

Khmer Loanwords

The Linguistic Alien Fossilized in the Southern Thai Dialect

Premi Karavi

Lecturer

Department of Foreign Languages,

Faculty of Science,

Prince of Songkhla University,

Haad Yai, Songkhla, 90110

THAILAND

It is believable that Khmer (Cambodian) and the Southern Thai dialect had contacted to each other in the past. We can realize this situation because of the existence of some elements of one language in the other. The old Khmer inscriptions are the main witnesses to give us the advantages to trace back the development of some Khmer elements not only in Khmer itself but also in other languages. I found a large number of Khmer loanwords in investigating the vocabulary of the southern Thai dialect. It is interesting that, besides the lexicon borrowing, we can also find some Khmer elements of the Phonological level. In this article I would like to show in brief some Khmer elements found in the southern Thai dialect. I firstly indicate the lexicon borrowing which can be divided into Toponymes, Botanical names, and Animals' names. The followings are some examples of Phonological (or even can be called morphological) borrowings.

1. lexicon borrowing

1.1 Toponymes

The place names in the southern Thai dialect imply the elements possessed to the old Khmers (of Pre-Angkorian or Angkorian period). The following examples are all the place names in southern Thailand which imply the old Khmer elements and not the modern ones. We can see the more or less similarity by comparing words in two diachronic Khmer dialects (old and modern Khmers) with the corresponding Khmer loanwords of the southern Thai dialect.

(The old Khmer alphabet is romanized and placed between < >, the rest of phonetic alphabets are phonetic transcriptions. The Songkhla dialect [in which of the present time the phoneme /r/ does not exist] is used here to represent the southern Thai dialect.)

Meaning	KLSD ¹	OKW ²	MKW	MKA	Source ³
'stream'	ca:24 thiŋ7 <cdin> (ຈະທັງ[ພຣະ])	(K.22:p.a.:	stũŋ ⁴	ស្ទឹង ŋ	(Ja:1974:208) (Po:1992:169)
		IC.III:144:			
		33)			
'underneath'	ka:4 lo:ŋ7 <karom> (ក្រោម)	(K.561:p.a.:	kraom	ក្រោម	(Ja:1974:21) (Po:1992:94)
		IC.II:41:31)			
'Diospyros mollis (Ebénac), k.O.plant'	(kh)mu:an1 (ພູມ)	<khmuāŋ> (K.235:Ang: BE.XLIII:89: 33)	khmu:ən	ខ្នុរ w	(He:1977:102)

Meaning	KLSD	OKW	MKW	MKA	Source
'sterculia foetidal. (sterculi- aceae), k.o.plant'	mlo:η1 (ໂພງ)	<saṃroṇ> (K.713:Ang: IC.I:23:15)	samraoη	ສາມຣາວ (Po:1992:486)	
'channel of water'	ta:η3 hon1 (ທັງໝ)	<tanhor> (K.155:p.a.: IC.V:66:13)	caηʔo:(r)	ຕາໜ້າ V (Po:1992:395) (Ja:1974:40)	
'dyke,dam'	tham5 nɔp7 (ທ່າໝ)	<damnap> (K.689:p.a.: IC.VI:481(A) :15)	tūmnùp	ທ່າໝ (Ja:1974:89) (Po:1992:246)	
'plant, Averhoa carambola (Oxalidoc)'	sa:2 wi:1 (ສົງ)	<svi> (K.150:Ang: IC.V:192:5)	spū:	ສົງ (Ja:1974:209) (Po:1992:521)	

The examples above clearly show the more similarity between the KLSD to OKW than KLSD to MKW. In the first example, the romanized old Khmer <d> corresponds to the Thai <น> which is pronounced [th] and to the modern Khmer <ទ> which is pronounced [t]. It was possible that the old Khmer <d> was pronounced [th] at the borrowing time, and it was possible that at that time the southern Thai dialect had its own phoneme /th/. The southern Thai dialect then bor-

rowed this phoneme with out any changing and still has kept it on till the present time while Khmer, inside itself, had changed /th/ to /t/ as in /stɑŋ/ of modern Khmer.

By assuming from the KLS D in the second example, it was likely that the old Khmer <karom> was pronounced as bisyllabic word at the borrowing time. The southern Thai dialect still has kept it on while the middle Khmer contracted it to be a monosyllabic word /kraom/ in modern Khmer. The opposite assumption may be possible, any way; the southern Thai dialect might split the Khmer monosyllabic word into bisyllabic one in case that it was not familiar to the initial cluster /kr-/.

The nasal consonant /m/ of the nasal infix /_N/ corresponds to the first initial cluster-consonant /m/ in the KLS D [mlo:ŋɪ] of the 4th example. This /m_/ in KLS D then can be cited as the borrowing of the morphological element from Khmer. This example also shows some changes in the borrower language.

The initial consonants /t/ and /h/ in KLS D in the 5th example imply that they developed from old Khmer and not from the modern one. while the vowels in the 6th and the last examples reveal thier own sources in the same way.

1.2 plants' names

Meaning	KLSD	OKW	MKW	MKA	Source
'Hopea	khi:an5	<gargyar>	kəki:(r)	คหิ	(Ja:1974:29)
odorata	(เคียน)	(K.235:Ang:			(Po:1992:141)
(Diptir.)'		BE.XLIII:93:			
		104)			
'Streblus	khə:j1	<suñnay>	sna:j	สวญ	(Po:1992:498)
asper	(หยาบ)	(K.9:p.a.:			
(Morac.)'		IC.V:37:16)			
'Pandanus	lam5 ci:ak4	<ramcyak>	ramce:k	รမ်เชค	(Po:1992:395)
Spp. (Pan-	(ลำเจียก)	(K.315:Ang:			
danac)'		C.IV, C.LX:			
		39)			
'sugar-	no:t1	<tuñnot>	tnəot	เตาต	(Po:1992:209)
palm'	(โหนด)	(K.9:p.a.:			
		IC.V:37:25)			
'Zizyphus	se:ŋ1 khan1	<sankhar>	səŋkhae	ซังขะ	(Po:1992:473)
eonopia	(แสงกัน)	(K.1034:Ang:			
(rhamnac.)'		BE.LVII:81:			
		9)			
'Combretum	saŋ1 ke:3	<sañke>	səŋkae	สาง	(Ja:1974:184)
quadrangulare	(สี่แฉก)	(K.790:p.a.:			(Po:1992:473)
(Combret.)'		IC.V:71:17)			

1.3 animals' names

Meaning	KLSD	OKW	MKW	MKA	Source
'centipede'	khɛp1	-----	kʔaep	កែប ១៧	(He:1977:86)
'sea-shell'	khle:ŋ5 (ឯកត្យ)	<greŋ> (K.258:ang: IC.IV:185: 70)	krê:ŋ	ក្រែង	(Na:1983:1200)
'scorpion'	thu:aj5	-----	khtû:əj	ថ្ម ១៧	(Ja:1974:26)
'k.o.fresh water fish'	tsap3	<kantrap> (k.99:ang: IC.VI:109: 17)	kəntɾap	កន្ទ្រប់ ១៧	(He:1977:14) (Po:1992:71)

2. Phonological borrowing

2.1 Initial affricate consonant /ts-/

As conventionally being accepted, Hockett (1958:408) cited the natural rule of borrowing that "...the acquisition of the loanwords constitutes in itself a lexical change." The initial affricate consonant /ts-/ of the Khmer loanwords in the Southern Thai dialect corresponds to various initial clusters of modern Khmer. Those can be illustrated as follow:

Meaning	KLSD	MKW	MKA	Source
'sprinkle'	tsɔk7	crùək	ငဉ်း	(Ja:1974:59)
'erode'	tsɔ:ʔ4	crɔh	ငဉ်း	(Ja:1974:50)
'stuff s.th. into'	tsɔ:k4	crɔ:k	ငဉ်း	(Ja:1974:48)
'narrow valley'	tsɔ:ŋ5	crəlɔ:ŋ	ငဉ်း	(Ja:1974:59)
2. /tr-/				
'n. of grass of which the seeds adhere to clothing'	tsɔ:j3	kɔŋtraəj	ကၢၤငဉ်း	(Ja:1974:4) (He:1977:14) (Na:1983:1147)
'N. sieve'	tsɔ:ŋ3	kɔŋtrɔ:ŋ	ကၢၤငဉ်း	(He:1977:14)
'vulgar'	tsɔ:ʔ4	trəkùəh	ငဉ်း	(Ja:1974:89)
3. /sr-/				
'dry, pale exhausted'	tsa:ŋ3	sraŋ	ငဉ်း	(He:1974:1262)
'pointed, sharp at the end'	tsu:at5	sru:əc	ငဉ်း	(Ma:1915:477) (Na:1983:790)
'crowded round'	tsɔ:3	sɔ:ɔ:	ငဉ်း	(Ja:1974:210) (Na:1983:692)
'abate, go down'	tsɔ:k1	sɔ:k	ငဉ်း	(Ja:1974:213)

Meaning	KLSD	MKW	MKA	Source
'tie round tightly'	tsak1	srak	ᨧᩢ᩠ᨦᩉ᩠ᩅ	(Ja:1974:213)
'finish'	tset1	srac	ᨧᩢ᩠ᨦᩉ᩠ᩅ	(Ma:1915:476)
5 /thl-/				
'python'	tʂa:n1	thlan	ᨧᩢ᩠ᨦᩉ᩠ᩅ လ	(Ja:1974:81)
4. /st-/				
'fish with a line'	tsut3	stù:c	ᨧᩢ᩠ᨦᩉ᩠ᩅ ပ	(Ja:1974:208)
6. /t- r-/				
'straighten out'	tsoŋ3	tʂoŋʁɔŋ	ᨧᩢ᩠ᨦᩉ᩠ᩅ	(He:1977:315)
7. /s- r-/				
'coase'	tso:ʔ4	ʔasorùəh	ᨧᩢ᩠ᨦᩉ᩠ᩅ	(Ja:1974:231) (Na:1983:1088)
8. /k- t-/				
'food con- tainer made of tree- leaves'	tso:ŋ3	kantò:ŋ	ᨧᩢ᩠ᨦᩉ᩠ᩅ ၃	(Ja:1974:4)

It is interesting that the initial affricate consonant /ts_/ does not exist in the real Tai word.

2.2 Initial consonant cluster /ml_/

The same correspondence as in the 4th example in 1.1 will be illustrated here as the role of the initial cluster consonant /ml_/ in Khmer loanwords in the southern Thai dialect.

Meaning	KLSD	MKW	MKA	Source
'cotton floss'	mli:1	sɔmlɔj	ສົມ ລຸ	(Ja:1974:192)
'kill by cut- ting the throat'	mlɛ:ʔ1	sɔmleh	ສົມ ເລ	(Ja:1974:206)
'profit'	mlaj1	kɔmraj	កម្រាជ	(Na:1983:63)
'power'	mlaŋ1	kɔmlaŋ	កម្លាង	(Na:1983:695)
'thickness'	mɛ:ʔ1	kɔmrah	កម្រាធ	(Mo:1878:161)
'suit, set'	mlap1	sɔmrap	ສົມ ຣາບ	(Ja:1974:191)
'to overcome'	mɛ:p1	kɔmra:p	កម្រាប	(He:1977:55)
'make a wrap- ling sound'	mlon5	pɔŋrɔɔn	ពង ຣອນ	(He:1977:628)
'stave off'	mlon1	sɔmron	ສົມ ຣອນ	(Ja:1974:191)

I may here analyse the cluster /ml_/ as the result of the contraction of Khmer bisyllabic word into Thai monosyllabic one.

3.CONCLUSION

Based on the data collected, it is possible to cite that southern Thai dialect borrowed some elements from Khmer in different times. Among these, the lexicon and the phonological elements were borrowed. Some reveal the contacts in the old Khmer period, others show the similarity to the modern Khmer's. Toponymes, plant and animal's names, and some initial consonant clusters were studied in this work. Most of the place names have conserved the ancient forms. The initial consonant /ts_/ of the loanwords which correspond to various clusters in Khmer does not exist in the Thai word. The initial consonant cluster /ml_/ in the Khmer loanwords is the result of the contraction of the Khmer bisyllabic ones. The semantic change of Khmer loanwords in the southern Thai dialect is waiting to be studied.

รศ.ดร. ศาสตราจารย์

Note

¹ The abbreviation used in this article is showed in the appendix. The numbers following the Khmer loanwords in the Southern Thai dialect (KLSD) represent the 7 tones of the Southern Thai dialect as follow:

1 = high rising	[45]
2 = high falling	[43]
3 = low rising	[23]
4 = central level	[33]
5 = central falling	[32]
6 = low level	[22]
7 = low falling	[21]

² I give the source of the old Khmer words in this column as here illustrated:

(number of the inscription [K] : date : source : page : line)

³ I also give the source of every khmer words mentioned in this paper as here illustrated:

(author's name : year of publication : page)

⁴ The Khmer vowels with (`) as in ɨ, ɔ̃, ʉ̃, ɯ̃ represent the second register.

Appendix

Abbreviation used in this article

- Ang : Angkorian period
- BE : Bulletin de l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient
- C : Corpus des " Inscriptions du Cambodge"
- He : Robert K. Headley.Jr.
- Hu : Franklin E. Huffman
- IC : Inscriptions du Cambodge(Georges Coedès),Vol. I-VIII.
- Ja : Judith M. Jacob
- K. : (Indicate the names [numbers] of Khmer inscriptions
based on Georges Coedès)
- KLSD : Khmer loanwords in the Southern Thai dialect (Phonetic
transcription)
- k.o. : kind of
- Ma : Georges Maspero
- MKA : Modern Khmer alphabet
- MKW : Modern Khmer word (phonetic transcription)
- Na : Karnchana Nacaskul
- OKW : Old Khmer word (romanized)
- p.a. : Pre-Angkorian period
- Po : Saveros Pou

Reference

- Académie des Inscriptions et Belles - Lettres & Ecole Française
d'Extrême-Orient. 1926-37. Inscriptions du Cambodge (Corpus de
fac-similés), Paris et Hanoi, 6 vol.
- Headley, Robert K. Jr. et al. 1977. Cambodian - English Dictionary.
Washington: The Catholic University of American Press.
- Hockett, Charles F. 1958. A Course in Modern Linguistics. New York:
The Macmillan company.
- Huffman, Franklin E. and Im Proum. 1978. English-Khmer Dictionary. New
Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- Jacob, M. Judith. 1974. A Concise Cambodian - English Dictionary.
London : Oxford University Press.
- Maspero, Georges. 1915. Grammaire de la langue Khmère. Paris: Imprimerie
Nationale.
- Moura, M. 1878. Vocabulaire Français - Cambodgien et Cambodgien -
Français. Paris : Challamel Aîné, Libraire-Éditeur.
- Nacaskul, Kancana. 1962. A study of cognate words in Thai and
Cambodian. Thesis of Master's degree. School of oriental and
African studies. University of London.
- 1983. Thai - Cambodian Dictionary. Bangkok: Faculty of Art,
Chulalongkorn University.
- (กาญจนา นาคสกุล. 2526. พจนานุกรมไทย-เขมร. กรุงเทพฯ : คณะอักษรศาสตร์
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย)
- Pou, Saveros. 1992. Dictionnaire vieux khmer-français-anglais. Paris:
Cedoreck.