

# The Aspectual System of Hmong Daw

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# Order of operations

Goals

Introduction

Methodology

Data and Analysis

Further questions

Conclusion

## Goals of research

Analyze Aspect in Hmong Daw

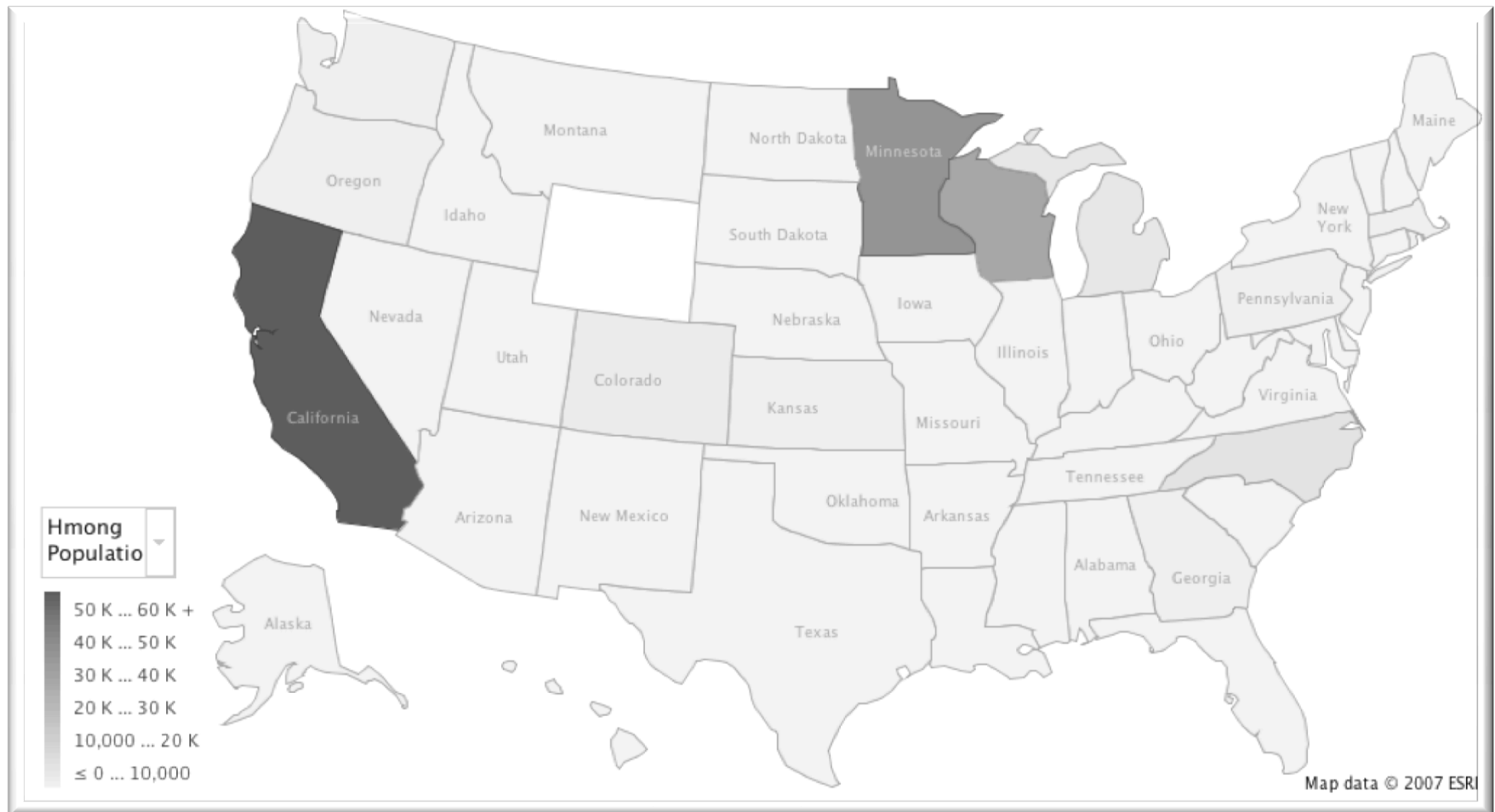
Contribute to study of aspect

Compare with Hmong Njua

# Introduction to Language - Geography



# Introduction to Language – Geography



Many Eyes - Visualizations : Hmong Population in U.S. (2000 Census) : Map with corrected data

# Hmong Population Worldwide

<b>China 6,000,000</b>	<b>Myanmar 2-3000</b>
<b>Vietnam 787,600</b>	<b>Australia 1,800</b>
<b>Laos 315,000</b>	<b>French Guyana 1000-2000</b>
<b>U.S.A. 200,000-250,000</b>	<b>Canada 767</b>
<b>Thailand 124,000</b>	<b>Argentina 100</b>
<b>France 8,000</b>	<b>Germany 70</b>

# Introduction to Hmong Daw

Hmong-Mien/Miao-Yao family

Subject Verb Object

Head initial

Non-inflectional

Tonal

Primarily monosyllabic

Writing system – RPA

# Literature Overview

Bernard Comrie – Aspect

Osten Dahl – Tense and Aspect Systems

William Frawley – Linguistic Semantics

Charles Li – The Aspectual System of Hmong Njua (Green)



# Comrie – Aspect

Internal temporal constituency

Situation-internal time (aspect)

Situation-external time (tense)

# Methodology

Natural Conversation – about Zombies!

Dahl Questionnaire

Elicitation

Published Hmong-English folktales

# Data and Analysis - outline

Marker position

Lawm – Perfective

Tau – Stative Perfective

Pheej – Continuous

Tseem – Progressive

Yuav – Future

Mam li – Benefactive Future

# Abbreviations

AFF	affirmative	PFV	perfective
BEN.FUT	benefactive future	PL	plural
CESS	cessative	POT	potential
CL	classifier	PROG	progressive
CONT	continuous	REFL	reflexive
DP	discourse particle	SG	singular
DPQ	discourse question particle	STA.PFV	stative perfective
FUT	future	POLQ	polar question
IPFV	imperfective	1	first person
NEG	negative	2	second person
		3	third person

# Position of Aspect Markers

Three positions:

Indirectly preverbal

Directly preverbal

Clause penultimate

With negation

## Position of aspect markers

*Kuv*    ***tseem***    *tabtom*                    *noj*    *mov*  
1SG    PROG    currently                    eat    rice  
1. 'I am currently eating.'

*koj*    *puas*    ***tau***    *txhuam*    *koj*    *cov*    *kaws*    *hniav*  
2SG    POLQ    STA.PFV    brush    2SG    CL    CL    teeth  
2. 'Have you brushed your teeth? (Elicited using Dahl 1985:  
#64)

*nws*    *mus*    *xeem*    *tau*    *lais.xeem*                    ***lawm***    *ma*  
3SG    go    test    POT    license                    PFV    AFF  
3. 'He/she was able to pass his/her road test.'

# Position of Aspect markers with Negation

*kuv*    ***tseem*** ***tsis***    *tau*    *dadej*    *li*  
1SG    PROG    NEG    STA.PFV shower IPFV?  
4. 'I haven't showered yet.'

*kuv*    ***tsis***    ***tau***    *qheb*    *lub*    *qhov*    *rais*  
1SG    NEG    STA.PFV open    CL    hole    window  
*ko*  
this.answer

5. 'I did not open the window!' (Elicited using Dahl 1985: #63)

## *Lawm* - Perfective

Clause penultimate

William Frawley – although perfective events are those viewed as being complete, it is less about some event being completed or not completed and more about the event being seen as a whole non-segmentable unit.

Related to *le* – Mandarin Perfective



## *Lawm* – Perfective

*phau ntawv ntawm.ko nws twb tau*  
CL paper that.one 3SG already STA.PFV  
*nyeem lawm*  
read PFV

6. 'He has already (completely) read that one.' (Elicited using Dahl 1985: #53)

*wo zuotian xie -le yi feng xin*  
1SG yesterday write -LE one CL letter

7. 'I wrote a letter yesterday.'  
(Mandarin - Smith 1997: 264)

## *Tau* – Stative Perfective

directly pre-verbal

Stative Perfective:

to (have) come into the state of being 'x'

## *Tau* – Stative Perfective

*Kuv tsis tau rov.qab los tsev li.*  
1SG NEG STA.PFV reverse come house IPFV?  
8. 'I have not yet returned home.'

*daim niag Tokyo twb tsis tau*  
CL CL Tokyo already NEG STA.PFV  
*tawm puas yog...*  
to.come.out POLQ AFF  
9. 'The Tokyo movie hasn't come out yet, right?'

*koj puas tau txhuam koj cov kaws hniav*  
2SG POLQ STA.PFV brush 2SG CL CL teeth  
10. 'Have you brushed your teeth?' (Elicited using Dahl 1985:  
#64)

## *Pheej* – Continuous

Imperfective – segmentable unit

Continuous – Must be in progress at utterance time and prior to utterance

Still/keep

Interrogatives

Slightly unexpected and negative connotation

## *Pheej* - Continuous

<i>kuv</i>	<b><i>pheej</i></b>	<i>ua</i>	<i>dab.tsi</i>	<i>ne,</i>	<i>kuv</i>	<i>twb</i>
1SG	CONT	do	what	DPQ	1SG	already
<i>yuav</i>	<i>mus</i>	<i>tawm.rooj</i>	<i>ho</i>	<i>sav</i>		
FUT	go	bathroom	DP	DP		

11. 'What am I still doing here? I'm supposed to go to the bathroom.'

<i>kuv</i>	<b><i>pheej</i></b>	<i>xav</i>	<i>rau</i>	<i>kuv</i>	<i>tus</i>	<i>kheej</i>
1SG	CONT	think	to	1SG	CL	REFL

12. 'I keep thinking to myself.' (from conversation)

<i>*ua.ntej thaum</i>	<i>kuv</i>	<i>mus</i>	<i>tawm</i>	<i>rooj</i>	<i>kuv</i>	<b><i>pheej</i></b>
Before time	1SG	go	out	door	1SG	CONT
<i>Ua</i>	<i>dab.tsi</i>	<i>ne?</i>				
do	what	DPQ				

13. \*intended: 'What was I doing before I went to the bathroom?'

## *Tseem* - Progressive

Progressive – Must be in progress without regard to times outside utterance

Indirectly preverbal

## Tseem - Progressive

*ua.ntej thaum kuv mus tawm rooj, kuv tseem*  
before time 1SG go out door 1SG PROG

*ua dab.tsi ne?*  
do what DPQ

14. 'What was I doing before I went to the bathroom?'

*kuv tseem xav mas.ntshe lawv twb*  
1SG PROG think maybe 3PL already

15. I'm **thinking** that maybe they already (are zombies). (from conversation)

*yog.vim.li.cas koj pheej tseem yuav noj thiab*  
why 2SG CONT PROG FUT eat and

*no*

DP

16. 'Why are you still wanting to eat?' (polite) (shouldn't you be full already?)

## *Yuav* – Future

Pre-verbal

Indicates future

Most common and versatile future marker



## Yuav – Future

*kuv niam **yuav** tom teb*  
1SG mother FUT over.there land

17. 'My mother will go to the garden.'

*kuv **yuav** rov.qab mus tsev*  
1SG FUT return go house

18. 'I'm going back home.' (I don't want to do this anymore.)

## *Mam li* – Benefactive Future

Narrow use

Speaker will do something in the future for the listener

## Mam li – Future Benefactive

*kuv*    ***mam.li***            *khiav*    *mus*    *los*    *mas*  
1SG    BEN.FUT            run    go    DP    DP

19. 'Ok, I will leave.' (you don't want me here.)

*kuv*    ***mam.li*** *ua*            *li*            *koj*    *hais*    *los*    *mas*  
1SG    BEN.FUT do            ?            2SG    say    DP    DP

20. 'I will do whatever you say!' (please forgive me)

## Future and Benefactive Future mutually exclusive

*\*kuv*    ***mam.li*** ***yuav***    *ua.li*    *koj*    *hais*    *los*    *mas*  
1SG    BEN.FUT FUT    to.do    2SG    say    DP    DP

21. \*intended: 'I will do what you say'

*\*kuv*    ***yuav***    ***mam.li*** *ua.li*    *koj*    *hais*    *los*    *mas*  
1SG    FUT    BEN.FUT to.do    2SG    say    DP    DP

22. \*intended: 'I will do what you say'

# Resulting analysis

Lawm - Perfective

Tau – Stative Perfective

Pheej - Continuous

Tseem - Progressive

Yuav – Future

Mam li – Benefactive Future

## Further inquiry

Combinations

Interaction with negation

Other possible aspect markers

Particle *li* (not as in *mam li*)

*Tiav* and *tag*

## More potential aspect markers?

<i>tam.sim.no</i>	<i>kuv</i>	<i>tabtom</i>	<i>pleev</i>	<i>xim</i>	<i>dawb</i>		
right.now	1SG	currently	paint	CL	white		
<i>rau</i>	<i>kuv</i>	<i>lub</i>	<i>tsev</i>	<i>tab.si</i>	<i>tsis</i>	<i>tau</i>	<b><i>tiav</i></b>
for	1SG	CL	house	but	NEG	STA.PFV	CESS?

***li***

IPFV?

23. 'Right now I'm currently using white paint to paint my house, but it is not done yet.'

<i>kuv</i>	<i>tseem</i>	<i>ua</i>	<i>tsis</i>	<i>tau</i>	<b><i>tag</i></b>	<i>kiag</i>	<b><i>li</i></b>
1SG	PROG	do	neg	STA.PFV	CESS?	DP	IPFV?

24. 'I haven't done it (for you) yet.'

# Conclusion

Goals

Introduction to language and aspect

Methodology

Analysis and Data

Further questions



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Ua tsaug!  
Thank you!

# Q&A