



**A SOCIOLINGUISTIC SURVEY OF SELECTED  
MEUNG YUM AND SAVAIQ VARIETIES**



**MYINT MYINT PHYU**

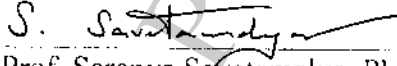


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## ABSTRACT

This thesis describes an assessment of the need for language development in Meung Yum as well as an initial assessment of whether Savaïq speakers could benefit from a Meung Yum language development program. Four different goals were set up for the research.

The first goal was to assess the need for vernacular language development among Meung Yum speakers. It was found that the proficiency of Meung Yum people in both spoken and written forms of the languages of wider communication (LWCs) was very low. However, attitudes towards the LWCs were found positive.

The second goal was to evaluate the readiness for vernacular language development. Language vitality of the people was very good and attitudes of the people towards their mothertongue were found positive. This evidence suggests that Meung Yum language and culture will continue to be passed on to future generations. The Meung Yum population estimated at around is 8,000 people. The relationship of the people to each other is good regardless of their different religions. There are a few educated people could possibly be helpful people for language development efforts in the future. The Meung Yum community in Kunlong Township is unified for language development.

The third goal was to select the most suitable variety for language development. Namt Yoke was found to be the most suitable variety because the Namt Yoke variety is well understood by all the villages and Namt Yoke is by far the most commonly given name as the most prestigious variety among the people.

The final goal of the research was to assess whether a Meung Yum language development could be extended to Savaiq. Lexical similarity between Meung Yum and Savaiq were found to be high and Savaiq speakers had high levels of comprehension of the Namt Yoke variety in intelligibility testing. However, there are doubts over the acceptability of Meung Yum as the language for literacy among the Savaiq, because positive attitude of the Savaiq toward Meung Yum is not found in one of the two selected Savaiq villages. Moreover some Savaiq villagers see themselves as more prestigious and developed than the Meung Yum people.

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### บทคัดย่อ

วิทยานิพนธ์ฉบับนี้บรรยายเกี่ยวกับการประเมินความจำเป็นของการพัฒนาภาษาในเมืองยุม รวมถึงการประเมินเบื้องต้นว่าผู้พูดภาษาสะเหวิดจะได้รับประโยชน์จากโครงการพัฒนาภาษาเมืองยุมหรือไม่ วัตถุประสงค์ในการวิจัยมี 4 ประการดังนี้

วัตถุประสงค์แรกคือ เพื่อประเมินความจำเป็นของการพัฒนาภาษาท้องถิ่นของผู้พูดภาษาเมืองยุม ผลการประเมินพบว่าผู้พูดภาษาเมืองยุมมีสมรรถภาพทางภาษาทั้งทางด้านกรพูดและการเขียนภาษาที่ใช้สื่อสารในวงกว้าง (languages of wider communication: LWCs) ในระดับที่ต่ำมาก อย่างไรก็ตาม ผู้พูดภาษาเมืองยุมมีทัศนคติในทางบวกต่อภาษาที่ใช้สื่อสารในวงกว้าง

วัตถุประสงค์ที่สองคือ เพื่อประเมินผลความร่วมมือในการพัฒนาภาษาท้องถิ่น ผลการประเมินพบว่า ภาษาเมืองยุมมีพลังชีวิตของภาษาที่ดีมากและผู้พูดภาษามีทัศนคติในทางบวกต่อภาษาแม่ของตน ผลการวิจัยแสดงให้เห็นว่า ภาษาและวัฒนธรรมเมืองยุมจะถูกถ่ายทอดไปสู่คนรุ่นใหม่ในอนาคต ประชากรเมืองยุมมีจำนวนประมาณ 8,000 คน ผู้คนในเมืองยุมมีความสัมพันธ์ที่ดีต่อกัน ถึงแม้จะนับถือศาสนาต่างกัน มีชาวเมืองยุมที่มีการศึกษาบางคนที่จะช่วยเป็นแรงสำคัญในการพัฒนาภาษาได้ ชุมชนภาษาเมืองยุมในเมืองกุนลงเป็นชุมชนที่ถูกกำหนดให้มีการพัฒนาภาษาได้

วัตถุประสงค์ที่สามคือ เพื่อเลือกวิชาภาษาเมืองยุมที่เหมาะสมที่สุดสำหรับการพัฒนา ผลการวิจัยแสดงให้เห็นว่า วิชาภาษาน่ายกเป็นวิชาที่เหมาะสมที่สุด เนื่องจากเป็นวิชาที่ผู้คนในหมู่บ้านใช้สื่อสารเข้าใจกันได้และผู้พูดภาษาเมืองยุมเห็นพ้องต้องกันว่าวิชาภาษาน่ายกเป็นวิชาที่มีศักดิ์ศรีมากที่สุด

วัตถุประสงค์สุดท้ายคือ เพื่อประเมินว่าการพัฒนาภาษาเมืองยุมจะขยายออกไปถึงการพัฒนาภาษาสะเทวีตได้หรือไม่ ผลการประเมินพบว่า ภาษาเมืองยุมและภาษาสะเทวีตมีความคล้ายคลึงทางคำศัพท์ในระดับสูง และผลการทดสอบความเข้าใจภาษาของผู้พูดภาษาสะเทวีตแสดงให้เห็นว่า ผู้พูดภาษาสะเทวีตมีความเข้าใจวิชาภาษาน่ายกในระดับสูง อย่างไรก็ตาม ยังมีข้อสงสัยว่า ผู้พูดภาษาสะเทวีตจะยอมรับภาษาเมืองยุมเป็นภาษาในการอ่านและเขียนหรือไม่ เนื่องจากผลการวิจัยแสดงให้เห็นว่า ผู้พูดภาษาสะเทวีตจากหมู่บ้านหนึ่งในสองหมู่บ้านที่เก็บข้อมูลไม่ได้มีทัศนคติในทางบวกต่อภาษาเมืองยุมแต่อย่างใด นอกจากนี้ชาวสะเทวีตบางคนยังเห็นว่าตนเองมีศักดิ์ศรีและมีการพัฒนามากกว่าชาวเมืองยุมอีกด้วย



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements .....	ii
Abstract .....	iii
บทคัดย่อ .....	v
List of Tables .....	xii
List of Figures .....	xv
List of Abbreviations and Symbols.....	xvi
Glossary .....	xvii
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Names and language classification .....	1
1.2.1 Classification .....	2
1.2.2 Identity .....	3
1.3 Geography and demography.....	3
1.4 Language development and education.....	6
1.5 Religious situation .....	7
1.6 Goals of the research .....	7
1.7 Scope and limitation of the research.....	8
1.8 Benefits of the research .....	8
1.9 Outline of the thesis .....	8
Chapter 2 Theoretical foundations .....	10
2.1 Phonetic and lexical comparison .....	10
2.1.1 Wordlists.....	10
2.1.2 Lexicostatistics.....	11
2.2 Intelligibility testing .....	14
2.3 Phonological comparison.....	16

2.4 Sociolinguistics .....	16
2.4.1 Bilingualism.....	17
2.4.2 Language choice .....	17
2.4.3 Language vitality .....	18
2.4.4 Language attitudes.....	19
Chapter 3 Sociolinguistic survey design .....	20
3.1 Goals of survey and research questions .....	20
3.1.1 Goal 1: Assess the need for vernacular language development .....	20
3.1.2 Goal 2: Investigate the readiness.....	21
3.1.3 Goal 3: Determine the most suitable variety for Meung Yum language program.....	22
3.1.4 Goal 4: Could Savaïq be incorporated in a Meung Yum language program? .....	22
3.2 Site selection and summary of data collected .....	23
3.3 Survey instruments.....	24
3.3.1 Wordlist collection and procedures.....	24
3.3.2 Knowledgeable insider sociolinguistic questionnaire .....	25
3.3.3 Religious leader interview questionnaire .....	26
3.3.4 Individual sociolinguistic questionnaire.....	27
3.3.5 Recorded text test .....	28
3.3.6 Dialect mapping tool.....	30
3.3.7 Observation notes .....	30
3.4 Subject selection.....	30
3.4.1 Screening criteria.....	31
3.4.2 Sampling.....	31
3.5 Methods of analysis .....	32
3.5.1 Phonetic transcription.....	32
3.5.2 Lexicostatistics.....	32
3.5.3 Recorded text test .....	38
Chapter 4 Sociolinguistics analysis I: assessing the need .....	39

4.1 Description of survey sites .....	39
4.1.1 Overview of village communities.....	39
4.1.2 Age distribution .....	41
4.1.3 Education of subjects .....	43
4.2 Potential to use Shan.....	47
4.2.1 Potential to use Shan for oral communication .....	47
4.2.2 Potential to use Shan for written communication .....	51
4.2.3 Attitudes to written Shan.....	52
4.2.4 Summary of evidence concerning potential to use Shan .....	53
4.3 Potential to use Lachid .....	53
4.3.1 Potential to use Lachid in oral communication .....	53
4.3.2 Potential to use Lachid for written communication .....	56
4.3.3 Attitudes to written Lachid .....	56
4.3.4 Summary of evidence concerning potential to use Lachid.....	57
4.4 Potential to use Burmese .....	57
4.4.1 Potential to use Burmese for oral communication.....	58
4.4.2 Potential to use Burmese for written communication .....	60
4.4.3 Attitudes to Burmese.....	60
4.4.4 Summary of evidence concerning potential to use Burmese.....	61
4.5 Potential to use Chinese.....	62
4.5.1 Potential to use Chinese in oral communication .....	62
4.5.2 Potential to use Chinese in written communication .....	63
4.5.3 Attitudes to Chinese.....	63
4.5.4 Summary of evidence concerning potential to use Chinese.....	63
4.6 Potential to use Wa.....	64
4.6.1 Potential to use Wa in oral communication .....	64
4.6.2 Potential to use written Wa .....	65
4.6.3 Attitudes to Wa.....	65
4.6.4 Summary of evidence concerning potential to use Wa.....	66

4.7 Summary of findings relating to Goal 1: assessing the need.....	66
4.7.1 Potential to use oral form of LWCs .....	67
4.7.2 Potential to use written form of LWCs .....	67
4.7.3 Attitudes to LWCs .....	67
4.8 Conclusions relating to Goal 1: assessing the need .....	67
Chapter 5 Sociolinguistic survey analysis II: investigating the readiness .....	69
5.1 Language vitality .....	69
5.1.1 Language identity .....	69
5.1.2 Language use .....	71
5.1.3 Language attitudes to Meung Yum.....	74
5.2 Population size .....	74
5.3 Interest in language development.....	75
5.3.1 Interest of people in general .....	75
5.3.2 Interest of religious leaders.....	76
5.4 Unity of the people and potential language development leaders.....	77
5.5 Summary of findings relating to Goal 2: readiness .....	79
5.6 Conclusions relating to readiness.....	81
Chapter 6 Sociolinguistics Analysis III: the suitable variety for language development and extensibility of Meung Yum to Savaïq.....	82
6.1 Mutual intelligibility of Meung Yum varieties .....	82
6.1.1 Phonetic features .....	83
6.1.2 Lexical comparison .....	84
6.1.3 RTT results.....	85
6.1.4 Summary of findings for mutual intelligibility of Meung Yum varieties..	87
6.2 Prestige dialect .....	87
6.3 Interaction between Meung Yum varieties.....	90
6.4 Linguistic relationship with other Palaungic varieties .....	93
6.4.1 Phonetic comparisons .....	93
6.4.2 Lexical comparisons.....	94

6.4.3 Summary of findings for linguistic relationship of Meung Yum with other varieties .....	97
6.5 Summary of findings and conclusion relating to Goal 3: the most suitable variety for Meung Yum language development. ....	97
6.6 Intelligibility of Meung Yum for Savaiq .....	98
6.6.1 Lexical comparison .....	98
6.6.2 RTT results.....	99
6.6.3 Summary of findings for Savaiq’s intelligibility of Meung Yum .....	100
6.7 Language attitude of Savaiq speakers towards Meung Yum.....	101
6.8 Interactions between Meung Yum and Savaiq .....	105
6.9 Summary of findings and conclusion relating to Goal 4: extensibility of Meung Yum to Savaiq .....	105
Chapter 7 Conclusions.....	107
7.1 Overview of the study .....	107
7.2 Conclusions relating to the goals of the study.....	108
7.2.1 Goal 1: Assess the need for Meung Yum language development .....	108
7.2.2 Goal 2: Investigating the readiness .....	109
7.2.3 Goal 3: Determine the most suitable variety .....	110
7.2.4 Goal 4: Could Savaiq be incorporated in a Meung Yum language program? .....	111
7.3 Suggestions for further research .....	111
Bibliography.....	113
Appendix A Wordlist data .....	115
Appendix B Questionnaires used .....	135
Appendix C List of villages .....	181
Appendix D RTT resources .....	184
Resume .....	198

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: The estimated population of Wa people by country.....	5
Table 2: Criteria for comparing phone pairs (Blair 1990:31-32).....	12
Table 3: Acceptable category combinations for lexical similarity.....	12
Table 4: Guidelines for interpreting lexical similarity percentages (Romaine 1994:5) .....	13
Table 5: Typology of situations based on intelligibility and lexical similarity (Blair 1990:23).....	13
Table 6: Interpretation of standard deviation (Nahhas 2007:70).....	15
Table 7: Ethnolinguistic vitality indicators (Landweer 2002:20).....	18
Table 8: Site selection.....	24
Table 9: Description of sections on Knowledgeable Insider Sociolinguistic Questionnaire.....	26
Table 10: Description of sections on Religious Leader Interview Questionnaire.....	27
Table 11: Descriptions of sections on Individual Sociolinguistics Questionnaire.....	28
Table 12: RTT preparation steps.....	29
Table 13: Planned sample size by age and gender.....	31
Table 14: Data with root and non-root syllables.....	32
Table 15: Data with root forms only.....	33
Table 16: Criteria for segment comparison (Blair 1990: 31-32).....	35
Table 17: Application of similarity for lexical item 'ten'.....	36
Table 18: Acceptable category combinations for lexical similarity.....	37
Table 19: Lexical similarity analysis.....	38
Table 20: Ethnic composition of Meung Yum villages in sample.....	40
Table 21: Ethnic composition of Savaiq villages in sample.....	40
Table 22: Age distribution of Meung Yum subjects by village, gender and age groups .....	41
Table 23: Age distribution of Meung Yum by age and gender.....	42
Table 24: Age distribution of Savaiq by village, gender and age group.....	42
Table 25: Age distribution of Savaiq by age and gender.....	43
Table 26: Years in formal education by village and gender.....	44
Table 27: Years in formal education by age and gender.....	45
Table 28: Years in formal education of Savaiq by village and gender.....	45
Table 29: Years in formal education by age and gender of Savaiq.....	46

Table 30: Years in Shan temple by Meung Yum village.....	46
Table 31: Length of time male Savaiq subjects spent time in Shan temple .....	47
Table 32: Number of Meung Yum who report they speak Shan.....	48
Table 33: Meung Yum who report they can speak Shan as second best.....	48
Table 34: Meung Yum: Speaking Shan as third best .....	49
Table 35: Meung Yum: Fluency of speaking Shan.....	49
Table 36: Bilingual proficiency evaluation-Shan.....	50
Table 37: Years in monastery education of five Meung Yum subjects who can read Shan .....	51
Table 38: Number of Meung Yum who report they speak Lachid .....	54
Table 39: Meung Yum who report they can speak Lachid as second best .....	55
Table 40: Number of Meung Yum who reported that they speak Burmese .....	58
Table 41: Years Meung Yum speakers spent in formal education by age and gender .....	59
Table 42: Number of Meung Yum who reported that they speak Chinese .....	62
Table 43: Monolingual Meung Yum by village and gender.....	70
Table 44: Language use in family domain .....	72
Table 45: Language use outside of the home.....	72
Table 46: Number of people and households in Meung Yum visited sites.....	74
Table 47: Reasons for willing to have a writing system in the mothertongue.....	76
Table 48: Preferred script for Meung Yum alphabets.....	78
Table 49: Meung Yum initial consonant phones .....	83
Table 50: Meung Yum final consonant phones .....	83
Table 51: Meung Yum vowel phones.....	84
Table 52: Meung Yum village RTT scores.....	85
Table 53: Ways of communicating with other Meung Yum villagers .....	86
Table 54: The most important Meung Yum village.....	88
Table 55: The most important Meung Yum village.....	89
Table 56: Other Meung Yum villages the subjects travel to .....	91
Table 57: How often the subjects travel to other Meung Yum villages .....	91
Table 58: Reasons subjects travel to other Meung Yum villages .....	92
Table 59: Length of time visiting other Meung Yum villages.....	92
Table 60: Consonant segments of Proto-Wa, Meung Yum and Standard Wa.....	93
Table 61: Sources data for lexical comparisons .....	95
Table 62: Savaiq Villages' Meung Yum RTT scores.....	99
Table 63: Savaiq subjects' self-reported comprehension on Meung Yum RTT.....	99
Table 64: Children's reported understanding of storyteller's variety.....	100

Table 65: Attitudes of Savaiq people toward the Namt Yoke Meung Yum variety .	101
Table 66: Reasons why 10 subjects disliked the storyteller's speech.....	102
Table 67: Reasons why 14 subjects liked the storyteller's speech .....	102
Table 68: Feelings about intermarriage with Meung Yum .....	103
Table 69: Reasons why subjects would agree to intermarriage.....	103
Table 70: Reasons why subjects do not agree to intermarriage .....	104
Table 71: Savaiqs who want to read and write Meung Yum-Namt Yoke.....	104
Table 72: Namt Yoke subjects' scores on the Meung Yum RTT.....	192
Table 73: Man Pein subjects' scores on the Meung Yum RTT.....	193
Table 74: Kaung Sang subjects' scores on the Meung Yum RTT.....	194
Table 75: Man Kan subjects' scores on the Meung Yum RTT .....	195
Table 76: Man Gyat subjects' scores on the Meung Yum RTT.....	196
Table 77: Thein Tan subjects' scores on the Meung Yum RTT .....	197

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## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Language Classification of Waic languages (adapted from Lewis 2009) .....	2
Figure 2: Map of Wa speaking area (Watkins 2002:4) .....	4
Figure 3: Meung Yum and Savaïq villages in Kunlong Township and Wa-SAR.....	5
Figure 4: Initial and medial consonants which share at least two features .....	33
Figure 5: Final consonants which share at least two features .....	34
Figure 6: Vowels differing by one feature.....	34
Figure 7: Simple vowels with phonetically-similar diphthongs.....	35
Figure 8: Lexical similarity for 8 Meung Yum varieties .....	84
Figure 9: Lexical similarity for Meung Yum and related Palaungic varieties .....	96
Figure 10: Lexical similarity percentages for 8 Meung Yum and 2 Savaïq varieties.	98

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

ACTFL	=	American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages
FSI	=	Foreign Service Institute
ISQ	=	Individual Sociolinguistic Questionnaire
KIQ	=	Knowledgeable Insider Questionnaire
IPA	=	International Phonetic Alphabet
L1	=	First language
L2	=	the second language a person learns
LWC	=	Language of Wider Communication
MIMU	=	Myanmar Information Management Unit
MSEAG	=	Mainland Southeast Asia Group (of SIL international)
MT	=	Mother tongue
No.	=	Number
PT	=	Participatory Tool
RLQ	=	Religious Leader Questionnaire
RAID	=	Research and Instrument Design
RTT	=	Recorded Text Test
SIL	=	Summer Institute of Linguistics
SLOPE	=	Second Language Oral Proficiency Evaluation
SLQ	=	Sociolinguistic Questionnaire
Wa-SAR	=	Wa Self-Administered Region

## GLOSSARY

Mean – the sum of a set of values divided by the number of values in the set. For example for the data set {1, 5, 4, 9, 13, 1, 2} the mean is  $(1+5+4+9+13+1+2)/7=5$ .

Median – the middle value when a set of numbers is ordered from smallest to largest. For example for the data set {1,5,4,9,13,1,2}, put the numbers in order: 1,1,2,4,5,9,13. The middle value is 4. If there are even numbers of values in the set, the median is calculated by finding the mean of the two middle values.

Standard deviation – a measure of how far individual values in a set deviate from the mean.