

COMPLEX CODA

Duhumbi shares with Dirang Tshangla (Das Gupta 1986 and Zhāng 1986 in Bodt 2012: 199) and Bjoka Tshangla (Grollmann 2014:40) a limited number of occurrences of preserved syllable-final consonant clusters.

Bodt (2012: 198-201) first reported the existence of superficially homonymous minimal pairs in Bhutan Tshangla verb roots. After analysis of the choice of allomorphs characteristic of a certain conjugational class as well as comparative evidence from Dirang and Pemako Tshangla I concluded that there must have been an underlying coda consonant cluster in part of these attestations. Since then, further analysis of what was coined as the Yabrang variety of Tshangla has provided more evidence. In fact, this Yabrang variety itself has turned out to be an archaic sociolect, geographically more widespread among small, socio-economically weaker sections of certain remote Tshangla communities between the Gamri and Kholong rivers in north-eastern Trashigang and south-eastern Trashi Yangtse in Bhutan. These sociolects are rapidly disappearing through confirmation to the standard variety of Tshangla, increased levels of education and rural-urban migration. Although new data of both Yabrang and Dirang Tshangla have allowed to discern conclusive evidence of syllable-final clusters in Tshangla since then, this has yet to be committed to a publication.

More recently, Grollmann (2014: 40) similarly reported from Bjokapakha Tshangla that allomorphic variation in the verbal morphology not conform the morphophonological patterns evidences coda consonant clusters, but that the phonotactic rule not permitting coda consonant clusters suppresses them. Her attestations include *cam* ~ *camp* 'be about to, try'; *gan* ~ *gant* 'grow old, age'; *gir* ~ *girt* 'turn; cluster'; *lam* ~ *lamp* 'learn'; *noj* ~ *nojɔk* 'face, find, get'; *sor* ~ *sort* 'change'; and *shim* ~ *shimp* 'put in order, tidy up'.

For the current discussion, it is sufficient to report the existence of Tshangla coda consonant clusters, all involving a nasal or trill followed by a plosive or glottal stop, the most common combinations including /mp/, /rt/ and perhaps /nt/ and /ngk/.

Similarly, the Duhumbi coda clusters all involve a syllable-final nasal or trill followed by an unreleased dental or bilabial stop. Choice of conjugational class, Da or Ta, has earlier been shown to depend on an underlying syllable-final fricative /s/. Coda consonant clusters can be no exception to that, resulting in the positioning of coda consonant clusters of three consonants, the final consonant of which necessarily has to be an /s/, i.e. /-mps, -rts, -ngks/. The Duhumbi syllable-final consonant clusters appear to be an archaic treat and might be relevant from a historical-comparative point of view, but their extremely restricted occurrence makes it hard to come to any strong conclusions. There may well be more occurrences of these coda clusters in the lexicon. However, identifying them has proved extremely difficult. Unless the speaker strongly articulates the coda cluster or all possible occurrences are checked in waveforms and spectrograms, they might not have been detected. Nonetheless, a number of rather convincing minimal pairs is presented here, of which audio recordings exist for future reference.

The hitherto attested clusters are *-mp*, *-ngk* and *-rt*. All the occurrences of these coda clusters are summarised in Table 1, with waveforms and spectrograms for several examples provided for illustration.

Table 1. The Duhumbi coda clusters

coda cluster	lexeme
-mp	<i>camp</i> {ta} [tʰamp̚] ‘to surrender’
	<i>hamp</i> {ta} [hamp̚] ‘to learn, study, read’
	<i>lamp</i> {ta} [lamp̚] ‘to parch (finger millet)’
	<i>jamp</i> {ta} [dʒamp̚] ‘to become cured’
	<i>ramp</i> {ta} [ramp̚] ‘to wither’
	<i>thimp</i> {ta} [tʰimp̚] ‘to sink’
	<i>timp</i> {ta} [timp̚] ‘to become finished’
-rt	<i>nort</i> {ta} [nɔɪ̯t̚] ‘to err’
	<i>durt</i> {ta} [duɪ̯t̚] ‘to rot; to overcook’
	<i>ngart</i> {ta} [ŋaɪ̯t̚] ‘to win’
	<i>nyirtkum</i> [ɲiɾ̚t̚ kum] ‘wrinkle’
-ngk	<i>dingk</i> {ta} [diŋk̚] ‘to pull along a thread’
	<i>gink</i> {ta} [giŋk̚] ‘to soar, to fly high’
	<i>jangk</i> {ta} [dʒaŋk̚] ‘to study, to read’
	<i>zingk</i> {ta} [ziŋk̚] ‘to lead along’
	<i>zhangk</i> (ta) [zaŋk̚] ‘to get up, to rise (H.)’
-nt	<i>nant</i> {ta} [nan ~ nant̚] ‘to add?’

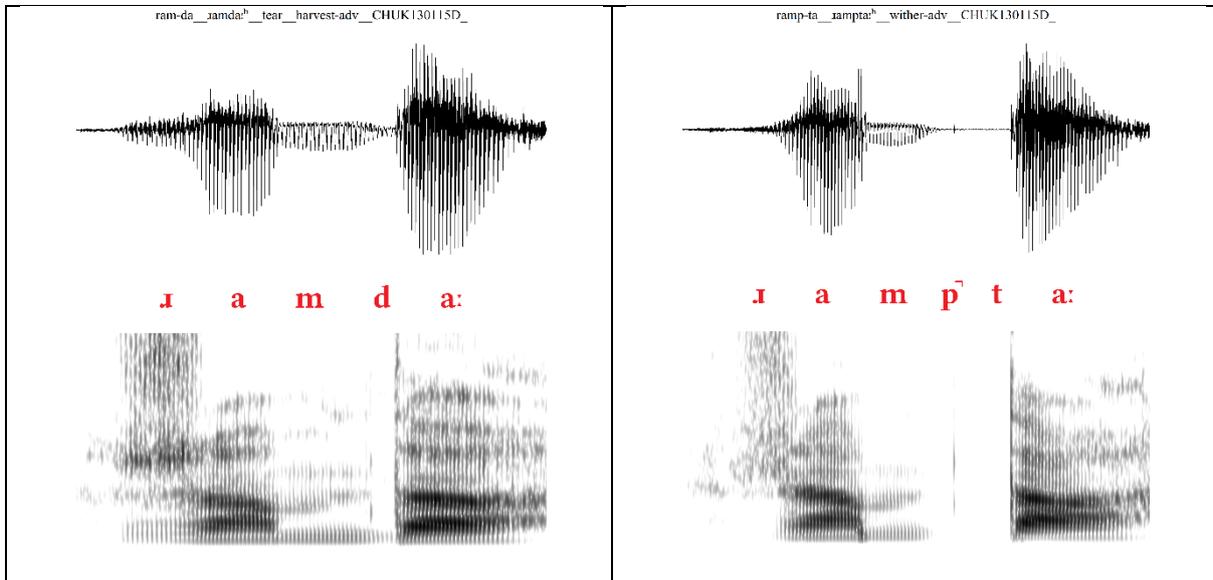


Figure 1: *ram* {da} [ɪamda:] ‘to tear; harvest’ [CHUK130115D] vs. *ramp* {ta} [ɪamp̚ta:] ‘to wither’ [CHUK130115D]

In context, this minimal pair is provided in *waloq nishi ganggpu ram-long-bey* [walɔʔ niçi ɣaŋpu ram-lɔŋ-bej] ‘3PL.AGT paddy all harvest-PRF-COPL.OK’ ‘they have harvested all the paddy’ [CHUK310115B] and *nishi ganggpu ramp-long* [niçi ɣaŋpu ɪaɸ-mlɔŋ] ‘paddy all wither-PRF’ ‘all the paddy has withered’ [CHUK310115B]. Notice the metathesis between the bilabial plosive and the

bilabial nasal in *ramp-long* [ɿap-mɔŋ] wither-PRF, with the bilabial plosive becoming the onset of the next segment *-long*. In *ram-long-be* [ɿam-lɔŋ-be:] harvest-PRF-COP1.OK this is not observed.

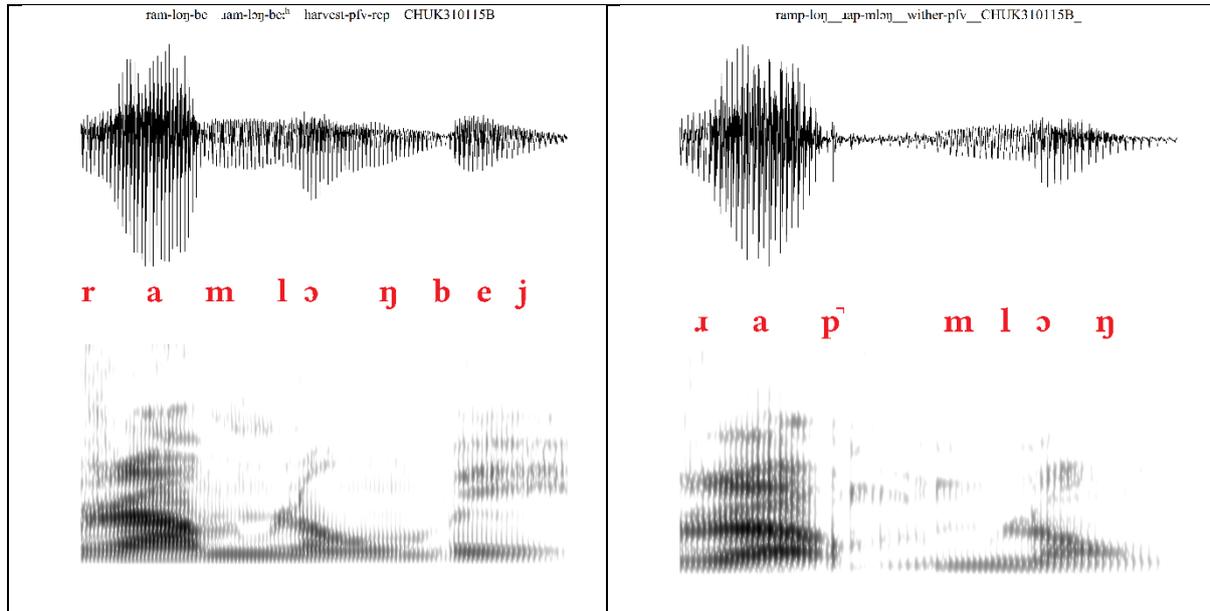


Figure 2. *ram-long-be* [ɿam-lɔŋ-be:] ‘harvest-PRF-COP1.OK’ [CHUK310115B] vs. *ramp-long* [ɿap-mɔŋ] ‘wither-PRF’ [CHUK310115B]

There is additional evidence for the *-mp* cluster in the lexeme *ramp* {*ta*} ‘to wither’ from Tshangla, cf. TSB *ram* ~ *ramp* {*pe*} ‘to be ruined’, e.g. *p^hai rap-dzɔŋ-mala* ‘the house has become ruined’, cf. also Duhumbi *rap chat* {*da*} [ɿap̣ tɕ^hat] ‘to become extinct’. The archaic Tibetan cognate, however, does not have a complex cluster: *red* {*pa*} ~ *reb* {*pa*} ‘[arch] dried out/ withered [IW]’

The following near-minimal pair shows that in the case of *ngart* {*ta*} [ŋaɿ̣[̣]] ‘to win’, here in its imperative form *ngartma* [ŋaɿ̣[̣] ma:], there is a constriction towards the end of the first syllable resulting in a clear pause or break between the two syllables. Although difficult to see in the spectrogram, speakers adjust the vocal tract by bringing forward the tongue to alveolar position, producing a co-articulated unreleased dental plosive [ɿ̣]. In the case of *ngarma* [ŋama:] ‘tough’ there is no such constriction, and the two syllables flow into over smoothly.

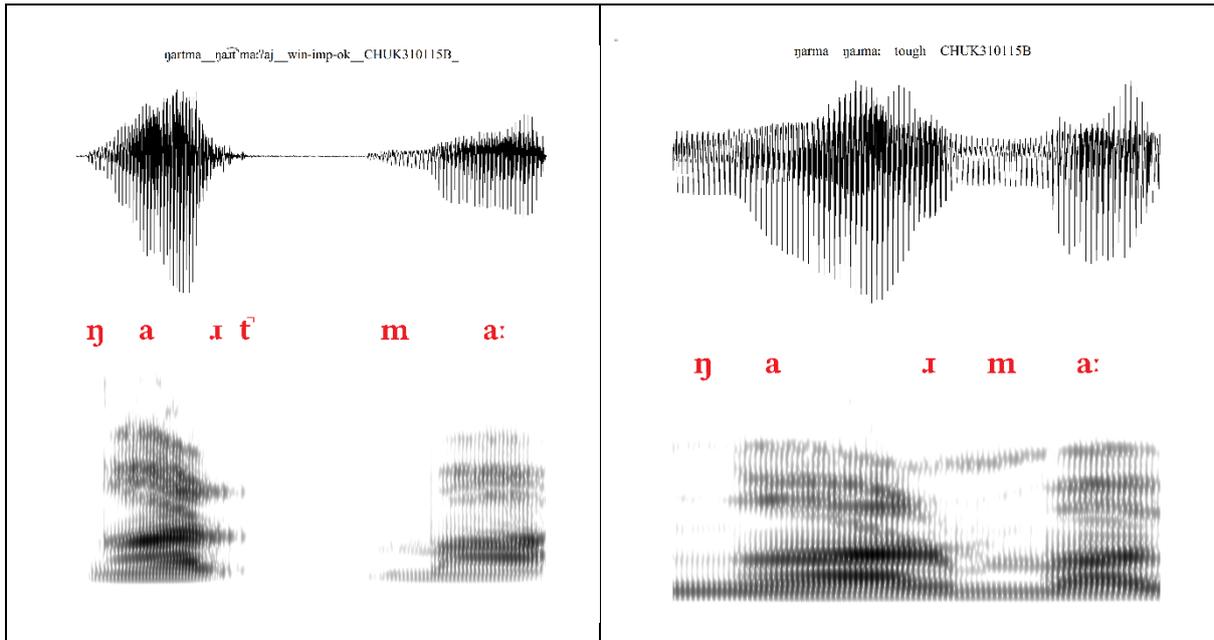


Figure 3. *ngart-ma* [ɲaɪt̪-ma:] ‘win-imp’ [CHUK310115B] vs. *ngar-ma* [ɲaɪ-ma:] ‘tough’ [CHUK310115B]

A similar minimal is the minimal pair between *dur* {*da*} ‘to run’ and *durt* {*ta*} ‘to rot; to become overcooked’ as explained between the two elicited minimal pair sentences in [CHUK121015A(175)es].

[CHUK121015A(175)es] *sha ama duronglong* [ɕa: ʔama: dɯɪ-ʔɔŋ-lɔŋ] cattle mother run-go-PRF ‘the cow has run away’.

[CHUK121015A(175)es] *shoyya sha durtonglong* [ɕɔj-jaʔ ɕa: dɯɪ-ʔɔŋ-lɔŋ] bull-GEN meat rot-go-PRF ‘the bull’s meat has become rotten’.

The following spectrogram of the words *hamp-ma* [hamp̪ma:] read, study-imp ‘study!’ and *ham-ma* [ham:a:] smell-imp ‘smell’ spoken in succession shows the distinction between the two roots. In *ham-ma*, short vowel /a/ and the length of the bilabial nasal, twice as long as in *hamp-ma*, are clearly visible. In *hamp-ma* there is a clear closure at the end of the nasal, and the bilabial plosive is actually even released. Moreover, we observe a falling pitch in both syllables of *hamp-ma*, whereas the pitch is fairly level throughout in *ham-ma*.

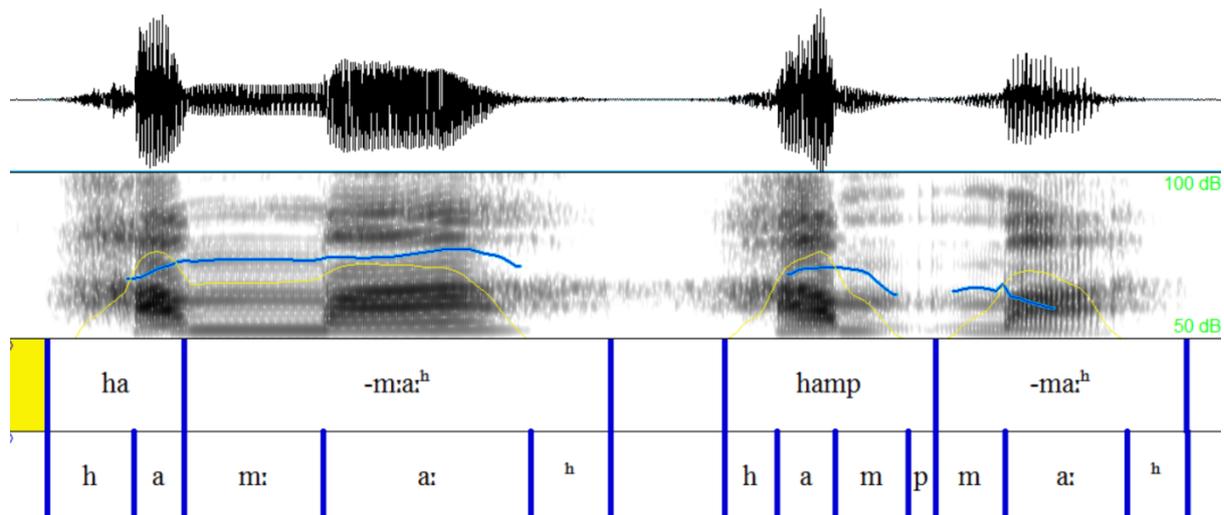


Figure 4: *ham-ma* [ham:a^h] smell-IMP ‘smell’ [CHUK310115B] vs. *hamp-ma* [hampma:^h] read, study-IMP ‘study!’ [CHUK310115B]

The audio material, in addition to the above example, also provides examples in context, such as *jige odzop le hamp-ma* [jige: ɔdzɔp̚ le: hampma:] letter good do study-IMP ‘study {the letters} hard!’ [CHUK310115B] and *eis ham-ma* [eis ham:a:] smell smell-IMP ‘smell it {the smell}!’ [CHUK310115B].

As for the reconstructed Proto-Khispi-Duhumbi roots, ***hamps** STUDY, READ, cf. also Proto-Tshangla ***lamp** ‘read, study’ (Bodt 2012: 200) and ***ham** SMELL are proposed. In light of additional evidence from the other Western-Kho-Bwa languages the latter is reconstructed as ***HNAM** SMELL at the Proto-Western-Kho-Bwa level, in contrast to Proto-Tshangla ***NAMS** SMELL (Andvik 1999: 105-106).

The next example juxtaposes the root *lamp* ‘parch’ to the root *lam* ‘search; be cold’. Again, the spectrogram for *lamp* {*ta*} clearly shows a released bilabial plosive. Note that any apparent differences in length of the segments is due to the speed of pronunciation.

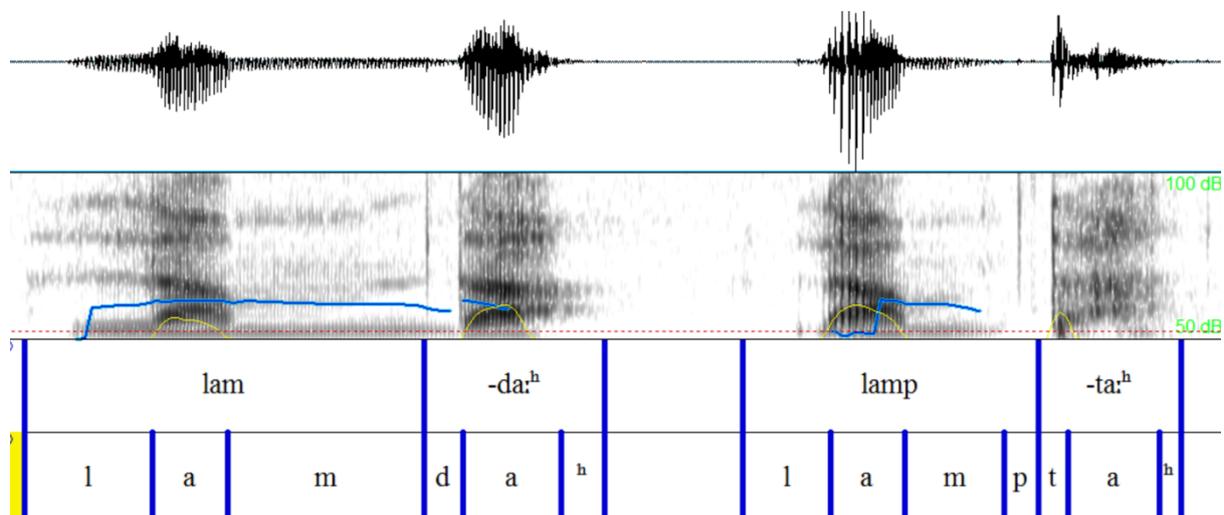


Figure 5: *lam* {*da*} [lam] ‘search; be cold’ [CHUK310115B] vs. *lamp* {*ta*} [lamp] ‘parch’ [CHUK310115B]

These tokens in context are provided in *koŋpu lamp-ta* [kɔŋpu lampta:] finger millet parch-ADV ‘parching finger millet’ [CHUK310115B] and *sojnam lam-da* [sɔjnam lamda:] alms beg-ADV ‘begging for alms’ [CHUK310115B].

The next example presents an attestation of a coda /ŋk/-cluster. It is the honorific verb *zhaŋk* {*ta*} ‘construct; rise, get up’. This verb is a Bodish loan, cf. Tib. *bžeŋ* ‘rise, get up (H)’, TSD [zaŋk] ‘construct; rise, get up (H)’, TSB [zɛŋ] ‘construct; rise, get up (H)’. The only minimal pair is with the name of the place *Zhang* [zaŋ] (modern spelling Jang) located in Tawang. Note how the onset is palatalised.

In the spectrogram of *zhaŋk*, most obvious is the pause following the velar stop.

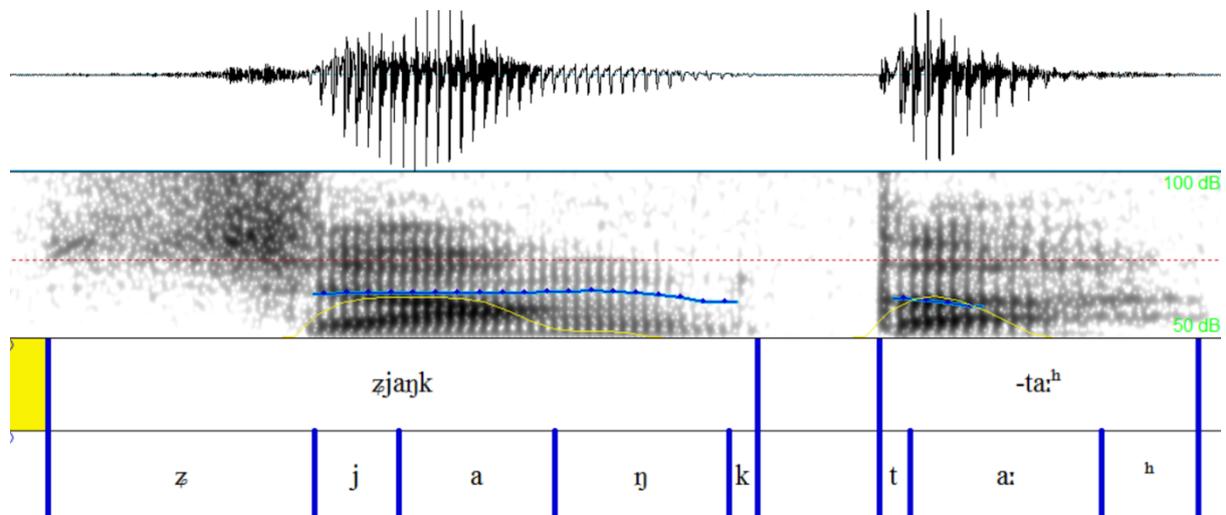


Figure 6. *zhaŋk* {*ta*} [zʰaŋk] ‘construct; rise, get up-adv (H)’ [CHUK110115C]

Unlike the bilabial nasal /m/, the velar nasal does not geminate in morphological constructions that result in this phoneme in consecutive coda and onset, with the next onset characterised by the onset of regular pulses in the sound wave.

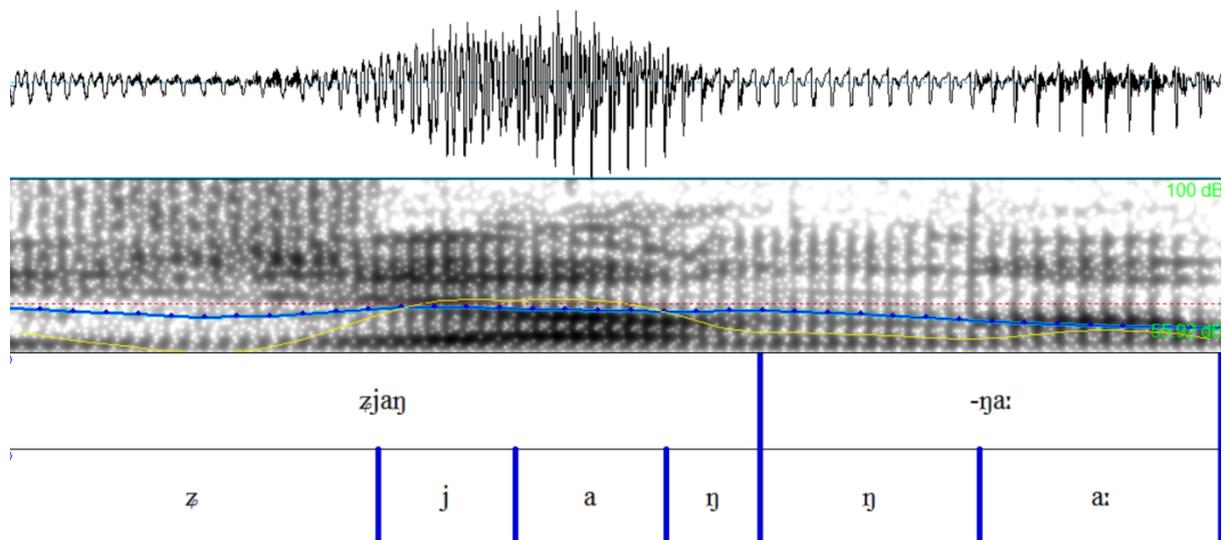


Figure 7. *zhaŋ-ŋa* [zʰaŋ-ŋa:] Zhang-GEN [CHUK310115B]

The verb *zajk* can be found in context in *woj-joʔ gonpa hin zajk-lonj* [wɔj-joʔ ɡɔnpa hin zʲajklɔŋ] 3SG-AGT monastery one construct-PFV ‘he has constructed a monastery’ [CHUK310115B] and *rinpote^{he} namsaj duktsu zajk-lonj* [ɹinpɔ:te^{he}: namsaj duktsu: zʲajklɔŋ] Rinpoche morning early rise-PFV ‘rinpoche has woken up early in the morning’ [CHUK310115B]. The proper noun *zaj* can be found in *woj zaj-ŋja budun beʔ* [wɔj zʲajŋja: budun beʔ] 3SG Zhang-GEN person COP1 ‘he is a person of Zhang’ [CHUK310115B].

There are several minimal pairs without recordings. The first one is for the verb *dijk* {*ta*} ‘pull along thread’: *budun dɪŋdɪŋ* person healthy ‘the healthy person’ vs., e.g. *dejju hwanj dijk-ŋi* yesterday thread pull along-RET ‘yesterday the thread got pulled along’ and *hwanj dijk-ta jokkor tut-ɔŋ-lonj* thread pull.along-ADV spindle fall-go-PRF ‘pulling the thread along the spindle had fallen down’.

The second is for the verb *tɛamp* {*ta*} ‘surrender’ vs. *tɛam* {*da*} ‘be comfortable’, e.g. *ɛoj ŋis-k^{ho} hin tɛamp-ŋi* bull two-LOC one surrender-RET ‘from two bulls one surrendered’ vs. *nanj dejju gari nanj-k^{ho} tɛam-ŋi=ŋi?* 2SG yesterday car in-LOC comfortable-RET=Q1 ‘were you comfortable in the car yesterday?’. The same root *cam* ~ *camp*, though with an unrelated semantic content, also occurs in Bjokapakha Tshangla, cf. Grollmann (2014: 284).

Other (near-)minimal pairs include *dzajk* {*ta*} ‘study’ vs. *dzanj* {*da*} ‘fall’, *zɪnk* {*ta*} ‘take along’ vs. *zɪj* ‘internode’; *t^himp* {*ta*} ‘sink’ vs. *t^him* {*ta*} ‘let go off’.

The ramifications for historical-comparative linguistics of the Bodish languages and Tshangla, in which many of the Duhumbi lexemes with complex coda clusters have cognates, is a point of future research and investigation.