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# JARAI AS A MEMBER OF THE MALAYO-POLYNESIAN

## FAMILY OF LANGUAGES

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That some of the mountain languages of South Viet Nam are members of the Malayo-Polynesian language family has apparently been known by the French for some time. This fact, however, and the data on which it is based, are not so well known elsewhere.

In February and March 1956, I had the privilege of visiting South Viet Nam, and recording word lists in some of the mountain languages there. During this trip, I was given a list of 234 words in the Jarai language by Mr. Grady Mangham, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance mission. In spite of the fact that I have not had opportunity to check personally the phonemicization of this list, even a cursory comparison of it with Malayo-Polynesian languages reveals a high number of probable cognates.

Since the most convenient point of reference available to me at the time was a translation of Dempwolff's word list of Proto-Malayo-Polynesian done by Miss Christine Laurens and Miss Trudy Pauwels, I checked the entire Jarai list with Dempwolff. The results, I felt, were of sufficient value and interest so that they should not be withheld from interested scholars, whatever may be their reservations with regard to the validity of Dempwolff's reconstructions or the phonemicity of the Jarai materials.

In the Dempwolff materials we have used Dyen's orthography. In the Jarai materials we have used Mangham's orthography except for the "whiskered o", which we have written as e, and one or two infrequent symbols which will require later clarification.

These, then, are the correspondences observed. A list of apparent discrepancies will follow.

### 1. Vowels.

Only a and e appear in the first syllable of disyllabic Jarai word bases. e characteristically replaces all original vowels in this syllable except \*a, \*qudip 'live, alive', Jar. hedip; \*hajeN, hujiN 'charcoal', Jar. hedang; \*kapas 'cotton', Jar. kepaih; \*/t/ulaN 'bone', Jar. telang; \*batuk 'cough', Jar. hetuk; Indo. rusa 'deer', Jar. resa 'Aristotle deer'; \*hinum 'drink', Jar. menum \*taliNah 'ear', Jar. tengia; \*tanaq, taneq 'earth', Jar. tenah; \*limah 'five', Jar. rema; \*buNah 'flower', Jar. benga; \*qatay 'liver', Jar. hetai; \*Ratus 'hundred', Jar. haretuh, \*basih, besih 'iron', Jar. pesei; \*kutuh 'head lice', Jar. ketao; kayuh 'log', Jar. keyao; \*lakah 'male', Jar. rekei; \*babuy 'pig', Jar. bebuy; \*tikus 'rat', Jar. tekuih; \*pajay 'rice', (harvested but unhusked), Jar. pedai; \*batuh 'stone', Jar. petao; \*kapal 'thick', Jar. kepal; \*dilaq 'tongue', Jar. jelah; /h/u(n)taq 'vomit', Jar. petah; \*dalan, zalan 'way, road', Jar. jelan; kamih 'we excl.', Jar. gemei; \*kayuh 'wood', Jar. keyao; \*hubih 'yam', Jar. hebei 'sweet potato'.

\*i in a word-final syllable often becomes Jarai ai or ei and  
\*u in a word-final syllable characteristically becomes Jarai  
ao. \*susuh 'breasts', Jar. tesao; \*waRih 'day', Jar. hrei; \*hasuh  
'dog', Jar. asao; \*laki 'man' Jar. rekei; \*kaki 'foot', Jar. tekai;  
\*hakuh 'I', Jar. kao; \*basih, বেশি 'iron' Jar. pesei; taquh 'know',  
Jar. thao; \*kutuh 'head lice', Jar. ketao; \*kayuh 'log', Jar.  
keyao; \*lakah 'male', Jar. rekei; \*baruh, beruh 'new', Jar.  
phrao; \*batuh 'stone', Jar. petao; \*kamih 'we excl.', Jar.  
gemei; \*baluh 'widow(er)', Jar. plao; \*kayuh 'wood', Jar.  
keyao \*hubih 'yam', Jar. hebei 'sweet potatoe'; \*/dD/uRih  
'thorn', Jar. drei; \*maluh 'shame', Jar. mlau.

## 2. Laryngeals.

\*q > Jar. h

Word-initial \*qatay 'liver', > Jar. hetai 'heart'; \*quzan (or  
\*huDan) 'rain', Jar. hejan.

Intervocalic \*paqit 'bitter', Jar. phiq; \*taquh 'know', Jar.  
thao; \*puqun 'trunk of tree', Jar. phun; \*taqun 'year', Jar.  
thun:

Word-final \*dDaRaq 'blood', Jar. drah; \*basaq 'wet', Jar. sah;  
\*dilaq 'tongue', Jar. jelah; \*habiq 'all', Jar. abih; \*daheq  
'far', Jar. ataih; \*buhag 'fruit', Jar. boh; \*tanaq, taneq  
'earth', Jar. tenah; \*huntaq 'vomit', Jar. petah; \*basaq 'wet',  
Jar. sah:

Word-initial \*h in adjectives and verbs > Jar. m; \*hasem 'sour',  
Jar. mesam; \*hiRaq 'red', Jar. mriah; \*hinum 'drink', Jar.  
menum:

Intervocalic \*h > Jar. h. Indo dahan 'large branch (of tree)',  
Jar. than.

Word-final \*h of unaccented syllable > Jar. ∅ \*hasuh 'dog', Jar.  
asâo; \*basih, বেশি 'iron', Jar. pesei; \*baruh 'new', Jar. phrao;  
\*baluh 'widow', Jar. plao; \*DaDah 'chest', Jar. teda; \*taliNah  
'ear', Jar. tengia; \*hamah 'father', Jar. ama; \*limah 'five',  
Jar. rema \*lakin 'male' Jar. rekei; \*bahah 'flavor, smell', Jar.  
bâo; \*buNah 'flower', Jar. benga; \*kakiH 'foot', Jar. tekai;  
\*hakuh 'I', Jar. kâo; \*taquh 'know', Jar. thâo; \*baruh, beruh 'new',  
Jar. phrao; \*maluh 'shame', Jar. mlao; \*batuh 'stone', Jar. petao;  
\*/dD/uRih 'thorn', Jar. drei; \*duwah 'two', Jar. dua; \*kamih 'we  
excl.', Jar. gemei; \*baluh 'widow(er)', Jar. plao; \*kayuh 'wood',  
Jar. keyao; \*hubih 'yam', Jar. hebei 'sweet potatoe'; (But word-final  
\*h of accented syllable remains h in Jar. Indo. merah 'red', Jar.  
mriah).

Word-initial \*h in nouns > Jar. ∅. \*hasuh 'dog', Jar. asâo.  
\*hamah 'father', Jar. ama; \*hapni 'fire', Jar. apui; \*hikan  
'fish', Jar. akan; \*hakuh 'I', Jar. kao; \*hikuR 'tail', Jar.  
aku; \*haNin, quNin 'wind', Jar. angin.

Word-final \*t > Jar. q. \*paqit 'bitter', Jar. phiq; \*he(m)pat 'four', Jar. paq; \*zaqit 'sew', Jar. siq; \*kulit 'skin', Jar. kliq.

Word-final \*k of unaccented syllable > Jar. q. \*anak 'offspring', Jar. anaq.

Word-final \*k of accented syllable > Jar. k. \*batuk 'cough', Jar. hetuk.

### 3. Voiceless Fricatives

Word-initial \*s > Jar. h. \*sira/q/ 'salt', Jar. hra. (Indo. seratus, 'hundred', Jar. haretuh); (Indo. sepuluh 'ten', hapluh).

Intervocalic \*s > Jar. s. \*basih, besih 'iron', Jar. pesei; \*hasuh 'dog', Jar. asão.

Word-final \*s > Jar. h. \*kapas 'cotton', Jar. kepaih, \*Ratus 'hundred' Jar. ha retuh; \*mamis, manis, /t/amis 'sweet', Jar. mih; \*tikus 'rat', Jar. tekuih; \*beRas 'rice (husked)', Jar. braih.

Word-final \*as > Jar. aih. \*kapas 'cotton', Jar. kepaih; \*beRas rice (husked), Jar. braih.

4. Word Initial Voiced Consonant > Voiceless. \*baluh 'widow(er)', Jar. plao; \*batuh 'stone', Jar. petao; \*baruh 'new', Jar. phrao; \*DaDah 'chest', Jar. teda; \*daheq 'far', Jar. ataih \*basih, besih 'iron', Jar. pesei; Indo. dahan 'large branch (of tree) Jar. than 'branch of tree'; \*zaqit 'sew', Jar. siq.

### 5. Liquids

Intervocalic \*R > Jar. r. \*beRay 'give', Jar. brei; \*waRih 'day', Jar. hrei; \*/dD/aRaq 'blood', Jar. drah; (\*beRas 'rice, (husked)' Jar. braih) \*huRat 'vein', Jar. arat;

Word-final \*R > Jar. ø. \*hikuR 'tail', Jar. aku; \*lapaR 'hunger', Jar. repa;

Word-initial \*l > Jar. r. \*limah 'five', Jar. rema; \*lakah 'male', Jar. rekei; \*lapaR 'hunger', Jar. repa;

Intervocalic \*l > Jar. l. \*baluh 'widow', Jar. plao.

### 6. Monosyllabicity

A first syllable vowel before \*R, \*r, \*l, or \*g is lost.  
\*paqit 'bitter', Jar. phiq; \*/dD/aRaq 'blood', Jar. drah;  
Indo dalam 'deep', Jar. dlam; \*bulan 'moon', Jar. blan;  
\*taqun 'year', Jar. thun; \*baRa/h/ 'shoulder', Jar. bra;  
\*waRih 'day', Jar. hrei; \*beRay 'give', Jar. brei; \*baruh, beruh  
'new', Jar. phrao; \*beRas 'rice (husked)', Jar. braih; \*sira/a/  
'salt', Jar. hra; \*kulit 'skin', Jar. kliq; \*maluh 'shame', Jar.  
mlau; \*hiRaq 'red', Jar. mriah; \*/dD/uRih 'thorn', Jar. drei.

A disyllabic word may also become monosyllabic simply through the loss of the first syllable. \*sisi/r/ 'comb', Jar. si; \*he(m)pat 'four', Jar. paq; \*lesuN 'mortar', Jar. sung; (cp. also \*zaqit 'sew', Jar. siq;) \*mamis, manis, /t/amis 'sweet', Jar. mih; \*basaq 'wet', Jar. sah.

## 7. Loss of Second CV

In some cases a disyllabic word may become monosyllabic according to the pattern  $C^1V^1C^2V^1C^3 > C^1V^1C^3$  \*saqat 'bad', Jar. sat; \*buhuk 'hair', Jar. buq, buk; \*buhaq 'fruit', Jar. boh.

Word-initial \*b > Jar. h. \*batuk 'cough', Jar. hetuk (cp. Jav. watuk).

Word-initial \*w > Jar. h. \*waRih 'day', Jar. hrei.

Intervocalic \*z > Jar. j \*quzan (or \*huDan) 'rain', Jar. hejan.

Word-initial \*d > Jar. j. \*dilaq 'tongue', Jar. jelah; \*dalan, zalan 'way, road', Jar. jelan.

Word-final \*ay > Jar. ei, ai. \*beRay 'give', Jar. brei. But cp. \*qatay 'liver', Jar. hetai.

\*j > Jar. ǰ or d, \*hajeN, hujiN, Jar. hedang; \*pajay 'rice (harvested but unhusked)', Jar. pedai.

Many of the words for parts of the body in Jerai begin with the syllable te-. \*DaDah 'chest', Jar. teda; \*taNan 'hand', Jar. tengan; \*susuh 'breasts', Jar. tesao; \*taliNah 'ear', Jar. tengia; \*kakah 'foot', Jar. tekai.