

THE PROCESS OF CHIMING IN TIDDIM CHIN

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I. Henderson (1965:57) noted the occurrence of chiming in adverbs of Tiddim Chin. According to her, a chiming adverb is "...a special kind of reduplicated adverb, very common in the colloquial style, in which there is a variation in the vowels of the adverb...". Tiddim Chin has considerable differences between what are called narrative style and colloquial styles-- thus reflecting a diglossic situation. One of the characteristics of the colloquial style is the availability of a large number of chimed adverbs in it. Henderson identified the fact that chiming is peculiar to adverbs as a class. Simple reduplication is less common among adverbs as compared to chiming. An example of simple reduplication is: sem²-sem² 'doing something in a fast but unskilled manner'.

Chimed adverbs are always composed of two syllables which begin with a consonant: the second syllable being a copy of the first syllable except that in a majority of cases the vowel of the second syllable is more open than that of the first syllable. E.g.:

dim³-dem³ 'describing things kept in an order e.g., guns, swords'
gem³-gam³ 'describing objects which appear to be old and rugged'.

In a chimed adverb in the first syllable only /i/ and /e/ occur with the exception of /i:u/ and /ia/. /o/ does not appear in either the first syllable or in the second syllable. A good number of the chimed adverbs have alternate forms which do not differ in meaning. E.g. gin²-gen² alternating with gen²-gan² [describing animals or persons with long legs but strong bodies].

II. Onomatopoeic words are known to have exceptional phonological behaviour. In Tiddim Chin we find an exception to a synchronic phonological rule: [t] and [c] do not contrast in the data except in the case of the chiming adverbs. In words other than the chimed adverbs [c] occurs before /i/ and [t] occurs in other contexts. But in the chiming adverbs both [t] and [c] can occur before /i/. Dahal (1971) defines a phonesthetic element as "either a phoneme component (e.g. voicing or aspiration) or a single phoneme (eg /i/ or /a/) or a sequence of phonemes (e.g. /ya/, /wa/) which recurs in different bases and which can be associated vaguely with some meaning dependent on some imaginable resemblance between sound and meaning". He prefers to call them elements rather than morphemes "because the correlation and patterns are too tenuous to justify the use of the latter term". Similar observations are made about Telugu (Bhaskararao 1977). Several of the chimed adverbs could be put into groups which have similarity both in their meanings and in their shapes. There are several other single items which do not seem to share sound-meaning relationship with each other. The following are the categories of

chimed adverbs that have meaning-form similarity:

Long
di:l²-dial²; di:y²-deu²; di:t¹-diat¹; di:n²-dian²; din¹-den¹
[time]; din²-den² [space]; di:l²-de:l² [distance]; dem¹-dam¹

Long and thin
zik¹-zek¹; zil¹-zel¹; zel¹-zal¹; zi:l¹-zial¹

Long limbed/stick like/with slender connection
gin²-gen²; ging¹-geng¹; ging²-geng²; gi:e²-ge:i²; gi:k²-ge:k²

Spider-like/light
ki:m²-kiam²; kiang¹-kiang¹

Chunky
beu²-bau²; be:²-ba:²; be:¹-ba:¹

Bright
se:¹-sa:¹; sia²-sua²; sil¹-sel¹; si:l¹-sial¹; sial¹-sial¹

Bright and shining
ki:l¹-kial¹; kil¹-kel¹

Shining/smooth
dil¹-del¹; del¹-dal¹

Dark/black
mek¹-mak¹; meng²-mang²; mi:l¹-mial¹

Dark/covered/hidden/quiet
khim²-khem²; khem²-kham²; khing²-kheng²;
khi:l¹-khial¹; khi:²-khe:²; khi¹-khian¹

Green
dim²-dem²; dek¹-dak¹

Low
di:e³-diai³; ding²-deng² [low in status]

High
ve:¹-va:¹; vang?³-vang?³; veu²-vau²

Neat
lin¹-len¹; lian²-luan²

Shabby/dirty/drooping/muddy/non-respectable looking
nen²-nan²; ne:i²-na:i²; niai²-nuai²; niaug¹-nuang¹; nie²-nei²;
ni?³-ne?³; nik¹-nek¹; ni:ng¹-niang¹; ne:p³-ne:p³

Strong/rugged
gem²-gam²; gia²-gua²; gim³-gem³

Well-built/fatty
keng²-kang²; king¹-keng¹

Orderlydim³-dem³; dit³-det³; di:m¹-diam¹; diu³-deu³**Hairy/thick and soft/puffy**chem³-cham³; chel³-chal²; them²-tham²; then²-than²;theu²-thau²; the:u²-tha:u²; thi²-theu²; thiau²-thuau²;
thi:p³-thiap³**Muddy**di?³-de?³; di?³-dia?³**Remote**veng?³-vang?³; viau²-viau² ving?³-veng?³; vi:u²-viau²**Large numbers**zai²-zai²; zi¹-zia¹; zi²-zia²; zie²-zei²; zi?³-zis?³
zing?³-zeng?³; zua?³-zua?³**Plenty/massive**mei²-mai²; mial²-muai²; mai²-mai²; mie²-mial²; muai²-muai²**Persistent**tin¹-ten¹; te:²-ta:²; te:i³-te:i³; ta:l¹-ta:l¹**Emaciated/helpless**li:k¹-le:k¹; li:k¹-liak¹**Unclear**mial¹-mual¹; mual¹-mual¹**Paired**hel¹-hal¹; hi:l¹-hial¹

III. Kim-Renaud (1976) suggests that "we have to admit some semantic features and some semantic conditioning in phonology if we want to capture generalisations underlying certain phonological phenomena". Her main argument is based upon the fact that in Korean "certain semantic features which are predictable from phonetic features may acquire a classificatory function because of various sound changes that affect the original phonetic values of different segments". In Korean light vowels (E, Ö, a, o) "are usually correlated with the impression of smallness, brightness, and shallowness, often called the diminutive connotation..." and dark vowels (i, e, ü, ɤ, ɔ, u) "give a feeling of size, darkness and depth". Her observation (p.408) that "semantic features have a role to play in phonological analysis" gets additional support from another sub-process of chiming in Tiddim Chin adverbs.

So far we have seen how chiming affects the vowels of the two syllables in these adverbs. A large number of the chiming adverbs have corresponding forms with the vowel of the second syllable replacing the vowel in the first syllable. These forms are used to modify a verb denoting an action as opposed to the original forms which are used to

modify stative verbs. Observe:

- (a) hi?³ mi²-pa¹ sa:ng² gen²-gan² hi¹
 this man tall 'This man is tall'
 (b) ka²-la²-ou?¹ a¹ sa:ng² gen²-gan² khat¹ hong¹-pai² gan²-gan² hi¹
 camel tall one came

'The tall camel is coming in a gan-gan way'

We have noted that some chimed adverbs have alternate forms which do not differ in their meaning. The set of vowels of one form are replaced by a related set of vowels in the alternant form. Out of these two sets one is considered basic. Thus out of the two alternate forms [form 1 and form 2], it is the form 2 that is mostly used for deriving the adverb of motion mentioned above. In such forms there is a relationship between the vowel(s) in Form 1 and the vowel(s) in Form 2. The corresponding sets of vowels are listed below:

Vowel(s) in	Form 1		>	Form 2	
<u>Syllable</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	i	e		e	a
	i:	e:		e:	a:
	i	ia		ia	ua
	i:	ia		ia	ua
	ie	ei		ei	ai

E.g. Form 1: ci:u³-ciau³ > Form 2: ciau³-cuau³ describes small sized things and beings which are relatively of smaller size [e.g. a small insect as compared to a large beetle, a mouse compared to other big four-legged animals, a small baby] > cuau³-cuau³ describes the movement of such small sized beings or things

Some more examples of derived adverbs follow: [An adverb of motion derived from a stative adverb is marked with the >> prefix.]

beu²-bau²

a big chunk of meat or a large piece of timber [cf. beu² 'a log']. While referring to a 'a chunk of meat', this stands for a naturally separable chunk like the leg of a chicken. cf. be:²-ba:² stands for a chunk which is cut from any part of the body. >>bau²-bau² eating a chunk denoted by beu²-bau²

dit³-det³ = det³-dat³

being in a row with absolute calmness [usually in a sitting position as people sitting in a row near a dead person] >>dat³-dat³ movement as in a funeral procession or prisoners moving in a row silently as in a jail

king¹-keng¹ = keng¹-kang¹

well built, well proportioned, well attired and smart>>kang¹-kang¹
movement of a person described by the above

le¹-la¹

1. be seen protruding from under a tight garment those parts of body which are not to be seen [e.g. breasts of a woman under a tight blouse]; 2. fatty layer or fleshy portion of body becoming visible in a deep cut >>la¹-la¹ 1. movement during which private parts of body become visible occasionally or protrude occasionally [e.g. breasts of a woman while she is running]; 2. movement during which something hidden peeps out or becomes visible occasionally [e.g. a dog that is being carried in a sack peeps out once in a while].

Similar "derivational" processes were observed in Thadou and Lusei, both related to Tiddim Chin. Thadou (Shree Krishan 1980:53-4) distinguishes between what he calls close vowel harmony and open vowel harmony: 'The syllabic structure of these modifiers is CVC and CVV. On the basis of vowel harmony they can be divided into two subgroups such as (i) CVC/CVV with close vowel harmony shows the sense of appreciation on the part of the speaker while (ii) CVC/CVV with relatively open vowel harmony gives the sense of non-appreciation on the part of the speaker'. He further says 'Another point which is to be noted is that the close vowel harmony modifiers occur with small (physically) things while the open vowel harmony modifiers occur with big (physically) things'. He gives the following examples:

kAlAm AsAn pi?-pè? è

pen it red (lovely) is 'The pen is red (appreciated)'

xùn-tùn AsAn pè?-pò? è

almirah it red (disliked) is 'The almirah is red (disliked)'

Though this set of examples does not clarify how the alternation of /i?-è?/ with /è?-ò?/ brings in an "appreciation-dislike" type of difference or a "small-big" type of distinction, Thadou seems to be making use of vowel alternation for certain semantic purposes.

IV. Size-sound symbolism is well-known in languages across the world. According to Lorrain and Savidge (1898:33), Lusei (a language closely related to Tiddim Chin) makes a distinction between large, medium and small size of a thing by using different vowels. Nagaraja (1984) illustrates the small-big difference expressed by vowel differences in Khasi, an Austro-asiatic language which is spoken in a predominantly Tibeto-Burman area. The Tiddim Chin case is somewhat different from such phenomena in other languages. The change in meaning implied by the vowel change in these adverbs of Tiddim Chin is that of state versus motion.

The state-motion difference could be of different kinds. For instance, bəu²-bəu² describes a large chunk of meat whereas its derivative de- notes the motion of eating of such a large chunk. vəng?³-vəng?³ de- notes 'being far away' whereas its derivative vəng?³-

vang?³ signifies a movement from a far away place to another far away place'. Tonal changes also play some role in changing the meaning of the derived forms-- E.g.: ping¹-peng¹ 'straight, long and horizontal things'; ping²-peng² 'straight and long things when they are kept vertically'; vel²-val² de- notes 'big globular things' and its derivatives differ in their meanings depending on the vowel and the tone: vowel /a/ signifies 'rolling movement' and /e/ 'rotating movement'; mid tone (tone 2) signifies 'slow-er movement' whereas low tone (tone 3) signifies 'rapid movement'. Thus we get the following combinations:

vel²-val² 'big globular things'

rotating rolling

slow movement vel²-vel² val²-val²

rapid movement vel³-vel³ val³-val³

V. List of Chimed adverbs: A list of the adverbs of chiming follows. Alternant adverbs are connected by '=' and a derived adverb of motion is marked with the >> prefix. Roman alphabetical order is followed in this list.

beu²-bau²

a big chunk of meat or a large piece of timber [cf. beu² 'a log']. While referring to a 'a chunk of meat', this stands for a naturally separable chunk like the leg of a chicken. cf. be²-ba² stands for a chunk which is cut from any part of the body.

>> bau²-bau²

eating a chunk denoted by beu²-bau²

be¹-ba¹

large cut on the body exposing the white part inside the body [cf. le¹-la¹ 'fatty layer, or fleshy portion of body that becomes visible due to a deep cut; be¹-ba¹ indicates a cut on a larger area as compared to le¹-la¹]

be²-ba²

a big chunk [esp. meat or meat-like things]

bie²-bei² = bei²-bai²

a stump [e.g. a stump of wood, a stumpy tail of a dog]

>> bai²-bai²

movement of a stumpy thing [e.g. a stumpy tail of a dog]

bik¹-bek¹

state of being tied very hard

>> bek¹-bak¹

tie very hard

bil¹-bel¹

some favourable event to take place in a surprising way [e.g. unexpected job promotion of oneself, winning a lottery, somebody doing a good thing which is expected to be beyond his capacity]

$bi^1-bial^1 = bial^1-bual^1$

having many colours or to be variegated [e.g. cows, zebras, birds]

>> $bual^1-bual^1$

a person speaking a language which is not understood because it is a jumble of sounds (not due to incoherence of the speech) [cf. $mual^1-mual^1$ speak incoherently (like a drunk, or in sleep, or a person with pronunciation defects)]. Hence $bual^1-bual^1$ signifies problem in understanding due to problem with the code; and $mual^1-mual^1$ denotes problem in understanding due to transmission problem. $mual^1-mual^1$ can also be used when somebody is speaking on a bad telephone.

$bi:k^2-biak^2 = biak^2-biak^2$

state of being covered with a powdery substance like flour [e.g. coloured powders during the Holi festival of the Hindus]

$bi:m^2-biam^2 = biam^2-buam^2$

state of being like a bear [big bodied, spread limbed]

>> $buam^2-buam^2$

movement of such a person or being

$ci:e^2-ciai^2$

being far away

$ci:t^1-ciat^1$

being equal

$ci:t^3-ciat^3$

happening of an unwanted thing whereby a further plan could not be achieved [e.g. breakdown of a vehicle while going on important business]

$ci:u^3-ciau^3 = ciau^3-cuau^3$

small sized things and beings which are relatively of smaller size [e.g. a small insect as compared to a large beetle, a mouse compared to other big four-legged animals, a small baby]

>> $cuau^3-cuau^3$

movement of the above

$chel^2-chal^2$

a person with uncombed and disheveled hair

$chem^2-cham^2$

bearded

dek^1-dak^1

green and tender cf. dik^1-dek^1 which does not convey tenderness

del^1-dal^1

shiny, smooth and thin object like metal foil

>> dal¹-dal¹

1. movement of the above; 2. singing very smoothly and continuously

dem¹-dam¹

be successful after several attempts

dem²-dam²

being gloomy as before it rains or as the surface of sea when the sun has just set

deu²-deu²

sitting without movement and unconcernedly [as in meditation]

dial¹-dial¹

fluttering movement of a flag etc. [cf. dual²-dual²]

di³-de³ = de³-da³

marshy, muddy state [thicker than di³-dia³]

di³-dia³ = dia³-dua³

muddy state [thinner than di³-de³]

>> dua³-dua³

1. flowing of mud, batter; 2. movement of body in mud

dik¹-dek¹

1. utterly, totally; 2. green [esp. view of a green field] cf. dek¹-dak¹

dil¹-del¹

smooth and thin like paper

dim²-dem²

having a very green view as a valley when the sky is slightly overcast [cf. dum² 'green expanse of fields'] cf. dem²-dam²

dim³-dem³ = dem³-dam³

1. things set in order [e.g. guns, swords, weaponry] 2. adults, soldiers sitting/standing in rows [cf. di:m¹-diam¹]

din¹-den¹ = den¹-dan¹

long in time [e.g. when one is waiting anxiously]

din²-den² = den²-dan²

long in space [e.g. a rope]

ding²-deng² = deng²-dang²

describing persons of lower status [usually not smart in appearance]

>> dang²-dang²

1. movement of such a person; 2. also indicates slowness of movement

dit³-det³ = det³-dat³

being in a row with absolute calmness [usually in a sitting position as people sitting in a row near a dead person]

>> dat³-dat³

movement as in a funeral procession or prisoners moving in a row

silently as in a jail
 diu²-deu² = deu²-dau²
 long rope lying horizontally; a vast plain [field]
 >> dau²-dau²
 movement on a vast plain field

diu³-deu³ = deu³-dau³
 being/keeping in a row
 >> deu³-deu³ = dau³-dau³
 movement of persons walking out or a room in a row

di:e³-dai³
 being low [close to the ground]
 >> dai³-dai³
 moving lower and lower in space [like an aeroplane while landing]

di:k³-diak³ = diak³-duak³
 a person wearing torn or worn out clothes

di:l²-de:l²
 1. far in space; 2. taking longer time than expected

di:l²-dial² = dial²-dual²
 a long robe
 >> dual²-dual²
 movement of a person wearing a long robe

di:l³-dial³
 state of a day when there is no direct sunshine but it is bright and not gloomy

di:m¹-diam¹ = diam¹-duam¹
 similar to dim³-dem³ but more uniformity of ordered things is understood here
 >> duam¹-duam¹
 moving uniformly

di:n²-dian²
 longish but tender or slender thing

di:t¹-diat¹ = diat¹-duat¹
 longish rope hanging from a high place

ga¹-ga³
 looking at somebody with fully open eyes indicating disrespect [e.g. when a superior is scolding an inferior, the inferior instead of looking submissively looks at the superior with fully open eyes showing disrespect]

gai¹-gai¹ = ga:i¹-ga:i¹
 stretching ones body as much as possible while trying to reach some high object or place; pull very hard on a very heavy object on the ground by stretching ones body

ge¹-ga¹

look with fully open eyes

gai²-gai²

state of being/having a huge belly-like thing hanging down e.g. a pregnant pig

>> gai²-gai²

1. movement of an animal as described above; 2. movement of persons carrying a heavy object hanging down close to the ground like a heavy gunny sac

gem²-gam²

strong muscular person or animal [-gia²-gua²]

>> gam²-gam²

movement of a strong muscular person or animal

gem³-gam³

objects which appear to be old and rugged but strong like old canons, big old trees, old rugged buildings

>> gam³-gam³

movement of monster-like beings or extraordinarily strong persons or fearless movement like that of soldiers

ge:i²-ga:i²

humorous description of the state of a person with a huge belly, like a pregnant woman [cf. ga:i² 'to be pregnant']

>> ga:i²-ga:i²

movement of such a person

gil-ge³

look with full concentration

gi³-ge³

used when somebody or something is underestimated and later the real status or position of that person or thing is understood

gia²-gua²

strong muscular person or animal [-gem²-gan²]

>> gua²-gua²

movement of such a person or animal; speaking in a strong and deep voice

gie¹-gei¹ = gi:e¹-ge:i¹ = gi:e²-ge:i²

something hanging intact with a very slender connection [e.g. something hanging from a rope of five strands of which four are broken]

gil¹-gel¹ = gi:l¹-gial¹

describes the state of watery curries [in which the liquid and solid portions can be easily separated]

gin³-gem³

rugged objects

gin²-gen² = gen²-gan²

animals or persons with long legs but strong bodies (e.g. horse,

- strong and tall man]
 >> gan²-gan²
 movement of the above
- ging¹-geng¹ = geng¹-gang¹
 stick-like very thin persons
 >> gang¹-gang¹
 walking movement of the above
- ging²-geng² = geng²-gang²
 animals/things hanging from something by means of a thinnish looking connection [e.g. legs in the case of a bat or thread in the case of a bunch of keys]
 >> gang²-gang²
 swinging motion of the above
- giu²-geu² = geu²-gau²
 1. a pillar or post firmly fixed in the ground which is not easily movable from the ground; 2. a person standing alone in a field [signifying loneliness]
 >> gau²-gau²
 lonely movement of a person
- gi:k²-ge:k² = ge:k²-ga:k²
 long necked person or animal
 >> ga:k²-ga:k²
 movement of the neck of a long necked person or animal
- gi:u¹-giau¹ = giau¹-guau¹
 have a secret desire
- gual¹-gual¹
 strange behaviour due to ones guilty conscience [like a boy who comes home late after doing something not allowed by the parents and behaves in a strange way]
- han²-han²
 be exhausted very fast like water in a container or money reserves;
 be healed very fast
- hal¹-hal¹
 describing a pair of persons or animals [need not be of the same size and shape] cf. hi:l¹-hial¹
 >> hal¹-hal¹
 denotes the movement of the above
- hen²-han²
 doing things in a great hurry
- he:k²-ha:k
 bigness of size in the case of holes
- he:l³-ha:l³

describes naughty children

>> ha:l¹-ha:l¹

mischievous way of moving of naughty children

hia²-hua²

hotness

hiak¹-huak¹

describes a field of plants [especially corn] which is lush green [before the cobs start growing]. Used in the case of other soft-looking plants like banana also.

hi:l¹-hial¹ = hial¹-hual¹

pair of persons, animals or things which are approximately of the same size and shape [hi:l¹-hial¹ is used more often]

>> hual¹-hual¹

a pair of persons or things [as described above] moving together side by side but not one behind the other]. This is rarely used with animals or birds and not used when the movement is fast.

hi:t³-hiat³ = hiat³-huat³

sitting in a relaxed position

>> huat³-huat³

move casually and very slowly [e.g. a rich man walking in his own garden casually and relaxed]

hua²-hua²

denotes flowing of water abundantly in a swift manner

kei¹-kai¹ = ke:i²-ka:i²

denotes heaviness of things

>> kai¹-kai¹ = ka:i²-ka:i²

denotes movement involving carrying heavy things

ken¹-kan¹

do something without giving up even though there is not much of hope of success in it [cf. kin¹-ken¹]

keng²-kang²

very fatty person who is almost spherical in appearance [cf. king²-keng²]

>> kang²-kang²

movement of the above

kiang¹-kiang¹ = kiang¹-kuang¹

landing very lightly or holding something very lightly [e.g. a mosquito landing, or holding a newly printed wet photograph]

>> kiang¹-kiang¹ = kuang¹-kuang¹

walking very lightly or carefully like a cat, or walking carefully on stones kept in a muddy area

kis¹-kei¹

state of a tall container filled with liquid
 kik¹-kek¹ = ki:k³-ke:k³ = ke:k³-ka:k³

denotes small persons, animals or things

>> ke:k³-ke:k³ = ka:k³-ka:k³
 movement of a small person, animal or thing

kil¹-kel¹ = kell¹-kal¹

mirror like polished and shining surface [e.g. floor, surface of clear water]

>> kal¹-kal¹
 movement of such shining objects [This also could be used with reference to a shining surface though the surface does not move but the viewer might be moving getting an impression of movement]

kil¹-kial¹ = kial¹-kual¹

sparkling brightness [e.g. stainless steel utensils, tin foil]

kin³-ken³

do something patiently without giving up [cf. ken¹-kan¹]

king¹-keng¹ = keng¹-kang¹

well built, well proportioned, well attired and smart

>> kang¹-kang¹
 movement of a person described by the above

king²-keng²

a spherical or circular thing [cf. keng²-kang²]

>> kang²-kang²
 denotes the movement of the above

ki:²-kiai² = kiai²-kuai²

sit with legs spread [as a fat man does]

>> kuai²-kuai²
 movement of a fat person

ki:l²-ke:l² = ke:l²-ka:l²

very short and small [but not stout] person

>> ka:l²-ka:l²
 movement of such a person

ki:m²-kiam² = kiam²-kuam²

spider-like or crab-like posture i.e., a creature not strong looking but supported by spread limbs. This is also used in describing weak looking huts and tents, and persons who are long limbed and weak look-

ing with spread limbs.

>> kuam²-kuam²
 movement of such creatures or persons

ki:u¹-kiau¹ = kiau¹-kuau¹

action of peeping through a very small hole in a wall or door etc.

>> kiau¹-kiau¹ = kuau¹-kuau¹
 looking repeatedly through a small hole in a wall or a door by changing the position of the head

ki:u²-ke:u² = ke:u²-ka:u²

denotes small and short persons, small birds and animals; also used with young animals like kitten, pups or even a baby elephant

>> ke:u²-ke:u² = ka:u²-ka:u²
movement of the above

ki:u²-kia:u² = kia:u²-kuau²

ditch-like depression on ground which is not deep or large. This can be used to denote shallow dishes also. [cf. kuak² 'a depression or a dent']

khem²-kham²

signifies pitch darkness and quietness [cf. khim²-khem²]

kheu²-kheu²

denotes sunken state of eyes

khian¹-khuan¹

similar to khi:n¹-khian¹ but this is used in describing a state and not a movement

>> khuan¹-khuan¹
to move very quietly so that others are not disturbed

khie¹-khei¹ = khei¹-khai¹

describes a person sitting or lying in a crouched position [not used with animals as crouching is natural for them]

khim²-khem²

signifies pitch darkness [cf. khem²-kham²]

khing²-kheng² = kheng²-khang²

state of being covered with a heavy blanket

>> khang²-khang²
movement of a person who is covered with a heavy blanket

khi:²-khe:² = khip³-khep³ = khep³-khap³

be extremely quiet

khi:l¹-khial¹ = khial¹-khual¹

describes a place good for hiding; being in a solitary place where one is not expected

khi:n¹-khian¹ = khian¹-khuan¹

be quiet and not moving while sitting (but not in a solitary place cf. khi:l¹-khial¹)

>> khian¹-khian¹
move quietly

la:k¹-la:k¹

doing things hurriedly

le¹-la¹

1. be seen protruding from under a tight garment those parts of body

which are not to be seen [e.g. breasts of a woman under a tight blouse]; 2. fatty layer or fleshy portion of body becoming visible in a deep cut

>> la¹-la¹

1. movement during which private parts of body become visible occasionally or protrude occasionally [e.g. breasts of a woman while she is running]; 2. movement during which something hidden peeps out or becomes visible occasionally [e.g. a dog that is being carried in a sac peeps out once in a while]

la²-la²

stare as in li²-le²; also the looks of a person with big eyes

lang¹-lang¹

athletic person who seems to be very light in weight

>> lang²-lang²

movement of such a person

le:t²-la:t²

a person carrying a heavy burden

>> la:t²-la:t²

movement of a person carrying a heavy burden

li²-le²

stare with fully open eyes [= ge¹-ga¹]

lia¹-lua¹

things that are not organised but scattered around

lia²-lua²

1. very good and lush looking vegetables [e.g. fresh mustard leaves];
2. chubby face with protruding cheek bones

liai²-luai²

overburdened [e.g. a bus with people hanging out or like a mother with several children in her arms] [cf. luai² 'to hang']

>> luai²-luai²

1. movement of the things described above; 2. be carried by several people [e.g. as a coffin or a heavy object]

lian²-luan²

neatly and royally dressed person who is dignified [cf. lin¹-len¹]

>> luan²-luan²

movement of such a person

lie²-lei²

rickety carts, trucks, other vehicles, chairs and other furniture items

>> lei²-lei²

rickety movement of carts, trucks and other vehicles

lim³-lem³ = lem³-lam³

big and heavy metallic things [e.g. guns, hammers, spades, pickaxes] lying in a place

>> lam³-lam³

noises made by these objects when they are moved

lin¹-len¹ = lin²-len² = len¹-lan¹ = len²-lan²

a neatly dressed person [can be even a neatly dressed bearer in a restaurant]

>> lan²-lan²

movement of such a person

ling¹-leng¹ = ling²-leng² = leng²-lang² = ling¹-liang¹

somebody light in weight hanging voluntarily with a slender hold [e.g. a monkey hanging with its tail or a person in a circus]

lit³-let³ = let³-lat³

groups of people, animals sitting or grazing in groups; plants or shrubs spread in groups in an area

liu³-liau³ = liau³-luau³

a person, animal, bird sitting casually and fearlessly

>> luau³-luau³

movement of a person who goes without any anxiety or fear

li:e²-liai²

group of people, animals [the group is somewhat uniform]

li:k¹-le:k¹ = le:k¹-la:k¹

state of being emaciated

>> la:k¹-la:k¹

movement with a lot of effort of a very emaciated person [especially with reference to the person's breathing]

li:k¹-liak¹ = liak¹-luak¹

being in a helpless state without any proper food, clothing or care for [e.g. a beggar]

>> luak¹-luak¹ = luak³-luak³

movement or action of such a person

li:t²-le:t²

carry away some burden without the notice of others

luan¹-luan¹

uniform marching movement of soldiers; uniform walking of others also.

mai²-mai²

thick mass or group of persons, animals, insects moving here and there [cf. mie²-miai² and muai²-muai²]

mei²-mai² = misi²-muai²

plenty

mek¹-mak¹

utter blackness of an object [not of a room or space] like charcoal [cf. meng²-mang²]

meng²-mang²

darkness of space [like at nighttime] [cf. mek¹-mak¹]

mial¹-mual¹

writing [on paper etc.] which is not clear because of fading [not to do with legibility of writing] [cf. mi:l¹-mial¹]

mie²-miai²

thick mass or group of persons, animals, insects sitting or being in a place without moving [cf. mai²-mai² and muai²-muai²]

mi:l¹-mial¹

neither dark nor bright [as at dusk time or cloudy moonlit night]

muai²-muai²

thick group of persons or animals moving in one direction [cf. mai²-mai² and mie²-miai²]

mual¹-mual¹

persons not speaking clearly [as in mumbling] i.e., the pronunciation is not distinct

na¹-na¹

semiliquid state [mud like state]

nen²-nan²

state of being shabby with reference to clothes and things which hang down

>> nan²-nan²

movement of a person who is shabbily dressed with parts of clothes like pockets hanging down

ne:i²-na:i²

dirty looking bodily secretions [pus, eye-rheum, nose mucus, stools, blood etc]

ne:p³-ne:p³

state of a shabbily dressed person [= nen²-nan²]

niai²-muai²

1. a person who is very dirty; 2. a very fat person [even if he is clean]

>> muai²-muai²

locomotion or any other movement of the above types of persons

ni:ng¹-ni:ng¹

= niang¹-quang¹; and also the drooping state of a plant

>> nuang¹-nuang¹

movement in drooping fashion

nie²-nei² = nei²-nai²

laughter of a non-respectable looking person

nir³-ner³

state of a substance that is not too soft and not too hard e.g. dough, clay

nik¹-nek¹

state of being completely exhausted and drooping down [with reference to persons and animals only]

ni:ng¹-miang¹

1. state of something which is soft and hanging down [like a shawl from the neck]; 2. state of a person who is very weak sitting in a drooping fashion

ping¹-peng¹ = peng¹-pang¹

the things denoted by ping²-peng² when they are standing vertically or in a slanting manner

ping²-peng² = peng²-pang²

straight, long and horizontal things e.g. a water pipe, a tree trunk lying horizontally

pi:l¹-pe:l¹

1. same as pi:t¹-pe:t¹ and 2. also cylindrical objects

pi:t¹-pe:t¹

a person [especially a woman] who is not shapely but somewhat cylindrical in shape [cf. pi:l¹-pe:l¹]

phet¹-phat¹

complete packedness and fullness of bags etc. or completely occupied room

phit¹-phet¹

completely prepared state [like before going on a journey, before examinations]

phi:n²-phian² = phian²-phuan²

shrunk state of things like fruits, face; more often used with reference to old persons. cf. phi:n²-phe:n²

phi:n²-phe:n² = phe:n²-pha:n²

shrunk state of things like fruits, face cf. phi:n²-phian²

sam²-sam²

doing something in a fast and skilled manner cf. sem²-sem²

se¹-sa¹ = se²-sa²

very bright light, fire

sem²-sem²

doing something in a fast and unskilled manner cf. sam²-sam²

sia²-sua²

bright, dazzling things

sil¹-sel¹ = sel¹-sal¹

clean, distinctive, beautiful, bright objects [e.g. steel utensils, well-kept instruments]

si:l¹-sial¹

bright [as landscape after sunrise]; delightful

sial¹-sial¹ = sual¹-sual¹

sound of a clean waterfall

tang¹-tang¹

1. same as tin¹-ten¹; 2. asking for something without giving up

tem²-tam² = tem³-tam³

strong looking things/persons many in number and of uniform size and shape

>> tam²-tam²

movement of the above

tep³-tap³

many animals, persons, things lying in a place [cf. tem²-tam²]

tin¹-ten¹ = ten¹-tan¹ = ting¹-teng¹ = teng¹-tang¹

holding something without giving up

te:l¹-ta:l¹ = te:l²-ta:l²

hold or press firmly with force

te:i³-te:i³

persistently continuing to do something after being asked not to do it

te:l¹-ta:l¹

persistent way of doing something whether successful or not

them²-tham²

hairy person [with a lot of hair on the body]

>>tham²-tham²

movement of the above

then²-than²

hairy worm like beings

thau²-thau²

thick and soft e.g. woolen mattress, sofa, woolen clothes [cf. thiu²-thau²]

the:u²-tha:u²

fattiness

thiu²-thau²

thick and soft as thau²-thau² but implies beauty

thiau²-thau²

puffiness as of eyes

thi:p³-thiap³ = thiap³-thuap³
 person with very thick hair on the head

vang?³-vang?³
 very high, very steep

va¹-va¹
 very steep [cf. vang?³-vang?³]

vel²-val²
 big globular thing
 >> vel²-val²
 rotating movement of a circular or globular object in a fixed
 place on an axis
 >> val²-val²
 rolling movement of a circular or a globular object [in this
 movement the objects travels some distance]
 >> val³-val³
 same as vel²-val² but the movement is rapid
 >> val³-val³
 same as val²-val² but the movement is rapid

ven²-van²
 plenty

veng?³-vang?³
 far away
 >> vang?³-vang?³
 move from a far away place to another far away place which is still
 visible

veu²-vau²
 be in a place higher than the surrounding area

vial²-vual²
 circular, roundish objects but bigger in size than those denoted by
 vi:l²-vial²
 >> vual²-vual²
 movement of objects denoted by vi:l²-vial² as well as by vial²-vual²

viau²-viau²
 similar to vi:u²-viau² but in the case of this adverb the flying
 object finally becomes invisible; also used with reference to smoke
 which goes higher and higher and becomes invisible

vil²-vel²
 circular things

vim²-ven²
 plenty [used with mass nouns only] e.g. rice mound or sand mound [cf.
 vu:m² 'heap'] [cf. ven²-van²]

ving?³-veng?³

as far and as fast as possible

vi:l²-vial²

circular, roundish (but not globular) things cf. vel²-val² and vial²-vual²

vi:u²-viau²

fly from a far away place towards a farther place which is still visible [cf. viau²-viau²]

zai²-zai² = zai¹-zai¹ = zui²-zui²

1. sound made by rain [many rain drops falling]; sounds of loud-speakers, many people speaking at the same time as at a party; 2. falling of many particulates together e.g. rain drops, rice grains, sand

zel¹-zal¹

same as zil¹-zell¹; also springy movement of light bodied animals [e.g. deer] or the darting movement of an arrow

>> zal¹-zal¹

movement of things denoted by zil¹-zell¹; also denotes the movement of lightning

zel²-zal²

person wearing a long robe made of one piece

>> zal²-zal² = zual²-zual²

movement of a person wearing a long robe made of one piece

zen²-zan²

very tall person

>> zan²-zan²

movement of such a person

zi¹-zia¹ = zia¹-zua¹

large area with things spread in clusters [one need not get a pleasant feeling by looking at them as cf. zi²-zia²] [e.g. the view from the top of a hillock at night time showing close clusters of lights --not separate lights]

zi²-zia² = zia²-zua²

pleasant atmosphere created by keeping several similar things in one place e.g. 1. pleasant atmosphere created by a number of soft lamps glowing together or a number of tiny bells ringing pleasantly as at a wedding party; 2. pleasant feeling one gets by looking at several closely placed trees [like cherry trees] with lots of birds making chirping noises; 3. pleasant atmosphere in a hall with several nicely decorated tables and pictures on walls etc.

zie²-zei²

many things scattered around thickly [e.g. potatoes, rice grains]; this can refer to humans also as in the case of big gathering or a

rally

xi?³-zia?³ = xia?³-sua?³
growing in abundance like crops

sik¹-zek¹ = zek¹-zak¹
long thinnish animals with dazzling colouration [especially green and red colours as in the case of snakes and lizards] (zek¹-zak¹ is preferred with red colour)

sil¹-zel¹
smooth and light bodied animals [e.g. deer] or longish objects [e.g. pen or knife]

zing?³-zeng?³ = zeng?³-zang?³
scattered lines of things [e.g. view from a hill top or rows of street lamps] [cf. zing?³ 'a row of corn grains on the cob']
>> zang?³-zang?³
rapid darting movement of animals or people one after another [e.g. when the door of a roost is opened the hens might shoot out one after another]

ziu²-sau² = sau²-sau²
long object [horizontal or vertical]
>> sau²-sau²
movement of a tall person

zi:l¹-zial¹
bright, dazzling and longish object [like a polished sword]

sua?³-sua?³
1. somewhat uniform and simultaneous sounds made by several people like [in singing, clapping, laughing; 2. used in the case of rain fall also [but denotes rain fall heavier than that denoted by zai²-zai²]

[Note on transcription: Tones are marked by numbers after the syllable that carries the tone: thus sau³ stands for the syllable sau with tone 3. Tone 1 = high tone; tone 2 = mid tone; and tone 3 = low tone. /ng/ = the velar nasal /ŋ/. /ʔ/ represents the glottal stop /ʔ/.]

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