

**O. Introduction.** Pacóh is a language of the Mon-Khmer family, spoken by perhaps 8.000 tribespeople in the Huế region of Central Việt Nam. Pacóh is closely related to the Ta-oaih (Ta-ôi) language of Laos and may be mutually intelligible with some dialects of it. The Pacóh Pahi, a low mountain dialect, is slightly different, partly because of proximity to Vietnamese.

In Việt Nam the Mon-Khmer languages generally have a large number of vowels (e.g. Brôu<sup>2</sup> is considered to have 41 vowel contrasts). Pacóh does not have as many vowels as some but they are of particular interest because of their symmetrical patterning. The basic 12 vowel system becomes 24 because of short-long contrasts; then 6 glided vowels are added, giving a total of 30 vowel contrasts.

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# **MON-KHMER STUDIES I**

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