

Austro-Tai revisited

Weera Ostapirat
Mahidol University

In this talk, I revisit the Austro-Tai hypotheses in its narrow sense and examine the linguistic connection between Kra-Dai and Austronesian in more details than earlier presented (Ostapirat 2005). Assuming that the hypothesis is valid, I discuss whether Kra-Dai is a sister language to Austronesian or a branch of Austronesian closer to Malayo-Polynesian (per Sagart 2004). From phonological point of view, Kra-Dai appears to show some features that cannot be explained from the currently established Proto-Austronesian inventories. The nature of the relationship between Kra-Dai, Austronesian and Chinese in the Sino-Tibetan-Austronesian hypotheses (Sagart 2005) will be reviewed.