The Origins of the Ainu Language.

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Several attempts have been made over the last century to clarify the origins of the Ainu language (Batchelor 1889), (Sternberg 1933), (Patrie 1982). None of them has yet been successful, since all of them involved the method of straight comparisons. It is obvious that we will not achieve any positive results until we are comparing modern languages and not the reconstructions of the proto-languages. Some steps toward the reconstruction of the Proto-Ainu (PA) were proposed by Hattori Shirô (Hattori 1967).

My reconstruction of PA is based on interdialectal phonetic correspondences as well as on some peculiar morphonological alternations in two major dialect groups - Hokkaidō and Sakhalin. Present-day knowledge about these alternations in the third dialect group, Kuril Ainu, is too scarce in order to use it for this purpose.

The present reconstruction is based on the materials of the eight dialects of Hokkaidō: Yakumo (Y), Horobetsu (H), Saru (SA), Obihoro (O), Bihoro (B), Asahigawa (A), Nayoro (N), and Soya (SO); one dialect of Sakhalin: Raichiska (RA); and four sources on the Kuril dialects: Torii Ryûzô's materials (KT) (Hattori 1964), M. Dybowski's glossary (KD), S. Krasheninnikov's glossary (KK) (Murayama 1971) and I. Voznesenskii's glossary (KV), which I discovered in the Archive of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad (USSR). Occasionally I also used some other sources, such as the 200 word-list and Russian materials on the Nairo dialect of Sakhalin (NA) (Hattori 1960), (Novikova and Savelieva 1953), M. Dobrotvorskii's "Ainu-Russian Dictionary" (D) (Dobrotvorskii 1875), J. Klaproth's "Asia Polyglotta" (KLAP) (Klaproth 1823), Ph. J. von Strahlenberg's glossary (Stralenberg 1730) and some others, such as the Japanese-Ainu xylographic dictionary "Moshiogusa" (Kindaichi 1972) etc. It is necessary to take into consideration all available sources and dialects, since for example PA *r-*, *d-*, and *tr- are reflected in the majority of dialects as [r-] and thus the comparison of, let us say, SA dialect of Hokkaidō with RA dialect of Sakhalin (Hattori 1967) will not provide the whole PA reconstruction.
Since the limited space of this paper does not allow me to give a detailed discussion, I provide below the final results of my Proto-Ainu reconstruction (Vovin 1991 draft) in comparison with the modern Ainu phonological system (for the first variant of the reconstruction see Vovin 1989).

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<th>Modern Ainu Consonants</th>
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<th>Proto-Ainu Consonants</th>
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1) Modern Ainu \([t] \) and \([c]\) are in complementary distribution, thus I reconstruct only PA \(*t*.

2) The morphophonologic alternation of the Modern Ainu \([w]\) is quite peculiar — it alternates with \([s]\). At the same time, some 18th century materials show in the place of modern \([w]\) a cluster like \([hw]\). Combining these two factors and taking into consideration that the distribution of \([w]\) in the words going back to PA is extremely limited I excluded \([w]\) from PA phonemic inventory and reconstructed cluster \(*hd*- (phonetically, probably \([h\ddash]\)).

3) In addition to two voiceless stops \([t]\) and \([k]\) the correspondences between the Ainu dialects show the existence of their voiced counterparts \(*d* and \(*g* (phonetically, probably \([\ddash]\) and \([\gamma]\)).

4) PA also had two types of laryngeal fricatives \(*h* and \(*H* (perhaps voiceless and voiced).

5) PA \(*g*, \(*h* and \(*H* shifted to \([s]\) before \([i]\) (there are only occasional examples of \([h]\) before \([i]\) in Modern Ainu).

**Proto-Ainu initial consonant clusters**

\( \text{hd- hr- pr- tr- ty-} \)

There are no initial consonant clusters in the Modern Ainu dialects.
Modern Ainu vowels (Hokkaido)
i  e  o  u  a

Modern Ainu vowels (Sakhalin)
i  e  o  u  ii  ee  oo
   a  a

Proto-Ainu vowels
i (ū)  (I)  u  ii  uu
e (ō)  (ē)  o  EE  OO
   A  A  aa  AA

1) PA long vowels are preserved in Sakhalin
(Hattori 1967), but only in open syllables and in the
first syllable in the overwhelming majority of cases. KK
and KD (the latter less consistently) sometimes preserve
long vowels, though not only in the open syllables.
2) The distinction between mid-low *E, *O and mid-
high *e, *o is reconstructed on the basis of different
correspondences between dialects (see below). The vowels
*A, *AA, *ē, *ū, and *ō are reconstructed only in
nominal stems with possessive form and verbal stems with
"stem+V" "transitive" form. The last four vowels are
represented only in verbal stems.

Proto-Ainu accent classes

(L - low pitch, H - high pitch)

1.1. Tonic H-L  2.1. High prototonic HH
1.2. Atonic L-H  2.2. Low prototonic HL
         2.3. Oxytonic LH
         2.4. Atonic LL-H

3.1. High prototonic HHH
3.2. Low prototonic HLL
3.3. Middle prototonic HHL
3.4. Mesotonic LHL
3.5. Oxytonic LLH
3.6. Atonic LLL-H

1) I do not agree with Hattori Sirô, who proposed
that pitch accent in Hokkaido dialects is a reflex of
distinction between long and short vowels preserved in
RA (Hattori 1967). High pitch in Hokkaido dialects does
not always correspond to a long vowel in RA. Besides that, there are two different accent systems within Hokkaidō dialects, one is represented by Y, and the second by all other dialects except B which lost pitch distinctions. There is also oblique evidence that pitch distinctions also existed in KK, one of the Kuril dialects. Thus, I reconstruct for PA not only short and long vowels, but also several accent classes.

2) Ainu accent is the opposite to Japanese. It is the rise of voice, not the drop, which is significant. I consider that sequences like HH or HL have initial silent low-pitched mora, thus I represent them as "high prototonic" and "low prototonic", respectively.

3) The reconstruction of atonic classes 2.4. and 3.6. is possible only by taking into consideration Y data, since all the other dialects do not permit the accent to be further than on the second mora of a word, thus all more than one-mora words in the majority of modern Hokkaidō dialects are tonic.

**Phonetical correspondences between Ainu dialects**

**Consonants**

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**Phonetical correspondences between Ainu dialects**

**Consonants**

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Vowels

PA  Y  HO  SA  O  B  A  N  SO  RA  KK  KD
*O  o  o  o  o  o  o  o  o  o  o  o
*o  u  u/o  u/o  u/o  u/o  u/o  u/o  u/o  o  u/o
*u  u  u  u  u  u  u  u  u  u
*OO  o  o  o  o  o  o  o  o  oo
*uu  u  u  u  u  u  u  u  uu  uu
*E  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e
*e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  i  e/i
*i  i  i  i  i  i  i  i  i  i  i  i
*a  a  a  a  a  a  a  a  a  aa  aa  aa
*EE  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  e  ee
*ii  i  i  i  i  i  i  i  i  ii

The PA language has several important features, such as initial consonant clusters, which reminded me of the languages of South-East Asia. I dare to propose the hypothesis that PA may be distantly related to Austroasiatic languages. This hypothesis is based on the comparison of my reconstruction of PA with reconstructions of different branches of Austroasiatic (AA) (Diffloth 1980 and 1984), (Shorto 1976), (Thompson 1976) and AA wordlists (Shafer 1965). I established some regular phonetic correspondences between PA and AA consonants. It is still premature to speak about the correspondences between PA and AA vowels since we still do not have any kind of reconstruction of AA vocalism.

Phonetic correspondences between PA and AA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Proto-Ainu</th>
<th>PAA</th>
<th>Proto-Austroasiatic</th>
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<td>Proto-Mon-Khmer</td>
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</table>
PA *apa LL (< *apaa ? RA normally does not preserve long vowel in the second syllable) "doorway". Cf. PW *poŋ "window" (Diffloth 1980, 128).
PA *DE(=)tar L(-)H "white" (this comparison is valid only if dE= is a prefix). Cf. Bahnar tär "bright white"; Savara tär "to shine", "brilliant"; "white"; Gadaba ta-tär "white"; Kharia tar=di "light" (Shafer 1965, 14). PAA *tär "white" ?
PA *E= L "you" (sing.). Cf. Halang ai; Kaseng ai; Sré ?ai/ (fem.); Stieng éi "thou" (Shafer 1965, 68).
PA *Esna HL "sneeze". Cf. PM *[c]nʔas "to sneeze" (Diffloth 1984, 240).
PA *gik/*gek "to be born". Cf. PW *(geh) "to be born" (Diffloth 1980, 160).
PA *gum L "sound", "noise". Cf. PM *graam "to growl (tiger, dog)", "to congregate and make noise" (Diffloth 1984, 220).
PA *guu "to be raw", "to be fresh". Cf. PM *[g]lywŋ "to live", "to be alive", "to be raw" (Diffloth 1984, 184).
PA *guurE HLL "red". Cf. Bahnar gur "orange-red earth", "ochre"; Sré gur "orange-red earth", "ochre"; Savara gurmaŋ "tawny", "yellow" (body color) (Shafer 1965, 16). PAA *gur?

PA *hdak=ka HL "water". Cf. PVM *?dak (Thompson 1976, 1192); PM *d'aak "water" (Diffloth 1984, 131); Alak dák; Uylo ḏak; Bahnar ḏak; Boloven tiak; Chrau ḏak; Churu dá; Halang dát; Kaseng dák; Khmer dik; Kontu dâ; Kuoi dak; Lavé dák; Niahôn dák; Phnog dák; Por teak; Prou doak; Sedang deà; Sré dā/; Stieng dák; Sué dá; Talaing dák; Mundari dak'; Kharia da;k; Central Nicobar dák; Coastal Nicobar dák; Chowra Nicobar rāk "water" (Shafer 1965, 8-11).

PA *hd00 "span of the thumb and first finger". Cf. PW *tn=da? "finger-span (from thumb to little finger)" (Diffloth 1980, 102).

PA *hrA= L "leaf". Cf. PVM *hla "leaf" (Thompson 1976, 1177); PW *hla? "leaf" (Diffloth 1980, 110); PM *slaʔ "leaf" (Diffloth 1984, 80); Alak a-la; Bahnar hla; Boloven hlıə; Chrau la; Churu laha; Halang lâ; Kaseng lâ; Kuoi sla; Lavé lâ; Niahôn lâ; Phnog loha; Por sla; Stieng la; Suë hlıə; Talaing slâʔ; Tareng lâ; Khasi sla; Umpai hla; Bo Luang la; Mapâ laha; Lamet la; Sakai selâ, sëlâ, sëla?, sëla, slâ; Semang sëlâʔ, hëleʔ; Pangan hàliʔ, hàlik "leaf" (Shafer 1965, 29). PAA *hla?

PA *i=EE L-HL "to say (it)". Cf. PW *(ʔah) "to say" (Diffloth 1980, 159).

PA *kAp L "skin", "fur" (if it is not a loanword from OJ kapa). Cf. Stieng kuŋp, kup "skin", "bark"; Talaing da-kuip, ga-kuip "to cover"; Savara kub- "to be covered"; Sakai tšē-kop "bark"; "skin"; tši-kop "skin"; Jakun tșun-kop "skin" (Shafer 1965, 48-49). PAA *kop?

PA *kapa(=)p LH "bat". PM *klwaʔ, Proto-Mon *kawə? "bat" (Diffloth 1984, 62).

PA *kE=s L "end", *O=kE=dE L-L-H "to end". Cf. PVM *kuay "end" (Thompson 1976, 1171).

PA *ki(=)raqu L(-)LH "horn". Cf. PW *raŋ "horn (anim.)" (Diffloth 1980, 131); PM *draŋ, Proto-Mon *krąŋ "horn" (Diffloth 1984, 99).

PA *k0=r L "to have". Cf. PVM *kə "to have" (Thompson 1976, 1175); PW *koy "to have" (Diffloth 1980, 157).
PA *kOt= "front", "before". Cf. PM *kntaa? "in front of" (Diffloth 1984, 149).
PA *kOt=L "to tie (it) to", "to fasten (it) to". Cf. Bahnar kot; Sedang kot; Sré kot; Stieng kot "to tie" (Shafer 1965, 12). PAA *kOt?
PA *kupa LH "to bite". Cf. PAA *kāp/*kāp "to bite" (Alak kāp; Annam cǎm; Bahnar kāp; Boloven kāp; Chrau kāp;
Halang kāp; Kaseng kāp; Lavé kāp; Niahòn kāp; Sré kāp; Stieng kāp; Theng kāp; Umpai kāp; Bo Luang kāp; Mapā kāp; Central Nicobar kāp-) (Shafer 1965, 8-10).
PA *m[r]Akh= H "to open [it]". Cf. PM *lm̥laak "to open (one's eyes)", "to be open (wound)" (Diffloth 1984, 169).
PA *mo L "sleep". Cf. Bahnar pō "to dream"; Umpai ramo; Riang raŋmu; Sra mpaọ; Stieng mbōi "dream"; (Shafer 1965, 38; 68); Vietnamese mo "to dream". PAA *?mo?
PA *nii "tooth". Cf. PM *gnis "canine tooth" (Diffloth 1984, 105).
PA *num L "fruit", "berry", "to bear fruit". Cf. PW *(?)nm "plant" (Diffloth 1980, 145).
PA *Ota LH "sand". Cf. PM *p-m-tul, Proto-Mon *hêti "sand" (Diffloth 1984, 137).
PA *paar=aC=sn "to fly". Cf. PVM *pâl "to fly" (Thompson 1976, 1173); PW *pər "to fly" (Diffloth 1980, 150); Bahnar pār; Chrau (bār); Churu par; Sedang pā; Sré par; Stieng par; Sué pal; Talaing par; Santali apir; Mundari āpir; Ho apir; Kurku aπir "to fly" (Shafer 1965, 8). PAA *par?
PA *pEr= L "to break or split (it) in two or pieces". Cf. PVM *pe "break" (Thompson 1976, 1166).
PA *=pEt "finger". Cf. Bahnar pēt "to pinch with the fingers"; Khmer tpiet "to hold by pinching"; Sré pet "to detach with the fingers"; Stieng piêt "to get one's fingers caught between two strips of wood"; Savara ped-
"to pinch"; Riang pięt "to press" (Shafer 1965, 15). PAA *pet?
PA *pāt=u L-H "to cut", "to split". Cf. PVM *pət "to cut" (Thompson 1976, 1166; 1169); Bahnar pəh "to split", "to divide in two"; Savara pā "to split (as a bamboo)", "to rend" (Shafer 1965, 15). PAA *pāt?
PA *pOqOn LH "four" (?). Cf. PVM *pon (Thompson 1976, 1173); Alak pôn; Bahnar pûn; Boloven puan; Chrau puôn; Churu puan; Halang puan; Kaseng pôn; Khmer pôn; Kontu puan; Kuoi pôn; Lavé puôn; Niahôn puon; Phnom puon; Por phoon; Por puon; Sedang puôn; Srê puan; Stieng puôn; Sué puon; Talaing pûn; Umâi paun; Bo Luang păn; Mapâ paun; Lamet pôn; Papao paun; Central Nicobar fôn; Coastal Nicobar foat; Interior Nicobar fuat; Teressa Nicobar foon; Chowra Nicobar foon; Car Nicobar fân "four" (Shafer 1965, 8-10). PAA *puon ?

PA *pOrO LH "to be big". Cf. Stieng bôl "many", "numerous"; Srê bol "several" (Shafer 1965, 63).

PA *prAA= LL "mouth". Cf. PM *paŋ "mouth" (Diffloth 1984, 98); Old Mon paŋ; Central Nicobar -fän; Teressa Nicobar -fân; Chowra Nicobar -fân "mouth" (Shafer 1965, 10). PAA *pəŋ ?

PA *praamiliar HH "edge". Cf. PM *g=n=ram "the edge", "the rim" (Diffloth 1980, 220).

PA *ra H "down", *prO=k L "under", "beneath", "below" (? Modern Ainu ror-i "to sink" (Tiri 1974/1952, 209) < PA *ror=i ). Cf. PW *knu:m "under" (Diffloth 1980, 146); PM *kroon "under", "the underpart" (Diffloth 1984, 219); Bahnar krâm "to be submerged", "to go to the bottom"; Srê kram "to sink (in water)", "to go down", "to immerse oneself" (Shafer 1965, 13). PAA *k=ram ?

PA *raLm L "soul", "heart", "mind". Cf. PW *rmhom "heart", "mind" (Diffloth 1980, 148); Muong lom; Khmer tlaom; Bahnar klom "liver" (Sokolovskaia 1987, 24). Cf. (?) also Muong lâm "heart" (Sokolovskaia 1987, 111), Wa rhom "heart" (Zhou 1984). PAA *k=lom ?

PA *rayoni LLH "rainbow" (< *rayon=tie ? Cf. PA *unti "fire"). Cf. PW *pryoŋ "rainbow" (Diffloth 1980, 133); Umâi rayôn; Mapâ rayôn "rainbow" (Shafer 1965, 54). PAA *rayon ?

PA *rEk "to sing", "to cry (of a bird)". Cf. PW *rak "to moan", "to cry (anim.)" (Diffloth 1980, 119).

PA *ri H "to skin", "to strip". Cf. Bahnar plô; Stieng plôh "to flay", "to skin" (Shafer 1965, 65).

PA *=rit "root". Cf. PVM *relh "root" (Sokolovskaia 1987, 24); PW *res "root" (Diffloth 1980, 154); Bahnar riôh; Boloven rê; Halang rê; Khmer rîs; Sedang rê; Srê rias;
Stieng riĕh; Sué rĕ; Talaing ruih; Tareng riĕ; Riang nıgš; Umpai ră; Bo Luang ră; Mapă ră; Theng hrıg; Central Nicobar yıah "root" (Shafer 1965, 25-26). PAA *rılh?
PA *ruyka/*requka HL/HLL "bridge". Cf. PW *r(n)pık "bridge" (Diffloth 1980, 117).
PA *sEE "to carry on the back". Cf. Chrau săh; Sré sah; Stieng sah "basket carried on the back" (Shafer 1965, 66). PAA *sah?
PA *si(=)ntOkO H(-)LL "container". Cf. PM *t̪êkoo? "bamboo container" (Diffloth 1984, 119). A metathesis in PA?
PA *si(=)tay=ki L(-)H-L "to weave" (si= ia a frequent prefix in Ainu). Cf. PVM *taň "to weave" (Thompson 1976, 1192); PM *taŋ "to weave" (Diffloth 1984, 193); Alak täń; Annam tăn; Bahnar täń; Boloven täń; Halang tăn; Khmer päŋtăn; Lavé tăn; Niahön täń; Sré täń; Stieng täń; Talaing tăn; Umpai tain; Bo Luang tain; Mapă tain; Central Nicobar en-tain- "to weave" (Shafer 1965, 8-10). PAA *taň?
PA *sik "to be full". Cf. Riang s'ak "full", "satisfied"; Lamet šäk "full", "satisfied" (Thompson 1965, 31). PAA *sak?
PA *siqу "to be bitter". Cf. PW *sow̃ "bitter" (Diffloth 1980, 133).
PA *sOn=no H-L "indeed", "really", "truly". Cf. Sré soň; Stieng són "right", "just", "true" (Shafer 1965, 65). PAA *soŋ?
PA *soya LH "bee", "wasp". Cf. PM *saay "bee" (Diffloth 1984, 76).
PA *suma LH "stone". Cf. PW *smoʔ "stone" (Diffloth 1980, 106); PM *taməʔ "stone" (Diffloth 1984, 130); Alak tamō; Bahnar tōmō; Boloven tamō; Chrau thmō; Halang mō; Kaseng tamō; Khmer thma; Kontu tamō; Kuoi tamau; Lavé tamō; Phnong tama; Por thmo--; Prou tama; Sedang hum; Stieng tōmåu; Sué tamao; Talaing tmoʔ; Tareng tamō; Khasi māw; Umpai samō; Bo Luang samo; Mapă samo "stone" (Shafer 1965, 20-21). PAA *θoma or *θamu?
PA *to= L "that". Cf. PM *tɛɛʔ "that" (Diffloth 1984, 146-147).
PA *tay=ki HL "flea". Cf. PVM *cay "head louse" (Thompson 1976, 1178); PM *cay "parasite (human or
animal, head or body; general term) (Difffloth 1984, 75); Alak tsei; Bahnar si; Boloven tsei; Chrau sih; Churu sai; Halang tsai; Khmer tsei; Lavé tsei; Niahôn tse; Sré sai; Stieng sih; Talaing tsay; Central Nicobar sêi; Santali se?; Theng sé "louse";
Riang si? "head louse"; Angku si kwen "flea"; Khasi ksi "louse" (Shafer 1965, 30-31). PAA *câi or *câi?
PA *tE(=k) L "hand", "arm" (=k may be a dual suffix, cf. PA *sik "eye"). Cf. PMK *tii+ "hand" (Shorto 1976, 1062); PVM *t'îy "arm", "hand" (Thompson 1976, 1164);
PW *te? "hand" (Difffloth 1980, 100); PM *te? "hand"
(Difffloth 1984, 106); Alak ti; Uylo si; Bahnar ti;
Boloven tei; Chrau ti; Churu ti; Halang ti; Kaseng ti;
Khmer ti; Kuoi dey; Lavé ti; Niahôn ti; Phnong ti; Porti; Prou ti; Sré tói; Stieng ti; Súé ti; Talaing tey;
Theng ti; Umpai te; Bo Luang tae; Mápâ te; Khmus ti;
Lamet ti; Papao di; Central Nicobar -tai; Interior Nicobar
-tî; Terressa Nicobar -tî; Car Nicobar -tî "hand" (Shafer
1965, 8-10).
PA *tEERê HLL "to wait for". Cf. PMK *tër "to wait",
"to abide" (the comparison may be true only if PMK *
-ër is an infix) (Shorto 1976, 1058).
PA *ti= L "bird". Cf. PVM *cim "bird" (Thompson 1976,
1165); PW *sem "bird" (Difffloth 1980, 147); Alak tśi;
Bahnar śem; Boloven tśem; Chrau śem; Halang tśem; Kaseng tśem;
Kuoi tśem-tu; Lavé tśem; Niahôn tśem; Phnong sum; Prou tśem;
Sèdang tśem; Sré sim; Stieng tsum; Súé hêm; Talaing kiñ-tśem;
Mundic sim; Huei śiem; Xong śiem; Umpai sain; Bo Luang sain;
Mapâ sain; Lamet sîm; Theng sim "bird" (Shafer 1965, 30-
31). PAA *cim?
PA *ti= L "we". Cf. PVM *tōy "I" (Thompson 1976, 1176);
Car Nicobar cin "I" (Das 1977, 25).
PA *tii "to be cooked", "to be done", "to be roasted",
"to ripen". Cf. PMK *cîin? "to be cooked" (Shorto 1976,
1050); PW *sin "cooked", "ripened" (Difffloth 1980, 142);
Alak tśin; Bahnar śin; Boloven tśên; Halang tśên; Kaseng tśin;
Khmer tśhîn; Lavé tśên; Niahôn tśin; Sré sin; Stieng sin; Sûé
tśên; Talaing tśin "to cook"; Tareng tśên; Mundari isin;
Central Nicobar ìsîan-hata "to ripen"; Sakai ìntṣen, ñntṣên,
tśêt(n), bî-tśêt(n), âtśin; Patan âtśin "to cook"; Riang sîn;
Theng sin "ripened", "cooked" (Shafer 1965, 29-31). PAA
*cîin??
PA *tigu(=)p "the sun", "the moon". Cf. PW *sŋe? "sun", "day" (Diffloth 1980, 98); PM *tŋay "sun" (Diffloth 1984, 139).
PA *tōO "day" (< *tOqO ?). Cf. PM *t-r-ŋay "day-time", classifier for days" (Diffloth 1984, 139).
PA *tōO[C] HH "breasts (of woman)". Cf. PMK *tōh "breast", "mamma" (Shorto 1976, 1061); PM *tōh "breast" (Diffloth 1984, 107); Alak toh; Bahnar toh; Boloven toh; Halang toh; Kaseng toh; Khmer ṭoḥ; Lavée toh; Niahôn toh; Sedang toh; Sûr toh; Stieng tōh; Talaing toḥ; Umpai tāṭ; Mapā tāṭ; Central Nicobar toah; Coastal Nicobar tōḥ; Interior Nicobar tō; Teressa Nicobar toh; Chowra Nicobar toh; Car Nicobar tāḥ "earth" (Shafer 1965, 8-10). PAA *tɔ[i]h ?
PA *tOy "earth", "soil", "ground", "land". Cf. PW *kte? "earth" (Diffloth 1980, 100); PM *tii? "soil", "earth", "ground" (Diffloth 1984, 130); Bahnar teh; Boloven phateh; Chrau Uleh; Khmer ti; Kontu thiak; Sûr tiah; Stieng tēh; Suè kathē; Talaing tî?; Theng pětēh; Jarai kotheak; Umpai te; Bo Luang tēi; Mapā te; Khmus pette; Lamet kח; Central Nicobar mattai; Coastal Nicobar pattai; Teressa Nicobar mattai "earth" (Shafer 1965, 8-10). PAA *taih ?
PA *trAp L "feather". Cf. Khmer slēp "id."
PA *tri "to be high", *tri[i]=k "up[per part]". Cf. PVM *hlinh "up", "to go up"; (Thompson 1976, 1191); PMK *sluoŋ "to be high" (Shorto 1976, 1052); PW *hloŋ "high" (Diffloth 1980, 132); PM *sloong "to be high", "to be tall" (Diffloth 1984, 182).
PA *truu "road". Cf. PM *traŋ "way", "road" (Diffloth 1984, 126); Alak ntuon; Bahnar tron; Boloven thruoŋ; Halang tron; Lavé thruoŋ; Niahôn thruoŋ; Sedang troa; Stieng tron "road" (Shafer 1965, 64). PAA *truoŋ ?
PA *tumAm LL "trunk (of the body)", "waist". Cf. Alak tōm-; Boloven tam; Chrau tōm; Khmer tem; Lavé tōm; Niahôn tam; Phnong tom; Prou tom-; Por -thom; Sûr tom; Stieng tōm; Talaing tam; Amok tam su "tree", "trunk" (Shafer 1965, 14).
PA *unti HL "fire" (< *un-ti ? Cf. PA *rayonti "rainbow"). Cf. Alak uń; Bahnar ń; Boloven hń; Chrau uń,
I assume that the comparisons above probably support my point of view that PA may be distantly related to Austroasiatic languages. This is merely a hypothesis and I would like to avoid any kind of final conclusion at a stage when the comparative study of the Ainu language just began and there is still no complete reconstruction of Proto-Austroasiatic. There are some well-known parallels between PA and Proto-Austronesian (PAN) - PA *ku and PAN *aku "I", PA *apE LH or *apOy LH and PAN *[x]apui "fire". Using my PA reconstruction, I can also several new parallels: PA *day H and PAN *tay "to die" (ma=tay, pa=tay). PA *dE= and PAN *telu "three", PA *tuu= and PAN *duva "two", PA *Etu LL and PAN *idung "nose" (note the correspondences PA *d : PAN *t and PA *t : PAN *d), but I cannot propose any more. Do these parallels demonstrate that PA is also related to PAN? Taking into consideration the "Austric" hypothesis can we say that Ainu is a member of the "Austric" macrofamily? The evidence so far is limited and I would rather delay to the future the answers to all this questions, as well as the final answer about the Ainu origins.

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