**The future of the Khamyang language**

told by [Deben Chowlik](https://latrobeuni-my.sharepoint.com/personal/smorey_ltu_edu_au/Documents/Assam/Tai%20Languages/Khamyang/biographies/Deben.doc)

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TEXT

kunqcgqe8alaxtqxoMtjxMtI / tjxMtIxoMAnqcgqygqAUsogqsMeka / tI corqhtqAJgqNgq / xoMxMygqen / xoMxMygqenAJmqNgqhjmutqAa / sipqsa korq nnqeAahjAa / ecsipqsakorqsogqsMmnqNgqpJgqlJgqAJgq cgqxWhj

Aa / lJwqpJwqnjconqqnJgqxoMtjxMygqwoanjtImaekertamnqpawjtjxMygq / ygq conqnJgqNgq / nnqekalJmqcgqnjlukqenxWlukqAonqxWAJgqtnqhjAa / lj pJwqnnqhWcipqlugqcgqnjhWhitqcUxutqsitqca / hgqpacgqenxWAnqcgqlikq enxWhWsonqhaepaephaepacgq / pahitqsitqcawoaeshWxjkinq / ljpJwqnjtUtgq lugqkumqkinqxjkinqeAa / hWkunqtjtjxMygqcuwqpUmaepa malukqxWxWmWlugq / lukqmWlugqmacuwqAnqlj...AnqpkqAnqhigqsInj / mutqeya / hWconqnJgqnj ygqsUtjxMygqtIvj / tjeAtjcitqnjekaxoMpacWlJmqkanojpinqpJnqpinqma

nunq / AJmqpinqkalaka / AnqlugqAnqmjekaAJgqNgq / conDnjNgqfugqpa yigqenxW / corqhtq e8alaxtq sipqsakorq nnqxWeApnqpJnqka / epata wasaAakiwqhWnjekaxoMeAAJgqcgqxW / AakiwqenNgqAnqlugqenemxJgqenxW nnqxWAJgqNgq / lJwqpasWlukqAonqenxWpamWenxWnnqxWeAtJwqhJnqenxJgqpa cWlugq / kaknqnokqeAxJgqpJnqljlugq / lJwpJwqnnqenpacWwoasIhUeAaAJgq hUeAa / lJwqpJwqnjsItuwqtgqlugqcipqnahJwqxnqnataAWpokq / lJwqpJwqnjsI tuwqxEcEemakinqsgqkinqnEmnqnEhJnq / hgqemhgqlukqtgqlugqhEtnqxoMtjsonq xoMtj / tuwqemakinqeAa / lJwqpJwqnnqnahJwqtapinqmalJwqtiep / nnqhWtjka huNqtatIAJgqhnqeAa / lJwqpJwqnnqestuwqkacgqnjhWAUenfEenkaluwq tapinqen / lJwqpJwqnnqtuwqhitqqsitqcaxjnJgqeAa /

TRANSLATION

In Gologhat there are people who know Tai Khamti, there are two or three of them who know Khamti. There are none at Jorhat.

There is no Khamyang language there, it has disappeared. In Sibsagar it has disappeared. There are two or three villages in Sibsagar, but nobody knows anything, it has all disappeared.

So Tai Khamyang is spoken a little, only at Margherita, in the Tai Khamyang village of Pawaimukh. So there is just a little. Moreover, they’ve forgotten, those children now, those children can’t speak, its all gone.

So we are very sorry and now we are trying to do something about it. Those who know the books should teach those who don’t know, so that they will be able to know. We are doing something about it, we are discussing it.

We Tai, Tai Khamyang, from the generations of our fathers and grandfathers, came from Khau Khau Mau Lung. From Mau Lung, generations ago, hundreds and thousands of years ago. It is all finished.

We still have a little of the Tai Khamyang here. We have forgotten how to be true Tai, that is having our own language, and we have become like the Assamese. We became foreigners. We no longer wear our traditional clothes. The ladies wear them, just a little.

Those in Jorhat, Golaghat and Sibsagar became Assamese. They do not know the language of our Buddhist religion. We have the religion. Our original clothing is no longer found. So the young girls and boys wear their own clothing at home. When they go out, they wear Assamese clothes.

So, we can say of ourselves, some things we know, some things we do not know. So we are distressed, and do not know how we will get our traditions back. Therefore we have discussed it amongst ourselves in this village

We should get out wives and children to learn and speak the Tai language. We consulted. But how and where can we do this? When we die, our eyes cannot see anything. And so we are staying here, not certain as to what to do. And so we have made this promise.

ANALYSIS:

Link to [Audio file for this text](https://latrobeuni-my.sharepoint.com/personal/smorey_ltu_edu_au/Documents/Assam/Tai%20Languages/Khamyang/wave%20files/khamyang/texts/3-6-2-1.mp3)

SM (speaking Phake)

1) xoM xMygq en Golaghat ...

khām² kham² yaŋ² nɛ⁴

language Khamyang def Golaghat ...

‘Is there Khamyang in Golaghat ...’

Deben

2) Jorhat

SM continuing

3) Jorhat mnq xMygq ygq ena /

mān³ kham² yaŋ² yaŋ² nɔ⁶

Jorhat village Khamyang have qn

‘Is there Khamyang language (in the) Khamyang villages in Jorhat?’

Deben

4) AJgq ygq /

ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

neg have

‘No.’

SM

5) ygq ena /

yaŋ² nɔ⁶

have qn

‘Are there?’

Deben

6) AJgq ygq /

ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

neg have

‘No’

SM

7) kunq cgq xoM ygq ena /

kon² cāŋ⁵ khām² yaŋ² nɔ⁶

person know language have qn

‘Are there any people who know (Khamyang) language?’

Deben

8) kunq cgq e8alaxtq xoM tj xMtI /

kon² caaŋ⁵ gɔ¹ laa¹ ghat¹ khaam² tai² kham² tii⁵

person know Golaghat language Tai Khamti

‘In Gologhat there are people who know Tai Khamti’

9) tj xMtI xoM Anq cgq ygq AU sogq sM eka /

tai² kham² tii⁵ khaam² an⁵ caaŋ⁵ yaŋ⁵ uu¹ sɔŋ⁶ saam⁶ kɔ⁴

Tai Khamti word clf know have stay two three clf

‘There are two or three of them who know Khamti.’

0’26”

SM

10) AJwq

ə²

YES

‘Yes’

Deben

11) tI Jorhat tI Jorhat AJgq Ngq

tii⁵ tii⁴ ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

at Jorhat at Jorhat neg have

‘There are none at Jorhat.’

SM

12) xoM xMygq en /

khām² kham² yaŋ² nɛ⁴

word Khamyang def

‘The Khamyang language? ‘

Deben

13) xoM xMygq en /

khām² kham² yaaŋ² nɛ⁴

word Khamyang def

‘The Khamyang language.’

14) xoM xMygq en AJmq Ngq hj mutq Aa /

khaam² kham² yaaŋ² nɛ⁴ ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵ haai⁶ mot¹ aa¹

word Khamyang def neg have disappear gone prt.go\*

‘There is no Khamyang language (there), it has disappeared.’

Notes: \* This particle marks past time, exactly as *kā¹* ‘go’ in postverbal position in Phake. It is probably derived from *kā¹*, and is therefore marked as prt.go.

SM

15) hj mutq

haai⁶ mot¹

disappear gone

‘Disappeared.’

Deben

16) Sibsagar nnq eAa hj Aa /

nan⁴ ɔ¹ haai⁶ aa¹

Sibsagar that prt disappear prt.go

‘In Sibsagar it has disappeared.’

17) ec Sibsagar sogq sM mnq Ngq

cɛ⁵ sɔŋ⁶ saam⁶ maan³ ñaŋ⁵

now Sibsagar two three village have

pJgqlJgq AJgq cgq xW hj Aa /

pɤŋ² lɯŋ⁵ ɯŋ¹ caaŋ⁵ khau⁶ haai⁶ aa¹

everything neg know 3pl disappear prt.go

‘There are two or three villages in Sibsagar, but nobody knows anything, it has all disappeared.’

18) lJwqpJwqnj conqq nJgq xoM tj xMygq

lə⁴ pɤ⁵ nai⁴ cɔn⁵ nɯŋ⁵ khaam² tai² kham² yaaŋ²

therefore little one language Tai Khamyang

woa nj tI Margherita mnq pawj tj xMygq /

waa⁵ nai⁴ tii⁵ maan³ pa¹ waai¹ tai² kham² yaaŋ²

say this at Margherita village Pawaimukh Tai Khamyang

‘So Tai Khamyang is spoken a little, only at Margherita, in the Tai Khamyang village of Pawaimukh.’

19) ygq conq nJgq Ngq /

yaŋ⁵ cɔn⁵ nɯŋ⁵ ñaŋ⁵

have little one have

‘So there is just a little.’

1’00”

20) nnqeka lJmq cgqnj lukq en xW

nan⁴ kɔ¹ lɯm² caŋ¹ nai³ luk⁴ nɛ⁴ khau⁶

there forget now child def 3pl

lukqAonq xW AJgq tnq hj Aa /

luk⁴ ɔn¹ khau⁶ ɯŋ¹ taan³ haai⁶ aa⁴

child 3pl neg speak disappear prt.go

‘Moreover, they’ve forgotten, those children now, those children can’t speak, its all gone.’

21) ljpJwqnnq hW cipq lugq

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ hau² cep¹ loŋ⁶

so 1pl hurt much

cgqnj hW hitq cUxutq sitqca /

caŋ¹ nai⁴ hau² het¹ cuu¹ khut⁴ set⁴ caa¹

now 1pl make trying\* truth

‘So we are very sorry and now we are trying to do something about it.’.

Notes: \* Yehom Buragohain said that in Phake this was pronounced as *sa¹ kut⁴ sa¹ kaat⁴*,. She gave the following example of its use:

21.1 kW sakutqsaktq ta ka nU em /

kau² sa¹ kut⁴ sa¹ kaat⁴ ta¹ kaa¹ nuu² mɛ⁵

1sg difficulty will go see mother

‘It is difficult for me to get to see my mother.’

22) hgq pa cgq en xW Anq cgq likq en xW

haŋ² pa¹ caaŋ⁵ nɛ⁴ khau⁶ an⁵ caaŋ⁵ lik⁴ nɛ⁴ khau⁶

to agent know def 3pl clf know book def 3pl

hW sonq ha epa ep ha epa cgq /

hau² sɔn⁶ haɯ³ pɔ² pɛ⁴ haɯ³ pɔ² caaŋ⁵

1pl teach give\* prt able give prt know

‘Those who know the books should teach those who don’t know, so that they will be able to know’

Notes: \* Phonetically [haaɯ].

1’19”

23) pa hitq sitqca woa es hW xj kinq /

pa¹ het¹ set⁴ caa¹ waa⁵ se⁶ hau² khai⁵ kin²

agent do truth say prt 1pl tell recip

‘We are doing something about it, we are discussing it.’

24) ljpJwqnj tU tgqlugq kumq kinq xj kinq eAa /

lə⁴ pə⁵ nai⁴ to⁵ taŋ¹ loŋ⁶ kum⁵ kin⁵ khai⁵ kin⁵ ɔ¹

so body\* all discuss recip speak recip prt

‘So therefore we are all discussing this.’

Note: \* The meaning here is ‘1pl’, ‘we’. Deben defined it as hWtgqlogq *hau² taŋ¹ loŋ⁶* ‘all of us’. It was not possible to establish whether *to⁵* is an exclusive first person plural pronoun.

25) hW kunq tj tj xMygq cuwq pU

hau² kon² tai² tai² kham² yaaŋ² co⁵ puu¹

1pl person Tai Tai Khamyang generation grandfather

ma epa ma lukq xW xW mWlugq /

maa² pɔ⁵ maa² luk⁴ khau³ khaau⁶ maau² loŋ⁶

come\* father come from\*\* rice white Mau Lung

‘We Tai, Tai Khamyang, from the generations of our fathers and grandfathers, came from Khau Khau Mau Lung.’

Notes: \* realised as [maaŋ²]

\*\* realised as [lɤk⁴]

26) lukq mWlugq ma cuwq Anq lj ...

luk⁴ maau² loŋ⁶ maa² co⁵ an⁵ lai⁴ ...

from Mau Lung come generation clf so ...

Anq pkq Anq higq sI nj /

an⁵ paak¹ an⁵ heŋ⁶ sii⁶ nai⁴

clf hundred clf thousand prt that

‘From Mau Lung, generations ago, hundreds and thousands of years ago.’

1’45”

27) mutq eya

mot¹ yɔ⁴

finished finished\*

‘It is all finished.’

Notes: \* This is clearly a process of [au] > [ɔ].

28) hW conq nJgq nj ygq sU tj xMygq tI vj /

hau² cɔn⁵ nɯŋ⁵ nai⁴ yaŋ⁵ suu¹ tai² kham² yaaŋ² tii⁵ thai⁴

we little one this have towards Tai Khamyang at here

‘We still have a little of the Tai Khamyang here.’

29) tj eA tj citq nj eka xoM pacW lJmq ka

tai² ɛ¹ tai² cɛt⁴ nai⁴ kɔ⁴ khaam² pa¹ cau³ lɯm² kaa¹

Tai prt Tai pure this link word self forget go

noj AJmq pinq pJnq pinq manunq /

nɔi⁴ ɯm¹ pen⁵ pɤn⁵ pen⁵ ma¹ nun⁵

prt hesit be other be Assam

‘We have forgotten how to be true Tai, that is having our own language, and we have become like the Assamese.’

30) AJmq pinq kala ka /

ɯm¹ pen⁵ ka¹ laa² kaa¹

hesit be foreigner go

‘We became foreigners.’

31) Anq lugq Anq mj eka AJgq Ngq /

an⁵ luŋ⁵ an⁵ mai⁵ kɔ⁴ ɤŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

clf wear clf cover link neg have

‘We no longer wear (our traditional clothes).’

32) conD nj Ngq fugq payigq en xW /

cɔn² cɔn² nai⁴ ñaŋ⁵ phuŋ⁶ pa¹ yiŋ² nɛ⁴ khau¹

little this have group female def 3pl

‘The ladies (wear them), just a little.’

33) AJwq Jorhat Golaghat Sibsagor nnq xW eA

ɯ¹ nan³ khau⁶ ɛ¹

hesit Jorhat Golaghat Sibsagar that 3pl prt

pnq pJnq ka /

pen⁵ pɤn⁵ kaa¹

be other go

‘Um, those in Jorhat, Golaghat and Sibsagar became Assamese.’

Note: The word *pɤn⁵* ‘others’ here refers to the Assamese majority culture.

34) AJmq puwqta epata wasa Aakiwq hW nj eka

ɯm¹ po¹ taa¹ po¹ taa¹ waa¹ saa¹ aa¹ kyiu² hau² nai³ kɔ⁴

hesit Buddha Buddha religion merit 1pl this link

xoM eA AJgq cgq xW /

khaam² ɛ¹ ɯŋ¹ caaŋ⁵ khau⁶

word prt neg know 3sg

‘They do not know the language of our Buddhist religion.’

2’22”

35) AJmq Aakiwq en Ngq

ɯm¹ aa¹ kyiu² nɛ⁴ ñaŋ⁵

hesit merit def have

‘We have the religion.’

36) Anq lugq en em xJgq en xW

an⁵ luŋ⁵ nɛ⁴ mɛ⁵ khɯŋ⁵ nɛ⁴ khau⁶

clf wear def mother thing\* def 3pl

nnq xW AJgq Ngq /

nan⁴ khau⁶ ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

that 3pl neg have

‘Our original clothing is no longer found.’

Notes: \* Yehom Buragohain believes that the phrase *mɛ⁵ khɯŋ⁵*, literally ‘mother things’ may refer to the original clothing of the Tai people.

37) lJwq pasW lukqAonq en xW pamW en xW

lɤ⁴ pa¹ saau⁶ luk⁴ ɔn¹ nɛ⁴ khau⁶ pa¹ maau¹ nɛ⁴ khau¹

so\* girl child def 3pl youth def 3pl

nnq xW eA tJwq hJnq en xJgq pacW lugq /

nan⁴ khau⁶ ɛ¹ tɤ⁵ hɤn² nɛ⁴ khɯŋ⁵ pa¹ cau³ luŋ⁵

that 3pl prt at house def thing\*\* self wear

‘So the young girls and boys wear their own clothing at home.’

Notes: \* This is /tii⁵/, realised in Khamyang as [tɤ⁵]

\*\* Here it means clothing.

38) ka knq nokq eA xJgq pJnq lj lugq /

kaa¹ kan⁵ nɔk⁴ ɛ¹ khɯŋ⁵ pɤn⁵ lai⁴ luŋ⁵

go direction outside prt thing other this wear

‘When they go out, they wear Assamese clothes.’

39) lJwpJwqnnq en pacW woa sI

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ nɛ⁴ pa¹ cau³ waa⁵ sii¹

therefore prt self say prt

hU eAa AJgq hU eAa /

huu⁴ ɔ¹ ɯŋ¹ huu⁴ ɔ¹

know prt neg know prt

‘So, we can say of ourselves, some things we know, some things we do not know.’

This sentence refers to those aspects of Tai culture which are preserved by the Khamyang, and those which are not.

40) lJwqpJwqnj sI tuwq tgqlugq cipq nahJwq

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nai⁴ sii⁶ to⁵ taŋ¹ loŋ⁶ cep¹ na¹ hɯ⁶

therefore prt body all hurt how

xnq na ta AW pokq /

khan⁵ naa⁶ ta¹ au⁵ pɔk⁴

direction\* prt.qn will take return

‘So we are distressed, and do not know how we will get (our traditions) back.’

Notes: \* Deben Chowlik stated that barely audible phrase was *khan⁵ naa⁶*, and it meant ‘how’.

41) lJwqpJwqnj sI tuwq xEcE ema kinq sgq kinq

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nai⁴ sii⁶ to⁵ khaɯ³ caɯ² mɔ⁶ kin⁵ saaŋ¹ kin⁵

therefore prt body think\* skilled recip discuss recip

nE mnq nE hJnq /

naɯ² maan³ naɯ² hɤn²

in\* village in house

‘Therefore we have discussed it amongst ourselves in this village.’

Notes: \* realised as [khaaɯ ³]

42) hgq em hgq lukq tgqlugq hE tnq xoM tj

haŋ² me² haŋ² luk⁴ taŋ¹ loŋ⁶ haɯ³ taan³ khaam² tai²

to wife to child all give speak word Tai

sonq xoM tj /

sɔn⁶ khaam² tai²

teach word Tai

‘We should get out wives and children to learn and speak the Tai language.’

Notes: \* realised as [haaɯ ³]

This part of the text refers to discussions that the Khamyang elders had about the future of the language. Since the wives of the Khamyang are usually not from the Khamyang community, they are even less likely to speak Tai Khamyang than their husbands. A number of the wives are Phake speakers.

43) tuwq ema kinq eAa

to⁵ mɔ⁶ kin⁵ ɔ¹

body skilled recip prt

‘We consulted.’

3’11”

44) lJwqpJwqnnq nahJwq ta pinq malJwq ti ep /

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ na¹ hɯ⁶ ta¹ pen⁵ ma¹ lɯ⁶ ti¹ pɛ⁴

therefore how will be where will can

‘But how and where can we do this?’

45) nnq hW tj ka huNqta tI AJgq hnq eAa /

nan⁴ hau² taai² kaa¹ hoi¹ taa² tii⁵ ɯŋ¹ han⁶ ɔ¹

that 1pl die go eye place neg see prt

‘When we die, our eyes cannot see anything.’

46) lJwqpJwqnnq es tuwq ka cgqnj hW AU en

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ se⁶ to⁵ kaa¹ caŋ¹ nai⁴ hau² uu¹ nɛ⁴

therefore prt body go now 1pl stay def

fE en kaluwq ta pinq en /

phaɯ⁶ nɛ⁴ ka¹ lo¹ ta¹ pen² nɛ⁴

who def confused\* will be def

‘And so we are staying here, not certain as to what to do.’

Yehom explained this word as:

kW ta ka kaluwq ma ka kaluwq ma hU /

kau² ta¹ kā¹ ka¹ lo¹ ma¹ kā¹ ka¹ lo¹ ma¹ hū⁴

1sg will go uncertain neg go unceertain neg know

‘I don’t know whether I will go or not.’

47) lJwqpJwqnnq tuwq hitqq sitqca xj nJgq eAa /

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ to⁵ het¹ set⁴ caa¹ khai⁵ nɤŋ⁵ ɔ¹

therefore body do truth tell one prt

‘And so we have made this promise.’

Notes: Deben Chowlik stated that *khai⁵ nɤŋ⁵ ɔ¹* had no meaning.

From here commences a new text;

3’35”

SM

1) AJmD Anq xoM xMygq en ljekapJwq kW

ɯm¹ an² khām² kham² yaŋ² nɛ⁴ lai⁴ kɔ⁴ pə⁵ kau²

hesit clf word Khamyang prt because 1sg

xMygq ma cgq /

kham² yaŋ² ma¹ cāŋ⁶

Khamyang neg know

‘Um (let’s talk) about Tai Khamyang, because I don’t know Tai Khamyang.’

Deben

2) AJmq /

ɯm¹

hesit

‘Um’

SM

3) faek conq nJgq cgq xMygq ma cgq ½

phā⁴ ke⁵ cɔn² nüŋ⁵ cāŋ⁵ kham² yaŋ² ma¹ cāŋ⁵

Phake little one know Khamyang neg know

‘I know a little Phake, but no Khamyang.’

4) faek ta woa Aa ka tI vE

phā⁴ ke⁵ ta¹ wā⁵ ā¹ kā¹ tī⁵ thaü⁶

Phake will say hesit go to where

xMygq ta woa sgq ½

kham² yaŋ² ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ⁶

Khamyang will say what

‘When in Phake they say *kā¹ tī⁵ thaɯ⁶*, what do you say in Khamyang?’

Deben

5) ka tI vE ½

kaa¹ tii⁵ thaɯ⁶

go to where\*

‘Where are you going?’

Notes: \* realised as [thaaɯ ⁶]. Deben repeatedly indicated that this was different from the Phake which he pronounced as [thaɯ⁶]. There is however a very slight final [ɯ].

SM

6) faek ta woa mJwqnE ma ma /

phā⁴ ke⁵ ta¹ wā⁵ mə⁵ naü⁶ mā² mā²

Phake will say when come come

‘The Phakes say *mə⁵ naü⁶ mā² mā²* ?’

Deben

7) mJwqlE ma ma /

mɤ⁵ laɯ⁶ maa² maa-²

when come come\*

‘When did (you) come?’

Note: \* There seems to be a difference between the two tones, the second, grammaticalised, *maa²* is realised with a lower tone. This probably isn’t phonemic.

He then repeats the sentence with slightly different tones:

8) mJwqlE ma ma /

mɤ⁵ laɯ⁶ maa² maa²

when come come

‘When did (you) come?’

0’24”

SM

9) Anq tI mE woa mgq en mgq ÍËÒ en ...

an² tī⁵ maü² wā⁵ maaŋ nɛ⁴ maaŋ ɔ haa nɛ⁴ ...

clf place 2sg say come.? prt come.? come prt ...

‘When you say *maaŋ*, that is ‘to come’, ...’

Deben

10) eAaha mgq

ɔ haa maaŋ

come come

‘Come’

SM

11) kasgq ... sgq woa kW ta woa mafukq

ka¹ saŋ¹ ... süŋ¹ wā⁵ kau² ta¹ wā⁵ ma¹ phuk¹

what ... if say 1sg will say tomorrow

kW ta ka maekerta xMygq ta woa sgq /

kau² ta¹ kaa¹ ma¹ ke¹ re¹ taa¹ kham² yaŋ² ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ¹

1sg will go Margherita Khamyang will say what

‘Suppose I were to say, tomorrow I will go to Margherita, how would I say it in Khamyang?’

Deben

12) mahukq kW ta ka maekerta tUD /

ma¹ huk¹ kau² ta¹ kaa¹ ma¹ ke¹ re¹ taa¹ tuu¹ tuu¹

tomorrow 1sg will go Marghertia same same

‘Tomorrow I will go to Margherita, its the same.’

SM

13) tUD AU es maekerta ta ka Dibrugarh

tuu¹ tuu¹ uu¹ sɛ¹ ma¹ ke¹ re¹ taa¹ ta¹ kaa¹

same stay from Marghertia will go Dibrugarh

‘Same .. From Margherita I will go to Dibrugarh?’

Deben

14) mahukq kW ta ka maekerta /

ma¹ huk¹ kau² ta¹ kaa¹ ma¹ ke¹ re¹ taa¹

tomorrow 1pl will go Margherita

‘Tomorrow I will go to Margherita’

15) lJkq maekreta mahukq kW ta ka Dibrugarh

lɤk⁴ ma ke re ta ma¹ huk¹ kau² ta¹ kaa¹

from Margherita tomorrow 1sg will go Dibrugarh

‘From Margherita I will go tomorrow to Dibrugarh..’

SM

16) lJkq maekerta ...

lɤk⁴ ma ke re ta

from Margherita

‘From Margherita ...’

Deben

17) kW ta ka Dibrugarh

kau² ta¹ kaa¹

1sg will go Dibrugarh

‘I will go to Dibrugarh.’

SM

18) kW ta ka Dibrugarh

kau² ta¹ kā¹

1sg will go Dibrugarh

‘I will go to Dibrugarh.’

19) Aa

aa¹

hesit

‘Um’

20) lukq tI vE ma

luk⁴ tī⁵ thaü⁶ mā²

from place where come

‘Where did (you) come from?’

1’19”

Deben

21) lJkq vE mgq

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come.?

‘Where did (you) come from?’

Notes: \* Very weak final [ɯ]

SM

22) nJgq (kW)

nüŋ¹

aga....

‘Aga....’

Deben

23) lJkq vE mgq

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come.?

‘Where did (you) come from?’

Notes: \* Very weak final [ɯ]

24) lJkq vE mgq

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come.?

‘Where did (you) come from?’

Notes: \* Very weak final [ɯ]

SM

25) mgq

maaŋ²¹

come-?

‘Come ...’

Deben

26) mgq

maaŋ²¹

come-?

‘Come ...’

SM

27) Anq en Anq ta woa ... mE woa

an² nɛ⁴ an² ta¹ wā⁵ maü² wā⁵

clf def clf will say ... 2sg say

lJkq vE mgq

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come

‘That, which you will say, ... which you say, *lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹*.’

Deben

28) mgq Yes

maaŋ²¹ yes

come yes

‘Yes, come ...’

SM

29) ga ygq

ŋa yaŋ²

/ŋ/ have

‘There is ‘nga’ sound.’

Deben

30) mgq

maaŋ²¹

come-?

‘Come ...’

SM

31) mgq

maaŋ²¹

come-?

‘Come ...’

Deben

32) lJkq vE mgq

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come

‘Where have you come from?’

SM

33) Anq xMygq en ÍÊÁÕ¿Ò å·¹ ta woa sgq

an² kham² yaŋ² nɛ⁴ ɔxɔmiyaa din ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ⁶

clf Khamyang prt Assamese day will say what

‘What do you say for the Assamese word *din* (‘day’)?’

Deben

34) tinq ÀåÃ

tin² bhɔri

foot foot

‘Foot is *bhɔri* in Assamese.’

SM

35) å·¹ ÍÊÁÕ¿Ò å·¹ ta woa sgq

din ɔxɔmiya din ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ⁶

say Assamese day will say what

‘(No, no) for Assamese *din*, what do you say?’

Deben

36) å·¹ day

din

day day

‘Day?’

SM

37) ta woa sgq

ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ⁶

will say what

‘What do you say?’

Deben

38) bnq Anq lukq bnq

ban² an² luk⁴ ban²

day clf child day

‘Day, the sun.’

SM

39) ngqkW

nüŋ¹ kau¹

again

‘Again.’

Deben

40) lukq bnq lukq bnq

luk⁴ ban² luk⁴ ban²

child day child day

‘Sun, sun.’

SM

41) Anq en ta pinq comb

an² nɛ⁴ ta¹ pen²

clf prt will be comb

‘This, which would be a comb...’

Deben

42) nj bI huwq bI

nai⁴ bii⁶ ho⁶ bii⁶

this comb head comb

‘A comb for the head - *bii⁶*.’

43) bI huwq eA eAa

bii⁶ ho⁶ ɛ¹ ɔ¹

comb head prt prt

‘A comb.’

44) kW ba AJgq cE bI huwq eA bI

kau⁵ baa⁵ ɯŋ¹ caɯ⁵ bii⁶ ho⁶ ɛ¹ bii⁶

1sg say neg be\* comb head prt comb

‘Didn’t I say *bii⁶ ho⁶*, a comb?’

Notes: \* The words *ɯŋ¹ caɯ⁵* are barely audible, but Deben Chowlik assured me that they would have been spoken. He compared the Phake and Khamyang languages as follows:

44.1 kW woa es hgq mE

kau² wā⁵ se⁶ haŋ² maɯ²

1sg say prt to 2sg

‘Didn’t I say it to you?’

(Phake sentence)

44.2 kW woa AJgq cE hgq mE

kau² wā⁵ ɯŋ¹ caɯ⁵ haŋ² maɯ²

1sg say neg be to 2sg

‘Didn’t I say it to you?’

(Khamyang sentence)

SM

45) That’s a comb.

2’20”

46) Anq en

an² nɛ⁴

clf this

‘This?’

Deben

47) bI

bii²

fan

‘A fan’

SM

48) fan

Deben

49) bI bI

bii² bii²

fan fan

‘A fan, *bii²*.’

SM

50) kasgq pinq wtq

ka¹ saŋ⁶ pen² wat¹

what be cold

‘What about a cold?’

Deben

51) pinq btq pinq btq

pen⁵ bat¹ pen⁵ bat¹

be cold be cold

‘To have a cold, *pen⁵ bat¹*.’

52) hW eA woa pinq btq

hau² ɛ¹ waa⁵ pen⁵ bat¹

1pl prt say be cold

tj faek ta woa xj btq

tai² phaa⁴ ke⁵ ta¹ waa⁵ khai⁵ bat¹

Tai Phake will say ill cold

‘We say *pen⁵ bat¹*, whereas the Tai Phake say *khai⁵ bat¹*.’

53) pinq btq pinq btq

pen⁵ bat¹ pen⁵ bat¹

be cold be cold

‘To have a cold, *pen⁵ bat¹*.’

SM

54) Anq en ta woa xoM ewo nnq

an² nɛ⁴ ta¹ wā⁵ khām² woi¹ nan⁴

clf prt will say word bless that

ewo Rfa ta woa sgq /

woi¹ phraa² ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ

bless Buddha will say what

‘What about the word for blessing? When you bless Buddha, what do you say?’

Deben

55) xoM ebo Rfa en /

khaam² boi¹ phraa² nɛ⁴

word bless Buddha this

‘Blessings of Buddha.’

56) xoM ebo Rfa tUD xoM nJgq

khaam² boi¹ phraa² tuu¹ tuu¹ khaam² nɯŋ⁵

word bless Buddha same word one

lotq Anq xW yW xoM ebo Rfa /

lɔt¹ an² khau⁶ yaau² khaam² boi¹ phraa²

short clf 3pl long word bless Buddha

‘The words of blessing the Buddha are the same, although ours is short and theirs is long.’

SM

57) AJwD /

ə² ə²

yes yes

‘Yes.’

2’54”

58) Anq faek ta woa Anq en ngq /

an² phā⁴ ke⁵ ta¹ wā⁵ an² nɛ⁴ naŋ²

clf Phake will say clf this nose

‘This, which the Phakes call *naŋ²* ‘the nose’?’

Deben

59) ngq /

naŋ⁵

nose

‘nose’

SM

60) xMygq ta woa sgq /

kham² yaŋ² ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ⁶

Khamyang will say what

‘What do the Khamyang’s say?’

Deben

61) hW eka boa ngq /

hau² kɔ⁴ baa⁵ naŋ⁵

2pl link say nose

‘We also say *naŋ⁵*.’

62) ngq tUD same

naŋ⁵ tuu¹ tuu¹

nose same same same

‘It’s the same, *naŋ⁵*.’

SM

63) eka woa ngq tU knq na /

kɔ⁴ wā⁵ naŋ² tuu¹ kan² nā¹

link say nose same recip prt–qn

‘So you say *naŋ²*, in the same way?’

Deben

64) tU knq /

tuu¹ kan²

same recip

‘The same.’

SM

65) Anq ÀÒÅ ÍÊÁÕ¿Ò ÀÒÅ

an² bhal ɔxɔmiya bhal

clf good Assamese good

‘The word for good, *bhal* in Assamese?’

Deben

66) ÀÒÅ

bhal

good

‘Good’

SM

67) woa lI ...

wā⁵ lii⁵ ...

say good ...

‘You say *lii⁵* ...’

Deben

68) lI AU ligq AU ligq /

lii⁵ uu¹ liiŋ⁵ uu¹ liiŋ⁵

good stay good.? stay good.?

‘Good, be well, be well.’

SM

69) ligq

liiŋ⁵

good.?

‘Good ...’

Deben

70) Have you good, AU ligq

have you good uu¹ liiŋ⁵

have you good stay good.?

‘Are you well, we say *uu¹ liiŋ*.’

Note: Since Deben Chowlik does not know how to write Tai script, it was not possible to ask him how to write this, and, hence, whether final /-ŋ/ would be present. Chaw Cha Seng wrote eAanigq *ɔ niŋ* for ‘are you well’ and then changed it to eAaligq *ɔ liŋ*. This does suggest that the final /-ŋ/ is present.

SM

71) AU ligq AJwq /

uu¹ liiŋ⁵ ɯ²

stay good.? YES

‘Are you good, yes.’

72) Ah the *ŋa* is a questioning thing.

Deben

73) AU ligq

uu¹ liiŋ⁵

stay good.?

‘Are you well ...’

SM  
74) Mmm, the *ŋa* is a question particle

75) Aa kasgq ta woa mJwq nj ta AU tI vE

aa¹ ka¹ saŋ⁶ ta¹ wā⁵ mə⁵ nai⁴ ta¹ uu¹ tī⁵ thaɯ⁶

hesit what will say time this will stay at where

faek ta woa xMygq ta ...

phā⁴ ke⁵ ta¹ wā⁵ kham² yaŋ² ta¹

Phake will say Khamyang will ...

‘If you want to say ‘Today where will you stay?’, as the Phakes would say, how will the Khamyangs say it?’

3’55”

Deben

76) malj ta AU vE /

mɤ⁵ lai⁶ ta¹ uu¹ thaa⁶

today\* will stay where\*\*

‘Where will you stay today?’

Notes \* There is some backness in the [ai] - but not fully as in [aɯ]

\*\* There is no evidence of final [ɯ]. Deben stated that this should be regarded as [thaa⁶].

77) malj ta AU vE /

mɤ⁵ lai⁶ ta¹ uu¹ thaa⁶

today\* will stay where

‘Where will you stay today?’

repeated again

SM

78) ta AU kI wnq kI wnq ta AU /

ta¹ uu¹ kī¹ wan² kī¹ wan² ta¹ uu¹

will stay how many day how many day will stay

‘How many days will you stay?’

Deben

79) kI bnq ta AU same

kii¹ ban² ta¹ uu¹

how many day will stay same

‘How many days will you stay, its the same.’

80) kI bnq ta AU

kii¹ ban² ta¹ uu¹

how many day will stay

‘How many days will you stay.’

SM

81) Aa AUlukq AUes ...

aa¹ uu¹ luk⁴ uu¹ sɛ⁶

f from ... from

‘Um, from, from ...’

82) AUes AosqeRtlIya mJwqnE ma ma /

uu¹ sɛ⁶ ɔs¹ trɛ¹ lii¹ yaa¹ mə⁵ naɯ⁶ maa² maa²

from Australia when come come

‘When did you arrive from Australia?’

Deben

83) lJkq AosqeRtlIya mJwqlE ma

lɤk⁴ ɔs¹ tre¹ lii¹ yaa¹ mɤ⁵ laɯ⁶ maa²

from Australia when\* come\*\*

‘When did you arrive from Australia?’

Notes: \* Phonetically [mə⁵ laaɯ⁶]

\*\* This word is spoken with a long and level tone then falling. It is not the typical second tone.

The sentence is repeated twice more

4’39”

SM  
84) So the *ŋa* is not a question.

85) AU nI ena AU ligq

uu¹ nī² nɔ⁶ uu¹ liiŋ²

stay good qn stay good

‘Are you well is *uu¹ liiŋ*.’

NB: SM speaks [liiŋ²] with a typical second tone, but this is an error.

Deben

86) AU ligq

uu¹ liiŋ⁵

stay good.?

‘Are you well ...’

SM

87) kasgq ta to..

ka¹ saŋ⁶ ta¹ tɔ..

what will reply?

‘And how would you respond ..

Deben

88) AJwq AU ligq AJwq kW AU ligq /

ɤ² uu¹ liiŋ⁵ ɤ² kau² uu¹ liiŋ⁵

YES stay well.? Yes 1sg stay well.?

‘Yes, I am well, Yes, I am well.’

89) tU tgqlugq eAa AU ligq /

to⁵ taŋ¹ loŋ⁶ ɔ¹ uu¹ liiŋ

body all prt stay well

‘We are all well.’

line repeated

SM

90) mnq en kI eka ... kI hJnq ygq /

mān³ nɛ⁴ kī¹ kɔ⁴ ... kī¹ hən² yaŋ²

village def how many clf ... how many person have

‘How many people, how many houses are there in this village?’

Deben

91) mnq nj kI hJnq Ngq /

maan³ nai⁴ kii¹ hɤn² ñaŋ⁶(²)

village this how many house have\*

‘How many houses are there in this village?’

Notes \* The tone on *ñaŋ* is clearly rising then falling, the characteristic of the Phake questioning tone, and has been marked as such.

The sentence is repeated.

92) mnq nj kI hJnq Ngq woa kI lgq Nyq /

maan³ nai⁴ kii¹ hɤn² ñaŋ⁶(²) waa⁵ kii¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁶(²)

village this how many house have say how many clf have

‘When we say how many houses are there in this village, we say *kii¹ hɤn²*.’

Notes: The meaning of this sentence was made clear when Deben stated that it was the Phakials (Phakes) who said *kī¹ laŋ⁶* and the Khamyangs would say *kī¹ hɤn²*.

SM

93) kI lgq Ngq

kī¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁶(²)

how many clf have

‘How many houses?’

Deben

94) hJnq en hW ...

hɤn² nɛ⁴ hau²

house clf-this 1pl

‘Our houses ...’

SM

95) ta woa mnq lj mnq nj ta woa /

ta¹ wā⁵ mān³ lai⁴ mān³ nai⁴ ta¹ wā⁵

will say village this village this will say

‘Do you say *mān³ lai⁴* or *mān³ nai⁴*?’

Deben

96) mnq nj mnq nj /

maan³ nai⁴ maan³ nai⁴

village this village this\*

‘This village, *maan³ nai⁴*.’

SM

97) mnq nj lj AJgq woa /

mān³ nai⁴ lai⁴ ɤŋ¹ wā⁵

village this this-L neg say

‘So you say *maan³ nai⁴*, you don’t say *lai⁴*.’

Deben

98) mnq nj

maan³ nai⁴

village this

‘This village’

(repeated several times)

99) kI hJnq kI hJnq boa kI lgq /

kii¹ hɤn² kii¹ hɤn² baa⁵ kii¹ laŋ⁶

how many house how many house say how many clf

‘How many houses, how many houses.’

SM

100) kI lgq /

kī¹ laŋ⁶

how many clf

‘How many?’

Deben

101) kI lgq hW eA woa ...

kii¹ laŋ⁶ hau² ɛ¹ baa⁵

how many clf 1pl prt say

‘We say *kii¹ laŋ⁶*.’

102) hW boa hJnq saen

hau² baa⁵ hɤn² sa¹ nɛ⁴

1pl say house prt

‘We say ...’

103) Home

104) lgq en woa saen kI lgq sU Ngq

laŋ⁶ nɛ⁴ waa⁵ sa¹ nɛ⁴ kii¹ laŋ⁶ suu⁶ ñaŋ⁵

clf this say prt how many clf 2pl have

kI hJnq Ngq /

kii¹ hɤn² ñaŋ⁵

how many house have

‘For houses, if we want to say, how many houses do you have, we say *kii¹ hɤn² ñaŋ⁶(²)*?’

SM

105) And the answer is? Can you tell me how many?

Deben

106) how many kI lgq how many

kii¹ laŋ⁶

how many how many clf how many

‘How many.’

107) kI hJnq how many

kii¹ hɤn²

how many house how many

‘How many houses?’

SM

108) And what is the answer?

109) sM pkq sa...

saam⁶ paak¹ saa..

3 100 ...

‘300?’ ...

Deben

110) hJnq hJnq hJnq is a home

hɤn² hɤn² hɤn²

house house house is a home

‘*Hɤn²* is a home.’

111) How many homes has here

SM  
112) And what is the answer?

Deben

113) Ah, answer.

114) tuwq sipq hJnq Ngq

to⁵ sip¹ hɤn² ñaŋ⁵

body ten house have

‘We have ten houses.’

115) Then we are ten home heads from here.

SM

116) But there is more than ten, no?

117) mnq en ...

maan³ nɛ⁴ ...

village def ...

‘In this village ...’

Deben

118) mnq en sI sipq hJnq ... Ngq

maan³ nɛ⁴ sii¹ sip¹ hɤn² ... ñaŋ⁵

village def four ten house ... have

‘In this village, forty houses ...’

SM

119) sI sipq hJnq

sii¹ sip¹ hɤn²

four ten house

‘Forty houses.’

Deben

120) woa sI sipq lgq Ngq

waa⁵ sii¹ sip¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁵

say 6 10 clf have

‘We can say we have forty households.’

121) Same thing

SM

122) sI sipq lgq Ngq

sii¹ sip¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁵

6 10 clf have

‘Forty houses.’

123) sI sip lgq Ngq woa sI sipq hJnq Ngq /

sii¹ sip¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁵ (0.5) waa⁵ sii¹ sip¹ hɤn² ñaŋ⁵

four ten house have say four ten house have

‘We have forty houses, we say *sii¹ sip¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁵*.’

SM

124) sI sipq lgq Ngq Ngq

sii¹ sip¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁵ ñaŋ⁵

four ten clf have have

‘There are forty houses.’

Deben

125) Ngq Ngq Ngq

ñaŋ⁵ ñaŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁶(²)

have have have

‘Have, have have.’

126) Ngq eAa

ñaŋ⁵ ɔ¹

have prt

‘There are.’

127) AJgq Ngq

ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

neg have

‘There are none’

128) Ngq

ñaŋ⁶(²)

have–qn

‘Are there any?’

SM

129) kasgq ta wa ygq Question

ka¹ saŋ⁶ ta¹ waa⁵ yaŋ⁶²

what will say have–qn question

‘How do you say it is question words - *yaŋ⁶²*?’

Deben

130) Question

131) ygq has

yaŋ⁵ has

have has

‘Have’

132) AJgq Ngq nothing

ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

neg have

‘*ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵* means nothing’

SM

133) Nothing

134) So there is some tone change due to negatives, I think

7’12”