

Stieng phonemes

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O. Introduction

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O. Introduction.

Stieng is a language of the Mon-Khmer family spoken in southern Viet Nam and eastern Cambodia. In Phước Long province they are said to number about 20,000, and Bình Long province 10,000. We have seen no figure for Cambodia. This study represents the Bulo dialect, which is geographically the central Stieng dialect in Phước Long. Data was gathered while resident in the village of Bukrêoai, near the foot of the Bara Mountain, in the Phước Bình district of Phước Long.

1. Syllable and word structure.

Stieng syllables are of two types : presyllables and main syllables. The presyllable can be symbolized as POS, where P may be any stop or /s/, O is a neutral vowel, noncontrastive in quality and length, and S is a syllabic (cf. §3.2). A pre-