

GYAEUJ ‘HEAD’
PT *kjəu C1, PKT *kruəu

Gyaeuj 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 (ceu¹), and in Lingao, Qiongsan (both hau³) and Hlai (gwou³). Pubiao has ha¹ lo^{5.1}. Ostapirat reconstructs proto-Kra *krai B.² Pittayaporn reconstructs PT *kraw^{Cn} for *gyaeuj* and PT *truə^{An} for hu¹ (1, 2). Gokhman reconstructs PT *klau^{C1} and *thrua^{A1}, PKS *ko^{C1}, and PLi *gou⁶ (174).

Gōng Qínhǔ connects this word, Thai klaw C1, with Chinese 首 *shǒu* ‘head’, OC *qlju’.³

A number of morphemes are included here. The main one is *gyaeuj* (kjəu³), found in both NZh and SZh areas. A second morpheme, realised variously as thu¹ and hu¹, is found in the Zuojiang area, in Jingxi and Debao, in the Nung dialects of EY, and in NV. *Gyaeuj* is also found in the SW and Central Tai languages with the meaning ‘hairknot’,⁴ whereas hu¹ is related to the common Tai etymon for ‘head’.⁵ Finally, there is a word bau³, found in Longzhou and Ningming.

Gyaeuj 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;
- y- Wuming;
- k- Yongning North; Anshun and Qinglong in central-west Guizhou; and Qiubei in EY;

¹ *Gàilùn* p. 173.

² Weera Ostapirat, p. 221.

³ Gōng Qínhǔ, p. 91. Baxter and Sagart reconstruct OC *ɭu? for this etymon.

⁴ CTSB p. 122, item 0490.

⁵ 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 Guangnan South and Xichou.

Variation in rime is almost insignificant (Laibin and Rong'an have -əu³ instead of -eu³), while all localities have 3rd tone. Given this wide variation in initials, it may well be that bau³ 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	khou ³	(SWM k'au ⁵³)
教 <i>jiào</i>	in Ceheng reflects	teau ³	(SWM tciau ²⁴)
周 <i>zhōu</i>	in Tian'e reflects	teau ³	(SWM tsou ⁵⁵)
評 (ph. 乎 <i>hū</i>)	in Lạng Sơn reflects	hu ¹	
投 <i>tóu</i>	in Jingxi reflects	thu ¹	(SWM t'ou ³¹)
交 <i>jiāo</i>	in Luodian reflects	teau ³	(SWM tciau ⁵⁵)
告 <i>gào</i>	in Anshun reflects	kau ³	(SWM kau ³⁵)
媵 (ph. 菱 <i>lóu</i>)	in Qinzhou reflects	lau ³	

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

Character used	Locations	No. locations
1 玖	BM, TY ^{PF}	2
2 九	BM, BS, LBo	3
3 久	BM ^{SL} , H, TD ^{YX}	3
4 頭	BS, JX, MSh ^S , H, TY ^{KP}	5
5 尅	HJ ^S , HJ ^R	2