

LAWNGTLANG ZOPHEI SWADESH LIST

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a preliminary 100-item Swadesh word list for Lawngtlang Zophei. Zophei or Zyphe (ISO 639-3 ZYP) belongs to the Maraic branch of Kuki-Chin within the Tibeto-Burman language family (Eberhard et. al, 2019). Lawngtlang is a Zophei village in the Southeastern corner of the Zophei-speaking area in Thantlang Township, Chin State, Myanmar. Lawngtlang Zophei is considered to be part of the Lower (western) dialects of Zophei. The word list comes from the intuitions of our co-author Zai Sung, a 22-year-old native speaker born in Lawngtlang and currently living in Indianapolis, Indiana. She also speaks Hakha Chin and English, as well as having some familiarity with Burmese (the language of education in Myanmar). The Lawngtlang Zophei consonant and vowel inventories are as follows (for consistency, voiceless affricates and sonorants are indicated with a superscripted <h> despite phonetic differences)¹:

/p p^h b t t^h d k k^h v s z h t͡s t͡s^h t͡l t͡l^h m m^h n n^h ŋ ŋ^h l l^h ɾ ɾ^h /
 /ii i yy ee e øø aa a uu u ii̯ uu̯ ie yo ei au/

It is important to note that Zophei is a tone language. Our analysis of Zophei tone is in its infancy, however, and so in the present list we focus on segmental content and leave tone to be addressed in future work. Section 2 includes a 99-item Lawngtlang Zophei word list based on Swadesh's (1971) 100-word list ('fingernail' and 'claw' have identical translations and were collapsed into a single entry).

2. WORD LIST

	Gloss	Lawngtlang Zophei
1.	I	ka maa
2.	you	na maa
3.	we	kaa nii
4.	this	he
5.	that	k ^{he} , t͡sa ²
6.	who?	a huu
7.	what?	zee
8.	not	bee

¹ An /ui/ diphthong is also attested in a single token ([bui ba] 'to be disordered'). Hakha Chin *buai-bai* 'very busy, confused, be disordered' (VanBik, personal communication, July 13, 2019).

² *kheh* refers to objects in view of the speaker, *tsah* is used for objects out of sight.

9.	all	doŋ tii
10.	many	l ^h uu
11.	one	saŋ k ^h e
12.	two	saŋ ŋ ^h iŋ
13.	big	leŋ
14.	long	søø
15.	small	t ^s ie
16.	unmarried woman	leŋ sau
17.	unmarried man, boyfriend	sa t ^l ee
18.	person	t ^s aŋ sau
19.	fish	ŋau
20.	bird	pa vau
21.	dog	yy
22.	louse	ɽi
23.	tree, wood	t ^h iŋ
24.	seed	t ^s i
25.	leaf	t ^s i n ^h au
26.	root	ɽaŋ
27.	bark	t ^s eŋ
28.	skin	viŋ
29.	flesh	ŋeŋ
30.	blood	t ^h i
31.	bone	ɽuu
32.	grease	t ^h øø
33.	egg	aa tyy
34.	horn, angle, corner, side	kii
35.	tail	la m ^h ee
36.	feather	ma t ^l au
37.	hair (on head)	saŋ
38.	head	luu
39.	ear	nau
40.	eye	mi
41.	nose	n ^h a k ^h uu
42.	mouth	kau
43.	tooth	hau
44.	tongue	lyy
45.	finger nail, claw	ki pa tiŋ
46.	foot (lower leg)	p ^h ee
47.	knee	k ^h u
48.	hand	ki
49.	belly	puu
50.	neck	ɽoŋ
51.	breasts	mei mei

52.	heart, liver	luŋ
53.	liver	t ^h iŋ
54.	drink	diŋ
55.	eat	ee
56.	bite	tøø
57.	see	m ^h u
58.	hear	t ^h yy
59.	know, understand	bii
60.	sleep, lie down	i
61.	die	t ^h ii
62.	kill	noŋ
63.	swim	tyy løø
64.	fly	zøø
65.	go, walk	sii
66.	come	va sii
67.	sit	tøø
68.	stand, rise	t ^h uu
69.	give	p <i>ii</i> /pi
70.	say	t ^s ^h iŋ
71.	sun, day	nii
72.	moon	t ^h au pau
73.	star	aa sii
74.	water	tyy
75.	rain	k ^h ua suu
76.	stone, rock	luŋ
77.	sand	sa dii
78.	earth, dirt	lyy
79.	cloud	mee diŋ
80.	smoke, steam	k ^h uu
81.	fire	mee
82.	ash	mee k ^h uu
83.	burn	kaŋ
84.	path, road, way	laŋ
85.	mountain	t ^h an
86.	red	seŋ
87.	green, alive, fresh	a r ^h iŋ
88.	yellow	meŋ
89.	white	iaŋ
90.	black	voŋ
91.	night	zeŋ
92.	hot	si
93.	cold	t ^s a kau
94.	full, complete	t ^h iŋ

95.	new, fresh	t ^h aa
96.	good	tʂ ^h a
97.	round	puŋ
98.	dry	ɽøø
99.	name	miŋ

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