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A Phonological Sketch of Akha Chicho — A Lolo-Burmese language of Luang Namtha, Laos —

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1 Introduction

The Akha Chicho language is an Akha variety spoken in Luang Namtha Province of Laos and Sipsongpanna (Xishuangbanna) state of Yunnan Province of China. It is considered to be genetically affiliated with Southern Loloish (Ngwi) group of Lolo (Ngwi)-Burmese branch of Tibeto-Burman linguistic family (Bradley 1997).

This paper will describe a phonological sketch of the Akha Chicho variety spoken in Ban Pasang village of Muang Sing district of Luang Namtha Province of Laos (See Figure 1) and mention a brief contrast with the Akha Buli language. The data source comes from my field data collected in Ban Pasang (2014–2018).



Figure 1: Field Site of Muang Sing, Laos

2 Previous Works

As I already summarized in Hayashi (2016), Akha is a relatively well-known language within the Lolo-Burmese branch and is one of the best described languages in Southeast Asian linguistics (Katsura 1966, Lewis 1968, Hansson 1989, Hansson 2003, Lewis 2008, and many others). Katsura (1966) describes the phonology of an Akha variety in Thailand. Lewis (1968) provides a detailed dictionary on Akha (Puli) in Burma/Myanmar. Hansson (1989) makes a comparison among Akha varieties in Thailand and China. Hansson (2003) outlines the linguistic features of Akha, while Lewis (2008) is a more comprehensive dictionary of Akha dialects. There are, however, very few studies that describe Akha varieties in Laos.

Kingsada and Shintani (1999) and Kato (2008) are considered to represent breakthrough research in the minority linguistics of Laos. Both of them present basic lexicons of some Akha varieties. However, there seem to be no linguistic studies on Akha Chicho.

3 Syllable Structure

The syllable structure can be described as $C_1(M)VC_2/T$. C_1 represents the onset, M the medial, V the vowel, C_2 the coda, and T the tone. Generally speaking, Akha Chicho words are open syllable, though there are some closed syllables with the nasal coda found in the lexicon.

4 Consonants

The consonants of Akha Chicho can be summarized in the following chart. All of them can be placed in the onset slot, with only the nasals occurring in the coda slot.

Table 1: Akha Chicho Consonants

p b	t d		k g
ph	th		kh
	ts dz	tʃ dʒ	
	tsh	tʃh	
m	n	ɲ	ŋ
	s	ʃ	x ɣ
w	l	j	

4.1 Consonantal Inventories

4.1.1 Stops/ Plosives

At the moment, I analyze that trichotomy can be found in VOT among stops/ plosives: voiceless unaspirated vs. voiceless aspirated vs. voiced unaspirated. Note that the voiceless unaspirated tends to occur with creaky vowels, whereas the voiceless aspirated only occurs with plain vowels.

/p/ [p]: /mɛ²¹gɣŋ²¹pi^{33;55}ŋa³³/ [mɛ²¹gɣŋ²¹pi^{33;55}ŋɛ³³] ‘to get’ (#325), /xɣ³³po³³la²¹/ [xɣ³³po³³lɛ²¹] ‘now’ (#451), /pu²¹/ [pu²¹] ‘to boil’ (#264)

/ph/ [p^h]: /ka²¹phi²¹/[kɛ²¹p^hi²¹] ‘to close’ (#297), /(a⁵⁵je³³)pho²¹la⁵⁵/[(e⁵⁵je³³)p^ho²¹le⁵⁵] ‘to bloom’ (#220), /phu³³/[p^hu³³] ‘village’ (#283)

/b/ [b]: /xa²¹lo³³bi³³dze³³/[xɛ²¹lo³³bi³³dze³³] ‘gecko’ (#196), /bo²¹da²¹/[bo²¹de²¹] ‘table’ (#143), /a²¹bu⁵⁵/[e²¹bu⁵⁵] ‘wife’ (#333)

/t/ [t]: /ti³³/[ti³³] ‘one’ (#73), /to³³/[to³³] ‘to ladle’ (#66), /jo³³ta³³/[jo³³te³³] ‘salty’ (#383)

/th/ [t^h]: /thi²¹bo³³/[t^hi²¹bo³³] ‘trunk’ (#214), /jo³³thu⁵⁵/[jo³³t^hu⁵⁵] ‘thick’ (#393), /o³³tha²¹/[o³³t^he²¹] ‘to place’ (#251)

/d/ [d]: /di⁵⁵de³³ni⁵⁵/[di⁵⁵de³³ni⁵⁵] ‘smooth’ (#397), /du²¹xa²¹/[du²¹xe²¹] ‘saliva’ (#383), /nyŋ⁵⁵da²¹/[nyŋ⁵⁵de²¹] ‘chair’ (#144)

/k/ [k]: /ka³³/[kɛ³³] ‘bow’ (#327), /ko²¹/[ko²¹] ‘to bite’ (#59), /bo²¹ku⁵⁵/[bo²¹ku⁵⁵] ‘turtle’ (#202)

/kh/ [k^h]: /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/[k^he⁵⁵ɕu³³] ‘sand’ (#116), /ɕoŋ⁵⁵ko³³/[ɕoŋ⁵⁵ko³³] ‘rust’ (#118), /khu⁵⁵/[k^hu⁵⁵] ‘to call’ (#297)

/g/ [g]: /ga⁵⁵ma³³/[ge⁵⁵me³³] ‘road’ (#282), /go²¹dzo²¹/[go²¹dzo²¹] ‘mountain, hill’ (#361), /ja²¹gu²¹/[je²¹gu²¹] ‘young of age’ (#442)

4.1.2 Affricates

At the moment, it can be arguable that there are six affricates in Akha Chicho, /ts/, /tsh/, /dz/, /tɕ/, /tɕh/ and /dzɕ/. Currently, the words with /ts/ preceding plain vowels can not be found. Note that the appropriate affricates, /tsh/ and /tɕh/, can only precede plain vowels.

/ts/ [ts̺]: /a²¹khui³³tsɛ³³/[(e²¹khui³³)ts̺ɛ³³] ‘to bark’ (#180), /la²¹tsui²¹/[le²¹ts̺ui²¹] ‘elbow’ (#30), /tsa²¹ly²¹/[ts̺e²¹ly²¹] ‘salt’ (#255)

/tsh/ [tsh̺]: /tshɛ²¹ŋo²¹/[tsh̺ɛ²¹ŋo²¹] ‘plow’ (#251), /tsho²¹dɛ³³/[tsh̺o²¹dɛ³³] ‘it thunders’ (#113), /mi⁵⁵tsha²¹/[mi⁵⁵tsh̺a²¹] ‘soil, earth’ (#114)

/dz/ [dz̺]: /dze³³di⁵⁵/[dz̺e³³di⁵⁵] ‘to throw’ (#64), /thɣŋ²¹dzø⁵⁵/[thɣŋ²¹dz̺ø⁵⁵] ‘to meet with’ (#361), /dza²¹/[dz̺e²¹] ‘to eat’ (#57)

/tɕ/ [tɕ̺]: /u²¹ci³³/[u²¹ci³³] ‘night’ (#459), /bja⁵⁵te⁵⁵ne⁵⁵/[bje⁵⁵te⁵⁵ne⁵⁵] ‘bright’ (#180), /khui⁵⁵ca²¹ca²¹xm³³/[khu⁵⁵te²¹ce²¹mm³³] ‘body hair’ (#1)

/tɕh/ [tɕ̺^h]: /jo³³chi²¹/[jo³³ch̺i²¹] ‘wet’ (#491), /mi³³che⁵⁵/[mi³³ch̺e⁵⁵] ‘knife’ (#371), /do²¹cha⁵⁵/[do²¹ch̺e⁵⁵] ‘song’ (#310)

/dzɕ/ [dz̺ɕ̺]: /a³³dzi³³/[e³³d̺zi³³] ‘bird’ (#162), /a²¹dze²¹/[e²¹d̺ze²¹] ‘what’ (#491), /dza²¹le⁵⁵/[d̺ze²¹le⁵⁵] ‘wind’ (#104)

4.1.3 Nasals

There are four types of nasals, such as /m/, /n/, /ŋ/ and /ɲ/.

/m/ [m]: /mɛ²¹la⁵⁵/ [mɛ²¹lɛ⁵⁵] ‘tongue’ (#20), /nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³/ [nuŋ⁵⁵mɛ³³] ‘sun’ (#195), /i⁵⁵mo⁵⁵/ [i⁵⁵mo⁵⁵] ‘to look for’ (#365)

/n/ [n]: /mo⁵⁵nɛ⁵⁵/ [mo⁵⁵nɛ⁵⁵] ‘cattle’ (#182), /na⁵⁵xa²¹/ [nɛ⁵⁵xɛ²¹] ‘to ask’ (#295), /no³³/ [no³³] ‘you, thou’ (#483)

/ɲ/ [ɲ]: /ɲɛ³³/ [ɲɛ³³] ‘to dance’ (#311), /ɕi²¹ɲa³³/ [ɕi²¹ɲɛ³³] ‘to know’ (#371), /a²¹ɲo²¹/ [ɛ²¹ɲo²¹] ‘buffalo’ (#170)

/ŋ/ [ŋ]: /ŋɛ⁵⁵/ [ŋɛ⁵⁵] ‘to forget’ (#373), /ŋa²¹/ [ŋɛ²¹] ‘five’ (#77), /tshɛ²¹ŋo²¹/ [tshɛ²¹ŋo²¹] ‘plow’ (#251)

4.1.4 Fricatives

There are four kinds of fricative, such as /s/, /ç/, /x/ and /ɣ/. Only velar fricatives have voicing contrasts.

/s/ [s]: /thi³³sɛ⁵⁵/ [t^hi³³sɛ⁵⁵] ‘one hundred thousand’ (#92), /thɛ⁵⁵sa⁵⁵/ [t^hɛ⁵⁵sɛ⁵⁵] ‘sound, noise’ (#410), /so⁵⁵mɯ²¹ja²¹ɲi⁵⁵/ [so⁵⁵mɯ²¹je²¹ɲi⁵⁵] ‘rich’ (#291)

/ç/ [ç]: /çɛ³³mo³³/ [çɛ³³mo³³] ‘louse’ (#325), /ça²¹xo³³/ [çɛ²¹xo³³] ‘skin’ (#2), /jo³³çɔ⁵⁵/ [jo³³çɔ⁵⁵] ‘clean’ (#428)

/x/ [x]: /nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³dɔ³³xɛ²¹/ [nuŋ⁵⁵mɛ³³dɔ³³xɛ²¹] ‘east’ (#470), /xa²¹mɛ³³/ [xɛ²¹mɛ³³] ‘mouth’ (#19), /xo³³/ [xo³³] ‘to look’ (#53)

/ɣ/ [ɣ]: /ɣø²¹/ [ɣø²¹] ‘nine’ (#81), /sɯ²¹ɣa²¹/ [sɯ²¹ɣɛ²¹] ‘paper’ (#305), /ɣɔ⁵⁵mo⁵⁵/ [ɣɔ⁵⁵mo⁵⁵] ‘back’ (#52)

4.1.5 Approximants

/w/ occurs mainly in Tai-Lao loanwords.

/w/ [w]: /wieŋ²¹ɕaŋ³³/ [wieŋ²¹ɕɛŋ³³] ‘Vientiane’ (#499, #500), /wa³³/ [wɛ³³] ‘temple’ (#358), /a⁵⁵phja³³lu³³wa³³/ [ɛ⁵⁵p^hɛ³³lu³³wɛ³³] ‘spider’ (#188)

/l/ [l]: /dza²¹lɛ⁵⁵/ [dzɛ²¹lɛ⁵⁵] ‘wind’ (#104), /mɛ²¹la⁵⁵/ [mɛ²¹lɛ⁵⁵] ‘tongue’ (#20), /lo⁵⁵ba²¹/ [lo⁵⁵ba²¹] ‘river’ (#126)

/j/ [j~j]: /u²¹je⁵⁵/ [u²¹je⁵⁵] ‘rain’ (#106), /mi²¹ja²¹/ [mi²¹je²¹] ‘daughter’ (#335), /jo³³ɲi⁵⁵/ [jo³³ɲi⁵⁵] ‘few’ (#95)

4.2 Topics in Consonants

4.2.1 Medial Slot

The medial slot allows /j/ to occur, but in this case the onset should only be bilabial, though the words beginning with /pj/ are not found in my fieldnote at the moment. The medial /-j-/ can generally precede back vowels.

/phj/ [p^h]: /jɔ³³phja⁵⁵/ [jɔ³³p^hɤ⁵⁵] ‘light (weight)’ (#411), /khu³³phju⁵⁵/ [k^hu³³p^hu⁵⁵] ‘sweat’ (#6), /ŋa³³phjɔ²¹/ [ŋɤ³³phjɔ²¹] ‘face’ (#14)

/bj/ [bⁱ]: /jɔ³³bja³³/ [jɔ³³bⁱɤ³³] ‘light’ (#108), /ɣa²¹bja²¹/ [ɣɤ²¹bⁱɤ²¹] ‘bee’ (#185), /khɤŋ²¹bjɤŋ²¹/ [k^həŋ²¹bⁱəŋ²¹] ‘throat’ (#24)

4.2.2 Coda Slot

Coda in Akha Chicho can be slotted by /-m/ and /-ŋ/. Most of the Tibeto-Burman cognates in this language are open syllables, but there are a few exceptions, as can be seen below.

/-m/ [-m]: /ɕom⁵⁵/ [ɕom⁵⁵] ‘iron’ (#117), /jam²¹/ [jəm²¹] ‘season’ (#460, #461)

/-ŋ/ [-ŋ]: /u²¹du²¹tshɛ⁵⁵khɤŋ⁵⁵/ [u²¹du²¹tsh^hɛ⁵⁵k^həŋ⁵⁵] ‘hair’ (#12), /khɤŋ²¹lɤŋ⁵⁵/ [k^həŋ²¹ləŋ⁵⁵] ‘neck’ (#23), /na³³bɤŋ²¹/ [nɤ³³bəŋ²¹] ‘nose’ (#18)

Note that the nucleus of /ɤŋ/ is generally articulated like [-ə-] as seen above.

4.2.3 Syllabic Nasal

Akha Chicho has one type of syllabic nasals, that is /m/, as many of the Lolo-Burmese languages do. The syllabic nasal /m/ in Akha Chicho can bear a tone, and even can be slotted at the nucleus position.

syllabic nasal /m/: /a²¹xm³³/ [ɤ²¹m̩³³] ‘mushroom’ (#226), /dɔ²¹xm²¹/ [dɔ²¹m̩²¹] ‘buttocks’ (#39), /jɔ³³dzm²¹/ [jɔ³³dzm̩²¹] ‘raw’ (#420), /dm³³/ [dm̩³³] ‘to wear’ (#280)

Note that /xm/ is phonetically articulated like [m̩], which can be analyzed as voiceless nasal in other languages, such as Yangon Burmese, Youle Jino (Hayashi 2009), and so forth.

Additionally, <the alveolar onset + /m/> can have a different phonetic variety like [Cuŋ]. For example, the word for ‘to wear’ has two forms, such as /dm³³/ and /duŋ³³/. It can be arguable that the functional load of the syllabic nasal is now declining.

4.2.4 Morphophonological Phenomenon: Numeral “one”

In Akha Chicho, the word for ‘one’ has two morphs: /tɿ³³/ and /thi³³/. When it comes at the final position, it should be /tɿ³³/, while at the other positions, /thi³³/.

one	/tɿ ³³ / (#73)
one hundred	/thi ³³ ja ⁵⁵ / (#87)
one thousand	/thi ³³ ba ²¹ / (#90)
one hundred thousand	/thi ³³ sɛ ⁵⁵ / (#92)
one million	/thi ³³ la ²¹ / (#93)

5 Vowels

The vowels of Akha Chicho can be summarized in the following chart. Note that there are no contrasts in length or diphthongs.

Table 2: Akha Chicho Vowels

[Plain]				[Creaky]			
i	(y)	ɯ	u	ĩ	ɯ̰	ṵ	
e	ø	ɤ	o	ẽ	ø̰	ɤ̰	o̰
ɛ		ɔ		ɛ̰			ɔ̰
		a				ã	

5.1 Plain Vowels

Akha Chicho has a relatively large number of vowels, though /y/ has only two attested words in the basic wordlist.

/i/ [i]: /xa²¹lɔ³³bi³³dʒɛ³³/ [xɛ²¹lɔ³³bi³³dʒɛ³³] ‘gecko’ (#196), /a³³dʒi³³/ [ɛ³³dʒi³³] ‘bird’ (#162), /ci²¹/ [ci²¹] ‘blood’ (#4)

/y/ [y]: /y⁵⁵ɕy³³/ [y⁵⁵ɕy³³] ‘urine’ (#42), /y⁵⁵ɕy³³ɕy³³/ [y⁵⁵ɕy³³ɕy³³] ‘to urinate’ (#43)

/e/ [e]: /o²¹le³³/ [o²¹le³³] ‘to return’ (#476), /dɔ²¹khe²¹/ [dɔ²¹k^he²¹] ‘feces’ (#40), /tʂhe⁵⁵/ [tʂ^he⁵⁵] ‘ten’ (#82)

/ø/ [ø]: /ci²¹lɔ³³ma⁵⁵dʒi²¹/ [ci²¹lɔ³³mɛ⁵⁵dʒi²¹] ‘orange’ (#243), /xɔ²¹bø²¹/ [xɔ²¹bø²¹] ‘roof’ (#130), /yø²¹/ [yø²¹] ‘nine’ (#81)

/ɛ/ [ɛ]: /dʒa²¹lɛ⁵⁵/ [dʒa²¹lɛ⁵⁵] ‘wind’ (#104), /ci²¹bɛ²¹tʂhe³³/ [ci²¹bɛ²¹tʂ^he³³] ‘tamarind’ (#245), /tʂhe²¹ŋɔ²¹/ [tʂ^he²¹ŋɔ²¹] ‘plow’ (#251)

/a/ [ɐ]: /mɛ²¹la⁵⁵/ [mɛ²¹lɛ⁵⁵] ‘tongue’ (#20), /dʒi⁵⁵ba²¹/ [dʒi⁵⁵bɛ²¹] ‘wine’ (#259), /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/ [k^he⁵⁵ɕu³³] ‘sand’ (#116)

/ɔ/ [ɔ]: /a³³lɔ³³/ [ɛ³³lɔ³³] ‘snake’ (#195), /a³³bɔ³³/ [ɛ³³bɔ³³] ‘tree’ (#212), /tʂhɔ²¹du²¹/ [tʂ^hɔ²¹du²¹] ‘floor’ (#137)

/o/ [o]: /pʰɛ⁵⁵ɕu⁵⁵do²¹lɔ³³/ [p^hɛ⁵⁵ɕu⁵⁵do²¹lɔ³³] ‘priest’ (#359), /bo²¹da²¹/ [bo²¹da²¹] ‘table’ (#143), /tʂhɔ²¹dɛ³³/ [tʂ^hɔ²¹dɛ³³] ‘it thunders’ (#113),

/ɤ/ [ɤ]: /yɔ³³mɤ⁵⁵lɤ⁵⁵mɤ³³/ [yɔ³³mɤ⁵⁵lɤ⁵⁵mɤ³³] ‘tomato’ (#235), /bɤ³³kha³³/ [bɤ³³k^he³³] ‘mosquito net’ (#142), /dɤ³³xɛ³³/ [dɤ³³xɛ³³] ‘to cut’ (#150)

/u/ [u]: /lu³³thɤŋ²¹/ [lu³³t^hɤŋ²¹] ‘maggot’ (#189), /bu²¹dʒø³³/ [bu²¹dʒø³³] ‘earthworm’ (#193), /khu³³phju⁵⁵/ [k^hu³³p^hu⁵⁵] ‘sweat’ (#6)

/ɯ/ [ɯ]: /jɔ³³mu²¹/ [jɔ³³mu²¹] ‘good’ (#422), /khu⁵⁵ɕa²¹ɕa²¹xm³³/ [k^hu⁵⁵ɕe²¹ɕe²¹m³³] ‘body hair’ (#1), /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/ [k^he⁵⁵ɕu³³] ‘sand’ (#116)

5.2 Creaky Vowels

Generally speaking, there are creaky vowels corresponding to plain ones, though there are no words with /y/ in my fieldnote at the moment.

- /i/ [i]: /mjā²¹bi³³/ [mⁱɛ²¹bi³³] ‘tears’ (#5), /ni²¹/ [ni²¹] ‘two’ (#74), /ci³³/ [ci³³] ‘seven’ (#79)
- /e/ [ɛ]: /ne³³/ [ne³³] ‘god, spirit’ (#357)
- /ø/ [ø]: /a³³bø²¹/ [a³³bø²¹] ‘bamboo shoot’ (#225), /dɛ³³sø³³/ [dɛ³³sø³³] ‘eel’ (#201), /a²¹ʏø³³/ [ɛ²¹ʏø³³] ‘uncle’ (#344)
- /ɛ/ [ɛ]: /bɛ²¹la³³/ [bɛ²¹lɛ³³] ‘to smell’ (#56), /dɔ²¹tɕa²¹tɕa²¹nɛ²¹ɣ³³/ [dɔ²¹tɕɛ²¹tɕɛ²¹nɛ²¹ɣ³³] ‘letter’ (#303), /sɛ²¹/ [sɛ²¹] ‘to kill’ (#207)
- /a/ [ɐ]: /jɔ³³na²¹(na²¹)/ [jɔ³³nɛ²¹(nɛ²¹)] ‘deep’ (#395), /bø²¹sa³³a²¹ma³³/ [bø²¹sɛ³³ɛ²¹mɛ³³] ‘fly’ (#186), /a³³ɣa³³/ [ɛ³³ɣɛ³³] ‘pig’ (#173)
- /ɔ/ [ɔ]: /bɔ³³/ [bɔ³³] ‘to blow’ (#105), /sɛ²¹nɔ³³/ [sɛ²¹nɔ³³] ‘shoes’ (#277), /ʏɔ³³/ [ʏɔ³³] ‘to fly’ (#163), /kɔ²¹/ [kɔ²¹] ‘to bite’ (#59)
- /o/ [o]: /jɔ³³kɔ⁵⁵/ [jɔ³³kɔ⁵⁵] ‘thin (body)’ (#440), /jɛ³³xɔ³³/ [jɛ³³xɔ³³] ‘sickle’ (#149), /ɔ³³/ [ɔ³³] ‘to pick up’ (#65)
- /ɣ/ [ɣ]: /mjā³³nɣ³³/ [mⁱɛ³³nɣ³³] ‘eyes’ (#16), /bɣ³³ja²¹/ [bɣ³³je²¹] ‘musket’ (#206), /a³³dɣ³³ma²¹/ [ɛ³³dɣ³³mɛ²¹] ‘we’ (#485)
- /u/ [u]: /la²¹du³³/ [lɛ²¹du³³] ‘arm’ (#29), /u⁵⁵ɕu³³/ [u⁵⁵ɕu³³] ‘water’ (#124), /xa³³u³³/ [xɛ³³u³³] ‘egg’ (#164)
- /u/ [u]: /a⁵⁵bɯ³³/ [ɛ⁵⁵bɯ³³] ‘covering’ (#140), /phɔ²¹tsu²¹/ [p^hɔ²¹tsu²¹] ‘knee’ (#50), /jɔ³³ɕu²¹/ [jɔ³³ɕu²¹] ‘new’ (#418)

6 Tones

There are three basic tonemes: /55/, /33/, /21/. Creaky vowels seldom occurs with /55/ tone, though they do.

- /55/ [55]: /na⁵⁵xɔ⁵⁵/ [nɛ⁵⁵xɔ⁵⁵] ‘forehead’ (#11), /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/ [k^hɛ⁵⁵ɕu³³] ‘sand’ (#116), /mɔ⁵⁵la⁵⁵/ [mɔ⁵⁵lɛ⁵⁵] ‘to see’ (#53), /a⁵⁵lu³³/ [ɛ⁵⁵lu³³] ‘butterfly’ (#191)
- /33/ [33]: /ɣa³³na³³na³³/ [ɣɛ³³nɛ³³nɛ³³] ‘to rest’ (#315), /bɣ³³kha³³/ [bɣ³³k^hɛ³³] ‘mosquito net’ (#142), /ɕɛ³³mɔ³³/ [ɕɛ³³mɔ³³] ‘louse’ (#325), /a⁵⁵ɕa³³/ [ɛ⁵⁵ɕɛ³³] ‘rope’ (#154)
- /21/ [21]: /na²¹mɔ³³/ [nɛ²¹mɔ³³] ‘(medical) doctor’ (#354), /ɣɔ²¹mɔ⁵⁵ni²¹kha²¹/ [ɣɔ²¹mɔ⁵⁵ni²¹k^hɛ²¹] ‘far’ (#472), /ja²¹mɔ²¹/ [je²¹mɔ²¹] ‘old of age’ (#441), /la²¹ɕha⁵⁵/ [lɛ²¹ɕ^hɛ⁵⁵] ‘left-hand’ (#28)

There can be found the words with /35/ and /53/, though the number of such words are rare. The words with /35/ can be often borrowings from Tai-Lao loanwords, whereas /53/ may be affected by the phrasal intonation.

/35/ [35]: /si³⁵/ [si³⁵] ‘color’ (#403), /nɯŋ³⁵xɣ²¹lɑ²¹/ [nɯŋ³⁵xɣ²¹lɛ²¹] ‘now’ (#451)

/53/ [53]: /ɣɣ³³lɛ⁵⁵ŋɑ⁵³/ [ɣɣ³³lɛ⁵⁵ŋɛ⁵³] ‘to sun clothes’ (#273), /ju⁵⁵ɕhø⁵⁵ŋɑ⁵³/ [ju⁵⁵ɕ^hø⁵⁵ŋɛ⁵³] ‘cheap’ (#427)

7 Dialectal Variation: Akha Chicho and Akha Buli

The Akha varieties are widely spread in Muang Sing district of Luang Namtha Province, Laos, but most of them are Akha Buli. Akha Chicho speakers can communicate with Akha Buli without any difficulty, but both of them recognize their languages are different from each other.

The following table illustrates the phonological inventories of Akha Buli (Hayashi 2016: 78).

p b	t d		k g
ph	th		kh
	ts dz	ɕ dz	
	tsh	ɕh	
m	n	ɲ	ŋ
	s z	ɕ j	x ɣ
	l		

[Plain]				[Creaky]			
i	y	ɯ	u	ĩ	ỹ	ɯ̰	ṵ
e	ø	ɣ	o	ẽ	ø̰	ɣ̰	o̰
ɛ			ɔ	ɛ̰			ɔ̰
		a				ã	

Tonemes: 55, 33, 21

Compared to Akha Chicho, Akha Buli has /z/ and /y/ in its inventory, but does not have /w/.

Furthermore, some of the examples that shows similarities and differences in Akha Chicho and Akha Buli are as follows, which are to be analyzed in more details in the near future.

Gloss	Akha Chicho	Akha Buli
‘bone’	/ca ²¹ jø ²¹ /	/ca ²¹ jø ²¹ /
‘blood’	/ci ²¹ /	/ci ²¹ /
‘to eat’	/dza ²¹ /	/dza ²¹ /
‘sand’	/kha ⁵⁵ ɕur ³³ /	/kha ⁵⁵ ɕɣ ²¹ /
‘sky’	/uŋ ²¹ ɣuŋ ²¹ /	/m ²¹ /
‘spider’	/a ⁵⁵ phja ³³ lu ³³ wa ³³ /	/ã ²¹ ɕha ⁵⁵ ɕha ⁵⁵ gɔ ²¹ /
‘cicada’	/a ⁵⁵ ɕɣ ⁵⁵ ɕɣ ⁵⁵ nɔ ³³ /	/ã ²¹ dze ²¹ /
‘easy’	/jɔ ³³ ja ⁵⁵ /	/jɣ ³³ ɣɔ ²¹ /

8 Concluding Remarks

This paper described and analyzed the phonology of Akha Chicho, a Lolo-Burmese language of Muang Sing, Laos. It is tentatively summarized as follows.

p b	t d		k g
ph	th		kh
	ts dz	ɕ dz	
	tsh	ɕh	
m	n	ɲ	ŋ
	s	ɕ	x ɣ
w	l	j	

[Plain]				[Creaky]			
i		(y)	ɯ	u	ĩ	ɯ̰	ṵ
e		ø	ɣ	o	ẽ	ø̰	ɣ̰
ɛ				ɔ	ɛ̰		ɔ̰
			a			ã	

Tonemes: 55, 33, 21

There are some features of phonetic-phonological interfaces as follows:

1. /-j-/ can be slotted as medial. There are the words beginning with /phj-/ and /bj-/ in my fieldnote.
2. /m/ can be syllabic nasal, and even be slotted as nucleus. Syllabic nasal in Akha Chicho, however, may be being declining.
3. The word for 'one' has two morphs, /t_i³³/ and /thi³³/, the realization of which depends on the location of the numeral compound.

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APPENDIX: Akha Chicho Basic Wordlist (tentative)

NB: No. English gloss: /Akha Chicho word/

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. body hair:
/khu ⁵⁵ t̪a ²¹ t̪a ²¹ xm ³³ / | 22. beard/ mustache:
/mɛ ²¹ mɣŋ ²¹ / | 45. to have a fever:
/tɕɛ ²¹ thɣŋ ⁵⁵ thɣŋ ⁵⁵
phja ²¹ phja ²¹ / |
| 2. skin:
/ba ³³ xo ³³ , ɕa ²¹ xo ³³ / | 23. neck: /khɣŋ ²¹ lɣŋ ⁵⁵ / | 46. to give birth: /ja ²¹ phu ²¹ / |
| 3. bone: /ɕa ²¹ jø ²¹ / | 24. throat: /khɣŋ ²¹ bjɣŋ ²¹ / | 47. leg: /a ²¹ khu ⁵⁵ / |
| 4. blood: /ɕi ²¹ / | 25. shoulder: /ba ²¹ phu ³³ / | 48. foot: /a ²¹ khu ⁵⁵ phja ²¹ ɣa ²¹ / |
| 5. tears: /mja ²¹ bj ³³ / | 26. hand: /a ³³ la ³³ / | 49. thigh: /ɕa ²¹ phja ²¹ / |
| 6. sweat: /khu ³³ phju ⁵⁵ / | 27. right-hand: /la ²¹ ma ⁵⁵ / | 50. knee: /phɔ ²¹ tsw ²¹ / |
| 7. pus: /ɕa ²¹ t̪hi ²¹ / | 28. left-hand: /la ²¹ t̪ha ⁵⁵ / | 51. tendon: /ɕa ²¹ gu ²¹ / |
| 8. saliva: /du ²¹ xa ²¹ / | 29. arm: /la ²¹ du ³³ / | 52. back: /ɣɔ ⁵⁵ mo ⁵⁵ / |
| 9. phlegm:
/u ²¹ tshu ³³ tshu ²¹ pɕ ³³ / | 30. elbow: /la ²¹ tsw ²¹ / | 53. to see, to look: /mo ⁵⁵ la ⁵⁵ ,
xɔ ³³ / |
| 10. head: /u ²¹ du ²¹ / | 31. palm: /la ²¹ xɔ ³³ / | 54. to seek: /dza ⁵⁵ t̪ho ³³ / |
| 11. forehead: /na ⁵⁵ xɔ ⁵⁵ / | 32. finger: /la ²¹ nø ³³ / | 55. to hear, to listen:
/ga ²¹ la ⁵⁵ mi ⁵⁵ na ²¹ la ²¹ ,
na ⁵⁵ xa ²¹ / |
| 12. hair:
/u ²¹ du ²¹ tshɛ ⁵⁵ khɣŋ ⁵⁵ / | 33. fingernail: /la ²¹ sɣŋ ²¹ / | 56. to smell: /bɕ ²¹ la ³³ / |
| 13. comb:
/u ²¹ du ²¹ ka ³³ / | 34. breast: /nuŋ ³³ xɣŋ ²¹ / | 57. to eat: /dza ²¹ / |
| 14. face: /na ³³ phjɔ ²¹ / | 35. nipple: /a ²¹ t̪hø ⁵⁵ / | 58. to drink: /dɔ ⁵⁵ / |
| 15. eyebrow:
/mja ³³ nɣ ³³ mja ³³ xɣŋ ⁵⁵ / | 36. waist: /dɔ ⁵⁵ tsw ²¹ / | 59. to bite: /kɔ ²¹ / |
| 16. eyes: /mja ³³ nɣ ³³ / | 37. belly: /u ²¹ ma ³³ / | 60. to hold with the hand:
/ni ²¹ the ²¹ / |
| 17. ears: /na ³³ pa ³³ / | 38. navel:
/bø ³³ lø ³³ t̪a ³³ thɣŋ ²¹ / | 61. to put, to place in/ on:
/o ³³ tha ²¹ / |
| 18. nose: /na ³³ bɣŋ ²¹ / | 39. buttocks: /dɔ ²¹ xm ²¹ / | 62. to push:
/thɣŋ ²¹ , dɛ ²¹ dze ³³ / |
| 19. mouth: /xa ²¹ mɕ ³³ / | 40. feces: /dɔ ²¹ khe ²¹ / | 63. to pull: /ɣɣ ³³ / |
| 20. tongue: /mɛ ²¹ la ⁵⁵ / | 41. to defecate: /dɔ ²¹ khe ²¹ / | 64. to throw: /dze ³³ di ⁵⁵ / |
| 21. teeth: /sɣ ²¹ / | 42. urine: /ɣ ⁵⁵ ɕy ³³ / | 65. to pick up: /o ³³ / |
| | 43. to urinate: /ɣ ⁵⁵ ɕy ³³ ɕy ³³ / | 66. to ladle: /tɔ ³³ / |
| | 44. to expel intestinal gas:
/u ²¹ xa ²¹ phe ²¹ / | |

67. to walk: /tʰɣŋ³³/
68. to stop: /tʰɣŋ⁵⁵dʒɔ⁵⁵/
69. to run: /tʰi⁵⁵tʰø²¹tʰø²¹/
70. to sit: /dɔ²¹nɣ⁵⁵nɣ⁵⁵/
71. to stand up: /ɣɔ²¹jɔ²¹jɔ²¹/
72. to cough: /u²¹tʰø²¹tʰø²¹/
73. one: /tʰi³³/
74. two: /ŋi²¹/
75. three: /suŋ⁵⁵/
76. four: /o²¹/
77. five: /ŋa²¹/
78. six: /kɔ²¹/
79. seven: /ɕi³³/
80. eight: /jɛ³³/
81. nine: /ɣø²¹/
82. ten: /tshe⁵⁵/
83. eleven: /tshe⁵⁵tʰi³³/
84. twelve: /tshe⁵⁵ŋi³³/
85. twenty: /ŋi³³tshe⁵⁵/
86. ninety nine:
/ɣø²¹tshe⁵⁵ɣø²¹/
87. one hundred: /tʰi³³ja⁵⁵/
88. one hundred and one:
/tʰi³³ja⁵⁵tʰi³³/
89. one hundred and ten:
/tʰi²¹ja⁵⁵tshe⁵⁵/
90. one thousand:
/tʰi³³ba²¹/
91. ten thousand:
/tshe⁵⁵ba²¹/
92. one hundred thousand:
/tʰi³³sɛ⁵⁵/
93. one million: /tʰi³³la²¹/
94. many: /ɣɔ³³mja⁵⁵ŋi⁵⁵/
95. few: /jɔ³³ŋi⁵⁵/
96. all: /dɔ³³tɔ⁵⁵ŋi⁵⁵/
97. only: /~tɛ³³/
98. sky: /uŋ²¹ɣuŋ²¹/
99. cloud: /u²¹duŋ³³/
100. fog: /tʰɣ²¹/
101. sun: /nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³/
102. moon: /ba³³la³³/
103. star: /a²¹gu⁵⁵/
104. wind: /dʒa²¹lɛ⁵⁵/
105. to blow: /bɔ³³/
106. rain: /u²¹jɛ⁵⁵/
107. it rains: /u²¹jɛ⁵⁵jɛ⁵⁵/
108. light: /jɔ³³bja³³/
109. shadow: /a³³ba³³/
110. bright:
/bja⁵⁵ɕɛ⁵⁵ne⁵⁵,
lɔ²¹kha⁵⁵ne⁵⁵/
111. dark: /jɔ³³ɣŋ⁵⁵/
112. thunder: /u²¹dʒɛ²¹dʒɛ²¹/
113. it thunders: /tʰø²¹dɛ³³/
114. soil, earth: /mi⁵⁵tʰa²¹/
115. stone: /xa²¹lɔ³³/
116. sand: /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/
117. iron: /ɕom⁵⁵~ɕoŋ⁵⁵/
118. rust: /ɕoŋ⁵⁵khɔ³³/
119. gold: /ɕu⁵⁵/
120. silver: /phju⁵⁵/
121. copper: /ɣu²¹/
122. hill, mountain:
/gɔ²¹dʒɔ²¹/
123. valley: /ga²¹ŋ⁵⁵ɣ³³/
124. water: /u⁵⁵ɕu³³/
125. lake: /lɔŋ³³ma³³/
126. river:
/lɔ⁵⁵ba²¹/
127. fire: /mi²¹dza²¹/
128. smoke: /u²¹xø²¹/
129. house: /ŋuŋ³³~juŋ³³/
130. roof: /xɔ²¹bø²¹/
131. grave: /tʰø³³ɕi³³mɔ³³du²¹/
132. to open: /phɣŋ³³/
133. to close: /ka²¹phi²¹/
134. pillar: /dɣŋ³³lɣŋ³³/
135. door: /lɛ⁵⁵ɔ³³/
136. window: /lɛ⁵⁵ɔ³³ja²¹/
137. floor: /tʰø²¹du²¹/
138. key: /mɔ²¹tɔ²¹tɔ²¹du⁵⁵/
139. mat: /gɔ²¹phu³³/
140. covering: /a⁵⁵bu³³/
141. pillow: /uŋ³³ɣuŋ³³pha⁵⁵ɕi²¹/
142. mosquito net: /bɣ³³kha³³/
143. table: /bo²¹da²¹/
144. chair: /nɣŋ⁵⁵da²¹/
145. to sweep: /ja³³phjɔ⁵⁵ja³³/

146. to splash water: /u⁵⁵ɸu²¹ɕɛ³³dzɛ³³/
147. knife: /mi³³ɸhɛ⁵⁵/
148. sword: /mi⁵⁵ɸhɛ⁵⁵thɤŋ³³ma³³/
149. sickle: /jɛ³³xo³³/
150. to cut: /dɤ³³xɛ³³, jɛ²¹/
151. nail: /ɕoŋ⁵⁵ɸhɛ³³/
152. ladder: /dɔ²¹dzɯŋ³³/
153. basket: /xa³³dza³³/
154. rope: /a⁵⁵ɸa³³/
155. stick: /gɔ²¹jɔ²¹/
156. tail: /dɔ²¹mi²¹/
157. horn: /u²¹ɸhɔ⁵⁵/
158. wing: /a²¹dɤŋ⁵⁵/
159. tiger: /xa²¹la²¹/
160. elephant: /ja³³ma³³/
161. mouse: /xu³³ɸa²¹/
162. bird: /a³³dzi³³/
163. to fly: /ɥɔ³³/
164. egg: /xa³³u³³/
165. to lay egg: /u³³kha³³/
166. sparrow: /xa²¹dza⁵⁵/
167. crow: /ɔ²¹a²¹/
168. hawk: /xa²¹dzɛ⁵⁵/
169. peacock: /ɕoŋ⁵⁵dɔ²¹/
170. buffalo: /a²¹no²¹/
171. cat: /a³³mi⁵⁵/
172. beef: /mo⁵⁵nɛ⁵⁵ɕa²¹dzi⁵⁵/
173. pig: /a³³ɥa³³/
174. pork: /a³³ɥa³³ɕa²¹dzi⁵⁵/
175. monkey: /a⁵⁵mjo²¹/
176. horse: /moŋ²¹/
177. rabbit: /xo³³/
178. bear: /xa²¹xm⁵⁵/
179. dog: /a²¹khw²¹/
180. to bark: /a²¹khw³³tsɛ³³/
181. goat: /ɸi³³mɛ³³/
182. cattle: /mo⁵⁵nɛ⁵⁵/
183. chicken: /a²¹xa³³ɕa²¹dzi⁵⁵/
184. duck: /ɔ²¹a³³/
185. bee: /ɥa²¹bja²¹/
186. fly: /bɔ²¹sa³³a²¹ma³³/
187. mosquito: /ɸha⁵⁵gɔ³³a⁵⁵mo⁵⁵/
188. spider: /a⁵⁵phja³³lu³³wa³³/
189. maggot: /lu³³thɤŋ²¹/
190. ant: /a⁵⁵xo³³/
191. butterfly: /a⁵⁵lu³³/
192. cicada: /a⁵⁵ɕɤ⁵⁵ɕɤ⁵⁵no³³/
193. earthworm: /bu²¹dzɔ³³/
194. centipede: /la²¹ma³³ɸhi⁵⁵ɕɛ⁵⁵/
195. snake: /a³³lo³³/
196. gecko: /xa²¹lo³³lo³³dzi⁵⁵, xa²¹lo³³bi³³dzɛ³³/
197. fish: /ŋa²¹ɕa²¹/
198. shrimp: /ŋi³³bɤŋ³³ɸhu⁵⁵xo³³/
199. crab: /a⁵⁵kha³³/
200. frog: /xa²¹pha²¹, xa²¹pha³³pha²¹ɸa²¹/
201. eel: /dɛ³³sɔ³³/
202. turtle: /bɔ²¹ku⁵⁵, bɔ²¹bja³³/
203. to fish with a rod: /ŋa²¹dzɤ³³dzɤ³³/
204. to hunt: /ɕa²¹thɛ³³, a²¹dzi³³bɤ³³/
205. to shoot: /mi²¹bɤ³³ bɤ³³/
206. musket: /bɤ³³ja²¹/
207. to kill: /sɛ²¹/
208. seed: /a⁵⁵nɤ³³/
209. to seed: /a⁵⁵nɤ³³xɤ²¹lo³³/
210. sprout: /a³³bɤ²¹/
211. stem: /la³³khɤŋ²¹, a⁵⁵khɤŋ²¹/
212. tree: /a³³bo³³/
213. leaf: /a⁵⁵pa²¹/
214. trunk: /thi²¹khɤŋ²¹, thi²¹bo³³/
215. root: /dɔ²¹ɸhi⁵⁵/
216. grass: /ja³³mo²¹/
217. to grow: /ɥɔ³³lo³³ŋi³³xɤ²¹la⁵⁵/
218. to wither: /ɥɤ³³i⁵⁵/
219. flower: /a⁵⁵jɛ³³/

220. to bloom: /a⁵⁵je³³ pho²¹la⁵⁵/
221. poppy: /je²¹je³³a⁵⁵je³³/
222. thorn: /a²¹gɣŋ³³/
223. bean: /a³³bɛ³³/
224. bamboo: /xa²¹dʒɔ³³/
225. bamboo shoot: /a³³bø²¹/
226. mushroom: /a²¹xm³³/
227. paddy plant: /tʰɛ³³bɔ³³/
228. rice: /xɔ²¹, tʰɛ³³/
229. corn: /a⁵⁵du³³, a²¹tɣ²¹/
230. wax gourd: /ɣ⁵⁵phu²¹/
231. cucumber: /ɕi²¹xo²¹/
232. bitter melon: /la²¹xa²¹/
233. pumpkin: /ma³³dɛ³³/
234. eggplant: /ma³³xɣ³³/
235. tomato: /ɣɔ³³mɣ⁵⁵ɣ⁵⁵mɣ³³/
236. papaya: /dɛ³³ma³³ŋa⁵⁵ɔ³³/
237. sesame: /nuŋ²¹ɕi²¹/
238. peanut: /nɣŋ³³phɣŋ²¹/
239. ginger: /tʃɔ²¹tsu²¹/
240. fruit: /a⁵⁵ɕi²¹/
241. banana: /ŋa³³bɛ³³/
242. mango: /dʒa⁵⁵ɔ²¹(a⁵⁵ɕi²¹)/
243. orange: /ɕi²¹lø³³ma⁵⁵dʒi²¹/
244. mangosteen: —
245. tamarind: /ɕi²¹bɛ²¹tʰɛ³³/
246. hogplums: —
247. jackfruits: /ma⁵⁵mi²¹/
248. sugar cane: /phɔ²¹tʰø⁵⁵/
249. betel nut: /mɛ⁵⁵lɔ⁵⁵a⁵⁵ɕi²¹/
250. to plant: /kha³³/
251. plow: /tʃɛ²¹ŋɔ²¹/
252. irrigated field: /dɛ³³ma³³/
253. upland field: /ja³³/
254. oil: /ɣa²¹tʃi⁵⁵/
255. salt: /tʃa²¹ɣ²¹/
256. sugar: /tʃa²¹ɣ²¹tʃa²¹tʰø⁵⁵/
257. chilli: /la²¹phi⁵⁵/
258. tea: /lɔ⁵⁵bɔ²¹/
259. wine: /dʒi⁵⁵ba²¹/
260. cigarette/ tobacco: /ja⁵⁵xɔ²¹, ja⁵⁵xɔ²¹xɔ²¹xa³³/
261. to cook rice: /xɔ²¹ɣŋ⁵⁵ɣŋ⁵⁵/
262. firewood: /mi²¹dza³³(mi²¹khɔ²¹)/
263. pot: /ø²¹ɣŋ²¹/
264. to boil: /pu²¹/
265. to roast: /pɣ³³/
266. cloth: /ɣɔ³³mɔ³³mɛ²¹tʃø²¹/
267. to sew: /mɛ²¹tʃø²¹gu²¹/
268. needle: /a²¹ɣɔ²¹/
269. thread: /a²¹ɣɔ²¹khɣŋ⁵⁵mi³³/
270. to knit: /kha⁵⁵ja³³jɣ²¹/
271. to dye: /sa³³pha⁵⁵na³³/
272. to wash clothes: /lɛ²¹tʃi²¹/
273. to sun clothes: /ɣɣ³³lɔ²¹, ɣɣ³³lɛ⁵⁵ŋa⁵³, u²¹tʃa⁵⁵lɔ²¹/
274. clothes: /phɛ³³xɣŋ²¹mi²¹tʰɛ⁵⁵/
275. hat: /u²¹xɔ³³/
276. button: /phɛ³³tɔ²¹/
277. shoes: /sɛ²¹ŋɔ³³/
278. to make: /uŋ⁵⁵mjo²¹uŋ⁵⁵/
279. to break: /ga³³pa³³/
280. to wear: /duŋ³³~dm³³/
281. to undress: /lɛ³³/
282. road: /ga⁵⁵ma³³/
283. village: /phu³³/
284. to carry on the back: /phi⁵⁵/
285. to buy: /ɣɣ⁵⁵ɣɣ³³/
286. to sell: /ɣŋ²¹/
287. to get: /ɣa²¹la⁵⁵ŋa³³/
288. to lose: /mɛ²¹gɣŋ²¹pi³³i⁵⁵ŋa³³/
289. market: /ga⁵⁵i⁵⁵dʒu²¹i⁵⁵ɣ³³/
290. money: /phju⁵⁵/

291. rich: /sɔ⁵⁵ mɣ²¹ ja²¹ ŋi⁵⁵/
292. poor: /jɔ³³ ɕa²¹/
293. to steal: /su⁵⁵ xɔ²¹ xɔ²¹/
294. to speak:
/dɔ³³ dʒa³³ dʒa⁵⁵ ɔ²¹/
295. to ask: /na⁵⁵ xa²¹/
296. to answer: /ɛ³³ mɛ²¹/
297. to call: /khu⁵⁵/
298. Chicho language:
/a⁵⁵ dʒɔ⁵⁵ a²¹ kha³³ ɣ³³ dɔ²¹/
299. Lao language:
/la²¹ o³³ dɔ²¹/
300. Chinese language:
/la²¹ bɣ³³ ɣ³³ dɔ²¹/
301. to write: /sɣŋ²¹ bɔ²¹ bɔ²¹/
302. to read: /sɣ²¹ ɣa²¹ ɣɣ³³/
303. letter:
/dɔ²¹ tsa²¹ tsa²¹ nɛ²¹ ɣ³³/
304. book: /sɣ²¹ ɣa²¹ pha⁵⁵ dɣŋ²¹/
305. paper: /sɣ²¹ ɣa²¹/
306. to stick: /mjɣŋ³³ lɛ⁵⁵/
307. to play: /ŋi⁵⁵ ɣɛ³³/
308. story: /dɔ³³ mɔ³³ dɔ³³ ɔ⁵⁵/
309. to tell a story:
/dɔ³³ dɔ³³ ɛ³³ dʒa³³/
310. song: /dɔ²¹ tʃha⁵⁵/
311. to dance: /ŋɛ³³/
312. to win: /thi³³ ɣa³³ i³³ ma³³ bi⁵⁵ dʒa⁵⁵/
313. to lose a game:
/ma³³ ɣa³³ lɛ⁵⁵ ŋa³³/
314. to get tired: /ɣa²¹ dɔ⁵⁵ dɔ⁵⁵/
315. to rest: /ɣa³³ na³³ na³³/
316. to sleep: /ju²¹ xa³³/
317. to dream: /ju²¹ ma³³ ma³³/
318. to get up:
/ju²¹ xa³³ ɣ³³ thu⁵⁵ ɔ²¹/
319. to die: /ɕi⁵⁵ xa³³/
320. age: /a⁵⁵ xɔ³³/
321. to be ill: /ma²¹ jɛ⁵⁵ ŋa³³/
322. painful: /mɔ⁵⁵ du³³ na⁵⁵/
323. to hiccough:
/ɣ⁵⁵ tɣ³³ tɣ³³ ŋa³³/
324. to talk in one's sleep:
/dɔ²¹ dʒa³³ dʒa³³ ma³³ ma³³/
325. louse: /ɕɛ³³ mɔ³³/
326. medicine: /dʒa³³ ɣa²¹/
327. bow: /ka³³/
328. arrow: /ka³³ mja²¹/
329. name: /tʃɔ⁵⁵ mjɣŋ⁵⁵/
330. father: /a²¹ da³³/
331. mother: /a²¹ ma³³/
332. husband: /a²¹ jo³³/
333. wife: /a²¹ bu⁵⁵/
334. son: /jɔ³³ dʒi⁵⁵/
335. daughter: /mi²¹ ja²¹/
336. child: /dʒa³³ ja²¹/
337. elder brother: /a³³ ɣɔ³³/
338. younger brother:
/a²¹ ŋi⁵⁵/
339. elder sister: /a⁵⁵ jɣ³³/
340. younger sister:
/du⁵⁵ ma³³/
341. grandfather: /a²¹ bɔ⁵⁵/
342. grandmother: /a²¹ phi²¹/
343. grandchild: /ɔ²¹ pha²¹/
344. uncle:
/a²¹ ɣɔ⁵⁵, a²¹ ɣɔ³³,
a²¹ mɣ³³/
345. aunt: /a²¹ xo²¹, a³³ jɣ²¹,
tʃhi⁵⁵ ma³³/
346. cousin: /a²¹ tʃhɣŋ³³/
347. friend:
/bɔ³³ ɣɔ²¹/
348. male/ man: /a²¹ jo³³/
349. female/ woman: /a²¹ bu⁵⁵/
350. man/ human being:
/tʃɔ⁵⁵ xa²¹ (a³³ ja²¹)/
351. Akha Chicho people:
/dʒi²¹ dʒɔ⁵⁵ a²¹ kha³³ ɣ³³ a²¹ ma³³/
352. Lao people:
/la²¹ ɔ³³ ɣ³³ tʃɔ⁵⁵ xa²¹/
353. Chinese people:
/la²¹ bɣ²¹ ɣ³³ tʃɔ⁵⁵ xa²¹/
354. doctor: /na²¹ mɔ³³/
355. teacher: /na²¹ khu²¹,
a³³ tʃa³³/
356. shaman: /ŋi⁵⁵ pha²¹,
bɔ⁵⁵ mɔ²¹/
357. god, spirit: /nɛ³³/
358. temple: /wa³³/
359. priest:
/phɛ⁵⁵ ɕu⁵⁵ dɔ²¹ lo³³,
pha⁵⁵ ɕu⁵⁵ ja²¹/

360. to marry:
/mi²¹ja²¹dɣŋ²¹dza²¹,
mi²¹ja²¹ɕɣ²¹/
361. to meet with:
/thɣŋ²¹dzø⁵⁵, i⁵⁵dzø⁵⁵/
362. to wait for: /dɔ²¹(thɔ²¹)/
363. to give to: /bi³³nɛ²¹/
364. to use: /mɛ²¹xɛ⁵⁵xɛ⁵⁵/
365. to look for: /i⁵⁵mo⁵⁵,
la⁵⁵mo⁵⁵/
366. to laugh: /u⁵⁵/
367. to love: /ɣɔ²¹ɕa²¹ga²¹/
368. to fear, to be afraid of:
/gu³³(la⁵⁵na³³/
369. to be frightened:
/tshɔ²¹gu⁵⁵(na³³)/
370. to be surprised:
/nø²¹gu³³la⁵⁵na³³/
371. to know: /ɕi²¹na³³/
372. to remember:
/nø²¹du²¹(tha³³ma⁵⁵)/
373. to forget: /ŋɛ⁵⁵(na³³)/
374. cold:
/jɔ³³ŋɛ⁵⁵, ɣ²¹ga³³ga³³/
375. hot: /u²¹tsha⁵⁵tsha⁵⁵na³³/
376. hungry:
/xɔ²¹mɛ³³(na⁵⁵)/
377. thirsty:
/ɣ⁵⁵ɕu³³mɛ²¹la⁵⁵na³³/
378. drunk:
/dzi⁵⁵ba²¹jɛ²¹na³³,
bu²¹dzu⁵⁵dzu⁵⁵na³³/
379. delicious: /jɔ³³khw⁵⁵/
380. sweet: /jɔ³³ɕhø⁵⁵/
381. sour: /jɔ³³ɕhɛ⁵⁵/
382. pepper hot:
/la²¹phi⁵⁵(phi⁵⁵)/
383. salty: /jɔ³³ta³³/
384. thing:
/mɛ²¹gɣŋ²¹mɛ²¹ma³³/
385. big: /jɔ³³xɣ²¹(xɣ²¹)/
386. small: /jɔ³³ni⁵⁵/
387. tall, high: /jɔ³³go⁵⁵/
388. low: /jɔ³³ɔ³³/
389. long: /jɔ³³mo⁵⁵/
390. short: /jɔ³³dɣ³³/
391. broad, wide: /jɔ³³gɛ⁵⁵gɛ⁵⁵/
392. narrow: /jɔ³³su²¹/
393. thick: /jɔ³³thu⁵⁵/
394. thin: /jɔ³³ba²¹/
395. deep: /jɔ³³na²¹(na²¹)/
396. shallow: /ma²¹na²¹na³³/
397. smooth: /di⁵⁵dɛ³³ni⁵⁵/
398. rough: /ɣø³³nu⁵⁵/
399. round: /lɣŋ³³dɣ⁵⁵ni³³/
400. sharp:
/jɔ³³ta³³(ta³³),
ta³³ju⁵⁵ni³³/
401. dull: /jɔ³³dɔ³³dɔ³³/
402. pointed: /jɔ³³ɕhɛ³³ɕhɛ³³/
403. color: /si³⁵/
404. red: /jɔ³³ne⁵⁵/
405. yellow: /jɔ²¹ɕw⁵⁵/
406. blue: /jɔ³³phɣ⁵⁵/
407. white: /jɔ³³phju⁵⁵/
408. black: /jɔ³³na³³/
409. green: /jɔ³³no⁵⁵/
410. sound, noise:
/thɛ⁵⁵sa⁵⁵/
411. light: /jɔ³³phja⁵⁵/
412. heavy: /jɔ³³khɣŋ³³/
413. dry: /jɔ³³ɣw³³/
414. wet: /jɔ³³ɕhi²¹/
415. soft: /jɔ³³nɣŋ²¹/
416. hard: /jɔ³³ɣɣŋ⁵⁵/
417. full: /jɔ³³bjɣŋ³³/
418. new: /jɔ³³ɕu²¹/
419. old: /jɔ³³ø⁵⁵/
420. raw:
/jɔ³³dzuŋ²¹~jɔ³³dzm²¹/
421. done, ripe:
/jɔ³³dza²¹/
422. good: /jɔ³³mu²¹/
423. bad: /ma²¹mu²¹/
424. difficult: /jɔ³³xa³³/
425. easy: /jɔ³³ja⁵⁵/
426. expensive: /jɔ³³phø²¹/
427. cheap: /ju⁵⁵ɕhø⁵⁵na⁵³/
428. clean: /jɔ³³ɕw⁵⁵/
429. dirty: /jɔ³³ɕa²¹/
430. gentle:
/nuŋ³³ma³³jɔ³³mu²¹/
431. angry:
/nuŋ³³ma³³jɔ³³xa²¹/

432. happy, glad:
/jɔ³³mu²¹mu²¹ε⁵⁵dʒɔ⁵⁵/
433. ashamed: /ɕa²¹dɔ⁵⁵bɔ³³/
434. stupid:
/jɔ²¹xɑ³³(ε³³)dɤ³³(ŋa³³)/
435. clever: /jɔ³³gɤŋ⁵⁵(ŋa³³)/
436. quick, fast: /jɔ³³γø⁵⁵(γø⁵⁵)/
437. slow: /jɔ³³gɑ³³/
438. early: /jɔ³³ŋa²¹/
439. fat: /jɔ³³tshu⁵⁵/
440. thin: /jɔ³³kɔ⁵⁵/
441. old of age: /ja²¹mɔ²¹/
442. young of age: /ja²¹gu²¹/
443. year: /a⁵⁵xɔ³³/
444. this year: /tsɤ³³nɤ⁵⁵xɔ³³/
445. last year: /mi⁵⁵nɤŋ³³xɔ³³/
446. next year:
/a²¹kha⁵⁵ne³³ja³³xɔ³³/
447. month: /ba³³la³³/
448. this month:
/ba³³la³³xɤ³³ɕi²¹/
449. last month:
/mi⁵⁵nɤ³³nɤŋ³³ɕi²¹/
450. next month:
/xɤ²¹sɤŋ⁵⁵ja³³ta²¹a³³ɕi²¹/
451. now: /ŋuŋ³⁵xɤ²¹la²¹,
xɤ³³ja²¹ma³³,
xɤ³³po³³la²¹/
452. today: /i²¹nɤŋ³³/
453. yesterday: /mi⁵⁵nɤŋ³³/
454. tomorrow: /ŋi³³ɕɤ²¹nɤŋ³³/
455. everyday:
/a²¹jɔ³³nɤŋ³³a²¹jɔ²¹/
456. morning: /u²¹ɕɔ³³phɔ³³/
457. noon: /nɤŋ³³γɤŋ⁵⁵/
458. evening:
/u²¹ɕi³³ɕi²¹thɔ³³/
459. night: /u²¹ɕi³³/
460. rainy season:
/u²¹je⁵⁵je⁵⁵γ³³jam²¹/
461. cold season:
/ɤ²¹ga³³ga³³γ³³jam²¹/
462. above: /la²¹ta³³phɔ³³/
463. below: /dɤŋ²¹dɤŋ³³phɔ³³/
464. inside: /la²¹xø⁵⁵/
465. outside: /la²¹ŋi⁵⁵/
466. front: /bø²¹thε⁵⁵phɔ³³/
467. back: /na⁵⁵xɤŋ³³phɔ³³/
468. north:
/xø⁵⁵ta³³phɔ³³/
469. south:
/dɤŋ²¹dɤŋ³³phɔ³³/
470. east:
/nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³dɔ³³xε²¹/
471. west:
/nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³ga³³xε²¹/
472. far: /γɔ²¹mɔ⁵⁵ŋi²¹kha²¹/
473. near: /dɔ²¹phε³³/
474. to come: /la³³/
475. to go: /i⁵⁵/
476. to return: /o²¹le³³,
o²¹la³³/
477. to enter: /u³³/
478. to exit: /dɔ³³/
479. to climb, to ascend: /da²¹/
480. to descend:
/da²¹kha³³le³³/
481. to fall: /ga³³kha³³/
482. I: /ŋa³³/
483. you, thou: /nɔ³³/
484. he, she: /thɤ³³γa²¹/
485. we: /ŋa³³ma²¹,
a³³dɤ³³ma²¹/
486. you, ye: /nuŋ³³ma²¹/
487. they: /xø⁵⁵bɔ³³ma²¹/
488. who: /a²¹so³³γa²¹/
489. this: /xɤ³³/
490. that: /xø⁵⁵/
491. what: /a²¹dʒε²¹/
492. where:
/a²¹ga³³/
493. why:
/a²¹dʒε³³/
494. very: /jɔ³³xɑ⁵⁵mu²¹a³³/
495. still: /si²¹/
496. I am Akha Chicho.:
/ŋa³³a²¹kha³³γ³³
dʒi²¹dʒɔ³³a²¹ma³³/
497. I am not Akha Chicho.:
/ŋa³³a²¹kha³³γ³³
dʒi²¹dʒɔ³³a³³ma³³
ma²¹ŋu³³/
498. I have three children.
: /ŋa³³ja²¹suŋ³³γa²¹
dʒɔ³³/
499. I came from Vientiane.:
/ŋa³³
xø⁵⁵ba²¹wien²¹ɕaŋ³³=ne³³
la⁵³dε³³/
500. I will go to Vientiane.:
/ŋa³³wien²¹ɕaŋ³³
i⁵⁵dε⁵⁵/