

Untangling Tanghulic (10 marks)

As you may know, languages form “families” in which languages descended from a common ancestor (ancient language) show systematic similarities and differences. For example English, Dutch and Danish are all from the same language family, and the systematic difference can be seen in the words for brother, mother, father in Dutch (broeder, moeder, vader) and Danish (bror, mor, far). The French words frère, mère and père are also (more distantly) related, and show slightly more complex differences. This problem concerns Kachai, Tusom, and Ukhrul, which are three languages from the Tangkhulic subfamily of the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. They are spoken in Manipur state, India.

The words from these languages that are given here form 20 sets of three that are descended from the same word in the shared ancestor of the three languages. The Ukhrul words are given with their English translations. The Kachai and Tusom words are given in no particular order.

Q2. Link the Kachai words a-t and the Tusom words A-T to their Ukhrul equivalent 1-20.

Ukhrul		Kachai	Tusom
meaning	form		
awaken	1. kət ^h uj	(a) k ^h əŋjət ^h i	(A) kət ^h ue
bitter	2. kək ^h a	(b) kəp ^h u	(B) kətxa
break	3. kaj	(c) mək ^h u	(C) mu
burn	4. kəcuj	(d) ?amət ^h ən	(D) kəkie
desire	5. k ^h əŋjaj	(e) ?ale	(E) k ^h əŋje
exchange	6. k ^h əŋjət ^h u	(f) k ^h əmwe	(F) əntsua̻
field	7. luj	(g) ?ath ^h i	(G) k ^h anny
fire	8. mej	(h) kək ^h u	(H) k ^h antsy
flesh/animal	9. sa	(i) kəði	(I) kſie
fruit	10. ?at ^h ej	(j) ?asu	(J) kəpſi
human	11. mi	(k) kəkwe	(K) ſi
jaw	12. mək ^h a	(l) ?ami	(L) ma
knife	13. k ^h aj	(m) ?amə	(M) mokſi
laugh	14. k ^h əmənu	(n) kəce	(N) luə
liver	15. ?amət ^h in	(o) ?acu	(O) ?ətxa
necklace	16. ca	(p) kət ^h e	(P) za
ripe	17. k ^h əmin	(q) k ^h əmən	(Q) ci
see	18. kət ^h ej	(r) kət ^h i	(R) k ^h əməñ
seek	19. kəp ^h a	(s) ?ak ^h we	(S) makəcuə
spear	20. tsej	(t) k ^h əməni	(T) kəkſi

Pronunciation notes:

- The small raised h symbol indicates that the preceding consonant is aspirated, i.e. pronounced with an exaggerated puff of air.
- ŋ represents a velar nasal, the ‘ng’ sound in a word like *sing*.
- ? is a glottal stop, the sound between the two syllables of the expression *uh oh*.
- ð is the ‘th’ sound at the beginning of this.
- x is pronounced like ‘ch’ in German *Bach* or Scottish *loch*.
- c is pronounced like ‘ch’ in *church*.
- j is the ‘y’ sound in *yes* (rather than the ‘j’ sound in *jam*).
- ə represents a schwa vowel like the first sound of the word *approach*.
- ə represents a vowel somewhere between the ‘a’ in *cat* and the ‘o’ in *cot*.
- u is a vowel pronounced like ‘oo’ in *book*, but with spread lips, a bit like when you show distaste *ugh*.
- ɔ is a nasal vowel, similar to the sequence ən.
- ſ is the ‘sh’ sound in *ship*.
- y is a vowel equivalent to a fronted [u], like French *u* or German *ü*.

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POINTS: 1 each (total 40)

2.	Ukhrul	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Kachai	p	h	k	n	f	a	e	l	j	g
	Tusom	A	T	D	S	E	H	N	L	K	O
	Ukhrul	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Kachai	m	c	s	t	d	o	q	r	b	i
	Tusom	C	M	I	G	F	Q	R	B	J	P