

AKHA AND SOUTHERN LOLOISH

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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, ကော or Kaw; in Thai, อิทธิ or Ikaw; in Lao and Shan, ກຳໂຄ or Kha Kho; in Chinese 哈尼 or Hāní; and in Vietnamese, Hanhi. 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' Lüchūn dialect of Hāní, recorded in Hú/Dai 1964, is an Akha dialect;² and several other dialects, including Jiǎyín and Yǎní, also may be. On the other hand, various other languages included within 'Hani' are Wonoid.³ Some Hanhi 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 patrilineal clans; dialect divisions are said to follow these clan divisions. The 'standard' Akha of Burma and Thailand is the dialect of the Jeu.g'oev 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'oev, 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 Lüchūn Hāní, Jiǎyín, and Yǎní are similarly the

dialects of particular Akha clans, living in China. There are also more divergent dialects, such as the A^ˆkeu^ˆ of Burma;⁸ 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
Antisdell 1911 Kaw
Lewis, Nishida, Dellinger, Egerod,
Katsura, *et al.*
2. Vietnam/NE Laos/China Akha Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892 Ounhi
Roux 1924
Hú/Daì 1964 Yǎní
3. NW China Akha Hú/Daì 1964 Hāní
Hú/Daì 1964 Jiǎyín
4. A^ˆkeu^ˆ (Burma) Scott/Hardiman 1900 Akö
(*not* Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892 Kouǐ,
which is La^ˆhu^ˆ shi: ban^ˆkeo:)
5. Lami, Khali (China) Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892
6. Asong, Phana (Vietnam, Laos) Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892
(formerly called Kha Pai, and Nguyen 1973 Sila
now Sila)
7. Pe^ˆlaw^ˆmeh^ˆ or Law^ˆPe^ˆ (China) (Lewis 1970a v.IV 764 mentions)

B. Bisoid Vocabularies

1. Pyen (Burma) Scott/Hardiman 1900
2. Bisu (Thailand) Nishida 1966a, 1966b, 1967
3. Phunoi (Laos, Vietnam) Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892 Khong
Roux 1924 Phunoi
Bradley 1973 Phunoi
Ferlus 1975 Phou Noy
Vuong 1973 Cồông

C. Wonoid Languages

Kăduō: Wonoid group living near Zhènyuán, cited as Ka-to, K'ato, etc. in Lefèvre-Pontalis 1902, Madrolle 1908, and Davies 1909. Vocabulary in Hú/Daì 1964.

Bìyuē: 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/Daì 1964.

Báihóng: 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/Daì 1964.

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

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

'Hani' vocabularies (of Wonoid languages): Gao 1955,⁹ Madrolle 1908.

'Woni' vocabulary (of a Wonoid language): Yuan 1947.¹⁰

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

F. Nasoid (not Southern Loloish)

Hua y, formerly White Lolo China and Vietnam; vocabularies Lefèvre-Pontalis 1892, Madrolle 1908, Liétard 1913,¹¹ and elsewhere.

Lùquàn, included in Hani by Hú/Daì 1964.

(also many other languages, spoken far to the north)

G. Genetic Group Uncertain

Měilùb }
Xīmólùb } 'Hani' dialects cited by Hú/Daì 1964 without vocabulary.

Zaiwǎ: Loloish language cited in Hú/Daì 1964 (not Hani).

Putu: cited by Davies 1909 and Madrolle 1908 (who adds Makho) as close to Kǎduō and Bìyuē; no vocabularies, China.

Lopi/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'u-tsung: Devéria 1886, Davies 1909; China, not Tibetans.

Sansu: Davies 1909, China.

Bo Kho Pa, formerly Xa Pho: Nguyen 1973, Vietnam.

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) correspondences.

Forms from Lewis 1966b, Roux 1924, and Hú/Daì 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 supplemented 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 orthography¹² to represent Akha, with less than total success. Hú and Daì use an IPA-style transcription, with Chao tone-letters. A brief summary of the transcriptions follows; for more detail, consult the original works.

<i>Lewis</i>	Initials	Vowels
p	py t ts c k k' ø	i (oi) vi
b	by d dz j g	(e) oe eu
m	my n ny ng	eh aw
	s sh (h)	(m) a (ah)
	l z y g'	
		Tones
		˘[7]
		[4] ^[4]
		˘[4] ˘[4]

c, j, ny, sh and y represent /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ŋ/, /ʃ/, and /j/ respectively. ng and g' represent /ŋ/ and /ɣ/; k represents /x/, and ø (absence of initial) represents /ʔ/. oi and oe represent /y/ and /ø/; ui and eu represent /w/ and /ɥ/; and eh and aw represent /ɛ/ and /ɔ/. m can be syllabic; ah is a nasalized /ʃ/. 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 haček. Thus, aspiration is a redundant factor in the realization of unconstricted syllables. Parenthesized items occur only in unconstricted syllables.