LEXICA

Mon at Nong Duu, Lamphun Province

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1. Introduction

Most of the dialects of Mon spoken in Thailand have been investigated, but not the Mon dialect spoken at Nong Duu, Lamphun Province. I had a chance of meeting with Mon people at Nong Duu for a brief period in the summer of 1995 and I had with me a Southeast Asia Wordlist. The purposes of this article are:

1) to present a phonological analysis of the Mon language spoken at Baan Nong Duu (บ้านหนองดู่) Tambol Baan Ruen (ตําบลบ้านเรือน), Amphoe Paa Sang (อำเภอปากช่อง), Lamphun province (จังหวัดลำพูน), and
2) to provide a 281-word vocabulary of the Baan Nong Duu Dialect of Mon

2. Mons in Thailand

The known history of the Mon has been long and important. The language has a written form which is dated to the sixth century. The spoken form has long been investigated by linguists.

Mon settlements can be found in Lower Burma and in central Thailand. There are also small settlements of Mon in the north and in the south of Thailand. Ancestors of the present Mon came into Thailand in several migrations over a long period of time beginning in the 10th century (Sujaritlak et al. 1983:11-16). In Thailand, Mon are settled primarily on the central plains, the largest settlements being in Nonthaburi and Pathumthani, the provinces north of Bangkok. There are also Mon settlements in the outlying areas of Bangkok, i.e., Bangkradi (formerly of

1 The 281-word vocabulary was called the SIL Southeast Asia Wordlist or the Southeast Asia Wordlist for short. This SEA Wordlist was introduced by Dr. David Thomas in 1977 when he first offered the course on “Field Methods in Linguistics” at the Institute of Language and Cultures for Rural Development (known at the time as Southeast Asian Linguistics Program), Mahidol University. Of the 281 words, 100 word were taken from the Swadesh 100-word list, i.e., those that were marked by asterisk (*), 122 words were taken from the Swadesh 200-word list, i.e., those that were marked by equal sign (=) (Samarin, 1967:218-223) and the remaining 59 words were added by Dr. David Thomas. The 59 additional words were words of local relevance.

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Thonburi province), Lat Krabang, etc. The second largest settlements are in the provinces of Rajchaburi, Phetchaburi, Samut Songkhram and Samut Sakhon. Mon can also be found in Lopburi, about 155 kilometres north of Bangkok, along the Phahonyothin Highway. There are also small groups of Mon in the south of Thailand, i.e., Chumphon and Surat Thani provinces. Another small group of Mon is found in isolation in Amphoe San Patong, Chiangmai province and in Amphoe Paa Sang, Lamphun province. These settlements are located on opposite sides of the Mae Ping.

Most of the Mon dialects spoken in these areas of Thailand have been already investigated and were presented mostly as M.A. Theses or Ph.D dissertations,\(^2\) except for the Nong Duu Mon. The Mon dialect spoken at Baan Nong Duu, Lamphun province was investigated but no detailed study was presented.

3. Baan Nong Duu, Lamphun province

3.1 Geographical Location

Baan Nong Duu, Tambol Baan Ruen, Amphoe Paa Sang, Lamphun province is a fairly large community of Mon speakers in the northern part of Thailand. These people are Thai citizens who speak Mon. They were born in Thailand and they are descended from exiles who came from Burma several generations ago. Baan Nong Duu is about 14 kilometres south-west of Amphoe Mueng Lamphun along the Lamphun-Paa Sang Road. The population of Baan Nong Duu before 1980 was 1,318, but now Baan Nong Duu has been divided into two separate villages since 1989, i.e., Baan Nong Duu, Tambol Baan Ruen with a population of 638 and Baan Boo Khao, also of Tambol Baan Ruen with a population of 254. Almost everyone in Boo Khao speaks Mon and Kam Muang. About 40 percent of the Nong Duu population speak Mon, the rest speak Yong, a

\(^{2}\) See:

a. Suja

b. Prayat Kit

c. Piyas Sirijaru

d. Panpot Panthongkh

e. Bauer, Cristi

f. La-or Pancharo

g. Prachern Khon

h. Yowaluk Shatsuksiri

i. Montha Srikum.

j. Wanetee Duangsam

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dialect of Tai Lü in the Tai Language Family). The Mon language studied in this article will be called Nong Duu Mon.

3.2 Phonological Analysis of Mon at Baan Nong Duu

My informants for the language were Mr. Buntha Song-hong-sa, 85 years of age, born at Baan Nong Duu, Amphoe Paa Sang, Lamphun province, and Mr. Bunmee Sri-sathit-tham, 65 years of age, also born at Baan Nong Duu. Both of my informants also know the written form of the Mon language.

3.2.1 Consonants

Nong Duu Mon has 18 initial consonants; consonants preceded by a hyphen (-) can also occur finally.

-\(p\) -\(t\) -\(c\) -\(k\) -\(?\)
-\(b\) -\(d\) -\(s\) -\(h\)
-\(m\) -\(n\) -\(n\) -\(ŋ\)
-\(w\) -\(l\) -\(y\) -\(ŋ\)

Initial clusters

The following clusters occur in Nong Duu Mon:

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
   & h & m & n & w & y & l & r \\
-\(p\) & √ & & & √ & √ & √ & \\
-\(t\) & √ & & & & & & \\
-\(c\) & √ & & & & & & \\
-\(k\) & √ & & & √ & √ & √ & √ \\
-\(h\) & √ & & & √ & & & \\
\end{array}
\]

Examples of initial consonant clusters are:

/\(phac\)/ ‘fear’ /\(haplǜʔ\)/ ‘betel chew’
/\(pròa\)/ ‘rain’ /\(pyɔ̄\)/ ‘want’
/\(thò\)/ ‘gold’ /\(chat\)/ ‘die’
/\(khah\)/ ‘good’ /\(klon\)/ ‘do, work’
/\(krɔ̄p\)/ ‘forest’ /\(kwac\)/ ‘walk’
/\(hloa\)/ ‘wide’ /\(kyɔ̄\)/ ‘wind’
/\(hnam\)/ ‘skin’ /\(hmòt\)/ ‘eyes’

3.2.2 Vowels

There are 9 vowel phonemes in Nong Duu Mon as follows:

i u
e ɔ o
ɛ a ɛ
ɑ
Diphthongs are analysed as sequences of the above phonemes: /ea, ua, oa, ao, ae/

Mon is a register language; every vowel must be assigned to one of the two registers, tense or 1st register and lax or 2nd register. To the vowel inventory above must be added a phoneme of register /~/ . The vowels /e, æ, a, ao, ae/ have no lax counterparts. The tense vowels will be unmarked and the lax ones will be marked with a grave accent ~/~, resulting in the following vowel nuclei:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple vowels</th>
<th>Diphthongs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i, ī</td>
<td>u, ū</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e, è</td>
<td>a, ā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æ, Æ</td>
<td>o, ò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>œ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>æ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ea, èa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>oa, ða</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ao</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some examples of minimal contrast involving register from 281 words are:

/ˈpaŋ/ [pɔŋ] ‘cooked rice’ ≠ /ˈpaŋ/ [pɔŋ] ‘abdomen’
/ˈsaŋ/ [sɔŋ] ‘areca’ ≠ /ˈsaŋ/ [sɔŋ] ‘animal’
/ˈteŋ/ [tɔŋ] ‘that’ ≠ /ˈteŋ/ [tɔŋ] ‘younger sibling’
/ˈsaŋ-ŋeak/ [saŋ-ŋeak] ‘green’ ≠ /ŋeak/ [ŋak] ‘tooth’

3.2.3 Syllable structure

The phonological words of Nong Duu Mon may consist of a single stressed syllable of the structure /C(C)V(V)(C)/ or of this single stressed syllable preceded by an unstressed presyllable of the structure /C V-/. In the presyllable, the vowel is usually /a/ (This /a/ can vary between [a] and [ə]). Thus the minimal syllabic unit of Nong Duu Mon can be rendered as /CV/ and the whole syllable structure can be stated as (CV)(C)V(V)(C).

4. Southeast Asia Wordlist

There are some problems in using the Southeast Asia Wordlist to elicit the Nong Duu Mon, i.e., generic vs. specific terms, semantic ambiguity, lack of cultural relevance, repetitiveness, etc, but no specific entries were excluded in this study. However, the problems are not that serious. Based on the corpus of 281 words, the phonological system of Nong Duu Mon can be rendered as above. The following is the SEA Wordlist of 281 vocabulary items with the Mon dialect of Nong Duu in phonemic transcription:

---

= 1. sky takah
* 2. cloud mòt-pràa
* 3. sun taŋoa
* 4. moon kitaoŋ
* 5. star hnaŋ
= 6. wind kya
* 7. rain pràa
8. rainbow kanèan-søn-dac
= 9. mist katap
* 10. night hatóm
= 11. day taŋoa
= 12. year hnam
= 13. hail mea-pràa
= 14. snow
= 15. freeze dac
* 16. water dac
= 17. river bi
= 18. lake kama
= 19. sea
* 20. earth, soil tæe?
* 21. stone hmoŋ
* 22. sand hatæe?
23. mud haram
= 24. dust halòk
25. gold thò
26. silver søn
* 27. mountain tâ
* 28. tree chr̲ŋ
= 29. forest khr̲ŋ
* 30. leaf hlaŋ?
* 31. bark kanok
= 32. flower kao
* 33. root râh-chuŋ?
= 34. fruit sòt-chuŋ?
* 35. seed mèə?
* 36. grass choa
= 37. stick panaŋ-chuŋ?
38. banana pràt
39. rattan bo
40. areca sòt
41. papaya kò?-cî
42. coconut sòt-prèa
* 43. bird hacem
= 44. wing hnean
* 45. feather sok
46. fly po
* 47. egg hamae
* 48. tail hataŋ?
= 49. claw hñep
* 50. horn krèañ
= 51. animal sòt
* 52. dog klæ
53. pig kloc
54. chicken caŋ
55. duck tèa
* 56. fish kaŋ?
= 57. snake sùm
58. rat næe?
59. rabbit peataj (T)
60. monkey hnae
61. deer bâŋ
62. tiger klaŋ?
63. buffalo preañ
64. cow klàa
65. elephant con
66. elephant tusk krèañ-con
= 67. worm kayaoŋ
68. scorpion nèa-can
69. spider nèa-phant
* 70. louse coa
71. mosquito hamic
* 72. a fly rùy
* 73. nose nea-muh
* 74. eye hmoŋ?
* 75. ear kato
* 76. head dop
* 77. mouth pâŋ
* 78. tooth ñēak
* 79. tongue hatac
* 80. hair sok
* 81. neck kò?
* 82. shoulder hnah
* 83. chest sóh
* 84. back cù-cah
* 85. heart kon-cat
* 86. abdomen pën
= 87. intestines kroc
88. liver məakrèh
* 89. hand toa
90. palm kata-toa
* 91. nail hənep
= 92. leg tì
* 93. foot càṉŋ
* 94. knee tən-bəŋ
95. thigh tì
96. calf
* 97. blood chim
* 98. bone cùt
* 99. skin hnam
* 100. flesh chūn = 150. cut kut
* 101. fat kloŋ = 151. stab kapak
= 102. live hayôm = 152. dig khay
* 103. die chut = 153. scratch kwât
= 104. sick hmôn = 154. squeeze wòt
* 105. breathe yâm = 155. man kroah
* 106. hear hmôn = 156. woman prèa
* 107. see chè = 157. person hnîh
* 108. speak ham = 158. father ?apa
= 109. laugh krâŋ = 159. mother mè
110. weep kroŋ = 160. child kon
= 111. suck sôt = 161. husband kroah
= 112. spit choh = 162. wife prèa
113. blow hakôh = 163. (older) brother kào
* 114. bite kit = 164. (older) sister boa
* 115. eat ceaʔ = 165. younger- tèʔ
* 116. drink sauŋ = 166. name yeamùʔ
117. drunk habu = 167. I (familiar) ?oа
= 118. vomit haʔʔong = 168. you (sg.) nèah
= 119. smell chøy/kə = 169. he nèah
= 120. think chôp = 170. we (incl.) roaʔapoy
* 121. know tem = 171. you (pl.) roa nèah
= 122. count rəh = 172. they roa nèah
* 123. fear phac = 173. paddy rice saʔ?
124. want piyə = 174. pounded rice hào
* 125. sleep toc = 175. cooked rice poŋ
* 126. lie toc = 176. corn sakôn
* 127. stand hatao = 177. salt bə
* 128. sit hacôʔ = 178. red pepper karâc-
* 129. walk kwac = kamâh
* 130. come klôn = 179. betel chew haplûʔ?
131. enter lûp = 180. pestle riʔ-þâk
132. return kaleân = 181. mortar bûk
= 133. turn che = 182. to cook dun
* 134. swim bəŋ = 183. firewood ?oh
* 135. float hi = 184. fire kamot
= 136. flow fo = 185. burn caŋ
* 137. push harôh = 186. ashes katôn
* 138. pull hacèak = 187. smoke yeâk
* 139. throw kloŋ = 188. road, path kloŋ
= 140. fall, drop katôm-cih = 189. house haeʔ?
* 141. give ka = 190. roof kamâe
= 142. take ket nèaŋ = 191. cord cûk
= 143. wash krâŋ = 192. sew çoŋ
= 144. launder kapak = 193. clothing kalâʔ?
= 145. split halèak = 194. loincloth, kabae
= 146. tie tèak = sarong
= 147. wipe cêt = 195. work klon
= 148. rub taoʔ = 196. play wûn
= 149. hit tak
= 198. dance  lòh
  = 199. drum  kapôn
  200. gong  moŋ (T)
  = 201. buy  ràn
  202. crossbow  tanpət
  203. arrow  kon-noŋ
  = 204. spear  nùh
  = 205. shoot  pān
  = 206. hunt
  * 207. kill  hact
  = 208. fight
  * 209. one  mōŋ
  * 210. two  bā
  = 211. three  pāeʔ
  = 212. four  pān
  = 213. five  measam
  214. six  taro
  = 215. seven  haphəh
  = 216. eight  hacam
  217. nine  hacit
  = 218. ten  cəh
  = 219. twenty  ba-cəh
  = 220. hundred  klōm
  * 221. all  sam paʔat
  * 222. many  klâŋ
  = 223. some
  = 224. few  ?on
  * 225. big  hənk
  * 226. small  dət
  * 227. long  klūŋ
  227a. short (length)  klęʔ
  228. tall  hləŋ
  = 229. short (height)  klęʔ
  * 230. round  hədəm
  = 231. smooth  tah
  = 232. thick  təm
  = 233. thin  kræe
  = 234. wide  hloa
  = 235. narrow  ?ep, dən
  * 236. black  kəcək
  * 237. red  taket
  * 238. white  pù
  * 239. green  sac-təeak

* 240. yellow  sac-mic
  * 241. dry  kəhr
  = 242. wet  dəæk
  = 243. rotten  saʔuy
  = 244. swell  kùh
  * 245. full  pəŋ
  = 246. dirty  poŋ
  = 247. sharp  keak
  = 248. dull  bam
  * 249. new  kaməeʔ
  * 250. hot  kətao
  * 251. cold  bəh
  = 252. heavy  sänə
  = 253. straight  thə̀
  = 254. right  pəŋ
  * 255. good  khəh
  = 256. bad  həreʔ
  = 257. old-aged  kranə
  = 258. far  həda
  = 259. near  kəpəŋ
  = 260. rightside  pəŋ
  = 261. leftside  pay
  262. same  təp
  = 263. different  huiʔ-təŋ
  = 264. here  ?ənoʔ
  = 265. there  ?aŋtəʔ
  * 266. this  nəʔ
  * 267. that  teʔ
  = 268. when?  cha-ləʔ
  = 269. where?  ?ələ
  * 270. who?  yeaʔ-kəoə̯
  * 271. what?  ?əməʔ
  = 272. and  kə
  = 273. with  məʔ-caʔ
  = 274. at  hədaʔ
  = 275. because  həmən
  = 276. how  sac-lə
  = 277. if  yəʔ-raʔ
  = 278. in  ʔədəʔ
  * 279. not  huʔ
  280. (not) yet  nem
  281. already  təe-ra
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Received: 28 May 1996

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