

Adnominal Possessive Constructions In Mainland Southeast Asia

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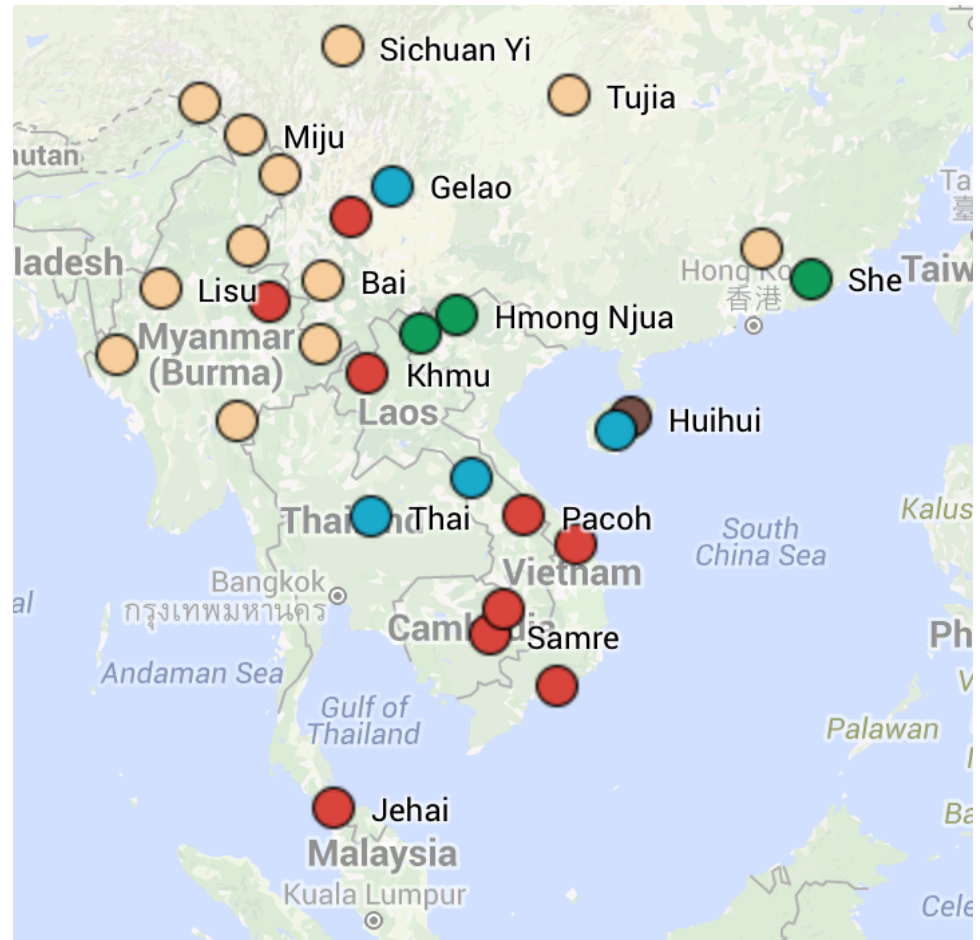


Outline

- ① Introduction
- ② Structural types of adnominal possessive constructions in MSEA
- ③ Structural splits in MSEA
- ④ Areal diffusion
- ⑤ Summary

Mainland Southeast Asia

- Sino-Tibetan (12)
- Austroasiatic (9)
- Tai-Kadai (4)
- Hmong-Mien (3)
- Austronesian (1)



Adnominal possessive construction

- kinship (“*Mary’s father*”)
- body-Part (“*Mary’s head*”)
- ownership (“*Mary’s car*”)

Structural types

(I) Juxtaposition: Bisu (Sino-Tibetan)

Chi Daeng yum

Chi Daeng house

‘Chi Daeng’s house’ (Day 2009: 20)

Structural types

(2) Juxtaposition (with a classifier):
Cantonese (Sino-Tibetan)

aa³baa¹ di¹ syu¹

father CL books

‘some books of father’s’ (Shan 2013: 306)

Structural types

(3) With a preposition as the possessive marker: Lao (Tai-Kadai)

mèè¹ khòòng³ caw⁴

mother of 2SG

‘your mother’ (Enfield 2007: 94)

Structural types

(4) With a particle as the possessive marker: Wa (Austroasiatic)

ŋεʔ tʃε *aika*

house POSS Aika

‘Ai Kar's house.’ (Ma Shengmai 2012: 70)

Structural types

(5) With a pronoun as the possessive marker: Bai (Sino-Tibetan)

jã⁵⁵kɛ⁵⁵xo²¹

family Yang

ma⁵⁵

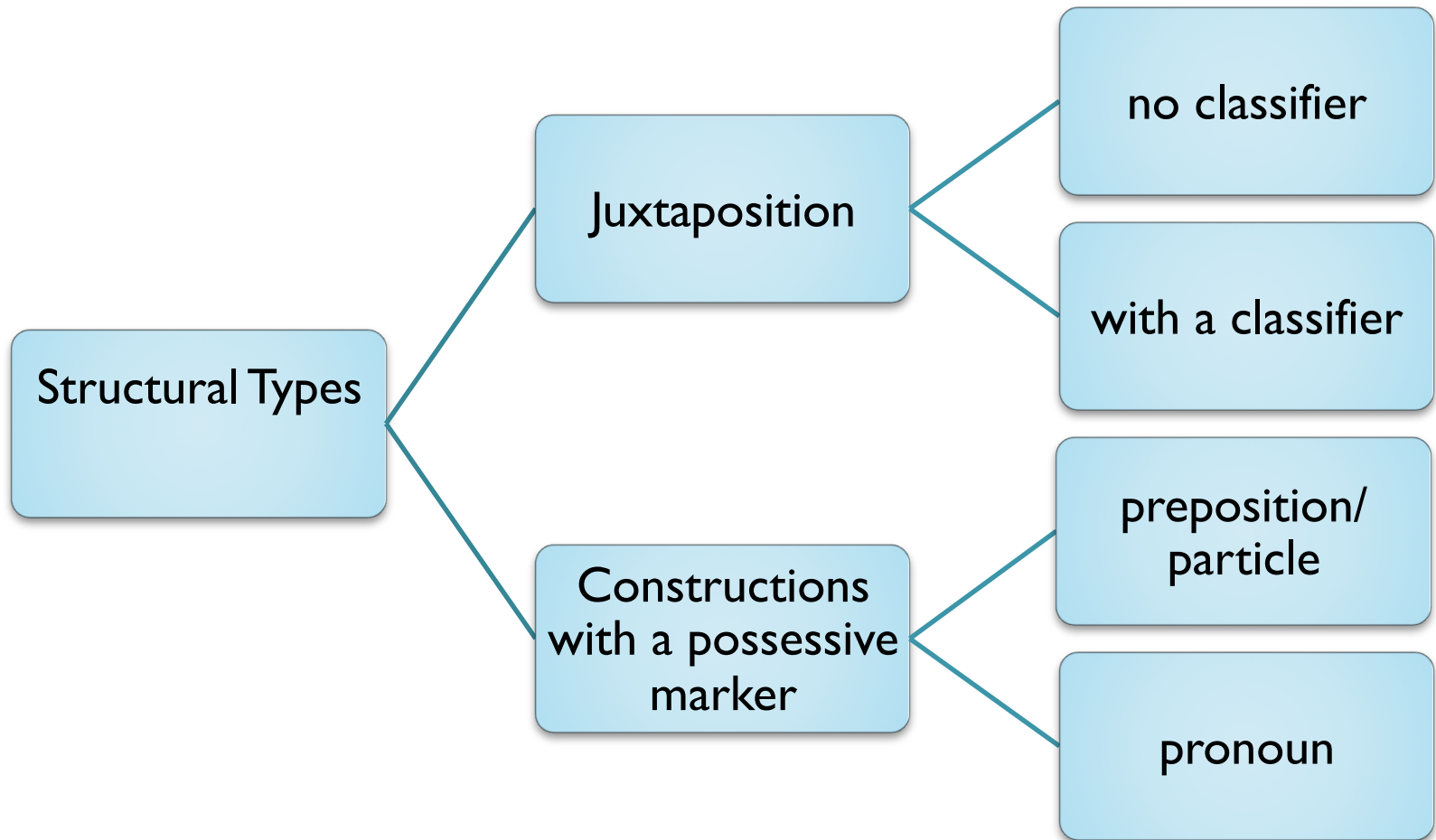
3PL

jɿ³³

daughter

‘the daughter of family Yang’s ’ (Xu & Zhao 1984: 71)

Structural types



Word order

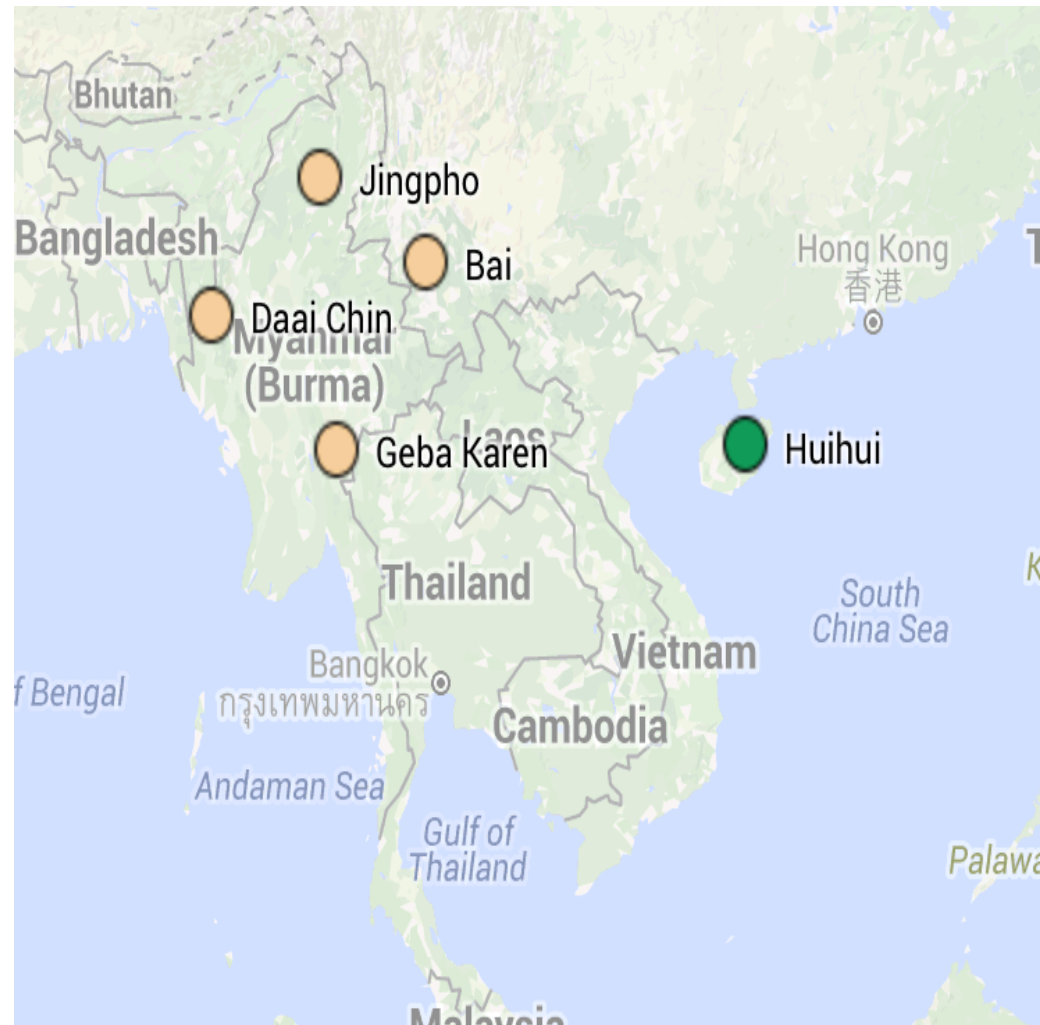
Language family	PR N	N PR
Austronesian		+
Sino-Tibetan	+	
Hmong-Mien	+	
Austroasiatic		+
Tai-Kadai		+

Structural splits

- Possessor-based split
- Alienability split
- Structural split conditioned by the ellipsis of the possessed noun

Possessor-based split

- Sino-Tibetan (4)
- Austronesian (1)



Possessor-based split

- singular vs. plural

Jingpho, Bai (2 Sino-Tibetan)

- pronoun vs. noun : pronominal possessors are less likely to take a possessive marker.

Huihui (1 Austronesian)

Bai, Geba Karen, Daai Chin (3 Sino-Tibetan)

Possessor-based split

(6) Jingpho (Sino-Tibetan)

*ŋje*⁵⁵ *aʔ*³¹ *poŋ*³³*tin*³³

ISG.GEN POSS pen

‘my pen’ (Liu Lu 1984:54)

*an*⁵⁵*the*³³ *aʔ*³¹ *a*³¹*kho*⁵⁵ *a*³¹*khaŋ*⁵⁵

IPL POSS right

‘our right’ (Liu Lu 1984:74)

Possessor-based split

(7) Bai (Sino-Tibetan)

*nɯ*⁵⁵

*tshu*³³

2SG.GEN

sister-in-law

‘your sister-in-law’ (Xu & Zhao 1984:17)

*ŋa*⁵⁵

*tʃi*³¹

IPL

field

‘our field’ (Xu & Zhao 1984:38)

Alienability split

The inalienable possession is less likely to be marked by the possessive marker.

- Bai (Sino-Tibetan)
- Wa (Austroasiatic)
- Lao (Tai-Kadai)

Alienability split

- Austroasiatic (1)
- Sino-Tibetan (1)
- Tai-Kadai (1)



Alienability split

(8) Wa (Austroasiatic)

ɲεʔ tʃε aika

house POSS Aika

‘Ai Kar's house.’ (Ma Shengmai 2012: 70)

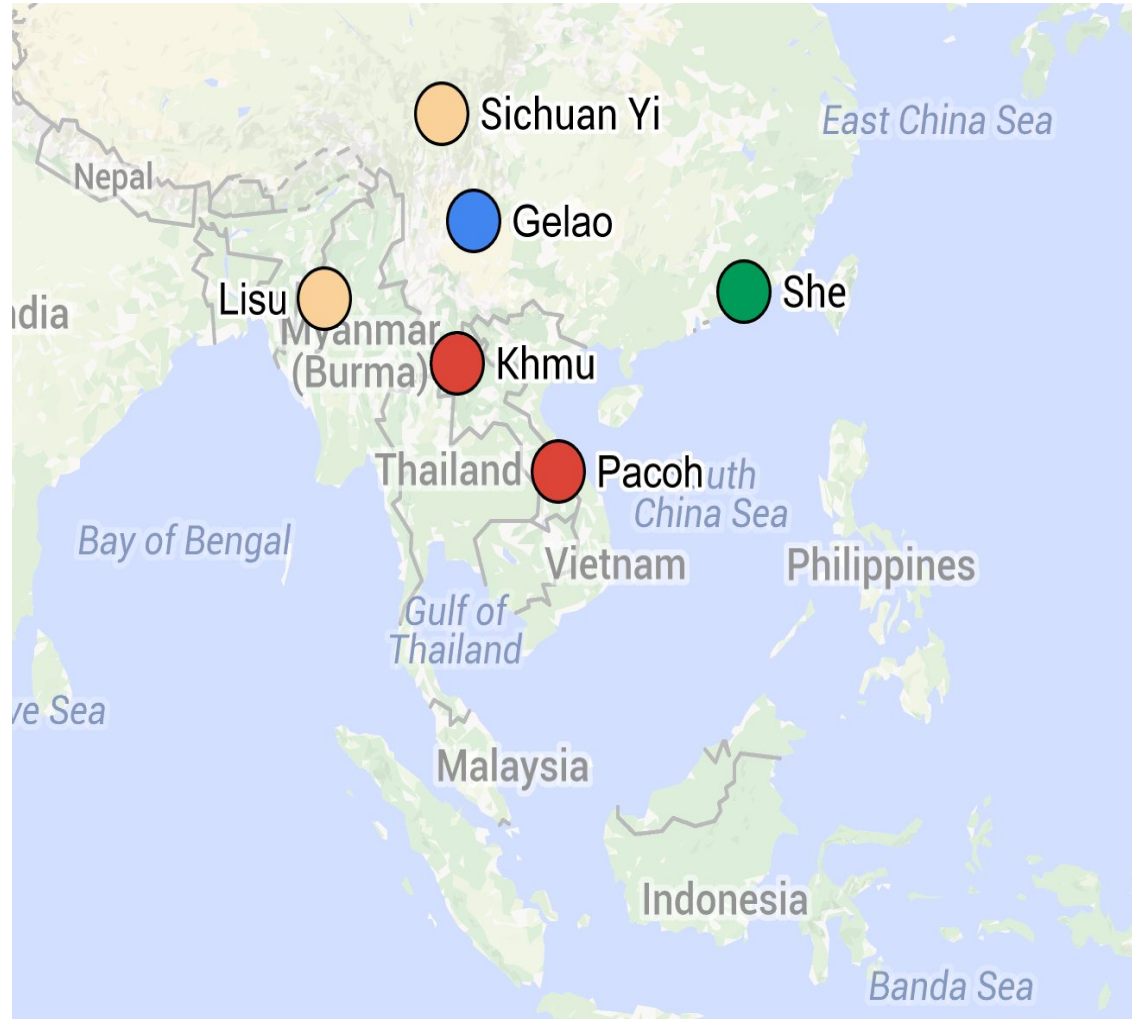
kʷiŋ aika

father AiKa

‘Aika's father.’ (Ma Shengmai 2012: 70)

Structural split conditioned by the ellipsis of the possessed noun

- Austroasiatic
- Sino-Tibetan
- Hmong-Mien
- Tai-Kadai



Structural split conditioned by the ellipsis of the possessed noun

(9) Khmu (Austroasiatic)

dɛn hɛm

bed younger brother

‘younger brother’s bed’ (Chen 2002: 152)

hɔŋ me

POSS 2SG

‘yours’ (Chen 2002: 152)

Areal Diffusion

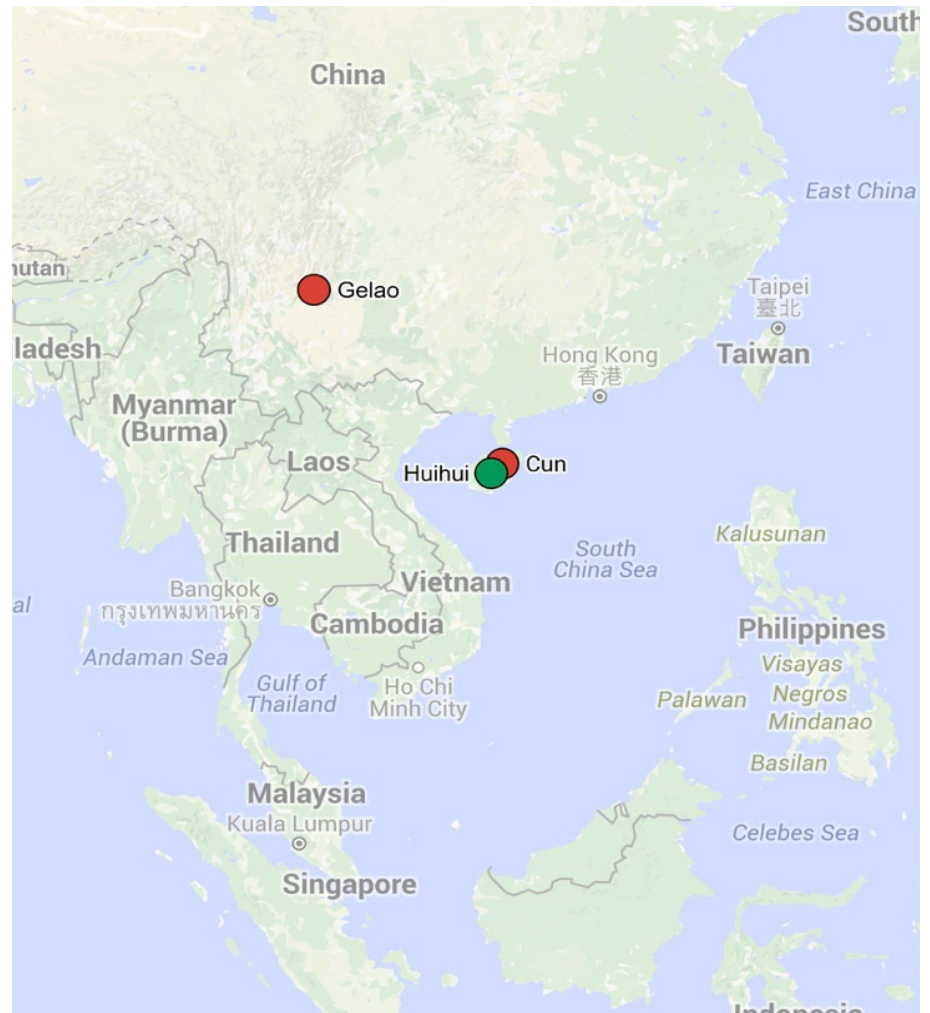
- The influence of Sinitic languages
- The influence of Lao

The influence of Sinitic languages

- Cun (Tai-Kadai; Hainan)
- Gelao (Tai-Kadai; Southwest China)
- Huihui (Austronesian; Hainan)

The influence of Sinitic languages

- Tai-Kadai
- Austronesian



The influence of Sinitic languages

(10) Huihui (Austronesian)

*kho*²⁴ *ha*³³

shoe 2SG

‘your shoe’ (Zheng 1997: 69)

*ha*³³ *sa*³³ ʔa¹¹ sa:u¹¹

2SG POSS sister-in-law

‘your sister-in-law’ (Zheng 1997: 87)

The influence of Sinitic languages

(11) Gelao (Tai-Kadai)

*to*³³

*ti*³³

older brother POSS

‘older brother’s’ (He 1983: 48)

*mi*⁵⁵

*to*³³

POSS older brother

‘older brother’s’ (He 1983: 48)

The influence of Lao

(12) Lao (Tai-Kadai)

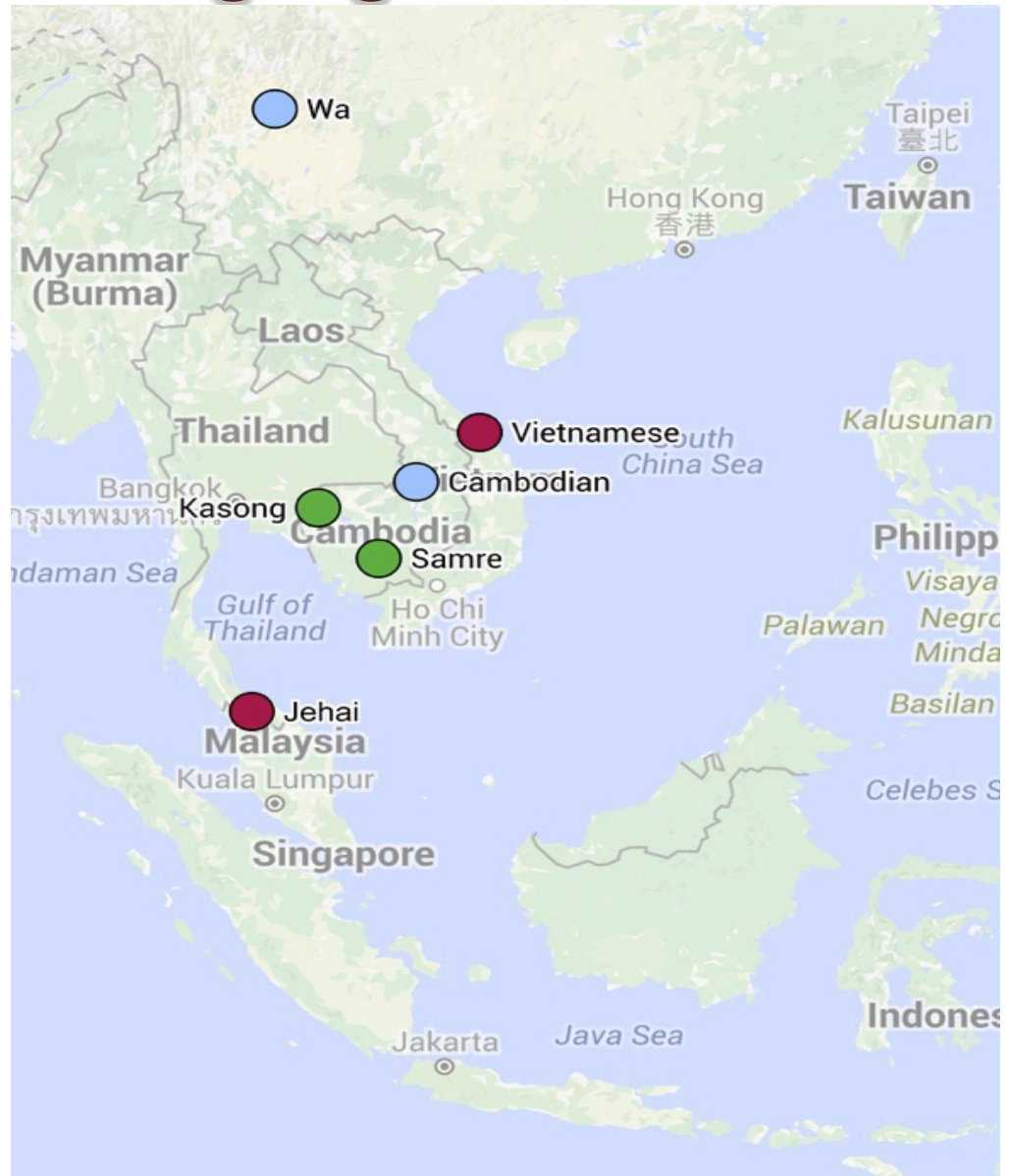
*taa*³ *khòòng*³ *khòòj*⁵
eye(s) POSS ISG
'my eye(s)' (Enfield 2007: 94)

Samre (Austroasiatic)

*chɔɔ*⁴⁵¹ *khɔɔŋ*³³² *ʔijŋ*³³²
dog POSS ISG
'my dog' (Ploykaew 1986: 120)

Austroasiatic languages

- Borrow marker from Lao
- N preposition PR
- N particle PR



Change in Austroasiatic Languages?

- N PR



(The influence from Lao)

- N POSS PR

Areal diffusion

- In the history, the people of MSEA have once spoken Austroasiatic languages in a ‘continuous distribution’, and it was ‘broken up by the historical expansions of Chinese, **Tai**, Vietnamese, Burman and Austronesian peoples’ (Bellwood 1992: 109; cf. Enfield & Comrie 2015: 4).

Summary

- An overview of the main structural types.
- There are three types of structural splits: possessor-based splits, alienability splits and splits conditioned by omission of possessum.
- Two Language contact patterns in MSEA are discussed.

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THANK YOU

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