

Hakha Lai

Due: March 11, 2025

Directions

According to Larry Hyman, Hakha Lai is “a Tibeto-Burman language of the Kuki-Chin subgroup spoken in Chin State, Burma, and parts of Mizoram State, India.” In this assignment, provide a phonological analysis of the tonal alternations in Hakha Lai. As always, this includes identifying underlying forms and processes.

For this assignment present an analysis of the tonal alternations in Hakha Lai. You are welcome to use constraints, rules, or a mix as you see fit. As usual, justify the linguistic generalizations and underlying forms. Make any assumptions and representational choices you make clear. Illustrate your formal analysis with well-chosen examples. Explain why your analysis is better than at least one alternative.

Notes

- The data here are restricted to “smooth” syllables (with one exception), which can bear only three tones: low ($\grave{\text{a}}$), rising ($\check{\text{a}}$), and falling ($\hat{\text{a}}$).
- The only non-smooth syllable shown is the morpheme *ka* ‘my’, which is toneless (its pitch is determined by its environment). You don’t need to analyze this morpheme’s tone.
- You may find it useful to refer to a phrase boundary. For instance, you could use the symbols ${}_P[$ and $]_P$ to refer to left and right phrase boundaries.

Data

		<i>gloss</i>			<i>gloss</i>
1.	kân	‘our’			
2.	hmâ:	‘wound’	3.	ka hmâ:	‘my wound’
4.	zû:	‘beer’	5.	ka zû:	‘my beer’
6.	lûŋ	‘heart’	7.	ka lûŋ	‘my heart’
8.	lâw	‘field’	9.	ka lâw	‘my field’
10.	tlâ:ŋ	‘mountain’	11.	ka tlâ:ŋ	‘my mountain’
12.	râ:l	‘enemy’	13.	ka râ:l	‘my enemy’
14.	kê:	‘leg’	15.	ka kê:	‘my leg’
16.	?ô:	‘voice’	17.	ka ?ô:	‘my voice’
18.	hrôm	‘throat’	19.	ka hrôm	‘my throat’
20.	tsâl	‘forehead’	21.	ka tsâl	‘my forehead’
22.	kô:y	‘friend’	23.	ka kô:y	‘my friend’
24.	thlâ:n	‘grave’	25.	ka thlâ:n	‘my grave’
26.	tsâ:n	‘time’	27.	ka tsâ:n	‘my time’
28.	zâ:n	‘night’	29.	ka zâ:n	‘my night’

<i>gloss</i>		<i>gloss</i>	
30.	sà: ‘animal’	31.	ka sà: ‘my animal’
32.	hnì: ‘skirt’	33.	ka hnì: ‘my skirt’
34.	ràŋ ‘horse’	35.	ka ràŋ ‘my horse’
36.	kàl ‘kidney’	37.	ka kàl ‘my kidney’
38.	kò:m ‘corn’	39.	ka kò:m ‘my corn’
40.	bò:r ‘bunch’	41.	ka bò:r ‘my bunch’

<i>gloss</i>	
42.	ka tlâ:ŋ zù: ‘my mountain beer’
43.	ka tlâ:ŋ tsǎ:m ‘my mountain time’
44.	ka tlâ:ŋ sà: ‘my mountain animal’
45.	ka thlǎ:n zû: ‘my grave beer’
46.	ka thlǎ:n tsǎ:m ‘my grave time’
47.	ka thlǎ:n sà: ‘my grave animal’
48.	ka kò:m zù: ‘my corn beer’
49.	ka kò:m tsǎ:m ‘my corn time’
50.	ka kò:m sà: ‘my corn animal’
51.	ka kô:y ràŋ ‘my friend’s horse’
52.	ka kô:y zâ:n ràŋ ‘my friend’s night horse’
53.	zâ:n tsǎ:m ‘night time’
54.	kô:y zâ:n tsǎ:m ‘friend’s night time’
55.	ka kô:y zâ:n tsǎ:m ‘my friend’s night time’
56.	ka kô:y zâ:n tsǎ:m ràŋ ‘my friend’s night-time horse’
57.	kô:y hrôm ‘friend’s throat’
58.	kân tlâ:ŋ zù: ‘our mountain beer’
59.	râ:l làw hmà: ‘enemy field time’
60.	ka zǎ:n tsǎ:m kô:y ‘my night-time friend’
61.	kô:y hmâ: ‘friend’s wound’
62.	ka kô:y hmâ: ‘my friend’s wound’
63.	ka kô:y kê:y hmâ: ‘my friend’s leg wound’