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Late Quarternary tectonic development at the northeastern margin of Tibet revealed by 10Be and 26Al

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Tibetan Plateau has been growing up due to collision between the Indian and Eurasian plates and expanding its area laterally by invading marginal forelands and making them involved into deformation. The mechanism of expansion at the northeastern margin of the plateau is still a subject of much debate due to the scarcity of tectonic researches. In the Kumkol Basin at the northeastern margin of the plateau we made detailed geomorphological mapping using satellite images, and revealed that there is a huge anticlinorium that consists of many thrusts and folds covered with significantly deformed fluvial or fluvio-glacial fans or terraces along the Pitileke River. The development and deformation rate of the anticlinorium would give an important clue to understanding the growth mechanism of the plateau. In order to estimate the deformation rate, we dated depositional surfaces by surface exposure dating by using cosmogenic radionuclides (CRNs), such as ^{10}Be or ^{26}Al. Field investigations were conducted in 2011 and 2013, and mainly pebbles of vein quartz were collected at 22 points on the surface of fans and terraces. Depth-profile samples were collected also from 3-m deep sections at two points; each depth profile of ^{10}Be and ^{26}Al concentrations were analyzed for the exposure age, erosion rate, and inheritance by the Monte Calro simulation. In addition, grain-by-grain CRN concentrations were measured for surface samples from two points to estimate the origin of sediments. Following three inferences were obtained: (1) the sediments of the lower part of terraces and the present river contain reworked sediments; (2) depositional processes and erosion processes are strengthened in the glacial and interglacial period, respectively; (3) the upper-most two steps of terraces were formed before the MIS6 and in the transition period from MIS6 to MIS5, respectively.

Keywords: Tibetan Plateau, Qaidam Basin, tectonic landform, surface exposure dating