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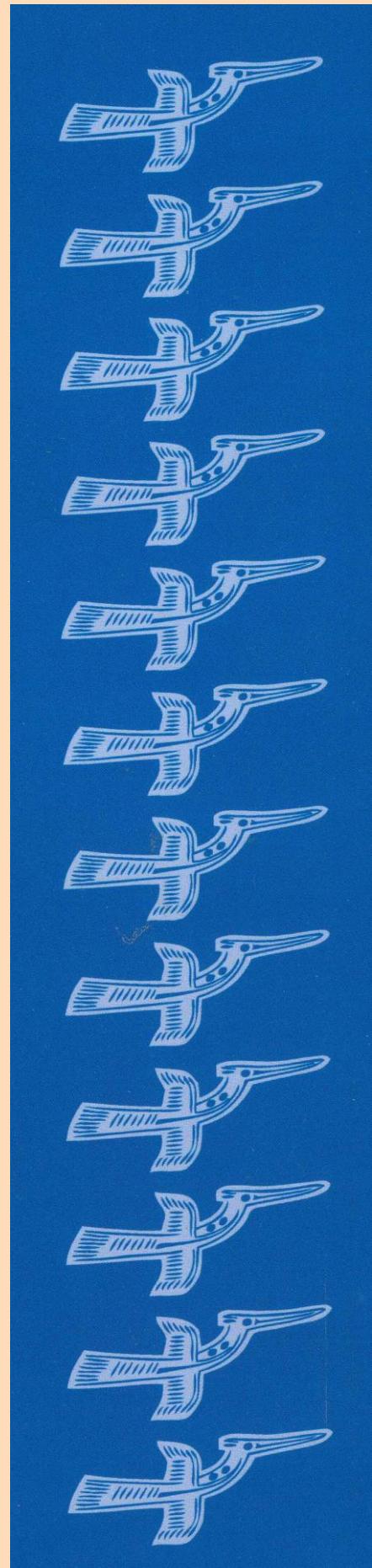
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Palaungic Linguistic Bibliography with Selected Annotations

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Foreword

This bibliography is an expansion of the earlier work by Darren C. Gordon (2013). It includes a brief description of Palaungic linguistic features and a discussion of classification. References are first organized by linguistic domain, then historically by author. Many unpublished Palaungic data, including many by the late Dr. Paulette Hopple, are referenced, including when possible a location to gain access to them. The paper concludes with a Palaungic language index. Where appropriate, some items have been included under more than one linguistic domain. Some difficult to locate items have been identified as being available at the David Thomas library (DTL), Linguistics Institute, Payap University (<http://msealing.info/dt-library/>). Whereas some conference presentations are included, this is by no means an exhaustive listing.

Keywords: Austroasiatic, Mon-Khmer, Palaungic, bibliography

Abbreviations

DTL – David Thomas library, Linguistics Institute, Payap University

ed – editor

eds – editors

et al – and other persons

JSTOR – Journal Storage, a digital library

M.A. Master of Arts

ms – manuscript

n.d. – no date

s.l. – sine loco (without a publication location)

s.n. – sine nomine (without a publisher name)

vol. – volume

1. Introduction

This project began as research and compilation of published materials concerning Palaungic languages while Darren Gordon was teaching at Payap University, Chiang Mai in 2006. This research was originally published as a working paper (Research Project #206) at Payap University, July 2006. Much of the research was conducted at Payap University, Chiang Mai University, David Thomas Library in Bangkok, online, and through colleagues working with or with knowledge of Palaungic languages and potential resources. Since that time it has been revised minimally, both in 2007 and in 2009. However, both the original working paper and the subsequent revisions were not widely available to researchers working with Palaungic languages. In order to make this bibliography of Palaungic languages more accessible for use as well as amendable to the contributions from a great many others, the bibliography was revised again in 2013 and published in [Mon-Khmer Studies 42](#). Further efforts to update and expand this bibliography came in 2013 and 2014 as Nate Cheeseman built on Gordon's existing work by adding a Palaungic language index. New Palaungic references were listed, hyperlinks to articles were added, and selected annotations were inserted into this work. The 2015 edition of the bibliography is broken up into various sections, so Palaungic dictionaries, grammars, and phonological references are all grouped together by domain.

In addition to making this research more accessible, Darren Gordon had two other primary reasons for this research. First, this project is aimed at benefiting those who work among Palaungic peoples; a benefit in both knowing what materials are available as well as identifying what areas of research may still be lacking. It is hoped that the bibliographic information presented will become a helpful resource for those who are working with or have an interest in Palaungic languages. Secondly, this project is intended to highlight, as others have, the need for further exploration as to the scope of the Palaungic language family. There has been increasing work in this regard (Sidwell 2009, 2011, 2015), but significant questions remain.

The bibliographic compilation presented here is an attempt to capture published sources of language-related work relevant to Palaungic languages. Many times this means that they are the primary focus of the research, but other times the focus on Palaungic languages within the research is secondary, though considered to be of interest and relevance to the Palaungic researcher. Besides linguistic research, some cultural studies are also included, especially when it seems that there is relevant language embedded within the cultural research presented (e.g. Sprenger regarding Lamet) Additionally, most of the sources collected have come from English, with only a few from French, German, Thai, Lao, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Japanese. It is hoped that even with this published bibliography that more non-English sources could be offered as suitable for future revisions to this work.

2. Features and classification of Palaungic languages

Palaungic languages comprise one branch of the Austroasiatic language family found interspersed throughout Mainland Southeast Asia as depicted in figure 1. The Palaungic languages are found in China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos. Sidwell (2015) suggests a Palaungic homeland in the area of modern-day Phongsali and Oudomxay in Laos, near the Mekong river. Most are spoken by small communities, and only a few, such as Wa and Palaung, have established orthographies. There are numerous phonological studies, including: Buakaw 2012 on Palaung, Charoenma 1980 on Lamet and Lua, Conver 1999 on Lamet, Dissawarotham 1986 on Plang, Hall 2013 on Muak Sa-aak, Harper 2009 on Plang, Mitani 1965a and 1976 on Khamet, 1972a and 1978b on Lawa, Ratanakul and Lakhana 1985 on Lawa, Watkins 2002 on Wa, and Phung 2013 on Meung Yum. Grammatical descriptions are less plentiful, but include: Lewis 2008 on Plang, Seng Mai 2012 on Wa, Mak 2012 on Golden Palaung, Janzen 1972 on Pale Palaung, Blok 2013 on Lawa, Chen, Wan and Lai 1986 on De'ang, Gaiphong 2004 on Plang, and Mitani 1966 on Lawa. However, most Palaungic languages have not yet been adequately studied.



Figure 1: Palaungic languages (in yellow) are located in northern Thailand, Myanmar, southern China and Laos. Source: Adapted from Encyclopedia Britannica (1997), fair use for research purposes.

Like most Austroasiatic languages, the Palaungic languages are isolating and have little morphology, limited to a few derivational affixes. Most words are mono- and sesquisyllabic, with compounding being common.

A characteristic Palaungic feature is the merger of proto-Mon Khmer initial *h and *s to /h/, except for the Angkuic subgroup where it merged to /s/ (Diffloth 1977a, Svantesson 1988). Furthermore, the vowel systems of Palaungic languages tend to be less complex than those of some other branches of Austroasiatic (Diffloth 1991). Instead, Palaungic displays a variety of reflexes of the original initial consonant voicing contrast, with some languages having developed voice quality distinctions, others retaining the initial voicing contrast, and Angkuic having replaced initial voicing contrast with an aspiration contrast (Diffloth 1991). Although not widespread among the Austroasiatic languages, some Palaungic languages developed lexical tone. However, tonogenesis appears to have come about through a variety of mechanisms, not only former voicing contrast of initials (Svantesson 1989, Hall 2014).

The identification of the related languages known as Palaungic find their beginning with Schmidt (1904, 1906). His identification listed four language clusters: Palaung, Wa, Riang, and Danaw. Later, Sebeok (1942) identified these languages as Salowen Basin, totaling five language clusters, adding Khamûk (or Khmu) and Le-met, yet leaving out Danaw. The inclusion of Lamet is later affirmed by Diffloth (1977a) and Mitani (1978a) and is undoubtedly the result of Izikowitz's anthropological work among the Lamet, though Sebeok neglects to identify his work in his bibliography. A decade later, Shafer (1952) also presents Palaungic as comprising 5 language clusters. His list is identical to Schmidt, with the inclusion of Angkou (after Palaung) and moving Riang before Palaung (ostensibly to show a greater relationship between them). Pinnow (1959) increases the Palaungic language clusters to six with the only difference being the inclusion of Lawa.

A growth of interest in Palaungic languages in the 1960s and 1970s resulted in more classifications being offered for these languages (Thomas 1964, Thomas 1969, Thomas and Headly 1970, Thomas 1973a, Diffloth 1974, Ferlus 1974a, Diffloth 1977a, Mitani 1978a). Much of this work was conducted using a lexicostatistical methodology, as historical reconstruction was rather underdeveloped. Perhaps the most important paper of this period was Diffloth (1977a), which was then followed by an equally significant monograph length study three years later (1980). The former presents a classification of Palaungic languages based on select phonological developments, while the latter reconstructs the lexicon and phonology of the Waic sub-branch of Palaungic languages.

Diffloth's (1977a) classification (see Figure 2) is a strongly nested tree with the highest branch separating Danaw from the rest of the branch, in this respect repeated by Sidwell (2011) also based upon historical phonology. Later, for reasons that are not explained, Diffloth (1982) revised back his classification, demoting Danaw to a sister of Palaung-Riang, and recapitulating Mitani's (1978a) division of Palaungic into Eastern and Western sub-branches (see Figure 3).¹

¹ The author wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Paul Sidwell in the understanding and writing of this section, analysing the research of this era as it pertains to the development of Palaungic classification.

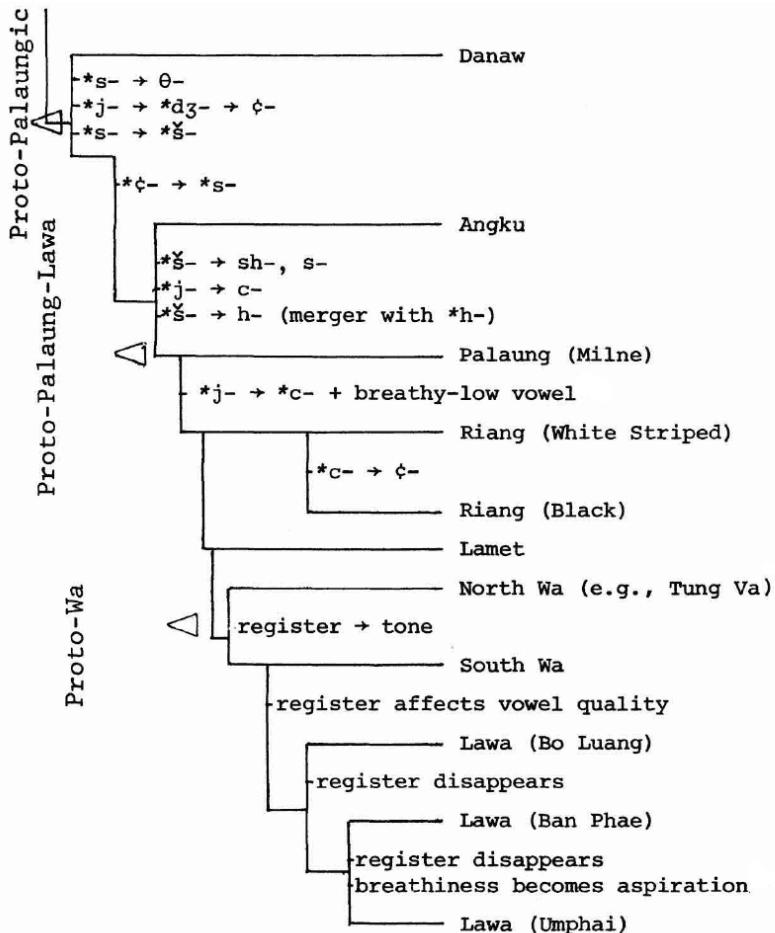


Figure 2: Palaungic classification of Diffloth (1977a) with historical phonological justifications.

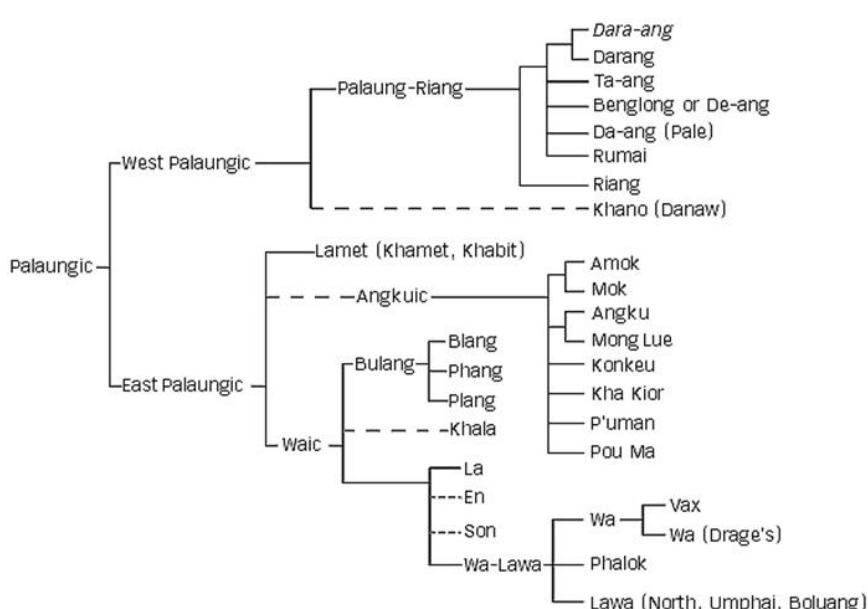


Figure 3: Palaungic classification of Diffloth (1982) with minor modification by Kasisopa (2003), reproduced from Deepadung (2009).

In order to emphasize the difficulty that yet remains among researchers attempting to delineate and classify Palaungic languages, there are two other recent classifications given for comparison in figures 4 and 5.

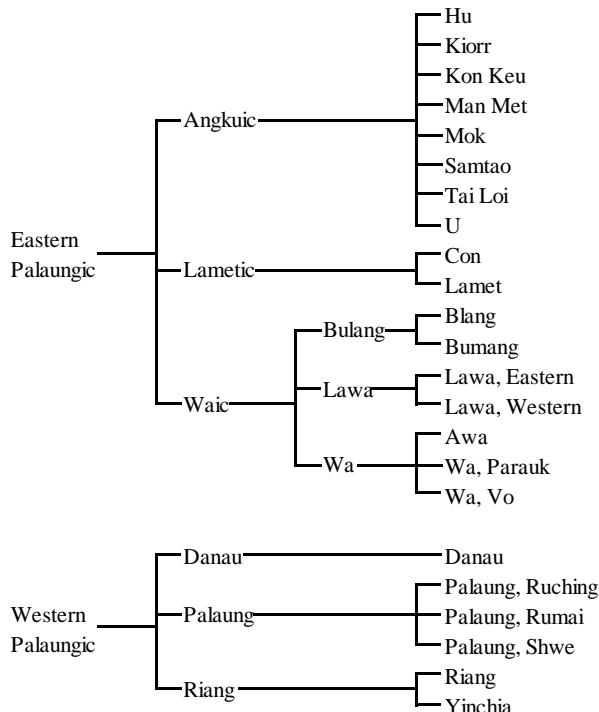


Figure 4: Palaungic Classification based on Palaungic languages listed in Lewis, Simons, and Fennig (2013).

As can be seen from the classifications presented by Sidwell (2011) and Lewis, Simons, and Fennig (2013), divergent issues such as whether Angkuic should be considered Eastern or Western Palaungic, and the position of Danaw, reveal a significant need for continued comparative research on the Palaungic languages. This is further revealed in the differences of Palaungic subgroupings as found in the Khasi-Palaungic relationship suggested by Sidwell (2011). Although Palaungic has previously been posited to be most closely related to Khmuic within the Austroasiatic family tree due to the many isoglosses, Sidwell (2015) places it with Khasi instead, on the basis of basic vocabulary isoglosses, where Palaungic aligns more closely with Khasi than with Khmuic. Some writers have also grouped Mangic/Pakanic languages with Palaungic; Sidwell however finds no convincing evidence (2015). In Jenny and Sidwell (2015) Mangic languages are split off into a distinct branch of Austroasiatic, based on statistics.

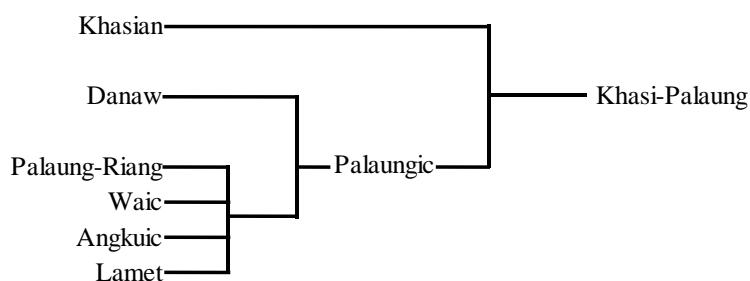


Figure 5: Khasi-Palaung relationship as proposed by Sidwell (2011).

Palaungic	
Danaw	
Palaung-Riang	
Palaung (Dara'ang, Da'ang, Palay, etc.)	
Rumai	
Riang (Riang-Lang, Rieng-Sak etc.)	
East-Palaungic	
Waic	
Wa (Praok, Awa, Vo etc.)	
Lawa (Lawa Bo Luang, Lavua/Luwa etc.)	
Bulang (Bulang, Plang/Samtao, Kawa, Kontoi etc.)	
Angkuic	
U, Hu, ManMet/Kemie, Muak/Mok, TaiLoi etc.	
Lametic	
Lameet, Con, Lua/Khamet	
? Bit-Khang	
KhaBit, Buxing, QuangLam, Khang/Khao/MangU', Bumang	

Figure 6: Provisional Palaungic classification as proposed by Sidwell (2015:12).

The incongruity of both the internal and structural classification of Palaungic languages makes the work of bibliographical compilation more complicated. Since, even up to the present, there still remains a variance as to which languages are identified and included in the Palaungic branch; one must still decide which languages will be considered for inclusion within the bibliography. As a guide, the most recent Palaungic classifications, although divergent, present a fairly reasonable framework for these decisions. Other languages that are only singularly mentioned by one researcher as Palaungic have not been considered (as an example, Schliesinger (2003) identifies Keu (Akeu) as Palaungic whereas most other researchers identify this language as Tibeto-Burman (i.e. Chazée 1999)). In other cases, there are languages, such as Bid (Phsin, Bit, or Kha Bit), that are listed by some researchers as Palaungic (Schliesinger 2003, Proschansky 1996, Ferlus 1996) and omitted by others (Parkin 1991). Mangic or Pakanic languages (Mang, Bugan, and Paliu) are not included in this bibliography based on Jenny and Sidwell (2015). The Bit-Khang group (Khang and Bit or Khabit) have been included, having been reclassified as Palaungic by Sidwell (2014a).

3. Concluding Remarks

Although it is hoped that this project is comprehensive, it is assumed that there will inevitably be some valuable additions and corrections needed in coming years. In light of this, this Palaungic bibliographic compilation should be viewed as a living document that will continually be amended and updated. With all the efforts in putting this bibliography together, it is a reminder that there is much left to be learned about Palaungic languages. Hopefully, above all, this project will support and encourage interest and community-centered research among Palaungic peoples.

4. Palaungic references by domain

References are organized by linguistic domains as follows:

- 4.1 General, Comparative, and Historical Linguisticspage vii.
- 4.2 Grammar and Discourse....page xvii.
- 4.3 Phonetics and Phonology....page xix.
- 4.4 Dictionaries and Word lists....page xxiv.
- 4.5 Sociolinguistics (includes language planning, survey, ethnolinguistics.) page xxix.
- 4.6 Anthropology....page xxxii.
- 4.7 Vernacular Publications and Christian Resources....page xlvi.
- 4.8 Language Learning Materials and Literacy Materials (includes orthography)....page xlvi.

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- . n.d. *Wa-English dictionary*. s.l.: s.n.

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Monolingual Wa picture dictionary, and short stories. Copy available at the Payap University Northern Training Center library.
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- . 2013. *The New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in the Ruching Palaung language*. Glendora, CA: Christian Far East Ministry.
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4.8 Language Learning Materials and Literacy Materials (includes orthography)

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5. Palaungic languages Index

Language names are hyperlinked to the Ethnologue.

Language Name	EGIDS	ISO Code	Remarks
Angku			Adams (1989).
Avala			Hsiu (2015)
Awa	6b	vwa	Awa are the Wa in China.
Bit	6b	bgk	Classification has been debated. Svantesson says Bit is Palaungic, Sidwell (2014a) agrees. Alternate name Khabit.
Blang	6a	blr	Called Plang in Myanmar. Alternate name K’ala.
Bumang	6a	bvp	
Con	6a	cno	
Danau	6b	dnu	
En, Son, and Wa of Kengtung (Scott)			Referenced in Parkin (1991). Also Scott (1900), and Diffloth (1980). En and Wa of Kengtung may be related.
Hu	6b	huo	Kon Keu and Hu should probably be merged into one iso code.
Kháng	8a	kjm	Kháng classification is debated. Paul Sidwell (2014a) reclassifies it as Palaungic.

KemDègne			Referenced in Adams (1989).
<u>Kemiehua</u>	6a	kfj	Classification within Palaungic has been debated.
Kienka			Referenced in Adams (1989).
<u>Kiorr</u> (Chon or Kha Doy)	6a	xko	
<u>Kon Keu</u>	6a	kkn	Kon Keu and Hu should probably be merged into one iso code.
<u>Kuanhua</u>	6a	xnh	Classification within Palaungic has been debated.
La			Referenced in Parkin (1991). Identified by Davies (1909).
<u>Lamet</u>	6a	lbn	
<u>Lawa, Eastern</u>	6a	lwl	Lawa has been heavily researched.
<u>Lawa, Western</u>	5	lcp	Lawa has been heavily researched.
<u>Man Met</u>	6a	mml	
<u>Mok</u>	7	mqt	EGIDS number is more like 9b according to Diffloth. Diffloth is the expert on this language and location.
Meung Yum			Myint Myint Phyu (2013).
<u>Palaung, Ruching</u>	6a	pce	Multiple Palaung languages may exist.
<u>Palaung, Rumai</u>	6a	rbb	Multiple Palaung languages may exist.
<u>Palaung, Shwe</u>	6a	pll	Multiple Palaung languages may exist.
<u>Phong-Kniang</u>	6a	pxn	Classification has been debated.
<u>Puoc</u>	6a	puo	Classification has been debated.
Quang Lam			Nguyễn Văn Huy (1975).
<u>Riang</u>	6b	ril	There is another language in India called Riang, which is unrelated.
<u>Samtao</u>	6a	stu	Many unknowns regarding this language; see Ethnologue entry for more details.
Savaiq			Myint Myint Phyu (2013).
<u>Tai Loi</u>	6a	tlq	May include more than one language.
<u>U</u>	7	uuu	Also known as P'uman or Puman.
Va, Northern			Hsiu (2015)
Va, Southern			Hsiu (2015)
Wa, (Drage)			According to Diffloth (1980), this variety of Wa is “spoken in the north-western part of Wa territory”.
<u>Wa, Parauk</u>	2	prk	Wa, Parauk is a large cluster of dialects many of which are mutually unintelligible.
<u>Wa, Vo</u>	5	wbm	Wa, Vo speakers live in China.
<u>Yinchia</u>	6b	yin	