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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).

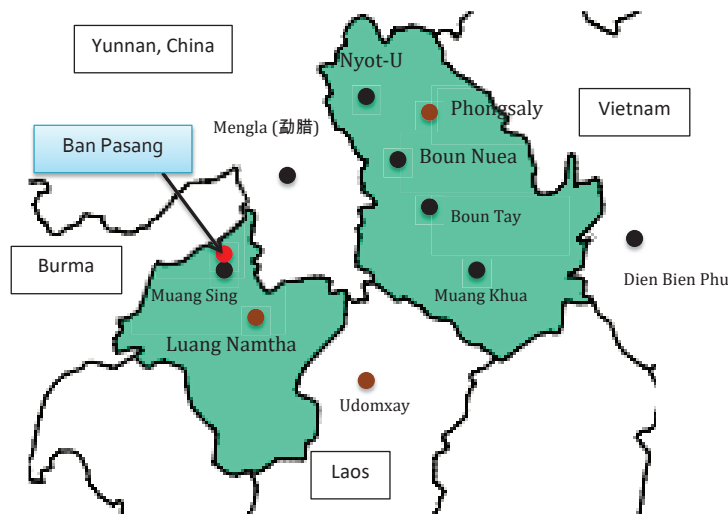


Figure 1: Field Site of Muang Sing, Laos

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	ʈ ɖ
	tsh	ʈh
m	n	ɳ
	s	ɕ
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]: /mɛ²¹gɣɿ²¹pi^{33;55}ŋa³³/ [mɛ²¹gɣɿ²¹pi^{33;55}ŋɐ³³] ‘to get’ (#325), /xɿ³³po³³la²¹/ [xɿ³³po³³lɐ²¹] ‘now’ (#451), /pu²¹/ [pu²¹] ‘to boil’ (#264)

/p^h/ [p^h]: /ka²¹phi²¹/ [kɛ²¹p^hi²¹] ‘to close’ (#297), /(a⁵⁵je³³)pho²¹la⁵⁵/ [(v⁵⁵je³³)p^ho²¹le⁵⁵] ‘to bloom’ (#220), /phu³³/ [p^hu³³] ‘village’ (#283)

/b/ [b]: /xa²¹lo³³bi³³dʒɛ³³/ [xɛ²¹lo³³bi³³dʒɛ³³] ‘gecko’ (#196), /bo²¹da²¹/ [bo²¹dɛ²¹] ‘table’ (#143), /a²¹bu⁵⁵/ [v²¹bu⁵⁵] ‘wife’ (#333)

/t/ [t]: /ti³³/ [ti³³] ‘one’ (#73), /tɔ³³/ [tɔ³³] ‘to ladle’ (#66), /jɔ³³ta³³/ [jɔ³³tɛ³³] ‘salty’ (#383)

/th/ [t^h]: /thi²¹bo³³/ [t^hi²¹bo³³] ‘trunk’ (#214), /jɔ³³thu⁵⁵/ [jɔ³³t^hu⁵⁵] ‘thick’ (#393), /o³³tha²¹/ [o³³t^hɛ²¹] ‘to place’ (#251)

/d/ [d]: /di⁵⁵dɛ³³ni⁵⁵/ [di⁵⁵dɛ³³ni⁵⁵] ‘smooth’ (#397), /du²¹xa²¹/ [du²¹xɛ²¹] ‘saliva’ (#383), /nɤŋ⁵⁵da²¹/ [nɤŋ⁵⁵dɛ²¹] ‘chair’ (#144)

/k/ [k]: /ka³³/ [kɛ³³] ‘bow’ (#327), /kɔ²¹/ [kɔ²¹] ‘to bite’ (#59), /bø²¹ku⁵⁵/ [bø²¹ku⁵⁵] ‘turtle’ (#202)

/kh/ [k^h]: /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/ [k^hɛ⁵⁵ɕu³³] ‘sand’ (#116), /ɕoŋ⁵⁵khɔ³³/ [ɕoŋ⁵⁵k^hɔ³³] ‘rust’ (#118), /khu⁵⁵/ [k^hu⁵⁵] ‘to call’ (#297)

/g/ [g]: /ga⁵⁵ma³³/ [gɛ⁵⁵mɛ³³] ‘road’ (#282), /gɔ²¹dʒɔ²¹/ [gɔ²¹dʒɔ²¹] ‘mountain, hill’ (#361), /ja²¹gu²¹/ [jɛ²¹gu²¹] ‘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 /dʒ/. Currently, the words with /ts/ preceding plain vowels can not be found. Note that the asprate affricates, /tsh/ and /tɕh/, can only precede plain vowels.

/ts/ [ts]: /(a²¹khɯ³³)tsɛ³³/ [(v²¹khɯ³³)tsɛ³³] ‘to bark’ (#180), /la²¹tsɯ²¹/ [lɛ²¹tsɯ²¹] ‘elbow’ (#30), /tsa²¹ly²¹/ [tsɛ²¹ly²¹] ‘salt’ (#255)

/tsh/ [tʰs]: /tshɛ²¹ŋɔ²¹/ [tʰsɛ²¹ŋɔ²¹] ‘plow’ (#251), /tsho²¹dɛ³³/ [tʰsɔ²¹dɛ³³] ‘it thunders’ (#113), /mi⁵⁵tsha²¹/ [mi⁵⁵tʰsɛ²¹] ‘soil, earth’ (#114)

/dz/ [dʒ]: /dʒɛ³³di⁵⁵/ [dʒɛ³³di⁵⁵] ‘to throw’ (#64), /thɤŋ²¹dʒø⁵⁵/ [thɤŋ²¹dʒø⁵⁵] ‘to meet with’ (#361), /dʒa²¹/ [dʒɛ²¹] ‘to eat’ (#57)

/tɕ/ [tɕ]: /u²¹ɕi³³/ [u²¹ɕi³³] ‘night’ (#459), /bja⁵⁵ɕɛ⁵⁵ne⁵⁵/ [bɛ⁵⁵ɕɛ⁵⁵ne⁵⁵] ‘bright’ (#180), /khɯ⁵⁵ɕa²¹ɕa²¹xm³³/ [k^hɯ⁵⁵ɕɛ²¹ɕɛ²¹mm³³] ‘body hair’ (#1)

/tɕh/ [tɕ^h]: /jɔ³³ɕhi²¹/ [jɔ³³ɕ^hi²¹] ‘wet’ (#491), /mi³³ɕhɛ⁵⁵/ [mi³³ɕ^hɛ⁵⁵] ‘knife’ (#371), /dɔ²¹ɕha⁵⁵/ [dɔ²¹ɕ^hɛ⁵⁵] ‘song’ (#310)

/dʒ/ [dʒ]: /a³³dʒi³³/ [v³³dʒi³³] ‘bird’ (#162), /a²¹dʒɛ²¹/ [v²¹dʒɛ²¹] ‘what’ (#491), /dʒa²¹le⁵⁵/ [dʒɛ²¹le⁵⁵] ‘wind’ (#104)

4.1.3 Nasals

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

/m/ [m]: /mɛ²¹la⁵⁵/ [mɛ²¹lɐ⁵⁵] ‘tongue’ (#20), /nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³/ [nuŋ⁵⁵mɐ³³] ‘sun’ (#195), /i⁵⁵mo⁵⁵/ [i⁵⁵mo⁵⁵] ‘to look for’ (#365)

/n/ [n]: /mo⁵⁵nɛ⁵⁵/ [mo⁵⁵nɛ⁵⁵] ‘cattle’ (#182), /na⁵⁵xa²¹/ [nɐ⁵⁵xɐ²¹] ‘to ask’ (#295), /no³³/ [no³³] ‘you, thou’ (#483)

/ɲ/ [ɲ]: /ɲɛ³³/ [ɲɛ³³] ‘to dance’ (#311), /ɕi²¹ɲa³³/ [ɕi²¹ɲɐ³³] ‘to know’ (#371), /a²¹ɲo²¹/ [ɐ²¹ɲo²¹] ‘buffalo’ (#170)

/ŋ/ [ŋ]: /ŋɛ⁵⁵/ [ŋɛ⁵⁵] ‘to forget’ (#373), /ŋa²¹/ [ŋɐ²¹] ‘five’ (#77), /tshe²¹ŋɔ²¹/ [tshɛ²¹ŋɔ²¹] ‘plow’ (#251)

4.1.4 Fricatives

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

/s/ [s]: /thi³³sɛ⁵⁵/ [tʰi³³sɛ⁵⁵] ‘one hundred thousand’ (#92), /the⁵⁵sa⁵⁵/ [tʰɛ⁵⁵sɐ⁵⁵] ‘sound, noise’ (#410), /so⁵⁵mɯ²¹ja²¹ɲi⁵⁵/ [so⁵⁵mɯ²¹jɐ²¹ɲi⁵⁵] ‘rich’ (#291)

/ɕ/ [ɕ]: /ɕɛ³³mo³³/ [ɕɛ³³mo³³] ‘louse’ (#325), /ɕa²¹xo³³/ [ɕɐ²¹xo³³] ‘skin’ (#2), /jo³³ɕɔ⁵⁵/ [jo³³ɕɔ⁵⁵] ‘clean’ (#428)

/x/ [x]: /nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³dɔ³³xɛ²¹/ [nuŋ⁵⁵mɐ³³dɔ³³xɛ²¹] ‘east’ (#470), /xa²¹mɛ³³/ [xɐ²¹mɛ³³] ‘mouth’ (#19), /xo³³/ [xo³³] ‘to look’ (#53)

/ɣ/ [ɣ]: /ɣø²¹/ [ɣø²¹] ‘nine’ (#81), /sɯ²¹ɣa²¹/ [sɯ²¹ɣɐ²¹] ‘paper’ (#305), /ɣɔ⁵⁵mo⁵⁵/ [ɣɔ⁵⁵mo⁵⁵] ‘back’ (#52)

4.1.5 Approximants

/w/ occurs mainly in Tai-Lao loanwords.

/w/ [w]: /wieŋ²¹ɕaŋ³³/ [wjieŋ²¹ɕɛŋ³³] ‘Vientiane’ (#499, #500), /wa³³/ [wɛ³³] ‘temple’ (#358), /a⁵⁵phja³³lu³³wa³³/ [ɐ⁵⁵pʰjɐ³³lu³³wɛ³³] ‘spider’ (#188)

/l/ [l]: /dza²¹lɛ⁵⁵/ [dzɐ²¹lɛ⁵⁵] ‘wind’ (#104), /mɛ²¹la⁵⁵/ [mɛ²¹lɐ⁵⁵] ‘tongue’ (#20), /lo⁵⁵ba²¹/ [lo⁵⁵ba²¹] ‘river’ (#126)

/j/ [j~j]: /u²¹jɛ⁵⁵/ [u²¹jɛ⁵⁵] ‘rain’ (#106), /mi²¹ja²¹/ [mi²¹jɐ²¹] ‘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^{ih}]: /jɔ³³phja⁵⁵/ [jɔ³³p^{ih}ɐ⁵⁵] ‘light (weight)’ (#411), /khu³³phju⁵⁵/ [k^hu³³p^{ih}u⁵⁵] ‘sweat’ (#6), /ŋa³³phjɔ²¹/ [ŋɐ³³phjɔ²¹] ‘face’ (#14)

/bj/ [bⁱ]: /jɔ³³bja³³/ [jɔ³³bⁱɐ³³] ‘light’ (#108), /ɣa²¹bja²¹/ [ɣɐ²¹bⁱɐ²¹] ‘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]: /u²¹du²¹tshe⁵⁵khɤŋ⁵⁵/ [u²¹du²¹ts^hɐ⁵⁵k^həŋ⁵⁵] ‘hair’ (#12), /khɤŋ²¹lɤŋ⁵⁵/ [k^həŋ²¹ləŋ⁵⁵] ‘neck’ (#23), /na³³bɤŋ²¹/ [nɐ³³bəŋ²¹] ‘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/ [ɐ²¹ṁṁ³³] ‘mushroom’ (#226), /dɔ²¹xm²¹/ [dɔ²¹ṁṁ²¹] ‘buttocks’ (#39), /jɔ³³dzm²¹/ [jɔ³³dṁ²¹] ‘raw’ (#420), /dm³³/ [dṁ³³] ‘to wear’ (#280)

Note that /xm/ is phonetically articulated like [ṁṁ], 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: /tṱ³³/ and /thi³³/. When it comes at the final position, it should be /tṱ³³/, while at the other positions, /thi³³/.

one	/tṱ 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)	u	u	ĩ		ũ	ũ
e	ø	ɤ	o	ẽ	ø̃	ɥ̃	õ
ɛ			ɔ	ɛ̃			ɔ̃
		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]: /xa²¹lo³³bi³³dʒɛ³³/ [xɛ²¹lo³³bi³³dʒɛ³³] ‘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), /do²¹khe²¹/ [do²¹k^he²¹] ‘feces’ (#40), /tshe⁵⁵/ [tsh^he⁵⁵] ‘ten’ (#82)

/ø/ [ø]: /ci²¹lø³³ma⁵⁵dʒi²¹/ [ci²¹lø³³mɛ⁵⁵dʒi²¹] ‘orange’ (#243), /xo²¹bø²¹/ [xo²¹bø²¹] ‘roof’ (#130), /yø²¹/ [yø²¹] ‘nine’ (#81)

/ɛ/ [ɛ]: /dza²¹lɛ⁵⁵/ [dza²¹lɛ⁵⁵] ‘wind’ (#104), /ci²¹bɛ²¹tɕhe³³/ [ci²¹bɛ²¹tɕ^hɛ³³] ‘tamarind’ (#245), /tshe²¹ŋo²¹/ [tsh^hɛ²¹ŋo²¹] ‘plow’ (#251)

/a/ [ɐ]: /mɛ²¹la⁵⁵/ [mɛ²¹lɛ⁵⁵] ‘tongue’ (#20), /dʒi⁵⁵ba²¹/ [dʒi⁵⁵bɛ²¹] ‘wine’ (#259), /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/ [k^hɛ⁵⁵ɕu³³] ‘sand’ (#116)

/ɔ/ [ɔ]: /a³³lo³³/ [ɛ³³lo³³] ‘snake’ (#195), /a³³bo³³/ [ɛ³³bo³³] ‘tree’ (#212), /tsho²¹du²¹/ [tsh^ho²¹du²¹] ‘floor’ (#137)

/o/ [o]: /phɛ⁵⁵ɕu⁵⁵do²¹lo³³/ [p^hɛ⁵⁵ɕu⁵⁵do²¹lo³³] ‘priest’ (#359), /bo²¹da²¹/ [bo²¹da²¹] ‘table’ (#143), /tsho²¹dɛ³³/ [tsh^ho²¹dɛ³³] ‘it thunders’ (#113),

/ɤ/ [ɤ]: /yɔ³³mɤ⁵⁵lɤ⁵⁵mɤ³³/ [yɔ³³mɤ⁵⁵lɤ⁵⁵mɤ³³] ‘tomato’ (#235), /bɤ³³kha³³/ [bɤ³³k^hɛ³³] ‘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)

/ʉ/ [ʉ]: /jɔ³³mu²¹/ [jɔ³³mu²¹] ‘good’ (#422), /khu⁵⁵ɕa²¹ɕa²¹xm³³/ [k^hu⁵⁵ɕɛ²¹ɕɛ²¹ɲm³³] ‘body hair’ (#1), /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/ [k^hɛ⁵⁵ɕu³³] ‘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]: /mja²¹bi³³/ [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), /a²¹ɣø³³/ [ɛ²¹ɣø³³] ‘uncle’ (#344)

/ɛ/ [ɛ]: /bɛ²¹la³³/ [bɛ²¹lɛ³³] ‘to smell’ (#56), /dɔ²¹tsa²¹tsa²¹nɛ²¹ɣ³³/ [dɔ²¹tsɛ²¹tsɛ²¹nɛ²¹ɣ³³] ‘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), /ɣɔ³³/ [ɣɔ³³] ‘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]: /mja³³nɣ³³/ [mⁱɛ³³nɣ³³] ‘eyes’ (#16), /bɣ³³ja²¹/ [bɣ³³jɛ²¹] ‘musket’ (#206), /a³³dɣ³³ma²¹/ [ɛ³³dɣ³³mɛ²¹] ‘we’ (#485)

/u/ [u]: /la²¹du³³/ [lɛ²¹du³³] ‘arm’ (#29), /u⁵⁵ɬu³³/ [u⁵⁵ɬu³³] ‘water’ (#124), /xa³³u³³/ [xɛ³³u³³] ‘egg’ (#164)

/ɯ/ [ɯ]: /a⁵⁵bɯ³³/ [ɛ⁵⁵bɯ³³] ‘covering’ (#140), /phɔ²¹tsɯ²¹/ [p^hɔ²¹tsɯ²¹] ‘knee’ (#50), /jɔ³³ɬɯ²¹/ [jɔ³³ɬɯ²¹] ‘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), /kha⁵⁵ɬu³³/ [k^hɛ⁵⁵ɬu³³] ‘sand’ (#116), /mɔ⁵⁵la⁵⁵/ [mɔ⁵⁵lɛ⁵⁵] ‘to see’ (#53), /a⁵⁵lu³³/ [ɛ⁵⁵lu³³] ‘butterfly’ (#191)

/33/ [33]: /ɣa³³na³³na³³/ [ɣɛ³³nɛ³³nɛ³³] ‘to rest’ (#315), /bɣ³³kha³³/ [bɣ³³k^hɛ³³] ‘mosquito net’ (#142), /ɛɛ³³mɔ³³/ [ɛɛ³³mɔ³³] ‘louse’ (#325), /a⁵⁵ɬa³³/ [ɛ⁵⁵ɬɛ³³] ‘rope’ (#154)

/21/ [21]: /na²¹mɔ³³/ [nɛ²¹mɔ³³] ‘(medical) doctor’ (#354), /ɣɔ²¹mɔ⁵⁵ni²¹kha²¹/ [ɣɔ²¹mɔ⁵⁵ni²¹k^hɛ²¹] ‘far’ (#472), /ja²¹mɔ²¹/ [jɛ²¹mɔ²¹] ‘old of age’ (#441), /la²¹ɬa⁵⁵/ [lɛ²¹ɬ^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), /nɯŋ³⁵xɿ²¹la²¹/ [nɯŋ³⁵xɿ²¹lɛ²¹] ‘now’ (#451)

/53/ [53]: /ɣɿ³³lɛ⁵⁵ŋa⁵³/ [ɣɿ³³lɛ⁵⁵ŋɐ⁵³] ‘to sun clothes’ (#273), /ju⁵⁵ʈhø⁵⁵ŋa⁵³/ [ju⁵⁵ʈ^hø⁵⁵ŋɐ⁵³] ‘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	ʈ dz
	tsh	ʈh
m	n	ɲ
	s z	ɕ j
	l	x ɣ

[Plain]	[Creaky]
i y ʉ u	ĩ ỹ ʉ̰ ṵ
e ø ɤ o	ẽ ø̰ ɤ̰ ɔ̰
ɛ	ɛ̰
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’	/ɕa ²¹ jø ²¹ /	/ɕa ²¹ jø ²¹ /
‘blood’	/ɕi ²¹ /	/ɕi ²¹ /
‘to eat’	/dza ²¹ /	/dza ²¹ /
‘sand’	/kha ⁵⁵ ɕur ³³ /	/kha ⁵⁵ ɕɿ ²¹ /
‘sky’	/uŋ ²¹ ɣuŋ ²¹ /	/m ²¹ /
‘spider’	/a ⁵⁵ phja ³³ lu ³³ wa ³³ /	/a ²¹ ʈha ⁵⁵ ʈha ⁵⁵ go ²¹ /
‘cicada’	/a ⁵⁵ ɕɿ ⁵⁵ ɕɿ ⁵⁵ no ³³ /	/a ²¹ dze ²¹ /
‘easy’	/jo ³³ ja ⁵⁵ /	/jɿ ³³ ɣ̰ 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	ʈ dz
	tsh	ʈh
m	n	ɲ
	s	ɕ
w	l	j

[Plain]	[Creaky]
i (y) ʉ u	ĩ ʉ̰ ṵ
e ø ɤ o	ẽ ø̰ ɤ̰ ɔ̰
ɛ	ɛ̰
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, /ti³³/ 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 t̥a ²¹ t̥a ²¹ x̥m ³³ / | 22. beard/ mustache:
/mɛ ²¹ m̥ɣ̃ ²¹ / | 45. to have a fever:
/tɕɛ ²¹ th̥ɣ̃ ⁵⁵ th̥ɣ̃ ⁵⁵
phja ²¹ phja ²¹ / |
| 2. skin:
/ba ³³ xo ³³ , ɕa ²¹ xo ³³ / | 23. neck: /kh̥ɣ̃ ²¹ l̥ɣ̃ ⁵⁵ / | 46. to give birth: /ja ²¹ phu ²¹ / |
| 3. bone: /ɕa ²¹ j̥ɔ ²¹ / | 24. throat: /kh̥ɣ̃ ²¹ b̥j̥ɣ̃ 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 bi 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 tsu ²¹ / |
| 7. pus: /ɕa ²¹ t̥hi ²¹ / | 28. left-hand: /la ²¹ t̥ha ⁵⁵ / | 51. tendon: /ɕa ²¹ gu ²¹ / |
| 8. saliva: /du ²¹ xa ²¹ / | 29. arm: /la ²¹ du ³³ / | 52. back: /ɣɔ ⁵⁵ mɔ ⁵⁵ / |
| 9. phlegm:
/u ²¹ t̥shu ³³ t̥shu ²¹ pɛ ³³ / | 30. elbow: /la ²¹ tsu ²¹ / | 53. to see, to look: /mɔ ⁵⁵ la ⁵⁵ ,
xɔ ³³ / |
| 10. head: /u ²¹ du ²¹ / | 31. palm: /la ²¹ xɔ ³³ / | 54. to seek: /dza ⁵⁵ t̥ho ³³ / |
| 11. forehead: /na ⁵⁵ xɔ ⁵⁵ / | 32. finger: /la ²¹ n̥ɔ 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 t̥shɛ ⁵⁵ kh̥ɣ̃ ⁵⁵ / | 33. fingernail: /la ²¹ s̥ɣ̃ ²¹ / | 56. to smell: /bɛ ²¹ la ³³ / |
| 13. comb:
/u ²¹ du ²¹ ka ³³ / | 34. breast: /nuŋ ³³ x̥ɣ̃ ²¹ / | 57. to eat: /dza ²¹ / |
| 14. face: /na ³³ phjɔ ²¹ / | 35. nipple: /a ²¹ t̥h̥ɔ ⁵⁵ / | 58. to drink: /dɔ ⁵⁵ / |
| 15. eyebrow:
/mja ³³ n̥ɣ̃ ³³ mja ³³ x̥ɣ̃ ⁵⁵ / | 36. waist: /dɔ ⁵⁵ tsu ²¹ / | 59. to bite: /kɔ ²¹ / |
| 16. eyes: /mja ³³ n̥ɣ̃ ³³ / | 37. belly: /u ²¹ ma ³³ / | 60. to hold with the hand:
/ɲi ²¹ the ²¹ / |
| 17. ears: /na ³³ pa ³³ / | 38. navel:
/b̥ɔ ³³ l̥ɔ ³³ t̥a ³³ th̥ɣ̃ ²¹ / | 61. to put, to place in/ on:
/o ³³ tha ²¹ / |
| 18. nose: /na ³³ b̥ɣ̃ ²¹ / | 39. buttocks: /dɔ ²¹ x̥m ²¹ / | 62. to push:
/th̥ɣ̃ ²¹ , dɛ ²¹ dze ³³ / |
| 19. mouth: /xa ²¹ m̥ɛ ³³ / | 40. feces: /dɔ ²¹ khe ²¹ / | 63. to pull: /ɣ̃ ³³ / |
| 20. tongue: /mɛ ²¹ la ⁵⁵ / | 41. to defecate: /dɔ ²¹ khe ²¹ / | 64. to throw: /dze ³³ di ⁵⁵ / |
| 21. teeth: /s̥ɣ̃ ²¹ / | 42. urine: /ɣ̃ ⁵⁵ ɕy ³³ / | 65. to pick up: /o ³³ / |
| | 43. to urinate: /ɣ̃ ⁵⁵ ɕy ³³ ɕy ³³ / | 66. to ladle: /t̥ɔ ³³ / |
| | 44. to expel intestinal gas:
/u ²¹ xa ²¹ phe ²¹ / | |

67. to walk: /tshɿŋ³³/
68. to stop: /thɿŋ⁵⁵dʒɔ⁵⁵/
69. to run: /tɕi⁵⁵tshø²¹tshø²¹/
70. to sit: /dɔ²¹nɿ⁵⁵nɿ⁵⁵/
71. to stand up: /ɤɔ²¹jɔ²¹jɔ²¹/
72. to cough: /u²¹tshø²¹tshø²¹/
73. one: /ti³³/
74. two: /ni²¹/
75. three: /suŋ⁵⁵/
76. four: /o²¹/
77. five: /ŋa²¹/
78. six: /kɔ²¹/
79. seven: /ɕi³³/
80. eight: /jɛ³³/
81. nine: /ɤø²¹/
82. ten: /tshe⁵⁵/
83. eleven: /tshe⁵⁵ti³³/
84. twelve: /tshe⁵⁵ni³³/
85. twenty: /ni³³tshe⁵⁵/
86. ninety nine:
/ɤø²¹tshe⁵⁵ɤø²¹/
87. one hundred: /thi³³ja⁵⁵/
88. one hundred and one:
/thi³³ja⁵⁵ti³³/
89. one hundred and ten:
/ti²¹ja⁵⁵tshe⁵⁵/
90. one thousand:
/thi³³ba²¹/
91. ten thousand:
/tshe⁵⁵ba²¹/
92. one hundred thousand:
/thi³³sɛ⁵⁵/
93. one million: /thi³³la²¹/
94. many: /ɤɔ³³mja⁵⁵ni⁵⁵/
95. few: /jɔ³³ni⁵⁵/
96. all: /dɔ³³tɔ⁵⁵ni⁵⁵/
97. only: /~tɛ³³/
98. sky: /uŋ²¹ɤuŋ²¹/
99. cloud: /u²¹duŋ³³/
100. fog: /tshɿ²¹/
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: /jɔ³³ɤɿŋ⁵⁵/
112. thunder: /u²¹dʒɛ²¹dʒɛ²¹/
113. it thunders: /tsho²¹dɛ³³/
114. soil, earth: /mi⁵⁵tsha²¹/
115. stone: /xa²¹lɔ³³/
116. sand: /kha⁵⁵ɕu³³/
117. iron: /ɕom⁵⁵~ɕoŋ⁵⁵/
118. rust: /ɕoŋ⁵⁵khɔ³³/
119. gold: /ɕu⁵⁵/
120. silver: /phju⁵⁵/
121. copper: /ɤu²¹/
122. hill, mountain:
/gɔ²¹dʒɔ²¹/
123. valley: /ga²¹ɿŋ⁵⁵ɤ³³/
124. water: /u⁵⁵ɕu³³/
125. lake: /lɔŋ³³ma³³/
126. river:
/lɔ⁵⁵ba²¹/
127. fire: /mi²¹dʒa²¹/
128. smoke: /u²¹xø²¹/
129. house: /nuŋ³³~juŋ³³/
130. roof: /xɔ²¹bø²¹/
131. grave: /tshɔ³³ɕi³³mɔ³³du²¹/
132. to open: /phɿŋ³³/
133. to close: /ka²¹phi²¹/
134. pillar: /dɿŋ³³lɿŋ³³/
135. door: /lɛ⁵⁵ɔ³³/
136. window: /lɛ⁵⁵ɔ³³ja²¹/
137. floor: /tshɔ²¹du²¹/
138. key: /mɔ²¹tɔ²¹tɔ²¹du⁵⁵/
139. mat: /gɔ²¹phu³³/
140. covering: /a⁵⁵bu³³/
141. pillow: /uŋ³³ɤuŋ³³pha⁵⁵ɕi²¹/
142. mosquito net: /bɿ³³kha³³/
143. table: /bo²¹da²¹/
144. chair: /nɿŋ⁵⁵da²¹/
145. to sweep: /ja³³phjɔ⁵⁵ja³³/

146. to splash water: /u⁵⁵ɸu²¹ɕɛ³³dʒɛ³³/
147. knife: /mi³³ɸhɛ⁵⁵/
148. sword: /mi⁵⁵ɸhɛ⁵⁵thɤŋ³³ma³³/
149. sickle: /jɛ³³xo³³/
150. to cut: /dɤ³³xɛ³³, jɛ²¹/
151. nail: /ɕoŋ⁵⁵ɸhɛ³³/
152. ladder: /dɔ²¹dzuŋ³³/
153. basket: /xa³³dza³³/
154. rope: /a⁵⁵ɸa³³/
155. stick: /go²¹jɔ²¹/
156. tail: /dɔ²¹mi²¹/
157. horn: /u²¹ɸhɔ⁵⁵/
158. wing: /a²¹dɤŋ⁵⁵/
159. tiger: /xa²¹la²¹/
160. elephant: /ja³³ma³³/
161. mouse: /xu³³ɸa²¹/
162. bird: /a³³dʒi³³/
163. to fly: /ɤ²¹a²¹/
164. egg: /xa³³u³³/
165. to lay egg: /u³³kha³³/
166. sparrow: /xa²¹dʒa⁵⁵/
167. crow: /ɔ²¹a²¹/
168. hawk: /xa²¹dʒɛ⁵⁵/
169. peacock: /ɕoŋ⁵⁵dɔ²¹/
170. buffalo: /a²¹no²¹/
171. cat: /a³³mi⁵⁵/
172. beef: /mo⁵⁵nɛ⁵⁵ɕa²¹dʒi⁵⁵/
173. pig: /a³³ya³³/
174. pork: /a³³ya³³ɕa²¹dʒi⁵⁵/
175. monkey: /a⁵⁵mjo²¹/
176. horse: /moŋ²¹/
177. rabbit: /xo³³/
178. bear: /xa²¹xm⁵⁵/
179. dog: /a²¹khɤ²¹/
180. to bark: /a²¹khɤ³³tɕɛ³³/
181. goat: /ɸi³³mɛ³³/
182. cattle: /mo⁵⁵nɛ⁵⁵/
183. chicken: /a²¹xa³³ɕa²¹dʒi⁵⁵/
184. duck: /ɔ²¹a³³/
185. bee: /ya²¹bja²¹/
186. fly: /bo²¹sa³³a²¹ma³³/
187. mosquito: /ɸha⁵⁵go³³a⁵⁵mo⁵⁵/
188. spider: /a⁵⁵phja³³lu³³wa³³/
189. maggot: /lu³³thɤŋ²¹/
190. ant: /a⁵⁵xo³³/
191. butterfly: /a⁵⁵lu³³/
192. cicada: /a⁵⁵ɕɤ⁵⁵ɕɤ⁵⁵no³³/
193. earthworm: /bu²¹dʒɔ³³/
194. centipede: /la²¹ma³³ɸhi⁵⁵ɕɛ⁵⁵/
195. snake: /a³³lo³³/
196. gecko: /xa²¹lo³³lo³³dʒi⁵⁵, xa²¹lo³³bi³³dʒɛ³³/
197. fish: /ŋa²¹ɕa²¹/
198. shrimp: /ŋi³³bɤŋ³³ɸhu⁵⁵xo³³/
199. crab: /a⁵⁵kha³³/
200. frog: /xa²¹pha²¹, xa²¹pha³³pha²¹ɸa²¹/
201. eel: /dɛ³³sɔ³³/
202. turtle: /bo²¹ku⁵⁵, bo²¹bja³³/
203. to fish with a rod: /ŋa²¹dʒɤ³³dʒɤ³³/
204. to hunt: /ɕa²¹thɛ³³, a²¹dʒi³³bɤ³³/
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: /ɤ³³lo³³ŋi³³xɤ²¹la⁵⁵/
218. to wither: /ɤ³³i⁵⁵/
219. flower: /a⁵⁵jɛ³³/

220. to bloom:
/a⁵⁵je³³ pho²¹la⁵⁵/
221. poppy: /je²¹je³³a⁵⁵je³³/
222. thorn: /a²¹gɣŋ³³/
223. bean: /a³³bɛ³³/
224. bamboo: /xa²¹dʒɔ³³/
225. bamboo shoot: /a³³bɔ²¹/
226. mushroom: /a²¹xm³³/
227. paddy plant: /tɕhɛ³³bo³³/
228. rice:
/xo²¹, tɕhɛ³³/
229. corn: /a⁵⁵du³³,
a²¹tɕɣ²¹/
230. wax gourd: /ɣ⁵⁵phu²¹/
231. cucumber: /ɕi²¹xo²¹/
232. bitter melon: /la²¹xa²¹/
233. pumpkin: /ma³³dɛ³³/
234. eggplant: /ma³³xɣ³³/
235. tomato:
/ɣo³³mɣ⁵⁵lɣ⁵⁵mɣ³³/
236. papaya:
/dɛ³³ma³³ŋa⁵⁵ɔ³³/
237. sesame: /nuŋ²¹ɕi²¹/
238. peanut: /nɣŋ³³phɣŋ²¹/
239. ginger: /tsho²¹tsu²¹/
240. fruit: /a⁵⁵ɕi²¹/
241. banana: /ŋa³³bɛ³³/
242. mango:
/dʒa⁵⁵ɔ²¹(a⁵⁵ɕi²¹)/
243. orange:
/ɕi²¹lɔ³³ma⁵⁵dʒi²¹/
244. mangosteen: —
245. tamarind:
/ɕi²¹bɛ²¹tɕhɛ³³/
246. hogplums: —
247. jackfruits: /ma⁵⁵mi²¹/
248. sugar cane: /pho²¹tɕhɔ⁵⁵/
249. betel nut:
/mɛ⁵⁵lɔ⁵⁵a⁵⁵ɕi²¹/
250. to plant: /kha³³/
251. plow: /tshe²¹ŋo²¹/
252. irrigated field: /dɛ³³ma³³/
253. upland field: /ja³³/
254. oil: /ɣa²¹tshi⁵⁵/
255. salt: /tsa²¹lɣ²¹/
256. sugar:
/tsa²¹lɣ²¹tsa²¹tɕhɔ⁵⁵/
257. chilli: /la²¹phi⁵⁵/
258. tea: /lɔ⁵⁵bo²¹/
259. wine: /dʒi⁵⁵ba²¹/
260. cigarette/ tobacco:
/ja⁵⁵xo²¹,
ja⁵⁵xo²¹xo²¹xa³³/
261. to cook rice:
/xo²¹ɣŋ⁵⁵ɣŋ⁵⁵/
262. firewood:
/mi²¹dza³³(mi²¹
kho²¹)/
263. pot: /ɔ²¹lɣŋ²¹/
264. to boil: /pu²¹/
265. to roast: /pɣ³³/
266. cloth:
/ɣo³³mo³³mɛ²¹tsho²¹/
267. to sew: /mɛ²¹tsho²¹gu²¹/
268. needle: /a²¹ɣo²¹/
269. thread:
/a²¹ɣo²¹khɣŋ⁵⁵mi³³/
270. to knit: /kha⁵⁵ja³³jɣ²¹/
271. to dye: /sa³³pha⁵⁵na³³/
272. to wash clothes:
/lɛ²¹tshi²¹/
273. to sun clothes:
/ɣɣ³³lɔ²¹,
ɣɣ³³lɛ⁵⁵ŋa⁵³,
u²¹tsha⁵⁵lɔ²¹/
274. clothes:
/phɛ³³xɣŋ²¹mi²¹tɕhɛ⁵⁵/
275. hat: /u²¹xo³³/
276. button: /phɛ³³tɔ²¹/
277. shoes: /sɛ²¹nɔ³³/
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 mɿ²¹ ja²¹ ɲi⁵⁵/
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 ɿ³³ dɔ²¹/
299. Lao language:
/la²¹ o³³ dɔ²¹/
300. Chinese language:
/la²¹ bɿ³³ ɿ³³ dɔ²¹/
301. to write: /sɿ²¹ bɔ²¹ bɔ²¹/
302. to read: /sɿ²¹ ya²¹ ɿ³³/
303. letter:
/dɔ²¹ tsa²¹ tsa²¹ nɛ²¹ ɿ³³/
304. book: /sɿ²¹ ya²¹ pha⁵⁵ dɿ²¹/
305. paper: /sɿ²¹ ya²¹/
306. to stick: /mɿ²¹ ɿ³³ lɛ⁵⁵/
307. to play: /ɲi⁵⁵ ɿ³³/
308. story: /dɔ³³ mɔ³³ dɔ³³ ɔ⁵⁵/
309. to tell a story:
/dɔ³³ dɔ³³ ɛ³³ dʒa³³/
310. song: /dɔ²¹ tʃa⁵⁵/
311. to dance: /ɲɛ³³/
312. to win: /thi³³ ya³³ i³³ ma³³ bi⁵⁵ dʒa⁵⁵/
313. to lose a game:
/ma³³ ya³³ lɛ⁵⁵ ɲa³³/
314. to get tired: /ya²¹ dɔ⁵⁵ dɔ⁵⁵/
315. to rest: /ya³³ na³³ na³³/
316. to sleep: /ju²¹ xa³³/
317. to dream: /ju²¹ ma³³ ma³³/
318. to get up:
/ju²¹ xa³³ ɿ³³ thu⁵⁵ ɔ²¹/
319. to die: /ɕi⁵⁵ xa³³/
320. age: /a⁵⁵ xɔ³³/
321. to be ill: /ma²¹ jɛ⁵⁵ ɲa³³/
322. painful: /mɔ⁵⁵ du³³ na⁵⁵/
323. to hiccough:
/ɿ⁵⁵ tɿ³³ tɿ³³ ɲa³³/
324. to talk in one's sleep:
/dɔ²¹ dʒa³³ dʒa³³ ma³³ ma³³/
325. louse: /ɕɛ³³ mɔ³³/
326. medicine: /dʒa³³ ya²¹/
327. bow: /ka³³/
328. arrow: /ka³³ mja²¹/
329. name: /tʃɔ⁵⁵ mɿ²¹ ɿ³³/
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 gɔ³³/
338. younger brother:
/a²¹ ɲi⁵⁵/
339. elder sister: /a⁵⁵ jɿ³³/
340. younger sister:
/du⁵⁵ ma³³/
341. grandfather: /a²¹ bɔ⁵⁵/
342. grandmother: /a²¹ phi²¹/
343. grandchild: /ɔ²¹ pha²¹/
344. uncle:
/a²¹ ɿ⁵⁵, a²¹ ɿ³³, a²¹ mɿ³³/
345. aunt: /a²¹ xo²¹, a³³ jɿ²¹, tʃhi⁵⁵ ma³³/
346. cousin: /a²¹ tʃɿ²¹ ɿ³³/
347. friend:
/bɔ³³ gɔ²¹/
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 ɿ³³ a²¹ ma³³/
352. Lao people:
/la²¹ ɔ³³ ɿ³³ tʃɔ⁵⁵ xa²¹/
353. Chinese people:
/la²¹ bɿ²¹ ɿ³³ tʃɔ⁵⁵ xa²¹/
354. doctor: /na²¹ mɔ³³/
355. teacher: /na²¹ khu²¹, a³³ tʃa³³/
356. shaman: /ɲi⁵⁵ 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: /w⁵⁵/
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: /jɔ³³mw²¹/
423. bad: /ma²¹mw²¹/
424. difficult: /jɔ³³xə³³/
425. easy: /jɔ³³ja⁵⁵/
426. expensive: /jɔ³³phø²¹/
427. cheap: /ju⁵⁵ɕhø⁵⁵ŋa⁵³/
428. clean: /jɔ³³ɕo⁵⁵/
429. dirty: /jɔ³³ɕa²¹/
430. gentle:
/nuŋ³³ma³³jɔ³³mw²¹/
431. angry:
/nuŋ³³ma³³jɔ³³xə²¹/

432. happy, glad:
/jɔ³³mu²¹mu²¹ɛ⁵⁵dʒɔ⁵⁵/
433. ashamed: /ɕa²¹dɔ⁵⁵bɔ³³/
434. stupid:
/jɔ²¹xɑ³³(ɛ³³) dɤ³³(ŋa³³)/
435. clever: /jɔ³³gɤŋ⁵⁵(ŋa³³)/
436. quick, fast: /jɔ³³ʏɔ⁵⁵(ʏɔ⁵⁵)/
437. slow: /jɔ³³ga³³/
438. early: /jɔ³³na²¹/
439. fat: /jɔ³³tshu⁵⁵/
440. thin: /jɔ³³ko⁵⁵/
441. old of age: /ja²¹mo²¹/
442. young of age: /ja²¹gu²¹/
443. year: /a⁵⁵xo³³/
444. this year: /tsɤ³³nɤ⁵⁵xo³³/
445. last year: /mi⁵⁵nɤŋ³³xo³³/
446. next year:
/a²¹kha⁵⁵ne³³ja³³xo³³/
447. month: /ba³³la³³/
448. this month:
/ba³³la³³xɤ³³ɕi²¹/
449. last month:
/mi⁵⁵nɤ³³nɤŋ³³ɕi²¹/
450. next month:
/xɤ²¹sɤŋ⁵⁵ja³³ta²¹a³³ɕi²¹/
451. now: /ɲuŋ³⁵xɤ²¹la²¹,
xɤ³³ja²¹ma³³,
xɤ³³po³³la²¹/
452. today: /i²¹nɤŋ³³/
453. yesterday: /mi⁵⁵nɤŋ³³/
454. tomorrow: /ɲi³³ɕɤ²¹nɤŋ³³/
455. everyday:
/a²¹jɔ³³nɤŋ³³a²¹jɔ²¹/
456. morning: /u²¹ɕɔ³³phɔ³³/
457. noon: /nɤŋ³³ʏɤŋ⁵⁵/
458. evening:
/u²¹ɕi³³ɕi²¹thɔ³³/
459. night: /u²¹ɕi³³/
460. rainy season:
/u²¹jɛ⁵⁵jɛ⁵⁵ɤ³³jam²¹/
461. cold season:
/ɤ²¹ga³³ga³³ɤ³³jam²¹/
462. above: /la²¹ta³³phɔ³³/
463. below: /dɤŋ²¹dɤŋ³³phɔ³³/
464. inside: /la²¹xɔ⁵⁵/
465. outside: /la²¹ɲi⁵⁵/
466. front: /bɔ²¹thɛ⁵⁵phɔ³³/
467. back: /na⁵⁵xɤŋ³³phɔ³³/
468. north:
/xɔ⁵⁵ta³³phɔ³³/
469. south:
/dɤŋ²¹dɤŋ³³phɔ³³/
470. east:
/nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³dɔ³³xɛ²¹/
471. west:
/nuŋ⁵⁵ma³³ga³³xɛ²¹/
472. far: /ɤɔ²¹mo⁵⁵ɲi²¹kha²¹/
473. near: /dɔ²¹phɛ³³/
474. to come: /la³³/
475. to go: /i⁵⁵/
476. to return: /o²¹le³³,
o²¹la³³/
477. to enter: /u³³/
478. to exit: /do³³/
479. to climb, to ascend: /da²¹/
480. to descend:
/da²¹kha³³le³³/
481. to fall: /ga³³kha³³/
482. I: /ŋa³³/
483. you, thou: /no³³/
484. he, she: /thɤ³³ya²¹/
485. we: /ŋa³³ma²¹,
a³³dɤ³³ma²¹/
486. you, ye: /nuŋ³³ma²¹/
487. they: /xɔ⁵⁵bɔ³³ma²¹/
488. who: /a²¹so³³ya²¹/
489. this: /xɤ³³/
490. that: /xɔ⁵⁵/
491. what: /a²¹dʒɛ²¹/
492. where:
/a²¹ga³³/
493. why:
/a²¹dʒɛ³³/
494. very: /jɔ³³xɑ⁵⁵mu²¹a³³/
495. still: /si²¹/
496. I am Akha Chicho.:
/ŋa³³ a²¹kha³³ɤ³³
dʒi²¹dʒɔ³³a²¹ma³³/
497. I am not Akha Chicho.:
/ŋa³³ a²¹kha³³ɤ³³
dʒi²¹dʒɔ³³a³³ma³³
ma²¹ɲu³³/
498. I have three children.
: /ŋa³³ ja²¹ suŋ³³ya²¹
dʒɔ³³/
499. I came from Vientiane.:
/ŋa³³
xɔ⁵⁵ba²¹wien²¹ɕaŋ³³=ne³³
la⁵³dɛ³³/
500. I will go to Vientiane.:
/ŋa³³ wien²¹ɕaŋ³³
i⁵⁵dɛ⁵⁵/