A preliminary reconstruction of Proto-Pakanic

Andy Hsiu

November 29, 2016

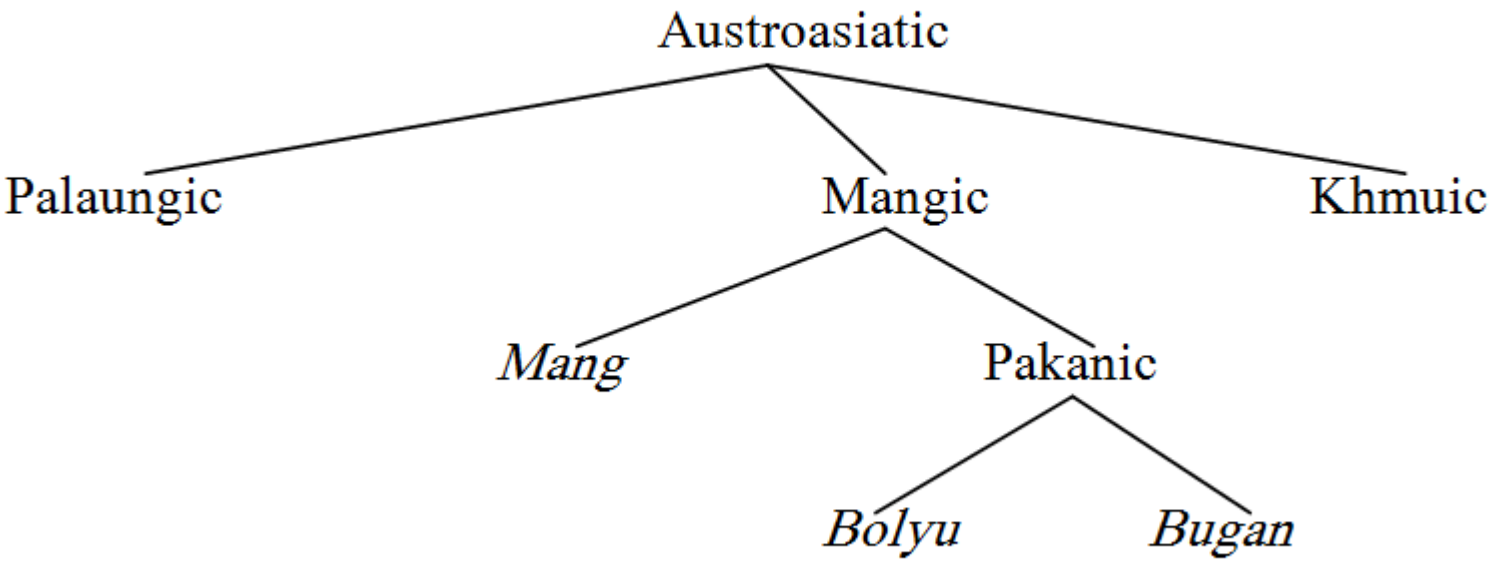
Overview

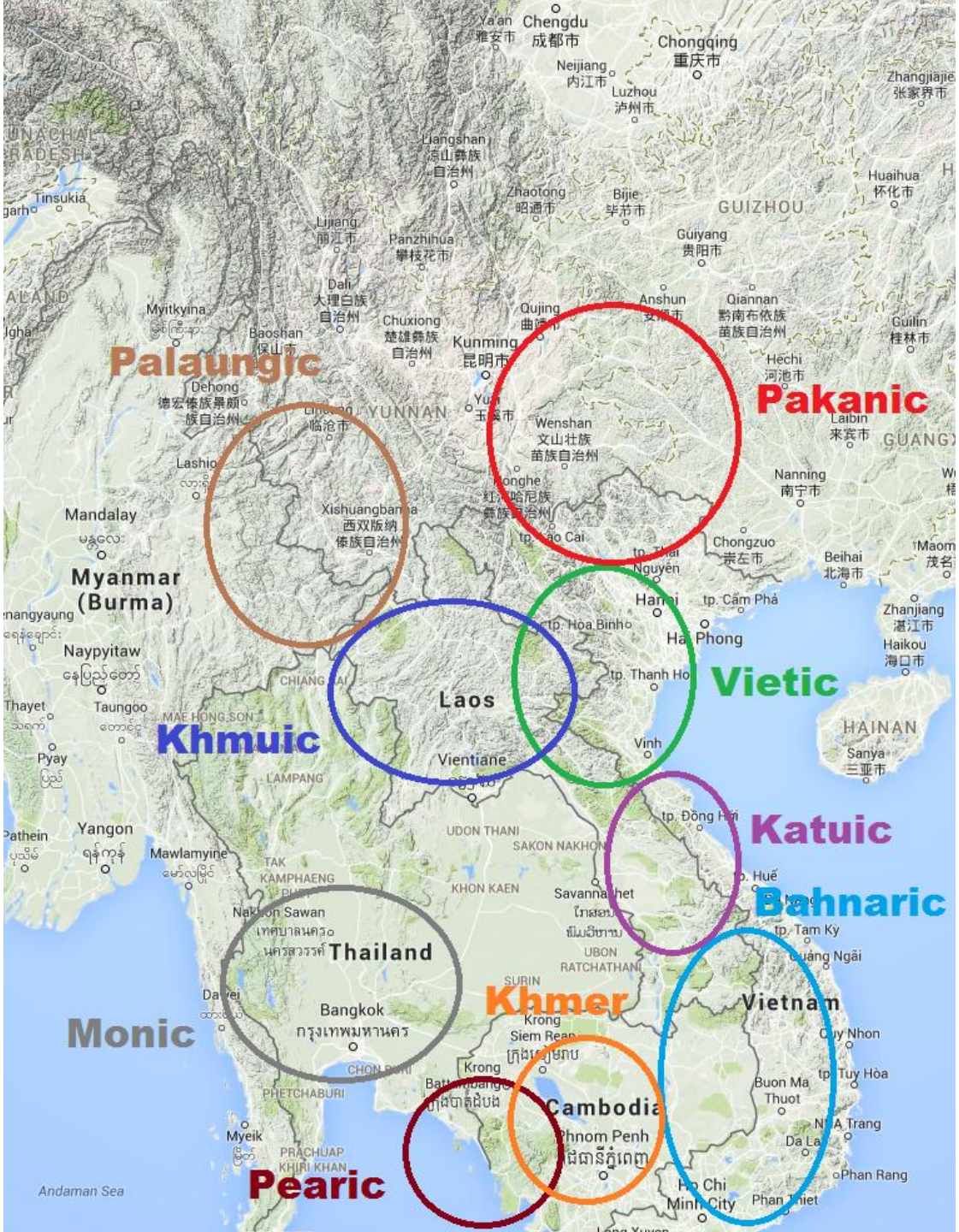
- Goal: To present a preliminary reconstruction of Proto-Pakanic
- 213 reconstructed lexical items total
- 2 languages
  - 1 dialect of Bolyu
  - 2 dialects of Bugan (Nala & Manlong)

Why Pakanic?

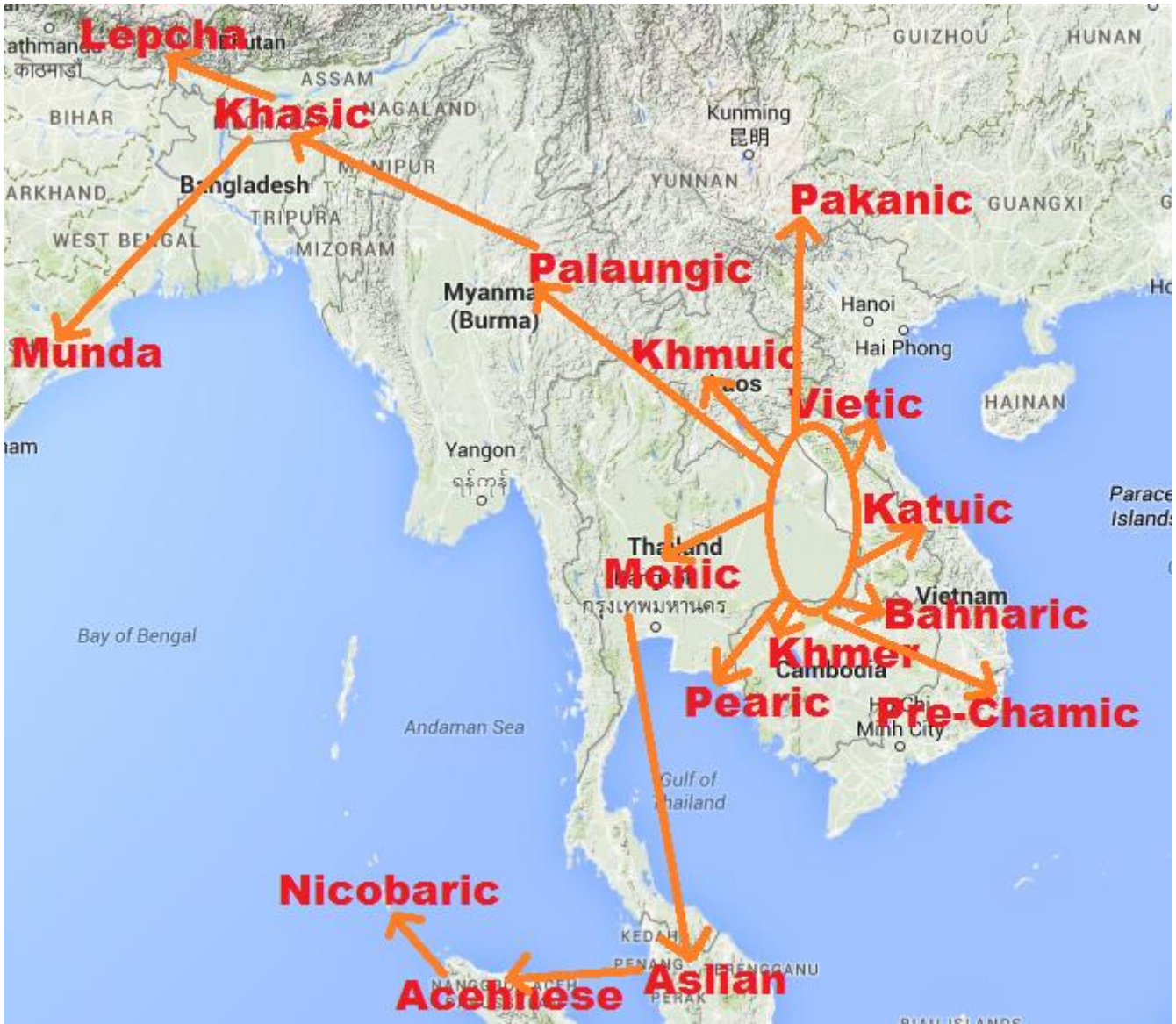
- Austroasiatic languages used to be spoken widely in China, but have now been reduced to a few surviving languages outside western Yunnan.
- No reconstruction attempted yet.

Pakanic classification




Palaungic
Pakanic
Vietic
Khmuic
Katuic
Bahnaric
Monic
Khmer
Pearic
Myanmar (Burma)
Laos
Thailand
Vietnam
Cambodia
Chengdu
Chongqing
Kunming
Mandalay
Naypyitaw
Yangon
Bangkok
Vientiane
Hanoi
Phnom Penh
Ho Chi Minh City
Andaman Sea
YUNNAN
GUIZHOU
HAINAN

Austroasiatic dispersal (Blench & Sidwell 2011)



Locations


Kunming
昆明市
Yuxi
玉溪市
Bolyu
Hechi
河池市
Baise
百色市
China
Honghe
红河哈尼族
彝族自治州
Wenshan
文山壮族
苗族自治州
Bugan
Pu'er
普洱市
tp. Hà Giang
tp. Cao Bằng
Nanning
南宁市
Mang
tp. Lai Châu
tp. Lào Cai
Chongzuo
崇左市
Xishuangbanna
西双版纳
傣族自治州
1A
Vietnam
Qinzhou
钦州市
Lang Sơn
Thái Nguyên
Fangchenggang
防城港市
tp. Điện
Biên Phủ
tp. Sơn La
tp. Việt Trì
1A
17A
Laos
Hanoi
tp. Cẩm Phả
Nam Ha
National
13
Hai Phong
Google

Features of Proto-Pakanic

- Monosyllabic
- Vowel length distinction
- Implosives
- Non-tonal
  - Bolyu and Bugan tones do not correspond well, and I believe that the two languages had undergone tonogenesis independently of each other, due to influence from Zhuang (for Bolyu) and SE Loloish languages (for Bugan).

Proto-Pakanic

- Consonants are relatively straightfoward.
- Vowels are more difficult to reconstruct.
- Bolyu is usually more conservative, but Bugan preserves some important features such as creaky voice / register distinction.

Proto-Pakanic consonants (24)

- p t c k ʔ
- p^h t^h k^h
- b d
- ɓ ɗ
- m n ɲ ŋ
- l
- v
- s
- ɣ
- ɕ
- ʑ
- ts
- dz

Proto-Pakanic vowels (8)

- ɨ ɯ u
- e o
- ɛ ɔ
- a

Tones

- Not reconstructed here.
- Many Palaungic and Khmuic languages have undergone tonogenesis, but proto-Palaungic and proto-Khmuic are non-tonal (Sidwell 2015).

Onsets vs. rimes

- Words split into onsets vs. rimes
- Vowels were not analyzed separately from final consonants, since Bugan has lost final consonants in most instances.

Final -ʔ

- Bugan has creaky register contrast, but not Bolyu.
- Creaky register in Bugan goes back to Proto-Pakanic -ʔ
- Similarly, Ferlus (2007) reconstructs final -ʔ for Proto-Vietic, and they can come after final nasals.

Pakanic and Vietic

- Most similarities have been found with Vietic.
- Historically, Pakanic was likely to have formed part of a dialect chain with Vietic. There are also some similarities
- It seems likely that Pakanic has had lexical borrowings from Vietic.
- But I would not completely rule out that Vietic and Mangic (which Pakanic is part of) may form a Vietic-Mangic group (similar to how Baltic and Slavic form a Balto-Slavic grouping).

Sound correspondences

- See handout

Cognate sets

- See handout

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Thank You

"Make Proto-Pakanic Great Again!"