

Phonology of Plang

Debbie Paulsen

1. Language Relationship and Location

Plang is a Mon-Khmer language of the Palaungic branch and Waic sub-branch. Diffloth (1982) places Plang in the Bulang sub-division of Waic along with Samtao. Upon initial investigation, the Kontoy dialect of Plang is between 71% and 59% lexically similar to a broad sample of Wa languages (Hopple 1988).

There are many dialects of Plang, ranging along a spectrum from mutually intelligible to definitely not mutually intelligible. In the village of Huay Nam Khun in Chiang Rai province of Thailand, there are at least 6 different dialects of Plang spoken. For additional information on Plang dialect variation and comparisons see Paulsen 1992a and Svantesson 1988.

The Plang are predominantly located in an area of southwestern Yunnan, China called Sipsongpanna (Xishuangbanna). According to the 1984 brochure "Yunnan Province", Plang (there spelled Bulang) speakers number 58,318 in Yunnan. A few Plang are also located in Burma near Kengtung and in northern Thailand.

The Kontoy dialect is spoken in a village called Kontoy by the Plang and Manmai by the Chinese. The village is located west and slightly south of Jinghong in Sipsongpanna. The Kontoy dialect is also spoken by several hundred people in Huay Nam Khun in Chiang Rai, Thailand. The people themselves say there are about 6,000 Plang in China, 1,000 in Burma, and 1,000 in Thailand. Kontoy is the dominant dialect of Plang in the village of Huay Nam Khun, and the people say it is the largest Plang village in their area in China as well. Other Plang dialects southwest of Jinghong include Yungmoy, Konphre, Singting, Choklo, Manpik, Konmak, Chemlang, Konri, and Roching.

A brief sketch of the phonology of Kontoy Plang is also found in Paulsen 1992a.

2. Syllable Types and Word Structure

The general syllable types found in Plang are monosyllabic or sesquisyllabic, a main syllable plus a half-weight presyllable. The presyllable is very limited as to what consonants and vowels can occur. The predominant type of presyllable consists of initial consonants k, c, t, s, p, p^h, r, l, and h, and the vowel is usually [ə]. Another type of presyllable is a syllabic (or presyllabic) nasal. All voiced nasals can occur as presyllables.

There are also a few consonant clusters that can occur in the main syllable of a word. The second element of the cluster can be either [l], [r], or [w]. The [l] occurs with unaspirated [k] and [p], and the [r] occurs with aspirated [k^h] and [p^h].

There are also morphemes that consist of only a syllabic nasal. These are attached to other morphemes in a variety of ways. See Section 9 on Morphophonemics for more detailed discussion.

Words can be of the syllable types mentioned above or can arise from compounding. Both monosyllabic and sesquisyllabic morphemes can be compounded to make words or doublets.

Ex. c^hiʔ + liʔ = c^hiliʔ
 month rain rainy season

kəlɯŋ + kələʔ = kəlɯŋkələʔ
 flat like this flatland

3. Interpretation of Ambiguities

The only ambiguous segments in Plang are final diphthongs ending in an i, [j], or u [w]. These are the only vowel glides in the language except for a transitional [ə] (see the vowel [o] under Vowels). All other syllables are closed (except a few particles). Therefore these semivowel segments are interpreted to be final consonants. In this analysis, the syllable types are limited to C(L)VC, NCVC, and CəC(L)VC, except for a few particles that have CV.

4. Consonants

a. Phonemes

The consonant phonemes of Kontoy Plang are as follows.

p	t	c	k	ʔ
p ^h	t ^h	c ^h	k ^h	
	f	s		h
m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
m̥	n̥	ɲ̥		
	l			
	ɭ			
	r			
w	j			
	j̥			

Consonants which can occur in syllable final position are:

p	t	c	k	ʔ
			h	
m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
	l			
w	j			

As was mentioned previously, only [l], [r] and [w] can occur as second elements in a consonant cluster, [l] occurring with [p, k] and [r] occurring with [p^h, k^h]. The [w] only occurs in clusters with [k]. The alveolar and palatal stops never occur in consonant clusters.

b. Phonetic Description

Phonetic descriptions of the consonant phonemes and their positional variants are given below. All consonant sounds are made with egressive lung air.

- /p/ m__ - [b] voiced bilabial stop
 elsewhere - [p] voiceless unaspirated bilabial stop

All voiceless unaspirated stops become voiced to some degree when following a nasal of the same point of articulation. The degree of voicing of the segment can vary from fully voiced to slight prevoicing of a voiceless stop. This is also true at morpheme boundaries (see section 9, Morphophonemics).

- /p^h/ [p^h] voiceless aspirated bilabial stop
- /t/ n__ - [d] voiced alveolar stop
 elsewhere - [t] voiceless unaspirated alveolar stop
- /t^h/ [t^h] voiceless aspirated alveolar stop
- /c/ ɲ__ - [ʃ] voiced palatal stop
 elsewhere - [ç] voiceless unaspirated palatal stop
- /c^h/ [c^h] voiceless aspirated palatal stop
- /k/ [k] voiceless unaspirated velar stop
 following a [ŋ] there is pre-voicing but rarely to the point of being a voiced velar stop.
- /k^h/ [k^h] voiceless aspirated velar stop
- /ʔ/ [ʔ] voiceless glottal stop
- /f/ [f ~ φ] free variation between voiceless labiodental fricative and voiceless bilabial fricative (the labiodental fricative occurring more frequently)
- /s/ __ V. - [s^h] voiceless aspirated alveolar flat fricative
 elsewhere - [s] voiceless alveolar flat fricative
- /h/ [h] voiceless glottal fricative
- /m/ [m] voiced bilabial nasal

/n/	[n]	voiced alveolar nasal
/ɲ/	[ɲ]	voiced palatal nasal
/ŋ/	[ŋ]	voiced velar nasal
/m̥/	[m̥]	voiceless bilabial nasal
/n̥/	[n̥]	voiceless alveolar nasal
/ɲ̥/	[ɲ̥]	voiceless palatal nasal
/l/	[l]	voiced alveolar lateral
/l̥/	[l̥]	voiceless alveolar lateral
/r/	[r]	voiced retroflexed alveolar approximant
/w/	initial - [v ~ β]	free variation between voiced labiodental fricative and voiced bilabial fricative (the labiodental fricative occurring more frequently)
	k__ & final - [w]	voiced labiovelar semivowel
/j/	[j]	voiced palatal semivowel
/j̥/	[j̥]	voiceless palatal semivowel

These phonemes and their positional variants are exemplified in the follow data samples.

/p/	[p] initial	as in [pa ^h c]	'make food'
	[p] before [l]	[plɪŋ]	'build'
	[p] final	[ɲap]	'difficult'
	[p] presyllable	[pəsoh]	'charcoal'
	[b] following [m]	[numbòl]	'evening'
/p ^h /	[p ^h] initial	as in [p ^h en]	'cotton cloth'
	[p ^h] before [r]	[p ^h rɛʔ]	'jungle'
	[p ^h] presyllable	[p ^h əlok]	'mortar'
	[p ^h] following [m]	[mp ^h rɔh]	'blow (dust)'
/t/	[t] initial	as in [tik]	'crack'
	[t] final	[ɲɔt]	'shade'
	[t] presyllable	[təɲen]	'movie'
	[d] following [n]	[ndo ^h l]	'tumpline'

/t ^h /	[t ^h] initial	as in [t ^h em]	'more'
	[t ^h] presyllable	[t ^h a urj]	'rice bowl'
	[t ^h] following [n]	[nt ^h al]	'wall'
/c/	[c] initial	as in [cɯʔ]	'to visit'
	[c] final	[po ⁱ c]	'pick, pluck'
	[c] presyllable	[cə ɛt]	'good'
	[ɟ] following [ɲ]	[ɲɟuk]	'stab'
/c ^h /	[c ^h] initial	as in [c ^h iʔ]	'weather'
	[c ^h] following [ɲ]	[ɲc ^h ɔk]	'lame'
/k/	[k] initial	as in [kaʔ]	'fish'
	[k] before [l]	[klɯm]	'python'
	[k] before [w]	[kwəl]	'to bark'
	[k] final	[kak]	'branch'
	[k] presyllable	[kət ^h ʔ]	'hole'
	[^g k] following [ŋ]	[ŋ ^g kòŋ]	'mountain'
/k ^h /	[k ^h] initial	as in [k ^h ɯm]	'mixture'
	[k ^h] before [r]	[k ^h rɔŋ]	'bowl'
	[k ^h] presyllable	[k ^h av ^h l]	'blanket'
	[k ^h] following [ŋ]	[ŋk ^h òm]	'area in front of house'
/?/	[ʔ] initial	as in [ʔarɯʔ]	'to lie'
	[ʔ] final	[ʔarɯʔ]	'to lie'
/f/	[f ~ φ] initial	as in [faʔ ~ φaʔ]	'monkey'
	[f ~ φ] following nasal	[ŋfeh ~ ŋφeh]	'sneeze'
/s/	[s] initial	as in [sɔm]	'put in'
	[s] presyllable	[səʔɯl]	'warm'
	[s ^h] before breathy V	[s ^h ʔ]	'sick'
/h/	[h] initial	as in [hiŋ]	'clever'
	[h] final	[làh]	'to tell'
	[h] presyllable	[həreh]	'seven'
/m/	[m] initial	as in [mun]	'enjoyable'
	[m] final	[pàm]	'to chew'
	[m] presyllable	[mpɛŋ]	'to roast'

/n/	[n] initial	as in [naŋ]	'locative'
	[n] final	[rɔ̃n]	'hot'
	[n] presyllable	[nsɔp]	'squeeze'
/ɲ/	[ɲ] initial	as in [ɲùm]	'delicious'
	[ɲ] final	[paɲ]	'to sell'
	[ɲ] presyllable	[ɲjuk]	'to stab'
/ŋ/	[ŋ] initial	as in [ŋð ³]	'fire'
	[ŋ] final	[caŋ]	'tasteless'
	[ŋ] presyllable	[ŋkàt]	'turban'
/m̥/	[m̥] initial	as in [m̥al]	'dry rice field'
/ɱ/	[ɱ] initial	as in [ɱaj]	'hate'
/ɲ̥/	[ɲ̥] initial	as in [ɲap]	'difficult'
/l/	[l] initial	as in [luj]	'to miss, think of'
	[l] consonant cluster	[plaj]	'liquor'
	[l] final	[mpɔ̃l]	'earring'
	[l] presyllable	[lɔ̃pun]	'four'
	[l] following nasal	[nlɔ̃k]	'to throw'
/ʎ/	[ʎ] initial	as in [ʎiʔ]	'rain'
	[ʎ] following nasal	[nʎɔ̃t]	'deaf'
/r/	[r] initial	as in [rɔ̃wŋ]	'horn'
	[r] consonant cluster	[k ^h rɪh]	'bear'
	[r] presyllable	[rɔ̃wŋ]	'in five days'
	[r] following nasal	[nrɔ̃ŋ]	'shiver'
/w/	[v ~ β] initial	as in [vàj]	'tiger'
	[w] medial	[rɔ̃wŋ]	'in five days'
	[w] final	[tiw]	'to walk'
	[w] following [k]	[kwəl]	'to bark'
/j/	[j] initial	as in [juŋ]	'village'
	[j] final	[luj]	'to miss, think of'

/j/ [j] initial as in [jɤk] 'ear'

c. Contrast

Contrasting similar segments are shown by the following pairs.

/p/ - /p ^h /	[pʌt]	'spade'	[p ^h ʌt]	'feel'
/t/ - /t ^h /	[tem]	'write'	[t ^h em]	'more'
/c/ - /c ^h /	[cɯʔ]	'visit'	[c ^h ɯʔ]	'fight'
/k/ - /k ^h /	[kɔk]	'bite'	[k ^h ɔk]	'pigpen'
/ʔ/ - /h/	[ʔiŋ]	'dung'	[hiŋ]	'clever'
/p/ - /f/	[paɟ]	'excess'	[faɟ]	'rattan'
/t/ - /s/	[tɨʔ]	'hand'	[s ^h ɨʔ]	'louse'
/f/ - /w/	[faɟ]	'rattan'	[vaɟ]	'sibling-in-law'
/m/ - /n/	[mɔk]	'cut (fields)'	[nɔk]	'look at'
/n/ - /ɲ/	[nàʔ]	'sour'	[ɲàʔ]	'house'
/ɲ/ - /ŋ/	[ɲàʔ]	'house'	[ŋàʔ]	'itch'
/m/ - /m̥/	[mak]	'like'	[m̥ak]	'areca'
/n/ - /ŋ/	[naj]	loc. 'there'	[ŋaj]	'hate'
/ɲ/ - /ɲ̥/	[ɲùm]	'delicious'	[ɲ̥um]	'youth'
/l/ - /l̥/	[laʔ]	'tea'	[l̥aʔ]	'leaf'
/l/ - /r/	[laʔ]	'tea'	[raʔ]	'play'
/r/ - /l̥/	[raʔ]	'play'	[l̥aʔ]	'leaf'
/m/ - /w/	[m̥ɨʔ]	'you (sg)'	[v̥ɨʔ]	'wave hand'
/j/ - /ɲ/	[jèp]	'close (eyes)'	[ɲèp]	'eyelid'
/j/ - /j̥/	[jòk]	'lift'	[j̥ɤk]	'ear'

5. Vowels

A characteristic of Kontoy Plang which effects vowel quality is register. Since register and vowel quality are interrelated in Plang, register will be discussed in this section as well.

The vowels of Plang can be grouped into two register sets. The first register is characterized by a normal, clear voice quality whereas the second register is characterized by a breathy phonation type. For a further description of phonation types and their manifestations see Henderson 1952.

a. Phonemes

The vowel phonemes of Kontoy are as follows.

i	u	u
e	(ə)	o
	a	o

All vowels occur in clear register. In breathy register, [u] does not occur, and there is only a two way contrast between /ɯ/ and /ɔ/ in the back rounded vowels.

All vowels (except /i/ and /i/) have a high front off-glide before palatal stops.

There is one other vowel that exists, namely [ə]. The schwa only occurs in presyllables.

b. Phonetic Description

Throughout this paper breathy voice quality is written with the IPA symbol for breathiness, a dieresis below the vowel, [V̤]. Vowels of both phonation types are voiced.

The vowel phonemes and their variants can be characterized by the following descriptions.

/i/ [i] clear high front unrounded vowel

/i/ ___k - [ʌⁱ ~ ɛ] free variation between breathy mid central unrounded vowel with high front unrounded off-glide and lax mid front unrounded vowel
elsewhere - [i] breathy high front unrounded vowel

- /e/ [e] clear mid front unrounded vowel
 /ɛ/ [ɛ̤] breathy mid front unrounded vowel
 /a/ [a] clear low central unrounded vowel
 /a̤/ [a̤] breathy mid central unrounded vowel
 /ɯ/ [ɯ] clear high back unrounded vowel
 /u/ [u] clear high back rounded vowel
 /ɯ̤/ [ɯ̤] breathy high back rounded vowel
 /o/ __l - [o^ɔ] clear mid back rounded vowel with mid central unrounded off-glide
 elsewhere - [o] clear mid back rounded vowel
 /o/ __velar - [o̤] breathy low back rounded vowel
 [o̤] breathy mid back rounded vowel
 /o/ [o] clear low back rounded vowel

Vowels often fluctuate in Kontoy Plang. Though the above description reflects the main variants of vowel phonemes, all vowels tend to vary in tenseness and, to some degree, height, particularly in the breathy register.

Examples of each of these phonemes and their variants are shown in the following data.

- /i/ [i] as in [pĩʔ] 'to win'
 /i/ [Λⁱ ~ ɛ̤] before k as in [Λⁱk ~ lɛ̤k] 'pig'
 [i] elsewhere [s^hiʔ] 'louse'
 /e/ [e] as in [met] 'to fish'
 /ɛ/ [ɛ̤] as in [p^hrɛʔ] 'jungle'
 /a/ [a] as in [sat] 'to comb'
 /a̤/ [a̤] as in [pλ̤m] 'fence'
 /ɯ/ [ɯ] as in [t^hɯj] 'Thai'

/u/	[u]	as in	[nùm]	'delicious'
/u̥/	[u̥]	as in	[pùk]	'calf of leg'
/o/	[o ^ɤ]	before l	[ŋo ^ɤ l]	'fire'
	[o]	elsewhere	[so ^ɤ c]	'whistle'
/ɔ/	[ɔ]	before velars	[cɔŋ]	'foot'
	[ɔ̃]	elsewhere	[kɔ ^ɤ c]	'sunlight'
/ɔ/	[ɔ]	as in	[mɔ̀n]	'to eat snacks'

c. Contrast

Data showing contrast between these vowel phonemes are given below.

/i/ - /i̥/	[piʔ]	'you (3+)	[pi̥ʔ]	'bamboo flute'
/i/ - /e/	[ŋriʔ]	'long pole'	[ŋreʔ]	'acre'
/e/ - /e̥/	[sem]	'Shan'	[sẽm]	'bird'
/a/ - /ḁ/	[hak]	'skin'	[hək]	'hair'
/a/ - /u/	[pa ^ɤ c]	'make (foody)	[pu ^ɤ c]	'fall'
/u/ - /u̥/	[pùk]	'to dip'	[pùk]	'to paint'
/u/ - /u̥/	[pùk]	'to paint'	[pùk]	'calf of leg'
/u/ - /o/	[pun]	'four'	[pon]	'to eat meat'
/o/ - /ɔ/	[po ^ɤ c]	'to pick'	[pɔ ^ɤ c]	'to wear'
/o/ - /ɔ/	[toŋ]	'to trap'	[toŋ]	'dark'

6. Tone

a. Tonemes

There are only two contrastive tones in Kontoy Plang - high and low. These both have positional variants dependent on the type of syllable final consonant.

The high tone is a nearly level high pitch when closed by an obstruent, whereas sonorant finals manifest a high rising pitch. Similarly, the low tone has a low level pitch on obstruent final syllables and a low falling pitch on sonorant final syllables.

Throughout this paper high pitch is unmarked and low pitch is marked by a grave accent (V̄).

There is no contrastive pitch on presyllables.

Other variations in the tones occur due to intonation patterns. See section 7 on Intonation for more detailed discussion.

b. Phonetic Description

Examples of the pitch contours can be drawn as shown.

high - obstruent final | ˥ |
[faʔ] 'monkey'

low - obstruent final | ˨ |
[pùk] 'to paint'

high - sonorant final | ˥˥ |
[fam] 'sticky'

low - sonorant final | ˨˨ |
[pùŋ] 'to speak'

c. Contrast

The following sets of data show contrast between the various pitches of the language.

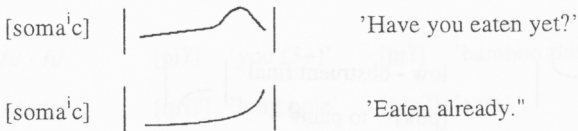
[high] - [low] obstruent final	[piʔ] 'you (3+)	[pǐʔ] 'to win'
sonorant final	[tem] 'write'	[tèm] 'short (height)'
obstruent final	[kɔt] 'cold'	[kòt] 'old aged'
sonorant final	[laɰ] 'squirrel'	[làɰ] 'letter'

7. Intonation

Plang exhibits strong intonational patterns that contrast in meaning. There are two types of intonation found: 1) patterns that distinguish between statement and question type sentences and 2) patterns that reflect an emotion or attitude of the speaker. The second category has not been studied in depth, so at this point no correlation has been made between specific patterns and emotion expressed. This section focuses on the first category of intonation patterns.

Generally an utterance ending with a high rising pitch denotes a statement, whereas a high sharp fall at the end denotes a question. The latter may occur with or without the use of question particles.

An example of contrastive intonation patterns:



There are variations in the actual pitch levels of the intonation patterns as conditioned by lexical tone. For a more detailed analysis of Plang tone, intonation and their interaction, see *Tone and Intonation in Plang* (Paulsen, 1991).

8. Stress

Stress is not contrastive on a lexical level. In all sesquisyllabic words the stress placement is on the main, i.e., final, syllable.

In longer utterances, such as sentences, the final syllable of the utterance receives the greatest stress. The final syllable in any pause group is significantly different from the rest of the utterance in manifesting tone, determining statement/question intonation, and receiving stress.

9. Morphophonemics

Morphophonemics is manifest in almost every sentence of a Plang discourse. It is so extensive that it requires a paper of its own. In this paper it will only be discussed briefly.

Grammatical particles are the main participants in morphophonemic variation. These small, generally CV type, syllables are greatly influenced by their environment. They are also

very widely used. Thus morphophonemic variation is abundant. A few examples of variation in particles follows. For a fuller discussion of Plang particles and their morphophonemic variants see Paulsen 1992b.

Several particles exist which consist merely of a syllabic nasal in a reduced form (i.e. locative, negative, future, and an occasional causative). These syllabic nasals assimilate to the point of articulation of following stops. An example of this is:

/m-pɔn/ 'not eat meat'

/n-tah/ 'not stay'

/ɲ-ɲəŋ/ 'not know'

/ŋ-kət/ 'not think'

Depending on the phonemic environment, they can also attach to a previous morpheme by becoming, phonemically, a final nasal on a glottal final syllable. For example:

/kiʔ kəŋaŋ huɪ/ → /kin huɪ/ 'they will go'

they(3+) future go

Another case of morphophonemics is found in the reflexive/possessive and benefactive particles /re/ and /rə/, respectively. These particles have four variations depending on the final consonant of the preceding syllable in connected speech. The /r/ initial form is the base form as it occurs in all environments in slow, careful speech. But in rapid speech, /re/ becomes /le/ following a final /l/, /ne/ following any nasal, and /te/ following any voiceless stop (all final stops being voiceless ones). The same is true for /rə/. An example is:

/sək kʰrəʔ re/ → /sək kʰrəre/ '(I) wash my clothes'

launder clothes poss

/huɪ məl re/ → /huɪ məl le/ 'go to my field'

go field poss

/həm re/ → /həm ne/ 'I bathe self'
bathe refl

/ik re/ → /ik te/ 'my older brother'
older brother poss

The final particle /ka/ also undergoes morphophonemic change. This is a negative question marker, meaning that the question is voiced in the negative, for example 'You don't want to go?'. Following a velar nasal the /k/ becomes a *ŋ*/ in rapid speech.

/n cəŋ ka/ → /ŋcəŋŋa/ 'It's not expensive?'
neg expensive question

Palatals also create much morphophonemic variation. The final particle /ac/, which is a completive particle, has an alternate /jac/ following a final palatal stop /c/. And in one instance it has the form /joc/ following the morpheme /hoc/ meaning 'to finish', resulting in /hocjoc/ 'finished already'.

Another palatal which varies in a morphophonemic environment is in the particle /jen/ 'truly'. Following voiceless stops it has the form /cen/.

/ɲum jen/ → [ɲum jen] 'truly delicious, very delicious'
delicious truly

/k^hak jen/ → [k^hak cen] 'truly diligent, very diligent'
diligent truly

These are just a sampling of the variety of morphophonemic alternations that take place in Plang.

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Appendix

The following is a Plang text transcribed and translated into English. The romanized ortho-graphy used is a simplified phonemic. The following chart shows the correspondence between the phonemic characters used in this paper and the simplified orthography used in the text, where different.

Phonemic	Simplified Roman	Phonemic	Simplified Roman
ʔ	q	m̥	hm
p ^h	ph	n̥	hn
t ^h	th	ɲ	hɲ
c ^h	ch	l̥	hl
k ^h	kh	low tone	final x
ŋ	ng		

Visiting Relatives in China

iq muk nang hwej nam khun teqx.
 we(3+) live at creek water muddy here

"We live here at Huay Nam Khun."

nyqx nang ɛng cuq maqx cuq kaŋ ne,
 if future come/return visit mother visit father refl

"When we go to visit mother and father,"

ɛng cuq ik cuq ɔng ne,
 come/return visit old.brother visit ygr sibling refl

"go to visit siblings,"

ɛng cuq taq cuq jaq re.
 come/return visit grandfather visit grandmother refl

"go to visit grandparents,"

phɔkx kaqx nang hwej nam khun ɛng rɔtx nang mesaj.
 ride car at creek water muddy come arrive at mesaj

"we catch a vehicle from Huay Nam Khun to Mae Saay."

uc cɛng kaqx haq wat rok wat.
 pay price car five baht six baht

"We pay 5 or 6 baht for the car."

tə phɔkx kaqx mesaj tɔhx rɔtx nang Chiangtung.
 then ride car mesaj go up/north arrive at Chiangtung

"Then we catch a car from Mae Saay to Kengtung."

uc sɔng sam rɔjx.
 pay two three hundred

"We pay 2-300."

phɔkx nang Chiangtung tɔhx rɔtx nang kangjang. uɕ song sam rɔjx.
ride at Chiangtung go up, arrive at Kangyang pay two three hundred

"Catch another car in Kengtung to Kangyang. Pay 2-300."

nang kangjang ɛŋ cang puɔjx ɛŋ thaɔ re.
at Kangyang come hire person come take person refl

"At Kangyang we hire someone to take us."

kahx puɔjx puɔhx khrɔqɔx rə ɛŋ.
give person carry on back clothing/possessions bene come

"We have the person carry our things."

kahx rə puɔjx tə rɔjx rɔjx paj. ɛŋ tɔhx rɔtx nang konkang.
give bene person one hundred hundred excess come go up arrive at konkang

"Give him a hundred or more. Then we arrive at Konkang."

ɛŋ rɔtx nang konkang kaqɔ konkang.
come arrive at konkang it konkang

"After arriving at Konkang,"

kiq ɛŋ thaɔ re rɔtx nang kontoj.
they(3+) come take person refl arrive at kontoy

"we arrive at Kontoy."

kahx rə kiq tə rɔjx rɔjx paj.
give bene they(3+) one hundred hundred excess

"We pay the person a hundred, or more."

phɔkx kaqɔ nang mesaj tɔhx rɔtx nang Chiangtung.
ride car at mesay go up arrive at Chiangtung

"We ride a car from MaeSaay to Kengtung."

kaqx hɲap paraparoq lɔkx paraparoq thep pareq kə rɔnx paraparoq
 car difficult very full very close/touching each other it hot very

"The car (ride) is very difficult, it's very full, everybody smashed together, and very hot."

phɔkx nang chiangtung tɔhx rɔtx nang kangjang.
 ride at chiangtung go_up arrive at kangyang

"Then we ride from Kentung to Kangyang."

kwkətɪq kaqx lɔkx kaqx thep pareq.
 ?? car full they(2) close/touching each other

"It is also full and crowded."

khraq kə hɲap khraq kə n swɔn khraq kəŋthwɔj.
 path it difficult path it neg same path Thailand

"The road is also difficult, it's not like roads in Thailand."

khraq kə səmɔq khraq kə sequp səcep.
 path it rock path it narrow narrow

"The road is rocky and narrow."

khwɔc ɔp khwɔc tɔq re hɔt te.
 take along cooked rice take along vegetable refl along refl

"We take along rice and vegetables with us."

ŋg kɔj tɔnx som. som hɔt khraq.
 neg have place eat eat along path

"We don't have any place to eat. Eat along the road."

rɔtx nang kangjang ac kɔn kɔj tɔnx som.
 arrive at kangyang compl gradually have place eat

"At Kangyang we eventually have a place to eat."