

A Reconstruction of Proto-Segai-Modang

Alexander D. Smith

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Segai-Modang languages, located primarily in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, and directly descended from Proto-Kayanic (PKAY), are of a phonological type far removed from Proto-Malayo-Polynesian and most of its daughter languages. Segai-Modang languages are stress-final and have innovated sesqui- and monosyllabic canonical word forms with expanded vowel inventories. They share these characteristics with a few other, individual languages of Borneo (Saʼban, Merap, certain Bidayuh languages, including Hliboi), and with Chamic languages of mainland Southeast Asia. In Borneo, however, Segai-Modang is the only large subgroup in which every known member has undergone these phonological innovations, and thus provides a unique opportunity for reconstructing an Austronesian proto-language (Proto-Segai-Modang [PSM]) whose daughter languages are entirely sesqui- or monosyllabic and which was not influenced through linguistic contact. The present study provides evidence for a hypothesis that PSM was itself sesquisyllabic, that the penultimate syllable was reduced to schwa, and the features of PKAY penultimate vowels were transferred to the onsets of the final syllable. This created distinct regular, palatalized, and labialized consonants in final-syllable onsets position at the PSM level. These features were later transferred to the final-syllable vowels resulting in diverse reflexes of PSM vowels in the daughter languages. The reconstruction, therefore, posits that final-syllable onsets were complex but that vowels remained phonemically conservative. The vowels *a, *a: *u, and *i are reconstructed to the final syllable, and *ə to the penultimate sesquisyllable. The reconstruction also posits conditioned allophony for many of the PSM final-syllable vowels, which became distinct only after the breakup of PSM.

1. INTRODUCTION. Segai-Modang is a subgroup within the larger Kayanic group, located primarily in East and North Kalimantan, Indonesia. While many Kayanic languages are not particularly phonologically innovative, the Segai-Modang group stands out for its sesquisyllabic and monosyllabic word structure and phonological innovation in both syllable and vowel complexity. Most Segai-Modang languages have between 10 and 15 vowel distinctions, including diphthongs and triphthongs, an areal feature of central Borneo. Segai languages have further innovated complex onsets after the deletion of penultimate vowels caused C_1 and C_2 in words of the shape C_1VC_2VC to become adjacent. These changes give Segai-Modang a more mainland

40 Southeast Asian typology, a feature they share with genetically more distantly
 41 related languages in Borneo like Merap (Smith 2017b), Sa'ban (Blust 2001),
 42 and several Bidayuh languages, including Hliboi (Smith 2017a, 2019).
 43 Segai-Modang also shares these features with Chamic (Thurgood 1999,
 44 2005) located on or near the Southeast Asian mainland. Segai-Modang, how-
 45 ever, is the only large subgroup of Borneo in which all known member lan-
 46 guages are sesqui- or monosyllabic, suggesting that these features are
 47 reconstructable to PSM itself, which is the main purpose of this paper.

48 Segai-Modang languages have been the subject of several studies (Revel-
 49 Macdonald 1982; Guerreiro 1983, 1989, 1996; Smith 2017a, b) and data papers
 50 (Astar et al. 2002; Wati et al. 2002), but there has been no attempt to reconstruct
 51 the phonology of Proto-Segai-Modang (PSM). In this case, the reconstruction
 52 of PSM can give insights into the movement from fully disyllabic Proto-
 53 Kayanic (PKAY) to sesqui- and monosyllabic Segai-Modang. In particular,
 54 the reconstruction hypothesizes that (a) PSM was already sesquisyllabic (schwa
 55 was the only penultimate vowel and stress was on the ultima) and (b) that the
 56 labial and palatal features of PKAY penultimate *u and *i had been transferred
 57 to the onset of the final syllable, resulting in a contrast between regular, pala-
 58 talized, and labialized consonants in this position. Palatalized and labialized
 59 consonants conditioned differential reflexes of final-syllable vowels that even-
 60 tually became contrastive through subsequent sound change. Example (1) dem-
 61 onstrates the proposed canonical word shape of PSM with a mark for stress,
 62 length, and an optional sesquisyllable:

(1) *(Cə)'CV(:)(C)

63 The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides a brief
 (AQ1) 64 summary of the evidence for a Segai-Modang subgroup in Kayanic, based
 65 on Smith (2017), that includes all the languages contained in this study.
 66 Section 3 presents an argument that as penultimate vowels reduced to schwa
 67 that the features of penultimate vowels spread iteratively first to the onsets
 68 of final syllables at PSM then later to the final-syllable vowels themselves.
 69 The reconstructed consonant inventory is presented at the end of the section.
 70 In sections 4 through 6 the vowels are discussed and 41 correspondence sets
 71 are shown to reflect a PSM series of 5 vowels, 4 full vowels in the final syllable,
 72 *a, *a:, *i, *u, and the reduced vowel *ə that was restricted to prefinal syllables.
 73 Section 4 focuses on reflexes of central vowels and includes a justification for
 74 reconstructing a length distinction between *a and *a:, a distinction that is
 75 hypothesized to have been inherited from PKAY. Section 5 is on the high vowels
 76 and includes a reconstruction of conditioned allophony whereby *i was realized
 77 as *[i], *[e], *[əj], and *[aj] and *u as *[u], *[o], *[əw], and *[aw]. Section 6
 78 discusses reflexes of the word-final diphthongs, *-ay, *-aw, *-iw, *-uy.

79 The reconstruction relies on linguistic data from six varieties of Segai-
 80 Modang: Wahau, Gai, Kelai, Mei Lan, Woq Helaq, and Long Gelat.
 81 Mei Lan and Woq Helaq are spoken in the same community, but there are mea-
 surable differences in their historical phonology, so both are listed here. All data

FIGURE 1. KAYANIC INTERNAL SUBGROUPING (SMITH 2017a)

KAYANIC

- a. Kayan-Murik
 - i. Kayan
 - ii. Murik-Merap
- b. Segai-Modang
 - i. Segai (Gaai, Kelai, Wahau)
 - ii. Modang (Mei Lan, Woq Helaq, Long Gelat)

82 are primary, but some additional data can be found in Astar et al. (2002) and
 83 Wati et al. (2002), two collections of Swadesh lists from numerous languages in
 84 Borneo. Throughout the paper I follow the convention of writing [j] as y and [ɲ]
 85 as ñ, even where square brackets are used. I provide some examples within the
 86 text, but the complete dataset appears in the appendix, organized by cognate set.

87 **2. SUBGROUPING AND PHONEMICS.** Modern Segai-Modang lan-
 88 guages can be typologically and genetically divided into two groups, (a) the
 89 mostly sesquisyllabic Modang languages, which have a CəCV(C) basic word
 90 shape and (b) the mostly monosyllabic Segai languages, which have a CCV(C)
 91 word shape. Smith (2017a) placed Segai-Modang in the Kayanic subgroup,
 92 which contains Kayanic and Murik-Merap languages in a separate primary
 93 branch. Figure 1 presents the subgrouping that informs the reconstructions
 94 throughout this paper, from Smith (2017a).

95 Within Kayanic, there is little doubt that Segai and Modang form a sub-
 96 group. Smith (2017a) identified several innovations that define the subgroup,
 97 including two unconditioned splits in initial position and a narrowly condi-
 98 tioned merger of *b and *w in intervocalic position. The evidence is presented
 99 in the following three tables with a brief introduction to each. Note that in
 AQ2 table 1 and throughout this paper, that some vowel-final reconstructions are
 101 reflected with a final -n in some languages. This is an obligatory marker of
 102 inalienable possession, most often found on body-part terms.

Split in reflexes of *b:

104 In initial position, *b either weakened to w or remained unchanged. Where
 105 *b weakened in one S-M language, it implies that it also weakened in other S-M
 106 languages.

Split in reflexes of *l:

108 In initial position, *l was either deleted or retained. Where *l was deleted
 AQ3 in one S-M language, it implies that it was also deleted in other S-M languages,
 110 as seen in table 2.

Conditioned merger of *b and *w:

112 *b merged with *w in the environment *u_a, but remained distinct else-
 113 where, as seen in table 3.

114 The exact internal subgrouping of Segai-Modang remains to be worked out.
 115 Gaai and Kelai share several changes that suggest they form a subgroup,

130 and any statement of phonemic inventory is bound to change upon closer anal-
 131 ysis. However, Smith (2017b) gave the following inventories: Gaai, /i e a ə u o
 132 ɒ/, Kelai /i e ε æ ə u o ɒ a/, Long Gelat /i e a u o ə/, Modang (Woq Helaq) /i e a a:
 133 u o ə/. In Modang, the phoneme a:, [ə̌], may not be distinctive since it occurs
 134 only before alveolar consonants. However, in the Mei Lan dialect where *s
 135 became *h* in coda position, the alveolar condition was lost and a: is unambigu-
 136 ously phonemic. Smith (2017b) also lists the diphthongs and triphthongs in
 137 each language as follows, Gaai /iw uy əw oy ay aw a:y/, Kelai /iw ew æw
 138 aɔ̌ aǐ əy oy uy/, Modang /iɔ̌ eɔ̌ ey əw oy uy ay aw aɔ̌/, and Long Gelat /iɔ̌
 139 ey əw oɔ̌ uy ay aw/. Gaai has an additional triphthong /eɔ̌w/. Finally, Wahau,
 140 a language included in this study but not featured in earlier works on Segai-
 141 Modang, has not yet been the subject of phonemic analysis.

142 **3. PENULTIMATE VOWEL REDUCTION, SESQUISYLLABICITY,**
 143 **AND FINAL-SYLLABLE ONSETS.** As already stated, modern Segai-
 144 Modang languages have either a sesquisyllabic or monosyllabic canonical word
 145 shape that developed through the reduction and eventual deletion of PMP penul-
 146 timate vowels, ultimately associated with across-the-board stress shift to the
 147 final syllable. However, the features associated with reconstructed penultimate
 148 vowels were not lost and are retained in the daughter languages albeit trans-
 149 ferred to the final syllable. The relationship between PMP penultimate vowels
 150 and Segai-Modang final-syllable vowels is most clear where PMP (or PKAY)
 151 had *i or *u in the penult and *a in the ultima (*CiCaC or *CuCaC). In these
 152 cases the final-syllable reflex of *a has taken on the reconstructed penultimate
 153 vowel features in modern Segai-Modang. Thus, PKAY *CuCaC became C(ə)
 154 CuC and *CiCaC became C(ə)CiC, with several languages showing a schwa-
 155 like off-glide, -CuəC or -CiəC. I will refer to these patterns as RAISED VOWEL
 156 REFLEXES. Table 4 shows some of the more striking comparisons from PKAY to
 157 Segai-Modang that display this phenomenon. In this and other tables it is
 158 important to note that raised vowel reflexes in Long Gelat are always /u/ but
 159 are nevertheless triggered by both *i and *u in the reconstructed penult.

160 Three competing hypotheses could explain these data. First, we may posit
 161 metathesis between the penultimate vowel and the final-syllable onset whereby
 162 *-uC- became *-Cu- and *-iC- became *-Ci-, with subsequent sound change
 163 giving rise to modern forms. PKAY *kitan, for example, would have gone
 164 through the following stages in Kelai: *kitan > *ktian > *ktin*. Second, we may

TABLE 4. SEGAI-MODANG RAISED VOWEL REFLEXES

PKAY	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
*kitan	–	tiən	ktin	kətin	kətin	kətuən	‘binturong’
*sipan	ŋəmpɪən	jəlpin	jəlpin	ŋəmpin	ŋəmpin	ŋəmpuən	‘centipede’
*pitan	səptuən	jəptin	jəptin	səptin	səptin	səptuən	‘nine’
*uta?	tuə?	tu?	tu?	tuə?	tuə?	tu?	‘vomit’
*bulan	wluən	uluən	uluən	wəlun	wəlun	uluən	‘moon’
*kulat	kluət	kluət	kluət	kəlut	kəlut	kəlūət	‘mushroom’

165 posit vowel harmony whereby the height of the penultimate vowel triggers
 166 height assimilation with the ultima, followed by place assimilation in most lan-
 167 guages. Under such an analysis, *kitan would have gone through the following
 168 stages in Kelai: *kitan > *kitin > *kitin > *kətin > *ktin* and in Long Gelat:
 169 *kitan > *kitin > *kətin > *kətuən*. The key difference between the two lan-
 170 guages is the eventual assimilation of frontness in Kelai but not in Long Gelat.
 171 Third, we may posit iterative feature spreading whereby the palatal feature of
 172 *i and the labio-velar feature of *u in the penultimate vowel spread to the onset
 173 of the final syllable and eventually to the final-syllable vowel. Under such
 174 a scenario, PKAY *iCa became PSM *əC^va, and PKAY *uCa became PSM
 175 *əC^wa. Reflexes of *kitan would have thus passed through the following stages
 176 in Kelai: *kitan > *kə^van > *ktin* and in Long Gelat *kitan > *kə^van > *kə^vun*.

177 In the remainder of this section I will argue for the latter hypothesis: that the
 178 palatal and labio-velar features spread to the onset of the final syllable at PSM
 179 and later to the final-syllable vowels themselves. I will first demonstrate where
 180 the first two hypotheses fail to predict the observed sound changes and will
 181 conclude with a defense of the feature-spreading hypothesis and a reconstruc-
 182 tion of the PSM consonant inventory.

183 **3.1 THE METATHESIS HYPOTHESIS.** Long Gelat provides the strongest
 184 argument against metathesis as an explanation for raised vowel reflexes in Segai-
 185 Modang. In Long Gelat, like all Segai-Modang languages, both penultimate *i
 186 and *u are reduced but not before causing changes to final-syllable vowels. These
 187 changes are seen in table 4, where Long Gelat reflects *a as *u*(ə) in words that are
 188 reconstructed with a high vowel in the penultimate syllable. Long Gelat is unique
 189 in this case, since all other Segai-Modang languages in this study reflect *a as
 190 a high-front vowel after penultimate *i and as a high-back vowel after *u.
 191 Example (2) compares reflexes of *kitan ‘binturong’ and *kulat ‘mushroom’
 192 in Long Gelat (2a) and Woq Helaq (2b) with raised vowel reflexes in bold.

- (2) a. Long Gelat: *kitan > *kə^vuən* *kulat > *kə^vluət*
 b. Woq Helaq: *kitan > *kə^vin* *kulat > *kə^vluət*

193 A metathesis hypothesis cannot account for this. Under such a hypothesis
 194 the Long Gelat words must have gone through the following stages: from
 195 PKAY *kulat ‘mushroom’, *kulat > *kluat > *kəluat > *kə^vluət* but from *kitan,
 196 would have gone through an inexplicable stage where *ia became *uə*: *kitan >
 197 *ktian > *kə^vtian > *kə^vtuən*.

198 A second criticism for the metathesis analysis regards the syllable structure
 199 of modern languages. There are two parts to this criticism: first, modern lan-
 200 guages all reflect a single nucleus, whereas the metathesis hypothesis creates a
 201 syllable boundary between the onset of the final syllable and the coda. PKAY
 202 *kitan would thus have created *kti.an. No language retains this extra syllable
 203 boundary, and the syllable structure itself is extraordinary, with a complex onset
 word initially but no onset in the final syllable. Second, the metathesis

204 hypothesis posits complex onsets in PSM that were eventually separated with a
 205 schwa: *kitan > *ktian > *kətian. This, again, is not supported by the data.
 206 Segai are the only languages that regularly deleted penultimate vowels, whereas
 207 Modang retains them as schwa. As a result, Segai languages have several
 208 assimilations that arose because of complex onsets. In Gaai, for example, voice-
 209 less stops gained voicing where they were immediately followed by a voiced
 210 segment in a complex onset: *tubuq ‘to grow’ became Gaai *dbəw?*, and *kahiw
 211 ‘wood; tree’ became Gaai *gjaw* (PMP *kahiw > PKAY *kayu > PSM
 212 *[kə’dʒaw] > *kjaw > *gjaw*). No such assimilatory processes are observable
 213 in Modang where complex onsets must have existed under a metathesis hypoth-
 214 esis. This, in turn, suggests that the full deletion of the penultimate vowel
 215 occurred only in Segai, and we must reconstruct some sort of vowel in the
 216 penultimate syllable to PSM.

217 **3.2 THE HARMONY HYPOTHESIS.** The second hypothesis posits a stage
 218 where vowel harmony affected final-syllable vowels in two stages. First, final-
 219 syllable vowels assimilated to the penultimate-syllable vowel for height. Thus,
 220 *-uCa- became *uCi, and *iCa became *iCi. Under the harmony hypothesis,
 221 this stage is reconstructed to PSM giving PSM *kitin ‘binturong’ and *kult
 222 ‘mushroom’. Differentiation occurred after the breakup of PSM, which then
 223 accounts for the Long Gelat reflexes. In Long Gelat, harmony ceased, and *i
 224 shifted to *u: PSM *kitin > pre Long Gelat *kətin > Long Gelat *kətuən* and
 225 PSM *kult > pre-Long Gelat *kəlīt > Long Gelat *kəluət*. In other languages
 226 there was a second stage in harmony where final-syllable vowels assimilated to
 227 the frontness and backness of the penultimate vowel. In Woq Helaq we, therefore,
 228 must posit the following: PSM *kitin > pre-Woq Helaq *kitin > modern Woq
 229 Helaq *kətin* and PSM *kult > pre-Woq-Helaq *kult > modern Woq Helaq
 230 *kəluət*. On the Long Gelat pattern alone, the harmony hypothesis is superior
 231 to the metathesis hypothesis in that it can accurately account for the identical
 232 reflexes of *a after penultimate *u and *i. There are, however, specific cases
 233 outlined in the following subsections where the harmony hypothesis fails to
 234 accurately predict final-syllable reflexes, outlined in the following sections.

235 **3.2.1 NEUTRAL PENULTIMATE VOWELS BUT RAISED VOWEL**
 236 **REFLEXES IN THE FINAL SYLLABLE.** There are multiple cases where
 237 *a in the final syllable is reflected as a raised vowel despite the absence of *i or
 238 *u in the reconstructed penult. I have placed a few of these examples in table 5:
 239 A strict harmony hypothesis, where raised vowel reflexes are triggered by
 240 the quality of the penultimate vowel, fails to explain these comparisons. With
 241 neutral penultimate vowels the expected reflexes of *həcan are, for example,
 242 Wahau **həsæn, Gaai **cæn, Kelai **cæn, Mei Lan and Woq Helaq **həseən,
 243 and Long Gelat **həsiən (based on correspondence set one in table 10,
 244 section 4). What these words have in common, however, are labial or palatal
 245 onsets in the reconstructed final syllable. PKAY *-c- and *-y- (which itself
 246 became PSM *-j-) triggered *i* reflexes in Wahau, Gaai, Kelai, Mei Lan and

TABLE 5. RAISED VOWEL REFLEXES WITH A NEUTRAL PENULT

PKAY	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
*həcan	həsɪɔn	ciɔn	–	həsɪn	həsɪn	həsun	‘stairs/ladder’
*ayam	juəm	jim	jiəm	jim	jim	jum	‘domesticated animal’
*sawa-n	səguɔn	sɔʔ	səʔ	səguɔn	səguɔn	səgun	‘spouse’

TABLE 6. REVERSED FINAL-SYLLABLE REFLEXES

PKAY	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
*ucan	–	ciɔn	ciɔn	sin	sin	sun	‘rain’
*niwan	ŋwan	–	məŋuɔ	əŋuɔɔ	məŋuɔɔ	haŋuɔɔ	‘skinny’

247 Woq Helaq and an *u* reflex in Long Gelat. PKAY *w (which became PSM *g^w)
 248 triggered *u* reflexes in all languages. In these cases, it is the onset of the final
 249 syllable, not the penultimate vowel, that appears to be triggering raised vowel
 250 reflexes. This complicates a hypothesis whereby vowel harmony alone trig-
 251 gered raised vowel reflexes.

252 **3.2.2 REVERSED RAISED VOWEL REFLEXES.** The harmony hypoth-
 253 esis fails again where a penultimate vowel is reconstructed with *i or *u, but
 254 the final syllable in modern languages reflects the opposite quality, that is,
 255 where *-uCa- becomes -Ci-, and *-iCa- becomes -Cu-. Two cases, shown in
 256 table 6, have been identified and it is clear why we have the reverse reflexes;
 257 onset quality overrides penultimate-syllable vowel quality.

258 In a harmony analysis, *ucan would have first become *ucin, then *ucun,
 259 and finally *cun*, and *niwan¹ would have become *niwiŋ, then *niwiɔ, and
 260 finally, *nəwiŋ*. Instead the reflexes are reversed; modern *i* follows a *u penult,
 261 and *u* follows an *i penult. The final-syllable vowel depends instead on the
 262 quality of the final-syllable onset as *-c- triggers a front-vowel reflex even if
 263 preceded by *u, and *w triggers a back-vowel reflex even if preceded by *i.
 264 Once again, a hypothesis that relies on vowel harmony fails to account for these
 265 patterns.

266 **3.3 BLOCKING METATHESIS OR HARMONY?** One could try to save
 267 either of these hypotheses by making palatal consonants (*c, *j, *ñ) and labio-
 268 velar consonants (*g^w) exceptional regarding metathesis or harmony, but such
 269 an analysis lacks clear phonetic motivation. Regarding metathesis, there is no
 270 obvious reason why a palatal consonant would act as a blocker. There are no

1.. PKAY *niwan is supported with Kayan evidence as well: Bahau niwan, Data Dian niwəŋ, Balui Liko niwan. The PSM form is thought to have gone through the following stages: *niwan > *[niwāŋ] > *[niŋwāŋ] > PSM *ŋ^waŋ. PSM deleted the initial syllable and nasalized the glide as a result of progressive nasalization from *n- (see Blust 1997 for more). This happens in other Segai-Modang words, for example, PKAY *ŋayaw ‘headhunting’ has a nasal reflex of *y in Kelai *nñiw*, Mei Lan *əñiw*, Woq Helaq *əñi*, and Long Gelat *ŋəñu*.

TABLE 7. PROTO-SEGAI-MODANG CONSONANTS

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Voiceless plosive	*p ^(w/y)	*t ^(w/y)	*c	*k ^(w/y)	*ʔ ^(w/y)
Voiced plosive	*b	*d ^(w/y)	*j	*g ^(w/y)	
Nasal	*m ^(w/y)	*n ^(w/y)	*ñ	*ŋ ^(w)	
Fricative		*s ^(w/y)			*h ^(w/y)
Lateral		*l ^(w/y)			
Glide	*w		*y		

313 hardened to *g^w in PSM, which explains the absence of *w^w. Where a velar
314 nasal would have palatalized to **ŋ^y, it instead shifted to a full palatal *ñ
315 (see section 3.5). The onsets gained palatal and labio-velar features through
316 iterative feature spreading. Penultimate vowels transferred their features to
317 the following final-syllable onset and then reduced to schwa. If the onset
318 already had secondary features, then the feature spreading was blocked and
319 the features themselves were deleted as the vowel reduced.

320 By and large the modern languages do not retain the regular-palatalized-labi-
321 alized distinction, although there are certain caveats. The main advantage of
322 this approach is that it can explain both words with raised vowel reflexes after
323 reconstructed penultimate *i and *u as well as words with raised vowel reflexes
324 after *-c-, *-j-, *-ñ-, and *g^w. In all cases, onsets had palatal or labio-velar fea-
325 tures that were transferred to the final syllable after the breakup and diversifi-
326 cation of PSM. A segment-by-segment spreading of features can be
327 reconstructed, as schematized in example (4). The features appear to have “fol-
328 lowed” stress, as it moved to the final syllable and penultimate vowels were
329 reduced to schwa. In (4a) and (4b) features spread freely to the final-syllable
330 onset and on to the final-syllable vowel. In (4c) spreading is blocked because of
331 the presence of a palatal feature on the final-syllable onset. The labio-velar fea-
332 ture is deleted as the penultimate vowel is reduced and the inherited onset fea-
333 tures spread to the final-syllable vowel in its place.

334

335 (4) a.

336 [+pal] > [+pal] > [+pal] > [+pal]
337 C V C V C > C V C^y V C > C ə C^y V^y C > C ə C^(y) V^y C

338

339 b.

[+lab] > [+lab] > [+lab] > [+lab]
340 C V C V C > C V C^w V C > C ə C^w V^w C > C ə C^(w) V^w C

341

342 c.

[+lab] > *[+lab] > [+pal] > [+pal]
343 C V C^y V C > C V C^y V C > C ə C^y V^y C > C ə C^y V^y C

344

345

346

347 In the case of Long Gelat, palatal and labial features did not spread completely
 348 to the final syllable, and reflexes fell together as *u*. Long Gelat raised vowel
 349 reflexes are thus conditioned directly by adjacent $C^{y/w}$, not by harmony, as shown
 350 by the existence of raised vowel reflexes without a high vowel in the penult. The
 351 fact that a palatal feature already on the onset may block labial feature spreading
 352 from the penultimate vowel is motivated by the observation that segments tend to
 353 have either palatal or labial features but only rarely both.

354 **3.5 AN OBJECTION TO PALATALIZED AND LABIALIZED**
 355 **ONSETS.** A potential objection to the reconstruction of palatalized and labi-
 356 alized onsets of final syllables may be that I am proposing an intermediate stage
 357 that arose, caused a necessary change, and was later deleted; that is, palataliza-
 358 tion and labialization exist only to derive vowel reflexes. The main argument
 359 against such an objection is that certain segments do retain the earlier stage. For
 360 example, where * η appeared after **i*, as in PKAY * $t\acute{o}l\eta$ ‘ear’, it is reflected as a
 361 palatal in the modern languages: Wahau $k\acute{a}l\eta\eta$, Mei Lan and Woq Helaq
 362 $k\acute{a}\eta\eta$, and Long Gelat $k\acute{a}\eta\eta$. Importantly, the Long Gelat word reflects pala-
 363 talization of * η even though the modern raised vowel reflex is u_2 , demonstrating
 364 that historical feature spreading is responsible for the change * $\eta > \eta$. In these
 365 words we can see a clear transfer of the palatal feature to the onset of the final
 366 syllable, resulting in full palatalization of * η to PSM * η . Second, Wahau is
 367 unique among the languages appearing in this study in that it sometimes main-
 368 tains labialization on final-syllable onsets as a variable pronunciation. PSM * η -
 369 *k^wah* ‘to sell’, for example, was pronounced $\eta k^{w}ah$ in Wahau, even though most
 370 recordings of words that reflect * $C^{w}a$ in Wahau are pronounced with either *u* or
 371 $u\acute{a}$. Other examples of coarticulated onsets that were recorded in Wahau are *lvak*
 372 ‘floor’, *lv^wu η* ‘to move one’s body’, and $\acute{a}\eta^{w}a?$ ‘to hit with a stick’. Third, it is
 373 clear from words like Kelai *ci η* and Mei Lan *sin* (both < **quzan*) that the onset
 374 of the final syllable, not the quality of the penultimate vowel, is the main deter-
 375 miner of final-syllable vowel reflexes. The hypothesis that PSM had palatalized
 376 and labialized onsets of final syllables historically conditioned by the quality of
 377 PKAY penultimate vowels is thus supported by the historical facts of final-
 378 syllable vowel reflexes.

379 Palatalized and labialized final-syllable onsets are also found in the historical
 380 phonologies of languages outside Austronesian. Ostapirat (2018), for example,
 381 reconstructs palatalized and labialized consonants in a parallel development in
 382 Kra-Dai. In those examples, the quality of proposed Proto-Austro-Tai penulti-
 383 mate syllables passed their features onto the onsets of final syllables, eventually
 384 resulting in their complete transfer to the final-syllable nucleus. A representative
 385 example comes from Proto-Austro-Tai **utaq* ‘vomit’, which Ostapirat recon-
 386 structs as * $r^{w}a:k$ in Proto-Tai but as **uta:k* in Proto-Kra-Dai. It is reflected in sev-
 387 eral modern languages with a labialized vowel: Yay *ruak*, Mak *du:k*, Maonan
 388 *ndo:k*, and Lingao *duak*, which provides outside evidence supporting a direc-
 389 tional change from * uCa to $C^{w}a$ and * iCa to $C^{y}a$, and this may be further associ-
 390 ated with stress shift to the final syllable as both Segai-Modang and Kra-Dai are

391 either monosyllabic or sesquisyllabic with stress on the final syllable but descend
392 from a proto-language that had penultimate stress (Smith 2018).

393 Finally, onsets trigger vowel assimilation in other Austronesian languages as
394 well, perhaps most famously in Marshallese. In his analysis of Marshallese
395 vowel phonemics, Bender (1963) demonstrates that front and back vowels
396 are predictably triggered by the preceding consonant where palatal and velar
397 consonants result in front and back vowel realizations, respectively. The
398 onset-triggered vowel splits we find in Segai-Modang are, therefore, not unique
399 cross-linguistically. They are only notable from an areal perspective, being rare
400 in Borneo where they are generally associated with stress shift.

401 **3.6 REVIEW.** This section has argued that the features of PKAY penultimate
402 vowels were transferred to the onsets of word-final syllables, resulting in a series
403 of regular, palatalized, and labialized onsets in PSM. The feature-spreading analysis
404 can explain both why penultimate vowels affected final-syllable vowel
405 reflexes and why *-c-, *-j-, *-ñ-, and *-g^w- result in raised vowel reflexes regard-
406 less of the quality of the penultimate vowel. Iterative feature spreading palatal-
407 ized and labialized onsets first and final-syllable vowels second but was blocked
408 where final-syllable onsets already had labial or palatal features. Raised vowel
409 reflexes were directly conditioned by the onset and only indirectly by the quality
410 of the penultimate vowel.

411 **4. SEGAI-MODANG REFLEXES OF PKAY *a:, *a, AND *ə.** After recog-
412 nizing the need to reconstruct regular, palatalized, and labialized final-
413 syllable onsets we may move on to the final-syllable vowel reflexes.²
414 Reflexes of PMP and PKAY final-syllable vowels are complex and conditioned
415 by multiple factors. The presence or absence of palatalized and labialized onsets
416 caused splits in reflexes of all vowels, which phonemicized after the loss of
417 palatalization and labialization. Further splits were caused by both the pres-
418 ence/absence and quality of final-syllable codas. This section organizes reflexes
419 of PKAY *a:, *a, and *ə in the final syllable by correspondence set. Later sec-
420 tions (5 and 6) discuss the high vowels and diphthongs, respectively.

421 Reflexes of PKAY central vowels have at least 16 distinct correspondence
422 sets conditioned by the secondary features of final-syllable onsets and the pres-
423 ence, absence, and quality of codas. I argue for two phonemic central vowels in
424 PSM final syllable, *a: and *a. Reflexes of PSM *a: are fronted in most daugh-
425 ter languages, but as shown in table 8, Gaaï maintains a more central vowel
426 reflex in correspondence set one and Mei Lan and Woq Helaq do so in corre-
427 spondence set two. PSM *a ultimately reflects a conditioned merger of PMP *ə
428 and *a, and was phonetically realized as [ə] after palatalized and labialized
429 onsets. The 16 sets are given below this paragraph with reflexes in the six

2. There is no need to reconstruct the quality of penultimate vowels, since PSM was fully sesqui-
syllabic and had only schwa in the penult. All reconstructed vowels refer to those that appear in
word-final syllables.

TABLE 8. CENTRAL-VOWEL CORRESPONDENCE SETS

Set number	PSM	Phonetic details	Condition	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat
1	*a:	[æ/eə]	C [alv]	æ	a	æ	eə	eə	iə
2	*a:	[æ/eə]	C [ʔ, h]	æ	ay	æ	əa	əa	e
3	*a:	[æ/eə]	C [lab]	eə	eə	æ	ay	ay	iə
4	*a:	[æ/eə]	C [vel]	eə	eə	—	eə	eə	i
5	*a:	[a:]	C ^w [alv]	uə/uə	uə	uə	u	u	üə
6	*a:	[a:]	C ^w [vel]	uə/wa	uə	uə/u	uə	uə	uə
7	*a:	[a:]	C ^w [ʔ, h]	uə/wa	u	u	uə	uə	uə
8	*a:	[a:]	C ^y [alv]	iə	i/iə	i/iə	i	i	üə
9	*a:	[a:]	C ^y [ʔ, h]	iə	i	i	iə	iə	u
10	*a:	[a:]	C ^y [lab]	iə	i	i	i	i	u
11	*a:	[a:]	C ^y [vel]	iə	eə	eə/iə	iə	iə	uə
12	*a	[a]	C_C	a	a	a	a	a	a
13	*a	[ə]	C ^y ʔ	ə	o	ε	aw	aw	aw
14	*a	[ə]	C ^w ʔ	ə	o	o	aw	aw	aw
15	*a	[ə]	C ^{y/w} [vel]	ə	o	əw	aw	aw	a
16	*a	[ə]	C ^{y/w} [alv]	ə	o	a	o	aw	oə

AQ7 languages used in this study. Sets 1–11 reflect PSM *a:. Within this set, numbers 5 through 11 have raised vowel reflexes conditioned by labialized and palatalized onsets in modern Segai-Modang. Sets 12–16 reflect *a. In this and other tables I indicate both phonemic and phonetic forms where appropriate. See section 4.7 for more on this.

4.1 JUSTIFICATION FOR PSM *a: AND *a FROM KAYANIC. As discussed at length in Blust (2002) many Kayan languages reflect both the deletion of inherited word-final glottal stops (from earlier PMP *-q) and the innovation of glottal stops in historically open word-final syllables (*-a became -aʔ, but *-aʔ became -a). Blust proposed that vowels in final syllables were phonetically lengthened before inherited glottal stops and that innovative glottal stops were later added to open final syllables that had short vowels. The result was a distinction between long and short vowels only before final glottal stop. The following relative chronology in example (5) is reprinted from Smith (2017a) and shows the stages that glottal stop insertion and vowel lengthening took place.

(5)		*mata	*m-	*bulu	*buluq	*tali	*putiq
		‘eye’	ataq	‘body	‘bamboo’	‘rope’	‘white’
			‘raw’	hair’			
	lengthen	—	*m-	—	*bulu:ʔ	—	*puti:ʔ
	vowels before		ata:ʔ				
	*-ʔ						
	add ʔ after	*mataʔ	—	*buluʔ	—	*taliʔ	—
	*-V						
	lower short	—	—	*buloʔ	—	*taleʔ	—
	vowels						
	result	<i>mataʔ</i>	<i>m-ata:ʔ</i>	<i>buloʔ</i>	<i>buluʔ</i>	<i>taleʔ</i>	<i>putiʔ</i>

445 This specific history of vowel lengthening, glottal stop addition, short vowel
 446 lowering, and optional glottal stop deletion after long vowels is unique to
 447 Kayan and Murik-Merap, but Segai-Modang languages offer an intriguing
 448 glimpse into the stages that glottal stop insertion and vowel lengthening took
 449 place. As Blust notes, vowels were lengthened before *inherited* glottal stop, and
 450 where glottal stop was added, vowels remained short. Although Segai-Modang
 451 languages did not add glottal stop after high vowels, as is the case in Kayan-
 452 Murik, we do find glottal stop insertion after word-final *a. More importantly,
 453 this study reconstructs a long vowel, *a:, before inherited glottal stop but a short
 454 vowel before innovated glottal stop, matching the Kayan-Murik data. It follows
 455 from this that Proto-Kayanic itself had lengthened *a in closed syllables and
 456 closed open syllables with a glottal stop, but only where those syllables had
 457 the vowel *a as a nucleus, creating a long-short distinction before word-final
 458 glottal stop that was then inherited in both PSM and Proto-Kayan-Murik (PKM).

459 Reconstructing *a: all the way to Proto-Kayanic may be questioned by
 460 pointing to the fact that Blust reconstructs lengthening only before word-final
 461 glottal stop. This, however, is not an issue. Blust reconstructs a *phonemic* con-
 462 trast of long and short vowels before glottal stop, but it remains a possibility
 463 that all instances of *a were long in closed word-final syllables in PKAY, and
 464 that a phonemic distinction arose only after the later addition of glottal stop.
 Segai-Modang data support such a reconstruction.

465 **4.2 A NOTE ON *-A? AND *-ƏC IN PKAY.** It is well understood that PMP
 466 *-aq became PKAY *-a:?, and that PMP *-a became PKAY *-a?, providing a
 467 newly innovated length contrast only before word-final glottal stop, but what
 468 of PMP *-əq, which would have become PKAY *-ə?? Interestingly, PMP *-əq
 469 and *-aq had merged at some point before PKAY. This is evidenced by reflexes
 470 of *tanəq, which show identical final-syllable reflexes as, for example, *m-ataq
 471 4:AQ8 ‘raw’, as seen in table 9.

472 From this, we can infer that PMP *-əq had been eliminated through merger
 473 at the pre-PKAY level. The next question one must ask is on the phonemic status
 474 of *-a?. After *-əq was eliminated and glottal stop was added to close *a in
 475 open final syllables, a complementary distribution arose. PKAY *-əC (where
 476 C is any consonant except glottal stop) was in complementary distribution with
 477 PKAY*-a?. Complementary distribution itself does not indicate a single pho-
 478 neme, of course, but these two sets eventually merged in PSM as *-aC. The
 479 PKAY reconstruction, which recognizes their complementary distribution, pro-
 480 vides some inherent motivation for their eventual merger in PSM through
 481 reanalysis.

TABLE 9. MERGER OF SCHWA AND *a BEFORE PKAY GLOTTAL STOP

PMP	Pre-PKAY	PKAY	Long Naah	Data Dian	Balui Liko	Ngorek	
*tanəq	*tana?	*tana:?	tana	tana:?	tana	tana	‘land’
*m-ataq	*m-ata?	*m-ata:?	ata	ata:?	ata	ata	‘raw’

482 After directly comparing Segai-Modang and Kayan-Murik reflexes of
 483 PMP *a, we find ample support for reconstructing a length distinction
 484 between *a: and *a in both groups, which can then be reconstructed to
 485 PKAY. The evidence was (a) agreement in cognates between Kayan and
 486 Murik-Merap, justifying their reconstruction to Proto-Kayan-Murik-Merap,
 487 (b) long reflexes of *a after inherited glottal stops and short reflexes after
 AQ9 innovated glottal stops in Segai-Modang, (c) and complementary distribution
 489 between short *a and *ə in final syllables. The remainder of this section fol-
 490 lows from this observation.

491 **4.3 CORRESPONDENCE SETS 1–4.** Correspondence sets 1–4 reflect a
 492 single phoneme *a: and are thus listed together in this section. All four appear
 493 after regular onsets with the following conditions; set 1 is found before alveolar
 494 codas, set 2 before glottal codas, set 3 before velars, and set 4 before labial
 495 codas. Table 10 contains examples from each correspondence set with discus-
 496 sion afterward.³

497 The almost universal frontness of reflexes in these correspondence sets sug-
 498 gests that the reconstructed vowel was front as well, but a lack of fronting in
 499 Gaai *gutan* ‘eye’ and in Mei Lan and Woq Helaq *ləhəq?* ‘blood’ indicates that
 500 the fronted reflexes may have arisen in parallel innovations. Most reflexes of
 501 PSM *a: still remain long in the daughter languages, even if only phonetically
 502 so. For example, in Mei Lan and Woq Helaq, /əa/ is a long vowel with a schwa
 503 nucleus and a lowered off-glide, /eə/ is phonetically long in all languages where
 504 it appears, and in Kelai /æ/ is longer than /a/.

505 Correspondence sets 1–4 are in complementary distribution that points to
 506 the same proto-phoneme. PSM *a: may have been pronounced [æ:] where it
 507 appeared before glottal codas, and either *[æ] or *[eə] before others.
 508 Fronting of *a to e, especially before velar consonants, is common in
 509 Borneo and has occurred in Uma Juman Kayan (Blust 1977), Kajang language
 510 of the upper Rejang and Punan Bah (Smith 2017a), Merap (Smith 2017b), and
 511 others.

512 **4.4 CORRESPONDENCE SETS 5, 6, AND 7.** Correspondence sets 5–7,
 513 shown in table 11, are reflexes of PKAY *a after labialized onsets and are further
 514 conditioned by the quality of the coda; set 5 is found before alveolar codas, set 6
 515 before velars, and set 7 before glottal codas. The vowels are almost universally
 516 high, back, and rounded, with schwa-like off-glides conditioned by the coda.
 517 In some cases, however, Wahau maintains the low-vowel nucleus with a high-
 518 front in-glide (see reflexes of PKAY *niwaŋ ‘skinny’ and of PSM *ŋ-kʷa:h ‘to
 519 sell’). This is taken as evidence that the modern vowel quality was conditioned
 520 by the onset, and that PSM probably had a central vowel as the nucleus.

3. In table 10, Gaai *gutan* is a fusion of *gəŋ mətan*, or ‘hole of the eye’. Throughout Segai-Modang facial features are compounded with the word ‘hole’: PSM *gʷa:ŋ məta:n ‘hole of the eye’, *gʷa:ŋ ba:? ‘hole of the mouth’, *gʷa:ŋ lʷŋ ‘hole of the nose’. In many cases the compounds are maintained. In others, like Gaai *gutan*, they have fused together.

TABLE 10. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SETS 1–4

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
1	*mata-n	*mɔta:n	mtæn	gutæn	mtæn	mɔtɛɲn	mɔtɛɲn	mɔtɪɲn	‘eye’
2	*daha?	*lɔha:ʔ	lɔhæʔ	alhayʔ	lhæʔ	lɔhəɔʔ	lɔhəɔʔ	lɔhɛʔ	‘blood’
3	*m-asak	*sa:k	seɔk	seɔk	sæk	sayk	sayk	siɔk	‘ripe’
4	*kɔlarap	*kɔla:p	–	kleɔp	–	kɔleɔp	kɔleɔp	kɔlip	‘sleep walk’
	*gəʔam	*gɔʔa:m	gɔʔæm	–	–	gɔʔɛɔm	gɔʔɛɔm	gɔʔim	‘molar’

521 Set 5 has a consistent pronunciation as a high, back, rounded vowel,
 522 except in Long Gelat where the alveolar coda conditions a fronted vowel
 523 üɔ (pronounced as [yɪ] and [ʉɪ]). Very little separates sets 5 and 6 that are
 524 5: AQ10 equivalent except for Mei Lan and Woq Helaq, both with schwa off-glides
 525 in 6 but not 5, and by Long Gelat which fronts the vowel in 5 but not 6.
 526 5: AQ11 Set 7 lacks a schwa off-glide in most languages. All correspondence sets,
 527 however, remain conditioned by the coda, and the differences in pronuncia-
 528 tion are not phonemic.

529 **4.5 CORRESPONDENCE SETS 8–11.** It is generally more difficult to find
 530 reflexes of *a: in final syllables following a palatal onset. The correspondence
 531 sets in this section, found in table 12, are thus less robustly supported but
 532 remain consistent with the patterns observed so far. The place of articulation
 533 of the coda conditions reflexes in the modern languages, giving rise to four
 534 distinct correspondence sets. Set 8 appears before alveolar codas, set 9 before
 535 glottals, set 10 before labials, and set 11 before velar codas.

536 Set 8 is the most well-supported set in this section and appears after a
 537 palatalized onset and before an alveolar coda. In set 8, *a: is reflected as a
 538 high-front vowel, often with a schwa-like off-glide except for Mei Lan and
 539 Woq Helaq that invariably reflect a monophthong. This parallels reflexes
 540 of *a: after labialized onsets and before alveolar codas (correspondence
 541 set 5) where only Mei Lan and Woq Helaq reflect a monophthong before
 542 alveolar codas.

543 Correspondence set 9 is evidenced by a single word, PSM *dʷa:ʔ ‘under’.
 544 Note, however, that the pattern in set 9 parallels that found in reflexes of *a: in
 545 the environment C^w _ [ʔ, h]# in set 7 from table 11. Gaai, Kelai, and Long Gelat

TABLE 11. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SETS 5–7

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
5	*kulat	*kɔlʷa:t	kluɔt	kluɔt	kluɔt	kɔlut	kɔlut	kɔlüt	‘mushroom’
6	*niwan	*ŋʷa:ŋ	ŋwan	–	məŋwɔ	əŋŋuɔŋ	məŋuɔŋ	həŋuɔŋ	‘skinny’
	*udəŋ	*lʷa:ŋ	–	yʉɔŋ	yʉɔŋ	luɔŋ	luɔŋ	luɔŋ	‘shrimp’
7	*utaʔ	*tʷa:ʔ	ntuɔʔ	tuʔ	tuʔ	əntuɔʔ	əntuɔʔ	əntuʔ	‘vomit’
	–	*ŋ-kʷa:h	ŋkwah	kuh	kuh	əŋkuɔh	əŋkuɔh	əŋkuh	‘to sell’

TABLE 12. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SET 8

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
8	*ucan	*ca:n	ciən	ciən	ciən	sin	sin	sü:n	'rain'
9	*indaq	*dʷa:ʔ	diəʔ	diʔ	diʔ	diəʔ	diəʔ	duʔ	'under'
10	*siap	*ja:p	jiəp	jiip	jiip	jiip	jiip	jup	'chicken'
11	*biraŋ	*wəlʷa:ŋ	wliəŋ	walheəŋ	walheəŋ	wəliəŋ	wəliəŋ	uluəŋ	'ant'

546 have a monophthong, while Wahau, Mei Lan, and Woq Helaq have an off-
547 glide. This lends credibility to the set.

AQ12 Set 10 is characterized by a lack of off-gliding in all languages except
549 Wahau. Set 11 is evidenced by only two example sets, reflexes of PKAY
550 *kabiraŋ 'ant' and *ihaŋ 'between'. Like correspondence set 6, schwa-like
551 off-glides are universal before velar consonants, and parallels similar sound
552 changes in other language groups in Borneo.

553 **4.6 CORRESPONDENCE SET 12–16.** PSM *a: contrasted with *a only in
554 closed syllables. Historically, there were two sources for *a. The first is from
555 PKAY *a where it occurred in open final syllables after a neutral onset. The
556 open syllable was closed with glottal stop and *a remained short. The second
557 source is PKAY *ə where it occurred in closed final syllables with a neutral
558 onset. In PSM, both had merged as *a, so they are listed together in set 12,
559 shown in table 13.

560 Sets 13 and 14 both reflect a central vowel, most likely a phonetic
561 schwa as evidenced directly by Wahau, and indirectly in the other lan-
562 guages, where *a is reflected as a mid-vowel (except in Mei Lan, Woq
563 Helaq, and Long Gelat where it is reflected as *aw*, but that is assumed
564 to have gone through an earlier stage, *o). Set 14 is identical to set 13 apart
565 from Kelai where the quality of the reflex is dependent on the quality of the
566 final-syllable onset. In set 13 *C^y conditioned an *ɛ* reflex but in set 14 *C^w
567 conditioned an *o* reflex in Kelai. Although there is only one example in the
568 table, individual reflexes in Kelai demonstrate this condition, including
569 Kelai *sgoʔ* 'sheath for a parang' that reflects *sawa 'spouse' (*sawa >
570 *səg^wəʔ > *sgoʔ*) and Kelai *doʔ* 'to meet' that has no PMP reconstruction

TABLE 13. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SET 12

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
12	*dəŋən	*dəŋan	ləŋan	alŋan	lŋan	ləŋan	ləŋan	dəŋan	'otter'
	*dəpa	*paʔ	paʔ	paʔ	–	paʔ	paʔ	paʔ	'fathom'
	*baha	*wəhaʔ	wəhaʔ	–	uhaʔ	wəhaʔ	wəhaʔ	–	'ember'
13	*limaʔ	*mʷaʔ	məʔ	moʔ	mɛʔ	mawʔ	mawʔ	mawʔ	'five'
14	*duaʔ	*ləg ^w aʔ	ləgəʔ	agoʔ	agoʔ	əŋgawʔ	əŋgawʔ	əŋgawʔ	'two'
15	*uləŋ	*əl ^w aŋ	ələŋ	ələŋ	ləwŋ	əlawŋ	əlawŋ	ələŋ	'thorn'
16	*uləd	*lʷal	ləl	lol	lal	lon	lawn	ləŋ	'maggot'

571 but belongs to the same correspondence set: Wahau *dəʔ*, Woq Helaq *dawʔ*,
572 Long Gelat *dawʔ*, PSM *dʷəʔ*.⁴

573 Sets 12–16 are in complementary distribution and indicate that PKAY *ə (in
574 closed final syllables) and *a (in final syllables that were historically open, but
575 were eventually closed with glottal stop) had merged as a single phoneme.

576 **4.7 RECONSTRUCTION AND THE PHONETIC SHAPE OF PSM**
577 **CENTRAL VOWELS.** So far I have argued that PSM had three phonemic
578 central vowels with *a:, *a, and *ə, but only *a: and *a were found in the final
579 syllable, evidenced by cognate sets 1–11 and 12–16, respectively. This discus-
580 sion focuses only on the phonetic shape of final-syllable vowels. The long
581 vowel *a: has a fronted reflex in all cognate sets. As seen in sets 1–4, it is real-
582 ized either as [æ], [a], [ə̃], [ẽ], [ĩ], or [i] in modern languages, which supports
583 reconstructing a phonetically front vowel *[æ]. Every language in this study,
584 however, also has in at least one correspondence set a front-vowel reflex with
585 a schwa off-glide, either [ẽ] or [ĩ]. This suggests that there may have been
586 variation in pronunciation or a condition that remains unclear. The true phonetic
587 form of PSM *a: is uncertain because of this, and we may reconstruct *[æ:]/*
588 [ẽ] for what was phonemically *[a:].

589 In PSM there was no distinctive contrast between *[a] and *[ə] in the final
590 syllable; *[a] was found after neutral onsets and *[ə] after palatalized or labi-
591 alized onsets, as evidenced by correspondence sets 12–16. Neither appeared in
592 open syllables; [ə] because of a restriction inherited from PAN and [a] because
593 these words were closed with glottal stop. There are two mutually incompatible
594 solutions regarding the reconstruction of a single phoneme to represent both
595 allophones: we may reconstruct *a, with a conditioned variant [ə] appearing
596 after palatalized and labialized onsets or we may reconstruct *ə, with [a]
597 appearing after neutral onsets. In this study, *a is preferred because it belongs
598 to the only correspondence set (12) with complete regularity across languages;
599 that is, every language reflects *a as *a after a neutral onset, with no variation
600 between languages. Where *[ə] is reconstructed after palatalized and labialized
601 onsets it has complex and variable pronunciations in the modern languages that
602 in some cases include [a] as a variable pronunciation.

603 This reconstruction means that schwa, as a phoneme, was restricted to prefinal
604 syllables and only appeared in word-final syllables as a conditioned allophone.
605 This is a typical restriction for sesquisyllabic languages and one that is found in,
606 to name only a few examples, Lamkang (Tibeto-Burman, see [Thounaojam and](#)
607 [Chelliah 2007](#); [Khular 2010](#)); Burmese ([Green 2005](#); [Hill 2012](#)); and modern

4. As a side note, reflexes of *duha are somewhat opaque, but nevertheless regular. In Modang languages *l is reflected as a nasal wherever it appears in coda position. With reflexes of PMP *duha (PKAY *dua), *d first became *l in PSM and the transition glide between *u and *a hardened, producing PSM *ləgʷaʔ. Later, the penultimate vowel deleted in Modang and a support vowel was innovated in word-initial position to avoid a banned word-initial cluster, Proto-Modang *əlgʷaʔ. *l, from PMP *d, became a nasal due to its coda position, and assimilated to the place of the following onset producing the modern form əŋgawʔ. As a result, *d became *ŋ in reflexes of *duha in these languages.

608 Segai-Modang languages including Mei Lan, Woq Helaq, Kelai, and Gaai that
609 allow schwa only in prefinal syllables (Smith 2017a) among others.

610 **5. SEGAI-MODANG REFLEXES OF PKAY HIGH VOWELS.** PSM
611 high vowels, like the central vowels, have diverse reflexes conditioned by
612 the quality of both final-syllable onsets and final-syllable codas. At the PSM
613 level, we can reconstruct conditioned allophony for both high vowels; *i
614 was realized as *[i], *[e], *[əy], and *[ay] and *u as *[u], *[o], *[əw], and
615 *[aw] depending on various conditioning factors, discussed at the end of the
616 section.

617 **5.1 REFLEXES OF PKAY *U.** PKAY *u is reflected by conditioned variants
618 that were dependent on both the presence, absence, and quality of the coda, and
619 the quality of onsets. Because these conditions can be reconstructed to PSM,
620 however, the various phonetic realizations are reconstructed as allophones of
621 *u. There are several correspondence sets, numbered 17 through 25 in table 14.

622 **5.1.1 CORRESPONDENCE SETS 17–25.** As seen in table 15, sets 17–21
623 reflect *u after a neutral onset with further variations conditioned by coda
624 quality. It is generally reflected in the modern languages as either *ʊ* in
625 Wahau, Gaai, and Kelai or *o* in Mei Lan, Woq Helaq, and Long Gelat, with
626 additional conditioned allophones discussed in more detail later. Gaai has an
627 additional back-rounded off-glide, which provides evidence favoring a *[o]
628 phonetic reconstruction. A feature of these sets is that they appear either
629 before glottal consonants or the nasal series at various places of articulation.
AQ13 Before the voiceless stops, *u belongs to a separate set, discussed further in
AQ14 section 4.2.3.

632 Correspondence set 17 occurs preceding glottal consonants (*ʔ or *h). Set
633 18 is nearly identical to 17, but is differentiated by the Long Gelat reflex, which
634 developed an off-glide before a velar coda. Set 19 unfortunately lacks Mei Lan
635 data, but nevertheless forms a phonemic set with 17 and 18. Woq Helaq reflects
636 a triphthong /əɰw/ with the off-glide /w/ being triggered by the labial coda, and
637 Long Gelat reflects a monophthong, /a/.

TABLE 14. BACK-VOWEL CORRESPONDENCE SETS

Set	PSM	Phonetic	Condition	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat
17	*u	*[o]	C_[ʔ, h]	ʊ	ɒw	ɒ	o	o	o
18	*u	*[o]	C_ŋ	ʊ	ɒw	ɒ	o	o	oɔ
19	*u	*[o]	C_m	ʊ	ɒw	ɒ	—	əɰw	a
20	*u	*[o]	C_[n, l]	ʊ	ɒɔ/oɔ	oɔ	oɔ	oɔ	uɔ
21	*u	*[aw]	C_#	aw	aw	aw	aɔ	a	a
22	*u	*[u]	C_t; C ^{y/w} [alv]	u	oɔ	oɔ/u	əw	əw	ə
23	*u	*[u]	C_[p, k]; C ^{y/w} [vel]	u	əw	u/o	əw	əw	ə
24	*u	*[u]	C ^{y/w} [ʔ, h]	u	əw	əw	əw	əw	əw
25	*u	*[əw]	C ^{y/w} _#	əw	aw	aw	o	o	oɔ

TABLE 15. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SETS 17–21

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
17	*təluh	*təluh	tlɔh	klɔw	klɔh	kəloɔh	kəloɔh	təloɔh	‘egg’
18	*ləsuŋ	*suŋ	sɔŋ	sɔwŋ	sɔŋ	soŋ	soŋ	soŋŋ	‘mortar’
19	–	*bəlum	blɔm	blɔwm	blɔm	–	bələŋwm	bələm	‘alive’
20	*taʔun	*təʔun	təʔɔn	təʔoŋn	təʔoŋn	təʔoŋn	təʔoŋn	təʔuŋn	‘year’
21	*batu	*wətu	əltaw	utaw	utaw	wətəŋ	wətə	uta	‘stone’

638 Set 20 occurs only before alveolar codas. In this environment most lan-
 639 guages reflect an off-glide, except for Wahau that maintains a monophthong.
 640 The Gaai and Kelai reflexes are somewhat irregular and vary between /ɔʔ/
 641 and /oʔ/. Finally, where PKAY *u appeared in an open final syllable with a neu-
 642 tral onset, as in set 21, it is reflected as /aw/ in Wahau, Gaai, and Kelai and as
 643 either /aʔ/ in Mei Lan (reported as /aʔ/ in Smith 2017a, from a different speaker)
 644 or /a/ in Woq Helaq and Long Gelat.

645 **5.1.2 CORRESPONDENCE SETS 22–25.** Palatalized and labialized onsets
 646 affected PSM high vowels as well, preventing lowering and vowel breaking in
 647 the proto-language. This results in universally higher reflexes of the high vow-
 648 els after palatalized and labialized onsets than after neutral onsets. Unlike *a,
 649 however, reflexes of *u and *i were affected identically by both labialized and
 650 palatalized onsets, as seen in table 16.

651 In set 22 where PKAY *u appeared before an alveolar coda and after pala-
 652 talized or labialized consonants, it was retained as *[u] in PSM. It is reflected
 653 unchanged in Wahau, but lowered to oʔ in both Gaai and Kelai. In Mei Lan and
 654 Woq Helaq the nucleus lowered to schwa creating əw, and Long Gelat reflects
 655 the vowel as ə. The Long Gelat form is assumed to have gone through an inter-
 656 mediate stage, *əw, which underwent further monophthongization. Like corre-
 657 spondence set 22, set 23 is characterized by the change *u > ə in Long Gelat. It
 658 is differentiated from set 20 by in-gliding rather than out-gliding in Gaai, and a
 659 prevalence of monophthongal realizations in Kelai.

660 Set 24, which occurs before word final glottal stop and after a palatalized or
 661(AQ15) labialized consonant, is a distinct correspondence set: *u is reflected unchanged
 662 as u in Wahau but as əw in the other languages, including Long Gelat. Set 25,
 663 where PKAY *u followed a palatalized or labialized consonant in an open syl-
 664 labile, became PSM *əw. Wahau maintains əw, Gaai and Kelai both lowered the

TABLE 16. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SETS 22–25

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
22	*pulut	*pəlʷut	plut	plɔʔt	plɔʔt	pələwt	pələwt	pələt	‘sap’
23	*uruŋ	*lʷuŋ	luŋ	ləwŋ	yɔŋ	ləwŋ	ləwŋ	ləŋ	‘nose’
24	*buluʔ	*lʷuʔ	luʔ	ləwʔ	ləwʔ	ləwʔ	ləwʔ	ləwʔ	‘bamboo’
25	*kutu	*tʷu	təw	taw	ptaw	to	to	toʔ	‘louse’

665 nucleus to *aw*, Mei Lan and Woq Helaq monophthongized **əw* as *o*, and Long
 666 Gelat has the diphthong *oɔ*. The preferred reconstruction is **əw* because it
 667 forms a parallel set with reflexes of **i* in the same environment, which is
 668 straightforwardly reconstructed as **əy* (section 4.3).

669 Closer inspection of the languages reveals several apparent exceptions
 670 where sets 21 and 22 appear in environments that follow neutral onsets.
 671 These exceptions, however, reveal an additional coda condition on the devel-
 672 opment of **u*. Where **u* normally gave rise to correspondence sets 17–20 fol-
 673 lowing a neutral onset, if the coda was a voiceless orally articulated stop (which
 674 excludes glottal stop and *h*), it instead follows correspondence sets 21 or 22.
 675 Several examples demonstrate this:

(6) **Set 22 after regular onsets:**

PKAY **ŋaput/kaput* ‘tie’ > PSM **ŋəput/kəput*

Wahau *ŋəput*, Woq Helaq *ŋəpəwt*, Long Gelat *ŋəpət/kəpət*

PKAY **takut* ‘afraid’ > PSM **təkut*

Wahau *kut*, Gaai *tkoət*, Kelai *tkut*, Woq Helaq, *təkoət*, Long Gelat *təkət*.

(7) **Set 23 after regular onsets**

PKAY **haruk* ‘canoe’ > PSM *həluk*

Gaai *haləwk*, Kelai *halok*, Mei Lan *hələwk*, Woq Helaq *hələwk*, Long
 Gelat *hələk*.

PKAY **manuk* ‘bird’ > PSM **mənuk*

Gaai *mnəwk*, Kelai *mnok*, Mei Lan *mənəwk*, Woq Helaq *mənəwk*,
 Long Gelat *mənək*

PKAY **pəlanuk* ‘mouse deer’ > PSM **pələnuk*

Wahau *pəl nuk*, Gaai *pəl nəwk*, Kelai *pəl nəwk*, Mei Lan *pənnəwk*, Woq
 Helaq *pənnəwk*, Long Gelat *pənnək*.

PKAY **tiup* ‘to blow’ > PSM **jup*

Gaai *jəwp*, Kelai *jəwp*, Woq Helaq *ñəwp*, Long Gelat *ñəp*.

676 **5.2 SEGAI-MODANG REFLEXES OF PKAY *i.** As seen in table 17, there
 677 are multiple reflexes of **i* in final syllables that, like reflexes of **u*, are condi-
 678 tioned by the quality of both the onset and coda. Where palatalized or labialized
 679 consonants were found in the onset, reflexes are higher than after regular
 680 onsets. Some of these sets, particularly those involving the lax vowel *ɛ*, show
 681 more variation than is typically seen in Segai-Modang. The irregularity and var-
 682 iation of pronunciation between [ɛ], [e], and [eɔ] remains an issue that needs
 683 special attention.

684 **5.2.1 CORRESPONDENCE SETS 26–29, REFLEXES OF *i AFTER**
 685 **NEUTRAL ONSETS.** Table 18 contains evidence for the correspondence
 686 sets 26–29, which occur after neutral onsets. Reflexes in these sets universally
 687 contain lowered nuclei and have almost completely merged as /ay/ in the
 688 Modang languages, with the exception of an /e/ reflex before alveolar codas
 689 in Mei Lan. Wahau, Gaai, and Kelai reflexes are more diverse, although the

TABLE 17. FRONT-VOWEL CORRESPONDENCE SETS (26–35)

Set	PSM	Phonetic	Condition	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat
26	*i	[ay]	C_#	ɔy	ay	ay	ay	ay	ay
27	*i	[e]	C_[alv]	e	eə	ɛ/eə	e	ay	ay
28	*i	[e]	C_ŋ	e	ay	e(ə)	ay	ay	ay
29	*i	[e]	C_[ʔ, h]	e	ay	ɛ/eə	ay	ay	ay
30	*i	[əy]	C ^w _#	əy	ay/oy	ay	oy	oy	oy
31	*i	[i]	C ^w _n	i	eə	e	ey	ey	ey
32	*i	[i]	C ^w _ [t, s]	i	ɛ/ey	ɪ	ey	ey	ey
33	*i	[i]	C ^w _ŋ	i	ey	iə	ey	ey	ey
34	*i	[i]	C ^w _h	i	e	e/i	ey	ey	e
35	*i	[i]	C ^w _?	i	–	e/i	ey	ey	ey

690 general trend is toward lowering the nucleus while maintaining a high-front
691 off-glide.

692 Where *i appeared in an open final syllable following a regular onset, as in
693 set 26, it became PSM *[ay], a conditioned allophone of *i. In most languages it
694 has changed little. In Gaai and Kelai it is pronounced ay, and in Modang varie-
695 ties it is pronounced [aɛ], although [aɛ] is not distinctive and is simply written
696 as ay. Wahau has backed and merged the nucleus as ɔ, but keeps the front off-
697 glide as ə, giving modern Wahau ɔə.

698 Set 27 occurs after a neutral onset and before an alveolar coda. In this envi-
699 ronment *i is reflected as a mid-vowel in most languages but as a diphthong in
700 Woq Helaq and Long Gelat. PSM *s, which is retained in most languages, is
701 reflected as -h in Woq Helaq and Long Gelat, but the vowel still patterns with
702 the alveolars (PKAY *məmis ‘sweet’ > PSM *mis, Wahau mes, Gaai meəs,
703 Kelai mes, Mei Lan mes, Woq Helaq mayh, and Long Gelat mayh)

704 Set 28 occurs after a neutral onset and before *-ŋ (and possibly before all
705 velar consonants, but a paucity of data prevents further analysis). In this set *i is
706 reflected as a diphthong in all languages except Wahau where it is e. Finally, set
707 29 appears after a neutral onset and before the glottal consonants *ʔ and *h,
708 where *i is reflected as a diphthong again in most languages, as a monophthong
709 in Wahau, and as either the lax vowel ɛ or the diphthong eə in Kelai.

TABLE 18. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SET 26

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
26	*tali	*təli	–	tlay	tlay	–	–	təlay	‘rope’
	*kami	*mi	mɔy	–	may	may	may	–	‘we (excl)’
28	*sin	*sɪn	sen	seŋ	sen	sen	sayn	sayn	‘flesh’
29	*mahɪŋ	*məhiŋ	məheŋ	–	ŋəlheŋ	məhayŋ	məhayŋ	məhayŋ	‘hard’
	–	*pədiŋ	pədeŋ	dayŋ	deŋ	–	pədayŋ	pədayŋ	‘cousin’
30	*siʔ	*siʔ	seʔ	sayʔ	seəʔ	sayʔ	sayʔ	sayʔ	‘snail’

710 **5.2.2 CORRESPONDENCE SETS 30–35, *i IN CLOSED SYLLABLES**
 711 **AFTER PALATALIZED AND LABIALIZED ONSETS.** After palatalized
 712 and labialized onsets reflexes of PSM *i are higher across the board. Some
 713 example sets are presented below in table 19.

714 Set 30 occurs in open syllables with a palatalized or labialized onset. In this
 715 environment *i became PSM *i (phonetically [əy]). Wahau retains this reflex
 716 as əy, and Kelai has lowered the nucleus to ay. In Gaai there are two conflicting
 717 reflexes, əy in the reflex of PKAY *puti ‘banana’ but əy elsewhere. Mei Lan,
 718 Woq Helaq, and Long Gelat all have oɛ.

719 In set 31, *i is reflected as i before -n in Wahau, as ey in Mei Lan, Woq
 720 Helaq, and Long Gelat, and as eɔ and e in Gaai and Kelai, respectively.
 721 This change is exemplified by reflexes of *huadi ‘sibling’ in table 19, which
 722 needs some explanation. First, the reflexes contain an inalienable possessor suf-
 723 fix -n, which appears fused on many body part and kinship words. Second,
 724 Wahau, Mei Lan, Woq Helaq, and Long Gelat all point to a scenario where
 725 *u was de-syllabified and incorporated into the onset of the initial sesquisyl-
 726 lable (*hua- > *ua- > *wa- > *wə-). Gaai and Kelai, in this scenario, later
 727 deleted schwa and re-syllabified *w- to u, presumably to avoid a banned initial
 728 cluster. A search of the data reveals that there are no cases of a w-initial con-
 729 sonant cluster in either Gaai or Kelai, which supports the present analysis. Long
 730 Gelat also lacks any examples of an initial sesquisyllable of the shape wə-. We
 731 can compare Long Gelat *ukit* with Woq Helaq and Mei Lan *wəkeɔt* ‘roots’,
 732 which demonstrates the regularity of the comparison.

733 In set 32, after palatalized and labialized onsets and before voiceless alveo-
 734 lars, *i is reflected as i in Wahau, as ey in Mei Lan, Woq Helaq, and Long Gelat,
 735 and as ɪ in Kelai, although this is not contrastive and is considered an allophone
 736 of /e/. The Gaai reflexes are variable, and it is not possible to accurately
 737 describe with the available data.

738 In set 33, before *ɲ and after palatalized and labialized onsets *i is again
 739 reflected as ey in most languages and i in Wahau. The set is differentiated from
 740 the others by Kelai, which has a schwa off-glide, iɔ.

741 In set 34, before *h, *i is reflected with more monophthongs than before other
 742 consonants. At some point in pre-PSM *i and *u from PKAY *ikuR ‘tail’ must
 743 have undergone an irregular metathesis, *ikuR > *ukiR > PSM > *kʷih, as
 744 reflexes fall into the correspondence set associated with final-syllable *i. This

TABLE 19. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SET 31

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
30	*puti	*pətʷi	təy	ptay	ptay	pətoy	pətoy	pətoy	‘banana’
31	*huadi	*wəli-n	wlin	uleɲn	uyen	wəleyn	wəleyn	uleyn	‘sibling’
32	*isit	*sʷit	sit	set	sit	seyt	seyt	seyt	‘spider hunter’
33	*diŋdiŋ	*dʷiŋ	diŋ	deyŋ	diɔŋ	deyŋ	deyŋ	deyŋ	‘wall’
34	*kulih	*kəlʷih	kəlih	kleh	kleh	kəleyh	kəleyh	kəleh	‘clouded leopard’
35	*bini?	*ni?	ni?	–	n-ŋe?	ney?	ney?	ney?	‘seed rice’

745 irregular metathesis could form an additional piece of evidence for Segai-
 746 Modang as a subgroup. Note that Kayan-Murik languages do not reflect this
 747 metathesis, for example, Balui Liko (Kayan) *ikoh* and Ngorek (Murik) *ekoh*.

748 Finally, correspondence set 35 contains reflexes of *i after palatalized and
 749 labialized onsets before glottal stop. Due to lexical replacement, there is a com-
 750 plete lack of Gai data, so it is not possible to state the entire set. The available
 751 data suggest that, like many of the other correspondence sets, the glottals are
 752 treated as a unit. Sets 34 and 35 are identical, apart from the missing Gai data,
 753 so subsequent research may combine the two.

754 **5.3 RAISED VOWEL REFLEXES AND PSM HIGH-VOWEL**
 755 **ALLOPHONY.** The modern Segai-Modang forms are conditioned by the
 756 presence or absence of palatalized and labialized onsets, but because the nature
 757 of raised vowel reflexes is language-specific, we cannot reconstruct raised
 758 vowel reflexes all the way to PSM. In PSM, there was allophony conditioned
 759 by the presence or absence of palatalization and labialization, but this allophony
 760 had not yet phonemicized. The distinct reflexes must have emerged after the
 761 proto-language began to diversify. Because of this, much of the modern vowel
 762 complexity is reconstructed in the onsets, simplifying the reconstructed vowel
 763 inventory.

764 The reconstruction proposed in this study recognizes that there was consid-
 765 erable vowel allophony in the proto-language. The high vowels *u/*i had the
 766 following allophones conditioned by four environments, [u], [o], [aw], [əw],
 767 and [i], [e], [ay], [əy]. The conditions are represented in table 20. Condition
 768 1 acted upon word-final high-vowels after neutral onsets. Evidence is from cor-
 769 respondence sets 20 and 25. Condition 2 acted upon high vowels in closed
 770 word-final syllables after neutral onsets, except where *u preceded a voiceless
 771 coda, in which case reflexes align with condition 3. Evidence is from corre-
 772 spondence sets 16–19 and 26–29. Condition 3 acted upon high vowels in closed
 773 word-final syllables after palatalized or labialized onsets, or in the case of *u,
 774 before voiceless codas after neutral onsets. Evidence is from correspondence
 775 sets 21–23 and 30–34. Finally, condition 4 acted upon word-final high-vowels
 776 after palatalized or labialized onsets. Evidence is from correspondence sets 24
 777 and 26.

778 The conditions 1–4 were present in PSM, which implies that despite diver-
 779 sity in its daughter languages, PSM had a constrained vowel inventory with
 780 allophonic variation that occurred in predictable environments. There were
 781 only two high vowels, *i and *u, that gave rise to at least 19 correspondence
 782 sets in modern Segai-Modang.

783 **6. SEGAI-MODANG REFLEXES OF PKAY FINAL DIPHTHONGS**
 784 ***A:Y, *A:W, *OY, *IW.** Like all the vowels, diphthongs have unique reflexes
 785 following palatalized and labialized onsets. Six correspondence sets have been

TABLE 20. ALLOPHONES OF HIGH VOWELS IN PSM AND CONDITIONING ENVIRONMENTS

Condition number	Phonemic form	Phonetic form	Notes
1	*/Cu/	*[Caw]	
	*/Ci/	*[Cay]	
2	*/CuC/	*[CoC]	If the coda is [+voi], otherwise [CuC]
	*/CiC/	*[CeC]	
3	*/C ^y wuC/	*[C ^j wuC]	
	*/C ^y wiC/	*[C ^j wiC]	
4	*/C ^y wu/	*[C ^j wəw]	
	*/C ^y wi/	*[C ^j wəy]	

786 identified, including a single merger that is regular across all languages and
 787 therefore reconstructable to PSM. Diphthongs that begin with *a, PMP *aw
 788 and *ay, are reconstructed as PSM *a:w and *a:y because of phonetically long
 789 reflexes in Gaai and Kelai and because the reflexes all show the same tendency
 790 for fronting that reflexes of *a: do. Word-final diphthongs underwent fewer
 791 changes because of the lack of coda-conditioned allophony that is present in
 792 reflexes of the regular vowels. Nevertheless, word-final diphthongs were influ-
 793 enced by the quality of the onset, and four reconstructed PKAY word-final diph-
 794 thongs diversified into at least six separate correspondence sets in modern
 795 Segai-Modang. Table 21 contains the correspondence sets, and table 22 con-
 796 tains example words from each set demonstrating their validity.

797 Reflexes of *a:y are found in set 36 and are reflected as front vowels in Mei
 798 Lan, Woq Helaq, and Long Gelat. The Kelai and Gaai reflexes are phonetically
 799 long and in both languages, reflexes of *-a:y remain distinct from reflexes of *-
 800 i, even where the latter diphthongized. For example, in Gaai *-ay became /-ɔy/,
 801 and *-i became /-ay/ after neutral onsets.

802 Reflexes of PSM *-a:w are also phonetically long and are reflected with a
 803 front-vowel nucleus across the board. In most languages the *w off-glide has
 804 lost its labiality and is reflected as a simple schwa off-glide. The only excep-
 805 tions are Gaai and Kelai.

TABLE 21. WORD-FINAL DIPHTHONG CORRESPONDENCE SETS (36–41)

Set	PSM	Phonetic	Condition	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat
36	*-a:y	[æ:y]	C_	ay	ɔy	aɛ	ey	ey	ey/ɛy
37	*-a:w	[æ:w]	C_	eɔ	eɔw	æw	eɔ	eɔ	iɔ
38	*-oy	[oy]	C_	əy/ɔy	oy	oy	oy	oy	oy
39	*-iw/a:w	[iw]	C_ ; C ^y _	iɔ/iɔw	eɔw/iw	iw/ew	iw	i	u
40	*-a:y	[a:y]	C ^w _	uɛy	uy	uy	uy	uy	uy
41	*-a:w	[a:w]	C ^w _	uɔ	-	iw	iw	i	u

TABLE 22. EVIDENCE FOR CORRESPONDENCE SET 36

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
36	*pajay	*pəla:y	play	pay	plaɕ	pəley	pəley	pəley	'rice plant'
37	*sapaw	*səpa:w	səpeɔ	speɔw	spəw	səpeɔ	səpeɔ	səpiɔ	'roof'
38	*apuy	*əpoy	əpɔy	poy	əpɔy	poy	poy	poy	'fire'
39	*payaw	*pəjiw	bjiɔw	bjiw	bjiw	pəjiw	pəji	pəju	'deer'
	*saliw	*ñəliw	nliɔw	nleɔw	nlew	ñəliw	ñəli	ñəlu	'to buy'
40	*uay	*g ^a :y	guy	guy	guy	guy	guy	guy	'rattan'
41	–	*k ^a :w	kuɔ	–	kiw	kiw	ki	ku	'tooth'
	*ŋ-uab	*ŋ ^a :w	ŋuɔ	–	ŋiw	–	–	ŋu	'yawn'

806 In set 38, PKAY *uy became PSM *oy and is reflected as such in nearly all
807 languages, except in Gaai where the nucleus has lowered.

808 The final three sets, 39, 40, and 41, are the diphthongs after labialized and
809 palatalized onsets. Although there are four possible combinations of palatal
810 and labial onsets with inherited diphthongs (C^yaw, C^yay, C^waw, C^way), only
811 three, C^yaw, C^waw, and C^way, are attested in the data. Also, *-a:w merged with
812 *-iw as PSM *-iw wherever it appeared after a palatal consonant, represented
813 by set 39.

814 Set 40 demonstrates that after a labialized onset all languages reflect
815 *a:y as *uy*, except Wahau which has the triphthong *uey*. PSM *-C^waw also
816 has a distinct correspondence set, number 41, although interestingly the only
817 hint that PSM maintained the labiality of the onset comes from Wahau. All
818 other Segai-Modang languages for which data are available have merged
819 *C^waw, *-Ciw, and *C^yaw as *Ciw* (or any of the language specific reflexes
820 of *iw).

821 7. CONCLUSION: PROTO-SEGAI-MODANG VOWEL SYSTEM.

822 Segai-Modang languages present a complex but nevertheless manageable series
823 of correspondence sets that derive a modern mainland Southeast Asian phono-
824 logical typology from the more Austronesian typology of PKAY. Tables 23 and 24
825 present the reconstructed vowels of PSM, as argued for throughout this paper.
826 Table 23 contains the reflexes of PMP monophthongs, and table 24 contains
827 reflexes of PMP word-final diphthongs. Allophones are indicated in square
828 brackets.

829 The available linguistic evidence suggests that PSM was sesquisyllabic.
830 The basic word-shape was CəCV(C). Only schwa was allowed in the penul-
831 timate syllable, and *i, *u, *a, and *a: were restricted to the final syllable.
832 It follows from the sesquisyllabic word-shape and regular word-final stress
833 of the modern languages that PSM stress was also word-final. Although
834 the modern languages have higher-than-average vowel inventories, it was
835 also shown that PSM had not yet phonemicized many of the innovative vowel
836 qualities and instead has a more constrained vowel system. Modern vowel

TABLE 23. PROTO-SEGAI-MODANG VOWELS

	Front	Central	Back
high	*i [i, e, ay, əy]		*u [u, o, aw, əw]
mid		*ə	
low		*a [a, ə] *a: [æ/ɛə]	

837 diversity is derived from distinctly palatalized and labialized final-syllable
 838 onsets. Most consonants had regular, palatal, and labial varieties in this position,
 839 except for the palatal series, which was inherently palatal, as well as *w,
 840 *n, *ŋ (which only had a labialized counterpart), and *b (which did not occur
 841 in final-syllable onsets).

842 Although palatalized and labialized consonants are often derivable from
 843 the reconstructed qualities of PKAY penultimate vowels, it was also shown
 844 that penultimate-vowel quality alone cannot explain all the observed palatalized
 845 and labialized reflexes. These cases provide evidence that the PSM
 846 penultimate vowel was indeed schwa, and that PKAY penultimate vowel
 847 qualities had been transferred to the final-syllable onset sometime during
 AQ16 pre-PSM and continued to the final-syllable vowel in a process of rightward,
 849 iterative feature spreading.

850 Segai-Modang is a low-level subgroup. It contains perhaps one to two dozen
 851 isolects spoken in communities in East Kalimantan, and is part of the Kayanic
 852 subgroup, itself descended from Proto-Greater North Borneo and further from
 853 Proto-Western Indonesian (Blust 2010; Smith 2017a). As is the case with several
 854 other languages of Borneo with notable historical phonologies, the changes
 855 that have taken place are relatively recent, suggesting that stress shift, a defining
 856 feature of phonologically innovative languages in Borneo, was immediately
 857 followed by a period of rapid sound change. Comparative linguistics does
 858 not offer exact timescales, but because Segai-Modang is so far down the family
 859 tree we can assume that these changes took place in the recent past. Segai-
 860 Modang thus provides yet another example, to quote Blust (2007), of Borneo
 861 as a “hot spot” for linguistic change.

TABLE 24. PROTO-SEGAI-MODANG DIPHTHONGS

	Front	Central	Back
high	*iɥ		
mid			*oy
low		*a:y, *a:w	

APPENDIX: REFLEXES OF FINAL-SYLLABLE VOWELS

AQ17 ORGANIZED BY COGNATE SET

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
1	*a	*a:	æ	a	æ	eɔ	eɔ	iɔ	
	*mata	*mɔtɑ:n	mtæn	gutɑn	mtæn	mɔtɛɔn	mɔtɛɔn	mɔtɔɔn	'eye'
	*jaʔa	*cɔʔɑ:n	sɔʔæn	tʔɑn	cɔʔæn	sɔʔɛɔn	sɔʔɛɔn	sɔʔɔɔn	'chin'
	*palad	*pɔlɑ:l	mɑʔplæ:l	plal	miplæ:l	pɔlɛɔn	pɔlɛɔn	pɔlɔɔn	'palm'
	*jalan	*lɑ:n	læn	gulan	gulæn	leɔn	leɔn	liɔn	'road'
	—	*wɔʔɑ:n	wɔʔæn	uʔɑn	wuʔæn	wɔʔɛɔn	wɔʔɛɔn	uʔɔɔn	'cut'
2	*a	*a:	æ	ay	æ	ɔɔ	ɔɔ	e	
	*dahaʔ	*lɔhɑ:ʔ	lɔhæʔ	alhayʔ	lhæʔ	lɔhɔɔʔ	lɔhɔɔʔ	lɔhɛʔ	'blood'
	*qataʔ	*mɔtɑ:ʔ	mtæʔ	mtɑʔ	mtæʔ	mɔtɔɔʔ	mɔtɔɔʔ	mɔtɛʔ	'raw; unripe'
	*jɔlɑʔ	*tɔlɑ:ʔ	tlæʔ	klayʔ	klæʔ	tɔlɔɔʔ	tɔlɔɔʔ	tɔlɛʔ	'tongue'
	*salah	*sɔlɑ:h	slæh	slayh	slæh	sɔlɔɔh	sɔlɔɔh	sɔleh	'nest'
	*babaʔ	*wɑ:ʔ	wæʔ	guayʔ	wæʔ	wɔɔʔ	wɔɔʔ	wɛʔ	'mouth'
	*tanaʔ	*tɔnɑ:ʔ	næʔ	tnayʔ	tnæʔ	tɔnɔɔʔ	tɔnɔɔʔ	tɔnɛʔ	'land'
3	*a	*a:	eɔ	æ	æ	ay	ay	iɔ	
	—	*tɔʔɑ:k	—	tʔɛɔk	—	nɔʔayk	n/tɔʔayk	tɔʔɔɔk	'drop'
	*C-alɑŋ	*ɔlɑ:ŋ	ɔlɛŋ	ɔlɛŋ	ɔlɛŋ	ɔlayŋ	—	ʔaliŋ	'bridge'
	*m-asak	*sɑ:k	sɛɔk	sɛɔk	sæk	sayk	sayk	sɔk	'ripe'
	—	*ŋɔwɑ:k	—	ŋwɛɔk	—	ŋɔwayk	ŋɔwayk	—	'shout'
4	*a	*a:	æ	eɔ	eɔ	—	—	i	
	—	*kɔlɑ:p	klæp	leɔp	—	kɔlɛɔp	kɔlɛɔp	—	'scale'
	*ŋɔlɑrap	*kɔlɑ:p	—	kleɔp	—	kɔlɛɔp	ŋ/kɔlɛɔp	kɔlip	'sleep walk'
	*gɑʔɑm	*gɔʔɑ:m	gɔʔæm	—	—	gɔʔɛɔm	gɔʔɛɔm	gɔʔim	'molar'
5	*a	*a:	uɔ/ua	uɔ	uɔ	u	u	ü	
	*kulat	*kɔlʷɑ:t	kluat	kluat	kluat	kɔlut	kɔlut	kɔlüt	'mushroom'
	*bulan	*wɔlʷɑ:n	wluɔn	uluɔn	uluɔn	wɔlun	wɔlun	ulün	'moon'
	*kuman	*mʷɑ:n	muɔn	muɔn	muɔn	mun	mun	mün	'to eat'
6	*a	*a:	uɔ/ʷɑ	uɔ	uɔ/u	uɔ	uɔ	uɔ	
	*bɔhuan	*wɔhŋʷɑ:ŋ	wɔhŋuɔŋ	wahŋuɔŋ	—	wahŋuɔŋ	wahŋuɔŋ	wahŋuɔŋ	'bear'
	*niwan	*ŋʷɑ:ŋ	ŋwan	—	mɔŋŋ	ɔŋŋuɔŋ	mɔŋŋuɔŋ	hanŋuɔŋ	'skinny'
	*udan	*lʷɑ:ŋ	—	yuɔŋ	—	luɔŋ	luɔŋ	luɔŋ	'shrimp'
7	*a	*a:	uɔ/ʷɑ	u	u	uɔ	uɔ	u	
	*luraʔ	*lʷɑ:ʔ	nɔpluɔʔ	nappluʔ	mñuʔ	ɔnluɔʔ	ɔnluɔʔ	ɔnluʔ	'spit'
	*utaʔ	*tʷɑ:ʔ	ntuɔʔ	tuʔ	tuʔ	ɔntuɔʔ	ɔntuɔʔ	ɔntuʔ	'vomit'
	*kuraʔ	*kɔlʷɑ:ʔ	kluɔʔ	kuʔ	kuʔ	kɔluɔʔ	kɔluɔʔ	kɔluʔ	'how many'
	—	*ŋ-kʷɑ:h	ŋkwah	kuh	kuh	ɔŋkuɔh	ɔŋkuɔh	ɔŋkuh	'sell'
8	*a	*a:	iɔ	i/(iɔ)	i/(iɔ)	i	i	ü	
	*ucan	*ca:n	ciɔn	ciɔn	ciɔn	sin	sin	sün	'rain'
	*kitan	*kɔtʷɑ:n	—	tiɔn	ktin	kɔtin	kɔtin	kɔtün	'binturong'
	*sipan	*jɔlɔpʷɑ:n	ñɔmpɔn	jɔlpin	jɔlpin	ñɔmpin	ñɔmpin	ñɔmpün	'centipede'
	*pitan	*jɔpɔlʷɑ:n	sɔptɔn	japtin	jɔptin	sɔptin	sɔptin	sɔptün	'nine'
9	*a	*a:	iɔ	i	i	iɔ	iɔ	u	
	*indaq	*dʷɑ:ʔ	diɔʔ	diʔ	diʔ	diɔʔ	diɔʔ	duʔ	'under'
10	*a	*a:	iɔ	i	i	i	i	u	
	*siap	*ja:p	jiɔp	jiɔp	jiɔp	jiɔp	jiɔp	jup	'chicken'
	*qayam	*ja:m	jiɔm	jim	jiɔm	jim	jim	jum	'domestic animal'
11	*a	*a:	iɔ	eɔ	eɔ/iɔ	iɔ	iɔ	uɔ	
	*kabiran	*wɔlʷɑ:ŋ	wliŋ	walheɔŋ	walheɔŋ	wɔliŋ	wɔliŋ	uluɔŋ	'ant'
	*ihan	*hʷɑ:ŋ	hiɔŋ	—	hiɔŋ	hiɔŋ	hiɔŋ	huɔŋ	'between'

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
12	*ə *dəŋən *qahəm *dopa *baha *paha	*a *dəŋən *ham *pa? *wəha? *pəha?	a ləŋən ham pa? wəha? pəha?	a alŋən ham pa? — —	a lŋən ham — — —	a ləŋən ham pa? wəha? pəha?	a ləŋən ham pa? wəha? pəha?	a dəŋən ham pa? — —	'otter' 'pangolin' 'fathom' 'ember' 'storage rack'
13	*a *bə?aya? *lima? *ŋipa? *lə?ia?	*a [ə] *wahja? *mʷa? *pʷa? *ləja?	ə wəjə? mə? pə? jə?	o wahjo? mo? po? aljo?	ɛ waje? me? pe? je?	aw wahjaw? maw? paw? ləjaw?	aw wahjaw? maw? paw? ləjaw?	aw wahəjaw? maw? paw? ləjaw?	'crocodile' 'five' 'snake' 'ginger'
14	*a *dua?	*a [ə] *ləgʷa?	ə ləgə?	o ago?	o ago?	aw əŋgaw?	aw əŋgaw?	aw əŋgaw?	'two'
15	*ə *uləŋ *irək *hinəŋ *hutək	*a [ə] *əlʷaŋ *lʷak *ŋaŋ *lʷak	ə ələŋ lək — —	o ələŋ lək — —	ɛ ləwŋ — nəwŋ təwək	aw ələwŋ lawk ŋawŋ tawk	aw ələwŋ lawk ŋawŋ tawk	a ələŋ lək ŋaŋ tak	'thorn' 'snot' 'face' 'brain'
16	*ə — *uləd	*a [ə] *dʷat *lʷal	*ə ndət ləl	*o dot ləl	*a — ləl	*o əndot lon	*aw əndawt lawn	*oɔ əndəɔt ləŋ	'sting' 'maggot'
17	*u *təluh *bəsuh *pənu?	*u [u] *təluh *pəsuh *nu?	u təh psəh mnə?	u təw psəwəh nəw?	u təh psəh nə?	u lon o no?	u law o no?	u ləŋ o o?	'egg' 'satiated' 'full'
18	*u *ləsuŋ *tahtuŋ *luŋ	*u [u] *suŋ *tahtuŋ *luŋ	u səŋ — ləŋ	u səwŋ tahtəwŋ ləwŋ	u səŋ təhtəŋ ləŋ	u soŋ toŋ —	u soŋ toŋ əaw	u soŋ toŋ a	'mortar' 'porcupine' 'estuary'
19	— —	*bələm *ləhum	bləm məlhəm	bləwəm mahəwəm	bləm ŋəlhəm	— —	bələawm mənhəawm	bələm mənhəm	'alive' 'green; blue'
20	*u *talun *məsun *sun *ʔol *ta?un	*u [o] *təlu *məsun *sun *ʔul *tə?un	u təh nsən sən — tə?ən	u təw səwən — tə?əwən	u təh səwən — tə?əwən	u təloŋ məsoŋ soŋ — mə?oŋ tə?oŋ	u təloŋ məsoŋ soŋ — mə?oŋ tə?oŋ	u təloŋ məsoŋ soŋ — mə?uŋ tə?uŋ	'rope' 'grandchild' 'smoke' 'wake up' 'year'
21	*u *batu *paku *təlu *qahəlu *katu	*u [aw] *wətu *paku *təlu *əlu *kətu	aw əltaw (p)kaw tlaw ələw —	aw utaw pkaw klaw alaw ŋtaw	aw utaw pkaw aklaw alaw —	a wətə? pəkə? ətla ələ? ŋətə?	a wəta pəka ətla əla ŋətə	a uta pəka ətla ala ŋətə	'stone' 'fern' 'three' 'pestle' 'to send'
22	*u *pulut *silu *bulu *lumut	*u [u] *pəlʷut *səlʷun *bəlʷun *ləmʷut	u plut həlun blun ləmut	u ploŋt sloŋ bloŋ	u ploŋt sloŋ bloŋ	əw pələwt hələwn bələwn	əw pələwt hələwn bələwn	ə pələt hələn bələn	'sap' 'finger nail' 'body hair'
23	*u *tutuj *uruj *tukuj —	*u [u] *pətʷuj *lʷuj *təkʷuj *sətʷuj	u — ləuj —	u ptəwŋ ləwŋ kəwŋ	u ptəwŋ ləwŋ kəwŋ	əw təwŋ yuj kuj	əw təwŋ ləwŋ təkəwŋ	ə təŋ ləŋ təkəŋ sətəŋ	'moss' 'aflake' 'nose' 'helmeted hombill' 'raft'

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
24	*u	*u [u]	u	əw	əw	əw	əw	əw	əw
	*bulu?	*lʷu?	lu?	ləw?	ləw?	ləw?	ləw?	ləw?	'bamboo'
	*pulu?	*pəlʷu?	plu?	pləw?	pləw?	pələw?	pələw?	pələw?	'multiple of ten'
	*pusu?	*pəsʷu?	su?	psəw?	psəw?	pəsəw?	pəsəw?	pəsəw?	'heart'
	*tju?	*təcʷu?	tcu?	tcəw?	tcu?	səw?	səw?	səw?	'seven'
	*lundu?	*ndʷu?	ndu?	dəw?	dəw?	əndəw?	əndəw?	ndəw?	'to sleep'
25	*u	*u [əw]	əw	aw	aw	o	o	oɔ	
	*kutu	*tʷu	təw	taw	ptaw	to	to	toɔ	'louse'
	*tuyu	*jʷu	jəw	—	jaw	jo	jo	joɔ	'crab'
	*kayu	*kəjʷu	kəjəw	gjaw	kjaw	kəjo	kəjo	—	'wood; tree'
26	*ŋəbahu	*ŋəhʷu	ŋəhəw	ŋhaw	pakhaw	ŋəho	—	ŋəhoɔ	'jealous'
	*i	*i [ay]	ny	ay	ay	ay	ay	ay	
	*tali	*təli	—	tlay	tlay	—	—	telay	'rope'
	*kami	*mi	məy	—	may	may	may	—	'we (excl)'
	*laki	*ləki	elkəy	mangkay	mangkay	lekay	lekay	lekay	'man'
*pasi	*pəsi	psəy	—	—	pesay	pesay	mesay	'fishing line'	
27	*i	*i [əy]	əy	ay/oy	ay	oy	oy	oy	
	*puti	*pətʷi	təy	ptay	ptay	pətoy	pətoy	pətoy	'banana'
	*ubi	*gʷi	gəy	goy	gay	goy	goy	—	'yam'
	*wahŋi	*wəhŋi	wəhəy	wəhəy	wuŋay	wəhəy	wəhəy	—	'bee'
	*jih	*jəhʷi	jəhəy	—	—	jəhəy	jəhəy	jəhəy	'house post'
*i-ni	*nʷi	—	nay	—	noy	noy	noy	'this'	
28	*i	*i [e]	e	eɔ	e/eɔ	e	ay	ay	
	*səŋit	*səŋit	həŋet	ŋeɔt	ŋeɔt	həŋet	həŋayt	həŋayt	'urine'
	*bin	*bin	ben	beɔn	beɔn	ben	bayn	bayn	'carry on the back'
	*sin	*sin	sen	seɔn	sen	sen	sayn	sayn	'flesh'
	*məmis	*mis	mes	meɔs	məs	mes	mayh	mayh	'sweet'
*təŋis	*təŋis	ŋes	ŋeɔs	ŋeɔs	nəŋes	nəŋayh	nəŋayh	'to cry'	
*daqih-n	*ləʔin	ləʔen	—	ləʔen	ləʔen	ləʔayn	ləʔayn	'forehead'	
29	*i	*i [e]	E	ay	e(ɔ)	Ay	ay	ay	
	*mahij	*məhij	məhəy	—	ŋəlhəy	məhayy	məhayy	məhayy	'hard'
	—	*pədiŋ	pədey	Dayy	deɔy	—	pədayy	pədayy	'cousin'
	*i	*i [e]	E	ay	e/eɔ	Ay	ay	ay	
30	*si?	*si?	se?	say?	seɔ?	say?	say?	say?	'snail'
	*ləbi?	*ləwi?	—	malway?	dalawe?	ləway?	ləway?	luay?	'evening'
	*hi?	*hi?	he?	hay?	he?	hay?	hay?	həy?	'who?'
	*səʔih	*səʔih	sʔeh	sʔayh	səʔeɔh	—	səʔayh	səʔayh	'shy'
	*bəlɪh	*bəlɪh	bleh	—	bleh	bəlayh	bəlayh	bəlayh	'tasteless'
31	*i	*i [i]	i	eɔ	e	ey	ey	ey	
	*huadi	*wəli-n	wlin	uleɔn	uyen	wəleyn	wəleyn	uleyn	'sibling'
	*hipun	pʷin	pin	pəɔn	pən	pəyn	pəyn	pəyn	'have; own'
	*nupi	*(m)pʷin	təmpin	ŋəmpəɔn	ŋeɔmpən	əmpəyn	əmpəyn	əmpəyn	'to dream'
32	*i	*i [i]	i	e/ey	ɪ	ey	ey	ey	
	*isit	*sʷit	sit	set	sit	seyt	seyt	seyt	'spider hunter'
33	*tipis	*pʷis	pis	peys	pis	—	peyh	peh	'thin'
	*i	*i [i]	i	ey	iɔ	ey	ey	ey	
	*diŋdiŋ	*dʷiŋ	diŋ	deyŋ	diɔŋ	deyŋ	deyŋ	deyŋ	'wall'
	*mahiriŋ	*mahəpʷiŋ	məhliŋ	məhleyŋ	məhliɔŋ	—	məhleyŋ	məhəleyŋ	'new'
	—	*bəlɪŋ	bliŋ	bleŋ	bliŋ	bəleyŋ	bəleyŋ	bəleyŋ	'spiraling shape'

Set	PKAY	PSM	Wahau	Gaai	Kelai	Mei Lan	Woq Helaq	Long Gelat	
34	*ikin	*səkʷiŋ	səkɪŋ	–	–	səkeɲŋ	səkeɲŋ		‘pinky’
	*i	*i [i]	i	e	e/i	ey	ey	e	
	*kuliŋ	*kəlʷih	kəlɪh	kleh	kleh	kələyŋ	kələyŋ	kələh	‘clouded leopard’ ‘tail’
35	*ikuh	*kʷih	kih	keh	kih	keyh	keyh	keh	
	*i	*i [i]	i	–	e/i	ey	ey	ey	
	*bini?	*ñi?	ñi?	–	n-ñe?	ñey?	ñey?	ñey?	‘seed rice’
36	*pili?	*ʔi?	ŋə-li?	–	–	ŋə-leɲ?	ŋə-leɲ?	ŋə-leɲ?	‘choose’
	–	*nəlʔi?	nɪi?	–	–	ñəley?	ñəley?	ñəley?	‘to see’
	*bəliti?	*bələʔi?	bəlɪ?	–	bəlɪ?	bələteɲ?	bələteɲ?	bələteɲ?	‘rambutan’
	*-ay	*a:y	ay	ay	aɛ	ey	ey	ey/ey	
	*pajay	*pola:y	play	pəy	plə	pəley	pəley	pəley	‘rice plant’
	*patay	*pota:y	ntay	ptay	ptə	məley	məley	məley	‘death’
	*qatay	*(h)ota:y	tay	taɲ	taɲ	taɲ	həteɲ	təy	‘liver’
37	*sakay	*soka:y	səkay	–	–	–	səkeɲ	səkeɲ	‘stranger’
	*bəRsay	*pəsa:y	–	psəy	psə	pəsey	pəsey	pəsey	‘paddle’
	*-aw	*a:w	eɲ	eɲw	əw	eɲ	eɲ	iɲ	
	*sapaw	*səpa:w	səpeɲ	speɲw	spəw	səpeɲ	səpeɲ	səpiɲ	‘roof’
	*kasaw	*kəsa:w	kəseɲ	kseɲw	ksəw	kəseɲ	kəseɲ	kasiɲ	‘rafter’
	*ləpaw	*pa:w	peɲ	peɲw	–	peɲ	peɲ	piɲ	‘granary’
	*balabaw	*əwa:w	əweɲ	awəw	awəw	əweɲ	əweɲ	əwiɲ	‘rat’
38	*qaləjaw	*da:w	–	dəɲw	dəw	dəɲ	dəɲ	diɲ	‘day’
	*-uy	*oy	əy/ny	oy	oy	oy	oy	oy	
	*apuy	*əpoy	əpəy/əpəy	poy	əpoy	poy	poy	poy	‘fire’
39	*babuy	*əwoy	–	–	awoy	əwoy	əwoy	awoy	‘wild boar’
	*-aw/-iw	*-iw	iɲw	eɲw/iw	iw/ew	iw	i	u	
	*kayaw	*ŋəñiw	–	ŋəñiw	ñiw	əñiw	əñi	ŋəñu	‘headhunt’
	*payaw	*pəjiw	bjiɲw	bjiw	bjiw	pəjiw	pəji	pəju	‘deer’
	*salaw	*ñəliw	nliɲw	nleɲw	nlew	ñəliw	ñəli	ñəlu	‘to buy’
40	*-ay	*a:y	uey	uy	uy	uy	uy	uy	
	*luhay	*ləhʷa:y	lohuey	alhuy	ləhuy	–	ləhuy	luhuy	‘easy’
	*uay	*gʷa:y	guy	guy	guy	guy	guy	guy	‘rattan’
41	*suŋay	*səŋʷa:y	–	ŋuy	ŋuy	həŋuy	həŋuy	həŋuy	‘river’
	*-aw	*a:w	uɲ	–	iw	iw	i	u	
	–	*kʷa:w	kuɲ	–	kiw	kiw	ki	ku	‘tooth’
	*ŋ-uab	*ŋʷa:w	ŋuɲ	–	ŋiw	–	–	ŋu	‘to yawn’

REFERENCES

- Astar, Hidayatul, Buha Aritonang, Non Martis, and Wati Kurniawati. 2002. *Kosakata dasar Swadesh di kabupaten Kutai*. Language Mapping Series, PT 2. Jakarta: Pusat Bahasa.
- Bakovic, Eric, and Colin Wilson. 2000. Transparency, strict locality, and targeted constraints. In *WCCFL 19 Proceedings*, ed. by Roger Billerey and Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, 43–56. Somerville: Cascadilla Press.
- Bender, Byron. 1963. Marshallese phonemics: Labialization or palatalization? *Word* 19(3): 335–41.
- Blust, Robert. 1977. Sketches of the morphology and phonology of Bornean languages 1: Uma Juman (Kayan). In *Papers in Bornean and western Austronesian languages no. 2*, ed. by Hein Steinhauer, 7–122. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.
- . 1997. Nasals and nasalization in Borneo. *Oceanic Linguistics* 36:149–79.
- . 2001. Language, dialect and riotous sound change: The case of Sa’ban. In *Papers from the ninth annual meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society*,

- ed. by Graham W. Thurgood, 249–359. Tempe: Program for Southeast Asian Studies, Arizona State University.
- . 2002. Formalism or phoneyism? The history of Kayan final glottal stop. In *Between worlds: Linguistic papers in memory of David John Prentice*, ed. by K. Alexander Adelaar and Robert Blust, 29–37. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.
- . 2007. Ōma Lóhng historical phonology. *Oceanic Linguistics* 46:1–53.
- . 2010. The Greater North Borneo hypothesis. *Oceanic Linguistics* 49:44–118.
- Clements, Nick. 1989. *A unified set of features for consonants and vowels*. Unpublished manuscript, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
- . 1991. Place of articulation in consonants and vowels: A unified theory. In *Working papers of the Cornell Phonetics Laboratory* 5:73–76. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
- Gafos, A. 1999. *The articulatory basis of locality in phonology*. Outstanding Dissertations in Linguistics, Garland, New York.
- Green, Anthony Dubach. 2005. Word, foot, and syllable structure in Burmese. In *Studies in Burmese linguistics*, ed. by J. Watkins, 1–25. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.
- Guerreiro, Antonio J. 1983. A note on pronouns in the Long Gelat and Busang languages (Upper Mahakam, Kalimantan Timur). *Borneo Research Bulletin* 15(2): 98–105.
- . 1989. Entités, rhétorique et intention dans le discours rituel Modang Wehèa (Bornéo). In *Anthropologie de la prière: rites oraux en Asie du Sud-Est*, ed. by Stephen C. Headley, 89–124. Paris: Études du Centre de l'Asie du Sud-Est.
- . 1996. Homophony, sound changes and dialectal variation in some central Bornean languages. *Mon-Khmer Studies. Special volume dedicated to Professor André-Georges Haudricourt* 25:205–26.
- Hill, Nathan. 2012. Evolution of the Burmese vowel system. *Transactions of the Philological Society* 110(1): 64–79.
- Khular, Sumshot. 2010. *Phonemic inventory of Lamkang*. Unpublished manuscript, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, India.
- Nevins, Andrew. 2010. *Locality in vowel harmony*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Ní Chiosáin, Márie, and Jaye Padgett. 2001. Markedness, segment realization, and locality in spreading. In *Segmental phonology in optimality theory: Constraints and representations*, ed. by Linda Lombardi, 118–58. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Odden, David. 1994. Adjacency parameters in Phonology. *Language* 70:289–330.
- Ostapirat, Weera. 2018. Reconstructing disyllabic Kra-Dai. *Keynote talk given at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 28)*, May 17–19, 2018, Wenzau Ursuline University of Languages, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- Revel-Macdonald, Nicole. 1982. Synchronical description at the phonetic and syllabic level of Modang (Kalimantan Timur) in contrast to Kenyah, Kayan, and Palawan (Philippines). In *FOCAL I: Papers from the fourth international conference on Austronesian linguistics 2*, ed. by Paul Geraghty, Lois Carrington, and Stephen A. Wurm, 321–31. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.
- Rose, Sharon, and Rachel Walker. 2004. A typology of consonant agreement as correspondence. *Language* 80:475–531.
- Smith, Alexander D. 2017a. The languages of Borneo: A comprehensive classification. PhD Diss., University of Hawaii at Mānoa.
- . 2017b. Merap historical phonology in the context of a central Bornean linguistic area. *Oceanic Linguistics* 56:143–80.
- . 2018. Proto-Austronesian schwa: Phonotactic restrictions and weight phenomena throughout Austronesian. *Paper presented at the 25th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA 25)*, May 10–12, 2018, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

- . 2019. Proto-Land Dayak vowels: A second look. *Oceanic Linguistics* 59(1): 110–42.
- Thounaojam, Harimohon, and Shobhana L. Chelliah 2007. The Lamkang language: Grammatical sketch, texts and lexicon. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 30:1-189. [Available online at <http://sealang.net/archives/tba/pdf/LTBA-30.1.1.pdf>, retrieved December 11, 2018.]
- Thurgood, Graham. 1999. *From ancient Cham to modern dialects: Two thousand years of language contact and change: with an appendix of Chamic reconstructions and loanwords*. Oceanic Linguistics Special Publication, no. 28. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- . 2005. Phan Rang Cham. In *The Austronesian languages of Asia and Madagascar*, ed. by K. Alexander Adelaar and Nikolaus Himmelmann, 489–512. London: Routledge.
- Wati, Kurniawati, Non Martis, Buha Aritonang, and Hidayatul Astar. 2002. *Kosakata dasar Swadesh di kabupaten Berau, kotamadya Samarinda, dan kotamadya Balikpapan*. Language Mapping Series PT 08. Jakarta: Pusat Bahasa.

QUERIES

- AQ1: Au: There are two Smith (2017) references, denoted as 2017a and 2017b. Please clarify which one you are referring here.
- AQ2: Au: Tables 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 16 are not cited in the text. Please cite them.
- AQ3: Au: You have mentioned the insertion of tables 2 and 3 but the corresponding in-text citations for these tables are missing. Can we add Tables 2 and 3 citations in parentheses at the end of these two paragraphs? Please clarify.
- AQ4: Au: Please confirm if edit made is OK.
- AQ5: Au: Please provide other sources here. Also confirm if deletion made is OK.
- AQ6: Au: Please check if edit made to the sentence “In an iterative feature spreading . . .” is OK.
- AQ7: Au: Please verify the changes to match consistency with tables.
- AQ8: Au: Please provide in-text citation for Table 9.
- AQ9: Au: Please clarify if the added item (3) is correct here?
- AQ10: Au: I have hyphenated “off-glide” for consistency.
- AQ11: Au: I have deleted the repeated text to avoid repetition.
- AQ12: Au: I have deleted the repeated text to avoid repetition.
- AQ13: Au: Please also provide in-text citations for tables 15 and 16.
- AQ14: Au: There is no section named section 4.2.3 in this article. Please clarify which section you are referring here
- AQ15: Au: Please confirm if edits made to the sentence “Set twenty-four . . .” are OK.
- AQ16: Au: I have hyphenated “final syllable” as it is hyphenated throughout when used as an adjective.
- AQ17: Au: Please provide a suitable heading for the last column in appendix and in tables where necessary.
- AQ18: Au: Please provide first names for these editors.