SIZANG (SIYIN) CHIN TEXTS

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The following texts were collected in the Northern Chin Hills of Burma in 1954 and, together with collateral linguistic notes, form the major basis for the article, "A Provisional Sketch of Sizang (Siyin) ·Chin", ASIA MAJOR, n.s., X:2 (1963), pp. 222-278. Two of the texts, the first and last of those that follow, were submitted with the grammar but could not be included. That I present them now I owe to the encouragement of my colleague, Dr. Scott DeLancey.

I have departed from the orthography of the grammar in two respects. Tones, which there preceded the syllable, here are noted on the first vowel, thus: 1) low level, unmarked; 3) high, level, /á/; 2) rising, /ǎ/; 4) falling /â/. Secondly, I have omitted the mora following final continuants (see discussion in the grammar, p. 228f.). The terminology of the grammar, although outdated, has been retained for purposes of consistency.

Tone sandhi, which is complex in Sizang, accounts for what seems at first a bewildering variation in the tone upon a given lexeme.

For the reader who does not consult the grammar, let me say that these texts are the product of ten days' work with Lian Kham, a Sizang from Buan Man Village, in the Tiddim Subdivision, who was then official interpreter in the administrative town of Tiddim. They were gathered in the course of a brief linguistic survey I undertook as a member of a party sponsored by the University of Rangoon, to which I was then attached as a Fulbright research fellow. I express my gratitude to the University, to the government of the Union of Burma, and to the Fulbright Foundation for the opportunity provided me. Methods of research are sufficiently set forth in the grammar and need not be repeated here.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the texts. References are given here to the section of the grammatical sketch where the morphemes are treated.

ADV	adverbial
AG	agentive (ergative) 2.0a
ALT	altruistic 3.43.9
ALTER	alterocentric (benefactive/malefactive) 3.42.22
ASS	associative 3.42.1
CAUS	causative 3.42.21
CLASS	numerical classifier 2.5
COMP	comparative 3.47.1
COND	condition
DEIC	deictiç 3.41.12
EMPH	emphatic particle
IMP	imperative 3.44.2, 4.31.4
INTR	intransitive
INTER	interrogative 4.31.3
LOC	locative 2.0b
NOM	nominalizer 2.22.3, 2.23
PL	plural 2.0e
REC	reciprocal 3.41.2
SUP	superlative 3.47.2
TEMP	temporal partical 4.33.1
VPF	verb particle, final 4.31
VPNF	verb particle, non-final 4.32, 4.33

A. sa·i   â·i-na·   thŭ·
elephant celebrate-NOM affair

1) ni· dăŋ   la·i[1]-in ,   ká-pu·   ká-pă·   té· nún tâ·k
   day differ during-TEMP my-father's father my-father PL   alive

2) la·i-in ,   sa·i   a-ká·   tíaŋ-in ,   á-lu·   pŭa·   a· ,
   during-TEMP elephant he-shoot when-TEMP its-head carry a-shoulder VPNF

3) khua·   mual[2] pân mual   sú·ak[3] a· ,   thâ·u tăm   má-mâ· kă·p a· ,
   village shrine from shrine emerge VPNF gun   many   very   shoot VPNF

4) á-sa·i   a-á·i   hî· .   tu·a a-â·i-na·   a· ,   nû· tɔ·
   his-elephant they-celebrate VPF   that he-celebrate-NOM at   woman both

5) pâ· tɔ· khuaŋ tŭm a· ,   siel ki·   tɔ· da·k tal tɔ· thû·a-in, sû·n tɔ·
   man and drum   beat VPNF mithan horn[4] both gong set and play-TEMP day both

6) zâ·n tɔ· á-la·m   hî· . a-sa·i   â·i[5]   ni·-in khua·   mual a·
   night and they-dance VPF his-elephant celebrate day-TEMP village shrine at

7) á-la·m   phôt hî· . á-sa·i   lu· sĭ·a mí· hiŋ li·-in zoŋ[6]
   he-dance first VPF   his-elephant head itself person four-AG carry on pole

8) a· á-sa·i   â·i   pă· sa·i   lu· tŭŋ-a· to· sâ·k hî· .
   VPNF his-elephant celebrate man elephant head on-LOC sit CAUS VPF

9) á-khua·   mual   pân in ĭn ´ dóŋ   púa·   a· , láp   pûi·[7]
   he-village shrine from AG house up to carry a-shoulder VPNF dancing ASS

10) hî· . tu·a   á-sa·i   â·i-na·   in siel khɔ̌ŋ khûi· khɔ̌ŋ
    VPF that(place) his-elephant celebrate-NOM at mithan PL   cow   PL

11) ŋô·   hî· . a-thí· tíaŋ-in á-sa·i   â·i
    slay sacrificially VPF he-die when-TEMP his-elephant celebrate

12) a-kí-têp[8]   tê· na·-in diel   ka·ŋ kha·i hî· . siel â·i   te·
    his-memorial PL   NOM-LOC streamer white hang up VPF   mithan celebrate PL

13) in á-vom   kha·i   hî· . sá-ha·ŋ â·i   te· in á-san kha·i   hî· . tu·a
    AG black   hang up VPF   tiger   celebrate PL AG red   hang up VPF   that

14) a-â·i   pă· thí· zɔ·k tiaŋ-in,   á-ĭn   kúan-pûi· te· in tu·a
    he-celebrate man die   finish when-TEMP his-house work-ASS PL AG that

15) diel   kha·i   thê·i nɔ·n ŋôl hî· .
    streamer hang up can   EMPH not VPF

On the Elephant Celebration

Formerly, when our forefathers were alive, when someone shot an elephant,
they carried its head a-shoulder (on a frame), announcing it from the village
shrine with the firing of very many guns, and they celebrated his elephant. At
the place where the celebration was held, both men and women beat the drum and
played both mithan horn and gong-set, and day and night they danced. On the
day on which they celebrated his elephant, he danced first of all (of them) at
the village shrine. Four persons bore the elephant head itself, atop which
they had the man sit who celebrated the elephant. From their village shrine up
to his house, they bore him a-shoulder, dancing as they came. At the place
where he celebrated the elephant, he sacrificed mithans and cattle.

When he died, as a record of his elephant celebration (they) hung up a
white streamer. Those who had celebrated a mithan hung up a black one. Those
who had celebrated a tiger hung up a red one. After that celebrant was dead,
the members of his household could no longer hang up that streamer.

Notes

1. cf. tú·a la·i 'there'

2. mual, lit. 'mountain'. The village shrine is located at the entrance to the village; here are located memorial markers commemorating the dead.

3. mual sû·ak 'to give public notice, announce'.

4. The mithan horn, held upright by the tip, is beaten with a stick; the gong-set consists of three small gongs of graduated size.

5. Alternatively, one may say: a sa·i a â·i ni· in.

6. The elephant head is borne by the four men on a bamboo frame. The verb can also be used of a group lifting and carrying a table without the use of such a frame.

7. Almost certainly, this associative particle is related to (and perhaps identical with) the relational, pûi· 'with'.
   The order of the final part of the sentence on line 10 may be rearranged thus:

   În dóŋ lap pûi· a púa· hî·.

8. kĭ-têp, lit. 'to press (between hands), to pinch (between boards)'. The term is here translated as 'record'. The memorial post is placed at the grave of the deceased.

B. mi·   há·u pă· lé· mí·   zɔ·ŋ pă· tâŋ thŭ·
   person rich man and person poor man old story

1) tâŋ   la·i-in   hâ·u sâ·¹ khât lê· á-zɔ·ŋ mí· hiŋ   khât dûi· suŋ
   ancient when-TEMP rich ( ) one and a poor person   one jungle in

2) să·   sí·a   khɔ·m   hî·.   á - zɔ·ŋ pă· ín lé·i a· sí·a   a· ,
   animals set snare together VPF the poor man AG field in set snare VPNF

3) a - há·u pă· ín thíŋ kú·ŋ   túŋ a-sî·a   hî·.   mi·   há·u pă· ín
   the rich man AG tree standing in he-set snare VPF   person rich man AG

4) a-sa·   sí·a-na·   mí·   zɔ·ŋ pă· hé·k ŋɔ̌l in vil kû·   hî·.
   his-deer set snare-NOM person poor man know not AG watch secretly VPF

5) ta· bâŋ   a· a-víl   tiaŋ-a· lé·i a· á - zɔ·ŋ pă· sa·
   that resemble VPNF he-watch when-TEMP field in the poor man deer

6) sí·a-na·   suŋ-a· sá-khi·   khât ɔ̌·k a· mi·   há·u pă·
   set snare-NOM in-LOC barking deer one snare VPNF person rich man

7) sí·a-na·   thíŋ túŋ-a· bâŋ mâ·   ɔ̌·k ŋɔ̌l hî·. ta· tíaŋ-in ,
   set snare-NOM tree in-LOC thing not(INTENS) snare not VPF   that when-TEMP

8) mî·   há·u pă· ín mí·   zɔ·ŋ pă· sa· sí·a-na·   suŋ-a· ɔ̌·k
   person rich man AG person poor man deer set snare-NOM in-LOC snare

9) sá-khi·   sĭ·a sŭ·t a· á·-ma· sî·a-na·   thíŋ kú·ŋ   túŋ-a·
   barking deer the very untie VPNF his set snare-NOM tree standing on-LOC

10) ɔ̌·k sâk a· , tî·a   kĭ·k hî·. ĭn a-thét tíaŋ-in, mi·
    snare CAUS VPNF return home again VPF house he-arrive when-TEMP person

11) há·u pă· ín mí·   zɔ·ŋ pă· mún-a·, "î· sa· sí·a   víl   ká-tɔ·ŋ²,"
    rich man AG person poor man to-LOC we deer set snare look at we-let us

12) tî· a· pâ·   hî·. ta tíaŋ-a· a ní· in a-sa·   sí·a-na·
    say VPNF invite VPF that when-TEMP the two AG their-deer set snare-NOM

13) a-pa·i kh∂m   hî·. a-thét   tíaŋ-in , mi·   há·u pǎ· in mí·   zɔ·ŋ
    they-go together VPF   they-arrive when-TEMP person rich man AG person poor

14) pǎ· mún-a·, "năŋ sa·   si·a-na·   suŋ-a· bâŋ mâ·   ǒ·k   bo·.
    man to-LOC   your deer set snare-NOM in-LOC thing not(INTENS) snare not

15) ke·i sí·a-na·   suŋ-a· sǎ-khi·   khât ǒ·k hî·," tî· in[3] a·u hî·.
    my set snare-NOM in-LOC barking deer one snare VPF   say VPNF shout VPF

16) ta· tían-in, mí·   zɔ·ŋ pǎ· in, "ûm   ŋ∂l în!"
    that when-TEMP person poor man AG   believe not IMP

17) a-má·tě· ní· kî-ha·u   a·, khua· há·u sâ· pǎ· túŋ-a·
    he PL two REC-quarrel VPNF village rich ( ) man to-LOC

18) kî-khi·a   a·, há·u sâ· pǎ· in á· - thǔ· sôn   sâk a·, mi·   há·u
    REC-complain VPNF rich ( ) man AG matter   examine CAUS VPNF person rich

19) pǎ· in zǒ· sâk a·, mí·   zɔ·ŋ pǎ· in lêl sâk hî·. ta· tíaŋ-in,
    man AG win CAUS VPNF person poor man AG lose CAUS VPF   that when-TEMP

20) mí·   zɔ·ŋ pǎ· luŋ kim   ŋ∂l a·, "bíl-pí·   ma·ŋ pǎ· in
    person poor man mind content not VPNF ear-big (rabbit) chief man AG

21) î·-khen sâk tû· hî·," tî· hî·.
    we-decide CAUS will VPF   say VPF

22) khua· há·u sâ· pǎ· in, "tú·a lê· bíl-pí· ma·ŋ[4] vá· sǎm tá· vún,"
    village rich ( ) man AG go(?) and rabbit chief go summon IMP

23) tî· a·, bíl-pí· ma·ŋ sǎm tû·-in , mí·   zɔ·ŋ pǎ· pai· a·, bíl-pí·
    say VPNF rabbit chief summon will-TEMP person poor man go VPNF rabbit

24) ma·ŋ pǎ· sǎm hî·. bíl-pí· ma·ŋ pǎ· in, "kóŋ   pai·[5] tû· hî·.
    chief man summon VPF rabbit chief man AG   I to you go   will VPF

25) koŋ   thét ma·-teŋ,[6] ná· ŋá·k vún," tî· a· vǎ·i thâ· hî·.
    I to you arrive until   you wait IMP   say VPNF word send VPF

26) tu·a z∂·k ni· thum ni· tíaŋ-in, bíl-pí· ma·ŋ pǎ· khua· há·u sâ·
    that after day three day when-TEMP rabbit chief man village rich ( )

27) pǎ· kúŋ theŋ phe·u hî·. a-thét   tíaŋ-in, khua· há·u sâ· pǎ· in
    man place arrive late VPF   he-arrive when-TEMP village rich ( ) man AG

28) bíl-pí· ma·ŋ pǎ· mûn-a·,"băŋ hóŋ   há·i[7] ní· zí·am," tî· in têi· hî·.
    rabbit chief man to-LOC why hither tardy you INTER   say VPNF abuse VPF

29) bíl-pí· ma·ŋ pǎ· in, "koŋ   pái·-na· lám-pí· a· ŋun   val sên
    rabbit chief man AG   I (DEIC) go-NOM path big on river bank gravel

30) a· kâ·ŋ   a·, ka-phél na tû·, hâ·n bɔ·m t∂· túi· tɔa·i a·,
    on burn(INTR) VPNF I-prevent in order man's basket with water carry VPNF

31) ka-phél-na·-in   koŋ   ha·i hî·," tî· hî·.
    I-prevent-NOM-because I(DEIC) tardy VPF   say VPF

32) ta· tíaŋ-in, khua· há·u sâ· pǎ· in, "ŋun   val sên kâ·ŋ
    that when-TEMP village rich ( ) man AG   river bank gravel burn(INTR)

33) ŋěi· ŋ∂l hî·. hâ·n bɔ·m t∂· túi· tɔa·i lâ· ǒm ŋěi·[8] ŋ∂l hî·," tî· hî·.
    ever not VPF man's basket with water carry also be ever not VPF   say VPF

34) ta· tíaŋ, bíl-pí· ma·ŋ pǎ· in, "hî· pê·u   hî· ŋun   val sên
    that when rabbit chief man AG   affirmative VPF river bank gravel