

# Proto-Kra language

The **Proto-Kra language** is the **reconstructed** ancestor of the **Kra languages**. It was reconstructed in 2000 by Weera Ostapirat in his Ph.D. dissertation.

## 1 Lower-level reconstructions

Ostapirat (2000) provided preliminary phonological reconstructions for several lower-level groupings before attempting a reconstruction of Proto-Kra.

- **Proto-Kra**
  - Proto-South-Western Kra
    - Proto-Western Kra (Gelao, Lachi)
    - Proto-Southern Kra (Laha)
  - Proto-Central-East Kra
    - Proto-Central Kra (Paha)
    - Proto-Eastern Kra (Buyang, Qabiao)

## 2 Phonology

### 2.1 Consonants

Proto-Kra has a total of 32 consonants, seven of which (marked in green) can occur as syllable finals (Ostapirat 2000:224, 236).

### 2.2 Vowels

Proto-Kra has a total of 6 vowels (Ostapirat 2000:235).

Proto-Kra has 4 diphthongs, which are not found in closed syllables.

- \*-ai
- \*-auw
- \*-ui
- \*-au

### 2.3 Tones

Proto-Kra had an A–B–C–D tonal system typical of other Tai–Kadai languages (see *Proto-Tai language#Tones*). The tonal descriptions below are from Ostapirat (2000:237).

1. **\*A**: \*A is one of the most common tones.
2. **\*B**: \*B and \*D are phonetically similar, as reflexes of tone \*D are often the same as those of \*B. This regularly occurs in all Kra languages except for **Qabiao**.
3. **\*C**: \*C is usually accompanied by glottal constriction and may have originally had a creaky or tense laryngeal quality. Some Gelao varieties and Yalang Buyang display the same reflex for
4. **\*D**: \*D is the only tone to occur exclusively in **closed syllables**.

The following table of phonetic characteristics of Proto-Kra tones was adapted from Ostapirat (2000:237).

## 3 See also

- Proto-Tai language
- Proto-Hlai language
- Proto-Austronesian language
- Austro-Tai languages

## 4 References

- Ostapirat, Weera. 2000. "**Proto-Kra**." *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* **23** (1): 1-251.

## 5 External links

- ABVD: Proto-Kra word list

## 6 Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses

### 6.1 Text

- **Proto-Kra language** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Kra%20language?oldid=634818555> *Contributors:* Gilgamesh, Florian Blaschke, Kwamikagami, Stevey7788, Tropylium, Ser Amantio di Nicolao and Avicennasis

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