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Project 2 – Reconstruction

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)	Correspondance set
five	fɑpəŋɔ	**θ**ẵpẵŋɔ	**p**ăpɑ	[f]-[θ]-[p]
four	fɑˈpăli	**θ**ẵpăli	**p**ăpăli	
one	faˈkˈʌ	**θ**ẵkˈɪʔˈ	**p**ăkˈɑʔ	
two	fa↘ˈneɪˈ	**θ**ẵñˈ	**p**ănaɪʔ	
seven	fɑsăʀiˈ, păsăʀiˈ	**θ**ẵsˈări	**p**ăsˈɑri	
six	faˈtsăʀuˈ	**θ**ẵtăruʔˈˈ	**p**ătsăruʔ	
three	fɑˈtˈəu	**θ**ẵtˈũˈˈ	**p**ătˈɑu	

Since [p] appears in all three languages, while [f] is only found in Mara and [θ] is only found in Zotung, [p] is being reconstructed due to the majority rules.

*p > /f/ in Mara (innovation)
*p > /θ/ in Zotung (innovation)
*p > /p/ in Lailenpi (retention)

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)	correspondance set
bowels	**ʀ**i	**r**i:ŋ	mă↗**r**i	[ʀ]-[r]-[r]
bone	**ʀʊ**ˈ	**r**uˈ	[mə]**r**upəʔˈ	
snake	pă**ʀ**i	fupɔ	pă**r**i	[ʀ]-[-]-[r]

Since [r] appears in both Zotung and Lailenpi, [r] is being reconstructed due to the majority rules.
*r > /r/ in Zotung & Lailenpi (retention)
*r > /ʀ/ in Mara (innovation)

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)
spittle	pətsi	tuiñ, tü̃	mə↗pătji

As we can see, snake in Zotung has a very different form comparing to Mara and Lailenpi. So is spittle in Zotung. It seems that Zotung might have borrowed those words from somewhere else. So those are excluded when considering the consonant reconstruction.

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)
tooth	hɔ	hɔ	**mă↗-**hɑ
head	lu	lu	**mă↗-**lu
navel	pălɛ	larwi	**mə↗-**pălɛri
tongue	pălɪ	la	**mə↗-**păleˈˈ
bowels	ʁi	ri:ŋ	**mă↗**ri
spittle	pətsi	tuɪñ, tŭ	**mə↗**pătji
arm	ɓɑ	kwiʔˈɓɔ	**mə↗**bəˈ
thigh	pˈie	pˈæ	**mə↗**pˈeˈ
snot	hnʌ	naʔ	**mə↗**hnɑʔ
eye	meˈ	miʔˈ	**[mə↗]**maɪʔ
hand	kuˈ	kwiʔˈ	**mə↗**kuʔ
palate	ɗɑ	ɗãtˈăli	**mə↗**də

According to the data above, we can see that in Lailenpi, prefix *mə↗-* shows up very often while in the other two languages, the forms are very similar but without the prefix. We can reconstruct *mə↗-* as a prefix in proto-Maraic which was lost in Mara and Zotung.

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)
navel	**pă**lɛ	larwi	mə↗**p**ălɛri
tongue	**pă**lɪ	la	mə↗**p**ăleˈˈ
kidney	**pă**kɛˈ	kĩ	ʃă↘ruˈˈ

Other than *mə↗-, pă-* is another prefix that Zotung has lost but remained in Mara and Lailenpi. And please note that in proto-Maraic, *pă-* is to be placed next to the root and *mə↗-* next to *pă-* further away from the root.

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)
tooth	**h**ɔ	**h**ɔ	mă↗**h**ɑ
snot	**h**nʌ	naʔ	mə↗**h**nɑʔ
song	**h**lʌˈ	lɔ	**h**lɑˈ

According to the data above, the initial [h] is omitted in Zotung except if the word consists of only one syllable with the form of CV(and therefore the syllable will consist of only a V which is too short and not favorable if [h] is being omitted).

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)
rainy season	fʊ[pi]	θʊˈˈ[pi]	ʃu[piˈˈ]

If the reconstruction above is correct, it should be pu[pi] in Lailenpi. So we can assume that the [p] undergoes sound change under certain environment. And since

this is the only example that undergoes this sound change, the best guess we can make is that [p] will become [ʃ] if following by a [u] in Lailenpi.

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)
six	faˈtsaʀuˈ	θɑ̃tăruʔˈˈ	pătsăruʔ
hair on head	s'a	s'ɑ̃	mas'aˈ
to sing	s'ʌ	s'aʔˈˈ	a↗s'aʔ

If we take a look in the above data, the [s] in six in Zotung is not present. Since the [s] is followed by an [a] in all examples, the only possible triggering environment that triggers the [s] deletion is the preceding [t]. In another word, we can assume that in Zotung:
[s] -> ø/ t _

Gloss	Mara (Darling)	Zotung (Vauti)	Lailenpi (Lailenpi)
spittle	patsi	tuiñ, tü̃	ma↗pătji
wild pog	ŋaɪtsaˈˈ	ŋyc, ŋyeˈ	ŋyɛtjapaʔˈ

We can find one corresponding pair of Mara and Lailenpi above: [s]-[j] while the earlier data table shows the corresponding pair [s]-[s]. Since [s] and [j] in Lailenpi appear in the same environment, it would be difficult to explain how [s] reconstructed in proto-manaic turns into [s] and [j] in Lailenpi. The only possible way to explain is:
*s, *j > /s/ in Mara
*j > /j/ in Lailenpi (retention)

It seems that Lailenpi and Mara seem to be closer to each comparing to Zotung. Zotung seems to get rid of all observed prefixes reconstructed in proto-maraic and Zotung also seems to actively borrow words from somewhere else.

[1] FOUR PKC *lii

H. Lai *pa-lĭi* ‘four’; F. Lai *pa-lĭi* ‘four’; Mizo *pà-lı́* ‘four’; Tedim *li*^{2} ‘four’; Thado Kuki *lı́i* ‘four’; M. Cho *phli* ‘four’ (< *p-lii*); Sizang *lī* ‘four’; Khumi ***plúee*** ‘four’.

[2] FIVE PKC *ŋaa

H. Lai *pa-ŋâa* ‘five’; F. Lai *pà-ŋăa* ‘five’; Mizo *pà-ngá* ‘five’; Tedim *nga*^{2} ‘five’; Thado Kuki *ngáa* ‘five’; Sizang *ngā* ‘five’; M. Cho *hma* ‘five’; Asho *‘ngo˝* ‘five’.

It seems that in H. Lai, F. Lai and Mizo, there is a prefix *pa-* that should be reconstructed in PKC.
It would be hard to explain how the prefix only appears in those certain language without being present in other languages and the proto language itself. Therefore, the only way to plain would be the prefix has to be reconstructed in PKC as well. It

remains in H. Lai, F. Lai and Mizo while it disappears in other languages. This is exactly like *mə↗-* in proto-Maraic.