

number of syllables so longer words aren't penalized simply for being longer but weighed according to rate of inferred change per syllable), the top 50 most-retained words in this data set, in order, are given in Table 9.6 below with the inferred cognate-reflex number and Proto-Indo-European reconstruction.⁵⁸ I make no claims (at this point) about cognation, (particularly as I am no expert on Indo-European), except to say that many of them are suggestive. A similar comparison with other (closer?) language families may yield similar or better results. A more rigorous approach to come....

Table 9.6. Most Stable Forms (Inferred) in this Data Set
Compared with Proto-Indo-European

Number	Gloss	Inferred reflexes/ syllable number	Most prevalent phonemes	Other phonemes	PIE
1	I	0.20	ŋ	w	*egō
2	ride	0.20	ts ⁵⁹		
3	six	0.21	k (kj, kɪ)	l	*s(w)eks
4	three	0.21	s	m	*trejes, etc.
5	steal	0.21	k	l	*klepō
6	eight	0.21	x	m, p	*oktō
7	you (sg)	0.22	n	s	*tu, *yū, etc.
8	brain	0.22	n	f, x, ts	*kerəsrom

⁵⁸ As presented at: <http://dnghu.org/indo-european-grammar/indo-european-etymology.pdf>

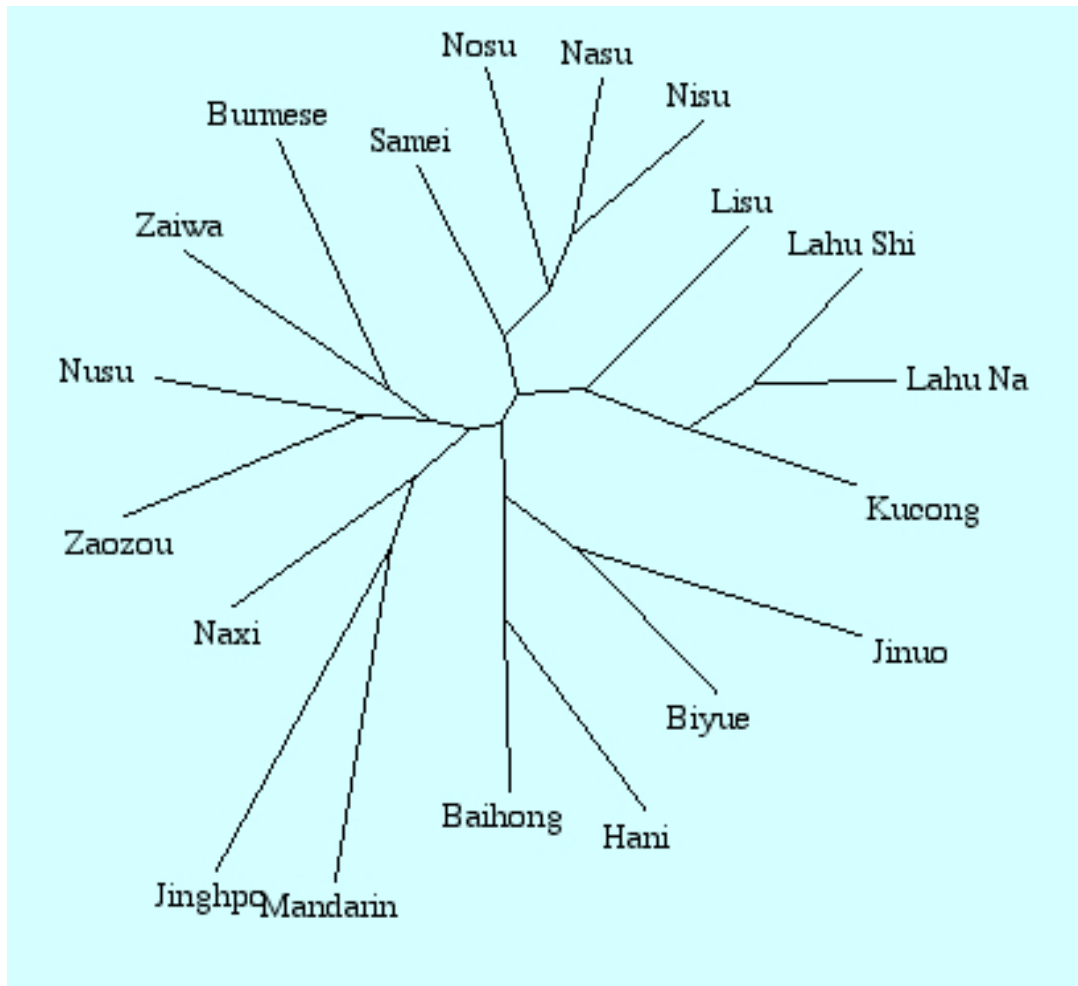
⁵⁹ For brevity, ts will represent various affricates ts, tʃ, tʂ, tɕ, or ts for s, ʃ, ʂ, ɕ, etc. See Appendices for full data sets.

9	dull	0.22	t	m, ts, l, #	*dhwolnos(?)
10	blood	0.22	s	#	*ēsr,
11	bitter	0.23	k	#	*amrós/ *bhidhós
12	hurt	0.23	n	m, ts, t, ŋ	*amgō/ *ṇkējō
13	nine	0.23	k (=ts/γ?)	l, ts, w/γ	*newn
14	thick	0.23	t	x, l, #	*tegús/ *tempos/ *tṃpus
15	tree	0.23	p	ts	*doru, *dreu- *widhus/ *ṛdhjō/ *stṃnos
16	ear	0.24	p	k, t, s, ts	*ousis
17	die	0.24	s	k	*mer-/ *mṛijai
18	five	0.24	ŋ	m, #	*penqe
19	thin (object)	0.24	p ^m b	j, t, #	*dhēmn/ *dhōmós
20	come	0.24	l	s, t, k	*cemjō
21	eat	0.24	ts/ ⁿ dz	s	*edmi
22	open	0.24	p (=f?)	#, k	*pelom/ *wṛeum/ *wṛeumi apo *apo
23	rain	0.25	m	x, #	*mighla
24	black	0.25	n	m, #, ts, h	*bhlgējo/ *recos
25	tiger	0.25	l	k/kj, m, h/s, ts	

26	not	0.25	m (=ŋ?)	p, h, #	*ŋ-
27	father	0.25	#, p	t, v, z	*pātēr
28	heart	0.25	m	s, l, ts	*kerdhos
29	poison	0.25	t, ts	n, j, k, #	
30	dream	0.25	m, j	t, #, l, ʎ	*dreugh-/ *mīkāmi(?)/ * swepō
31	round	0.25	l	v/w/ʎ, t, #, n	*gengā/ *krenghos/ *kṛwos
32	shoulder	0.26	p ^m b	k, t, m, l, ts	*armos/ *omsos/ * pātējō
33	lick	0.26	l, m/mɪ/mj	s, j	*linghō
34	meat	0.26	s (=x?)	#, n	*ghwērīnós *kar-/*kor-
35	ten	0.26	ts	t, s	*dekṃ
36	horn (of animal)	0.26	k/kj (=ts?)	#, t, r, ŋ	*kṛnu
37	hand	0.26	l	p, #, t, s, ts	*mājō/ *apmn/ *derghō/ *dornom, etc.
38	finger	0.26	l, n	kj/ts, s, t	*dékṃtulos/ *penqstis
39	mother	0.26	m	n, #, pj, z	*mātēr
40	lung	0.26	#, ts	p/pj/f, m, w, s	*pleumō
41	fat (of meat)	0.26	ts	s/h, #, p/f, x, m	*magō/ *bhṇghu/ *saldō/ *pīmós, etc.

42	buy	0.26	v/w/ɣ	m, h, j	
43	four	0.26	l/ɫ	#, s, j, m	*qətwɾes
44	sick	0.26	n	p/pj, #, kj/ ^ɲ g	*aigros/ *aghlós
45	liver	0.27	#, s	k, ts, n, v	*jeqr
46	road	0.27	l, k(=ts?)	m, j, s	*weghja/ *ludhóm (many other candidates)
47	snot	0.27	n, p, k	h, ts, t, s	
48	moon	0.27	l/ɫ(=x?), p	m, k, s	*louksnā/ *mensis *ghelwos
49	palm (of hand)	0.27	l, p/pj	k, ts, v, t	*ləpējō/ *pɫmə
50	wind	0.28	m, l/ɫ(=x?)	p/pj/f, ts, ɲ, s	*(ī)wēmi/ *wentos

Figure 9.6 The Best Inferred Phylogeny.



The positions of Lisu, and Zaiwa-Burmese (as a pair) are the least supported.