

(K) The Pimpled Toad (1/4) [10 Points]

Below is a famous Miao folk tale, “The Pimpled Toad who was Wise,” written in the Large Flowery Miao language, which is spoken by about 300,000 people in Weining Autonomous County, Guizhou, China. Large Flowery Miao is generally written in two different scripts: the *Pollard* script, created in 1904 by the English missionary Samuel Pollard, as well as Miao Pinyin, which uses Roman script. Below is the Pollard script version.

Y⁻ E_{ns} L^u L_n J_u J^u T^δ.

C₃ J_n J_u T^u Lⁿ Y⁻ J_u C_E T^u E_{ns} L^u L_n. T^u Lⁿ Y⁻ J_n, E_{ns},
J^u A⁻ C^u E₃ C_J. T^u Y⁻ E_{ns} J_n, E₃ A⁻ C^u J^u C_J, V^{nc} J^u C_J
Y⁻ T⁻ T_{nc}. E₃ E⁻ A⁻ C^u J^u C_J, A⁻ T_r J^u A⁻ C_T^u, L^u C_T^u Aⁿ,
L^u Y⁻ C_T^u J_u Y^u, C_T⁻ Y^u T_u C^u T^u J^u C_J. T^u Lⁿ Y⁻ Eⁿ T⁻,
E_{ns} J^u A⁻ C^u E₃ C_J L_i. T^u Lⁿ Y⁻ E^δ L^u Lⁿ T^u Jⁿ J⁻
A_o J_u J_u. T^u E_{ns} A^{nc} A^u J_u L^u J_u Y^u L_s.
T^u Lⁿ Y⁻ E₃ Y^u C_T⁻ T^u E_{ns}, C_T⁻ Tⁿ T^u. T^u Lⁿ Y⁻ Lⁿ J_u E^δ
Lⁿ T^u J⁻ J_n, Y⁻ Y⁻, J₃ L⁻ L⁻, Y⁻ Y⁻, J₃ L⁻ L⁻.

On the next page is an English translation of the “The Pimpled Toad.” Of course, not every word in the English translation has an equivalent word in Miao; on the other hand, some English words may be translated by more than one Miao word. Also, note that constructions of the form “I want to eat you / you want to eat me” are written in Miao as “I want to eat your flesh / you want to eat my flesh.”



(K) The Pimpled Toad (2/4)

The Pimpled Toad that was Wise.

They say that a crow went to meet a pimpled toad. The crow said, "Toad, I want to eat you." The toad said, "You want to eat me, but my flesh is very bitter. If you want to eat me, you want to carry me over there, to the stream, to the bank of the pool of water. Wash me in water, then eat to get my flesh." The crow replied, "Toad, I want to eat you, so there!" The crow stretched his head upwards, laughing *ha-ha*. The toad jumped, hopped down to the pool water, and was gone. The crow waded in the water to seek the toad, sought him, but did not get him. The crow simply stretched his head, cawed, and said, "Ah-ah, all for nothing! Ah-ah, all for nothing!"

Finally, here is the Miao Pinyin transcription. However, there are some changes:

- The sentences, including the title, are in random order.
- Five of the sentences have been divided into two parts.
- Punctuation has been removed.
- The numbered blanks (e.g. 18) mark places where one or more words are missing.

A. tái 1 jỳ áo "trīeh tái jìeu "trīeh hì táo
B. jỳ 2 yā nǎo gū "ghāi yā dīnh gū dlá "drǔ
C. tú 3 jǐ-tá jìeu
D. gū yā nǎo jỳ "ghāi 4
E. tú lí-á 5 jìeu
F. gū yā nǎo jỳ "ghāi
G. nỳ hì gù tú lí-á 6 "jǐh tái jìeu lú-lì
H. "zā 7 drài 8 táo gū "ghāi
I. á-jìeu lú-lì 9 báo-táng

J. 10 bí-xá dlò hà-hà
K. tái jìeu tlíe tlw̄ bào lái 11 áo lèu
L. tái lí-á lí-mù 12 lí-fáo ghá hì
M. á á 13 bè-lá-lá
N. tái lí-á 14 lái lí-fáo
O. tái á-jìeu hì jỳ 15 nǎo gú 16
P. víe gū "ghāi íeh tá-tìe
Q. lái 17 lái á-"tú bào áo

Note that the diacritics (accent marks) ´, ` , ~ represent tones; *ieh* and *w* are vowels/vowel sequences; *gh*, *dl*, *tl*, *dr*, and *tr* are consonants; ⁿ marks nasalization of the following consonant, that is, air flow escapes through the nose and the mouth simultaneously during the production of the consonantal sound.



(K) The Pimpled Toad (3/4)

K1. Restore the missing blanks, and translate each of the missing sections into English.

	Missing Miao Pinyin	English		Missing Miao Pinyin	English
1			10		
2			11		
3			12		
4			13		
5			14		
6			15		
7			16		
8			17		
9					

K2. Write the following line from another Miao story in Pollard script. If there are multiple ways to write a word, any choice is acceptable.

nỳ hì, á bǒ lào jỳ yā xāo jỳ tá ghái "drìh.

(‘They said, “Old woman, you must look after your chicken carefully.”’)



(K) The Pimpled Toad (4/4)

K3. Describe your observations on the structure of Pollard script and Large Flowery Miao grammar.

