AKHA AND SOUTHERN LOLOISH

DAVID BRADLEY

Akha is a Southern Loloish Burmese-Lolo Tibeto-Burman language spoken by more than 1000,000 people in southwestern Yunnan, China; eastern Shan State, Burma; northern Thailand and Laos; and northwestern Vietnam. Various names are used by other groups to refer to the Akha: in Burmese, ကွစ် or Kaw; in Thai, คำ or Ikaw; in Lao and Shan, คำ or Kha Kho; in Chinese 哈尼 or Hānǐ; and in Vietnamese, Hánhí. Because of this diversity of names, some of which also refer to other groups, the total extent of Akha population has not usually been realized.¹

The term 'Hani' as used in China and Vietnam refers to various ethnic groups who speak Loloish languages; the majority of these are probably speakers of Akha dialects. At any rate, the 'standard' Lúchūn dialect of Hānǐ, recorded in Hú/Dal 1964, is an Akha dialect;² and several other dialects, including Jiāyín and Yānǐ, also may be. On the other hand, various other languages included within 'Hani' are Wonoid.³ Some Hānǐ in Vietnam are also Akha; but others are speakers of Wonoid languages.⁴

The Akha have a distinctive culture, with strong emphasis on religion. They are divided into named patriclans; dialect divisions are said to follow these clan divisions. The 'standard' Akha of Burma and Thailand is the dialect of the Jeu.g'oe clan, and the next most important dialect there is that of the A'jaw clan.⁵ A similar dialect is recorded from northwestern Laos;⁶ most of the Akha in Thailand also are Jeu.g'oe, but speak a slightly different dialect. In northeastern Laos and adjacent areas of Vietnam, these clans are unknown; a rather different dialect is spoken. In Laos, the largest clan is the Nu-Quay.⁷ It is possible that Lúchūn Hānǐ, Jiāyín, and Yānǐ are similarly the
dialects of particular Akha clans, living in China. There are also more divergent dialects, such as the A'keu' of Burma; possibly some languages spoken in China also fall in this category.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING DATA

A. Akoid Vocabularies

1. Burma/Thailand/NW Laos Akha Scott/Hardiman 1900
    Madrolle 1908  Ko
    Antisdel 1911  Kaw
    Lewis, Nishida, Dellinger, Egerod,
    Katsura, et al.

2. Vietnam/NE Laos/China Akha Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892  Ounhi
    Roux 1924
    Hú/Dal 1964  Yǎnǐ

3. NW China Akha Hú/Dal 1964  Hāní
    Hú/Dal 1964  Jiāyīn

4. A'keu' (Burma)
   (not Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892 Kouī,
    which is La'hu_ shi: ban'keo:)

5. Lami, Khali (China) Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892

6. Asong, Phana (Vietnam, Laos)
   (formerly called Kha Pâi, and
    now Sîla)
   Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892
   Nguyen 1973  Sîla

7. Pe'law'meh' or Law'Pe' (China) (Lewis 1970a v.IV 764 mentions)
   Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892

B. Bisoid Vocabularies

1. Pyen (Burma) Scott/Hardiman 1900


3. Phunoi (Laos, Vietnam) Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892  Khong
   Roux 1924  Phunoi
   Bradley 1973  Phunoi
   Perlus 1975  Phou Noy
   Vuong 1973  Cǎông

C. Wonoid Languages

Kăduõ: Wonoid group living near Zhènyuán, cited as Ka-to, K'ato,
   etc. in Lefèvre-Pontalis 1902, Madrolle 1908, and Davies 1909.
   Vocabulary in Hú/Dal 1964.
Blyûê: Wonoid group, cited as Woni with two subgroups, Pi-yo and Lo-mi, in Madrolle 1908; and as Pi-o in Davies 1909. Vocabulary in Hú/Dal 1964.

Báiíhóng: Wonoid group, cited as Ma-hê in Madrolle 1908, and as Ma-hei or Pa-hawng, with a vocabulary, in Davies 1909. Vocabulary in Hú/Dal 1964.

Háoní: another Wonoid group in the same area; vocabulary in Hú/Dal 1964.

Mpi: Wonoid group in Thailand; data from Harris, Ege, and Bradley.

'Hani' vocabularies (of Wonoid languages): Gao 1955, Madrolle 1908.


D. Lahoid } cf. Bradley 1975a
E. Lisoid }

F. Nasoid (not Southern Loloish)

Hua y, formerly White Lolo China and Vietnam; vocabularies Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892, Madrolle 1908, Liétard 1913, and elsewhere.

Lùquàn, included in Hani by Hú/Dal 1964.
(also many other languages, spoken far to the north)

G. Genetic Group Uncertain

Mëilùô } 'Hani' dialects cited by Hú/Dal 1964 without vocabulary.
Xìmôloùô }

Putu: cited by Davies 1909 and Madrolle 1908 (who adds Makho) as close to Kâduô and Blyûê; no vocabularies, China.
Lopî/Nopi: cited by Madrolle 1908 and Davies 1909; China.
Peupa/Pula/Fula: cited by Madrolle 1908 and Davies 1909; China.
Simo: Madrolle 1908, China.
K'ù-tsunɡ: Devéria 1886, Davies 1909; China, not Tibetans.
Sansu: Davies 1909, China.


Data on non-Southern Loloish languages from outside the usual range of Southern Loloish is not included. Herein, only the data on Akha will be considered in detail. Reconstructions are from Bradley 1975a.
These reconstructions are formulae based on Proto-Loloish (*L) corresp-
dondences.

Forms from Lewis 1966b, Roux 1924, and Hú/Dal 1964 are listed in a
wordlist, which forms the corpus of data to be considered. Thus, three main
subdialects within Akha are compared. These data are sup-
plemented with data from Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892, comparable to the Roux
material; and from Madrolle 1908, most directly similar to the Lewis
material.

The Lewis transcription is his orthography for Akha, using some
conventions from the Lahu orthography. Roux uses the Vietnamese or-
thography to represent Akha, with less than total success. Hú and
Dal use an IPA-style transcription, with Chao tone-letters. A brief
summary of the transcriptions follows; for more detail, consult the
original works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lewis Initials</th>
<th>Vowels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p, py</td>
<td>i (oi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t, ts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c, k</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g'</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b, by</td>
<td>(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d, dz</td>
<td>oe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j, g</td>
<td>eu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m, my</td>
<td>eh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n, ny</td>
<td>aw</td>
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<td>ng</td>
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<tr>
<td>s, sh</td>
<td>(h)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(h)</td>
<td>(m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>(ah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l, z, y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^[̃]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[耷]</td>
<td>^[耷]</td>
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<td>[氺]</td>
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<td>[ licensors]</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c, j, ny, sh and y represent /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ŋ/, /ʃ/, and /j/ respective-
ly. ng and g' represent /ŋ/ and /ŋ;/ k represents /x/; and / (ab-
ence of initial) represents /?/. oi and oe represent /y/ and /ø/; ui and
eu represent /u/ and /i/; and eh and aw represent /ɛ/ and /o/. m can
be syllabic; ah is a nasalized /ŋ/. The tones have the pitch values
given in brackets. Akha, a register language, has three unconstricted
tones, which occur with aspirated initials; and two constricted tones,
which occur with unaspirated initials, and are marked with inverted
hačeks. Thus, aspiration is a redundant factor in the realization of
unconstricted syllables. Parenthesized items occur only in unconstric-
ed syllables.