



The Southern Sinitic languages at the edge of Mainland Southeast Asia

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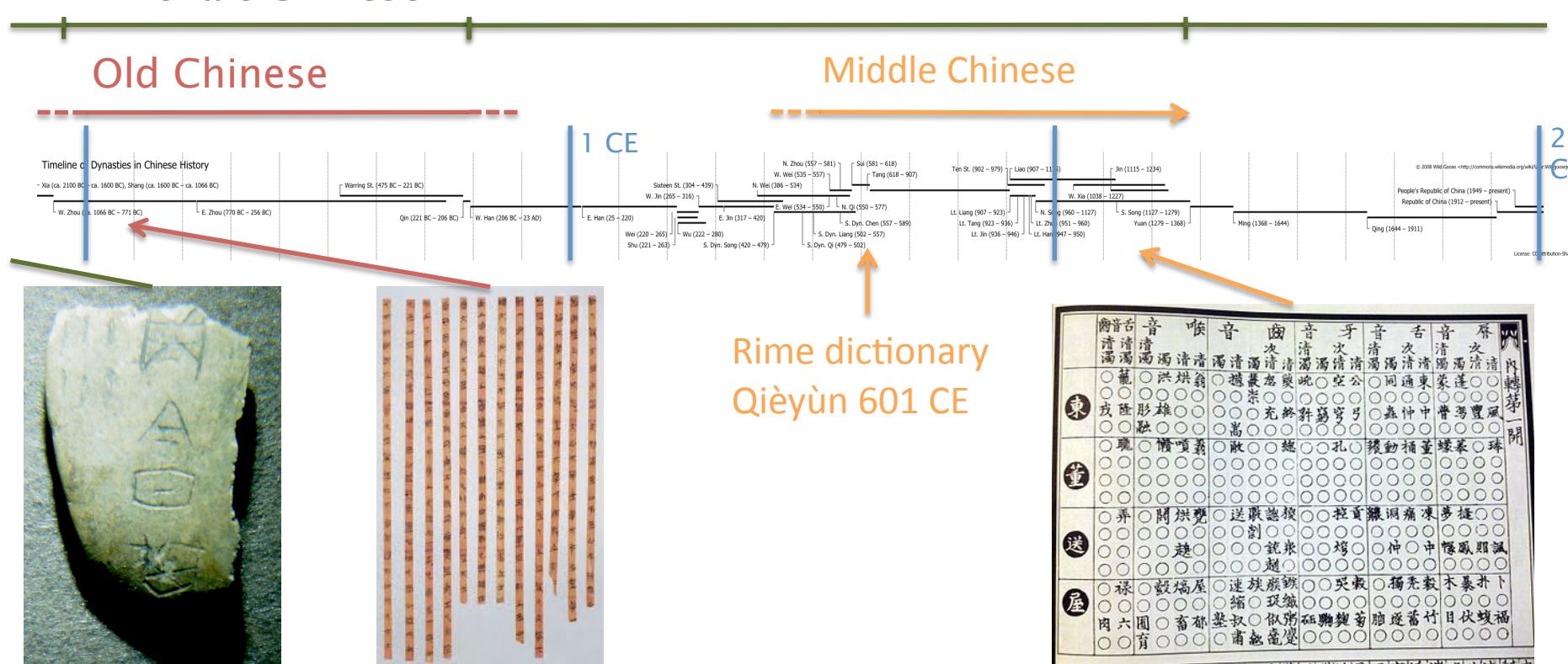
Older stages of Chinese

← Pre-Archaic Chinese

Archaic Chinese

(Pre–)

Medieval Chinese



Oracle bone script
14th – 11th C BCE



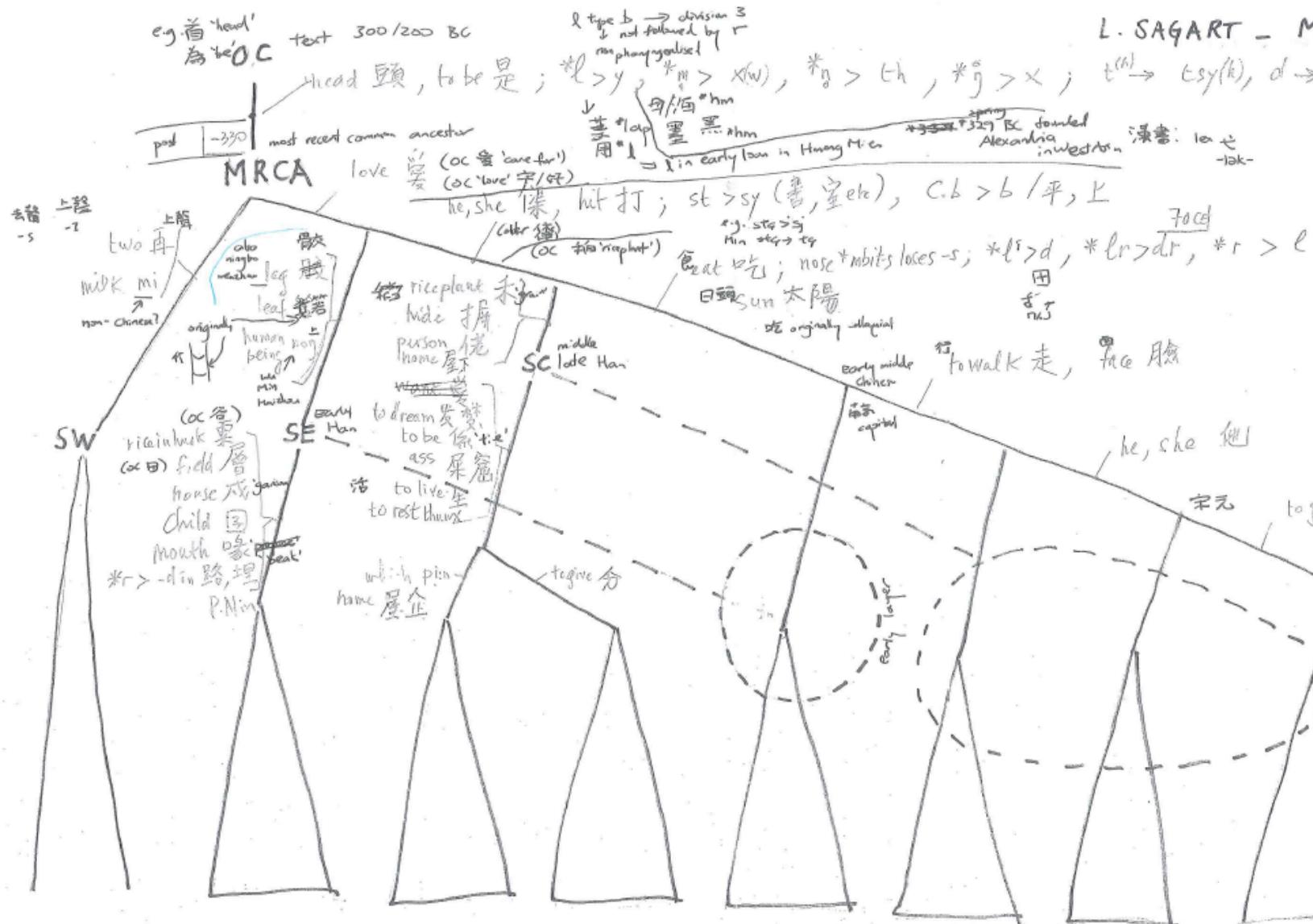
Book of Odes
mostly 11th – 8th C BCE

A photograph of a page from the Rime tables (Yúnjìng, Qīyīnlüè) from 1161 CE, showing a grid of Chinese characters and their rime categories.

Rime tables
Yúnjìng, Qīyīnlüè
1161 CE

2001
CE

L. SAGART - March 2011



Chinese dialects classified on shared innovations - Work in Progress

Norman -
k > ts started
300 years ago
in Manchuria

now in Hebei
Mandarin,
Gansu, south
Inner Mongolia
northeast
Hakka

317 BC 四川
蜀秦

Sinitic languages



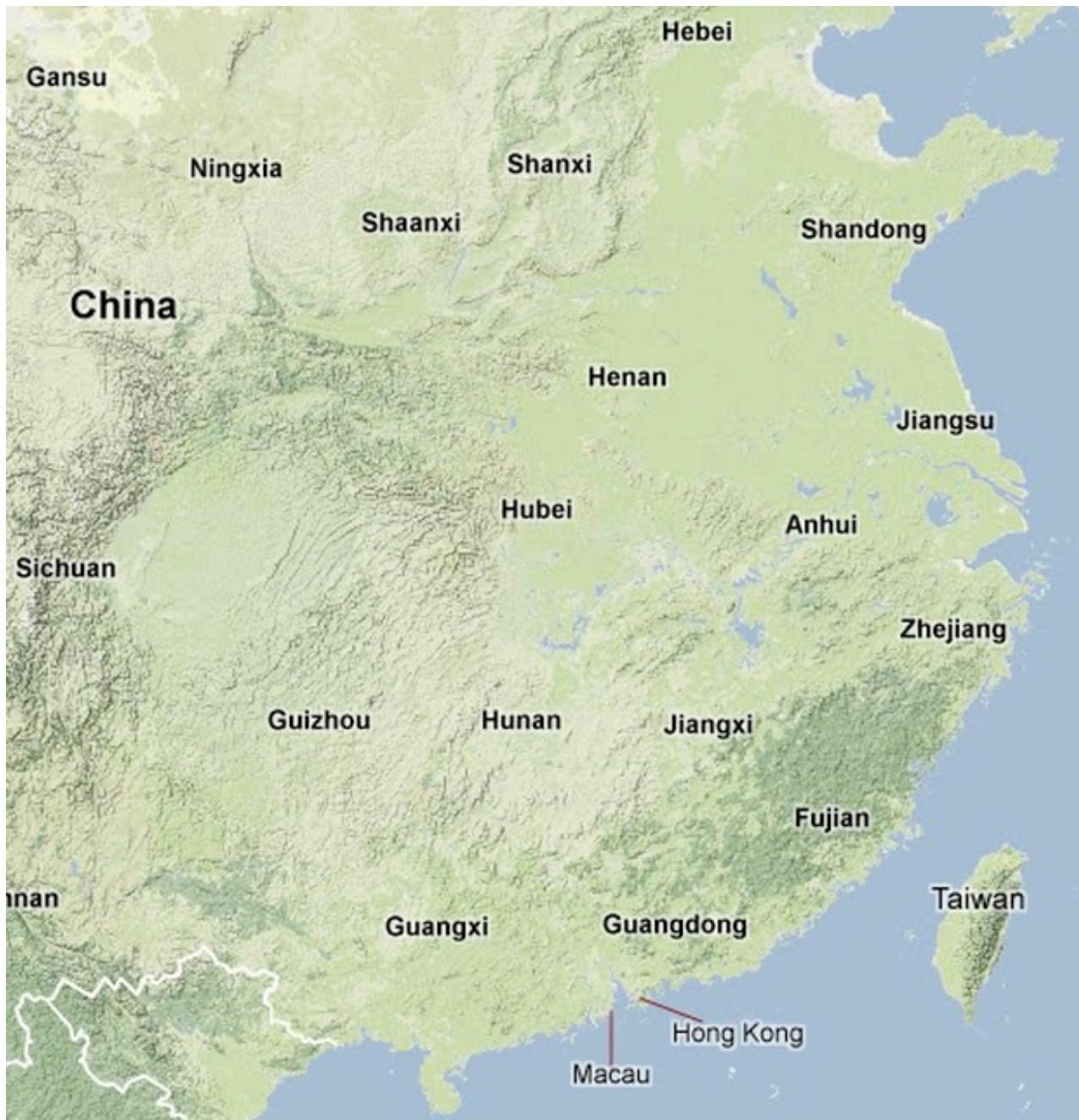
(Ten main groups in the
Language Atlas of China;
Würm and Li et. al 1988)

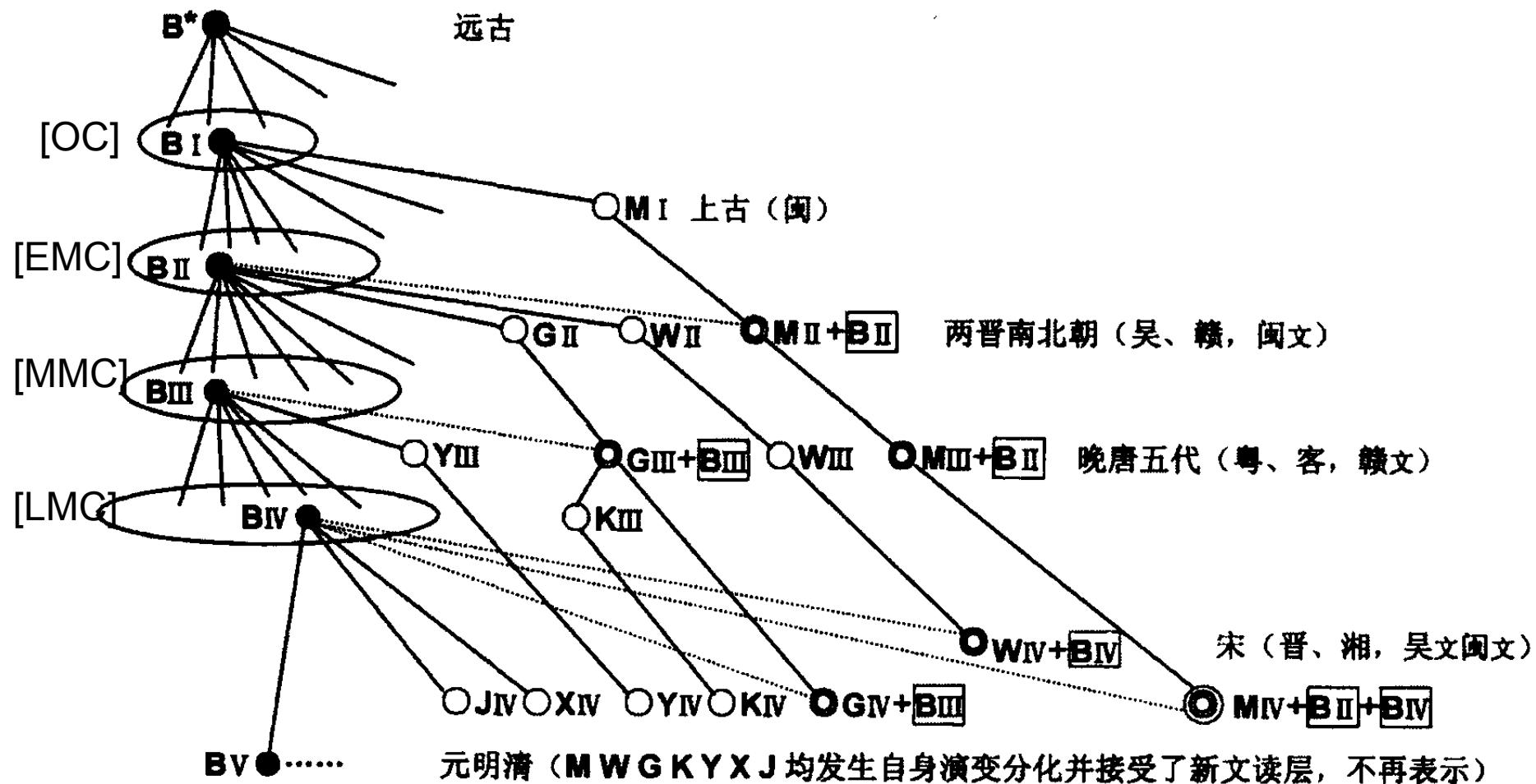
Würm, S.A. et al (eds.). 1988. *Language Atlas of China*. Hong Kong, Longman



Map A 2



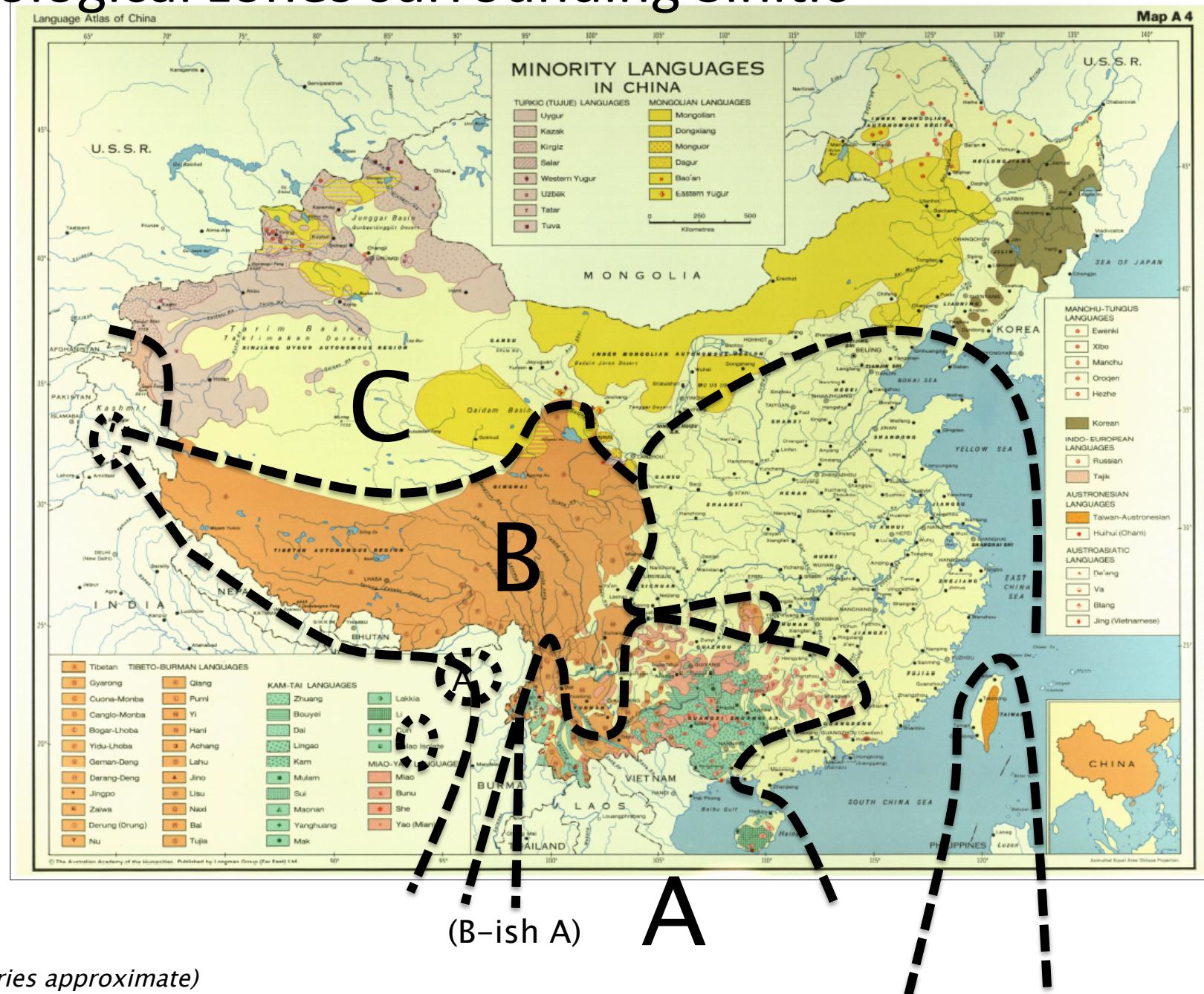




符号说明：节点上的不同圆圈分别表示：●历代通语，○保存至今的地方方言，◎多层叠置的地方方言。

(Wáng 2009: 213)

Typological zones surrounding Sinitic



(boundaries approximate)

Huàngshuǐ Mandarin (Xīníng area)

1. 狗 肉 哈 吃 了

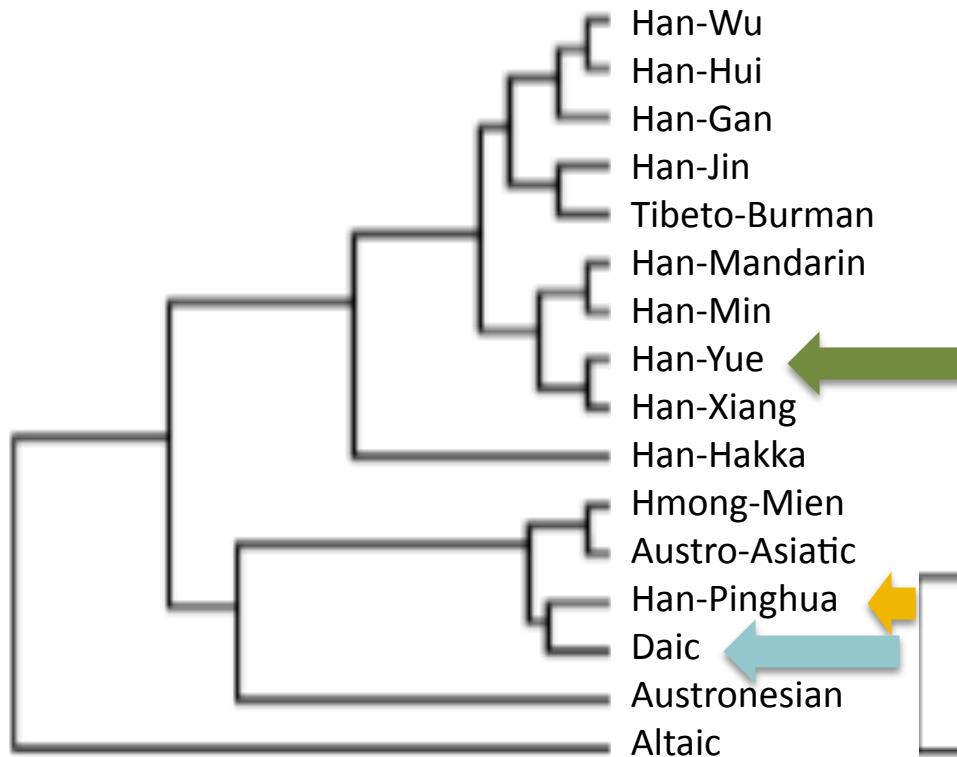
dog meat [OBJ] eat PFT

‘The dog ate the meat.’ (Dede 2007: 867)

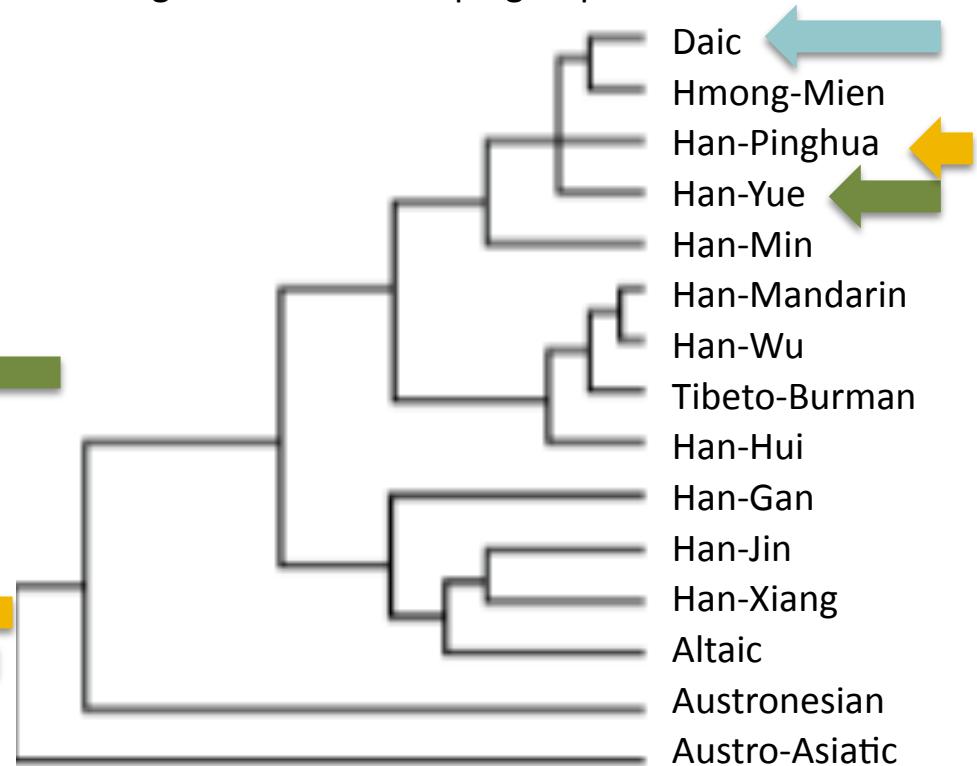
Genetics

- Gan, Pan et al. 2008 dendrogram clustering of Han Chinese branches and other East Asian phyla (also see Wen et al. 2004):

A Dendrogram of Y chromosome haplogroups

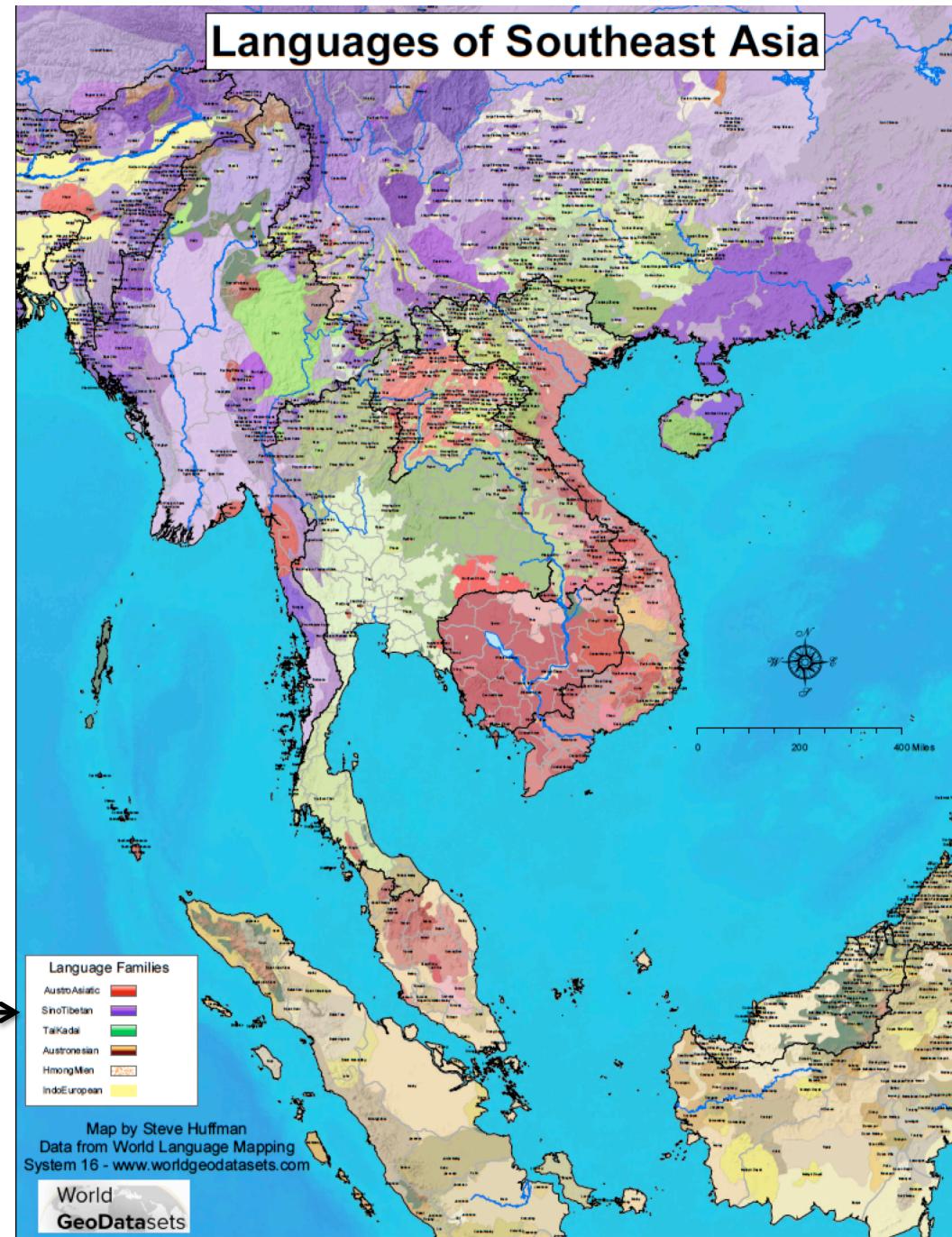


B Dendrogram of mtDNA haplogroups

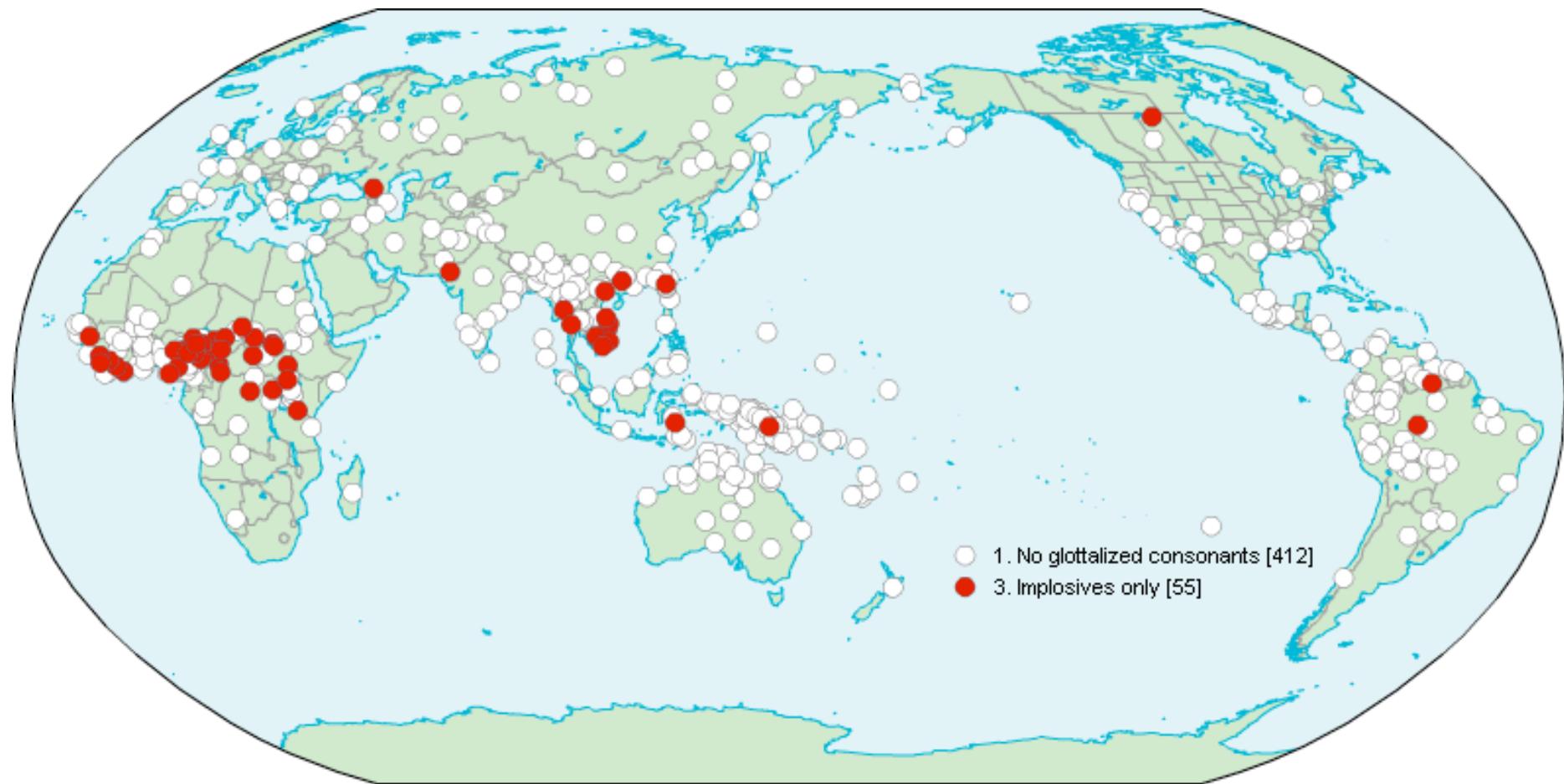


Note: 'Han-Pinghua' = Northern Pinghua

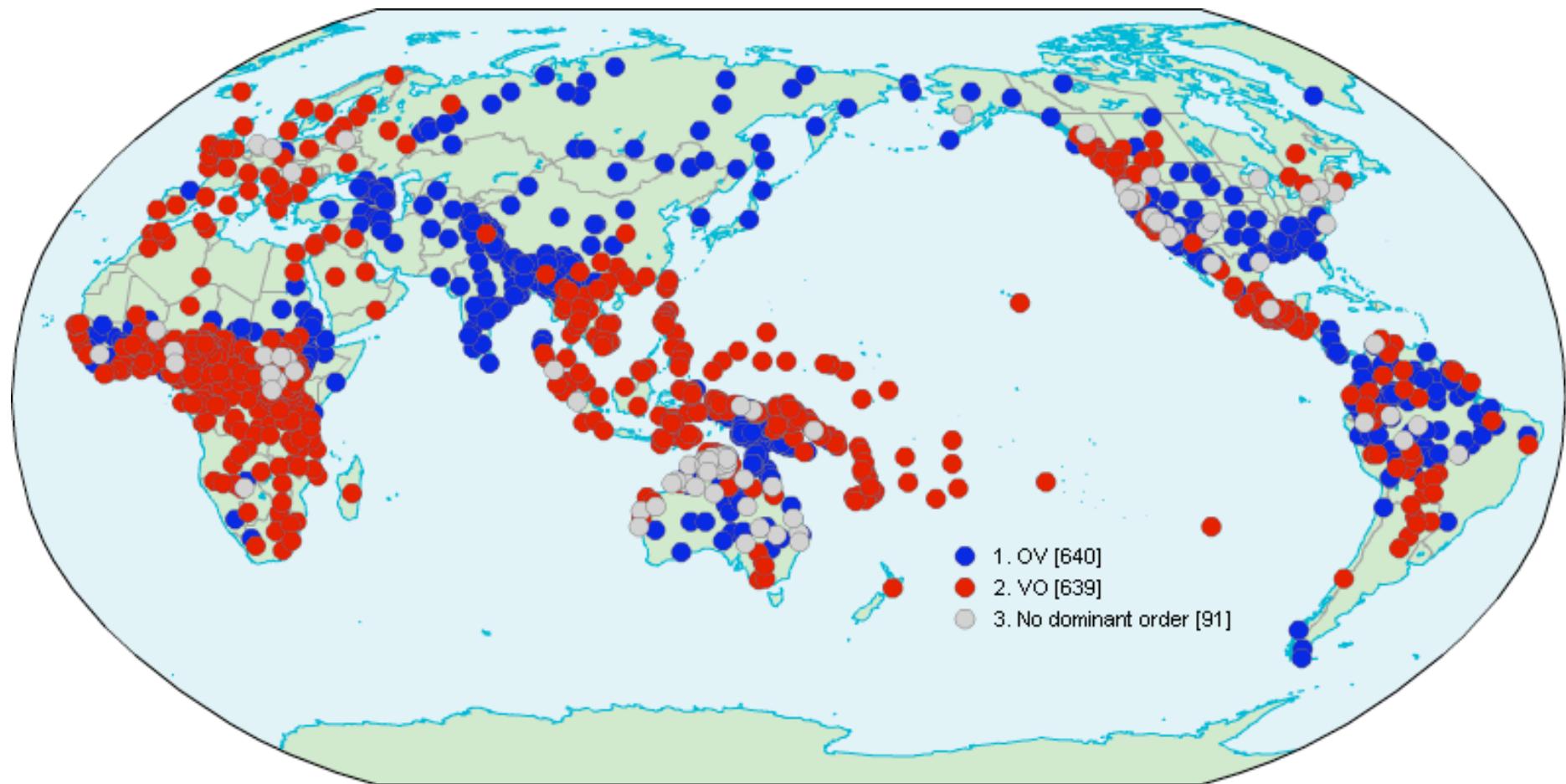
Austro-Asiatic
Sino-Tibetan
Kra-Dai (Tai-Kadai) ← →
Austronesian
Hmong-Mien (Miao-Yao)
Indo-European



Comrie (2008a) e.g.



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Comrie 2008a: MSEA

- Having implosives;
- Velar nasal used as onsets;
- No front rounded vowels;
- Complex tone systems;
- Little affixation;
- Having plural words;
- No distributive numerals;
- Obligatory use of numeral classifiers;
- The perfect marker is synchronically a word meaning ‘finish’;
- A number of left-headed traits:
 - Verb – Object order;
 - Preposition — NP order;
 - Noun – Genitive order;
 - Noun – Adjective order;
 - Noun – Demonstrative order;
 - Noun – Numeral order;
 - Noun – Relative clause order;
 - Adjective – Degree word order;
- ‘Topic’ predicative possession construction (“possessor-TOPIC exist possessum”);
- Verbal encoding for predicative adjectives; and
- Different markings for nominal and locative predication.

Map	Feature	Thai	Khmer	Vietnamese	Indonesian	(EKayahLi)	Burmese	(Hmong Nj)	(Mien)	(Cantonese)	(Hakka)	Mandarin
7A	C'	No	Implosives	Implosives	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
9A	ŋ	Initial	No initial	Initial	Initial	Initial	No initial	(Initial)	Initial	(Initial)	(Initial)	No initial
11A	y ø œ	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	/y œ/	None	None	/y/
13A	Tone -fix in inflc. morph.	Complex	No	Complex	No	Complex	Complex	Complex	Complex	Complex	Complex	Complex
26A		Little af-	Little af-	Little af-	Strong suf-	Little af-	Strong suf-	Little af-	Little af-	Little af-	(Little af-)	Strong suf-
33A	Noml Pl.	?	Pl. word	Pl. word	Plural redup	No plural	Pl. word	(No plural)	No plural	No plural	(No plural)	Plural suf-
54A	Distrib. Num	No	?	No	No	?	Obligatory	(Obligatory)	?	No	No	No
55A	Num. Clf	Obligatory	Optional	Obligatory	Optional	Obligatory	Obligatory	(Obligatory)	(Obligatory)	Obligatory	(Obligatory)	Obligatory
68A	Perfect	'Finish'	'Finish'	Other	'Finish'	('Finish')	'Finish'	No perfect	(Other)	Other	(Other)	Other
83A	Obj & Verb	VO	VO	VO	VO	VO	OV	VO	VO	VO	VO	VO
85A	Adpos & NP	Prepos.	Prepos.	Prepos.	Prepos.	No dom. order	Postpos.	Prepos.	No Adpos.	No dom.	(No dom. order)	No dom. order
86A	Gen & N	N-Gen	N-Gen	N-Gen	N-Gen	Gen-N	Gen-N	Gen-N	Gen-N	Gen-N	(Gen-N)	Gen-N
87A	Adj & N	N-Adj	N-Adj	N-Adj	N-Adj	N-Adj	N-Adj	N-Adj	N-Adj	Adj-N	(Adj-N)	Adj-N
88A	Dem & N	N-Dem	N-Dem	N-Dem	N-Dem	Dem-N	N-Dem	Dem-N	Dem-N	Dem-N	Dem-N	Dem-N
89A	Num & N	N-Num	N-Num	Num-N	N-Num	N-Num	Num-N	Num-N	Num-N	Num-N	Num-N	Num-N
90A	Rel & N	N-Rel	N-Rel	N-Rel	N-Rel	(Rel-N) ¹	Rel-N	N-Rel	(Rel-N)	Rel-N	Rel-N	Rel-N
91A	Deg & Adj	Adj-Deg	Adj-Deg	(Deg-Adj)	Dem-Adj	(Adj-Deg)	Deg-Adj	Adj-Deg	Adj-Deg	Deg-Adj	No dom. order	Deg-Adj
117A	Predicative Possession	Topic	Topic	Topic	Topic	(Topic)	Locational	(Topic)	(Topic)	(Topic)	(Topic)	Topic
118A	Predicative Adjectives	Verbal	Verbal	Verbal	Verbal	(Verbal)	Verbal	(Verbal)	Verbal	(Verbal)	(Verbal)	Verbal
119A	Noml and Loc Pred.	Different	Different	Different	Different	(Different)	Different	(Different)	Different	(Different)	(Different)	Different
Total +:		18	16	17	13	(14)	10	(13)	(11)	(9)	(10)	7

Table 1 Some typological features in Sinitic and MSEA languages (based on Comrie 2008a; added information are put in parentheses)