

[Annex to Judith M. JACOB, "Affixation in Middle Khmer..."]

## COMMENT

David Thomas

The remarkable proliferation of prefixes in Khmer with vague or overlapping meanings is unusual. Chrau currently shifts (non-affixal) presyllables in a seemingly haphazard fashion reminiscent of the Khmer affix situation. The possibility presents itself that in these cases it is not so much the phonological shape of the affix or presyllable that is important. Perhaps, rather, it is simply the presence of *some* consonantal affix or presyllable, of whatever shape, that carries the signal to the hearer, contrasting merely with the absence of any prefix or presyllable. The overlapping of forms and functions in Bahnar prefixes, and the merging of all prefixes into *ʔa-*, may point in the same direction.

