

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement.....	v
Abstract .....	vi
ບທກົດຍ່ອ .....	vii
List of Figures .....	xii
List of Tables.....	xiv
List of Abbreviations and Symbols.....	xxi
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.0 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Background .....	1
1.1.1 Historical background .....	3
1.1.2 Geography and demography .....	4
1.1.3 Culture.....	6
1.1.4 Communication.....	6
1.1.5 Nomenclature .....	7
1.1.6 Chin languages in Chin State .....	8
1.2 Literature review .....	9
1.2.1 Overview of Chin linguistic classification.....	9
1.2.2 Reconstruction of Chin languages .....	16
1.3 Purpose of thesis .....	17
1.4 Methodology .....	18
1.5 Source of linguistic data.....	19
CHAPTER 2 SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE CHIN LANGUAGES .....	22
2.0 Introduction .....	22
2.1 Lexicostatistics analysis .....	22
2.2 Turning numbers into trees .....	25
2.3 Preliminary subgrouping.....	27

2.4 Selected languages .....	29
<b>CHAPTER 3 OVERVIEW OF SELECTED LANGUAGES.....</b>	<b>32</b>
3.0 Introduction .....	32
3.1 Tedim .....	32
3.1.1 Syllable structure.....	33
3.1.2 Consonants .....	33
3.1.3 Vowels.....	34
3.1.5 Segment distribution .....	35
3.1.5 Tone.....	35
3.2 Mizo.....	37
3.2.1 Syllable structure.....	38
3.2.2 Consonants .....	39
3.2.3 Vowels.....	40
3.2.4 Segment distribution .....	40
3.2.5 Tone.....	41
3.3 Hakha .....	42
3.3.1 Syllable structure.....	42
3.3.2 Consonants .....	42
3.3.3 Vowels.....	43
3.3.4 Segment distribution .....	43
3.3.5 Tone.....	44
3.4 Mara.....	45
3.4.1 Syllable structure.....	46
3.4.2 Consonants .....	46
3.4.3 Vowels.....	47
3.4.4 Segment distribution .....	47
3.4.5 Tone.....	47
3.5 Khumi.....	48

3.5.1 Syllable structure.....	48
3.5.2 Consonants .....	49
3.5.3 Vowels.....	49
3.5.4 Segment distribution .....	49
3.5.5 Tone.....	50
3.6 Kaang .....	51
3.6.1 Syllable structure.....	51
3.6.2 Consonants .....	52
3.6.3 Vowels.....	52
3.6.4 Segment distribution .....	53
3.6.5 Tone.....	53
3.7 Brief summary.....	54
<b>CHAPTER 4 RECONSTRUCTION.....</b>	<b>56</b>
4.0 Introduction .....	56
4.1 General .....	56
4.2 Initial consonants .....	58
4.2.1 Stops.....	60
4.2.2 Nasals .....	62
4.2.3 Trill.....	65
4.2.4 Fricatives.....	67
4.2.5 Affricates.....	69
4.2.6 Lateral approximants.....	70
4.2.7 Initial consonant clusters.....	71
4.3 Nucleus.....	73
4.3.1 Monophthong vowels.....	73
4.3.2 Diphthongs .....	76
4.4 Codas .....	80
4.4.1 Nasal codas.....	80

4.4.2 Trill coda .....	82
4.4.3 Stop codas .....	82
4.4.4 Lateral approximant coda.....	84
4.5 Symmetrical considerations .....	84
4.5.1 Consonant inventory .....	85
4.5.2 Vowel inventory.....	89
4.6 Tones .....	90
4.7 Summary .....	98
CHAPTER 5 PROTO CHIN.....	101
5.0 Introduction.....	101
5.1 General description of Proto Chin.....	101
5.1.1 Syllable structure.....	101
5.1.2 Consonant inventory .....	102
5.1.3 Vowels.....	103
5.1.4 Segment distribution .....	103
5.2 The Chin language family .....	104
5.2.1 Shared phonological rules.....	104
5.2.2 Phonological vs. lexicostatistic groupings .....	109
5.3 Summary .....	111
CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION.....	112
APPENDIX A: RECONSTRUCTED SYLLABLES .....	116
APPENDIX B: RECONSTRUCTED WORDS .....	127
APPENDIX C: RECONSTRUCTED WORDS ALPHABETIZED BY CHIN .....	132
APPENDIX D: RECONSTRUCTED WORDS ALPHABETIZED BY GLOSS ...	137
APPENDIX E: WORD LISTS IN FULL SYLLABLES.....	142
APPENDIX F: WORD LISTS USED FOR LEXICOSTATISTICS.....	157
APPENDIX G: THE STATUS OF THE VOICELESS LABIAL FRICATIVE .....	165
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	168

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Map of Myanmar .....	2
Figure 2. Map of Chin State.....	5
Figure 3. The Tibeto-Burman linguistic family (Bradley 1997:2).....	10
Figure 4. Kuki-Chin-Naga of North-eastern India group (Bradley 1997) .....	11
Figure 5. Kuki-Chin-Naga (Bradley 1997) .....	12
Figure 6. Chin subgroups (Bradley 1997).....	13
Figure 7. The Kuki-Chin language family (Grierson 1904).....	13
Figure 8. Grierson's classification of Chin languages .....	14
Figure 9. The Kuki-Chin language family (Peiros 1998) .....	15
Figure 10. Chin language subgrouping (Peterson 2000).....	15
Figure 11. So-Hartmann's (1988) classification of Southern Chin.....	16
Figure 12. Geographical centers of language groups.....	21
Figure 13. Chin language tree based on average link method .....	27
Figure 14. Preliminary subgrouping of Chin languages .....	28
Figure 15. Chin language tree based on shared phonological changes.....	108
Figure 16. Subgrouping based on shared phonological rules .....	108
Figure 17. Preliminary subgrouping of Chin languages .....	109
Figure 18. Subgrouping based on shared phonological rules .....	110
Figure 19. Subgrouping based on shared phonological rules .....	
(repeated from Figure 16) .....	114

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Chin languages in the Chin State of Myanmar .....	9
Table 2. Phone table for lexical similarity (Blair 1990:32) .....	23
Table 3. Matrix of lexicostatistic percentages in 21 Chin language .....	24
Table 4. Percentage of lexicostatistics similarity .....	26
Table 5. Selected Chin languages .....	29
Table 6. The Bible in Chin languages.....	31
Table 7. Examples of syllable shapes in Tedim.....	33
Table 8. Tedim consonant inventory.....	33
Table 9. Tedim vowel inventory .....	34
Table 10. Tedim diphthongs .....	35
Table 11. Tedim final consonants .....	35
Table 12. Tedim tone distribution.....	36
Table 13. Examples of Tedim verb forms in different syllable shapes.....	37
Table 14. Examples of syllable shapes in Mizo.....	39
Table 15. Mizo consonant inventory.....	39
Table 16. Mizo vowel inventory .....	40
Table 17. Mizo diphthongs .....	40
Table 18. Mizo final consonants .....	41
Table 19. Mizo tone distribution.....	41
Table 20. Examples of syllable shapes in Hakha.....	42

Table 21. Hakha consonant inventory .....	43
Table 22. Hakha vowel inventory .....	43
Table 23. Hakha diphthongs .....	44
Table 24. Hakha final consonants .....	44
Table 25. Hakha tone distribution.....	45
Table 26. Examples of syllable shapes in Mara.....	46
Table 27. Mara consonant inventory.....	46
Table 28. Mara vowel inventory .....	47
Table 29. Mara diphthongs .....	47
Table 30. Mara tone distribution.....	48
Table 31. Examples of syllable shapes in Khumi .....	48
Table 32. Khumi consonant inventory .....	49
Table 33. Khumi vowel inventory .....	49
Table 34. Khumi diphthong inventory .....	50
Table 35. Khumi final consonants .....	50
Table 36. Khumi tone distribution .....	50
Table 37. Examples of syllable shapes in Kaang .....	51
Table 38. Kaang consonant inventory.....	52
Table 39. Kaang vowel inventory .....	53
Table 40. Kaang diphthongs .....	53
Table 41. Kaang final consonants .....	53
Table 42. Kaang tone distribution.....	54

Table 43. Percentage of loan words in Chin languages .....	57
Table 44. Ono's (1965) Proto Kuki-Chin initial consonants .....	58
Table 45. Solnit's (1979) simple initial consonants.....	58
Table 46. Solnit's (1979) initial clusters.....	59
Table 47. Solnit's (1979) reconstructed final consonants.....	59
Table 48. Proto Chin initial voiceless labial stop *p.....	60
Table 49. Proto Chin initial voiceless aspirated labial stop * $p^h$ .....	60
Table 50. Proto Chin initial voiced labial stop *b .....	61
Table 51. Proto Chin initial voiceless coronal stop *t .....	61
Table 52. Proto Chin initial voiceless aspirated alveolar stop * $t^h$ .....	61
Table 53. Proto Chin initial voiced coronal stop *d .....	62
Table 54. Proto Chin initial voiceless dorsal stop *k.....	62
Table 55. Proto Chin initial voiceless aspirated dorsal stop * $k^h$ .....	62
Table 56. Proto Chin initial labial nasal *m .....	63
Table 57. Proto Chin initial coronal nasal *n .....	63
Table 58. Proto initial Chin dorsal nasal *ŋ.....	63
Table 59. Proto Chin initial voiceless labial nasal * $m^h$ .....	64
Table 60. Proto Chin initial voiceless coronal nasal * $n^h$ .....	64
Table 61. Chin initial voiceless dorsal nasal /ŋ/ .....	65
Table 62. Proto Chin initial coronal trill *r .....	65
Table 63. Proto Chin initial voiceless coronal trill * $r^h$ .....	67

Table 64. Chin initial voiceless labial fricative /f/ .....	67
Table 65. Proto Chin initial voiced labial fricative *v .....	68
Table 66. Proto Chin initial voiceless coronal fricative *s .....	68
Table 67. Proto Chin initial voiced alveolar fricative *z .....	68
Table 68. Proto Chin initial voiceless glottal fricative *h .....	69
Table 69. Proto Chin initial voiceless coronal affricate *ts .....	69
Table 70. Proto Chin initial voiceless aspirated coronal affricate *tʃʰ .....	70
Table 71. Proto initial Chin lateral approximant *l .....	71
Table 72. Proto initial Chin voiceless lateral approximant *ɿ .....	71
Table 73. Proto Chin initial consonant cluster *kr .....	72
Table 74. Proto Chin consonant cluster *kʰr .....	73
Table 75. Proto Chin close unrounded front vowel *i .....	74
Table 76. Proto Chin close rounded back vowel *u .....	74
Table 77. Proto Chin open vowel *a .....	75
Table 78. Proto Chin mid close back vowel *o .....	76
Table 79. Proto Chin mid open front vowel *e .....	76
Table 80. Proto Chin diphthong *ei .....	77
Table 81. Proto Chin diphthong *ai .....	77
Table 82. Proto Chin diphthong *ui .....	77
Table 83. Proto Chin diphthong *ua .....	78
Table 84. Proto Chin diphthong *oi .....	78

Table 85. Proto Chin diphthong *au.....	79
Table 86. Proto Chin diphthong *ia.....	79
Table 87. Proto Chin coda *m .....	80
Table 88. Proto Chin coda *n .....	81
Table 89. Proto Chin coda *ŋ .....	81
Table 90. Proto Chin coda *r .....	82
Table 91. Proto Chin coda *p .....	83
Table 92. Proto Chin coda *t .....	83
Table 93. Proto Chin coda *k .....	83
Table 94. Proto Chin coda *l .....	84
Table 95. Non-symmetrical consonant inventory of Proto Chin .....	85
Table 96. Proto Chin voiced velar stop *g.....	86
Table 97. Sound change process for *r and *g .....	87
Table 98. Tedim /ŋ/ and Mizo /ŋ/ of Bhaskararao (1996) .....	88
Table 99. Proto Chin voiceless velar nasal *ŋ .....	88
Table 100. Revised Proto Chin consonant inventory.....	89
Table 101. Proto Chin vowel inventory .....	89
Table 102. Co-occurrence of Luce's Chin Tone Patterns and syllable types .....	90
Table 103. Tone number of Luce data and present data .....	91
Table 104. Examples of Tone-Pattern I .....	92
Table 105. Luce's tone and the tonal equivalents based on the current data in Tone-Pattern I .....	92

Table 106. Examples of Tone-Pattern IIa .....	93
Table 107. Luce's tone and the tonal equivalents based on the current data in Tone-Pattern IIa .....	93
Table 108. Examples of Tone-Pattern IIb .....	94
Table 109. Luce's tone and the tonal equivalents based on the current data in Tone-Pattern IIb .....	94
Table 110. Examples of Tone-Pattern IIIa .....	95
Table 111. Luce's tone and the tonal equivalents based on the current data in Tone-Pattern IIIa .....	95
Table 112. Examples of Tone-Pattern IIIb .....	96
Table 113. Luce's tone and the tonal equivalents based on the current data in Tone-Pattern IIIb .....	96
Table 114. Chin tonal relationship .....	97
Table 115. Chin onset correspondences .....	98
Table 116. Chin vowel correspondences .....	99
Table 117. Chin coda correspondences .....	99
Table 118. Examples of syllable types in Proto Chin .....	102
Table 119. Proto Chin consonant inventory .....	102
Table 120. Proto Chin vowel inventory .....	103
Table 121. Proto Chin vowel distribution of diphthongs .....	103
Table 122. Proto Chin final consonants .....	104
Table 123. Summary of the phonological rules .....	105
Table 124. Count of shared phonological rules .....	106

Table 125. Count of phonological rules shared by language <b>i</b> but not by language <b>j</b>	106
Table 126. Count of phonological rules shared by language <b>j</b> but not by language <b>i</b>	107
Table 127. Jaccard coefficient of similarity value .....	107
Table 128. UPGMA grouping of representative Chin languages by Jaccard coefficient values for shared phonological rules.....	107
Table 129. Selected Chin languages .....	112