

Proto-Karen (*k-rjaŋ^ʰ) Fauna

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A wordlist consisting of 2,000 items with English and Thai glosses divided into 21 sections based on semantic fields was devised. The data on the six Karenic languages spoken in Thailand, i.e. Pa-O (two varieties), Kayan, Kayah, Kayaw, Pwo (two varieties) and Sgaw (two varieties) was collected by the author at many research sites in Thailand from January 2009 – January 2012, sponsored by the Thailand Research Fund (TRF). The cognate words found in the Bwe Karen Dictionary (Henderson, 1997) were added and other available publications were also consulted (e.g. Jones, 1961; Burling, 1969; Shintani, 2003; Manson, 2009, etc.).

To analyse the patterns of sound correspondence, the comparative method was applied with an awareness of areal linguistic features due to language contact. A Proto-Karen (*k-rjaŋ^ʰ) phonology and lexicon were reconstructed. With regard to the Proto-Karen phonology, the relationship between the onsets and tones is rather straightforward, so it is not difficult to reconstruct, unlike the rhymes which, in some cases, are problematic resulting from vowel harmony and the loss of final consonants.

In this paper, the reconstructed forms of Proto-Karen and modern Karen animals (about 60 species) will be presented. An appendix with the Proto-Karen tones, onsets and rhymes will be provided.

Examples of Proto-Karen (*k-rjaŋ^A) Fauna

PK	N. Pa-O	S. Pa-O	Kayan	Kayah	Bwe	Kayaw	N. Pwo	S. Pwo	N. Sgaw	S. Sgaw	Gloss
*jow ^B	ju ⁵³ (B3)	ju ⁵⁵ (B3)	ju ¹¹ (B)	jo ¹¹ (B)	ju ¹¹ (D3)	ju ¹¹ (B)	jou ¹¹ (B3)	jou ³³ (B3)	ji ¹¹ (B3)	ji ³¹ (B3)	‘rat, rodent’
*jow ^B <u>wi</u> ^A	~wi ³³ (A3)	~wi ⁵³ (A3)	-	~wi ¹¹ (A3)	~wi ³³ (A3)	~wi ³³ (A3)	~wei ⁵⁵ (A2-3)	~wei ³¹ (A2-3)	~wi ³³ (A)	~wi ³³ (A3)	‘mole’
*jow ^B <u>khan</u> ^A	~khan ³¹ (A1-2)	~khan ³¹ (A1-2)	~khan ⁵³ (A1-2)	-	~khe ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	~kħ ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	~kħ ³⁵ (A1)	~kħ ⁵³ (A1)	~kħ ³³ (A)	~kħ ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	‘bamboo rat’
*khwi ^B	kwi ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	kwi ³³ (B1-2)	khwi ¹¹ (B)	khwi ¹¹ (B)	khwi ³³ (B)	khi ¹¹ (B)	khwi ³³ (B1-2)	khwi ³³ (B1-2)	khwi ^{31~} (B1-2)	khwi ^{45'} (B1-2)	‘chameleon’
*blɛ ^{2D}	plɛ ²⁴⁵ (D3)	plɛ ²⁴⁵ (D3)	plɛ ²²¹ (D3)	pla ³³ (D3)	bli ¹¹ (D3)	ple ³³ (D)	ple ²²¹ (D3)	phle ²⁴⁵ (D3)	phlɛ ²²¹ (D3)	plɛ ¹¹ (D3)	‘skink’
* [?] de ^B	de ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	de ³³ (B1-2)	dai ¹¹ (B)	di ¹¹ (B)	di ³³ (B)	di ¹¹ (B)	di ³³ (B1-2)	di ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	de ^{31~} (B1-2)	de ^{45'} (B1-2)	‘frog’
* [?] de ^B <u>sow</u> ^B	~su ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	~su ³³ (B1-2)	~θu ¹¹ (B)	~so ¹¹ (B)	~θu ³³ (B)	~su ¹¹ (B)	~sou ³³ (B1-2)	~sou ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	~si ^{31~} (B1-2)	~si ^{45'} (B1-2)	‘toad’
*row ^B	ru ⁵³ (B3)	ru ⁵⁵ (B3)	rəu ¹¹ (B)	ro ¹¹ (B)	Ru ³³ (B)	ru ¹¹ (B)	you ¹¹ (B3)	you ³³ (B3)	yi ¹¹ (B3)	yi ³¹ (B3)	‘snake’
*tham ^A	tham ³¹ (A1-2)	tham ³¹ (A1-2)	thaŋ ⁵³ (A1-2)	the ³³ (A1-2)	the ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	tho ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	-	tho ⁵³ (A1)	-	-	‘bear’
*tho ^B	-	-	thau ¹¹ (B)	thu ¹¹ (B)	tho ³³ (B)	thu ¹¹ (B)	thu ³³ (B1-2)	thu ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	tho ^{31~} (B1-2)	thu ^{45'} (B1-2)	‘bird’
*tho ^B <u>lwi</u> ^B	~lwi ⁵³ (B3)	~lwi ⁵⁵ (B3)	~lwi ¹¹ (B)	~lwi ¹¹ (B)	~lwi ³³ (B)	~li ¹¹ (B)	~lei ¹¹ (B3)	~lwi ³³ (B3)	~lwi ¹¹ (B3)	~lwi ³¹ (B3)	‘dove’
*tho ^B <u>bra</u> ^{2D}	-	-	~pra ²²¹ (D3)	~phre ³³ (D3)	~ba ¹¹ (D3)	~pro ³³ (D)	~ɕja ²²¹ (D3)	ɕha ²⁴⁵ (D3)	~bya ²²¹ (D3)	~pya ¹¹ (D3)	‘peacock’
*lek ^D	le ²⁴⁵ (D3)	lik ⁴⁵ (D3)	li ²²¹ (D3)	la ³³ (D3)	le ¹¹ (D3)	le ³³ (D)	lai ²²¹ (D3)	lai ²⁴⁵ (D3)	li ²²¹ (D3)	lai ¹¹ (D3)	‘hawk’
*chjaN ^A	chja ³¹ (A1-2)	chja ³¹ (A1-2)	chi ⁵³ (A1-2)	cha ³³ (A1-2)	ʃi ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	ɕhi ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	chɛ ³⁵ (A1)	chɔ ⁵³ (A1)	chɔ ³³ (A)	chɔ ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	‘chicken’
*chjaN ^A <u>gra</u> ^B	~sa ⁵³ (B3)	~ɕa ⁵⁵ (B3)	~ca ¹¹ (B)	~khre ¹¹ (B)	-	~ca ¹¹ (B)	~xa ¹¹ (B3)	~xa ³³ (B3)	~xa ¹¹ (B3)	~xa ³¹ (B3)	‘chicken louse, insect’
*roŋ ^B	roŋ ⁵³ (B3)	roŋ ⁵⁵ (B3)	ro ¹¹ (B)	rɔ ¹¹ (B)	-	rə ¹¹ (B)	ɣāu ¹¹ (B3)	ɣōu ³³ (B3)	ɣə ¹¹ (B3)	ɣi ³¹ (B3)	‘weevil’
*hl ² /loŋ ^B	loŋ ⁵⁵ (B3)	loŋ ³³ (B1-2)	lo ¹¹ (B)	lɔ ¹¹ (B)	lo ³³ (B)	lə ¹¹ (B)	lāu ³³ (B1-2)	lōu ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	lə ^{31~} (B1-2)	li ^{45'} (B1-2)	‘maggot’
*t-swa ^{2D}	ta ²²¹ wa ²²¹ (D1-2)	wa ²²¹ (D1-2)	θu ²⁴⁵ (D1-2)	swa ⁵⁵ (D1-2)	-	su ³³ (D)	wa ²²¹ (D3)	wa ²⁴⁵ (D3)	su ²⁴⁵ (D1-2)	sou ²²¹ (D1-2)	‘land leech’
*chwɛ ^B	chwɛ ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	chwɛ ³³ (B1-2)	chwɛ ¹¹ (B)	chwa ¹¹ (B)	ʃwɛ ³³ (B)	chɛ ¹¹ (B)	chwɛ ³³ (B1-2)	chwɛ ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	chwɛ ^{31~} (B1-2)	chwɛ ^{45'} (B1-2)	‘crab’
*khey ^B	ki ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	-	khi ¹¹ (B)	khə ¹¹ (B)	khi ³³ (B)	khi ¹¹ (B)	khei ³³ (B1-2)	khei ⁵⁵ (B1-2)	khi ^{31~} (B1-2)	khi ^{45'} (B1-2)	‘tick’
*dəŋ ^B	thəŋ ⁵³ (B3)	təŋ ⁵⁵ (B3)	tə ¹¹ (B)	tɔ ¹¹ (B)	do ³³ (B)	tə ¹¹ (B)	thã ¹¹ (B3)	thǎ ³³ (B3)	tə ¹¹ (B3)	tə ³¹ (B3)	‘ant’
*khe ^A	ke ³¹ (A1-2)	ke ³¹ (A1-2)	khai ⁵³ (A1-2)	khi ³³ (A1-2)	khi ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	khi ⁵⁵ (A1-2)	khi ³⁵ (A1)	khi ⁵³ (A1)	khe ³³ (A)	-	‘tiger’