

This file presents the preliminary analysis of the Duhumbi noun prefixes and the native Duhumbi nouns. As the reconstruction of Proto-Western Kho-Bwa is ongoing, these reconstructed roots may change. The final reconstructions will be presented in a future paper or monograph.

Duhumbi has a total of 12 prefixes which define a total of 16 distinct lexical categories. There is some overlap between the various prefixes, i.e. one prefix can serve to define several lexical categories. These 12 prefixes are largely reconstructible at the Proto-Western Kho-Bwa level, i.e. they have regular reflexes in all the modern Western Kho-Bwa varieties. Nonetheless, because of the regular tendency of these prefixes to become shortened in the Sartang and Sherdukpen varieties, which also show some level of voicing harmony between the prefix and the onset of the noun root, there is considerable variation.

Table 1 gives an overview of the hitherto reconstructed Proto-Western Kho-Bwa prefixes that define lexical categories and their reflexes in the modern Western Kho-Bwa varieties. When compared with the reconstructed Proto-Puroik data available (Lieberherr 2015), the Western Kho-Bwa varieties either attest to a much richer system of prefixes with lexical functions, or the reconstruction of Proto-Western Kho-Bwa is much less complex and problematic than that of Proto-Puroik.

Table 1. Proto-Western Kho-Bwa lexical noun prefixes.

Lexical category	PWKB prefix
kinship	*a-
green-leafed vegetable	*daŋ-
vegetable & fruit	*ma-
mammal	*sja-
bird	*K-hwa-
insect	*p ^h u-
part-of-head	*k ^h a-
lower-part-of-head	*hna-
lower-part-of-body	*ma-
general part-of-body	*sja-
general part-of	*a-
soil	*k ^h a-
sky	*nam-
human being	*b.ɟi-
day after	*lwaŋ-
day before	*dej-

In addition to the prefixed nouns, there are also Duhumbi nouns that, on basis of being reconstructible at the Proto-Western Kho-Bwa level, need to be considered native, but which lack a prefix in Duhumbi. In some cases, comparative evidence from the other Western Kho-Bwa varieties necessitates the reconstruction of a prefix, and it can thus be inferred that this prefix was lost in Duhumbi. Examples include *p^hoj* ‘flour’ (<*(**nam-**)p^hwuj FLOUR); *noj* ‘tail’ (<*(**a-**) njuj TAIL); *haj* ‘pus’ (<*(**a-**)hnaj PUS).

There are also some nouns without prefix that themselves act as a prefix, such as *hwa* ‘bird’ (to denote species and body parts of birds < ***K-hwa**- BIRD/BIRD PREFIX); *ɛa* ‘meat, game’ (to denote mammal species < ***sja**- MEAT, GAME/ANIMAL PREFIX); *p^hu* ‘insect’ (to denote insect species < ***p^hu**- INSECT/INSECT PREFIX); *daŋ* ‘leafy vegetable’ (to denote green leafy vegetables and crops < ***daŋ**- LEAFY VEGETABLE/VEGETABLE PREFIX). In addition, some reconstructible roots that lack a prefix can also participate in noun compounding in which the form the first element, or perhaps a ‘prefix’ themselves, these include *bej* ‘fire’ (to denote nouns related to fire, such as ‘smoke’, ‘ash’, ‘hearth’, ‘pine’, ‘ember’, ‘flame’ < ***baj** FIRE); *k^how* ‘water’ (to denote nouns related to water, such as ‘bubble’, ‘spring’, ‘pond’, ‘lake’, ‘wave’, ‘river’, ‘riverbank’, ‘stream’, ‘whirlpool’, ‘sandbar’ etc. < ***k^ho** WATER); *hut* ‘hand, arm’ (to denote parts of the hand and arm < ***K-wut** HAND, ARM); *lej* ‘foot, leg’ (to denote parts of the leg and foot, < ***laj** LEG, FOOT); and *ɛiŋ* ‘wood, tree’ (to denote species of tree < ***hiŋ** TREE).

This leaves a few very basic body parts without prefix, including *lak* ‘penis’ (< ***lak** PENIS); *duluk* ‘goitre’ (< ***da-rwaʔ** GOITRE); *k^hej* ‘horn’ (< ***k^h.jaŋ** HORN); *k^hok* ‘womb, nest, hive’ (< ***k^hop** WOMB, NEST, HIVE); *zi* ‘urine’ (< ***zji** URINE); *hoj* ‘blood’ (< ***hjuj** ~ **hwuj** BLOOD); *dem* ‘lap’ (< ***djin** LAP); *hut-tsun* ~ *tsum* ‘nail’ (< *(**K-wut-**) **tsin** NAIL; but note the hand-prefix); *zuk* ‘thorax’ (< ***zuk** FACE); *loj* ‘tongue’ (< ***luj** TONGUE); *hin-tus* ‘spittle, spit’ (< ***taj** SPITTLE, SPIT, although it may be Duhumbi that has preserved the ***hna**- prefix here); *buk* ‘breath’ (< ***buk** BREATH); ***njuj** BREAST, MILK; and *bej-k^han* ‘dream’ (< ***ban** DREAM).

Then there are number of native names of plant and animals or their products that do not have a prefix, such as *dzak* ‘wool’ (< ***gjak** WOOL); *te^hak* ‘taro’ (< ***ts^h.rak** TARO); *duj-taʔ* ‘frog’ (< ***taʔ** FROG); *hek* ‘louse’ (< ***hjak** LOUSE); *k^hi* ‘cane’ (< ***k^h.jiʔ** CANE); *mej* ‘bamboo’ (< ***maj** BAMBOO); *ŋa* ‘fish’ (< ***ŋaʔ** FISH); *dza* ‘tuber’ (< ***gja** TUBER); *p^hok* ‘barley’ (< ***p^hwak** BARLEY); *dzam* ‘grass, weed’ (< ***gjaŋ** GRASS, WEED); *taŋkoŋ* ‘marten’ (< ***taŋ-koŋ** MARTEN); *za-ma* ‘bitter buckwheat’ (< ***bjaŋs-ma** BITTER BUCKWHEAT); *nuk* ‘sago’ (< ***nuk** SAGO); *mən* ‘potato bean’ (< ***man** POTATO BEAN); *mar* ‘butter’ (< ***mar** BUTTER); *mu* ‘mushroom’ (< ***mu** MUSHROOM); *hoj* ‘food (Khis.)’ (< ***hiŋ** COOKED RICE, FOOD); and *bos* ‘curcuma sp.’ (< ***bos** CURCUMA SP.).

Without prefix, we can also find a few natural elements, such as *luy* ‘stone’ (< ***luŋ** STONE); *k^hip* ‘cave’ (< ***k^h.jap** CAVE); *la* ‘mountain (-pass)’ (< ***la** MOUNTAIN); *ɛak* ‘cliff, ravine’ (< ***bjak** CLIFF, RAVINE); and *te^hu-p^haʔ* ‘ash’ (< ***te^ha-p^hlaʔ** ASH).

Finally, there are some very basic socio-cultural nouns without prefix, such as *te^hop* ‘fishing net’ (< ***ts^hwop** FISHING NET); *lek* ‘field’ (< ***rjak** FIELD); *mik* ‘arrow’ (< ***mik** ARROW), *li* ‘bow’ (< ***li** BOW), *hotda* ‘machete’ (< ***hot-da** MACHETE); *ŋak* ‘speech’ (< ***ŋak** LANGUAGE); *p^haʔ* ‘axe’ (< ***p^hlaʔ** AXE); *pɛi* ‘needle’ (< ***p^hlji** NEEDLE); *si* ‘aconite poison’ (< ***sij** ACONITE POISON); *p^hak* ‘liquor’ (< ***p^hak** LIQUOR); *tas* ‘comb’ (< ***nwas** COMB); *tom* ‘year’ (< ***tum** YEAR); *t^hak* ‘rope’ (< ***t^hak** ROPE); *t^hon* ‘bridge’ (< ***t^hon** BRIDGE); *t^hup* ‘village’ (< ***t^hup** VILLAGE); *k^hej* ‘stick’ (< ***k^hwaj** STICK); *wam* ‘house’ (< ***K-jwam** HOUSE); *wat* ‘cloth’ (< ***K-jwat** CLOTH); *zip-li* ‘quiver’ (< ***zjip** QUIVER); *wam-te^ha* ‘roof’ (< ***ts^hwaj** ROOF); *jaŋ-te^hoŋ* veranda (< ***dz waj** VERANDA); *man* ~ *mən* ‘medicine’ (< ***man** MEDICINE); *luy-t^huy* ‘ladder’ (< ***laŋ-t^hon** LADDER); *joŋ* ‘load’ (< ***joŋ** LOAD); *goŋ* ‘fence’ (< ***goŋ** FENCE); *tam* ‘story’ (< ***tam** STORY); *t^hok* ‘beer filter’ (< ***t^hok** BEER FILTER); *duk* ‘poison’ (< ***duk** POISON); and *p^haŋ-kaŋ* ‘cutlery shelf’ (< ***p^haŋ** SHELF).

In addition, there are several reconstructed Proto-Western Kho-Bwa roots without prefix that can be reconstructed on basis of the Sartang and Sherdukpen evidence, but do not have reflexes in Duhumbi or Khispi. These include the roots ***tsaŋ-k^ha** SQUIRREL; ***dzwoŋ** SPEAR; ***swa** WILD DOG; ***saŋ-ga-daʔ** WILD CAT/CIVET; ***sja-njom** palm civet; ***noŋ** DISEASE; ***jaŋ** EXCREMENT; ***kak** ICE; ***p^haŋ-(k^ha-)** **hlaʔ** RAINBOW; and ***p^hwam** TIGER.