

TMP Tampuan Kampuchea; near Laos border
 TOY Ta-oy (Ta'oih) Laos: Saravane province; 11,000
 VNM Vietnamese Vietnam; 40,000,000

The accompanying map roughly locates these languages within Southeast Asia and relative to each other in their traditional areas prior to current migrations.

In establishing the cognate sets (and thus the cognate percentages) from the wordlists it would have been desirable to base decisions exclusively upon proven cognates. This is clearly not possible at the present state of Austroasiatic linguistics. It is almost impossible to distinguish borrowings from purely descendant words when comparing most of these languages. Indeed, this writer must admit to reckoning forms cognate for this study (based upon apparent phonological relatedness) which in other studies dealing with specific phonological relations have been discarded as noncognate. It is assumed that this introduces an error somewhat evenly throughout the study and does not affect the overall results.

The methodology used in establishing the cognate percentages, as described in the 1974 and 1978 papers, provided that each wordlist be examined once and each entry in the wordlist be assigned to one of a growing number of cognate sets established for each meaning on a standard 212-item wordlist. This assures consistency of cognateness decisions. That is, though the words for a given meaning in languages A and B, might not appear cognate, if each was determined to be cognate to the corresponding word in language C, then these words for all three languages would necessarily be members of the same cognate set and counted as cognate.

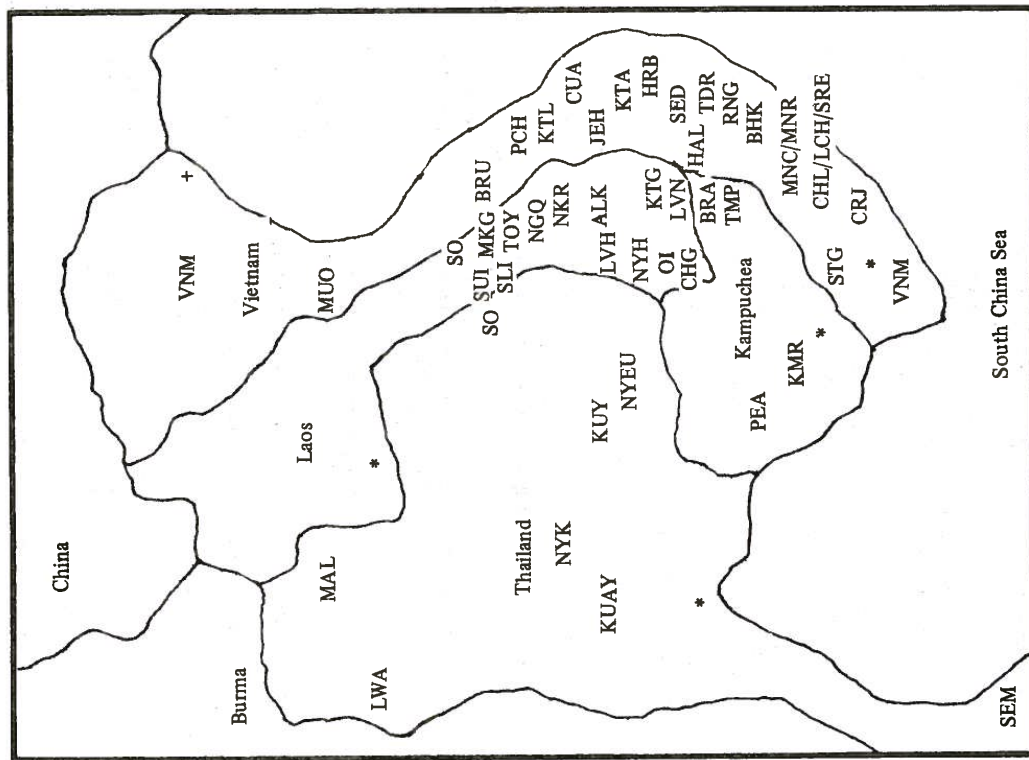
The specially selected 212-meaning wordlist used here³ has provided cognate percentages slightly higher than those obtained using either more or fewer words from a larger available list.⁴

³The 212 meanings used for each wordlist are: abdomen, already, arrow, ashes, (person's) back, bad, banana, tree bark, because, betel chew, big, bird, to bite, black blood, to blow, bone, breasts, buy, (leg) calf, chicken, child, clothing, cloud (without rain), cold weather, come, to cook (rice), cord, corn, count, crossbow, cut, dance, day, deer, die, different, dig, dog, drink, drum, drunk, dry, duck, dust, ear, earth, eat, egg, eight, elephant, enter, eye, fall-drop, far, (animal) fat, father, fear, fire, a fish, five, flesh, float, flow, flower, a fly, to fly, forest, four, fruit, full (sated), give, gold, good, grass, green, haul, (head) hair, hand, he, head, heavy, hit, horn, hot, house, hundred, I, in, intestines, kill, know, lake, laugh, launder, leaf, leftside, leg, live, liver, loin-cloth, (head) louse, many, monkey, moon, mortar, mosquito, mother, mountain, mouth, mud, nail, name, narrow, near, neck, new, night, nine, nose, not, old-aged, one, person, pestle, pig, pull, push, rabbit, rain, rat, rattan, red, redpepper, cooked rice, field rice, pounded rice, right (correct), rightside, river, road, roof, rot, rotten, round, rub, salt, sand, scorpion, scratch, seed, seven, sew, sharp, shoot (crossbow), short, shoulder, sick, silver, sit, six, skin, sky, small, smell, smoke, snake, spear, spit, split, squeeze, stab, stand, star, stone, straight, suck, sun, to swell, swim, tail, take, ten, thick, thigh, thin (as a leaf), think, thou, three, throw, tie, tiger, tongue, tooth, tree, tusk, two, vomit, walk, want, wash (clothes), water, weep, wet, white, who?, the wind, wing, wipe, to work, year, yellow.

⁴Smith (1974) includes a comparison of four different length wordlists: 100-, 200-, 212-, and 281-meanings, each of the shorter lists being included in the longest list. Cognate percentages using the 212-meaning wordlist are, on the average, 1.2% higher than those of the 100-word Swadesh list; and the 100-word list figures are an average of 2% higher than the 281-meaning list; and the 281-meaning list figures are an average of 2% higher than the 200-word 'Swadesh' list. The range from the lowest percentage to the highest percentage for a given pair of languages using the four different-length wordlists runs from 2-12%, with the lowest differences occurring for the language relationships of greater than 90% or lower than 30%; the greatest differences occur in the mid-range of 30-90% cognate.

In the few cases where comparison is possible the Thomas (1966) figures for relationships of greater than 35% are 3-8 percentage points lower than those given in this paper; whereas his figures for relationships of less than 35% are 0-4 percentage points higher than those given here.

Comparing this paper with Thomas and Headley (1970), Thomas's figures (because each author's calcula-



Approximate locations of the 45 language groups included in this study