

Bahnar is a language of the Mon-Khmer family spoken by 50,000-70,000 people living in the provinces of Gia Lai-Cong Tum and Nghia Binh in Viet Nam. Within the Mon-Khmer family lexicostatistics have suggested that Bahnar belongs to the North Bahnaric subgroup (Thomas, 1966), whereas phonological studies have suggested a South Bahnaric orientation (Smith, 1972). Attempting to reconcile these differences a Central Bahnaric relation has been suggested (Gregerson, Smith and Thomas, 1976). This dictionary is based primarily on the dialect of Bahnar spoken in the Plei Bong Mor-Mang Yang area of Gia Lai-Cong Tum (formerly Pleiku) province.

Two other dialects are also included in this dictionary: the Bahnar Golar dialect which is spoken in an area 10-20 kilometers east of Pleiku city and the Kontum dialect spoken around the city of Kontum. Each of these dialects has around 10,000 native speakers. Entries for the Kontum dialect are few but there are other dictionaries of the Kontum dialect (Dourisboure, 1889; Guilleminet and Alberty, 1959, 1963). Entries for the Golar dialect are much more numerous and this dialect is closer lexically to the Plei Bong-Mang Yang dialect (cf. Phạm Xuân Tín, 1952).

This dictionary includes over 3600 main entries and is followed by an English Index referring the user back to the main dictionary by page number. For Vietnamese users there is both a Bahnar--Vietnamese Glossary and a Vietnamese--Bahnar Glossary of about 900 basic vocabulary items.

Our study of the Bahnar language in Viet Nam began in 1959 and continued through the early part of 1975 as members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Most of the dictionary entries were made in the earlier years of our investigation, the final revision being made in 1977.

The main Bahnar contributor to the project was Mỏ, a young man from the village of Plei Bong Mor. Various

others helped in revision and in giving entries for the other dialects.

Dân-Tộc Thiều-Sô Việt-Nam
Cuốn 20
Phần 1

BAHNAR DICTIONARY

Plei Bong - Mang Yang Dialect

Ngũ-Vũng Bahnar

by

John and Elizabeth Banker and Mơ

Summer Institute of Linguistics
Viện Chuyên-Khảo Ngữ-Học
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