

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

This section contains the conclusion. Each chapter is briefly summarized at the conclusions of this thesis.

The chapter one of this thesis presents about four languages namely; Kayah, Monumanaw, Kayaw and Yintale. They are found primarily in Kayah State, Burma (Burma). Kayah State is located in the eastern part of Burma. It borders Shan State to the northwest, Karen State to the southeast and Thailand's Mae Hong Son province to the east. It is one of the smallest states in Burma with a total population of 207,357 and a total surface area of 11,731.5 sq. km.

Only Kayah has been analyzed by some scholars but the other three languages discussed in this thesis-Kayaw, Monumanaw, and Yintale have never been analyzed.

The methodology for collecting data used is based on the word lists from the Southeast Asia 436 Words for Each Language. When collecting word lists, a tape recorder, notebook, and the International Phonetic Alphabet for transcribing were used.

Many languages are spoken in Kayah State. Others living outside of Kayah State refer to them as 'Kayah'. "Kayah" is often used as a general name for all the Karenic groups residing in Kayah State. When other people living outside of Kayah State say, "Kayah" it includes all Karenic languages spoken in Kayah State. But people living in Kayah State have to identify themselves specifically. When they identify themselves as Kayah they include all Red Karen. They do not include other Karenic languages. Some subgroup names include terms location like Upstream, Downstream, Western People, Eastern People, Upcountry (Gekho), Downcountry (Geba), Up-People (Latha), and so on.

Since each group is called different names by different groups. The Kayah people are spread all over Kayah State but Monumanaw and Kayaw people can be found in Phruso township. There is only one Yintale village in Phasaung township and Bawlake township.

Chapter two compared the four languages using the lexicostatistic method. The lexicostatistic similarity between them is: Kayah and Kayaw 74%, Kayah and Monumanaw 78%, Kayah and Yintale 81%, Yintale and Monumanaw 82%, Yintale and Kayah 74%, and Monumanaw and Kayaw 78%. Based on the lexical percentages of these languages, a tree was drawn depicting the lexical relationships between these languages.

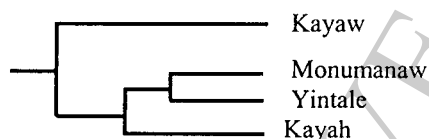


Figure 15. Family-tree Depicting Lexical Relationships

Chapter three provided the synchronic phonologies of Kayah, Kayaw, Monumanaw and Yintale. Kayah has 24 consonants, ten vowels and one diphthong, and four tones. Kayaw has 22 consonants, nine vowels, and four tones. Monumanaw has 22 consonants, ten vowels and four tones. Yintale has 24 consonants, ten vowels and three diphthongs and five tones.

Chapter four gave the phoneme comparisons and correspondences of the four languages. The voiceless aspirated plosives and the voiceless unaspirated plosives all occur in the four languages. But the velar stop /g/ is not found in Kayah. The nasal [ŋ] and /ŋ/ do not occur in Kayaw and Monumanaw, and the fricative /v/ does not occur in Kayaw. The cluster /pw/ does not occur only in Kayaw. The cluster /p^hw/ occurs in Monumanaw and Yintale, and the cluster /bw/ occurs in Kayah and Yintale. Only Kayaw does not have the cluster /k^hw/ and /kw/. The cluster /dʒw/ occurs in Kayah and Yintale, but only Kayah associate the cluster /θw/ in a cluster. The cluster /ʃw/ occurs

in all languages. The cluster /hw/ only occurs in Kayaw. The cluster /mw/ occurs in Kayah and Yintale. Only Kayah has the cluster /rw/. The cluster /lw/ occurs in all languages. The cluster /pj/ occurs in Kayah and Yintale, it does not occur in Kayaw and Monumanaw. The cluster /p^hj/ occurs with Monumanaw and Yintale. Only Kayah has the clusters /bj/, /kj/, /dj/, /rj/, /mj/, /vj/, /ɕj/, /t^hj/ and /ʔj/, none of the rest of the languages have with them. The clusters /k^hj/ and /lj/ only occur in Kayah and Monumanaw. The clusters /pr/ and /kr/ only occur in Kayah. The cluster /gr/ is only found in Yintale and no other consonants occur in a cluster with /g/. Only the consonants /k/ occurring with /r/ in Monumanaw and Kayah. But the consonant /k^h/ occurring with /r/ is only found in Monumanaw. For Kayaw, the consonants /p/, /p^h/, /k/, /k^h/, /t/ and /θ/ occur with /r/ in a cluster consonant. All of the consonants occurring with /l/ in those four languages, such as /pl/, /p^hl/, /kl/ and /k^hl/ can be found in Kayaw, Monumanaw and Yintale. The cluster with /lw/ is found in Kayah and Yintale but it never occurs in the other two languages, Kayaw and Monumanaw. The cluster with /lj/ is only found in Kayah, but it is never found in the other three languages. The diphthong vowels of /ei/, /ai/ and /au/ only occur in Yintale. But one diphthong /wə/ is found only in Kayah not in other three languages. All of the plosives, occurring in the same way, have the same occurrences of the highest percentage, but other correspondences of plosives are very rare. The nasals /m/ and /n/ also have the same occurrences and are of the highest percentage. The correspondence of the palatal nasal /ɲ/ and all fricatives are not consistent, but affricate /dʒ/ is consistent among the four languages.

W. Kayah is richer in clusters than the other three languages. There, therefore, it is rare to find that clusters are consistently correspondent, except for the clusters /lw/ and /pl/.

The vowels /i/ and /u/ are consistently correspondent, but the vowels /e/ and /ɛ/ in Kayah are different in only one feature to be consistent. All the rest of the vowels are not consistently correspondent, but they are very closely related to each other. For the high tone in Monumanaw, the highest percentage correspondent is the same as Kayah. For the high tone in Yintale, it shows that the high tone and falling tone are correspondent in a high percentage to Kayah and Kayaw shows that the high tone and the high-mid tone show correspondence to Kayah in a high percentage. Other such as the high tone, mid tone and low are not very consistently correspondent. Although the lexicostatistic analysis shows that they are different from each other, the consonant phonemes in comparison, initial consonant and vowel correspondences are very similar. Therefore a historical phonological reconstruction should confirm the present analysis.

5.2 Synthesis

This thesis considers three areas of comparison between Kayah, Monumanaw, Kayaw, and Yintale. These are lexical comparison, synchronic phonology, and correspondence sets. The lexical comparison shows that the varieties are fairly similar, with Monumanaw and Yintale being the most similar, followed by Yintale and Kayah. Kayaw is the most different from the other languages lexically.

In terms of phonological complexity, Yintale and Kayah have the most consonants, followed by Kayaw, and then Monumanaw. Yintale has the most tones and diphthong vowels. There are ten planin vowels and three diphthong vowels and it is more conservative for the final alveolar nasal /n/ and velar nasal /ŋ/. Kayah has only one diphthong vowel. Kayah, Kayaw and Yintale don't retain the final codas and diphthong vowels, they are somewhat innovation in those areas. There are four tones in Kayah, Kayaw and Monumanaw except Yintale. The following table summarizes the basic findings of the lexical, phonological and correspondence comparisons:

	Lexically	Phonology					Correspondences				
		C	V	cda	dip	T	C	V	cda	dip	T
Kayaw	lower	22	9	-	-	4	Inv	⁷	mid	mid	
Monu	high	22	10	-	-	4	mid		mid	mid	
Yintale	high	24	10	-n,ŋ	3	5	mid		cons	cons	
Kayah	high	24	10	-	1	4	cons		mid	mid	

Table 99. The Summary of the Different Aspects Analysis

From this table, it can be seen that there is not a strong general relationship between all of the different aspects analyzed in this thesis. The exception is that the language with the most innovative consonant features, in this case, the simplification of consonant clusters are in a language that is relatively lower in lexical similarity with the other languages. This seems reasonable since the criteria used in comparing lexical similarity places more weight on consonants than it does vowels. Nevertheless, if these are consistent correspondence sets, the criteria should have filtered some of this out. Thus, many of these were not consistent (that is having 3 or less cases).

Yintale is the most conservative in terms of codas and diphthongs, which were also noted, in the synchronic description. This seems to have little bearing on the lexical similarity since it is very similar to Monumanaw, which does not share these features.

Correlations between lexical similarity and other features such as phonology and systematic correspondences are a function of the methodology used in lexical counting.

In conclusion, the four languages compared are quite similar. Monumanaw, Yintale, and Kayah are very similar lexically, while Kayaw is a little different. There are similarities in the phonological inventories, with Yintale and Kayah having the most consonants. The number of vowels in each language is similar. Yintale has nasal codas and a more diphthongs than the other languages. Kayah is more conservative

⁷ No conclusions can be drawn from the tones and vowel correspondence sets. Further historical comparison is necessary.

for medial clusters, while Kayaw is the most innovative. Yintale preserves more of the final consonants and diphthongs.

5.3 Further Study

Suggested research; Since the lexical similarity percentages are very close, but reported comprehension is low, it is recommended that comprehension testing be carried out on the varieties studied.

It is necessary for future research to focus on tones analysis because there is a lack of research focusing only on the tones in each language. Sometimes when an informant gives a word that has the same meaning in different form such as a single word and phrasal words, tones can be changed without changing the meaning. Alphabet design has to be made for each Karen language. All Karen languages have no established written form except for Sgaw Karen. Kayah has been devised recently. Orthographies for some languages have been devised by Catholic missionaries in a Roman letter orthography, such as Padaung and Geba. The rest of the languages, if they are Roman Catholic believers, use the Roman alphabet for their scripts.

Dialect survey is necessary for researchers in the future. For example, though Yintale has around 500 speakers, there are at least two distinct dialects. Monumanaw has two dialects too, though the population is about 10,000. Kayaw has two main dialects as well. Other strong dialects are found in Kayin Pyu (kəɲəwah) living in Pinlong township, Southwest Shan State, Mawchi Sgaw Karen living in South Kayah State, and others such as Latha (Gaung ton), Yinbaw (Ka Nga) and Bawlakhe Kayah, and so on.

Grammar survey such as, morphemes, lexicon and syntax, need to be studied in future research. Only one book of grammar, texts and a glossary of Eastern Kayah Li was studied by Solnit.