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Mon at Nong Duu, 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 Duu, Lamphun Province. I had a chance of meeting with Mon people at Nong Duu 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 Duu (บ้านหนองดู่) Tambol Baan Ruen (ตำบลบ้านเรือน), Amphoe Paa Sang (อำเภอป่าซาง), Lamphun province (จังหวัดลำพูน), and

2) to provide a 281-word vocabulary of the Baan Nong Duu 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

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[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 Institue of Language and Cultures for Rural Development (known at the time as Southeast Asian Linguistics Program), Mahidol University. Of the 281 words, 100 word 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

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[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.

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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	-ɲ	-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'	/pyə̀/	'want'
/thò/	'gold'	/chɑt/	'die'
/khah/	'good'	/klon/	'do, work'
/krə̀p/	'forest'	/kwac/	'walk'
/hloa/	'wide'	/kyɑ/	'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	

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

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 /ɛ, ɔ, ɑ, ao, ɑe/ 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, ì		u, ù		
e, è	ə, ə̀	o, ò	ea, èa	oa, òa
ɛ	a, à	ɔ		ao
ɑ			ɑe	

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

/pəŋ/	[pəŋ]	'cooked rice'	≠	/pə̀ŋ/	[pə̰ŋ]	'abdomen'
/sɔt/	[sɔt]	'areca'	≠	/sɔ̀t/	[sɔ̰t]	'animal'
/teʔ/	[teʔ]	'that'	≠	/tèʔ/	[tḛʔ]	'younger sibling'
/sac-ŋeak/	[sac-ŋeak]	'green'	≠	/ŋèak/	[ŋḛak]	'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:

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

Back:dark, Text:dark :: mid-W:0.26, B-Peak:47 :: gamma:1.4, B:130, W:200

=	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	hnaŋ		54.	chicken	caɲ
=	6.	wind	kya		55.	duck	tèa
*	7.	rain	pròa	*	56.	fish	ka?
	8.	rainbow	kanèaŋ-səŋ-dac	=	57.	snake	sùm
					58.	rat	nae?
=	9.	mist	katap		59.	rabbit	peataj (T)
*	10.	night	hatɔm		60.	monkey	hnae
=	11.	day	taŋoa		61.	deer	baɲ
=	12.	year	hnam		62.	tiger	kla?
=	13.	hail	mea-pròa		63.	buffalo	preaŋ
=	14.	snow			64.	cow	klèa
=	15.	freeze			65.	elephant	coɲ
*	16.	water	dac		66.	elephant tusk	krèaŋ-coɲ
=	17.	river	bi	=	67.	worm	kayao?
=	18.	lake	kama		68.	scorpion	ɲèa-can
=	19.	sea			69.	spider	ɲèa-phaŋ
*	20.	earth, soil	tae?	*	70.	louse	coa
*	21.	stone	hmɔ?		71.	mosquito	hamic
*	22.	sand	hatae?	*	72.	a fly	rùy
	23.	mud	haram	*	73.	nose	ɲea-muh
=	24.	dust	halàk	*	74.	eye	hmòt
	25.	gold	thò	*	75.	ear	kato
	26.	silver	sɔn	*	76.	head	dap
*	27.	mountain	tò	*	77.	mouth	paɲ
*	28.	tree	chu?	*	78.	tooth	ŋèak
=	29.	forest	krəp	*	79.	tongue	hatac
*	30.	leaf	hla?	*	80.	hair	sok
*	31.	bark	kanok	*	81.	neck	kɔ?
=	32.	flower	kao		82.	shoulder	hnah
*	33.	root	rəh-chu?	*	83.	chest	sah
=	34.	fruit	sɔt-chu?	*	84.	back	cù-cah
*	35.	seed	mèa?	*	85.	heart	kon-cat
=	36.	grass	choa	*	86.	abdomen	pəŋ
=	37.	stick	panaɲ-chu?	=	87.	intestines	krɔc
	38.	banana	pràt		88.	liver	məakrəh
	39.	rattan	bɔ	*	89.	hand	toa
	40.	areca	sɔt		90.	palm	kata-toa
	41.	papaya	kɔ?-cǐ	*	91.	nail	hənep
	42.	coconut	sɔt-prèa	=	92.	leg	tǐ
*	43.	bird	hacem	*	93.	foot	càŋ
=	44.	wing	hneaŋ	*	94.	knee	taŋ-bɔŋ
*	45.	feather	sok		95.	thigh	tǐ
	46.	fly	po		96.	calf	
*	47.	egg	hamae	*	97.	blood	chim
*	48.	tail	hata?	*	98.	bone	cùt
=	49.	claw	hənep	*	99.	skin	hnam

Back:mid, Text:mid :: mid-W:0.23, B-Peak:79 :: gamma:1, B:145, W:220

*	100.	flesh	chuɲ	=	150.	cut	kut
*	101.	fat	klɑɲ	=	151.	stab	kapak
=	102.	live	hayə̀m	=	152.	dig	khay
*	103.	die	chat	=	153.	scratch	kwàt
	104.	sick	hmɔ̀ɲ	=	154.	squeeze	wɔ̀t
=	105.	breathe	yə̀m	*	155.	man	kraoh
*	106.	hear	hmə̀ɲ	*	156.	woman	prèa
*	107.	see	chə̀	*	157.	person	hnïh
*	108.	speak	ham	=	158.	father	ʔapa
=	109.	laugh	kràɲ	=	159.	mother	mè
	110.	weep	krə̀ʔ	=	160.	child	kon
=	111.	suck	sɔ̀t	=	161.	husband	kraoh
=	112.	spit	chɔh	=	162.	wife	prèa
=	113.	blow	hakə̀h	=	163.	(older)brother	kao
*	114.	bite	kit	=	164.	(older) sister	boa
*	115.	eat	ceaʔ		165.	younger-	tèʔ
*	116.	drink	səɲ			sibling	
	117.	drunk	habu	*	166.	name	yeamù?
=	118.	vomit	haʔɔʔ	*	167.	I (familiar)	ʔoa
=	119.	smell	chəɲ/kə	*	168.	you (sg.)	ɲèah
			kamao	=	169.	he	ɲèah
=	120.	think	chɔp	*	170.	we (incl.)	roa ʔapoy
*	121.	know	tɛm	=	171.	you (pl.)	
=	122.	count	rə̀h	=	172.	they	roa ɲèah
=	123.	fear	phɑc		173.	paddy rice	sɑʔ
	124.	want	piyə̀		174.	pounded rice	hao
*	125.	sleep	toc		175.	cooked rice	pəɲ
*	126.	lie	toc		176.	corn	sakɔ̀n
*	127.	stand	hatao	=	177.	salt	bə
*	128.	sit	hacɔ̀ʔ		178.	red pepper	karac-
*	129.	walk	kwac				kamɑh
*	130.	come	kləɲ		179.	betel chew	haplù?
	131.	enter	lùp		180.	pestle	řih-bɔ̀k
	132.	return	kaleaɲ		181.	mortar	bɔ̀k
=	133.	turn	che	=	182.	to cook	dun
*	134.	swim	bəɲ		183.	firewood	ʔoh
=	135.	float	hi	*	184.	fire	kamot
=	136.	flow	fɔ̀	*	185.	burn	caɲ
=	137.	push	harə̀h	*	186.	ashes	katɑɲ
=	138.	pull	hacèak	*	187.	smoke	yèak
=	139.	throw	klɔh	*	188.	road, path	kloɲ
=	140.	fall, drop	katɔm-cih		189.	house	hɑeʔ
*	141.	give	kɑ		190.	roof	kamɑe
=	142.	take	ket nèaɲ	=	191.	cord	cə̀k
=	143.	wash	kraɲ	=	192.	sew	cɔ̀ɲ
	144.	launder	kapak	=	193.	clothing	kalɑʔ
=	145.	split	halèak		194.	loincloth,	kabɑe
=	146.	tie	tèak			sarong	
=	147.	wipe	cə̀t	=	195.	work	klon
=	148.	rub	taoʔ	=	196.	play	wɑ̀ɲ
=	149.	hit	tak	=	197.	sing	tɑyə̀h

Sujaritlak Deepadung 1996, "Mon at Nong Duu, Lamphun Province", in *The Mon-Khmer Studies Journal*, vol. 26, pp. 411-418. (purl.org/sealang/sujaritlak1996mon.pdf)

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=	198.	dance	lɔ̀h	*	240.	yellow	sac-mic
=	199.	drum	kapɔ̀n	*	241.	dry	kɑh
	200.	gong	moŋ (T)	=	242.	wet	deàk
=	201.	buy	ràn	=	243.	rotten	saʔuy
	202.	crossbow	taŋaʔ	=	244.	swell	kùh
	203.	arrow	kon-noʔ	*	245.	full	pɑɲ
=	204.	spear	nùh	=	246.	dirty	pɔp
=	205.	shoot	pɑn	=	247.	sharp	keak
=	206.	hunt		=	248.	dull	bɑm
*	207.	kill	hacɑt	*	249.	new	kamɑeʔ
=	208.	fight		*	250.	hot	katao
*	209.	one	mòa	*	251.	cold	bɑh
*	210.	two	ba	=	252.	heavy	sàŋ
=	211.	three	pɑeʔ	=	253.	straight	thò
=	212.	four	pɑn	=	254.	right	pəŋ
=	213.	five	measɑɲ	*	255.	good	khɑh
	214.	six	tarao	=	256.	bad	harɛʔ
=	215.	seven	hapɑh	=	257.	old-aged	kraŋ
=	216.	eight	hacam	=	258.	far	hòa
	217.	nine	hacit	=	259.	near	krɔp
=	218.	ten	cɔh	=	260.	rightside	pəŋ
=	219.	twenty	ba-cɔh	=	261.	leftside	pay
=	220.	hundred	klɔm		262.	same	tɑp
*	221.	all	sam paʔɑt	=	263.	different	huʔ-tɑp
*	222.	many	klàŋ	=	264.	here	ʔanɔʔ
=	223.	some		=	265.	there	ʔateʔ
=	224.	few	ʔon	*	266.	this	nɔʔ
*	225.	big	hnòk	*	267.	that	teʔ
*	226.	small	dot	=	268.	when?	cha-lòʔ
*	227.	long	kluɲ	=	269.	where?	ʔala
	227a.	short (length)	klèʔ	*	270.	who?	yeaʔ-koày
	228.	tall	hlɔŋ	*	271.	what?	ʔamòʔ
=	229.	short (height)	klèʔ	=	272.	and	kɑ
*	230.	round	hadɔm	=	273.	with	mòa-caʔ
=	231.	smooth	tah	=	274.	at	hadoa
=	*232.*	*thick*	*tɑm*	=	275.	because	hmàn
=	233.	thin	krɑe	=	276.	how	sac-*la*
=	234.	wide	hloa	=	277.	if	yò-raʔ
=	235.	narrow	ʔep, dɔn	=	278.	in	ʔadoa
*	236.	black	kaɔak	*	279.	not	huʔ
*	237.	red	taket		280.	(not) yet	nɛm
*	238.	white	pù		281.	already	tɑe-ra
*	239.	green	sac-ŋeak				

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