

LEXICOSTATISTIC ANALYSIS OF SOME KATUIC LANGUAGES

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1. INTRODUCTION

A lexicostatistic comparison is made of some Thailand-based Katuic languages (specifically those that are variously labeled So and Bru) with those in Laos and Vietnam. This helps to differentiate these languages among themselves, as well as properly placing them within the larger context of Katuic languages in Southeast Asia (thus considerably enlarging the scope of the results of a previous paper given at the 24th ICSTLL). The data corpus consists of 18 wordlists (using the 281-item Southeast Asia Wordlist — revised) which were analyzed using the *Wordsurv* program. Nine of the wordlists are derived from the author's research this past year in three northeastern provinces of Thailand (Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Phanom, and Mukdahan). Specifically, these nine wordlists represent nine villages in the main So/Bru districts of Tha-uthen, Phonsawaan, Kusuman, and Dongluang. The remaining nine wordlists are from other researchers. Below is a catalog of the various wordlists. First is the language name as reported by the researcher. Next is the village, district, province, and country of where the speaker came from. And finally, in parenthesis, is the date the wordlist was collected.

- A. Kui: Samrongthap, Surin, Thailand (1980)
- B. So: Phiangkaw, Kusuman, Sakon Nakhon, Thailand (1991)
- C. Bru: Khamphakut, Dongluang, Mukdahan, Thailand (1991)
- D. Bru: Khoksa-at, Phangkhan, Sakon Nakhon, Thailand (1988)
- E. So: Kusuman MuangKaw, Kusuman, Sakon Nakhon, Thailand (1991)
- F. So: Nakham, Phonsawaan, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand (1991)
- G. So: Huayphra, Tha-uthen, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand (1991)
- H. So: Phathay, Tha-uthen, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand (1991)
- I. Bru: Nongyang, Dongluang, Mukdahan, Thailand (1991)
- J. Bru: Tiw, Dongluang, Mukdahan, Thailand (1991)
- K. Bru: Muang, Dongluang, Mukdahan, Thailand (1991)
- L. Bru: Woen Buek, Khong Chiam, Ubon, Thailand (1981)
- M. Bru: Khe Sanh, Quang Tri, Vietnam (1968)
- N. Bru: Lawang, Kokphun, Thateng, Saravan, Laos (1978)
- O. Ngeq: Laksipha, Pakse, Laos (1978)
- P. Nkriang: Tray River, Laos (1969)

Q. Pacoh: Thua Thien, Vietnam (1972)

R. Katu (low): An Diem, Quang Nam, Vietnam (1968)

2. DEMOGRAPHICS

The following tables present the estimated population of the So and Bru peoples in Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, and Mukdahan Provinces. The population figures are calculated by figuring an average village to consist of roughly 60 houses and each house to contain about 6 persons (van der Haak and Woykos 1990). Thus a typical village would contain approximately 360 people. Adding the figures for the three provinces together we arrive at a total of 98 'So' villages and a total population of about 35,000 people. The four districts with the highest concentrations are Dongluang (10,080), Kusuman (7,920), Phonsawaan (6,480), and Tha-uthen (2,880). This forms a broad U-shaped area starting from Tha-uthen through Phonsawaan and Kusuman, and then on around to Dongluang. A line in the village or people column indicates that there were no So or Bru in that district. An asterisk (*) by the number of people indicates that there were only a handful of 'So' reported for that area, so the entire village was not counted -- thus the village number is placed in parenthesis (as in Nakae District of Nakhon Phanom, and Dontan District of Mukdahan).

NAKHON PHANOM

DISTRICT	VILLAGES	PEOPLE
Banphaeng	0.5	180
Srisongkhram	0.2	72
Nawa	—	—
Tha-uthen	8	2,880
Phonsawaan	18	6,480
Muang	4	1,440
Plapa	0.5	180
Nakae	(1)	15*
Thatphanom	—	—
Renunakhon	—	—
TOTAL	31.2	11,247

SAKON NAKHON

DISTRICT	VILLAGES	PEOPLE
Songdaw	2	720
Phangkhn	3	1,080
Phannanikhom	5	1,800
Kusuman	22	7,920
Tawngoy	—	—
Khoksriruphan	—	—
Muang	2	720
TOTAL	34	12,240

MUKDAHAN

DISTRICT	VILLAGES	PEOPLE
Dongluang	28	10,080
Muang	2	720
Dontan	(1)	6*
Nikhomkhamsoy	3	1,080
Khamcha-i	—	—
Wanyay	—	—
Nongsung	—	—
TOTAL	33	11,886

3. LANGUAGE GROUPS

According to Smith's 1981 classification, the Katuic languages can be roughly divided into five main groups. The capital letters after the language name corresponds to the wordlists listed above in the introduction. Thus the wordlists in this sample represent each of these five groups.

A. Katu

- a. Katu (Low) [R]
- b. Kantu, High Katu

B. Pacoh

- a. Pacoh (Bo River Van Kieu)
- b. Phuang (Huu River Van Kieu) [Q]

C. Central Katuic

- a. Ta'oih
- b. Ngeq [N, O]
- c. Nkriang [P]
- d. Ong (?Tong)
- e. Inh (?Ir)
- f. Kasseng, Talieng

D. North Katuic

- a. Bru [I, J, K, L, M]
- b. Makong
- c. Bruu
- d. So [B, C, D, E, F, G, H]
- e. Sui (Sui)
- f. Kataang
- g. Siliq
- h. Lor, Klor
- i. Leun

E. West Katuic

- a. Kuy [A]
- b. Nyeu
- c. Kuay

