

# Where did the ‘Dog’ ‘Go’: a Continuing ‘Chew’ over the Labiovelars of Northern Yi

Ziwo LAMA

Department of Linguistics & TESOL  
The University of Texas at Arlington

[lamaziwo@yahoo.com](mailto:lamaziwo@yahoo.com)

## [Abstract]

Pan (2001) argues that the consonantal initial forms /  $\widehat{k}p$ ,  $\widehat{k}ph$ ,  $\widehat{g}b$ ,  $\widehat{\eta}gb$ ,  $\widehat{\eta}m$ / of *Adu*, a Northern Yi variety, are clusters and should be reconstructed as the proto-forms of *Yiyuzhi (Yi Branch)*, or Loloish; however, Pan’s proposal has been challenged by Matisoff (2006), who contends that these consonants are not clusters rather unit phonemes in the PLB stage. By using new evidence from *Suondi* and *Shengzha* of Northern Yi, this paper continues on this hot debate. Examples, such as ‘dog’, ‘go’, ‘nest’, ‘chew’, ‘cud’, and so on of *Suondi* patios, suggest that there would exist not only a *velar + labial initials* at least at the Proto-Northern Yi stage, but also a *velar + coronal fricatives* could present at that stage; nevertheless, these forms seem to have developed from PLB *velar plus -w-* series.

## Reference:

- Pan, Zhengyun 潘正云. 2001. 彝语阿都话唇软腭复辅音声母比较研究 [A comparative study of labiovelar cluster initials in the Adu patios of the Yi language]. *民族语文* 2001.2: 17-22.
- Matisoff, A. James. 2006. *Much Adu 阿都 about Something: Extrusional Labiovelars in a Northern Yi Patios. Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area*, Vol 29.1.