



Proto-Karen (*k-rjaŋ^A) Fauna



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Eighteen Karenic Groups in Myanmar (Ethnologue, 2009)

Pa-O

Lahta

Kayan

Bwe

Geko

Geba

Brek

E. Kayah

W. Kayah

Yinbaw

Yintale

Manumanaw

Paku

Sgaw

Wewaw

Zeyein

E. Pwo

W. Pwo



Six Karenic Groups in Thailand

Pa-O

Kayan

Kayah

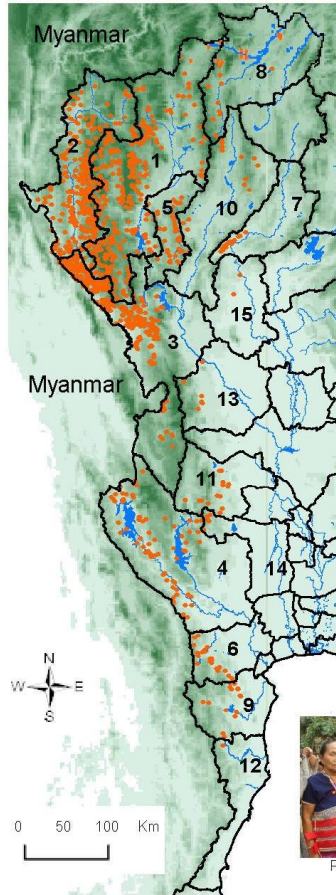
Kayaw

Sgaw

Pwo



Karen Settlement Areas and Population in Thailand (2002)



LEGEND

● Karen villages in the highlands

Above mean sea level
Low High

Data source: Courtesy of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Sponsor: The Thailand Research Fund (TRF)

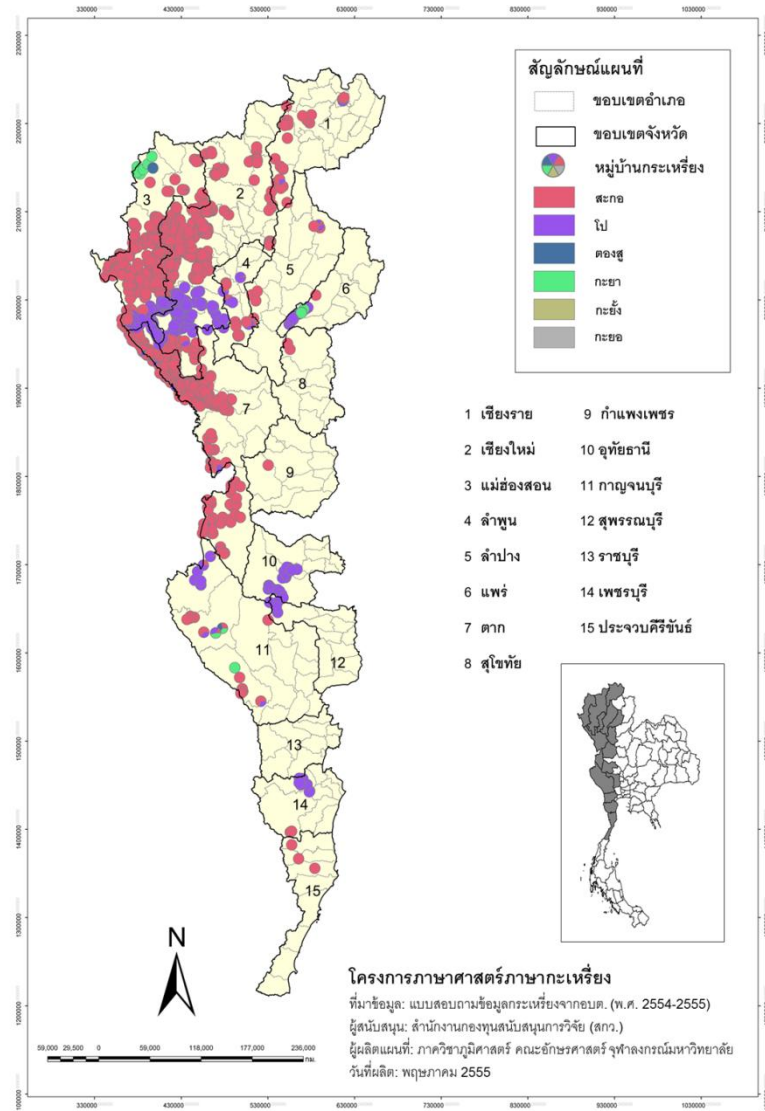
No.	Province	No. of population
1	Chiang Mai	138,447
2	Mae Hong Son	100,983
3	Tak	94,334
4	Kanchanaburi	30,976
5	Lamphun	29,124
6	Ratchaburi	13,577
7	Phrae	8,298
8	Chiang Rai	6,456
9	Phetchaburi	4,011
10	Lampang	3,969
11	Uthai Thani	3,382
12	Prachuap Khiri Khan	1,339
13	Kamphaeng Phet	1,335
14	Suphan Buri	1,159
15	Sukhothai	741
Total		438,131



Producer: Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University
(for the Karen Linguistics Project)

Date: 1 June 2010

Karen Settlement Areas and Population in Thailand (2012)



- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 เชียงราย | 9 กำแพงเพชร |
| 2 เชียงใหม่ | 10 อุทัยธานี |
| 3 แม่ฮ่องสอน | 11 กาญจนบุรี |
| 4 ลำพูน | 12 สุพรรณบุรี |
| 5 ลำปาง | 13 ราชบุรี |
| 6 เพชร | 14 เพชรบุรี |
| 7 ตาก | 15 ประจวบคีรีขันธ์ |
| 8 สุโขทัย | |

โครงการภาษาศาสตร์ภาษากระเหรี่ยง

ที่มาข้อมูล: แบบสอบถามข้อมูลกระเหรี่ยงจากอบต. (พ.ศ. 2554-2555)

ผู้สนับสนุน: สำนักงานกองทุนสนับสนุนการวิจัย (สกว.)

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วันที่ผลิต: พฤษภาคม 2555



Previous Works on Comparative Karen

- Haudricourt (1946, 1953)
- Jones (1961)
- Burling (1969)
- Solnit (2001)
- Manson (2009)



Previous Works on the Classifications of Karen

- Jones (1961)
- Burling (1969)
- Kauffman (1993)
- Bradley (1997)
- Manson (2001, 2011)
- Shintani (2003)



Obtaining Fresh and Compatible Data

- Choosing languages and varieties
- Devising a wordlist of 2,000 items with English and Thai glosses divided into 21 semantic domains (Fauna = 128 items)
- Eliciting data by interviewing male native speakers at different research sites
- Comparing and reconstructing PK phonology and lexicon



Representatives of the Three Major Branches (Geographical Base)

Northern

Pa-O (2 varieties)

Central

Kayan

E. Kayah

Kayaw

Bwe (Henderson, 1997)

Southern

Sgaw (2 varieties)

Pwo (2 varieties)



Regular Sound Changes of the *-aŋ Rhyme

Example: PK *laŋ^A ‘to descend’

Pa-O: laŋ³³ A3 (N.)

Kayaw: lo³³ A3

laŋ⁵³ A3 (S.)

Sgaw: lo³³ A3 (N.)

Kayan: laŋ³³ A3

lo³³ A3 (S.)

Kayah: le¹¹ A3

Pwo: lɛ̃⁵⁵ A3 (N.)

Bwe: la³³ A3

lɔ̃³¹ A3 (S.)



Proto-Karen Phonology

- The tones, onsets and rhymes of Proto-Karen phonology with some lexical examples can be found in Figure 1, Table 1 and Table 2 of the Appendix.



Proto-Karen Tones

- How many tones should be reconstructed, two, three, four or six? There are different opinions, as follows:

<i>Haudricourt (1972)</i>	2	A B
<i>Jones (1961)</i>	2	´ ˘
<i>Burling (1969)</i>	6	1 2 3 4 ?1 ?2
<i>Shintani (2003)</i>	4	1 2 2´ 3
<i>Manson (2009)</i>	4	*A *B *B´ *C
<i>Luangthongkum</i>	3	*A *B *D



Tonal Development in Modern Karen

N. Pa-O

	*A	*B	*D
1	31 ^{..}	55	21
2	31 ^{..}	55	21 [']
3	33	53	45 [']

S. Pa-O

	*A	*B	*D
1	31 ^{..}	33	21
2	31 ^{..}	33	21
3	53	55	45

Kayan

	*A	*B	*D
1	53	11	45
2	53	11	45
3	33	11	21

E. Kayah

	*A	*B	*D
1	33	11	55
2	33	11	55
3	11	11	33

W. Bwe

	*A	*B	*D
1	55	33	33
2	55	33	33
3	33	33	11

Kayaw

	*A	*B	*D
1	55	11	33
2	55	11	33
3	33	11	33

N. Sgaw

	*A	*B	*D
1	33	31 [~]	45
2	33	31 [~]	45
3	33	11 ^{..}	21

S. Sgaw

	*A	*B	*D
1	55	45 [']	21
2	55	45 [']	21
3	33	31	11 ^{..}

N. Pwo

	*A	*B	*D
1	35	33	45
2	55	33	45
3	55	11 ^{..}	21

S. Pwo

	*A	*B	*D
1	53	55	21
2	31 ^{..}	55	21
3	31 ^{..}	33	45



Proto-Karen Lexicon: Fauna (1)

- o Cognates were found in all languages and varieties with regular sound changes.

*dəŋ^B ‘ant’

*thwi^B ‘dog’

*k-hne^A ‘honey bee’

*(tho^B) lwi^B ‘dove’

*b-na^B ‘buffalo’

*ʔde^B ‘frog’

*khwi^B ‘chameleon’

*jow^B ‘mouse’

*chwε^B ‘crab’

*tho^{ʔD} ‘pig’



Proto-Karen Lexicon: Fauna (2)

- Cognates were found in the Central and Southern branches.

*p-[?]dε^A ‘rabbit’ *tho^B ‘bird’

- Cognates were found in the Northern and Central branches.

*da[?]D ‘fish’ *bo^B ‘ox’

*jaj^A ‘serow’ *s-ŋwi^B ‘water snail’



Proto-Karen Lexicon: Fauna (3)

- o Could be Austroasiatic loans (Monic, Waic)

*chjaN^A ‘chicken’

*k-chaŋ^A ‘elephant’

*k-se ()^T ‘horse’

*hl/?laŋ^{A/B} k-da^{?D} ‘vulture’



Proto-Karen and Proto-Tibeto-Burman (1)

PK	PTB	Gloss
*d-khej ^A	*d-key, *d-kəy	'barking deer'
*t-khro ^{?D}	*d-yuk	'sambha deer'
*thwi ^B	*kwiy, *kwəy	'dog'
*kli ^A	*s-liy, *s-ləy	'flea'
*swiX ^B	*sar, *śar	'head louse'



Proto-Karen and Proto-Tibeto-Burman (2)

PK	PTB	Gloss
*wi ^A	*bwiy, *bwəy	'mole'
*jaj ^A	*kye.l, *kyi[.]l	'serow'
*row ^B	*b-ru.l	'snake'
*khe ^A	*d-key, *d-kəy	'tiger'



Discussion (1)

- Contact relationship

N. Pa-O ——— Shan

S. Pa-O ——— Mon

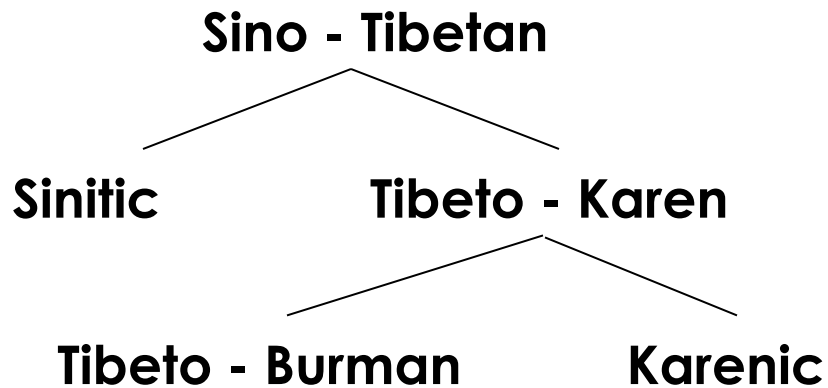
Pwo ——— Mon



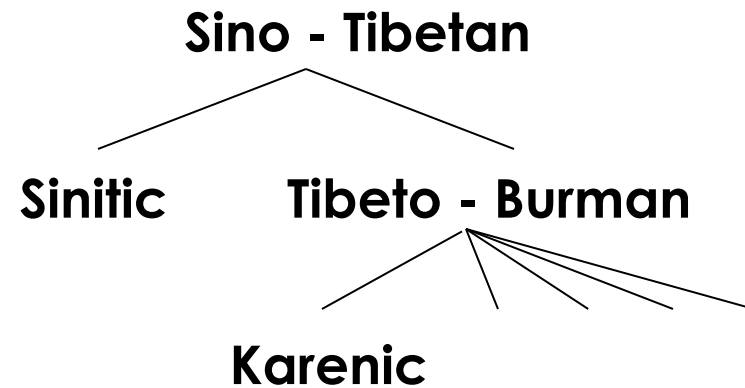
Discussion (2)

- Genetic relationship

A



B





Discussion (3)

- The names of some aggressive wild animals, such as no. 4 'bear', no. 68 'tiger' etc., have become taboo words and have been replaced by euphemisms as in Sgaw Karen.
- The Karen language consultants could quickly recognise the animals when the pictures were shown to them during the interviews.



Discussion (4)

- In the modernised mountainous areas of Thailand, it is noticeable that children remember fewer and fewer animal names in their own languages, especially non-domesticated animals, due to compulsory education with Thai as the medium of instruction, good transportation, the mass media and tourism.



Discussion (5)

- In the near future, it is likely that only a few Karen animal names will be in the lexicon.
- Sooner or later a similar phenomenon will occur in Myanmar.



Further Research

- A decrease of Karen words with an increase of Thai loanwords for animal names could provide a good case for studying “language change in progress” or “change in apparent time”, with regard to vocabulary loss and morphological change as well as sound change.



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Thank You