**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)

Link to [Tai Text](#Text)

Link to [Translation](#Translation)

Link to [Analysis](#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)

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TEXT

က︀ုꩫ︀်ꩡ︀င︀်‌ေ︀၈ႃလ︀ႃၵ︀တ︀်ၵ︀ွံတ︀ႝၵ︀ံတ︀ီ ။ တ︀ႝၵ︀ံတ︀ီၵ︀ွံဢ︀ꩫ︀်ꩡ︀င︀်ယ︀င︀်ဢ︀ူꩬ︀ွင︀်ꩬ︀ံက︀ေ︀ႃ ။ တ︀ီ ꩡ︀ွꩺ︀်ꩭတ︀်ဢ︀ိုင︀်ၺင︀် ။ ၵ︀ွံၵ︀ံယ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ ။ ၵ︀ွံၵ︀ံယ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ဢ︀ိုမ︀်ၺင︀်ꩭႝမ︀ုတ︀်ဢ︀ႃ ။ ꩬ︀ိပ︀်ꩬ︀ႃ က︀ွꩺ︀် ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ႃꩭႝဢ︀ႃ ။ ꩡ︀ေ︀ꩬ︀ိပ︀်ꩬ︀ႃက︀ွꩺ︀်ꩬ︀ွင︀်ꩬ︀ံမ︀ꩫ︀်ၺင︀်ပ︀ိုင︀်လ︀ိုင︀်ဢ︀ိုင︀် ꩡ︀င︀်ၵ︀ွ်ꩭႝ

ဢ︀ႃ ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ႝꩡ︀ွꩫ︀််ꩫ︀ိုင︀်ၵ︀ွံတ︀ႝၵ︀ံယ︀င︀်ဝ︀ွႃꩫ︀ႝတ︀ီမ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ꩺ︀ေ︀တ︀ႃမ︀ꩫ︀်ပ︀ႃဝ︀ႝတ︀ႝၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ။ ယ︀င︀် ꩡ︀ွꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ိုင︀်ၺင︀် ။ ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်က︀ေ︀ႃလ︀ိုမ︀်ꩡ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ႝလ︀ုက︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ွ်လ︀ုက︀်ဢ︀ွꩫ︀်ၵ︀ွ်ဢ︀ိုင︀်တ︀ꩫ︀်ꩭႝဢ︀ႃ ။ လ︀ႝ ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ꩭွ်ꩡ︀ိပ︀်လ︀ုင︀်ꩡ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ႝꩭွ်ꩭိတ︀်ꩡ︀ူၵ︀ုတ︀်ꩬ︀ိတ︀်ꩡ︀ႃ ။ ꩭင︀်ပ︀ႃꩡ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ွ်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်ꩡ︀င︀်လ︀ိက︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ွ်ꩭွ်ꩬ︀ွꩫ︀်ꩭႃပ︀ေ︀ႃပ︀ေ︀ꩭႃပ︀ေ︀ႃꩡ︀င︀် ။ ပ︀ႃꩭိတ︀်ꩬ︀ိတ︀်ꩡ︀ႃဝ︀ွႃꩬ︀ေ︀ꩭွ်ၵ︀ႝက︀ိꩫ︀် ။ လ︀ႝပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ႝတ︀ူတ︀င︀် လ︀ုင︀်က︀ုမ︀်က︀ိꩫ︀်ၵ︀ႝက︀ိꩫ︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။ ꩭွ်က︀ုꩫ︀်တ︀ႝတ︀ႝၵ︀ံယ︀င︀်ꩡ︀ုဝ︀်ပ︀ူမ︀ႃပ︀ေ︀ႃ မ︀ႃလ︀ုက︀်ၵ︀ွ်ၵ︀ွ်မ︀ွ်လ︀ုင︀် ။ လ︀ုက︀်မ︀ွ်လ︀ုင︀်မ︀ႃꩡ︀ုဝ︀်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ႝ...ဢ︀ꩫ︀်ပ︀က︀်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်ꩭိင︀်ꩬ︀ီꩫ︀ႝ ။ မ︀ုတ︀်ယ︀ေ︀ႃ ။ ꩭွ်ꩡ︀ွꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ိုင︀်ꩫ︀ႝ ယ︀င︀်ꩬ︀ူတ︀ႝၵ︀ံယ︀င︀်တ︀ီထ︀ႝ ။ တ︀ႝဢ︀ေ︀တ︀ႝꩡ︀ိတ︀်ꩫ︀ႝက︀ေ︀ႃၵ︀ွံပ︀ႃꩡ︀ွ်လ︀ိုမ︀်က︀ႃꩫ︀ွႝပ︀ိꩫ︀်ပ︀ိုꩫ︀်ပ︀ိꩫ︀်မ︀ႃ

ꩫ︀ုꩫ︀် ။ ဢ︀ိုမ︀်ပ︀ိꩫ︀်က︀ႃလ︀ႃက︀ႃ ။ ဢ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ုင︀်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်မ︀ႝက︀ေ︀ႃဢ︀ိုင︀်ၺင︀် ။ ꩡ︀ွꩫ︀ꩰꩫ︀ႝၺင︀်ၸ︀ုင︀်ပ︀ႃ ယ︀ိင︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ွ် ။ ꩡ︀ွꩺ︀်ꩭတ︀် ‌ေ︀၈ႃလ︀ႃၵ︀တ︀် ꩬ︀ိပ︀်ꩬ︀ႃက︀ွꩺ︀် ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ၵ︀ွ်ဢ︀ေ︀ပ︀ꩫ︀်ပ︀ိုꩫ︀်က︀ႃ ။ ပ︀ေ︀ႃတ︀ႃ ဝ︀ႃꩬ︀ႃဢ︀ႃက︀ိဝ︀်ꩭွ်ꩫ︀ႝက︀ေ︀ႃၵ︀ွံဢ︀ေ︀ဢ︀ိုင︀်ꩡ︀င︀်ၵ︀ွ် ။ ဢ︀ႃက︀ိဝ︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ၺင︀်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ုင︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀မ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ိုင︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ွ် ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ၵ︀ွ်ဢ︀ိုင︀်ၺင︀် ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ႃꩬ︀ွ်လ︀ုက︀်ဢ︀ွꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ွ်ပ︀ႃမ︀ွ်ꩫ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ွ်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ၵ︀ွ်ဢ︀ေ︀တ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩭိုꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ိုင︀်ပ︀ႃ ꩡ︀ွ်လ︀ုင︀် ။ က︀ႃက︀ꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ွက︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ၵ︀ိုင︀်ပ︀ိုꩫ︀်လ︀ႝလ︀ုင︀် ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ပ︀ႃꩡ︀ွ်ဝ︀ွႃꩬ︀ီꩭူဢ︀ေ︀ႃဢ︀ိုင︀် ꩭူဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ႝꩬ︀ီတ︀ုဝ︀်တ︀င︀်လ︀ုင︀်ꩡ︀ိပ︀်ꩫ︀ႃꩭိုဝ︀်ၵ︀ꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ႃတ︀ႃဢ︀ွ်ပ︀ွက︀် ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ႝꩬ︀ီ တ︀ုဝ︀်ၵ︀ၞ်ꩡ︀ၞ်မ︀ေ︀ႃက︀ိꩫ︀်ꩬ︀င︀်က︀ိꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ၞ်မ︀ꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ၞ်ꩭိုꩫ︀် ။ ꩭင︀်မ︀ေ︀ꩭင︀်လ︀ုက︀်တ︀င︀်လ︀ုင︀်ꩭၞ်တ︀ꩫ︀်ၵ︀ွံတ︀ႝꩬ︀ွꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွံတ︀ႝ ။ တ︀ုဝ︀်မ︀ေ︀ႃက︀ိꩫ︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ႃꩭိုဝ︀်တ︀ႃပ︀ိꩫ︀်မ︀ႃလ︀ိုဝ︀်တ︀ိပ︀ေ︀ ။ ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ꩭွ်တ︀ႝက︀ႃ ꩭုၺ်တ︀ႃတ︀ီဢ︀ိုင︀်ꩭꩫ︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ꩬ︀ေ︀တ︀ုဝ︀်က︀ႃꩡ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ႝꩭွ်ဢ︀ူꩫ︀ေ︀ၸ︀ၞ်ꩫ︀ေ︀က︀ႃလ︀ုဝ︀် တ︀ႃပ︀ိꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ေ︀ ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်တ︀ုဝ︀်ꩭိတ︀််ꩬ︀ိတ︀်ꩡ︀ႃၵ︀ႝꩫ︀ိုင︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

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) ၵ︀ွံ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ Golaghat ...

khām² kham² yaŋ² nɛ⁴

language Khamyang def Golaghat ...

‘Is there Khamyang in Golaghat ...’

Deben

2) Jorhat

SM continuing

3) Jorhat မ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

mān³ kham² yaŋ² yaŋ² nɔ⁶

Jorhat village Khamyang have qn

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

Deben

4) ဢ︀ိုင︀် ယ︀င︀် ။

ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

neg have

‘No.’

SM

5) ယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

yaŋ² nɔ⁶

have qn

‘Are there?’

Deben

6) ဢ︀ိုင︀် ယ︀င︀် ။

ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

neg have

‘No’

SM

7) က︀ုꩫ︀် ꩡ︀င︀် ၵ︀ွံ ယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

kon² cāŋ⁵ khām² yaŋ² nɔ⁶

person know language have qn

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

Deben

8) က︀ုꩫ︀် ꩡ︀င︀် ‌ေ︀၈ႃလ︀ႃၵ︀တ︀် ၵ︀ွံ တ︀ႝ ၵ︀ံတ︀ီ ။

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) တ︀ႝ ၵ︀ံတ︀ီ ၵ︀ွံ ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ꩡ︀င︀် ယ︀င︀် ဢ︀ူ ꩬ︀ွင︀် ꩬ︀ံ က︀ေ︀ႃ ။

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) ဢ︀ိုဝ︀်

ə²

YES

‘Yes’

Deben

11) တ︀ီ Jorhat တ︀ီ Jorhat ဢ︀ိုင︀် ၺင︀်

tii⁵ tii⁴ ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

at Jorhat at Jorhat neg have

‘There are none at Jorhat.’

SM

12) ၵ︀ွံ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ။

khām² kham² yaŋ² nɛ⁴

word Khamyang def

‘The Khamyang language? ‘

Deben

13) ၵ︀ွံ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ။

khām² kham² yaaŋ² nɛ⁴

word Khamyang def

‘The Khamyang language.’

14) ၵ︀ွံ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ဢ︀ိုမ︀် ၺင︀် ꩭႝ မ︀ုတ︀် ဢ︀ႃ ။

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) ꩭႝ မ︀ုတ︀်

haai⁶ mot¹

disappear gone

‘Disappeared.’

Deben

16) Sibsagar ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ꩭႝ ဢ︀ႃ ။

nan⁴ ɔ¹ haai⁶ aa¹

Sibsagar that prt disappear prt.go

‘In Sibsagar it has disappeared.’

17) ꩡ︀ေ︀ Sibsagar ꩬ︀ွင︀် ꩬ︀ံ မ︀ꩫ︀် ၺင︀်

cɛ⁵ sɔŋ⁶ saam⁶ maan³ ñaŋ⁵

now Sibsagar two three village have

ပ︀ိုင︀်လ︀ိုင︀် ဢ︀ိုင︀် ꩡ︀င︀် ၵ︀ွ် ꩭႝ ဢ︀ႃ ။

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) လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ႝ ꩡ︀ွꩫ︀်် ꩫ︀ိုင︀် ၵ︀ွံ တ︀ႝ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀်

lə⁴ pɤ⁵ nai⁴ cɔn⁵ nɯŋ⁵ khaam² tai² kham² yaaŋ²

therefore little one language Tai Khamyang

ဝ︀ွႃ ꩫ︀ႝ တ︀ီ Margherita မ︀ꩫ︀် ပ︀ႃဝ︀ႝ တ︀ႝ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ။

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) ယ︀င︀် ꩡ︀ွꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ိုင︀် ၺင︀် ။

yaŋ⁵ cɔn⁵ nɯŋ⁵ ñaŋ⁵

have little one have

‘So there is just a little.’

1’00”

20) ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်က︀ေ︀ႃ လ︀ိုမ︀် ꩡ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ႝ လ︀ုက︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ွ်

nan⁴ kɔ¹ lɯm² caŋ¹ nai³ luk⁴ nɛ⁴ khau⁶

there forget now child def 3pl

လ︀ုက︀်ဢ︀ွꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွ် ဢ︀ိုင︀် တ︀ꩫ︀် ꩭႝ ဢ︀ႃ ။

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) လ︀ႝပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ꩭွ် ꩡ︀ိပ︀် လ︀ုင︀်

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ hau² cep¹ loŋ⁶

so 1pl hurt much

ꩡ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ႝ ꩭွ် ꩭိတ︀် ꩡ︀ူၵ︀ုတ︀် ꩬ︀ိတ︀်ꩡ︀ႃ ။

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 က︀ွ် ꩬ︀ႃက︀ုတ︀်ꩬ︀ႃက︀တ︀် တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ ꩫ︀ူ မ︀ေ︀ ။

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) ꩭင︀် ပ︀ႃ ꩡ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ွ် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ꩡ︀င︀် လ︀ိက︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ွ်

haŋ² pa¹ caaŋ⁵ nɛ⁴ khau⁶ an⁵ caaŋ⁵ lik⁴ nɛ⁴ khau⁶

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

ꩭွ် ꩬ︀ွꩫ︀် ꩭႃ ပ︀ေ︀ႃ ပ︀ေ︀ ꩭႃ ပ︀ေ︀ႃ ꩡ︀င︀် ။

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) ပ︀ႃ ꩭိတ︀် ꩬ︀ိတ︀်ꩡ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀ေ︀ ꩭွ် ၵ︀ႝ က︀ိꩫ︀် ။

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) လ︀ႝပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ႝ တ︀ူ တ︀င︀်လ︀ုင︀် က︀ုမ︀် က︀ိꩫ︀် ၵ︀ႝ က︀ိꩫ︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

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 ꩭွ်တ︀င︀်လ︀ွင︀် *hau² taŋ¹ loŋ⁶* ‘all of us’. It was not possible to establish whether *to⁵* is an exclusive first person plural pronoun.

25) ꩭွ် က︀ုꩫ︀် တ︀ႝ တ︀ႝ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ꩡ︀ုဝ︀် ပ︀ူ

hau² kon² tai² tai² kham² yaaŋ² co⁵ puu¹

1pl person Tai Tai Khamyang generation grandfather

မ︀ႃ ပ︀ေ︀ႃ မ︀ႃ လ︀ုက︀် ၵ︀ွ် ၵ︀ွ် မ︀ွ်လ︀ုင︀် ။

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) လ︀ုက︀် မ︀ွ်လ︀ုင︀် မ︀ႃ ꩡ︀ုဝ︀် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ႝ ...

luk⁴ maau² loŋ⁶ maa² co⁵ an⁵ lai⁴ ...

from Mau Lung come generation clf so ...

ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ပ︀က︀် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ꩭိင︀် ꩬ︀ီ ꩫ︀ႝ ။

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) မ︀ုတ︀် ယ︀ေ︀ႃ

mot¹ yɔ⁴

finished finished\*

‘It is all finished.’

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

28) ꩭွ် ꩡ︀ွꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ိုင︀် ꩫ︀ႝ ယ︀င︀် ꩬ︀ူ တ︀ႝ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် တ︀ီ ထ︀ႝ ။

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) တ︀ႝ ဢ︀ေ︀ တ︀ႝ ꩡ︀ိတ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ က︀ေ︀ႃ ၵ︀ွံ ပ︀ႃꩡ︀ွ် လ︀ိုမ︀် က︀ႃ

tai² ɛ¹ tai² cɛt⁴ nai⁴ kɔ⁴ khaam² pa¹ cau³ lɯm² kaa¹

Tai prt Tai pure this link word self forget go

ꩫ︀ွႝ ဢ︀ိုမ︀် ပ︀ိꩫ︀် ပ︀ိုꩫ︀် ပ︀ိꩫ︀် မ︀ႃꩫ︀ုꩫ︀် ။

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) ဢ︀ိုမ︀် ပ︀ိꩫ︀် က︀ႃလ︀ႃ က︀ႃ ။

ɯm¹ pen⁵ ka¹ laa² kaa¹

hesit be foreigner go

‘We became foreigners.’

31) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ုင︀် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် မ︀ႝ က︀ေ︀ႃ ဢ︀ိုင︀် ၺင︀် ။

an⁵ luŋ⁵ an⁵ mai⁵ kɔ⁴ ɤŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

clf wear clf cover link neg have

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

32) ꩡ︀ွꩫ︀ꩰ ꩫ︀ႝ ၺင︀် ၸ︀ုင︀် ပ︀ႃယ︀ိင︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ွ် ။

cɔn² cɔn² nai⁴ ñaŋ⁵ phuŋ⁶ pa¹ yiŋ² nɛ⁴ khau¹

little this have group female def 3pl

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

33) ဢ︀ိုဝ︀် Jorhat Golaghat Sibsagor ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွ် ဢ︀ေ︀

ɯ¹ nan³ khau⁶ ɛ¹

hesit Jorhat Golaghat Sibsagar that 3pl prt

ပ︀ꩫ︀် ပ︀ိုꩫ︀် က︀ႃ ။

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) ဢ︀ိုမ︀် ပ︀ုဝ︀်တ︀ႃ ပ︀ေ︀ႃတ︀ႃ ဝ︀ႃꩬ︀ႃ ဢ︀ႃက︀ိဝ︀် ꩭွ် ꩫ︀ႝ က︀ေ︀ႃ

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

hesit Buddha Buddha religion merit 1pl this link

ၵ︀ွံ ဢ︀ေ︀ ဢ︀ိုင︀် ꩡ︀င︀် ၵ︀ွ် ။

khaam² ɛ¹ ɯŋ¹ caaŋ⁵ khau⁶

word prt neg know 3sg

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

2’22”

35) ဢ︀ိုမ︀် ဢ︀ႃက︀ိဝ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၺင︀်

ɯm¹ aa¹ kyiu² nɛ⁴ ñaŋ⁵

hesit merit def have

‘We have the religion.’

36) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ုင︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ မ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ိုင︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ွ်

an⁵ luŋ⁵ nɛ⁴ mɛ⁵ khɯŋ⁵ nɛ⁴ khau⁶

clf wear def mother thing\* def 3pl

ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွ် ဢ︀ိုင︀် ၺင︀် ။

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) လ︀ိုဝ︀် ပ︀ႃꩬ︀ွ် လ︀ုက︀်ဢ︀ွꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ွ် ပ︀ႃမ︀ွ် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ွ်

lɤ⁴ pa¹ saau⁶ luk⁴ ɔn¹ nɛ⁴ khau⁶ pa¹ maau¹ nɛ⁴ khau¹

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

ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွ် ဢ︀ေ︀ တ︀ိုဝ︀် ꩭိုꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ိုင︀် ပ︀ႃꩡ︀ွ် လ︀ုင︀် ။

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) က︀ႃ က︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ွက︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ိုင︀် ပ︀ိုꩫ︀် လ︀ႝ လ︀ုင︀် ။

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) လ︀ိုဝ︀ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ပ︀ႃꩡ︀ွ် ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀ီ

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ nɛ⁴ pa¹ cau³ waa⁵ sii¹

therefore prt self say prt

ꩭူ ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ဢ︀ိုင︀် ꩭူ ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

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) လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ႝ ꩬ︀ီ တ︀ုဝ︀် တ︀င︀်လ︀ုင︀် ꩡ︀ိပ︀် ꩫ︀ႃꩭိုဝ︀်

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nai⁴ sii⁶ to⁵ taŋ¹ loŋ⁶ cep¹ na¹ hɯ⁶

therefore prt body all hurt how

ၵ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႃ တ︀ႃ ဢ︀ွ် ပ︀ွက︀် ။

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) လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ႝ ꩬ︀ီ တ︀ုဝ︀် ၵ︀ၞ်ꩡ︀ၞ် မ︀ေ︀ႃ က︀ိꩫ︀် ꩬ︀င︀် က︀ိꩫ︀်

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nai⁴ sii⁶ to⁵ khaɯ³ caɯ² mɔ⁶ kin⁵ saaŋ¹ kin⁵

therefore prt body think\* skilled recip discuss recip

ꩫ︀ၞ် မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ၞ် ꩭိုꩫ︀် ။

naɯ² maan³ naɯ² hɤn²

in\* village in house

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

Notes: \* realised as [khaaɯ ³]

42) ꩭင︀် မ︀ေ︀ ꩭင︀် လ︀ုက︀် တ︀င︀်လ︀ုင︀် ꩭၞ် တ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွံ တ︀ႝ

haŋ² me² haŋ² luk⁴ taŋ¹ loŋ⁶ haɯ³ taan³ khaam² tai²

to wife to child all give speak word Tai

ꩬ︀ွꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွံ တ︀ႝ ။

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) တ︀ုဝ︀် မ︀ေ︀ႃ က︀ိꩫ︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ

to⁵ mɔ⁶ kin⁵ ɔ¹

body skilled recip prt

‘We consulted.’

3’11”

44) လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႃꩭိုဝ︀် တ︀ႃ ပ︀ိꩫ︀် မ︀ႃလ︀ိုဝ︀် တ︀ိ ပ︀ေ︀ ။

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) ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ꩭွ် တ︀ႝ က︀ႃ ꩭုၺ်တ︀ႃ တ︀ီ ဢ︀ိုင︀် ꩭꩫ︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

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) လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ꩬ︀ေ︀ တ︀ုဝ︀် က︀ႃ ꩡ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ႝ ꩭွ် ဢ︀ူ ꩫ︀ေ︀

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ se⁶ to⁵ kaa¹ caŋ¹ nai⁴ hau² uu¹ nɛ⁴

therefore prt body go now 1pl stay def

ၸ︀ၞ် ꩫ︀ေ︀ က︀ႃလ︀ုဝ︀် တ︀ႃ ပ︀ိꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ။

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:

က︀ွ် တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ က︀ႃလ︀ုဝ︀် မ︀ႃ က︀ႃ က︀ႃလ︀ုဝ︀် မ︀ႃ ꩭူ ။

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) လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် တ︀ုဝ︀် ꩭိတ︀်် ꩬ︀ိတ︀်ꩡ︀ႃ ၵ︀ႝ ꩫ︀ိုင︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

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) ဢ︀ိုမ︀ꩰ ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွံ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ လ︀ႝက︀ေ︀ႃပ︀ိုဝ︀် က︀ွ်

ɯm¹ an² khām² kham² yaŋ² nɛ⁴ lai⁴ kɔ⁴ pə⁵ kau²

hesit clf word Khamyang prt because 1sg

ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် မ︀ႃ ꩡ︀င︀် ။

kham² yaŋ² ma¹ cāŋ⁶

Khamyang neg know

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

Deben

2) ဢ︀ိုမ︀် ။

ɯm¹

hesit

‘Um’

SM

3) ၸ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ ꩡ︀ွꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ိုင︀် ꩡ︀င︀် ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် မ︀ႃ ꩡ︀င︀် 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) ၸ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ဢ︀ႃ က︀ႃ တ︀ီ ထ︀ၞ်

phā⁴ ke⁵ ta¹ wā⁵ ā¹ kā¹ tī⁵ thaü⁶

Phake will say hesit go to where

ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀င︀် 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) က︀ႃ တ︀ီ ထ︀ၞ် 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) ၸ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ မ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ၞ် မ︀ႃ မ︀ႃ ။

phā⁴ ke⁵ ta¹ wā⁵ mə⁵ naü⁶ mā² mā²

Phake will say when come come

‘The Phakes say *mə⁵ naü⁶ mā² mā²* ?’

Deben

7) မ︀ိုဝ︀်လ︀ၞ် မ︀ႃ မ︀ႃ ။

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) မ︀ိုဝ︀်လ︀ၞ် မ︀ႃ မ︀ႃ ။

mɤ⁵ laɯ⁶ maa² maa²

when come come

‘When did (you) come?’

0’24”

SM

9) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် တ︀ီ မ︀ၞ် ဝ︀ွႃ မ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ မ︀င︀် ÍËÒ ꩫ︀ေ︀ ...

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) ဢ︀ေ︀ႃꩭႃ မ︀င︀်

ɔ haa maaŋ

come come

‘Come’

SM

11) က︀ႃꩬ︀င︀် ... ꩬ︀င︀် ဝ︀ွႃ က︀ွ် တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ မ︀ႃၸ︀ုက︀်

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

what ... if say 1sg will say tomorrow

က︀ွ် တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ မ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ꩺ︀ေ︀တ︀ႃ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀င︀် ။

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) မ︀ႃꩭုက︀် က︀ွ် တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ မ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ꩺ︀ေ︀တ︀ႃ တ︀ူꩰ ။

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) တ︀ူꩰ ဢ︀ူ ꩬ︀ေ︀ မ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ꩺ︀ေ︀တ︀ႃ တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ 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) မ︀ႃꩭုက︀် က︀ွ် တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ မ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ꩺ︀ေ︀တ︀ႃ ။

ma¹ huk¹ kau² ta¹ kaa¹ ma¹ ke¹ re¹ taa¹

tomorrow 1pl will go Margherita

‘Tomorrow I will go to Margherita’

15) လ︀ိုက︀် မ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ꩺ︀တ︀ေ︀ႃ မ︀ႃꩭုက︀် က︀ွ် တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ 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) လ︀ိုက︀် မ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ꩺ︀ေ︀တ︀ႃ ...

lɤk⁴ ma ke re ta

from Margherita

‘From Margherita ...’

Deben

17) က︀ွ် တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ Dibrugarh

kau² ta¹ kaa¹

1sg will go Dibrugarh

‘I will go to Dibrugarh.’

SM

18) က︀ွ် တ︀ႃ က︀ႃ Dibrugarh

kau² ta¹ kā¹

1sg will go Dibrugarh

‘I will go to Dibrugarh.’

19) ဢ︀ႃ

aa¹

hesit

‘Um’

20) လ︀ုက︀် တ︀ီ ထ︀ၞ် မ︀ႃ

luk⁴ tī⁵ thaü⁶ mā²

from place where come

‘Where did (you) come from?’

1’19”

Deben

21) လ︀ိုက︀် ထ︀ၞ် မ︀င︀်

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come.?

‘Where did (you) come from?’

Notes: \* Very weak final [ɯ]

SM

22) ꩫ︀ိုင︀် (က︀ွ်)

nüŋ¹

aga....

‘Aga....’

Deben

23) လ︀ိုက︀် ထ︀ၞ် မ︀င︀်

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come.?

‘Where did (you) come from?’

Notes: \* Very weak final [ɯ]

24) လ︀ိုက︀် ထ︀ၞ် မ︀င︀်

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come.?

‘Where did (you) come from?’

Notes: \* Very weak final [ɯ]

SM

25) မ︀င︀်

maaŋ²¹

come-?

‘Come ...’

Deben

26) မ︀င︀်

maaŋ²¹

come-?

‘Come ...’

SM

27) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ဢ︀ꩫ︀် တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ... မ︀ၞ် ဝ︀ွႃ

an² nɛ⁴ an² ta¹ wā⁵ maü² wā⁵

clf def clf will say ... 2sg say

လ︀ိုက︀် ထ︀ၞ် မ︀င︀်

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come

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

Deben

28) မ︀င︀် Yes

maaŋ²¹ yes

come yes

‘Yes, come ...’

SM

29) င︀ႃ ယ︀င︀်

ŋa yaŋ²

/ŋ/ have

‘There is ‘nga’ sound.’

Deben

30) မ︀င︀်

maaŋ²¹

come-?

‘Come ...’

SM

31) မ︀င︀်

maaŋ²¹

come-?

‘Come ...’

Deben

32) လ︀ိုက︀် ထ︀ၞ် မ︀င︀်

lɤk⁴ thaɯ⁶ maaŋ²¹

from where\* come

‘Where have you come from?’

SM

33) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ÍÊÁÕ¿Ò å·¹ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀င︀်

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) တ︀ိꩫ︀် ÀåÃ

tin² bhɔri

foot foot

‘Foot is *bhɔri* in Assamese.’

SM

35) å·¹ ÍÊÁÕ¿Ò å·¹ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀င︀်

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) တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀င︀်

ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ⁶

will say what

‘What do you say?’

Deben

38) ပ︀ꩫ︀် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ုက︀် ပ︀ꩫ︀်

ban² an² luk⁴ ban²

day clf child day

‘Day, the sun.’

SM

39) ꩫ︀င︀်က︀ွ်

nüŋ¹ kau¹

again

‘Again.’

Deben

40) လ︀ုက︀် ပ︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ုက︀် ပ︀ꩫ︀်

luk⁴ ban² luk⁴ ban²

child day child day

‘Sun, sun.’

SM

41) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ တ︀ႃ ပ︀ိꩫ︀် comb

an² nɛ⁴ ta¹ pen²

clf prt will be comb

‘This, which would be a comb...’

Deben

42) ꩫ︀ႝ ပ︀ီ ꩭုဝ︀် ပ︀ီ

nai⁴ bii⁶ ho⁶ bii⁶

this comb head comb

‘A comb for the head - *bii⁶*.’

43) ပ︀ီ ꩭုဝ︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ

bii⁶ ho⁶ ɛ¹ ɔ¹

comb head prt prt

‘A comb.’

44) က︀ွ် ပ︀ႃ ဢ︀ိုင︀် ꩡ︀ၞ် ပ︀ီ ꩭုဝ︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ ပ︀ီ

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 က︀ွ် ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀ေ︀ ꩭင︀် မ︀ၞ်

kau² wā⁵ se⁶ haŋ² maɯ²

1sg say prt to 2sg

‘Didn’t I say it to you?’

(Phake sentence)

44.2 က︀ွ် ဝ︀ွႃ ဢ︀ိုင︀် ꩡ︀ၞ် ꩭင︀် မ︀ၞ်

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) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀

an² nɛ⁴

clf this

‘This?’

Deben

47) ပ︀ီ

bii²

fan

‘A fan’

SM

48) fan

Deben

49) ပ︀ီ ပ︀ီ

bii² bii²

fan fan

‘A fan, *bii²*.’

SM

50) က︀ႃꩬ︀င︀် ပ︀ိꩫ︀် ဝ︀တ︀်

ka¹ saŋ⁶ pen² wat¹

what be cold

‘What about a cold?’

Deben

51) ပ︀ိꩫ︀် ပ︀တ︀် ပ︀ိꩫ︀် ပ︀တ︀်

pen⁵ bat¹ pen⁵ bat¹

be cold be cold

‘To have a cold, *pen⁵ bat¹*.’

52) ꩭွ် ဢ︀ေ︀ ဝ︀ွႃ ပ︀ိꩫ︀် ပ︀တ︀်

hau² ɛ¹ waa⁵ pen⁵ bat¹

1pl prt say be cold

တ︀ႝ ၸ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ၵ︀ႝ ပ︀တ︀်

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) ပ︀ိꩫ︀် ပ︀တ︀် ပ︀ိꩫ︀် ပ︀တ︀်

pen⁵ bat¹ pen⁵ bat¹

be cold be cold

‘To have a cold, *pen⁵ bat¹*.’

SM

54) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ၵ︀ွံ ဝ︀ွေ︀ ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်

an² nɛ⁴ ta¹ wā⁵ khām² woi¹ nan⁴

clf prt will say word bless that

ဝ︀ွေ︀ ၸ︀ြႃ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀င︀် ။

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) ၵ︀ွံ ပ︀ွေ︀ ၸ︀ြႃ ꩫ︀ေ︀ ။

khaam² boi¹ phraa² nɛ⁴

word bless Buddha this

‘Blessings of Buddha.’

56) ၵ︀ွံ ပ︀ွေ︀ ၸ︀ြႃ တ︀ူꩰ ၵ︀ွံ ꩫ︀ိုင︀်

khaam² boi¹ phraa² tuu¹ tuu¹ khaam² nɯŋ⁵

word bless Buddha same word one

လ︀ွတ︀် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွ် ယ︀ွ် ၵ︀ွံ ပ︀ွေ︀ ၸ︀ြႃ ။

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) ဢ︀ိုဝ︀ꩰ ။

ə² ə²

yes yes

‘Yes.’

2’54”

58) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ၸ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ꩫ︀င︀် ။

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) ꩫ︀င︀် ။

naŋ⁵

nose

‘nose’

SM

60) ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀င︀် ။

kham² yaŋ² ta¹ wā⁵ saŋ⁶

Khamyang will say what

‘What do the Khamyang’s say?’

Deben

61) ꩭွ် က︀ေ︀ႃ ပ︀ွႃ ꩫ︀င︀် ။

hau² kɔ⁴ baa⁵ naŋ⁵

2pl link say nose

‘We also say *naŋ⁵*.’

62) ꩫ︀င︀် တ︀ူꩰ same

naŋ⁵ tuu¹ tuu¹

nose same same same

‘It’s the same, *naŋ⁵*.’

SM

63) က︀ေ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩫ︀င︀် တ︀ူ က︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႃ ။

kɔ⁴ wā⁵ naŋ² tuu¹ kan² nā¹

link say nose same recip prt–qn

‘So you say *naŋ²*, in the same way?’

Deben

64) တ︀ူ က︀ꩫ︀် ။

tuu¹ kan²

same recip

‘The same.’

SM

65) ဢ︀ꩫ︀် 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) ဝ︀ွႃ လ︀ီ ...

wā⁵ lii⁵ ...

say good ...

‘You say *lii⁵* ...’

Deben

68) လ︀ီ ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀် ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀် ။

lii⁵ uu¹ liiŋ⁵ uu¹ liiŋ⁵

good stay good.? stay good.?

‘Good, be well, be well.’

SM

69) လ︀ိင︀်

liiŋ⁵

good.?

‘Good ...’

Deben

70) Have you good, ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀်

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 ဢ︀ေ︀ႃꩫ︀ိင︀် *ɔ niŋ* for ‘are you well’ and then changed it to ဢ︀ေ︀ႃလ︀ိင︀် *ɔ liŋ*. This does suggest that the final /-ŋ/ is present.

SM

71) ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀် ဢ︀ိုဝ︀် ။

uu¹ liiŋ⁵ ɯ²

stay good.? YES

‘Are you good, yes.’

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

Deben

73) ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀်

uu¹ liiŋ⁵

stay good.?

‘Are you well ...’

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

75) ဢ︀ႃ က︀ႃꩬ︀င︀် တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ မ︀ိုဝ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ တ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ တ︀ီ ထ︀ၞ်

aa¹ ka¹ saŋ⁶ ta¹ wā⁵ mə⁵ nai⁴ ta¹ uu¹ tī⁵ thaɯ⁶

hesit what will say time this will stay at where

ၸ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ၵ︀ံယ︀င︀် တ︀ႃ ...

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) မ︀ႃလ︀ႝ တ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ ထ︀ၞ် ။

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) မ︀ႃလ︀ႝ တ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ ထ︀ၞ် ။

mɤ⁵ lai⁶ ta¹ uu¹ thaa⁶

today\* will stay where

‘Where will you stay today?’

repeated again

SM

78) တ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ က︀ီ ဝ︀ꩫ︀် က︀ီ ဝ︀ꩫ︀် တ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ ။

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) က︀ီ ပ︀ꩫ︀် တ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ same

kii¹ ban² ta¹ uu¹

how many day will stay same

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

80) က︀ီ ပ︀ꩫ︀် တ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ

kii¹ ban² ta¹ uu¹

how many day will stay

‘How many days will you stay.’

SM

81) ဢ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူလ︀ုက︀် ဢ︀ူꩬ︀ေ︀ ...

aa¹ uu¹ luk⁴ uu¹ sɛ⁶

f from ... from

‘Um, from, from ...’

82) ဢ︀ူꩬ︀ေ︀ ဢ︀ွꩬ︀်တ︀ြေ︀လ︀ီယ︀ႃ မ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ၞ် မ︀ႃ မ︀ႃ ။

uu¹ sɛ⁶ ɔs¹ trɛ¹ lii¹ yaa¹ mə⁵ naɯ⁶ maa² maa²

from Australia when come come

‘When did you arrive from Australia?’

Deben

83) လ︀ိုက︀် ဢ︀ွꩬ︀်တ︀ြေ︀လ︀ီယ︀ႃ မ︀ိုဝ︀်လ︀ၞ် မ︀ႃ

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) ဢ︀ူ ꩫ︀ီ ꩫ︀ေ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀်

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) ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀်

uu¹ liiŋ⁵

stay good.?

‘Are you well ...’

SM

87) က︀ႃꩬ︀င︀် တ︀ႃ တ︀ွ..

ka¹ saŋ⁶ ta¹ tɔ..

what will reply?

‘And how would you respond ..

Deben

88) ဢ︀ိုဝ︀် ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀် ဢ︀ိုဝ︀် က︀ွ် ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀် ။

ɤ² uu¹ liiŋ⁵ ɤ² kau² uu¹ liiŋ⁵

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

‘Yes, I am well, Yes, I am well.’

89) တ︀ူ တ︀င︀်လ︀ုင︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ဢ︀ူ လ︀ိင︀် ။

to⁵ taŋ¹ loŋ⁶ ɔ¹ uu¹ liiŋ

body all prt stay well

‘We are all well.’

line repeated

SM

90) မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ က︀ီ က︀ေ︀ႃ ... က︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် ယ︀င︀် ။

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) မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ က︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် ၺင︀် ။

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) မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ က︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် ၺင︀် ဝ︀ွႃ က︀ီ လ︀င︀် ၺယ︀် ။

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) က︀ီ လ︀င︀် ၺင︀်

kī¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁶(²)

how many clf have

‘How many houses?’

Deben

94) ꩭိုꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ꩭွ် ...

hɤn² nɛ⁴ hau²

house clf-this 1pl

‘Our houses ...’

SM

95) တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ မ︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ႝ မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ွႃ ။

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) မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ ။

maan³ nai⁴ maan³ nai⁴

village this village this\*

‘This village, *maan³ nai⁴*.’

SM

97) မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ လ︀ႝ ဢ︀ိုင︀် ဝ︀ွႃ ။

mān³ nai⁴ lai⁴ ɤŋ¹ wā⁵

village this this-L neg say

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

Deben

98) မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ

maan³ nai⁴

village this

‘This village’

(repeated several times)

99) က︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် က︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် ပ︀ွႃ က︀ီ လ︀င︀် ။

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) က︀ီ လ︀င︀် ။

kī¹ laŋ⁶

how many clf

‘How many?’

Deben

101) က︀ီ လ︀င︀် ꩭွ် ဢ︀ေ︀ ဝ︀ွႃ ...

kii¹ laŋ⁶ hau² ɛ¹ baa⁵

how many clf 1pl prt say

‘We say *kii¹ laŋ⁶*.’

102) ꩭွ် ပ︀ွႃ ꩭိုꩫ︀် ꩬ︀ႃꩫ︀ေ︀

hau² baa⁵ hɤn² sa¹ nɛ⁴

1pl say house prt

‘We say ...’

103) Home

104) လ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀ႃꩫ︀ေ︀ က︀ီ လ︀င︀် ꩬ︀ူ ၺင︀်

laŋ⁶ nɛ⁴ waa⁵ sa¹ nɛ⁴ kii¹ laŋ⁶ suu⁶ ñaŋ⁵

clf this say prt how many clf 2pl have

က︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် ၺင︀် ။

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 က︀ီ လ︀င︀် how many

kii¹ laŋ⁶

how many how many clf how many

‘How many.’

107) က︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် how many

kii¹ hɤn²

how many house how many

‘How many houses?’

SM

108) And what is the answer?

109) ꩬ︀ံ ပ︀က︀် ꩬ︀ႃ...

saam⁶ paak¹ saa..

3 100 ...

‘300?’ ...

Deben

110) ꩭိုꩫ︀် ꩭိုꩫ︀် ꩭိုꩫ︀် 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) တ︀ုဝ︀် ꩬ︀ိပ︀် ꩭိုꩫ︀် ၺင︀်

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) မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ...

maan³ nɛ⁴ ...

village def ...

‘In this village ...’

Deben

118) မ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ ꩬ︀ီ ꩬ︀ိပ︀် ꩭိုꩫ︀် ... ၺင︀်

maan³ nɛ⁴ sii¹ sip¹ hɤn² ... ñaŋ⁵

village def four ten house ... have

‘In this village, forty houses ...’

SM

119) ꩬ︀ီ ꩬ︀ိပ︀် ꩭိုꩫ︀်

sii¹ sip¹ hɤn²

four ten house

‘Forty houses.’

Deben

120) ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀ီ ꩬ︀ိပ︀် လ︀င︀် ၺင︀်

waa⁵ sii¹ sip¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁵

say 6 10 clf have

‘We can say we have forty households.’

121) Same thing

SM

122) ꩬ︀ီ ꩬ︀ိပ︀် လ︀င︀် ၺင︀်

sii¹ sip¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁵

6 10 clf have

‘Forty houses.’

123) ꩬ︀ီ ꩬ︀ိပ︀ လ︀င︀် ၺင︀် ဝ︀ွႃ ꩬ︀ီ ꩬ︀ိပ︀် ꩭိုꩫ︀် ၺင︀် ။

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) ꩬ︀ီ ꩬ︀ိပ︀် လ︀င︀် ၺင︀် ၺင︀်

sii¹ sip¹ laŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁵ ñaŋ⁵

four ten clf have have

‘There are forty houses.’

Deben

125) ၺင︀် ၺင︀် ၺင︀်

ñaŋ⁵ ñaŋ⁶ ñaŋ⁶(²)

have have have

‘Have, have have.’

126) ၺင︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ

ñaŋ⁵ ɔ¹

have prt

‘There are.’

127) ဢ︀ိုင︀် ၺင︀်

ɯŋ¹ ñaŋ⁵

neg have

‘There are none’

128) ၺင︀်

ñaŋ⁶(²)

have–qn

‘Are there any?’

SM

129) က︀ႃꩬ︀င︀် တ︀ႃ ဝ︀ႃ ယ︀င︀် 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) ယ︀င︀် has

yaŋ⁵ has

have has

‘Have’

132) ဢ︀ိုင︀် ၺင︀် 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”