What does it mean when we say that a clay has abnormal TL characteristics?

The thermoluminescence (TL) method relies on the assumption that ceramics contain minerals like quartz or feldspars that have certain TL characteristics. These characteristics include growth of thermoluminescence in response to radiation dose and its sensitivity changes in response to dose in cases using the pre-dose method. With the understanding the thermoluminescence glow curve has a certain shape, the main reasons for abnormal characteristics could be either the mentioned "TL" minerals present in the given specimen behave unlike the majority of them, or the ceramic contains other minerals emitting a signal that has different characteristics not enabling the determination of absorbed radiation dose. The exact reasons for abnormal characteristics are beyond the scope of the thermoluminescence method and would require further analytical research.

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