

# The –VC Rhyme Link Between Bahnaric and Katuic

Kenneth D. SMITH  
Summer Institute of Linguistics

1. Background
  2. Introduction
  3. Statistical comparison of –VC in six languages
  4. Rhymed cognate sets in six languages
- Appendix I: Frequency of each –VC combination in six languages  
Appendix II: Cognate sets  
Appendix III: Index to glosses  
Bibliography

## 1. Background\*

An incredible advance in Southeast Asian linguistics was made when bondage to alphabetical dictionaries and the resultant word-initial focus was broken and investigators started giving equal or greater priority consideration to the ends, rather than to the beginnings, of words. This attention has been increasing during the past three decades.

Without making an attempt to be exhaustive but using only the limited resources at my disposal during a time of personal transition and using (with one exception) only Vietnam language materials, note the following development:

In 1955 Lê văn Hùng's *Vietnamese-English Dictionary* included in the introductory Phonetics notes a section titled "Diphthongs" in which are listed 119 orthographic vowel plus final consonant clusters with their phonetic equivalents. Tone is not included.

In 1961 Phillips included in his Hrê dictionary a chart of "vowel-plus-consonant combinations". Using a matrix of 13 vowels (glided vowels are grouped with their unglided onset vowels) and 18 final consonants, only 190 cells (of 234 maximum) are filled. On two following pages discussion of Hrê dialects is given in terms of these final –VC combinations (see Phillips 1973).

Later Wallace and Thomas (1964) and K. Smith (1964) proposed the rhyming dictionary and the productive "word-wheel" as means to focus on the vowel plus final consonant clusters which the young SIL linguists were encountering in the Vietnam highlands.

---

\*This paper was presented at the Second International Austroasiatic Linguistic Conference in Mysore, India, in December 1978.