

3. Syntax of Khmu dialects in Laos

In general all Khmu dialects have similar syntactical structure. The word order, affixation and the use of functional particles are the grammatical mechanisms used in Khmu. The description of Khmu syntax here is based on the *lb* dialect which is the main entry of this dictionary. However where necessary and when there are differences among dialects examples from *lk* and *ls* dialects are also given.

3.1 Word Order

The syntactic patterns of the three Khmu dialects in Laos are similar. They all have the SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) word order as do all Khmu dialects in Southeast Asia and other Mon-Khmer languages.

- | | |
|---|---|
| S-V | 1. kón jam
child cry
'The child is crying.' |
| S-V-O | 2. kəm k ^h mú? té:ŋ ré? té:ŋ prna:m
Khmu work field work make traps
'The Khmu work in the field and make traps' |
| S-V-IO-O-V | 3. k ^h ə: ʔú:n k ^h mu:l ma? joŋ t ^h e?
he give money mother father take
'He gave his parents the money.' |
| S-V-Location | 4. nɔ: t ^h ar k ^h u:t ta? jú?
he run in enter forest
'He ran into the forest.' |
| S-V-Explanation | 5. k ^h ə: məh c ^h ε?
he is Thai
'He is a Thai.' |
| /ʔah/ 'have' S-V-(O) | 6. kún ʔo? ʔah ʔər ʔah só? ʔah síəŋ
village I have hen have dog have pig
'At home, I have chickens, dogs and pigs.' |
| S-V- "Speech" | 7. joŋ pra:k kón ʔú:n kón joŋ lə? lə?
father wish speak give child go good good
'The father wished him a good trip.' |
| Yes/No question
<i>lb</i>: S-V(0)-q. | 8. je? c ^h i t ^h e? k ^h mu:l ʔi:
you will take money q.
'Will you take the money?' |
| <i>lk</i>: S-V-O-q | 9. me: ci te? k ^h mu:l ʔi: |
| <i>ls</i>: S-V-O-q | ma: ci de? k ^h mu:l wah |

In connected speech the word order in various sentences can be different. The verb occurs before the subject noun and the object noun occurs before the verb in cases of emphasis. However sentence patterns in 11 and 12 of *lb* Khmu do not occur in *ls* Khmu but all sentence patterns in *lb* Khmu also occur in *lk* Khmu.

- 9a. **rət k^hma? rət p^hər**
 come rain come hail
 'It is raining heavily there were both rain and hails.'
10. **ʔo? sr?e:ŋ ma? joŋ liən ʔóm mat**
 I think parents come water eye
 'I feel sympathy for my parents so much that my tears come out.'
11. *lb:* **k^hmú? k^hat p^héŋ s?o:ŋ s?o:ŋ p^héŋ m^herw**
 Khmu not cut wood wood cut Maeo
 'Meo people cut the trees but Khmu people do not.'
- ls:* **k^hmú? ʔam kə:l s?o:ŋ m^herw kə:l s?o:ŋ**
 Khmu not cut wood Maeo cut wood
 'Meo people cut the trees but Khmu people do not.'
- 12a. *lb:* **mə? ruŋ p^hu:c**
 who boil rice wine
 'Who make the rice wine?'
- 12b. *lb:* **p^hu:c ruŋ ʔo?**
 rice wine boil I
 'I made the rice wine myself.'
- 12b₁. *lk:* **pu:c ruŋ ʔo?**
 rice wine boil I
 'I made the rice wine myself.'
- 12b₂. *ls:* **ʔo? məh gon ruŋ**
 I am person boil
 'I made the rice wine myself.'
13. **lam p^hə? lə? jat**
 delicious eat good stay
 'Wish you have a good life.'
14. **ʔo? lə? ləh lam mah lam má:r**
 I good body delicious eat delicious salt
 'I am healthy and have a good life.'

The beneficiary construction normally occurs as an embedded full sentence. It always occurs after the verb in the main clause.

15. ʔoʔ c^hi p^há:n jeʔ p^həʔ sǐəŋ
 I will kill you eat pig
 'I will kill a pig for you to eat.'
16. jeʔ pic ʔoʔ t^heʔ ja:n k^hi:
 you leave I take drum this
 'Leave this drum for me.'
17. k^hə: ʔú:n joŋ maʔ t^heʔ k^hmu:l
 he give father mother take money
 'He gave his parents the money.'

3.2 Noun phrase

Noun phrase in Khmu consists of a head noun followed by one or more modifiers.

- 18.1. sóʔ hǐəŋ p^har [to:] nám k^hna:j
 dog black two class. big that
 'Those two big black dogs'
- 18.2. ʔǎr ʔoʔ mo:j to: k^hna:j
 chicken I one class. that
 'That is my chicken.'

3.3 Verb phrase

Verb phrase in Khmu consists of a main verb and one or more pre-modifier verbs which is called preverb or auxiliary verb, and one or more than one post modifier or adverb. There is normally a number of preverbs including various negatives.

Negative: The three Khmu dialects in Laos use the same structure of negation but the negative words of each dialect are different *lb:* k^hat, *lk:* pə and *ls:* ʔam 'not', *lb:* p^hə:n, *lk:* p^hə:n and *ls:* ʔam. Examples provided below are based on *lb* Khmu.

19. na: k^hat p^həʔ ʔah sóʔ
 she not eat meat dog
 'She does not eat dog meat.'
20. na: k^hat t^ha: p^həʔ mah
 she not still eat rice
 'She has not eaten yet.'
21. joŋ maʔ ʔoʔ k^hat ʔú:n tec jam k^hi:
 father mother I not give sell drum this
 'My parents do not let (me) sell this drum.'

22. k^hə: k^hat c^há:j tɛ:ŋ mʂh
 he not know do what
 'He does not know how to do anything.'

23. na: p^hɔ:n ʔək p^hu:c
 she never drink alcohol
 'She has never drunk alcohol.'

Preverb

24. ʔo? c^hi jɔh t^hiəŋ k^hmu:l ká:l
 I will go take money before
 'I will go to get the money first.'

25. ʔo? nɔ:ŋ jɔh t^hiəŋ k^hmu:l ká:l
 I still go take money before
 'She still goes to get the money first.'

26. ʔo? nɔ:ŋ c^hi jɔh t^hiəŋ k^hmu:l
 I still will go take money
 'I still have to go to get the money first.'

27. sna: ha rɔ:t
 they (two) already arrive
 'They have arrived.'

28. ʔo? ʔik wec t^ha k^ha:ŋ
 I no want return at house
 'I don't want to return home.'

Post verb

29. sna: jɔh hó:c ʔo? ʔəh wiək k^hi: sé:t
 they (two) go already I do work this alone
 'They (two) have gone, I do this myself.'

3.4 Affixation

The grammatical mechanisms in building sentences, and discourses for communication in Khmu are the use of word order, affix and functional particles.

Affixation in all Khmu dialects consists of the use of only prefixes and infixes.

3.4.1 *saŋ* is a nominalizer that prefixes to a verb and makes it a noun. In many cases it nominalizes the clause.

p ^h əʔ	‘to eat’	→	saŋp ^h əʔ	‘food (things we eat)’
cúʔ	‘to be sick’	→	saŋcúʔ	‘sickness, patient’
jat	‘to live’	→	saŋjat	‘the act of living’
joh	‘to go’	→	saŋjoh	‘going’
k ^h a:j	‘to return’	→	saŋk ^h a:j	‘returning’
séh ŋóʔ	séh k ^h la:ŋ	→	saŋ séh ŋóʔ	saŋ séh k ^h la:ŋ
	‘to put in the paddy rice and stone’			‘putting in the paddy rice and stone’

3.4.2 Prefixes **p^h-**, **p^hC-** are added to verbs to make them into causative verbs ($V \rightarrow V_{\text{cau}}$). -C represents a final consonant that may be either nasal or non-nasal. In the Khmu dialects of Laos, there is a tendency toward consonant harmony whereby the final consonant of the presyllable agrees in both manner and place of articulation with the final consonant of the main syllable or in either manner or place of articulation with the consonant of the main syllable as indicated in the examples below.

há:n	‘to die’	→	p ^h án	‘to kill’
lí:ən	‘to be out’	→	p ^h lí:ən	‘to make something go out’
pit	‘to extinguish’	→	p ^h np ^h it	‘to cause to extinguish’
ŋóʔ	‘to fear’	→	p ^h ŋóʔ	‘to scare’
kraŋ	‘to be hard’	→	p ^h ŋk ^h raŋ	‘to harden’
tí:ŋ	‘to collapse’	→	p ^h nt ^h i:ŋ	‘to make something collapse’
sɔ:r	‘to hide’	→	prɔ:r	‘to hide’
lak	‘to tell a lie’	→	pklak	‘to make somebody lie’

3.4.3 The series of prefixes **rm-**, **sn-**, **rt-**, **tŋ-**, and **tr-** when added to verbs derive related nouns ($V \rightarrow N$) as indicated in the examples below. Again we observe a kind of consonant harmony between the final consonant of the prefix and the final consonant of the main syllable or either manner or place of articulation with the consonant of the main syllable as indicated in the examples below.

hám	‘to make the fruit ripen’	→	rmhám	‘a container used for a ripening fruit’
sih ŋim	‘sleep’	→	rmŋim	‘a place for sleeping’
t ^h en	‘sit’	→	snt ^h en	‘a place to sit’
murt	‘to flip sticky rice’	→	rtmurt	‘a tray used for flipping rice to cool it’
ju:t	‘to pump air in an act of blacksmithing’	→	rtju:t	‘bellows’
ŋat	‘to be dry’	→	rtŋat	‘a dry water channel’
k ^h i:ən	‘to be up’	→	tŋk ^h i:ən	‘a steep path up’

c^hur ‘to be down’ → trc^hur ‘a steep path down’

3.4.4 Infixes **-rn-**, **-n-**, and **-mn-** when added to verbs derive related instrumental nouns (V→N_{inst.}) as indicated in the examples below:

se:	‘to make a hole’	→	srne:	‘a thing used to poke a hole’
təh	‘to make a hole with a chisel’	→	t ^h rnəh	‘a chisel’
pa:j	‘to grip with tong’	→	p ^h ma:j	‘tongs’
ta:n	‘to weave’	→	t ^h ma:n	‘material used in weaving’
koh	‘to chop’	→	k ^h mnoh	‘chopping block’

3.4.5 Prefixes **t^hr-**, **k^hN-**, and **hn-** when added to verbs derive related adjectives (V→Adv). The N of the presyllable symbolizes the homorganic nasal which assimilates to the place of articulation of the following initial consonant of the main syllable.

wiət	‘to twist’	→	t ^h rwiat	‘twisted’
pa:n	‘to open’	→	k ^h mpa:n	‘opened’
trəh	‘to pull’	→	k ^h nrəh	‘pulled’
ca:k	‘to tear’	→	hnca:k	‘torn’

3.5 Conjunctive particles

In Khmu, there are preverbs that indicate the relationship between the actor and action by showing the determination, willingness or capability of a person. The preverbs act as conjunctive particles between the preceding clause and the clause they belong to. This indicates that the verb they are attached to is the result of the action of the preceding clause, the determination to do the action, or the action following another action, or the action is unexpected or unnatural.

3.5.1 **taŋ** indicates determination, possibility or obvious result of another action.

30. nɔ: jat p^hiən ʔi? taŋ jat p^hiən
 they stay able we stay able
 ‘If he can stay, we then can also stay.’

31. ʔo? cú? lu:j ʔo? taŋ jəh ro:n mɔ:
 I pain stomach I go hospital
 ‘If I have a stomachache I will have to go to a hospital.’

32. p^hɔ: jəh kál ʔo? taŋ c^hi jəh nam
 you (pl) go first I will go follow
 ‘You go first, then I will go after.’

33. k^hma? riəs taŋ c^hi jəh té:ŋ wiək
 rain stop will go do work
 'I will go to work after the rain stops.'

3.5.2 **le** indicates a natural action that normally occurs following another action or as a result of another action.

34. p^hə? mah hó:c le jəh ta ré?
 eat rice already then go to field
 'I eat rice then I go to the field.'
35. híc ŋó? ʔúm mək hó:c le k^hu:m
 crush paddy until fine then winnow
 'Crush it until it is fine then winnow.'
36. je? klám p^hiən le mət ʔor jəh ʔəm
 you carry able then take lead go fp.
 'If you can carry it, you can have it.'
37. je? ce jəh le jəh
 you will go then go
 'If you want to go, then you can go.'

3.5.3 **k^haj** indicates the unnatural or unexpected action.

38. ʔe: jat ta kún je? k^haj ʔah k^hmu:l woh
 Ee! stay at village your have money much
- ʔo? jəh ca:ŋ ʔo? k^hat ʔah k^hmu:l
 I go work for wages I not have money
 'Ee! You stay at your village (do not go to get any work outside), how come you have a lot of money. I go and work for wages but don't have money.'

3.3.4 **ciŋ** indicates rational action that will happen.

39. je? nə:ŋ p^hri? je? ciŋ k^hat ʔəh ja:ŋ k^hni?
 you know nature you not do like this
 'If you know enough you will not do like this.'

3.5.5 **kə** indicates an action that normally happen after another action. It is probably a Tai-Lao loan.

40. p^ha: jat p^hiən ʔi? kə jat p^hiən
 you stay able we stay able
 'If you can stay, so can we.'

41. k^hə: lawne:w mə? kə lə?
 he say whatever good
 'Whatever he said was good.'

3.5.6 **mak** indicates an unwanted result that may happen.

42. ha? ʔih rɛ:ŋ hi? k^hə: mak mec
 do not speak loud otherwise he hear
 'Don't speak loudly, or others will hear.'

43. ha? ʔih nɔ: mak t^hiəŋ k^hmu:l
 do not speak they take money
 'Don't speak, they will make you pay.'

44. ha? jəh mo:j kon mak lɔŋŋɔr
 do not go one man lost way
 'Don't go by yourself or you will get lost.'

45. ha? hɔ:j wek mak ʔóh
 do not play knife cut
 'Don't play with the knife or you will cut yourself.'

3.6 Conjunction

In connected speech there are some conjunctions for linking the additive, alternative, opposite or caused sentences. However in Khmu there can be several sentences placed one after the other without any conjunction.

3.6 The use of conjunction

3.6.1 The use of *jə?* indicates cause and effect.

46. k^hə: hán jə? mar tok
 he dies because snake bite
 'He died because of a snake bite.'

47. k^hmú? híəŋ jə? puh war
 Khmu man black because of expose sun
 'The Khmu are dark because they work in the sun.'

3.6.2 The use of *ʔú:n* 'to give' indicates a conditional sentence like 'if' in English. The following verb is *c^h* 'will'

48. ʔún ʔoʔ həp ró:j ʔoʔ cʰi tʰar
if I meet ghost I will run
'If I encounter a ghost, I will run away.'
49. pi: nim kʰi: ʔún kʰmaʔ rət woh ŋóʔ cʰi pʰiən woh
year this if rain arrive a lot rice will get a lot
'If it rains a lot this year we will get a lot of paddy rice.'
50. píəmkʰi: ʔún ʔoʔ kʰat ʔah wiək mǎh ʔoʔ cʰi wec tʰa kʰa:ŋ
tomorrow if I not have work what I will return at home
'Tomorrow, if I do not have any work I will go home.'

3.6.3 The use of *hó:c* 'already' and *nam* 'time' indicates that each event happens one after the other.

51. pʰəʔ mah hó:c té:ŋ wiək
eat rice already do work
'After eating, I will work.'
52. ʔoʔ ʔǎh réʔ hó:c wec síh tʰa kʰa:ŋ
I do field already return sleep at home
'When I finish working in the field, I will go home to sleep.'
53. roh síəŋ pa:t pʰluʔ hó:c tóm
butcher pig cut leg then boil
'We butcher the pig, cut off the legs and then boil them.'
54. kʰə: jəh nam ʔoʔ síh
he go time I sleep
'He went when I was sleeping.'
55. ʔoʔ nó:ŋ síh nam maʔ jəh tʰa réʔ
I still sleep time mother go to field
'I was still sleeping when my mother went to the field.'

3.6.4 *ka:ŋ...ka:ŋ* indicates the strength in the meaning of the verb in the second clause.

56. ka:ŋ tə:ŋ wiək ka:ŋ pʰiən kʰmu:l woh
the more do work the more get money a lot
'The more I work, the more money I get.'
57. ka:ŋ lnij ka:ŋ ŋoʔ
the more dark the more fear
'The darker it becomes the more afraid I become.'

58. ka:ŋ trk^hət woh ka:ŋ cú? k^hmpóŋ
 the more think a lot the more pain head
 'The more I think the more pain I have.'

The use of juxtaposition. In many cases the sentences are juxtaposed, or one follows another without any linking word.

Sentences that indicate contradictions.

59. je? nám ?o? ne?
 you big I small
 'You are big, but I am small.'

60. ?o? t^huk ?o? ro:k p^ha: rma:ŋ
 I suffer I poor you rich
 'I am poor, but you are rich.'

61. ?o? k^hat c^há:j tó:m kə: c^há:j tó:m
 I not know sing he know sing
 'I do not know how to sing traditional Khmu songs but he does.'

Sentences that indicate alternatives.

62. je? c^hi jəh c^hi pe jəh
 you will go will not go
 'Will you go or not?'

63. je? law rəŋ law hój
 you say true say play
 'Are you serious or just saying a joke?'

Sentences that indicate an added characteristic.

64. co:n lə:c k^hnt^hriəŋ p^hám no: hám
 thief steal thing kill them die
 'The thief stole valuables and killed the owner.'

65. t^ha kuŋ ?o? ?əh ré? ?əh pna:m p^hnp^hə? sɔ? p^hnp^hə? sɔŋ
 at village I do field do trap feed dog feed pig
 'In my village, we work in the fields and make traps, raise dogs and pigs.'

66. na: taŋ jəh taŋ ja:m
 she go cry
 'She cried while walking.'

67. k^hta:m saŋ seh ŋɔʔ saŋ seh k^hla:ŋ
 heavy put in rice put in stone
 'It is heavy because they put in both rice and stones.'

3.7 Pronouns

The three Khmu dialects in Laos have singular, dual and plural pronouns. The second and third personal singular pronouns also have sex distinction. Pronouns provided here are from *lb* dialect.

	Singular	Dual	Plural
1st person	ʔoʔ	ʔaʔ	ʔiʔ
2nd person female	p ^h a:	swa:	p ^h ɔ:
male	jeʔ		
3rd person female	na:	sna:	no:
male	k ^h ə:		

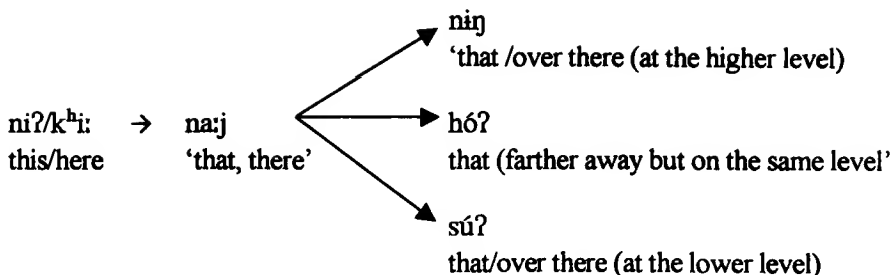
The reflexive pronoun is t^he:

68. no: k^hro: t^he: t^heʔ kóm
 they ask oneself take child
 'They ask a child for themselves. (they ask to have a child)'

Apart from the pronouns mentioned above, Khmu people normally use kinship terms as pronouns when talking to their relatives or non-relatives. The word *maʔ* 'mother' is used for addressing a middle aged woman. The word *taj* 'elder sibling' and *hé:m* 'younger sibling' are used to address a person who is older or younger than the speaker, respectively.

3.8 Demonstratives

The three Khmu dialects use demonstratives to distinguished location as this/here, that/there, that (farther away but in the same level), that (farther away), over there at the lower level, and that (father away) over there at the higher level. The demonstratives provided here are from *lb* dialect



3.9 Preposition

The preposition in Khmu links a noun and a verb together, for example, t^ha: 'at, in, from', lo:ŋ 'way, side, to', ro:h 'along'.

69. ʔoʔ jat t^ha lo:ŋ larw
I stay at side Lao
'I live in Laos'

70. joh lo:ŋ weʔ joh lo:ŋ ham // joh plah weʔ joh plah hám
go side left go side right go way left go way right
'.....go to the left or to the right.'

71. joh ro:h róŋ ʔom
go along stream
'.....go along the stream'

72. Bunníə na Khamphan
Buanue with Khamphan
'Mr. Buanue with/and Mr. Khamphan'

73. moŋ na matp^hriʔ
moon and sun
'The moon and the sun.'

3.10 Classifiers

As in other Southeast Asian languages, Khmu classifiers are used with the noun and follows the numeral in a noun phrase. It is noticeable that the classifier is not always obligatory in this language. It is used mainly for emphasis.

74. ʔoʔ ʔah sóʔ p^har (to:)
I have dog two clf. for animal
'I have two dogs.'

75. ʔoʔ ʔah kóm sam (k^hon)
 I have child three clf. for person
 "I have three children."
76. ʔoʔ ʔah wɛ:k mo:j (t^hrim)
 I have knife one clf. for knife
 "I have one knife."

4. Contact with Tai-Lao and its influence on Khmu

Even though Khmu and Tai-Lao languages belong to different language families, since they have been living in the same area for a long time, they have a lot of influence on each other. Khmu has a lot of phonological, lexical and syntactical features that are influenced by the Tai languages (Red Tai, Lue, Phuan, etc.) that are in the same area as well as Lao language which is the official language. Contact and relationship among Khmu and neighboring languages and the national language cause changes and deviations from Khmu original structure. Tonogenesis mentioned before is an example of Tai-Lao influence. Some examples of Tai-Lao influence on Khmu syntax have already mentioned in the section on Khmu syntax. The following are examples of some interesting Tai-Lao loan words in Khmu

4.1 *Tai-Lao loan words in Khmu in Laos*

There are a great number of Thai-Lao loan words in Khmu. Nowadays there are even more and more because of the influence of the modern socio-economic situation. Examples given are only some basic loan words in Khmu everyday life. It is noticeable that the tone of Thai words do not appear when they are borrowed in Khmu.

kop	'frog'	ní:	'debt'
kɛ:n	'heartwood, core'	ɲo:m	'to dye'
com	'to sink'	ɲa:ŋ	'to walk'
cap	'to grasp, catch'	liəj	'saw, to saw'
tɔ:n	'to castrate'	law	'to say, tell'
taw	'tortoise'	wat	'buddhist temple'
puə	'to care for (an illness)'	sak	'tattoo'
ʔam	'saddle'	khap	'to sing'
ʔɛ:k	'yoke'	kham	'to cross over'
ɲa:	'ivory'	thaw	'old'
ɲuəŋ	'elephant's trunk'	tham	'cave'
caw na:j	'master'	pha:	'to split'
sut, muŋ	'mosquito net'	cap	'to take, to carry'
k ^h i:ɔ:k	'interest'	sa:j	'thread'

pha:j	'cotton'	plɔ:k	'ring'
pha:k	'to entrust'	ma:k	'many'

4.2 Some of the Tai-Lao loans words in Khmu have been phonologically modified to fit the Khmu phonological system of the Khmu dialect they belong to.

4.2.1 A loan word with original voiceless stop initials of Tai-Lao words occurs as a voiced initial in *ls* dialect, but as a voiceless initial with voice quality in *lk* and *lb* dialects. The stop initial in *lk* dialect is unaspirated whereas in *lb* dialect is aspirated.

<i>ls</i>	<i>lk</i>	<i>lb</i>	
gem	kem	k ^h em	'salty'
gu:	ku:	k ^h u:	'pair'
ga:p	ka:p	k ^h a:p	'to hold in the mouth'
ɔ:j	co:j	c ^h ɔ:j	'to help'
ɟim	ɟim	c ^h i:m	'to taste'
ɟaŋ	caŋ	c ^h aŋ	'to weigh'
da:	ta:	t ^h a:	'to paint'
dɛ:k	tɛ:k	t ^h ɛ:k	'to measure'
dɛ:n	tɛ:n	t ^h ɛ:n	'to replace'
bɛ:	pɛ:	p ^h ɛ:	'raft'
ban	pan	p ^h an	'to roll up'

4.2.2 Some Lao words with glottal fricative initial *h* occur in Khmu as trill *r*, but the Tai-Lao alveolar aspirated stop *k^h* and alveolar fricative initial *s* occur in cluster with trill *r* in Khmu *k^hr* and *sr*. Words with aspirated stop initial consonant also conform to the Khmu phonological rule in different dialects.

<i>ls</i>	<i>lk</i>	<i>lb</i>	
rɔt	rɔt	rɔt	'to arrive'
rɛ:ŋ	rɛ:ŋ	rɛ:ŋ	'strength'
rɛ:t	rɛ:t	rɛ:t	'rhinoceros'
brɔ:m	prɔ:m	p ^h rɔ:m	'together'
bre:	pre:	p ^h re:	'cloth'
blu:	plu:	p ^h lu:	'betel leaf'
gruə	kruə	k ^h ruə	'family'
gram	kram	k ^h ram	'lazy'
graŋ	kraŋ	k ^h raŋ	'to confine'
sroŋ	sroŋ	sroŋ	'to send'
sro:j	sro:j	sro:j	'necklace'

4.2.3 The preglottalized consonants are also borrowed. However, the *lk* dialect prefers ²*b* whereas *ls* and *lb* dialects prefers ²*n* and ²*m*.

<i>ls</i>	<i>lk</i>	<i>lb</i>	
^h ɲʰə	ɲʰə	ɲʰə	‘bait’
^h ni:	nî:	nî:	‘debt’
^h mîəŋ	mîəŋ	mîəŋ	‘fermented tea’
^h li:k	fi:k	fi:k	‘to avoid’
^h loŋ	lôŋ	loŋ	‘to forget’
<i>ls</i>	<i>lk</i>	<i>lb</i>	
^h wa:ŋ	waŋ	waŋ	‘space between’
² nian	² dian	² nian	‘month’
² met	² bet	² mét	‘fish-hook’
² mɔ:n	² bɔ:n	² mɔ:n	‘place’
² ja:	² ja:	² ja:	‘medicine’
² ji:m	² ji:m	² ji:m	‘to borrow’
² ja:ŋ	² ja:ŋ	² ja:ŋ	‘sort, kind’

4.2.4 Numerals. It is noticeable that for the numerals the Khmu prefer to use the Khmu word for ‘one’ /mo:j/, ‘two’ /pa:r/ and ‘three’ /peʔ/. Others are all Thai-Lao numbers except the word for ‘one hundred’ /mo:j rɔ:j/, which is Khmu and Thai-Lao. The word for one hundred and one /mo:j rɔ:j mo:j/ is also Khmu and Thai-Lao words together. However for ‘twenty’ the Tai-Lao word /sa:w/ is used.

mo:j	‘one’	sip sɔ:ŋ	‘twelve’
pa:r	‘two’	sa:w	‘twenty’
peʔ	‘three’	sa:w ʔét	‘twenty one’
si:	‘four’	sa:m sip	‘thirty’
ha:	‘five’	mo:j rɔ:j	‘one hundred’
rok	‘six’	mo:j rɔ:j mo:j	‘one hundred and one’
cet	‘seven’	mo:j p ^h an	‘one thousand’
pe:t	‘eight’	mo:j mi:n	‘ten thousands’
kaw	‘nine’	mo:j se:n	‘hundred thousands’
sip	‘ten’	mo:j lam	‘one million’
sip ʔét	‘eleven’		

DICTIONARY OF KHMU IN LAOS

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