

Notes on Pa-O Phonology
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Pa-O (formerly also known as Taungthu), a Karen language, has been the subject of modern linguistic description only in Jones 1961. The present paper, based on 1987-88 fieldwork, emends Jones' description and expands on it. Examples of some findings:

1. The rather unusual contrast that Jones writes as barred i vs barred u holds only in certain environments.
2. Jones describes no tone sandhi, but I find one significant pattern involving the 'low' (Jones) tone.
3. As in other Karen languages, prefixes have noncontrastive tone except for the numeral 'one'.

Reference

Jones, R.B. 1961. Karen Linguistic Studies. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles.