Some diachronic phonological changes from Proto-Kuki-Chin to Lutuv (Lautu)
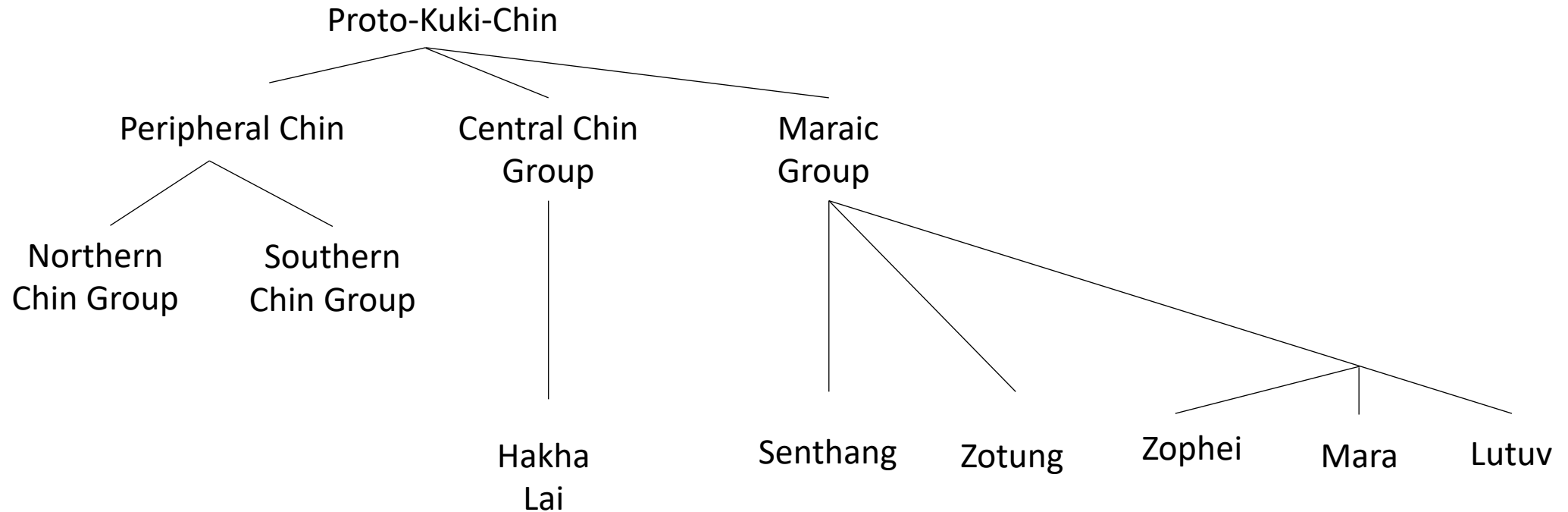
or

Why Lutuv is different from Mara and Zophei

Samson Lotven
Dr. Kelly Berkson's Field Methods Guest lecture 4/23/20

Van Bik (2009) places Lutuv in the Maraic Branch of Kuki Chin

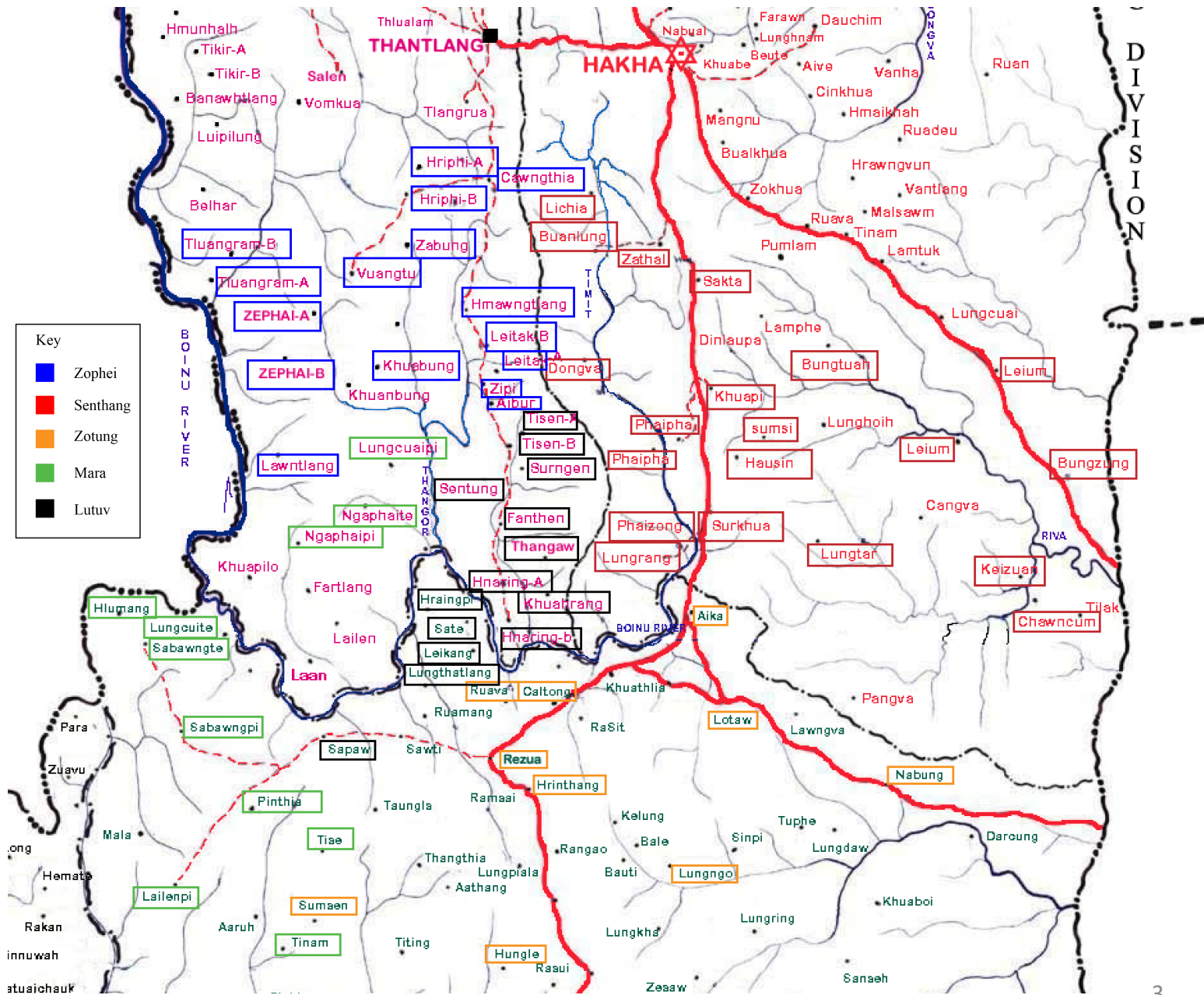# Lutuv is geographically in the middle of the Maraic-speaking area

Figure 1 has been modified from the map created by the Chin Baptist Mission Youth Fellowship (Pu Siang Kung (Va))

5 innovations define Maraic, data based on Mara

A. The dubuccalization of coda stops:

/*-p *-t *-k/ → /-ʔ/

B. The loss of final glottal stop

/*-ʔ/ → /Ø/

C. The loss of final liquids

/*-ɹ *-l/ → /Ø/

D. The loss of final nasals

/*-m *-n *-ŋ/ → /Ø/

E. Merger of initial /kɹ/ and /ts/

/*kɹ- *ts-/ → /ts-/

(Van Bik, 2009)

What about Lutuv?

A. The dubuccalization of coda stops   &   B. The loss of final glottal stop

      Both occurred in Lutuv, but Mara & Zophei differ in order

C. The loss of final liquids

      Lutuv lost final liquids too, but final rhotics show different paths of change

D. The loss of final nasals

      Lutuv has final /ŋ/, less VN rhymes than any Zophei variety

E. Merger of initial /kɹ/ and /ts/

      Shared by Mara, Zophei, & Lutuv; no consonant clusters in Maraic languages

Bonus: Vowel shifts from PKC to Lutuv

Stop loss: Lawngtlang Zophei behaves like Mara

A. **The dubuccalization of coda stops**

/*-p *-t *-k/   →   /-ʔ/

B. **The loss of final glottal stop**

/*-ʔ/   →   /∅/

2. Lawngtlang Zophei /ii ih au ah/

	PKC				
LTZ	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/ii/	-	*ee *eʔ	-	-	-
/ih/	*eet *eek	-	-	-	-
/au/	*aa *aʔ	-	-	-	-
/ah/	*at *(a)ak	-	-	-	-

Stop loss: Lutuv does not behave like Mara

A. **The dubuccalization of coda stops**

No coda stops / p t k /

B. **The loss of final glottal stop**

No coda glottal stops.

Note: /*ua/ → /ɯɯ/

/*u/ → /ʉʉ/

3. Lutuv /ɨɨ aa ɯɯ ʉʉ/

Lutuv	PKC				
	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/ɨɨ/	*ii *iʔ *ik	-	-	-	-
/aa/	-	-	*aa *aʔ *(a)ak	-	-
/ɯɯ/	-	-	-	-	*ua *uap *uak
/ʉʉ/	-	-	-	-	*uu *(u)ut *(u)uk

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Stop loss: Different timing of mergers

Mara & Zophei: 1.   / -ʔ / is lost
                 2.   / -p -t -k / merge to / -ʔ /

Lutuv: 1.   / -p -t -k / merge to / -ʔ /
                 2.   / -ʔ / is lost

Liquid loss: Superficial similarities

C. The loss of final liquids

$$\text{/*-ɹ *-l/} \qquad \rightarrow \qquad \text{/∅/}$$

Zophei, Lutuv, Mara all lack final liquids

Liquid loss: Rhotics show different developments

Tlawngrang Zophei: loss of /-r/ with variable developments depending on preceding vowel

Lutuv: loss of /Vr/ mostly in favor of /aa/

4. Tlawngrang Zophei /ia ing øø aa au oo ua/

TRZ	PKC				
	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/ia/	-	*er *er?	-	-	-
/iŋ/	*ir	-	-	-	-
/øø/	-	-	*aar	-	-
/aa/	-	-	*aar *ar	*oor	-
/au/	-	-	-	-	*uur
/oo/	*iir	-	*aar	*or	-
/ua/	-	-	-	-	*uar

5. Lutuv /yə ie aa əŋ ɯɯ/

Lutuv	PKC				
	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/yə/	-	-	-	*or	*ua *ua?
/ie/	*ia				
/aa/	*iir	*er *er?	*aar *ar	*oor	*uar
/əŋ/	*ir	-	-	-	-
/ɯɯ/	-	-	-		*uur

Liquid loss: Two paths for rhotics

Mara & Zophei: / -r / lost piecemeal

Lutuv:
1. /*aa/ raises to /əə/
   /*ia/ raises to /ie/
   /*ua/ raises to /yə/

2. / -r / vocalizes to /-a/, resulting in diphthongs

3. /Va/ diphthongs monophthongize to /aa/

Final Nasal Loss: Proto-Kuki-Chin and Maraic

Proto-Kuki-Chin (Van Bik, 2009):

      3-way place distinction in nasals, glottalized nasals: **/-m -m? -n -n? -ŋ -ŋ?/**

Senthang (Par, 2016):

      Loss of place distinction in glottalized nasals only: **/-m -m? -n -ŋ/**

Zophei & Lutuv:

      Loss of glottalized nasals, loss of place distinction in nasals: **/-ŋ/**

Zotung (Shintani, 2016):

      Loss of final nasals in favor of nasal vowels: **/i ĩ e ẽ æ æ̃ a ã o õ ɯ ɯ̃ u ũ ə ə̃/**

Mara (Löffler, 2004):

      Loss of nasal vowels in favor of vocalic contrasts: **eg. Zàwhnái Mara / *ɪ *ĩ / to /i ai/**

Final Nasal Loss: Zophei & Lutuv

Lawngtlang & Nuitah Zophei:

    5 nasal-final rhymes: /iŋ eŋ aŋ oŋ uŋ /

Tlawngrang Zophei :

    4 nasal-final rhymes, /eŋ/ -> /ai/:   /iŋ aŋ oŋ uŋ /

Lutuv:

    3 nasal-final rhymes: / iŋ əŋ uŋ /

Final Nasal Loss: PKC to Lutuv

6. Lutuv /iŋ əŋ uŋ/

Lutuv	PKC				
	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/iŋ/	*ii *im *iit *iiŋ *ik *iŋ	-	-	-	*ul
/əŋ/	*ir	*eŋ	-	*oon	*un *uŋ *uum *uaŋ
/uŋ/	-	-	-	-	*uu *un *uʔ *uŋ *um *uul

Consonant Cluster Simplification

Hakha Lai:

/ *pr *kr /	→	/ ʈ /
/ *phr *khr /	→	/ ʈʰ /
/ *pl *kl /	→	/ $\widehat{tl}$ /
/ *khl /	→	/ $\widehat{tl}^h$ /

Mara, Lutuv, Zophei:

/ *pr *kr /	→	/ $\widehat{ts}$ /
/ *phr *khr /	→	/ $\widehat{ts}^h$ /
/ *pl *kl /	→	/ $\widehat{tl}$ /
/ *khl /	→	/ $\widehat{tl}^h$ /

Vowel Story 1: /a/ → /o/ in Mara & Zophei

7. Mara /a ɔ/

Mara	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/			/*o/	/*u/
			PKC				
/a/	-	-	*aa *aat *aŋ *aʔ *aak *aam *at *am *aaŋ *ak *an *aar *aap			-	-
/ɔ/	-	-	*aa *aar *aaw			*ot	-

8. Tlawngrang Zophei /aa oo/

TRZ	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
			PKC		
/aa/	-	-	*aa *aar *ar	*oor	-
/oo/	*iir	-	*aa *aʔ *aar	*oŋ *or	-

9. Nuitah Zophei /aa oo/

NTZ	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
			PKC		
/aa/	-	-	*aar *ar	*oor	-
/oo/	*iir	-	*aa *aʔ *aar	-	-

Vowel Story 1: No /a/ → /o/ in Lutuv

10. Lutuv /aa oo/

	PKC				
Lutuv	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/aa/	*iir	*er *erʔ	*aa *ak *aʔ *aar *aak *ar	*oor *oŋ	*uar
/oo/	*im	-	*aaw	*oom *om *oon *ooŋ	-

Vowel Story 2: Building /ɨɨ/ in Lutuv

/ɨɨ/
1) /(u)ul/ and /uy/ merge: l → y / u __
2) Finals lost after /i/:   C → ∅ / i __   Also, /eʔ/ (along with some others) raise to /ii/
3) /uy/ or /ui/ monophthongizes: u → ∅ / __i
4) /ii/ centralizes to /ɨɨ/:   i → ɨ

11. Lutuv /ɨɨ ii ie ee/

Lutuv	PKC				
	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/ɨɨ/	*ii *iin *iat *iʔ *in (*iak) *ik *il *ial	-	*aaw		*uul *uy *ul
/ii/	*iat	*eʔ *eel *eek *ewʔ *em	-	*oop	-
/ie/	*ia *ian	*ee *eel	*aal *aay *al *ay	*ooy	-
/ee/	*iam *ian *iaŋ	*ee *eem *eel *en *el *eeŋ	*ay *an *aw	-	-

Summary: Similarities with Mara & Zophei

- Syllable structure simplification
  - loss of onset clusters
  - loss of coda liquids & stops
  - loss of place distinction in coda nasals
- Some similarities in vowel changes, some likely through contact

Summary: Differences from Mara & Zophei

- Lutuv has no CV? syllables, likely due to different timing of final stop mergers from Mara & Zophei
- Lutuv /-r/ syllables mostly merged to /aa/, but Mara & Zophei /-r/ syllable changes depend on preceding vowel
- Lutuv lacks /a/ → /o/ shift

Final Thoughts

- Lutuv shows several unique innovations not shared with Mara and Zophei

- Lutuv is geographically central in the Maraic-speaking region and has likely influenced and been influenced by all Maraic languages, evidenced by multiple paths of change for the same PKC rhyme.

- Senthang and Zotung also have suspicious differences from Mara & Zophei, suggesting only Mara & Zophei form a tight group
  - Senthang: place distinction in nasals, glottalized nasals
  - Zotung: No /j/ $\rightarrow$ /z/ change shared by Central and Maraic languages

- Lutuv offers unique opportunities to understand syllable structure simplification, vowel shifts, and whether 'Maraic' describes a group separate from Central and Peripheral Chin or a contact situation between them.

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Appendix: PKC-Lutuv correspondence master table pt.1

Lutuv	PKC				
	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/ɨɨ/	*ii *iin *iat *iʔ *in (*iak) *ik *il *ial	-	*aaw		*uul *uy *ul
/ii/	*iat	*eʔ *eel *eek *ewʔ *em	-	*oop	-
/yy/	-	-	*ay	*ooy	*uay
/yə/	-	-	-	*oo *or *oy	*ua *uaʔ *uyʔ
/ie/	*ia *ian	*ee *eel	*aal *aay *al *ay	*ooy	-
/iŋ/	*ii *im *iit *iiŋ *ik *iŋ	-	-	-	*ul
/ee/	*iam *ian *iaŋ	*ee *eem *eel *en *el *eeŋ	*ay *an *aw	-	-

Appendix: PKC-Lutuv correspondence master table pt.2

Lutuv	PKC				
	/*i/	/*e/	/*a/	/*o/	/*u/
/aa/	*iir	*er *er?	*aa *ak *aʔ *aar *aak *ar	*oor *oŋ	*uar
/əə/	-	-	*at	*ook *oy *ok	-
/əŋ/	*ir	*eŋ	-	*oon	*un *uum *uŋ *uaŋ
/oo/	*im	-	*aaw	*oom *oon *om *ooŋ	-
/ɯɯ/	*iaw		*an	*ool	*uur *uap *ua *uak
/uu/	-	-	*aa *aw *ay	-	*uk *uan *uun (*uaŋ)
/uŋ/	-	-	-	-	*uu *un *uʔ *uŋ *um *uul
/uo/	-	-	*aam *aan *am	*ooŋ *oŋ	*uam
/ɯɯ/	-	-	-	*ool	*uu *uuk *uut *uk *ut *uum