NUITAH ZOPHEI SWADESH LIST

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a preliminary 100-item Swadesh word list for Nuitah 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, 2020). Nuitah (also known as Leitak) is a village in the southern part of the Zophei-speaking area in Thantlang Township, Chin State, Myanmar. The word list comes from the intuitions of our co-author Kimberly Biakthapar Sakhong, a 21-year-old native speaker born in Nuitah village of Zophei parents (both from Nuitah), who lived for some of her childhood in Hakha City (in Burma/Myanmar) and Malaysia before moving to the US. She currently lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. She also speaks Hakha Lai, Sentshang, and English. The Nuitah Zophei consonant and vowel inventories are as follows. Note that we use a superscript [h] after sonorants to indicate voicelessness, e.g. [m] is a voiced nasal and [m^h] is its voiceless counterpart.

/b p p^h d t t^h k k^h v s z h ts ts^h tl tl^h m m^h n n^h ŋ l l^h ɾ ʔ /
 /i ii e ee a aa o oo u uu ɨ ʉ ʊ ai oi ui ia ua/

In addition, Nuitah Zophei has three register tones, high, mid, and low, represented orthographically with diacritic markings for high tone (á) and low tone (à) and no marking for mid tone. Section 2 includes a 102-item Nuitah Zophei word list based on Swadesh's (1971) 100-word list (multiple notable translations of some entries are included).

2. WORD LIST

	Gloss	Nuitah Zophei
1.	I	ka máá
2.	You	na máá
3.	We	kaa níi
4.	this	máá he?
5a.	that (medial)	máá k ^h i?
5b.	that (distal)	máá k ^h a?
6.	who (subj/obj)	a huu / a húú
7.	what (subj/obj)	zai / záí
8.	not that	miŋ ii
9.	all (of a number)	a zoo púi tíi aa

10.	many	loŋ tii ¹
11.	one	mee k ^h eʔ
12.	two	mee n ^h i
13.	big	léŋ
14.	long (not wide)	soi
15.	small	ts ^h ia
16.	woman	tsa nuʔ
17.	man	tsa poo
18.	person	tsòŋ soo
19.	fish	ŋoo
20.	bird	pa vóó
21.	dog	ui
22.	louse	ɽ ^h iʔ
23.	tree	t ^h iŋ kúŋ
24.	seed	tsii
25.	leaf	ts ^h iŋ n ^h óó
26.	root	a ɽ ^h áŋ
27.	bark (of a tree)	hòŋ
28.	skin	víŋ
29.	flesh	sa ba tíi
30.	blood	t ^h íi
31.	bone	ɽúú
32.	grease	a t ^h óí
33.	egg	aa tui
34.	horn	kíi
35.	tail	a la m ^h ái
36.	feather	ma tɽ ^h oo
37.	hair	sáŋ
38.	head	lu
39.	ear	noo
40.	eye	miʔ
41.	nose	n ^h óó
42.	mouth	koo
43.	tooth	hòò
44.	tongue	lùì
45.	nail/claw	ba tíŋ

¹ Unlike other Zophei varieties, Nuitah Zophei exhibits regressive nasal assimilation, so for example, <loŋ tii> is pronounced [lontii]. This place assimilation yields allophony in surface realization, though there are no phonemic place contrasts in final nasals.

46.	foot	p ^h ái
47.	knee	k ^h ù?
48.	hand	ki?
49.	belly	veŋ
50.	neck	.íŋ
51.	breasts	mée méé
52.	heart	t ^h ín
53.	liver	lùŋ
54.	drink	diŋ
55.	eat	ai
56.	bite	toi
57.	see	m ^h ú?
58.	hear	t ^h úi
59a.	know	bii
59b.	know	n ^h í / n ^h i?
60.	sleep (same as 'lie')	í? / íi
61.	die	t ^h i? / t ^h ii
62.	kill	t ^h oo / t ^h e?
63.	swim	tui loi
64.	fly	zoi
65.	walk	síi
66.	come	va sii
67.	lie	í? / íi
68.	sit	toi
69.	stand	doo
70.	give	pe? / pii
71.	say	.ii
72.	sun	ni
73.	moon	t ^h oo póo
74.	star	aa síi
75.	water	tui
76.	rain	k ^h ua suu
77.	stone	a luŋ
78.	sand	pa sè?
79.	earth	á lúi
80.	cloud	á mái
81.	smoke	a k ^h ùù
82.	fire	mái
83.	ashes	mái caaŋ

84.	to be burnt/hot	kááŋ
85.	path	laaŋ
86.	mountain	tlàŋ
87.	red	a sèŋ
88.	green	a ɽ ^h iŋ
89.	yellow	ai ɽ ^h íí
90.	white	a ɽàŋ
91.	black	a vòŋ
92.	night	zééŋ
93.	hot	seʔ
94.	cold	kóó
95.	full	ts ^h iʔ
96.	new	t ^h aa
97.	good	ts ^h aʔ
98.	round	púŋ
99.	dry	ɽóí
100.	name	miŋ

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