

Come and Go in Cak

HUZIWARA Keisuke(Kyoto University)

ZXE01631[at]nifty.com

Abstract

Cak is a Luish (Tibeto-Burman) language with its population c. 2000 (1991 census), spoken mainly in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh.

According to the previous studies, including the present author himself, although there are minor discrepancies in spellings, they all write ‘come’ as something like *vaiŋ* and ‘go’ as *laŋ* (see Table1 below).

	LÖFFLER 1964	BERNOT 1966	LUCE 1985	KHAING 1988	HUZIWARA 2002
GO	làng(101: 7-7)	laiŋ(254)	lā̃ ³ (vol.II, K: 114)	ṽl̃ ^{*1} (Appendix: 23-1)	laŋ(260: 413)
COME	vaing(96: 2-4)	veiŋ(255)	vā̃ ³ (vol.II, K: 115)	ṽaĩ(Appendix: 23-2)	vaiŋ(260: 412)

Table1 ‘Come’ and ‘Go’ in Cak

But if you look into other Tibeto-Burman languages, it is obvious that Cak forms look different (see Table2 below): both ‘come’ and ‘go’ in Cak end with *-ŋ* and, roughly speaking, ‘come’ in Cak corresponds to ‘go’ in other languages and ‘go’ to ‘come’, vice versa.

	WB	Marma	Newar	Jingpho	Hakha Lai	Mizo	Garó	Kadu
GO	swa ² , la ²	lá	wan-e	sa ³³ , wa ³¹	kal, va	kal, vei	re-, re-ang-	nang
COME	la	la	wa-ye	sa ³³	ra	lo-kal, thlon	re-, re-ba-	li

Table2 ‘Come’ and ‘Go’ in Tibeto-Burman

In this presentation I will try to show the reason why Cak is different so by exploring Cak morphosyntax. The conclusion is that both ‘come’ and ‘go’ in Cak are originally combined forms: i.e., ‘come’ derives from *va* + auxiliary and ‘go’, from *la* + auxiliary.

References

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ထွန်းရွှေခိုင် (Thun Shwe Khaing) 1988. ရခိုင်မြောက်ပိုင်းဒေသတစ်ခု သက်တိုင်းရင်းသားများ၊ စစ်တွေကောလိပ်။

^{*1} ṽl̃ is found only in the Appendix. Judging from example sentences in other pages written in Burmese alphabet, the actual form would be *lā̃*.