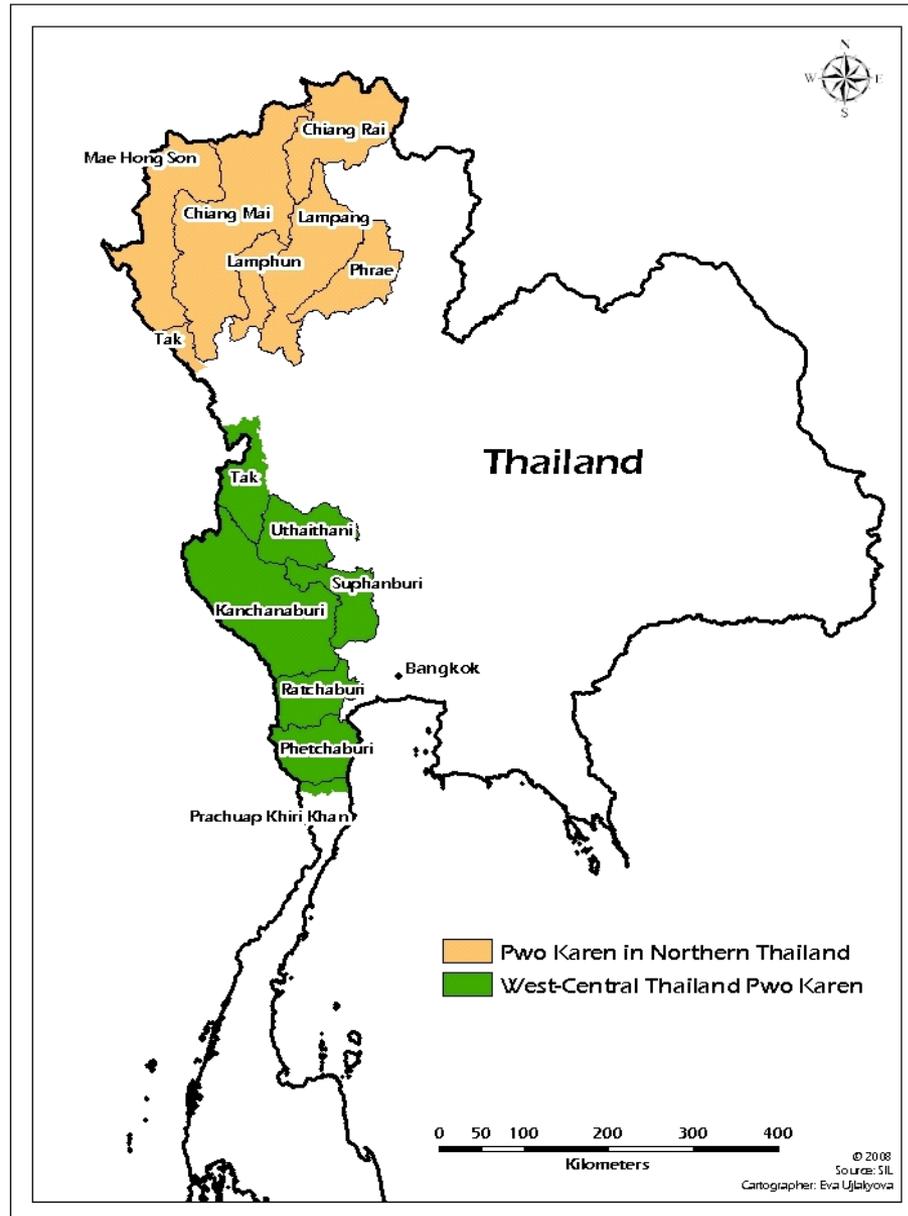


Thailand Pwo Karen Linguistic Diversity: Beyond Word List Comparison and Intelligibility Testing

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- Pwo Karen
- Survey Results
 - Word list comparison
 - Intelligibility testing
- Grammatical differences
 - Pronouns
 - Demonstratives

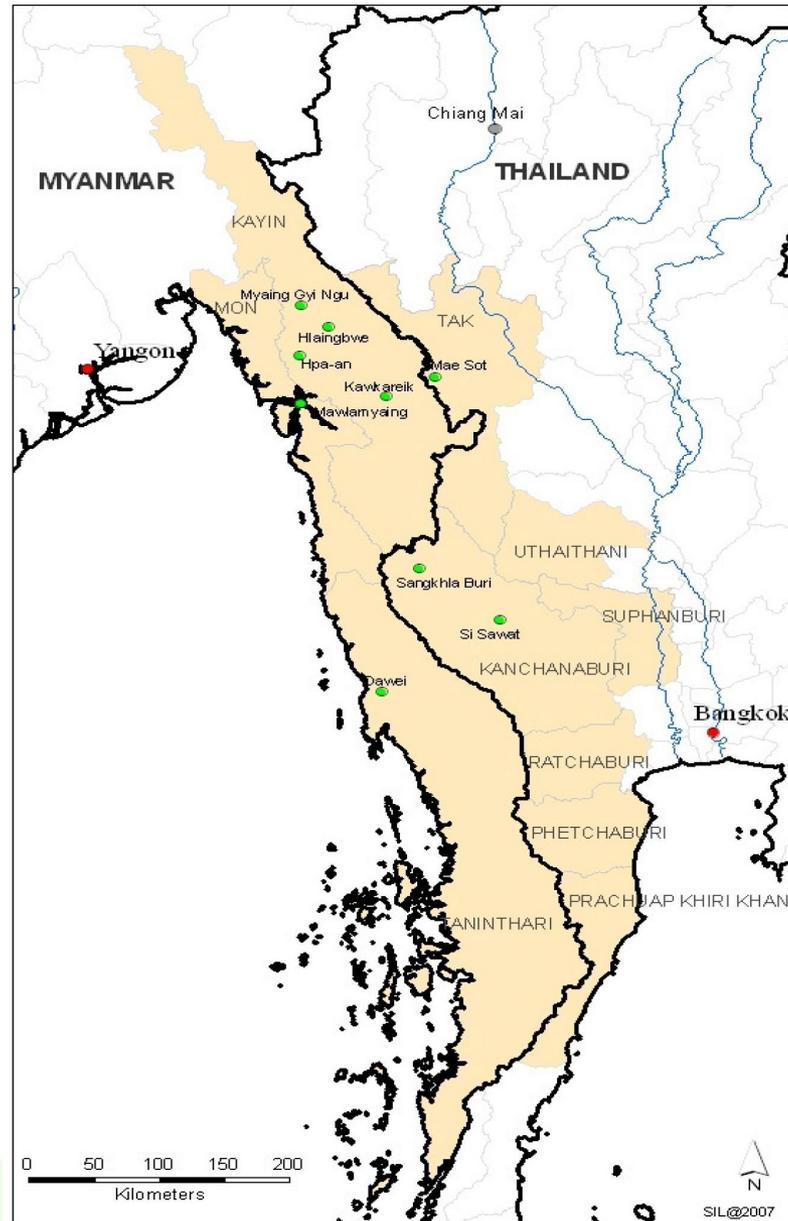


- Northern Pwo Karen

- Originally from Zwei Kabin hills east of Pa-an
- Forcibly resettled in N. Thailand by Kawila around 1802
- Further immigration encouraged by Chiang Mai kingdom

- West Central Thailand Pwo Karen

- Invited into Central Thailand by King Rama I
- Served as border guards



- **Wordlist comparison: 92% lexical similarity**
- **Intelligibility testing**
 - WCT Pwo: Question answers on N. Pwo narrative
26% correct
 - N. Pwo: Question answers on WCT Pwo narrative
25% correct
- **WCT Pwo and N. Pwo are not mutually intelligible**

- Personal pronoun similarities
 - Subject pronouns
 - Precede the predicate
 - Proclitics
 - Object pronouns
 - Follow the predicate
 - Full syllables

- Dissimilarities: 1st person subject pronouns

- WCT Pwo

jə t^hâi lô

1s return_home !!

‘I am going home!’

- N. Pwo

tçə mə t^hâi lô

1s IRR return_home !!

‘I am going home!’

- Dissimilarities: 1st person object pronouns

- WCT Pwo

táik^{hê} plài jə tɕ^{hâ} kĩ

Taokhe tease 1s INTENS INTENS

‘Taokhe really teased me.’

- N. Pwo

ʔâ tau' p^hli jê

Ah! monk beat 1s

‘Ah! The monk beat me.’

- Dissimilarities: Thematic reference
- N. Pwo

jê tɕə ke t^həwĩçè

1s 1s be oldest_sibling

‘As for me, I am the oldest sibling.’

- WCT Pwo

jə nɔ́ jə lì lè’ lò wê dá

1s that 1s go NEG speak

‘‘As for me, I am not going!’’ (she) said.’

- Proximal demonstrative similarities

- WCT Pwo

jə mî bǎ jò lǎ

1s sleep moment this !!

‘I’ve just slept this moment.’

- N. Pwo

p^hlǎ lə wǎ jǎ tai k^hǎ’sǎ

person one village this walk flee

‘The people of this village had fled.’

- Proximal demonstrative dissimilarities
- N. Pwo

t^hõmõ wé dε ?á p^hlô lə wjê ?í tə mə kō â'

think Ah! person one CLF this ls IRR lure 3

t^hõ ?ə sí ê

to 3 die for.sure

‘(He) thought, “Ah! This person, I will lure him to his death for sure.”’

- Medial demonstrative: Topic marking

- WCT Pwo

ʔə wà nɔ̀ lì l̩

3 husband that go !!

‘Her husband left.’

- N. Pwo

ʔə p^hɛ̃ nɔ̀ l̩ ʔãt^hé wé dɛ wai’

3 father that go sell immediately

‘His father went and sold (him) immediately.’

- WCT Pwo Conditional

ɰəp^hlõ̃ ɰê ʔõ̃tɕà' nə li k^hə lè li ləɰi ʔô

person come ask 2s go where QUES go don't OK

‘If someone comes and asks you to go somewhere, don't go, OK?’

- N. Pwo Conditional

p^hlõ̃ me' ʔã̃tɕ^hã̃ k^hwè nə p^hé nə kemá

person if ask look_at 2s necklace that cause

k^hwè â' ləɰi

look_at 3 don't

‘If someone asks to look at your necklace, don't let (them) look at it.’

- Medial demonstrative: Conjunctions

- WCT Pwo

ʔé wǔ́ nǒ mǎ́nǎ́nwê wê t^hǎ ...
finish that Mueng_Nong_Nwe come stand_up ...
'So Mueng Nong Nwe stood up...'

- N. Pwo

wǎ́ kemá ʔə p^hè lî ʔǎ́t^hé ʔe' kəsǎ́mǎ́
finish cause 3 father go sell to king
'Then he had his father sell (him) to the king.'

- Word list comparison and even intelligibility testing barely scratch the surface of what makes two languages mutually unintelligible
- Grammatical analysis should be a component of dialect surveys
- Textual data collected in the course of dialect surveys can be used for further analysis, contributing to the documentation of endangered and/or little known languages