

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures .....	xvii
List of Tables.....	xviii
List of Abbreviations and Symbols.....	xxi
Chapter 1 .....	1
Introduction .....	1
1.1 Kim Mun Language .....	1
1.2 Scope of the Study .....	3
Chapter 2 .....	6
General Background.....	6
2.1 Kim Mun Origin and Location.....	6
2.2 Kim Mun Lifestyle .....	9
Chapter 3 .....	11
Methodology .....	11
3.1 Data Sources.....	11
3.2 Data Gathering.....	12
3.3 Data Analysis.....	13
3.4 Data Transcription.....	14
Chapter 4 .....	15

Current State of Research on Kim Mun Phonology .....	15
4.1 Previous Research .....	15
4.2 Vowels.....	16
4.2.1 Vowel Quality.....	17
4.2.2 Vowel Length .....	18
4.2.3 Summary of Vowels.....	19
4.3 Consonants .....	19
4.3.1 Single Initials .....	20
4.3.2 Consonant Clusters .....	22
4.3.2.1 Labialization and Palatalization.....	23
4.3.2.2 Alveolo-Palatal Segments .....	24
4.3.3 Finals.....	25
4.3.4 Summary of Consonants .....	25
4.4 Tones .....	26
4.4.1 The Eight-Tone System of Middle Chinese .....	27
4.4.1.1 Drawbacks of the Eight-Tone System.....	29
4.4.1.2 Insight Gleamed from the Eight-Tone System .....	31
4.4.2 Synopsis of Kim Mun Tones .....	32
4.5 Preglottalization .....	34
4.5.1 Implosives.....	37

4.5.1.1 Voiced Implosives .....	37
4.5.1.2 Voiceless Implosives .....	39
4.5.2 Phonation Types .....	39
4.5.2.1 Stiff Voice .....	43
4.5.2.2 Laryngealization .....	46
4.5.3 Glottalization .....	48
4.5.4 Possible Laryngeal Settings in Kim Mun .....	49
4.6 Summary and Forecast .....	52
Chapter 5 .....	59
Phonological Description of Kim Mun, Laos Variety .....	59
5.1 Inventory of Phonemes .....	59
5.1.1 Consonants .....	59
5.1.1.1 Plosives .....	60
5.1.1.2 Fricatives .....	65
5.1.1.3 Nasals .....	68
5.1.1.4 Approximants .....	70
5.1.2 Vowels .....	71
5.1.2.1 Front Vowels .....	72
5.1.2.2 Central Vowels .....	75
5.1.2.3 Back Vowels .....	76

5.1.2.4 Vowel Length.....	77
5.1.3 Tones .....	78
5.1.3.1 Level Tones .....	79
5.1.3.2 Contour Tones .....	80
5.1.3.3 Complex Tones.....	84
5.1.3.4 Tone Summary .....	84
5.2 Syllable and Word Structure.....	89
5.2.1 Major Syllables .....	89
5.2.2 Minor Syllables.....	90
5.2.3 Consonant Clusters .....	92
5.2.4 Consonant – Vowel Sequences.....	93
5.2.5 Syllable Onset – Tone Patterns .....	94
5.2.6 Vowel – Tone Patterns .....	95
5.2.7 Coda – Tone Patterns.....	95
5.3 Summary .....	96
Chapter 6 .....	98
Phonological Description of Kim Mun, Vietnam Variety .....	98
6.1 Inventory of Phonemes.....	98
6.1.1 Consonants.....	98
6.1.1.1 Plosives.....	99

6.1.1.2 Fricatives .....	103
6.1.1.3 Nasals.....	105
6.1.1.4 Approximants .....	106
6.1.2 Vowels.....	108
6.1.2.1 Front Vowels.....	109
6.1.2.2 Central Vowels .....	110
6.1.2.3 Back Vowels.....	111
6.1.2.4 Vowel Length.....	113
6.1.3 Tones .....	113
6.1.3.1 Level Tones .....	114
6.1.3.2 Contour Tones .....	115
6.1.3.3 Complex Tones.....	117
6.1.3.4 Tone Summary .....	118
6.2 Syllable and Word Structure.....	123
6.2.1 Major Syllables .....	124
6.2.2 Minor Syllables.....	125
6.2.3 Consonant Clusters .....	126
6.2.4 Consonant – Vowel Sequences.....	127
6.2.5 Syllable Onset – Tone Patterns .....	129
6.2.6 Vowel – Tone Patterns .....	130

6.2.7 Coda – Tone Patterns.....	131
6.3 Summary .....	132
Chapter 7 .....	133
Phonological Comparision of Kim Mun in Laos and Vietnam.....	133
7.1 Phonological Comparison .....	133
7.1.1 Consonantal Comparison .....	133
7.1.1.1 Plosives.....	135
7.1.1.2 Fricatives.....	135
7.1.1.3 Nasals.....	136
7.1.1.4 Approximants .....	137
7.1.1.5 Summary of Lao and Vietnam Kim Mun Consonants .....	137
7.1.2 Vowel Comparison .....	139
7.1.2.1 Vowel Length.....	140
7.1.2.2 Summary of Lao and Vietnam Kim Mun Vowels.....	141
7.1.3 Tonal Comparison.....	142
7.2 Syllable Structure Comparison.....	143
7.2.1 Major Syllable.....	144
7.2.2 Minor Syllable .....	144
7.2.3 Consonant Clusters .....	144
7.2.4 Consonant – Vowel Sequences.....	145

7.2.5 Syllable Onset – Tone Patterns .....	145
7.2.6 Vowel – Tone Patterns .....	146
7.2.7 Coda – Tone Patterns.....	146
7.3 Summary .....	146
Chapter 8 .....	149
Summary, Conclusion, and Outlook .....	149
8.1 Summary .....	149
8.2 Conclusion and Outlook .....	152
Appendix A .....	156
Appendix B .....	181
Appendix C .....	185
Appendix D .....	187
Appendix E.....	189
Appendix F.....	192
Appendix G .....	194
Bibliography .....	196

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1. Hmong-Mien Language Family Tree (adapted from Ratliff 1992: 19) .....	2
Figure 2. Modes of Phonation .....	41
Figure 3. Final Plosives in Lao Kim Mun.....	61
Figure 4. Distribution of Phonemic Vowels in Lao Kim Mun .....	71
Figure 5. Final Plosives in Vietnam Kim Mun .....	100
Figure 6. Distribution of Vowels in Vietnam Kim Mun .....	108
Figure 7. Distributional Comparison of Lao and Vietnam Kim Mun Vowels .....	139

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. The Eight-Tone System of Middle Chinese.....	28
Table 2. Chinese Classification of Mien Tones .....	32
Table 3. Western Classification of Mien Tones .....	32
Table 4. Comparison of Kim Mun varieties in China based on the Chinese Eight-Tone System.....	33
Table 5. Summary of Chinese Varieties of Kim Mun.....	53
Table 6. Inventory of Consonantal Phonemes in Lao Kim Mun .....	60
Table 7. Alternation of Long to Short Vowels in Lao Kim Mun .....	78
Table 8. Lao Kim Mun Tone Schema .....	79
Table 9. Tonal Impact on the Lao Kim Mun Syllable.....	85
Table 10. Lao Kim Mun Tonal Summary.....	86
Table 11. Lao Kim Mun Syllable Template .....	90
Table 12. Initial Consonant – Medial Consonant Sequences in Lao Kim Mun .....	92
Table 13. Consonant – Vowel Sequences in Lao Kim Mun.....	93
Table 14. Syllable Onset – Tone Patterns in Lao Kim Mun .....	95

Table 15. Nucleus – Tone Patterns in Lao Kim Mun .....	95
Table 16. Coda – Tone Patterns in Lao Kim Mun .....	96
Table 17. Inventory of Consonantal Phonemes in Vietnam Kim Mun .....	99
Table 18. Vietnam Kim Mun Tone Schema.....	114
Table 19. Tonal Impact on the Vietnam Kim Mun Syllable .....	119
Table 20. Vietnam Kim Mun Tonal Summary .....	120
Table 21. Vietnam Kim Mun Syllable Template .....	124
Table 22. Initial Consonant – Medial Consonant Sequences in Vietnam Kim Mun.....	127
Table 23. Consonant – Vowel Sequences in Vietnam Kim Mun .....	128
Table 24. Syllable Onset – Tone Patterns in Vietnam Kim Mun .....	129
Table 25. Nucleus – Tone Patterns in Vietnam Kim Mun.....	131
Table 26. Coda – Tone Patterns in Vietnam Kim Mun.....	131
Table 27. Comparison of Inventory of Phonetic Consonants (Laos and Vietnam) .....	134
Table 28. Summary of Lao and Vietnam Kim Mun Consonants.....	138
Table 29. Summary of Lao and Vietnam Kim Mun Vowels .....	141

Table 30. Tone Contour Comparison between Lao and Vietnam Kim Mun	142
.....	.....
Table 31. Summary of Lao and Vietnam Kim Mun Tones	143

PAYAP UNIVERSITY