

Lexicology and Lexicography

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European Master in Lexicography

INHERITED LEXICON

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Etymological dictionaries

- **Comparative dictionaries**
 - inherited lexicon etymologized by the comparative reconstruction
 - whole language families are taken into consideration
 - **Prospective** (lemmata pertain to the reconstructed protolanguage rather than to the individual languages on which the comparison is based)
 - Where the inherited lexicon of currently spoken languages comes from?
 - Goal: reconstruct the lexicon of a proto-language
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Dictionnaire Étymologique Roman (DERom)

- **Aim :**

reconstruct Proto-Romance (the common ancestor of the (spoken) Romance languages)

- **Comparative reconstruction**

Proto-Romance */'batt-e-/ trans.v. 'to beat' from Italian BATTERE, French BATTRE, Old Spanish BATER and their cognates (Blanco Escoda 2011/2012 in *DÉRom* s.v. */'batt-e-/)

- **Currently we do not know if the comparative grammar is relevant for Romance etymology**



Indo-European Etymological Dictionary *(IEDO)*

- project of Leiden University

Reconstruction

-each of the etymological dictionaries of individual branches of Indo-European reconstructs the inherited lexicon of their immediate protolanguage, which then enables reconstruction of the Proto-Indo-European lexicon

- This dictionary will serve as a **definite replacement of Pokorny's outdated but still highly valuable** *Indogermanisches etymologisches Wörterbuch (IEW)*.

The Sino-Tibetan Etymological Dictionary and Thesaurus (STEDT)

Aim: reconstruct the ancestor language of over 200 languages spoken in South and Southeast Asia (whose subgrouping is to the present day controversial)

Academic interest

Handbook of Proto-Tibeto-Burman (Matisoff 2003)

a sort of companion to the *STEDT*

- received quite strong criticism because of structural flaws like the lack of explicitness and thus of falsifiability, no safeguards against loans, and faulty Chinese comparisons

- **Axel Schuessler's *ABC Etymological Dictionary of Old Chinese*** should be consulted in parallel
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The Roots of Old Chinese (Laurent Sagart)

- Not a proper etymological dictionary
 - Represents a major rupture in the field of Chinese etymology
 - Etymologizes hundreds of lexical units belonging:
 - either to the basic vocabulary (personal pronouns, numerals, body parts etc.)
 - or to culturally relevant terms (transportation, commerce, writing etc.).
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

