

*GYAEUJ* 'HEAD'  
 PT \*kjəu C1, PKT \*kruəu

*Gyaej* is found in all branches of Tai, though in the SW the same morpheme is assigned a different meaning. It is found also in the Kam-Sui languages; in Lakkia (ceu<sup>1</sup>), and in Lingao, Qiongshan (both hau<sup>3</sup>) and Hlai (gwou<sup>3</sup>). Pubiao has ha<sup>1</sup> lo<sup>5.1</sup>. Ostapirat reconstructs proto-Kra \*krai B.<sup>2</sup> Pittayaporn reconstructs PT \*kraw<sup>Cn</sup> for *gyaeuj* and PT \*trœ<sup>An</sup> for hu<sup>1</sup> (1, 2). Gokhman reconstructs PT \*klau<sup>C1</sup> and \*thrua<sup>A1</sup>, PKS \*ko<sup>C1</sup>, and PLi \*gou<sup>6</sup> (174).

Gōng Qúnhǔ connects this word, Thai klaw C1, with Chinese 首 *shǒu* 'head', OC \*qlju'.<sup>3</sup>

A number of morphemes are included here. The main one is *gyaeuj* (kjəu<sup>3</sup>), found in both NZh and SZh areas. A second morpheme, realised variously as thu<sup>1</sup> and hu<sup>1</sup>, is found in the Zuojiang area, in Jingxi and Debao, in the Nung dialects of EY, and in NV. *Gyaej* is also found in the SW and Central Tai languages with the meaning 'hairknot',<sup>4</sup> whereas hu<sup>1</sup> is related to the common Tai etymon for 'head'.<sup>5</sup> Finally, there is a word bau<sup>3</sup>, found in Longzhou and Ningming.

*Gyaej* varies considerably in the realisation of its initial consonant cluster:

- kj- found in east-central and north-central Guangxi (Shanglin, Du'an), the northeast (Yishan, Liujiang, Rong'an, and Longsheng), the central north (Huanjiang, Hechi, Nandan, and Donglan), and Napo in the SW;
- ky- Laibin;
- kr- Guigang;
- kl- Hengxian;
- γ- Wuming;
- k- Yongning North; Anshun and Qinglong in central-west Guizhou; and Qiubei in EY;

<sup>1</sup> *Gàilùn* p. 173.

<sup>2</sup> Weera Ostapirat, p. 221.

<sup>3</sup> Gōng Qúnhǔ, p. 91. Baxter and Sagart reconstruct OC \*qlu? for this etymon.

<sup>4</sup> CTSB p. 122, item 0490.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 75, item 0086.

hl- Yongning South and Long'an;  
 l- Qinzhou, Shangsi, Fusui and Congzuo in the south and Zuojiang valley;  
 kh- Zhenning in west-central Guizhou;  
 tɕ- the Youjiang valley area and in the far NW of Guangxi; in Guizhou, generally in both southern and central dialects; in EY, in Guangan South and Xichou.

Variation in rime is almost insignificant (Laibin and Rong'an have -əu<sup>3</sup> instead of -eu<sup>3</sup>), while all localities have 3rd tone. Given this wide variation in initials, it may well be that bau<sup>3</sup> in Ningming and Longzhou should be considered cognate with *gyaeuj*.

Variations in local pronunciation are reflected in the script:

考 <i>kǎo</i>	in Zhenning reflects	khau <sup>3</sup>	(SWM k'au <sup>53</sup> )
教 <i>jiào</i>	in Ceheng reflects	tcau <sup>3</sup>	(SWM tciau <sup>24</sup> )
周 <i>zhōu</i>	in Tian'e reflects	tcau <sup>3</sup>	(SWM tsou <sup>55</sup> )
睂 (ph. 平 <i>hū</i> )	in Lạng Sơn reflects	hu <sup>1</sup>	
投 <i>tóu</i>	in Jingxi reflects	thu <sup>1</sup>	(SWM t'ou <sup>31</sup> )
交 <i>jiāo</i>	in Luodian reflects	tcau <sup>3</sup>	(SWM tciau <sup>55</sup> )
告 <i>gào</i>	in Anshun reflects	kau <sup>3</sup>	(SWM kau <sup>35</sup> )
𦵃 (ph. 萎 <i>lóu</i> )	in Qinzhou reflects	lau <sup>3</sup>	

Note that most of these graphs represent SWM readings. In the Guangxi core area, where older readings and *Pínghuà* are the norm, matters are more complicated.

### Character List

The following table gives a listing of all characters used for *gyaeuj* or equivalents in the traditional texts from all locations. The table also lists the locations where each character or character variant is found.

Table 25.1 List of characters used to write *gyaeuj* 'head'.  
 Total number of graphs: 20

<i>Character used</i>	<i>Locations</i>	<i>No. locations</i>
1 玖	BM, TY <sup>PF</sup>	2
2 九	BM, BS, LBo	3
3 久	BM <sup>SL</sup> , H, TD <sup>YX</sup>	3
4 頭	BS, JX, MSh <sup>S</sup> , H, TY <sup>KP</sup>	5
5 懈	HJ <sup>S</sup> , HJ <sup>R</sup>	2