain for the contrastive tone pattern may not be coextensive with the constituents into which this domain is analysed morphologically and syntactically, as in example (56):

(56) [h]tsō ‘things’ + the disyllabic optional plural marker /mə-zi/ > [h]tsō = [h]mə- [h]zi [‘things’]

Finally, an even number of enclitics attached to a disyllabic host word may form disyllabic phonological words in their own right. Consider, for instance, the phonological word [h]rē = [h]zq], composed of the agentive marker /rē/ and the topic marker /zq/, in sentence (20) of the appended text, reproduced here for convenience:

(57) Hj=Hj# ṭsʰi =Hdz= ṭsʰ=q = ṭrē = ṭzq = ṭp= ṭli = ṭnō.  
Hj=Hj# ṭsʰ=q = ṭrē = ṭzq = ṭp= ṭli = ṭnō  
3SG =GEN life-friend AGT =TOP speak = NMLZ.PST =COP  
‘His wife answered.’

Overall, the shorter the word-enclitics combination (one monosyllabic host word followed by one single enclitic), the likelier it is that the enclitic will be integrated into one phonological word with its host; the longer the combination, the likelier it is that the enclitic(s) will be treated as extrametrical syllables, as if they did not count as part of the tonal domain.

---

10 In the corpus of narrative texts, monosyllabic /HL/ words followed by several enclitics are also attested with their citation /HL/ tone, as in sentence (14) of the appended text, [h]cy= ṭli = ṭnō [‘he] thought’ (< [h]cy ‘think’, the patient nominalizer /li/, the copular verb /nō’).
4. Discussion

The following tables summarize the observed patterns in word tone derivation: (i) tone patterns in phonological words of two syllables or more (which are equivalent to lexical words, compounds and word-enclitic combinations), and (ii) tone patterns in domains containing enclitics, treated as one phonological word followed by extrametrical syllables. Sequences enclosed in square brackets in Table 7 are fully articulated phonological words, whereas those outside are extrametrical. “PW” stands for phonological words formed out of enclitics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tone of the second element</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>HL</th>
<th>Ø</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tone of the first element</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HL</td>
<td>HL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø+Ø</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6. Word tone derivation in phonological words of two syllables or more

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>one enclitic</th>
<th>two enclitics</th>
<th>three enclitics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>monosyllabic host word</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>[H]-L</td>
<td>[H]-L-L or [H-H]-L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>[LH]-L</td>
<td>[LH]-L-L or [L-H]-L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HL</td>
<td>[HL]-L</td>
<td>[HL]-L-L or [H-L]-L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disyllabic host word</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>[H]-H-L</td>
<td>[H]-H-L-L or [H-H]-[PW]-L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>[L-H]-L</td>
<td>[L-H]-L-L or [L-H]-[PW]-L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HL</td>
<td>[H-L]-L</td>
<td>[H-L]-L-L or [H-H]-[PW]-L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7. Tone patterns in tonal domains containing one to three enclitics (treated as a combination of a phonological word and extrametrical syllables)

The following observations can be made:

(i) **Tones.** The observed patterns of tone derivation suggest that of the three contrastive tones, /HL/ has a special status, dissimilar to that of /H/ and /L/. /H/ and /L/ are not subject to modifications in tonal context and remain stable in derivations, with the only exception of verbs formed by adding two prefixes. /HL/ tone, on the other hand, is subject to simplification to /H/ in running speech and also neutralizes with /L/ to /L/ in most derivations, except for those where the initial element of the word carries /HL/ tone.

(ii) **Tonal processes.** Shixing displays a wide range of tonal processes, including (a) contour tone simplification, (b) left-to-right tone spreading on nouns, (c) anticipatory (right-to-left) tone spreading on verbs formed with one prefix, and (d) tone neutralization to tone /H/ on verbal roots in verbs formed with two prefixes. A notable by-product of word tone derivation in Shixing is tone deletion, e.g. the deletion of tone on non-initial elements in phonological words in which the initial element is toned.

(iii) **Word tone derivation.** The experiment reveals the following major factors that constrain word tone derivation in phonological words of two syllables or more in Shixing:

(a) presence or absence of tone on the initial element of the phonological word, triggering two distinct tonal processes: anticipatory tone spreading and tone neutralization in the case of verbs formed through prefixation vs. perseverative tone spread in the case of nominal compounds and phrases containing enclitics.

(b) length of the phonological word: the prototypical tone domain in Shixing is two syllables long. Even sequences exceeding this length may be divided into two or more disyllabic phonological words; alternatively, only the first two syllables of the domain
may be treated as one phonological word, whereas the remaining syllables are extrametrical (§3.2.3). The process of tone anticipation in verbs is also restricted to the first two syllables of the domain (§3.2.2). Altogether, this suggests that Shixing has a strong preference towards disyllabic in its prosodic organization, with the disyllabic foot being the building block for the prosodic structure of Shixing. At the same time, monosyllabic (minimal) feet are allowed in Shixing (free roots that can stand alone as monosyllabic lexical words).

(c) composition of the phonological word: the more elements a phonological word contains, the likelier it is that only the first element (or the first disyllabic foot) will be treated as a fully articulated phonological word, whereas the remaining elements will be treated as extrametrical.

4.1. Word tone derivation and the prosodic organization of Shixing

A unified account of the observed phenomena is possible, if a prosodic domain in Shixing is taken to be characterized, in addition to tone, also by metrical stress.

We argue that Shixing is a language with culminative word prominence (stress): a phonological word in Shixing has a single syllable bearing stress, which is the location for the insertion of lexical tones. The default location of stress is the initial syllable of the domain. A prosodic domain in Shixing is hence divided into one stressed syllable and the remaining unstressed syllables, the tones of which are deleted. The tone of the stressed syllable determines the tone pattern of the domain. All in all, a prosodic domain is first and foremost defined by stress.

When appearing on the initial stressed syllable of the domain, the three contrastive tones, /H/, /L/ and /HL/, extend their respective tones onto the remaining unstressed syllables, followed by the addition of a postlexical boundary [H] tone in the case of the lexical /L/ tone (§3.2.1). If the domain exceeds two syllables in length, the expansion of the tone of the initial syllable is correlated with the morphosyntactic constituency of the domain. If the prosodic domain in question is equivalent to a lexical word, the tone of the initial stressed syllable will expand onto all remaining syllables. If the domain is equivalent to a syntactic phrase, the expansion can also take place, but the expansion of tone may be restricted to the initial disyllabic foot, whereas the remaining syllables are extrametrical and receive a phonological [L] tone (§3.2.3). Altogether, lexical words are characterized by stable tone patterns, which are lexically encoded, whereas the tone pattern of a group of words making up one prosodic domain is characterized by a certain degree of variability. To reflect this difference, we propose to distinguish within a prosodic stress domain a distinct level of tonal domain, which is characterized by the three contrastive tones, /H/, /L/ and /HL/. While a tonal domain may be restricted to the first disyllabic foot, a stress domain may be larger, including also extrametrical syllables. Both domains (stress domain and tonal domain) coincide in the case of lexical words; the stress domain may be larger than the tonal domain for syntactic phrases.

Tone placement rules on domains that begin with a toneless syllable deviate from the default rule above. The relevant set of facts is here explained under the assumption that toneless syllables (affixes as well as proclitics, see footnote 9) cannot receive stress. In domains that begin with toneless syllables, stress shifts to the first toned (and thus stressable) syllable to the right. The precise process of tone derivation appears to be further constrained by the distance of the first stressable syllable from the default domain-initial stress location: the further from the default stress location, the greater the neutralization between the three lexical tones (§3.2.2). In domains beginning with a toneless syllable, the lexical tone of the first stressable syllable can determine the derivation of the output tone pattern only if this stressable syllable is located within the initial disyllabic foot. In this case, if the first stressable syllable carries /H/ tone, this tone can be anticipated on the preceding toneless syllable. If, on the other hand, the first stressable syllable carries /L/ or /HL/ tone, the contrast between these
two tones is neutralized to /L/, all syllables within the domain up to the final syllable receive /L/ tone, whereas the final syllable receives a boundary [H] tone. If a prosodic domain begins with two unstressed syllables, so that the initial foot consists entirely of unstressed toneless syllables and the first stressable syllable is not within its scope (as in verbs formed with two prefixes), the contrast between the three lexical tones appears to be disregarded altogether. All syllables within the domain receive /L/ tone, and the domain-final syllable receives a boundary [H] tone.

To conclude this overview of experimental results, we would like to tentatively suggest one option for phonological modeling that, in the present state of knowledge, may shed further light on the link between stress and tone (§3.2.2) and the related pattern of stress placement, as well as on the tonal behavior of nominal and verbal clitics, which, while cannot occur in isolation, may combine to form phonological words. This option for phonological modeling consists in considering L as an underspecified tone. In this analysis, Shǐxīng would have only two active tones, /H/ that can spread (/H/ in current notation), and /H/ that cannot spread and that appears only in domain-initial position (/HL/ in current notation). The category of toneless syllables would include, in addition to affixes, free and bound monosyllables previously analyzed as having /L/ tone (e.g. /rõ/ ‘horse’). A further distinction would then be drawn between free toneless monosyllables (free roots) that can stand alone as monosyllabic phonological words, and bound toneless monosyllables (e.g. clitics) that cannot stand alone as monosyllabic phonological words. Notably, toneless monosyllables of the latter type can form phonological words if combined by two (i.e. constituting disyllabic feet, the building block of the prosodic organization of Shǐxīng), as the phonological word ['tɨɛ = Hʑɿ] formed out of two enclitics in example (57) above or disyllabic combinations of pronominal proclitics with case clitics mentioned in footnote 9. In a domain that begins with a monosyllabic or disyllabic foot formed out of one or two toneless syllables, respectively, stress shifts to the final syllable, tentatively due to the phonetic cue of duration, commonly shared between stressed syllables and final syllables cross-linguistically. Hence, in phonological words that consist of toneless syllables, stress is realized as a boundary [H] tone. In sum, in this analysis, stress in Shǐxīng is linked to lexical tone and uniformly targets the initial foot of the domain (either minimal, monosyllabic, or prototypical, disyllabic). If the domain-initial foot does not contain syllables that are lexically specified for tone, stress shifts to the final syllable of the domain.

---

11 While we did not test combinations of an unstressed toneless element followed by a stressable toned element, which is, in turn, followed by one or several unstressed, toneless elements, the textual corpus allows us to see word tone derivation in this type of situation. If the root carries /H/ tone, this tone is anticipated on the preceding syllable, realized on the original syllable and spread onto the following syllable, as in [lʰha ʰhi ʰha] ‘this man’ (< [lʰhi] ‘man’, the pronominal clitic /ha/ ‘this’, which frames the modified noun) in sentence (2) of the appended text. If the root carries /L/ or /HL/ tone, this tonal contrast is neutralized to /L/ tone. All syllables up to the final receive /L/ tone and the final syllable receives a boundary [H] tone, e.g. [b^u-ʑɿ = ^sɿ = Hʑɿ] ‘there existed’ (<bu/- ‘outward’, [dʑɿ] ‘exist’ (NB: the initial of this root is lenited in the intervocalic position), the perfect marker /sɿ/, the topic marker /ʑɿ/).

12 For a discussion of two-level tone systems in which a marked tone (frequently H) is contrasted with its absence, see Hyman (2001), Kubozono (2001) and Evans (2009).
4.2. Prospects for further research

This pilot study is inevitably limited in its exploratory nature. The following steps are envisaged to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the prosodic organization of Shíxīng:

(a) The proffered generalizations and hypotheses need to be carefully scrutinized, by testing against a broader range of experimental and non-experimental data. The most pressing task is to understand the nature and the distribution of /HL/ tone, as well as its relationship to /H/ tone. The already collected data and hypotheses are to be verified with more speakers.

(b) The investigation is to be extended to the Lower Reaches dialect of Shíxīng, that reportedly has a distinct prosodic structure.

(c) The present study, focused on synchronic Shíxīng phonology, is to include a diachronic perspective in an attempt to account for the noted exceptions in tone derivation (e.g. the word for ‘yak’, [³⁵bo]), as well as in order to explore the paths along which tone arose in Shíxīng.

Appendix. Daly Kuku and Gutsen Padzhe

(1) ³[³³jɪ]³nɪ # ³jɪ³nɪ # ³³hɪ # ³da³lɑ²³ ku³lku³ # ³³ma³³hɪ # ³³l̃dɪ # ³³jɪ = ³dz̃o.
   previous-?  previous-?  person  personal.name  name-person

³³dz̃ ³³jɪ = ³dz̃o.

‘A long time ago, there was a man by the name of Daly Kuku.’

(2) ³⁵hɑ ³³hɪ # ³ko³³-³du³.

³⁵hɑ ³³hɪ ³⁵hɑ ³³ko³³-³du³

this  person  this  strength-big

‘This man was very strong.’

(3) ³³tʰɜ³³-³læ = ³³zɪ³³ # ³⁵gu³³-³tsɛ³³-³pa³³-³tɛ³³ # ³³pæ³³-³hɪ # ³³l̃dɪ = ³³l̃³ # ³³jɪ³³ = ³dz̃o.

³³tʰɜ³³-³læ = ³³zɪ³³ # ³⁵gu³³-³tsɛ³³-³pa³³-³tɛ³³ # ³³pæ³³-³hɪ

that-become=TOP  personal.name  speak-person

³³l̃dɪ = ³³l̃³ ³³jɪ³³ = ³dz̃o.

one =also  exist.ANM=³DU³

‘Then, there was also a man called Gutsen Padzhe.’

(4) ³³t³³i = ³³l̃³ # ³³ko³³-³du³³-³hɪ³³ ³³ño.

³³t³³i = ³³l̃³ # ³³ko³³-³du³³-³hɪ³³ ³³ño

3SG =also  strength-big-person  COP

‘He, too, was very strong.’

13 Personal names in Shíxīng normally carry /H/ tone, e.g. /³⁵gu-³tsɛ³³-pa³³-³tɛ³³/. The tone pattern of the name of the main protagonist, [³³da³³lɑ³³-³ku³³-³ku³³] ‘Daly Kuku’, is therefore unusual. At present, we do not know what this name means and therefore cannot explain how it acquired its tone.
‘One day, Gutsen Padzhe wanted to measure swords with Daly Kuku.’

‘That day he arrived at Daly Kuku’s house.’

‘Daly Kuku was not at home.’

‘Gutsen Padzhe entered their house.’

‘I was to fight with him!’, he said.’
‘Then, scared out of her wits, the wife of Daly Kuku grabbed the salt cupboard and lifted it.’

Upon seeing that, Gutsen Padzhe thought the following.

‘This woman can lift a whole cupboard!’

‘Daly Kuku is probably even stronger than she is,’ he thought.’

‘Then Daly Kuku returned home later that afternoon.’

‘Then, without saying a word, he ran away in fear.’
"His wife told Daly Kuku."

(18) "Hma# Hgu-Hts ɛ̃-Hpa-Htɕ3 # tɕʰu = Hlʒ# ɿŋi = Hwu # Hkao-Hd3 = Hg3 # ʰp3 = ʰjį.

"Hma# Hgu-Hts ɛ̃-Hpa-Htɕ3 # tɕʰu = Hlʒ# ɿŋi = Hwu

today  personal.name here=LOC come=PRF 2SG=COM

"Hma# Hgu-Hts ɛ̃-Hpa-Htɕ3 # Hlʒ# Ltɕʰũ = Hsɿ, Lɲi = Hwu# H

"Gutsen Padzhe came over today, saying he wanted to fight with you."

(19) ʰtʰ3 = ʰlæ# 1-da-ʰlʒ-ku # tɕʰu = ʰzɿj # "Hlʒa# ʰli, # ʰp3 = ʰli = ᵃŋo.

1tʰ3 = ʰlæ 1-da-ʰlʒ-ku 1tɕʰu = ʰzɿj: "Hlʒa ʰlijį,"

that =become personal.name AGT=TOP where exist.ANM

³Hp3 = ʰli = ᵃŋo

speak =NMLZ.PST =COP

‘Daly Kuku asked: “Where is he?”’

(20) ʰtʰi = ʰji# 1-tɕʰy-ʰdziʒ # tɕʰu = ʰzɿj # ³Hp3 = ʰli = ᵃŋo.

1tʰi = ʰji 1-tɕʰy-ʰdziʒ 1tɕʰu = ʰzɿj ³Hp3 = ʰli = ᵃŋo

3SG=GEN life-friend AGT=TOP speak =NMLZ.PST =COP

‘His wife answered.’

(21) "Hgu-Hts ɛ̃-Hpa-Htɕ3 # ᵃŋo-Hwu = ʰk3 # ʰpao = ʰlæ#, ʰŋʒ# 1-zu = ʰsɿj# ʰtsʰ3# 1-dz3-ʰbu#

¹dz3-¹dzi-ʰlʒ # 1-dʒ3 = ʰsɿj, ¹tʰ3 = ʰla-¹dz3 # ¹mu = ʰsɿj # ¹b3 = ʰsɿj # ¹tsa = ¹wu = ¹sɿj.

"Hgu-Hts ɛ̃-Hpa-Htɕ3 # ᵃŋo-Hwu = ¹k3 # ʰpao = ¹læ # ʰŋʒ

personal.name self-family =at arrive =become 1SG

¹zu = ʰsɿj,

¹tsʰ3 ¹dʒ3-ʰbu ¹dz3-¹dzi-¹sɿj # ¹dʒ3 = ¹sɿj

be.afraid =PRF salt chest lift-one-lift perform =PRF

¹tʰʒ = ¹læ = ¹zɿj

¹li-¹sɿj # ¹tʰʒ = ¹mu = ¹sɿj # ¹b3 = ¹sɿj

that =become =top nothing ≠NEG =delay make =PRF

¹tsa = ¹wu = ¹sɿj.

go =RES =PRF

‘‘When Gutsen Padzhe came to our place, I was so afraid that I lifted the cupboard in the air, and seeing this, he went away without saying a word.’’
The following day, Daly Kuku went to look for Gutsen Padzhe.

He found Gutsen Padzhe in a field on the other side of the river.

When Daly Kuku arrived there, Gutsen Padzhe saw him and, scared out of his wits, grabbed the pair of oxen together with the boy leading the oxen, lifted all of them and swung them three times around his head.
“I am not the one who wanted to fight with you. I am not Gutsen Padzhe.” So, Daly Kuku went away.

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