

LEXICA

Mon at Nong Doo, Lamphun Province

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1. Introduction

Most of the dialects of Mon spoken in Thailand have been investigated, but not the Mon dialect spoken at Nong Doo, Lamphun Province. I had a chance of meeting with Mon people at Nong Doo for a brief period in the summer of 1995 and I had with me a Southeast Asia Wordlist.¹ The purposes of this article are:

- 1) to present a phonological analysis of the Mon language spoken at Baan Nong Doo (บ้านหนองคู) Tambol Baan Ruen (ตำบลบ้านเรื่อน), Amphoe Paa Sang (อำเภอป่าซาง), Lamphun province (จังหวัดลำพูน), and
- 2) to provide a 281-word vocabulary of the Baan Nong Doo Dialect of Mon

2. Mons in Thailand

The known history of the Mon has been long and important. The language has a written form which is dated to the sixth century. The spoken form has long been investigated by linguists.

Mon settlements can be found in Lower Burma and in central Thailand. There are also small settlements of Mon in the north and in the south of Thailand. Ancestors of the present Mon came into Thailand in several migrations over a long period of time beginning in the 10th century (Sujaritlak et al. 1983:11-16). In Thailand, Mon are settled primarily on the central plains, the largest settlements being in Nonthaburi and Pathumthani, the provinces north of Bangkok. There are also Mon settlements in the outlying areas of Bangkok, i.e., Bangkradi (formerly of

¹ The 281-word vocabulary was called the SIL Southeast Asia Wordlist or the Southeast Asia Wordlist for short. This SEA Wordlist was introduced by Dr. David Thomas in 1977 when he first offered the course on "Field Methods in Linguistics" at the Institute of Language and Cultures for Rural Development (known at the time as Southeast Asian Linguistics Program), Mahidol University. Of the 281 words, 100 words were taken from the Swadesh 100-word list, i.e., those that were marked by asterisk (*), 122 words were taken from the Swadesh 200-word list, i.e., those that were marked by equal sign (=) (Samarin, 1967:218-223) and the remaining 59 words were added by Dr. David Thomas. The 59 additional words were words of local relevance.

Thonburi province), Lat Krabang, etc. The second largest settlements are in the provinces of Rajchaburi, Phetchaburi, Samut Songkhram and Samut Sakhon. Mon can also be found in Lopburi, about 155 kilometres north of Bangkok, along the Phahonyothin Highway. There are also small groups of Mon in the south of Thailand, i.e., Chumphon and Surat Thani provinces. Another small group of Mon is found in isolation in Amphoe San Patong, Chiangmai province and in Amphoe Paa Sang, Lamphun province. These settlements are located on opposite sides of the Mae Ping.

Most of the Mon dialects spoken in these areas of Thailand have been already investigated and were presented mostly as M.A. Theses or Ph.D dissertations,² except for the Nong Duu Mon. The Mon dialect spoken at Baan Nong Duu, Lamphun province was investigated but no detailed study was presented.

3. Baan Nong Duu, Lamphun province

3.1 Geographical Location

Baan Nong Duu, Tambol Baan Ruen, Amphoe Paa Sang, Lamphun province is a fairly large community of Mon speakers in the northern part of Thailand. These people are Thai citizens who speak Mon. They were born in Thailand and they are descended from exiles who came from Burma several generations ago. Baan Nong Duu is about 14 kilometres south-west of Amphoe Mueng Lamphun along the Lamphun-Paa Sang Road. The population of Baan Nong Duu before 1980 was 1,318, but now Baan Nong Duu has been divided into two separate villages since 1989, i.e., Baan Nong Duu, Tambol Baan Ruen with a population of 638 and Baan Boo Khao, also of Tambol Baan Ruen with a population of 254. Almost everyone in Boo Khao speaks Mon and Kam Muang. About 40 percent of the Nong Duu population speak Mon, the rest speak Yong, a

² See:

a. Sujaritlak Wajanarat. 1978. "Some basic characteristics of Mon grammar." M.A. thesis, Mahidol University.

b. Prayat Kitisann. 1986 "The Phonology of Mon at Ban Khlong Khru, Tambol Thasai, Amphoe Muang, Samut Sakorn province." M.A. thesis, Mahidol University.

c. Piyamas Sirijaruwong. 1987. "Clause and sentence in Mon (at Ban Khlongkhwai, Tambol Khlongkhwai, Amphoe Samkhok, Pathumthani province)." M.A. thesis, Mahidol University.

d. Panpot Panthongkhum. 1982. "A description of the Mon language of Bangkhanmak, Lopburi: An Austroasiatic language in Thailand." M.A. thesis, Silpakorn University.

e. Bauer, Christian. 1982. "Morphology and syntax of spoken Mon." Ph.D. dissertation, SOAS.

f. La-or Pancharoen. 1983. "Mon Grammar." M.A. Thesis, Silpakorn University.

g. Prachern Khonthet. 1985. "Description of the Mon language of Cetrew, Samut Sakhorn: An Austroasiatic language in Thailand." M.A. thesis, Silpakorn University.

h. Yowaluk Shatsuksiridate. 1987. "A description of the Mon language of Salui Chumphorn: An Austroasiatic Language in Thailand." M.A. thesis, Silpakorn University.

i. Montha Srikum. 1991. "A lexical study of Mon spoken in Nonthaburi, Lopburi and Kanchanaburi." M.A. thesis, Silpakorn University.

j. Watanee Duangsamran. 1994. "A lexical study of Mon spoken in Pathumthani, Samutsakorn and Ratchaburi." M.A. thesis, Silpakorn University.

dialect of Tai Lü in the Tai Language Family). The Mon language studied in this article will be called Nong Duu Mon.

3.2 Phonological Analysis of Mon at Baan Nong Duu

My informants for the language were Mr. Buntha Song-hong-sa, 85 years of age, born at Baan Nong Duu, Amphoe Paa Sang, Lamphun province, and Mr. Bunmee Sri-sathit-tham, 65 years of age, also born at Baan Nong Duu. Both of my informants also know the written form of the Mon language.

3.2.1 Consonants

Nong Duu Mon has 18 initial consonants; consonants preceded by a hyphen (-) can also occur finally.

-p	-t	-c	-k	-ʔ
b	d			
f	s			-h
-m	-n	-ŋ	-ŋ	
w	l	-y		
		r		

Initial clusters

The following clusters occur in Nong Duu Mon:

	h	m	n	w	y	l	r
p	√				√	√	√
t	√						
c	√						
k	√			√	√	√	√
h		√	√			√	

Examples of initial consonant clusters are:

/phac/	'fear'	/haplùʔ/	'betel chew'
/pròa/	'rain'	/pyə/	'want'
/thò/	'gold'	/chat/	'die'
/khah/	'good'	/klon/	'do, work'
/krəp/	'forest'	/kwac/	'walk'
/hloa/	'wide'	/kya/	'wind'
/hnam/	'skin'	/hmòt/	'eyes'

3.2.2 Vowels

There are 9 vowel phonemes in Nong Duu Mon as follows:

i		u
e	ə	o
ɛ	a	ɔ
	ɑ	

Diphthongs are analysed as sequences of the above phonemes: /ea, ua, oa, ao, æ/

Mon is a register language; every vowel must be assigned to one of the two registers, tense or 1st register and lax or 2nd register. To the vowel inventory above must be added a phoneme of register /`/. The vowels /ε, ɔ, ɑ, ao, æ/ have no lax counterparts. The tense vowels will be unmarked and the lax ones will be marked with a grave accent /`/, resulting in the following vowel nuclei:

Simple vowels			Diphthongs	
i, ĩ		u, ù		
e, è	ə, è	o, ò	ea, èa	oa, òa
ε	a, à	ɔ		ao
	ɑ		æ	

Some examples of minimal contrast involving register from 281 words are:

/pəŋ/	[pəŋ]	'cooked rice'	≠	/pə̀ŋ/	[pə̀ŋ]	'abdomen'
/sət/	[sət]	'areca'	≠	/sət̃/	[sət̃]	'animal'
/teʔ/	[teʔ]	'that'	≠	/tèʔ/	[tèʔ]	'younger sibling'
/sac-ŋeak/	[sac-ŋeak]	'green'	≠	/ŋèak/	[ŋèak]	'tooth'

3.2.3 Syllable structure

The phonological words of Nong Duu Mon may consist of a single stressed syllable of the structure /C(C)V(V)(C)/ or of this single stressed syllable preceded by an unstressed presyllable of the structure /C V-/. In the presyllable, the vowel is usually /a/ (This /a/ can vary between [a] and [ə]). Thus the minimal syllabic unit of Nong Duu Mon can be rendered as /CV/ and the whole syllable structure can be stated as (CV)C(C)V(V)(C).

4. Southeast Asia Wordlist

There are some problems in using the Southeast Asia Wordlist to elicit the Nong Duu Mon, i.e., generic vs. specific terms, semantic ambiguity, lack of cultural relevance, repetitiveness. etc, but no specific entries were excluded in this study.³ However, the problems are not that serious. Based on the corpus of 281 words, the phonological system of Nong Duu Mon can be rendered as above. The following is the SEA Wordlist of 281 vocabulary items with the Mon dialect of Nong Duu in phonemic transcription:

³ See Miller, John D. 1994. "Evaluation of the wordlist used in a Mon-Khmer research project in Northeast Thailand." *MKS* 23:67-81.

= 1. sky	takah	* 50. horn	krèaŋ
* 2. cloud	mòt-pròa	= 51. animal	sòt
* 3. sun	taŋoa	* 52. dog	klə
* 4. moon	kitao?	53. pig	kloc
* 5. star	hnəŋ	54. chicken	caŋ
= 6. wind	kya	55. duck	tèa
* 7. rain	pròa	* 56. fish	ka?
8. rainbow	kanèaŋ-səŋ- dac	= 57. snake	sùm
= 9. mist	katap	58. rat	nae?
* 10. night	hatəm	59. rabbit	peataj (T)
= 11. day	taŋoa	60. monkey	hnae
= 12. year	hnam	61. deer	baŋ
= 13. hail	mea-pròa	62. tiger	kla?
= 14. snow		63. buffalo	preaŋ
= 15. freeze		64. cow	klèa
* 16. water	dac	65. elephant	coŋ
= 17. river	bi	66. elephant tusk	krèaŋ-coŋ
= 18. lake	kama	= 67. worm	kayao?
= 19. sea		68. scorpion	ŋèa-can
* 20. earth, soil	tæ?	69. spider	ŋèa-phaŋ
* 21. stone	hmə?	* 70. louse	coa
* 22. sand	hatae?	71. mosquito	hamic
23. mud	haram	* 72. a fly	rùy
= 24. dust	halàk	* 73. nose	ŋea-muh
25. gold	thò	* 74. eye	hmòt
26. silver	sən	* 75. ear	kato
* 27. mountain	tə	* 76. head	dap
* 28. tree	chu?	* 77. mouth	paŋ
= 29. forest	krəp	* 78. tooth	ŋèak
* 30. leaf	hla?	* 79. tongue	hatac
* 31. bark	kanok	* 80. hair	sok
= 32. flower	kao	* 81. neck	kə?
* 33. root	rəh-chu?	82. shoulder	hnaŋ
= 34. fruit	sət-chu?	* 83. chest	sah
* 35. seed	mèa?	* 84. back	cù-caŋ
= 36. grass	choa	* 85. heart	kon-cat
= 37. stick	panaŋ-chu?	* 86. abdomen	pəŋ
38. banana	prət	= 87. intestines	krəc
39. rattan	bə	88. liver	məakrəh
40. areca	sət	* 89. hand	toa
41. papaya	kə?-cǐ	90. palm	kata-toa
42. coconut	sət-prèa	* 91. nail	hənep
* 43. bird	hacem	= 92. leg	tǐ
= 44. wing	hneaŋ	* 93. foot	cəŋ
* 45. feather	sok	* 94. knee	taŋ-bəŋ
46. fly	po	95. thigh	tǐ
* 47. egg	hamae	96. calf	
* 48. tail	hata?	* 97. blood	chim
= 49. claw	hənep	* 98. bone	cùt
		* 99. skin	hnam

* 100.	flesh	chuj	= 150.	cut	kut
* 101.	fat	kləŋ	= 151.	stab	kapak
= 102.	live	hayəm	= 152.	dig	khay
* 103.	die	chat	= 153.	scratch	kwət
104.	sick	hməŋ	= 154.	squeeze	wət
= 105.	breathe	yəm	* 155.	man	kraoh
* 106.	hear	hməŋ	* 156.	woman	prəa
* 107.	see	chə	* 157.	person	hñh
* 108.	speak	ham	= 158.	father	?apa
= 109.	laugh	krəŋ	= 159.	mother	mè
110.	weep	krə?	= 160.	child	kon
= 111.	suck	sət	= 161.	husband	kraoh
= 112.	spit	chəh	= 162.	wife	prəa
= 113.	blow	hakəh	= 163.	(older)brother	kao
* 114.	bite	kit	= 164.	(older) sister	boa
* 115.	eat	cea?	165.	younger-	tè?
* 116.	drink	səŋ		sibling	
117.	drunk	habu	* 166.	name	yeamù?
= 118.	vomit	ha?ə?	* 167.	I (familiar)	?oa
= 119.	smell	chəŋ/kə	* 168.	you (sg.)	ŋəh
		kamao	= 169.	he	ŋəh
= 120.	think	chəp	* 170.	we (incl.)	roa ?apoy
* 121.	know	təm	= 171.	you (pl.)	
= 122.	count	rəh	= 172.	they	roa ŋəh
= 123.	fear	phac	173.	paddy rice	sə?
124.	want	piyə	174.	pounded rice	hao
* 125.	sleep	toc	175.	cooked rice	pəŋ
* 126.	lie	toc	176.	corn	sakòn
* 127.	stand	hatao	= 177.	salt	bə
* 128.	sit	hacə?	178.	red pepper	karac-
* 129.	walk	kwac			kamah
* 130.	come	kləŋ	179.	betel chew	haplù?
131.	enter	lùp	180.	pestle	rìh-bòk
132.	return	kaleaŋ	181.	mortar	bòk
= 133.	turn	che	= 182.	to cook	dun
* 134.	swim	bəŋ	183.	firewood	?oh
= 135.	float	hi	* 184.	fire	kamot
= 136.	flow	fò	* 185.	burn	caŋ
= 137.	push	harəh	* 186.	ashes	katəŋ
= 138.	pull	hacèak	* 187.	smoke	yèak
= 139.	throw	kləh	* 188.	road, path	kləŋ
= 140.	fall, drop	katəm-cih	189.	house	hə?
* 141.	give	ka	190.	roof	kaməe
= 142.	take	ket nəaŋ	= 191.	cord	cək
= 143.	wash	krəŋ	= 192.	sew	cəŋ
144.	launder	kapak	= 193.	clothing	kala?
= 145.	split	halèak	194.	loincloth,	kabəe
= 146.	tie	tèak		sarong	
= 147.	wipe	cət	= 195.	work	klon
= 148.	rub	tao?	= 196.	play	wəŋ
= 149.	hit	tak	= 197.	sing	tayəh

= 198. dance	lèh	* 240. yellow	sac-mic
= 199. drum	kapèn	* 241. dry	kah
200. gong	moŋ (T)	= 242. wet	deàk
= 201. buy	ràn	= 243. rotten	sa?uy
202. crossbow	taŋa?	= 244. swell	kùh
203. arrow	kon-no?	* 245. full	pəŋ
= 204. spear	nùh	= 246. dirty	pəp
= 205. shoot	pən	= 247. sharp	keak
= 206. hunt		= 248. dull	bam
* 207. kill	hacat	* 249. new	kamæ?
= 208. fight		* 250. hot	katao
* 209. one	mòa	* 251. cold	bah
* 210. two	ba	= 252. heavy	sàŋ
= 211. three	pæ?	= 253. straight	thò
= 212. four	pən	= 254. right	pəŋ
= 213. five	measəŋ	* 255. good	khəh
214. six	tarao	= 256. bad	hare?
= 215. seven	hapəh	= 257. old-aged	kraŋ
= 216. eight	hacam	= 258. far	hòa
217. nine	hacit	= 259. near	krəp
= 218. ten	cəh	= 260. rightside	pəŋ
= 219. twenty	ba-cəh	= 261. leftside	pay
= 220. hundred	kləm	262. same	tap
* 221. all	sam pa?at	= 263. different	hu?-tap
* 222. many	kləŋ	= 264. here	?anə?
= 223. some		= 265. there	?ate?
= 224. few	?on	* 266. this	nə?
* 225. big	hnòk	* 267. that	te?
* 226. small	dot	= 268. when?	cha-lò?
* 227. long	kləŋ	= 269. where?	?ala
227a. short (length)	klè?	* 270. who?	yea?-koày
228. tall	hləŋ	* 271. what?	?amò?
= 229. short (height)	klè?	= 272. and	kə
* 230. round	hadəm	= 273. with	mòa-ca?
= 231. smooth	tah	= 274. at	hadoo
= 232. <i>thick</i>	tam	= 275. because	hmàn
= 233. thin	kræ	= 276. how	sac-lə
= 234. wide	hloa	= 277. if	yò-ra?
= 235. narrow	?ep, dən	= 278. in	?adoo
* 236. black	kaək	* 279. not	hu?
* 237. red	taket	280. (not) yet	nəm
* 238. white	pù	281. already	tæ-ra
* 239. green	sac-ŋeak		

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