Lao Syllabification

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Outline

- Structure of Lao language
- Why do we need the syllabification?
- Syllabification algorism
- Research output

Definition:

- Lines are broken as result of one of two conditions. The first condition is the **presence of an <u>explicit</u> line breaking character**. The second conditions result from a formatting algorithm having selected among available line breaking opportunities.
- The line breaking methodologies:
 - Western spaces and hyphens are used to determine breaks
 - East Asian line can break anywhere, unless prohibited
 - South East Asian line breaks required morphological analysis

Lao Script

- Laos has its own Lao letter alphabet where the root come from Sanskrit currently used for communicative language, and Buddhist language which is from the Pali alphabet used in writing Buddhism prayers.
- The Lao language is composed of 78 characters and signs:
 - 33 Consonants
 - 28 Vowels
 - 4 Tone marks
 - 3 Special symbols, and
 - 10 Lao digits

Word in language

- Syllables: Syllable is a unit of spoken language, which may have a common meaning or not. A unit of spoken language may have one single syllable or many syllables
- One syllable may consist of:
 - Consonant and vowels
 - Consonant, vowel and alternate consonant
 - Consonant, vowel and tone mark
 - Consonant, vowel, alternate consonant and tone mark
- The orthography:
 - Calligraphy 1: C-V-altC-T, appear to be a right writing method in terms of linguistics such as pronunciation.
 - Calligraphy 2: C-V-T-altC, is natural from the standpoint of writing from left to right

Structure of Lao language

- The structure of Lao language is completely different from English structure The Lao characters appear at 4 different levels of one line, which may be grouped as follows:
 - Level 1: The character appearing in level 1 is of diacritic type. There are 5 diacritics
 - Level 2: Level 2 is occupied by superscript vowels only.
 There are 7 vowels
 - Level 3: This level is the main level of Lao word. There is always a character at level 3 at each position in a Lao word. All 33 consonants as well as 12 normal vowels and 2 special symbols are also at level 3.
 - Level 4: The characters appearing in level 4 is two lowered script vowels and one mixed consonant.

Lao sentences

• The continuum in Lao Script leaves no clue for word processor to decide where to put break when end of line is reached.

 For Latin and several other scripts presence of space helps the word processor to decide where to break the line.

Lao sentences

Example for Latin

Lao characters originate from two sources Pali and Sanskrit and written Buddhist prayer from Tong Pali. Lao alphabets have their roots with Sanskrit currently used as communicative and Buddhist language from the Pali alphabet used in written Buddhism prayers.

Laocharactersoriginate from two sources Paliand Sanskritand written Buddhist prayer from Tong Pali. Laoalphabetshave their roots with Sanskritcurrently used as communicative and Buddhist language from the Palialphabet used in written Buddhism prayers.

Contd...

Example for Lao

ກອມມູນິດພາຍໃນປະເທດຫວງດນາມສ້າງຕັ້ງເປັນພັກກອມມູນິດຫວງດນາມນັບ<mark>ແ</mark> <mark>ຕ່</mark>ນັບແຕ່ມື້ສ້າງຕັ້ງຂື້ນມາພັກກອມມູນິດຫວງດນາໄດ້ພົບກັບສະພາບການອັນທຸລ<mark>ກ</mark> <mark>ານ</mark>ດານແລະກາ

Why is segmentation so Important?

- Segmentation lies at the heart of Script Processing
 - To Properly Display the Text.
 - To Sort Lao Words.
 - For Spell / Grammar Checker.
 - For all the advanced Localization applications like Speech Synthesizer, Machine Translation etc.

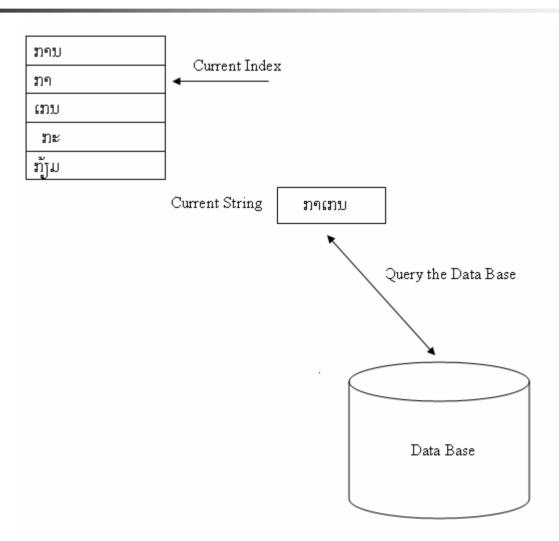
Lao Collation

- Lao Collation is purely based on syllables i.e. comparison is done syllable by syllable if we find that first syllables are same we move on to next syllable.
- The Line Breaking Algorithm finds out the syllable boundaries accurately, moreover it provides information about what role a character is playing within syllable because some characters like 'l' are hybrid in nature and play different roles when they act as consonants, combining consonant, vowels or consonantal.

Word Identification

- Detecting Word Boundaries
- Due to unending continuum of Lao Script it becomes very complicated to identify the word boundaries.
- We have to use brute force computing combining 1 character each time to the string and check if it is a valid word in dictionary.

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However if we already know the syllable boundaries we can improve the solution by appending one syllable each time rather than one character. This reduces the query time.

 This procedure could be further improved by employing syllable based statistical and probabilistic model.

Spell Checking

- In order to do spelling check we need to detect word boundaries first.
- Syllable by syllable approach not only does that but also helps detecting the boundaries of erroneous word.
- We can do spell checking based on syllable rules initially and find out which part of word is error and then compare it with lexicon where we can store each syllable of a word separately. This helps finding the suggestion closest to error word.

Lao syllabification algorism.

Lao Syllable Structure

		t _{0,1}		
		Vo, 1		
$V_{0,1}$	c _{0,1}	\boldsymbol{c}	V0,1	c _{0,4}
		c _{0,1}		
		Vo, 1		

Combining 3 solutions

- Linguistic approach but less then 20%
 - Ex: Before vowels character is always defined as the beginning of syllable.
 - Ex: "" and " is always defined as end of syllable.
- Statistic observation but less then 20%
 - Ex: ຂ, ຄ, ຈ, ຕ, ຖ, ທ: never exist in the same syllable
 - Vowel in level 2 and level: never exist in the same syllable.
 - Tone marks: never exist in the same syllable.
- Input sequences, but less then 20%
 - The position of tone mark can defined the position of main consonant and the beginning of syllable
 - The position of some vowels can defined the position of main consonant and the beginning of syllable

Lao Characters can be typified

X0	X1	X	X2	ХЗ	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	×9	X 1 0
ί×1	ยา	ກ ₀₁ ຊຶ ₀₂ ຄຶ03	ა ე	X 1	X ₁	X ₁	ວ ₁	Xะ ₁	ກ ₁	%1	7 1
ιί×2		ე ₀₄ ඉ ₀₅ බි ₀₆	S2	×,2	X ₂	× ₂	ව2	X၅₂	<u>9</u> 2	వె2	၅ 2
ῗ×3		ജ07 ല08 റ09	ევ		х Х3	×3	<u></u>]3	X°n3	ല3	₽3	×3
ેંદ×₄		ຄາ0 ฤ11 ທາ2	ର4		X ₄	× ₄			ถ4	พ4	
9×5		ນ13 ບ14 ປ15			×s				บร	ฟร	
		യ്16 പ്17 ധി18			$\hat{\chi}_{6}$				IJ6	వ ₆	
		ฟ _{า9} ม ₂₀ ป ₂₁			×̃7				บ7		
		S ₂₂ බ ₂₃ ට ₂₄							ପ8		
		ຫ ₂₅ Θ ₂₆ § ₂₇									
		พ ₂₈ พ ₂₉									

Contd..

- X0 represents a vowel which occurs before the nuclear consonant. It is can always defined the beginning of syllable.
- X1 is a combination consonant which comes before the nuclear consonant, only if nuclear consonant is one of {ໆ, ລ, ວ, ຣ, ມ, ນ, ຼ}
- X is represents the nuclear consonants.

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- X2 is a combination consonant which comes after the nuclear consonant, which placing under or next to the nuclear consonant.
- X3 is represents a vowel which occurs under the nuclear consonant.
- X4 is represents a vowel which occurs upper the nuclear consonant. However it is never exists with X3.

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- X5 is represents a tone marks which occurs upper the nuclear consonant or upper vowels.
- X6 is represents consonant vowel, which occurs after nuclear consonant. It functions when the syllable doesn't have any vowels. And it always exists with X8.
- X7 is represents an after vowels. However X71 is always represents the end of syllable and it is never exist with tone mark.

Contd..

 Based on this classification Lao Syllable structure can be more precisely defined as:

		X5					
		Х4					
Х0	X1	Х	Х6	Х7	Х8	Х9	X10
		Х2					
		Х3					

Syllabification Rules

- By using a set of conditions we can find out syllable boundaries.
- There rules are based on vowels.
 - For Example: Rule for x02 = &X
 - $\iota \iota X = x02 (x1)X(x2)(x5)(x6)(x8) (x9:x10)$
 - $\iota \iota X = x02 (x1)X(x2)x71$
 - $\mathbf{G}X^{5} = x02 (x1)X(x2) x47 (x5) x8 (x9:x10)$

For $X01 = \zeta X$ 1.1 $\zeta X = X01 (X1)X(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)$

- X01(X1)X=ເຫງ
- **X01X**(X2)=ເຫວ
- **X01X**(X2)(X5)=ເຫວ່
- **X01X**(X2)(X5)(X8)=ເຫວນ
- **X01X**(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)=ເຫວ[ື]່ນສ໌
- **X01X**(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)=ເຫວນສ໌ໆ
- **X01X**(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)= ເຫວນສ້ໆຯ

1.2 (X), (X) = X01 (X1)X(X2)X4₁₋₂(X5)(X8) (X9:X103)(X102)(X101)

- X01X(X2)X4₁₋₂=ເຫລີ
- $\mathbf{X01X}(X2) \ \mathbf{X4}_{1-2}(X5) =$ ខេត្ត
- **X01X**(X2) **X4**₁₋₂(X5)(X8)= ເຫລີ້ງ
- **X01X**(X2) **X4**₁₋₂(X5)(X8)(X9:X10₃)= ເຫລິ່ງສ໌
- **X01X**(X2) **X4**₁₋₂(X5)(X8)(X9:X10₃)(X102)= ເຫລີ້ງສ໌ໆ
- X01X(X2) X4₁₋₂(X5)(X8)(X9:X10₃)(X102)(X101)= ເຫລີ້ງສ໌ໆຯ

1.3 ເxືອ, ເxືອ = $\mathbf{X01}$ (X1)X(X2) $\mathbf{X4}_{3-4}$ (X5) $\mathbf{X62}$ (X8) (X9:X103)(X102)(X101)

- **X01XX4₃₋₄** (X5) **X62** (X8)(X9:X103) = ເກື່ອນສ໌
- **X01XX4₃₋₄** (X5) **X62** (X8)(X9:X103)(X102) = ເກື່ອນສົ່ງ
- **X01XX4₃₋₄** (X5) **X62** (X8)(X9:X103)(X102)(X101) = ເກື່ອນສ້ຶ່ງຯ

1.4 ເxະ, ເxາະ = $X01(X1)X(X2)(X7_2)X71$

- X01XX71=ເສະ
- X01X(X72)X71=ເສາະ
- X01X(X2)X71=ເກຣະ
- X01X(X2)(X72)X71=ເກຣາະ

4

1.5 \widehat{x} 9 = $\mathbf{X0}_1$ (X1) \mathbf{X} (X2) $\mathbf{X46}$ (X5) $\mathbf{X72}$ (X9:X103)(X102)(X101)

- X01X(X2)X46X72=ເຫລົາ
- X01XX46X72=เปิจ
- X01XX46(X5)X72=เยื่า
- **X01**(X1)**XX46X72**=เขา ิก
- **X01**(X1)**XX46**(X5)**X72**=เขา๊า

1.6 (X(X8) = X01(X1)X(X2)X47(X5)X8(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)

- X0₁ (X1)X X4₇ (X5)X8=ເຫລັ່ນ
- X01 X X47 X8=ເສັງ
- X01 X X47(X5) X8=ເສັ້ງ
- X01 (X1)X X47 X8(X9:X103)=ເຫລັນສົ
- **X01** (X1)**X X47 X8**(X9:X103)(X102)=ເຫລັນສັງ
- X01 (X1)X X47 X8(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)=ເຫລັນສົງຯ

1.7 x_1 , $x_1 = x_{01}(x_1)x(x_2)(x_{47})(x_5)x_{63}(x_9:x_{103})(x_{102})(x_{101})$

- **X01**(X1)**XX63**=ເຫນຸງ
- **X01**(X1)(X47)**XX63**=ເຫນັງ
- X01X(X5)X63=เม้า
- X01X(X47)(X5)X63=ល្វើj

For $X02 = \alpha x$

2.1 $\mathfrak{U} \times = X02 \times (X1)X(X2)(X5)(X8) \times (X9:X103) \times (X102)(X101)$

- X02(X1) X=ແຫງ
- **X02X**(X2)= ແຫລ
- X02X(X2)(X5)=ແຫລ່
- **X02X**(X2)(X5)(X8)=ແຫລນ
- **X02X**(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)=ແຫລນສ໌
- **X02X**(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)=ແຫລນສ໌ໆ
- **X02X**(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)= ແຫລນສ໌ໆຯ

2.2 ແxະ = <mark>X02 (X1)X(X2)X71</mark>

• X02XX71= ແປະ

2.3 $\mathfrak{a}(x8) = X02(X1)X(X2)X47(X5)X8(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)$

- X02 X X47 X8= ແປັດ
- X02XX47(X5)X8=ແກັ່ງ
- X02XX47(X5)X8(X9:X103)=ແກັ່ງສ໌
- X02XX47(X5)X8(X9:X103)(X102)=ແກັ່ງສ໌ໆ
- X02XX47(X5)X8(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)=ແກັ່ງສ່ຶງ

For $X03 = \chi$

- **X03**(X1)**X**= ໂຫງ
- **X03X**(X2)= ໂຫລ
- **X03X**(X2)(X5)(X8)=ໂຫລ່ນ
- **X03X**(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)=ໂຫລນສ໌
- **X03X**(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)=ໂຫລ່ນສ້ໆ
- X03X(X2)(X5)(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)= ໂຫລ່ນສ໌ໆຯ

3.2 ໂxຮ = **X03** (X1)**X**(X2)**X71**

■ **X03**(X1)**XX71**= ໂຫວະ

X03X(X2)X71= ໂກລະ

• X03XX71= โปะ

3.3 โั่งอ, โั่งย =X03 (X1)X(X2)X47(X5) X8_{3:8}

- **X03**(X1)**XX47X83**=ໂຫງັຍ
- **X03**(X1)**XX47X88**=ໂຫງ້ວ
- **X03XX47**(X5)**X83**=โฮัย
- **X03XX47**(X5)**X83**= ໂກ້້ວ

For X04



$\chi = X04 (X1)X(X2)(X5)(X61) (X9:x103)(X102)(X101)$

- X04 (X1)X = ໄຫວ
- X04 X(X2) =ໄກວ
- X04 X(X5) = ໄກ່
- X04 X(X5)(X61) = ໄກ່ວ
- **X04 X**(X5)(X61) (X9:x103) = ໄກ່ວສ໌
- **X04 X**(X5)(X61) (X9:x103)(X102) = ໄກ່ວສ໌ໆ
- X04 X(X5)(X61) (X9:x103)(X102) (X101) = ໄກ່ວສ໌ໆຯ

For $X0_5$ x = X05 (X1)X(X2)(X5) (X61) (X9:X103)(X102)(X101)

- ◆ **X05** (X1)**X** = **ໃ**ຫລ
- ♦ X05 X(X2) = ໃຫລ
- $\mathbf{X05} \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X5}) = \mathbf{2}$
- **x05 X**(X5) (X61) = **ໃ**ຂ່ວ
- ♦ **X05 X**(X5) (X61) (X9:X103) = ໃຊ່ວສ໌
- X05 X(X5) (X61) (X9:X103))(X102) = ໃຊ່ວສ໌ໆ
- 🔷 X05 X(X5) (X61) (X9:X103))(X102) (X101) = ໃຊ່ວສ້ໆຯ

For X3 $x_{3} = (X1)X(X2)X3_{1-2}(X5)(X8) (X9:X103)(X102)(X101)$

•
$$XX32(X5) = y$$

For X4₁₋₄

$$\ddot{\mathbf{x}}$$
 & $\ddot{\mathbf{x}}$ & $\ddot{\mathbf{x}}$ = (X1) \mathbf{X} (X2) $\mathbf{X4}_{1-4}$ (X5)(X8) (X9:X103)(X102)(X101)

- (X1) **X X4₁₋₄** = ຫລື
- \bullet $\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X2})\mathbf{X4}_{1-4} = \mathfrak{m3}$
- $\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X4}_{1-4}(\mathbf{X5}) = \mathbf{\tilde{n}}$
- $\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X4}_{1-4} (\mathbf{X5}) (\mathbf{X8}) = \overset{\mathbf{Z}}{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{U}$
- $\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X4}_{1-4}(X5)(X8)(X9:X103) =$ ື້ອນສ໌
- **X X4**₁₋₄(X5) (X8) (X9:X103))(X102) = ພື້ນສ້ໆ
- \star $\mathbf{X} \, \mathbf{X4}_{1-4} (\mathrm{X5}) (\mathrm{X8}) (\mathrm{X9:X103}))(\mathrm{X102}) (\mathrm{X101}) =$ \mathbf{w} ប្រងំៗ $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$

For X45 $\mathring{\mathbf{x}} = (X1)$

or X45 $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = (X1)\mathbf{X}(X2)\mathbf{X45}(X5)(X72)(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)$

- (X1)X X45 = ຫວໍ
- ♦ X (X2)X45 = ຂວໍ
- $\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X45}(\mathbf{X5}) = \overset{1}{2}$
- **♦ X X45**(X5) (X72) = ≥่ำ
- X X45(X5) (X72)(X9:X103) = ຂໍ້າສ໌
- X X45(X5) (X72)(X9:X103) (X102) = ຂໍ້າສ້ໆ
- X X45(X5) (X72)(X9:X103) (X102) (X101) = ຂໍ້າສ້ໆຯ

For $X4_6 = \hat{x}$ 9.1 $\hat{x}(x8) = (X1)\hat{x}(X2)\hat{x}46(X5)\hat{x}8(X9:X103) (X102)(X101)$

•
$$\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X2})\mathbf{X46}\mathbf{X8} = \mathbf{b_0}$$

•
$$\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X46} (X5) \mathbf{X8} = \mathbf{w}^{1}$$

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For $X4_6 = \hat{X}$ Xລະ = (X1)X(X2)X46X61X71

♦(X1)**XX46 X61 X71** = ຫວົວະ

♦ XX46 X61 X71 = ຕົວະ

$\mathbf{\ddot{x}} = ($

For X47 $\ddot{\mathbf{x}} = (X1)\mathbf{X}(X2)\mathbf{X47}(X5)(X61)\mathbf{X8}(X9:X103) (X102)(X101)$

- ♦ (X1)**X X47X8** = ຫັວດ
- **^** X (X2)X47(X5) X8 = ຫຼັວ
- ◆ **X X47**(X5) (X61)**X8**(X9:X103) = **ຫັວ**ນສ໌
- ◆ **X X47**(X5) (X61)**X8**(X9:X103) (X102) = **ຫັວນ**ສ໌ໆ
- ♦ **X X47**(X5) (X61)**X8**(X9:X103) (X102) (X101) = **ຫ້ວນສ໌**ໆຯ



For X6 x2 & x3 = (X1)X(X2)(X5) $X6_{1-3}X8(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)$

- XX61X8=ກວນ
- XX62X8=ກອນ
- XX63X8=มไท
- X(X5)X61X8=ກ່ວນ
- X(X5)X62X8=ກ່ອນ
- X(X5)X63X8=ກຸ່ງນ

For X71

$$\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{X}1)\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}2)\mathbf{X}7\mathbf{1}$$

- (X1)**X**(X2)**X71**=ຫວະ
- XX71=ถะ
- X(X2)X71=ຟຣະ

For X72



$\mathbf{X} = (X1)\mathbf{X}(X2)(X5)\mathbf{X72}(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)$

- (X1)**XX72**=ຫລາ
- X(X5)X72=ດ້າ
- X(X5)X72(X8)=ດ້ານ
- X(X5)X72(X8)(X9:X103)=ດານສ໌
- X(X5)X72(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)=ດານສ໌ໆ
- X(X5)X72(X8)(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)=ດານສ໌ໆຯ

For X73 $\mathbf{x}^{\bullet} = (X1)\mathbf{X}(X2)(X5)\mathbf{X73} (X9:X103)(X102)(X101)$

- (X1)**XX73**=ຫວ_ືາ
- X(X2)(X5)X73=ຫວ⁶່າ
- XX73(X9:X103)=ພຳສ໌
- XX73(X9:X103)(X102)=ພຳສ໌ໆ
- XX73(X9:X103)(X102)(X101)= ພຳສ໌ໆຯ

Contd...

- Before testing the conditions we need to classify all the characters in the input string and load them with all the possibilities.
- For example character '□', can be X,X2,X6 or X8 in a syllable.

Contd...

Before testing the conditions we need to classify all the characters in the input string and load them with all the possibilities.

• For example character 'ວ' can be X,X2,X6 or X8 in a syllable.

Algorithm

For instance while processing the following text:

Steps Involved

 Put boundaries where ever you find punctuation marks or characters that do not belong to Lao Script.

Contd..

- Look for possible re-ordering of text. For example user might type obfore ob
- Classify each character with all the possibilities it can achieve.

5	U	J	n	٦	z	Bi	ß	್ನ	I	o	ท	11	BI	ม	ŋ	พ	1	æ	٠	ಬ	1	อ
A0	Al	A2	A3	A4	A5	Aβ	A7	A8	AB	AIO	A11	A12	All	814	A15	A10	A17	A18	A19	A20	A21	A22
X0 ₃	Xω	X _{O4}	χ_{01}	Х72	Х ₁₃		X _{ig}	X4 ₇	Х5	Х ₀₀	χ_{12}	$\chi 7_1$		χ_{12}	X7 ₂	X ₁₈	Х72	Х _{ов}	X7 ₂	Χ23	X7 ₂	Хан
		Х82	Х8 ₁		X8 ₅		XI94			Х84				X8 ₅		X94		X9 ₂		Х24		X2 ₃
																				Х9 ь		Xβ ₁
									·													X8 ₀

Contd..

Use rules and conditions to define syllable boundaries.

Rule 3.1			Rule 13			Rule 10				Rule 12			!	Rule 13			Rule 13			Rule 13			Rule 13			
7	ก	ŋ		n	ŋ	ม	₩	O.	I	ດ		Ø	מנ		ม	ŋ		W	٦		82 82	-		ล	٦	J
AO	Al	A2		A3	A4	A5	AJ	AB	Añ	Alo		All	A12		A14	A15		A16	AIT		A18	A10		A20	AZI	A22

- Break point character
 - Zero width space (U+200b)

Research Output

- Lao Editor: Lao fonts, Lao keyboard, Lao ASCII to Unicode Converter, Syllable and Word Count, Line Break, Sorting, Find/Replace, Lexical, Dictionary, Spell Check and Lao menu interface.
- CD of Lao localization project:
 - Documentation: Reports, Technical Documents, and User guide book;
 - Software: Lao fonts, Lao Keyboard, Lao Editor;
 - Pictures: workshop, research work, and team
- Project website: www.laol10n.info.la

Please enjoy demonstration