

Duhumbi immaterial culture

Date of recording: various

Location of recording: Chug valley, Dirang circle, West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

Participants: various.

Languages: various.

Short description: This collection of videos, audio and photo files displays Duhumbi aspects of immaterial culture between 2012 and 2017. This includes songs and dance, *dünchang*, *mani tam* riddles, picnics, stories and tales, and the famous *Azhi Lamu* dance. All these immaterial cultural practices have seen a rapid decline with the advent of electricity, television and mobile phones to the area. *Mani tam* are hardly practiced anymore, the longer stories are only told during *losar*, and more traditional songs and dances during special occasions such as community festivals, marriages and *dünchang* parties are often quickly replaced by the latest Bollywood hit songs.

As with the Tshangla speakers of Monyul and Bhutan, one of the most peculiar observations is the absence of any songs in the Duhumbi language. All the songs sung in the Chug valley are of Tawang Monpa, and most ultimately of Tibetan, origin. The dancing style, too, is like that in Tawang and Dirang, with men, women, or men and women forming a line or semi-circle, holding hands and making rhythmic steps according to the tune of the song.

There is no practice of poetry in the Chug valley, but a popular past time used to be the telling of *mani tam* ‘riddles’, in which (usually children) would test each other’s intelligence by cryptically describing an everyday object. Whoever would guess the right answer would select one of the religious monuments in the valley, and whoever would collect most monuments would be the winner. Examples of this are given in (MTDC [CHUK300115C1]).

The video and photo material concerning the Duhumbi *Azhi Lamu* dance can be found on its own DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1202204>.

There are two versions of the Duhumbi origin history (CHLN, [CHUK290412A8A] and CHT, [CHUK230512E1B]). There are two longer stories that are famous in the Chug valley: the

story of king *Gesar of Ling* (LGG1-LGG9, i.e. [CHUK110614A1] to [CHUK110614I1]), and the story of *Khandro Drowa Zangmo* (KDZ1-KDZ10, i.e. [CHUK230512F1A] – [CHUK230512F7A]). Both these stories have a Tibetan origin, although the latter story is generally thought to originate in the Monyul region. A prelude to the story of *Khandro Drowa Zangmo* called *Shawa Pema Zomba* (SPZP, [CHUK240314A1]) seems to be restricted to the Monyul region. Another popular story is the Tibetan story of *Tshongpon* ‘trader’ *Norbu Zangpo* (TNZJ, [CHUK110413A1A]). Short fables featuring animals are quite popular (e.g. BMDC, [CHUK070115A1], BUDC, [CHUK070115B] and RSTT [CHUK211015E1]). The sound files, Transcriber files and Toolbox files of these stories can all be found on Zenodo as the supplementary material to the Duhumbi storybook.

Accompanying video files:

<i>file name</i>	<i>file size (MB)</i>	<i>file duration (hh:mm:ss)</i>	<i>file type</i>	<i>description</i>
00002	539	00:04:35	.mts	Brokpa song.
00003	451	00:03:50	.mts	modern Tawang Monpa song.
00004	226	00:01:55	.mts	modern Dirang Tshangla song.
00005	139	00:01:11	.mts	modern Kalaktang Tshangla song.
00006	165	00:01:24	.mts	traditional Tawang Monpa song.
00007	21.2	00:00:10	.mts	traditional Tawang Monpa song.
00009	132	00:01:07	.mts	modern Tawang Monpa song.
H00002	40.4	00:00:20	.mts	eating <i>khazi</i> during lunch break from threshing rice.

Accompanying photo files:

<i>file name (All DSC_ files courtesy Ismael Lieberherr)</i>	<i>description</i>
1; 2; 3	having a picnic by cooking along the river side.
DSC_0361; 0363; 0364;	offering liquor to guests.
DSC_0380; 0381; 0384	<i>dünchang</i> dancing for guests.
DSC_1004	<i>dünchang</i> dancing during Losar.

DSC02298; 02299; 02300; 02301; 02302	eating khazi during lunch break from threshing rice.
DSC02386; 02387; 02389	dancing during a Losar picnic.

Other accompanying files:

<i>file name</i>	<i>description</i>
CHUK260413A1.wav	sound file of MSK [CHUK260413A1] (38.3MB/00:03:48)
CHUK260413A1.trs	Transcriber file of MSK [CHUK260413A1]
CHUK260413A1.txt	Toolbox text file of MSK [CHUK260413A1]
CHUK260413A1.pdf	Complete transcribed glossed, parsed, translated version of MSK [CHUK260413A1] 'modern, impromptu Duhumbi song'.
CHUK300115C1.wav	sound file of MTDC [CHUK300115C1] (40.6MB/00:07:23)
CHUK300115C1.trs	Transcriber file of MTDC [CHUK300115C1]
CHUK300115C1.txt	Toolbox text file of MTDC [CHUK300115C1]