

# **MIJIIC, THE MIJI AND BANGRU LANGUAGES: DISTRIBUTION, DIALECTS, WORDLIST AND CLASSIFICATION**

**WORKING DOCUMENT ONLY**

[Draft circulated for comment]

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### ACRONYMS AND CONVENTIONS

#	quasi-reconstruction
*	regular reconstruction
C	consonant
C <sub>1</sub>	first consonant
IPA	International Phonetic Association
N	nasal

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 General

The language known variously as Miji, Dhammai [=Dmay] and Sajolang is spoken in the West and East Kameng and Lower Subansiri districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast India. The Miji call themselves *Dmay*, but this name is not in common use and official publications use composites such as Sajolang (Miji). Miji will be used in the present paper as it is the most most widely recognised term. The only significant published information on Miji is Simon (n.d.) which is more notable for its defects than its contribution to knowledge<sup>1</sup>. Simon (n.d.) is based on the Nafra dialect, the westernmost form. Grewal (1997) also has Miji data, mostly example sentences compared to Hruso, but these do not seem very reliable and are passed over here. Abraham et al. (2005) also include rather wayward phonetic transcriptions of Miji words in their survey report. More recently, Christopher Weedall (2013, 2014) has begun posting documents and making conference presentations on Miji within a modern linguistic framework. The basis for the transcriptions in this document are recordings made in Nafra on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, with the assistance of Mr. Dorje Sanchuju, to whom many thanks.

There has been some interest in developing Miji, both for mother tongue education and for scripture translation. Mr. Dorjee Sanchuju has attended courses both in Mysore and Tezpur with a view to developing a practical orthography. While some informal conventions have been developed, no formal phonological statement has yet been published. Nonetheless, Bible translation is under way, although the basis for the orthographic system is unclear.

Until recently, the existence of a language known as Bangru was only rumoured. However an ethnographic thesis and subsequent report (Tame 2011, 2012, 2013) confirms that this is a genuine ethnic group, but also that it is a language related to Miji. Hence the title of this paper, referring to the Mijiic languages. Tame's transcriptions are orthographic, but the underlying forms are easily seen when compared to Miji. Blench (2015) published some comparative data on Miji and Bangru in support of this assumption. Bodt & Lieberherr (2015) have published a wordlist of Bangru based on the CALMSEA list, with analysis and comparisons with Miji and Hruso. While this represents a major advance on Tame, much more remains to be done on Bangru.

Andrew Hsiu kindly forwarded to me Li (2003) which is a phonology and wordlist of the Bangru spoken in Tibet, apparently unknown to all previous researchers. Li includes phonemes that seem to have disappeared from the Bangru of India, and also envisages an elaborate tonal system. I am unable to comment on the likelihood that this represents a more conservative form of the language. Strikingly, Li & x (2017) report on a hybridised lect in Tibet spoken in Songru village, which has a highly complex phonology.

The Bangru data in this document comes from a wordlist compiled with the aid of Mrs. Chera Mekia Mili and family, now resident in Itanagar (Photo 1).

Mrs. Mili grew up in a monoglot household, but later married a Nyishi husband and came to speak the language as the main language of her home. Since moving to Itanagar, she is now exposed to a variety of languages. Recordings were made on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 and transcribed by the author and Mr. Sokhep Kri, to whom I am grateful for help with the tone-marking in particular. Thanks to Devi Chera for arranging the recording session and interpretation.

**Photo 1. Mrs. Chera Mekia Mili**



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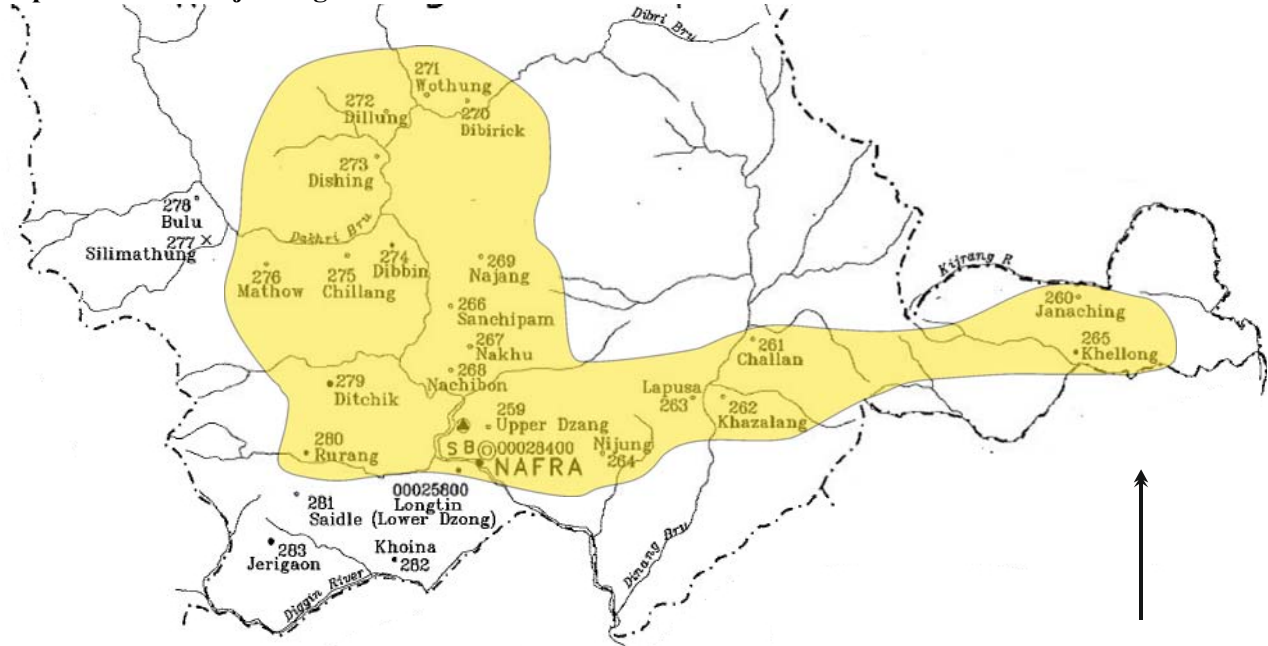
<sup>1</sup> Weedall (2014) notes 'Blench & Post (2011:6) seem to erroneously mention (Hodgson 1847) as the first mention of Miji when he was actually referring to the Dhimal tribe of Nepal and India'. Indeed, *mea culpa*.

In view of the limited existing database, this paper<sup>2</sup> aims to make available an extended wordlist, and to set out a preliminary phonology and morphology on that basis. The data was all recorded, analysed and then retranscribed, making some corrections and assigning forms to Eastern and Western dialects of Miji. Hence the printed lists do not entirely match the recorded material. The preliminary nature of the analysis should be evident.

### 1.2 Locations of Miji communities

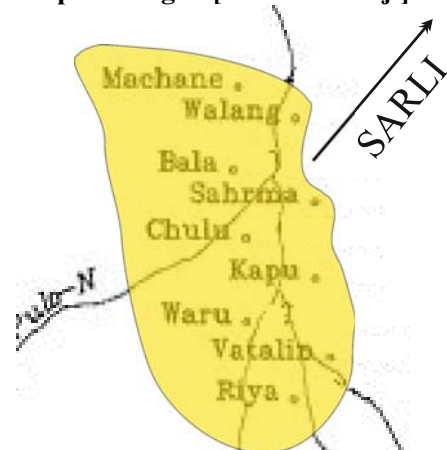
Simon (n.d.) lists only the villages in the immediate area of Nafra, the Western Miji. These are all in Nafara Circle, West Kameng District. The villages identified by the present survey are shown in Map 1 which is superimposed on the 2001 Administrative Atlas of Arunachal Pradesh;

**Map 1. Western Miji villages**



Two dialects of Miji are recognised in Nafra, which show both regular sound-shifts and complete lexical replacement, as well as differences in tone and phonology. Some people have heard of a third ‘northern’ dialect, but information is extremely vague. However, it is clear from the data in Tame that this third dialect is Bangru. Bangru is not close enough to Miji to be treated as a dialect, and therefore Mijiic is best seen as a small phylum. Map 3 shows the Eastern Miji villages, which are part of Lada Circle, East Kameng District.

**Map 2. Bangru [Northern Miji] villages**

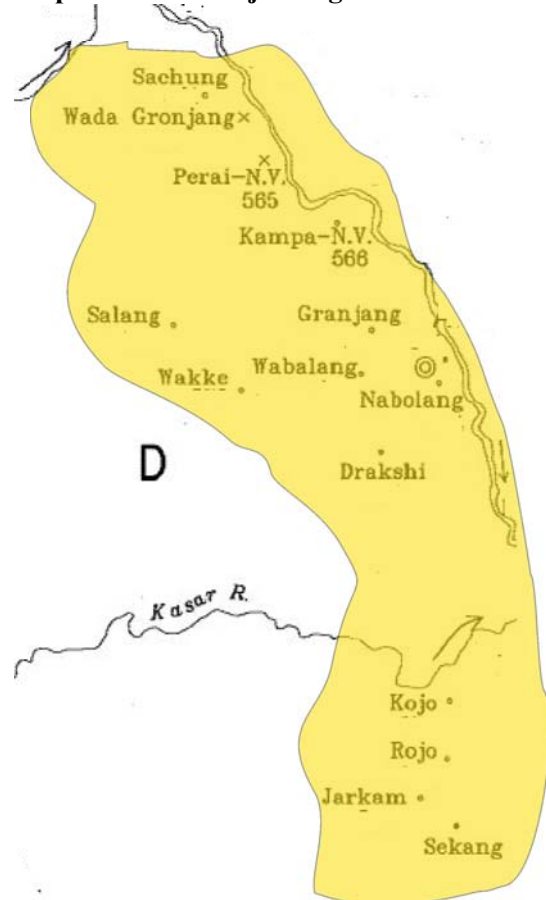


Apart from these well-known groups, there is another group of Miji, separated from the other communities by a considerable distance. Map 2 shows the Northern Miji villages all within Sarli Circle, Lower Subansiri District, according to the information given in Nafra. It turns out the Northern Miji are the same as the elusive Bangru, referred to in a number publications. The first published text on these people is Tame (2012) who says ‘They are seen spread in Sarli town and in a few villages viz. Bala, Lee, Lower Lichila, Upper Lichila, Machane, Milli, Molo, Nade, Namju, Palo, Rerung, Sape, Sate, Wabia, and Walu’. Many of these are not to be found on the Administrative Atlas of Arunachal Pradesh, but some of those shown are clearly the same as in Tame’s list. Bodt & Lieberherr (2015) is the first publication to present

<sup>2</sup> This preliminary version is circulated, pending checking of transcriptions and corrections.

linguistic data from the Indian side of the border. However, it has now been discovered that there is Chinese literature on Bangru, based on three villages on the Tibetan side (Li 2003; Li & x 2017).

Map 3. Eastern Miji villages



## 2. Phonology

### 2.1 Miji

#### 2.1.1 Consonants

Miji consonants are shown in Table 1, together with their labialised and palatalised counterparts;

Table 1. Miji consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g		ʔ
Nasal	m			n		ɳ ɳ̥	ɲ	ŋ		
Trill				r						
Tap						ɽ				
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ		ç x			h [ɦ]
Affricate				ts dz	tʃ dʒ					
Approximant		ʋ					y		w	
Lateral fricative				ɬ (ɮ)						
Lateral				l		ɭ				

Weedall (2014) also includes retroflex alveolars /ɽ/ and /ɭ/ but not retroflex /t/ and /l/. He regards all the alveolar fricatives and affricates as contrastive, though this is not the case in Bangru and rarely in Arunachal Pradesh languages. The velar fricative /x/ here is probably the same sound as Weedall's /k<sup>h</sup>/. Weedall (2014) argues for /ʔ/ as a distinct phoneme in coda position, although in Bangru glottalisation may be connected to tonal phenomena.

#### Aspiration

Aspiration is heard phonetically on voiceless obstruents, thus /p<sup>h</sup>/, /t<sup>h</sup>/, /k<sup>h</sup>/, /tʃ<sup>h</sup>/, but there is no evidence that this is contrastive. There are two examples of the fricative /f<sup>h</sup>/ with apparent aspiration;

break (cup) f<sup>h</sup>ren  
burn f<sup>h</sup>ram

There is no example of an initial /f/, so again this can be treated as non-contrastive. The glottal fricative has a voiced counterpart /f/;

blow v. fə  
open fɪyʊŋ

Two words have a highly atypical final -<sup>h</sup>;

breathe nət<sup>h</sup>u  
harvest (beans) pu<sup>h</sup>

Whether these are simply allophonic with aspirated stops, i.e. nət<sup>h</sup>u → nət<sup>h</sup>u<sup>h</sup> is as yet unclear. Similar final aspirates also occur in Bangru.

### Fricatives

The range of fricatives is very large, and it is not clear that all of these are contrastive. Some are quite rare and it is not easy to find minimal pairs. The following sections give the sounds identified with potential examples.

Palatal fricative /ʒ/

house-rat nɛ ʒu  
thorn gʒu

Lateral fricatives /l/ and /l̥/

clothing, cloth gɛlɔŋ  
fish sp. II sɬũ

moon, month l̥ũ  
bring l̥ɔŋ

Velar fricative /x/

disappoint d.xə

Dental fricatives /θ/ and /ð/

chest mθm kʷu  
heart θɔŋ vɪy  
wrist gi mɪpθɛ  
hearth θɔʔəθɔŋ

knee zay gðu  
bedbug ðoorǎ  
carry ðoy

See Weedall (2014) for further discussion of the exact articulation of these sounds.

The /z/ is pronounced with a distinct buzzing of the tongue against the roof of the mouth. Similar sounds are still more frequent in neighbouring Hruso. I have symbolised this as  $\bar{z}$  for lack of an obvious IPA representation.

lie down  $\bar{z}\text{ə}$

### Retroflex

A retroflex series is clearly present but examples are very rare. These consonants are not fully retroflex as in mainland India. The tongue comes up to touch the alveolar ridge, but does not turn up towards the roof of the mouth.

/ŋ/

mother aŋi

/ɽ/

complete, finish ɽulɔn

### Approximants

hair vopyu

dao, long βay

ginger dvo

water vo?

### Glottal stop

The glottal stop occurs in a variety of places and may have a different functional load according to its position. Most common is in final position, where it could also be considered a type of vowel prosody such as creaky voice. This is sometimes hard to hear, as emphatic pronunciation gives a sound similar to final glottalisation.

A phonetic glottal stop is often heard between a sequence of two similar vowels which are not a long vowel. However, there are exceptions, where a VV sequence of identical vowels is articulated separately, without constituting a long vowel.

explain ɬɔ.ɔtɛ

This is a predictable consequence of the phonology and should not be considered a contrastive phoneme. However,

taro tea?

fish tɛɛy

### Long consonants

There is some evidence for long consonants in Miji. The following examples are heard on the recordings.

lake, sea vva?

bear ttsã

deer tstsə



The voiceless stops /p/, /t/ and /k/ are lightly aspirated, but this is non-contrastive and is not marked.

Miji has a series of (quite rare) palatalised consonants shown in Table 2;

**Table 2. Miji palatalised consonants**

C	Miji	Gloss
p <sup>y</sup>	ʋopyu	hair
b <sup>y</sup>	ɲubyuŋ	nose
t <sup>y</sup>	nɛt <sup>y</sup> u	breath
k <sup>y</sup>	mθm k <sup>y</sup> u	chest
v <sup>y</sup>	θɔm v <sup>y</sup> u	heart
m <sup>y</sup>	mɔmyuʔ	beard
n <sup>y</sup>	mɲu	breast
r <sup>y</sup>	mryɔnza	throat
pl	zam pl <sup>y</sup> aʔ	lightening

Labialisation is rare and might be better treated as /uo/ sequences. The following examples illustrate phonetic labialisation.

husband    mdway  
 landslide    ra dwǒ

### 2.1.2 Vowels

The vowels of Miji are shown in Table 3;

Table 3. Miji vowels			
Vowels	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-Mid		ə/ə [ẽ]	
Open-Mid	ɛ [ẽ]		ɔ ã
Open		a [ã]	

Weedall (2014) only records /ẽ/ as the sole nasalised vowel. However, the following examples suggest there may be central and back vowels as well. In Bangru, nasalisation is in complementary distribution with final velar nasal /-ŋ/. If this is true in Miji, then the nasalised vowels may not be phonemic.

ceiling            sgiã  
 latrine, toilet    gírõ  
 pigsty            dʒòðrú  
 ice                kriá

No contrastive pair has been identified for distinguishing the mid and high central vowels /ə/ and/ə/. Phonetic variation may represent differences between speakers.

### Rare vowels

A high back unrounded vowel /u/ is heard in several words in isolation, for example *vu* ‘water’. However, this is realised as /u/ and /o/ in compound forms. Other examples are;

tree sp.            gvuu  
 angry, to be      tk<sup>h</sup>uu  
 bake, cook        k<sup>h</sup>uu

A retracted central vowel /ɘ/ occurs in;

pour pɘ

The vowel is articulated with the lower lip drawn in and kept tense. The IPA symbol is not very helpful, since it can be confused with other orthographic conventions. This sound is also found in the Kman language.

### Breathy/creaky vowels

Miji has a phonation type which appears to be similar to the creaky vowels found in SE Asian languages. Weedall (2013) suggests that the five cardinal vowels all exhibit creakiness, but in his later description he seems to withdraw from this position. Creaky voice phonation in Miji on final vowels can be more economically treated as a final glottal. However, in some cases where there is a VV sequence of dissimilar vowels, this would not be an analytic option, since Miji permits glottals between VV sequences. An example is;

break (cup) brɛ̰a

where the creaky articulation of /ɛ/ is extremely clear. In another example a creaky voice mid-vowel /ɘ/ appears to be followed by the same vowel without creaky voice.

drag brɛ̰ɘ

Table 4 shows examples of Miji creaky vowels;

**Table 4. Examples of Miji creaky vowels**

<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Miji</b>
give	bɔ̰y
break (cup)	brɛ̰a
hope	mɛ̰yun
urinate	brɛ̰
expect, hope for	mɛ̰
climb up	k.bɔ̰
vomit	mɔ̰

It is striking that all of these are verbs.

### Long vowels

Miji appears to have contrastive long vowels for all vowels except the mid and high central vowels.

wall	tɛ̰etɔ̰
latrine, toilet	gɛ̰írɔ̰
pigsty	dʒɔ̰ɔ̰rũ
woman	nmraani
earthworm	busiín

## Nasal vowels

Miji appears to have a near-complete set of nasalised vowels. In languages of this area, these are often in free variation with final -ŋ, and it is possible some speakers will have a smaller set of nasalised vowels. Miji permits a nasal coda, as in st<sup>h</sup>ən ‘nine’, but for some reason, this is very rare.

Evidence for individual nasalised vowels includes;

/ã/

ceiling	sgiã
ice	kriã
flying squirrel	ʃbiã
wildfowl	bzu p <sup>v</sup> ã

/õ/

bush-rat sp. 3	gzõ lõ
----------------	--------

/ẽ/

fruit	wo tẽ
-------	-------

/õ/

animal	stõ
--------	-----

/õ/

latrine, toilet	gĩrõ
roof	dk <sup>v</sup> õ
insect	biθõ

/ũ/

pigsty	dʒoũ
barking deer	ts.tshũ

VV sequences are rare, but are recorded in the following words;

widower	gməbu
---------	-------

### 2.1.3 Tones

Weedall (2013) does not find tone to be contrastive. At a phonetic level, Miji has a simple tonal system, with two tones, High (H <sup>ˀ</sup>) and Low (L <sup>ˀ</sup>). Whether these are predictable and related to syllables with a glottal coda, remains to be resolved. Phonetic glide tones are heard on VV sequences.

## 2.2 Bangru

### 2.2.1 Consonants

Bangru consonants are shown in Table 5, together with their labialised and palatalised counterparts;

**Table 5. Bangru consonants**

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d			k g		[ʔ]
Nasal	m			n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill				r					
Fricative		f v		s [z]	[ʃ] [ʒ]				h
Affricate				[tʃ] [dʒ]	tʃ dʒ				
Approximant		[ʋ]				y		w	
Lateral				l					

[ʋ] is likely to be an allophone of /w/ and not an independent phoneme. /s/ and /ʃ/ are often in free variation and convincing minimal pairs have not yet been discovered. /tʃ/ and /dʒ/ appear to be allophones of /tʃ/ and /dʒ/. However, /z/ is in free variation with /dʒ/ not [z], which is not contrastive. Bodt & Lieberherr (2015) characterise these phonemes as /tɕ/ and /dʒ/, which suggests the same underlying analysis.

Many words end in a glottal /ʔ/, i.e. checked syllables, which Bodt & Lieberherr (2015: 75) argue correlate with tone. Broadly speaking, long vowels in final position have a level tone, and those with a short vowel and a glottal, a slight falling tone. The transcriptions in this paper are not all marked for tone at present, nor does the presence of a glottal always correspond to their version, so this cannot yet be resolved.

### Aspiration

Aspiration is heard phonetically on voiceless obstruents, thus /p<sup>h</sup>/, /t<sup>h</sup>/, /k<sup>h</sup>/, /tʃ<sup>h</sup>/, but there is no evidence that this is contrastive.

### 2.2.2 Vowels

The vowels of Bangru are shown in Table 6;

Vowels	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u u
Close-Mid		ə [ə]	
Open-Mid	ɛ [ɛ̃]		ɔ [ɔ̃]
Open		a [ã]	

Bodt & Lieberherr (2015) do not recognise /u/, here represented as ü, in keeping with Arunachal Pradesh orthographic convention. Nasalised vowels appear to be extremely rare, and only occur in allophonic relation with coda velar nasal /ŋ/. Pronunciations vary both with the same speaker and between speakers, suggesting nasalised vowels could be eliminated as underlying phonemes.

### 2.2.3 Tones

Bangru has a simple tonal system, with two tones, High (H ´) and Low (L `) with no glides. As noted above, they may correlate with final glottal stop in final syllable position. Nonetheless, the variation of tone in multi-syllabic words suggests we must recognise tone as a contrastive feature of the language.

### 3. Morphology

#### 3.1 General

Mijiic word level morphology is extremely complex and little understood. Blench (2015) suggests that traces of a former nominal prefix system with semantic associations can be discerned in animal names and body parts.

#### 3.2 Miji

##### Doublets

It will be seen that Miji often has two or three words for even common concepts. For example;

close I	pigaŋ
close II	ʃəʔəgaŋ
block (river)	waygaŋ
obstruct (s.o., s.t.)	daʔagaŋ
block (road) III	rogaŋ

The common element in all these is /gaŋ/ which presumably means something like ‘close, block off’. However, it is only used in these composite forms, to describe different types of blocking. The key elements that differentiate these words are clearly unrelated, despite all having the *gay* element which makes it an interesting case for assigning cognacy.

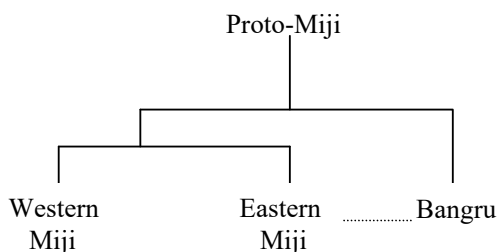
#### 4. Borrowings from Nyishi in Bangru and their impact on basic lexicon

As the datasheets indicate, Bangru spoken today has a large number of Nyishi loanwords, some in quite fundamental areas of the lexicon. Since these are present even in a speaker who grew up in a monoglot household, they have been incorporated into the language over some period of time. This has the effect of making Bangru and Miji more distant than might otherwise be the case. The most reliable source for Nyishi is Tayu (2010) and comparisons are cited with this.

#### 5. The structure of Mijiic

Bangru is undoubtedly related to Miji, as the datasheets show, and traditions of migration in Devi (2013) suggest that the geographical split between the two populations is not ancient. However, the lexicon is strikingly divergent and this cannot only be attributed to Nyishi borrowings. More surprising are cases where Bangru shows similarities to Hruso, noted in the comments column in the datasheets. Perhaps not unexpectedly, Eastern Miji shows cognates with Bangru not reflected in Western Miji, which has presumably innovated. Figure 1 shows a tree of the internal relationships of Mijiic languages.

Figure 1. Internal relationships of Mijiic languages



## 6. The classification of Mijiic in relation to wider languages

### 6.1 ‘North Assam’

Miji has long been classified with the ‘North Assam’ languages and this is generally repeated in subsequent publications (e.g. Bradley 1997). However, there is no data in Konow (1909) and Shafer (1947) may be the first citation of linguistic material. However, ‘North Assam’ was something of a catch-all for the languages of this area (Blench & Post 2013) and the evidence that languages as distinctive as Mijiic, Hruso and Koro are related to one another, let alone to Tibeto-Burman, remains elusive. Apart from some basic numerals, 2,4,5, only a small number of Miji lexemes resemble reconstructed Tibeto-Burman forms, at least as attested in STEDT. The datasheets show whatever Tibeto-Burman cognates I have been able to establish. Even some of these are uncertain and they are geographically scattered, arguing that chance may be responsible. There are cognates with regional languages, although these are highly inconsistent. Nonetheless, we can identify a series of regional lexemes, which are found across multiple languages, but which are not widely attested in Tibeto-Burman. I therefore argue that the hypothesis that Mijiic languages constitute a small independent phylum should be considered as just as plausible as membership of Tibeto-Burman.

### 6.2 The Hrusish hypothesis

There is a persistent idea in the literature that Miji is related to its eastern neighbour Hruso and that there is a subgroup ‘Hrusish’, an idea which derives from Shafer (1947) but is perpetuated in Bodt (2014), Anderson (2014) and Bodt & Lieberherr (2015). The 2014 paper by Bodt is rightly titled ‘impressions’ since it is conspicuous for its lack of data. The argument in the 2015 paper is scarcely comparative linguistics, more an argument from lookalikes. The problem is that many comparisons are difficult to distinguish from chance resemblance and there is a conspicuous lack of regular sound correspondences.

This is not to deny that there are plausible Miji ~ Hruso cognates. The problem not addressed by previous researchers is how these can be distinguished from regional lexemes, which presumably would not be evidence for an exclusive relation between Mijiic and Hruso. Similarly, of course, neighbouring languages can be expected to have a certain amount of lexical flow. Table 7 shows a table of the most conspicuous items so far identified. The Hruso and Koro citations are from my own lexical material, also available on my website.

**Table 7. Possible Mijiic ~ Hruso cognates**

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Hruso	Additional
ant	ʃni		səni	sini	cf. Bugun <i>ʃiniŋ</i> ,
bake, cook	k <sup>h</sup> u		kuu	k <sup>h</sup> ù	
bear	ttsã		sətəð	sṽə	cf. Puroik <i>sətəm</i> , Bugun <i>sət<sup>h</sup>um</i> ,
broom	nam			ɲesi	
	ʃwe				
cane	ʃu		ʃuu	ʃa	cf. proto-Tani * <i>soŋ</i>
clothing, cloth	geŋ		gi	g <sup>v</sup> ε	cf. Koro <i>gile</i>
cloud	myemye			mum	PTB * <i>r.mew</i> .
dream	taymə		teɛmə	temyo	cf. PTB * <i>r.man</i> , Chinese * <i>C.məŋ.s</i> , Kman <i>tā àmùŋ</i> , Idu <i>ēmò</i> ,
eat	ʃu	ʃu	ʃu	sa.be	cf. Miji <i>ʃu</i> , Khispi <i>t<sup>h</sup>a</i> , Mey <i>teu</i> , Bugun <i>tsiə</i> , Kman <i>ʃa</i>
eight	səgeʔ	ʃəgeʔ	səgay(k)	skzə	
fire	may	may	mee, mii	mi	cf. PTB * <i>may</i> , Dirang Monpa <i>mi</i> , Koro <i>mila</i> , Miji <i>may</i> .
five	buŋə	puŋu	puŋu	pom	
flower	wo vəʔ	gəbo	te poa, BL məbuaa	ʃoba	cf. Bugun <i>əbua</i> , Puroik <i>məbua<i>i</i>?</i> ,
friend	mɔʒə	məʒə	mudʒua	ɔʒə	cf. Bugun <i>eedzak</i> , Puroik <i>a.dua</i> .

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Hruso	Additional
frog	ʒǒ	ɖʒou	dzə	ʃdza	
fur, feather	məmyu		mumuŋ	ɔmu	Probably cognate with widespread Tibeto-Burman roots for ‘hair’. e.g. PTB * <i>g-mul</i> .
ground, soil	naʔ	naʔ	noʔ	nɔ	cf. Bengni <i>no</i> , Bugun <i>nak</i> , Mey <i>kʰnǎ</i> ,
ground, soil	naʔ	naʔ	noʔ	nɔ	cf. Bengni <i>no</i> , Bugun <i>nak</i> , Mey <i>kʰnǎ</i> ,
have	də		durɔʔ	dùú	cf. Written Tibetan <i>dug</i> .
house	nɛ	nam	ne	ɲɛ	cf. Koro <i>ne</i> , Galo <i>namə</i> . Widespread Kuki-Chin * <i>in</i> by metathesis?
How many?	k.ɲa	kʰəɲa	kunu. ruro	kɲa	
insect	biθǎ	biluŋ	bəluŋ (səɲi)	buĩ	
knife, dao	vay ʃɲ	vayʃoŋzi	ve tsn	vetse	
live		ɖzu		ʒo	
louse			sa	ʃəŋ	cf. PTB * <i>s(y)ar</i> .
man, person	ɲu		ɲəvə	nəná	
meat	stʃũŋ	sikiyuŋ	suʰ	fu	
mithun	ʃu		suʔ	fu	cf. Koro <i>su</i> ,
mother	əɲi	əɲe	anɛ	əɲi	
mountain, hill	pʰuŋ	poŋ	gaŋ, BL	pʰú	
nine	stʰən	ʃətʰən	sətəŋ	stʰə	
person	ɲu	ɲiyə	ɲəvə	nəná	cf. Nah <i>ni</i> ,
seven	miaʔ	miaʔ	mʷoy	mrə	
sister, elder	amona	ʔama	məmwa	àmà	
star	dətsuŋ	məʃfoŋ	lũʃü	ltsə	
thorn	gzu	(kʰə/gə)zau	kəzət	kʰsu	
tooth	mtr	tə	mətù	ətu	
vomit	mə		mu	mmàú	

BL = item cited in Body & Lieberherr not in my data

To illustrate the problem of using this type of similarity to argue for genetic affiliation, compare this with the situation of Bangru and Nyishi. Bangru has a large number of Nyishi borrowings, in both cultural and basic vocabulary, as indicated in the data tables. These seem to have arisen relatively recently, in most cases, after the split of Miji from Bangru. The reason for the borrowings seems to be cultural dominance. The Bangru people seem to have come under the influence of Nyishi culture. But these borrowings are clearly not evidence that Bangru is a Tani language. I therefore consider the comparisons in Bodt & Lieberherr (2015) make a case for the opposite of what they argue, namely that the languages of ‘North Assam’ share a variety of regional borrowings, reflecting contact, and not genetic affiliation.

Some comparisons in Shafer (1947) also suggest that Miji shares common lexical items with Bodo-Garo, and rather less to wider Tibeto-Burman languages. Debnath (2014) has recently published a reconstruction of Proto-Bodo-Garo, which he names ‘Barish’. Table 8 presents some of these items, compared with the reconstructed Barish forms;

**Table 8. Lexemes shared between Miji and Bodo-Garo**

Gloss	Western Miji	Proto-Barish
two	gni	*g-niŋ
three	gət <sup>h</sup> ən	*tham
four	bli	*briŋ
die	ʧi	*syi
goat	ʃprn	*p-r(y)un/k
snake	nab <sup>y</sup> ũ	*bəw

Sources: Debnath (2014)

While these are basic lexicon, they are few and suggest a contact relationship rather than genetic affiliation.

### Appendix: Datasheets

The following wordlists are based on the typical categories used by Simon (n.d.) with appropriate additions. The Western dialect was recorded throughout, but the record of Eastern Miji is only fragmentary. The Bangru examples are from my own recordings with some omitted forms inserted from Bodt & Lieberherr (2015), despite the slight differences in transcription.

### Transcription

This version of the wordlist uses symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). To read them easily they can be converted as follows;

ɟ	j
ʧ	c, ch
ŋ	ng
ɲ	ny
ɔ	open ‘o’ as in ‘pot’
ə	like ‘ir’ in English ‘bird’
˜	nasalisation. Sounds like the vowel in French <i>vin</i> .
..	breathy voice

NB. Cells shaded in red are from sources other than the author, principally Bodt & Lieberherr (2015).

I have begun to make proposals for Proto-Mijiic under body parts, but I await more stable transcriptions to carry out this exercise more systematically.

### Body parts

Gloss	Miji	East	Bangru	Proto-Mijiic	Comment
ankle			ləɣeʔ		
arm	(m)gi	(m)gi	məɣay(?)	*məɣai	
back	g.baŋ	k.baŋ	kəʔtsey		
beard	məmyúʔ	mmuʔ	mɯŋuŋ munk		
belly	nguʔ	nguʔ	mulugu		
blood	ʒay	ʒay	yee	*ʒey	cf. Dirang Monpa <i>ʒi</i> , Padam <i>iyi</i> , Ao <i>azəʔ</i> , Champhung <i>azi</i> ,
body	zaʔ	ʒa	mədʒəʔ	*mədʒaʔ	
bone	mriaŋ	mriaŋ	məri	*məryǎ	
brain	mɲəʔ	mɲəʔ	məkəni		



Gloss	Miji	East	Bangru	Proto-Mijiic	Comment
breast/milk	mɲu	mnuʔ	mənənk	*mənəŋ	m- ‘body part prefix’ plus widespread Tibeto-Burman etymon * <i>nu</i> , e.g. Mey <i>nuŋ</i> , Khispi <i>nu</i> , Idu <i>nu</i> , Kuki-Chin <i>nu</i> , Tshangla <i>nu</i> etc. Palatalisation is uncommon but occurs sporadically across Sino-Tibetan including Old Chinese * <i>ñju</i> . See Matisoff (2008: 81 ff.) for further discussion.
breath	neʔu	ntu <sup>h</sup>	sóvi		Bangru may reflect Sino-Tibetan roots, such as OC <i>sək</i> , W Tani * <i>sak</i> ,
buttocks	ʃkn driu	ʃkrn nəɾəu	kòtsùnk		
cheek	kmi adzn	kmi adzn	mùkúwíʔ		
chest	mθm kʷu	m oŋ kəʔ	mòlón dé	mòlón + x	schwa with retracted tongue root
chin	mugudza	mguteǎ	mùgù	muguteǎ	
ear	mzɔʔ	mzɔʔ	mibua		cf. Memba <i>namdzo</i> ,
elbow	paŋ skuŋ	paŋ ʃəŋ ku	làgbùŋ		cf. Koro <i>larbuŋ</i> .
eye	mreʔ	mreʔ	màya		cf. Bugun <i>myək</i> , Kman <i>mīk</i> ,
eye-brow		mreʔ ʃkam	nyiksùnk		
face	mgmiaʔ	mkmiaʔ	mùkúvíʔ		
faeces <sup>3</sup>	yi	ləyʔ	làyʔ		
finger	mgɪ tsoʔ	giʃoʔ	məgày tsòwáʔ		cf. PTB * <i>ts(y)o(w)</i> , Hruso <i>əvidzə</i> ,
flesh	mzaʔ	mzaʔ	mədzɔʔ	*mədzáʔ	
foot = leg			məlyà khúʔ		
forehead	tookyaŋ	tookyaŋ	məʃfǎ		cf. Nyishi <i>tuktey</i>
gum			mùtùphì bè		
hair	vópyù	gupəu	gəpəʔ	*gùpəʔ	cf. Written Tibetan <i>mgo-spu</i> .
hand, arm	(m)gi	gi	məgəy khùʔ	*məgai	
head	uw	(mo)gu	go kaiŋ	*gu	cf. Monpa <i>go</i> , Proto-Tangkhuic * <i>kow</i> ,
heart	lɔŋ vɥu	loŋvə	mòlòn wè		
intestines	luŋ		mùlùgùʔ		cf. Bugun <i>əlui</i> .
jaw			mùgù		
kidney	mk <sup>h</sup> bǔ		màpúká		Forms not related unless metathesis has occurred
knee	zay gðu		məlyà kópə		
leg	zǎy	layʔ	məlyà	mələy	cf. Khispi <i>ley</i> , Proto-Western Tani * <i>alə</i> , Jingpho <i>la gaw</i> , PTB * <i>la</i> ,
lip			məŋnúŋ láy		

<sup>3</sup> dung, excrement, manure, shit, stool

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Gloss	Miji	East	Bangru	Proto-Mijiic	Comment
liver	mt <sup>h</sup> ən		mətáí		cf. Proto-Kuki-Chin * <i>thin</i> ,
lungs			mòlón dé		
marrow			məpúŋí		
moustache	as beard		məŋúŋ		
mouth	mugo	ŋek, ŋeləy	múŋ məŋúŋ		cf. Proto-Central Naga * <i>mən</i> ,
nail			məgáy kínk		
navel	mɸimay		məsəvyé		
neck	dmùzǔ		məŋúŋ rí		
nipple			mənónk		
nose	ŋubyuŋ	nebiyoŋ	məŋúŋ kɔʔ		
palm			məgáy khúʔ		
penis			mólòʔ		cf. Hruso <i>u/lo</i> . Possibly compare the etymon * <i>m/b-laŋ</i> in Matisoff (2008: 198) with more specific comparison Tawra <i>mlō</i> , Tshangla <i>loŋ</i> . Given the Hruso V- prefix for body parts this is conceivably simply a Tshangla loan.
pubic hair					
pus			nài		
rib			mòphái		
saliva, spittle	zay (mu)		yèʔ		similar to ‘blood’
shoulder	mpa, BL pastuŋ		mòpóts <sup>h</sup> ù		
skin	məpre	məpə	mùpyáʔ		cf. PTB * <i>p(r/y)a</i> , Old Chinese * <i>pra</i> ,
spine			kətsáyʔ		
stomach	mro		mùlúgú	*murogu	
sweat	frn		níyè		
tear			yálpày		
testicle					
thigh	mləʔ		mérù		cf. Tshangla <i>lum</i> ,
throat	mryonza		mòdómáy		
thumb			məgáy néʔ		
toe	zǎy tsoʔ		məlyá tshwàʔ		
tongue	dzáksí	yak <sup>h</sup> e	məŋéŋ plé		
tooth	mtr	tə	mètù		cf. Hruso <i>ətu</i> , Puroik <i>kətuəŋ</i> , Mey <i>nut<sup>h</sup>uŋ</i> ,
urine	bri		bèsé		
vagina					
vein	mdtʔ		məlútú		
waist	gtsě		dzápě		

Gloss	Miji	East	Bangru	Proto-Mijiic	Comment
wrist	gi mpθε		pèkhú làráy dék <sup>h</sup>		

## Persons, family

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
ancestor			ase alo, alo abu fǽmüa	
aunt, mother's elder sister			aǽüa	
boy			ɲivi	
brother, elder	ak <sup>h</sup> fona	kəvoy	məkoʔ, ako	
brother, younger	(mə/ɲa)nu	raŋ, rə	mərə	
brother-in-law			mivoʔ	
chief			dʒo dʒe temi	'the one who takes decisions'
child	amǽy		mudzu	
children			mudzu ade	
clan			mudzu mərə	<i>tilu ane lo, dʒuru ne lo</i> supposedly clan names, but sounds wrong
corpse			səmoo	cf. Puroik <i>səmaa</i> , Proto-Tani * <i>si-maŋ</i> .
cousin			korǽi	
daughter	zmrǽy		mudzu geʔ	
descendants			səŋte-səŋte	cf. Nyishi <i>sangtam-sangtam</i>
enemy	mɲiri		təvoʔ	
family			məko mərə	
father	abō		abo	<i>abo</i> is widespread in the region, especially in Tani languages. cf. Hruso <i>àú</i>
father-in-law			alo	
father's elder brother	away			
father's younger brother	ak <sup>h</sup> fō			
father's sister	amo			
father's sister daughter			ku	and sister's son
friend	mǽɔ	mǽɔ	mudzua	cf. Hruso <i>dʒo</i> .
girl			ɲivi ε	
grandfather	abo k <sup>h</sup> ε, BL məlo, aloo		alo	
grandmother	aŋi k <sup>h</sup> ε		ase	
grandson			mudzu ga	
grand-daughter			mudzu ga	
husband	mdway		mudzige	
in-law			mələgya	
man cf. person			ɲaahaŋ	
mother	aɲi	aɲe	nəvə ane	cf. Hruso <i>àjí</i> ,

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
mother's younger brother				
mother-in-law, mother's elder sister	at <sup>h</sup> ro		ase	cf. grandmother
mother's elder brother	aðu		kiini	
mother's younger brother	ak <sup>h</sup> yu			
mother's younger sister			aɸowa	
neighbour				
old man	vk <sup>h</sup> raŋ		ɲükö	?
old woman	mayk <sup>h</sup> raŋ		vyekö	
orphan, young male			ɖɖape	
orphan, young female				
people	ɲu na		ɲəvə adipeɸ	
person	ɲu	ɲiyə	ɲəvə	cf. Nah <i>ɲi</i> , Hruso <i>nəná</i> .
priest			kəvay	
relatives				
sister, elder	amona	ʔama	məmwa	cf. Hruso <i>àmà</i> ,
sister, younger			məsənye	
sister-in-law			mənevya	
son	zvə		mudzu	
son in-law			miwəʔ	
uncle, paternal				
village chief	gbian mku			
widow	gmöy		fəmni	though R. gives <i>kowawe<sup>h</sup></i> . Bangru < Nyishi
widower	gməəbu		təmbu	
wife	mdzi		mʔii	
woman	nmra.ni	nəmray	ɲivye	
woman, younger			ɲivye ray	

Houses and architecture

Gloss	WMiji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
ceiling	sgiā	sgiā	sədi	
post, vertical	ɸɔ́rúŋ			
cattle yard				
door	vəɛpi	vap <sup>h</sup> i	ne pāi	cf. Bugun <i>haapiŋ</i> ,
fence			sətɛ	
floor	nɛ pyaŋ		ləjuwa	
granary	ɸuŋ		ɸuu	cf. Hruso <i>ɲɛ tɛə</i> , Old Chinese * <i>ts<sup>h</sup>əŋ</i> .
hearth	θəʔəθŋ		la	cf. PTB * <i>g.rap</i> for Bangru
house	nɛ	nam	ne	cf. Hruso <i>ɲɛ</i> , Koro <i>ɲɛ</i> , Galo <i>namə</i> .
kitchen	dmay θəʔ		təɸiŋi mayko	'food cook fireplace'
ladder to ceiling			pəlō	
latrine, toilet	gíírǝ		kəɸi	
pigsty	ɖɖə̀̀rú		gɛrə	

Gloss	WMiji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
post, centre				
poultry yard	dukəzaʔ			
rafter, crossways			muŋlo < Nyishi	
roof	dkʷɔ̃		rəbi	
room (owner)			ʃʔaryu	
room (visitor)			rowa	
room (delivery)			kāi	
room (visitors' store)			kodɔ̃	
steps				
tray over hearth I			sgē	
tray over hearth II			reyɔ̃	
veranda	kbionθe		kʃi	
wall	təetʊŋ		ʃʃi	? pantʊŋ
window	paaruŋ	kʰirki	kʰirki	cf. Hindi khiḍki

### Household items

alcohol jar				
bamboo container				
bamboo jar	n.viaŋ		ruadoŋ	
basket, rice	bu		buk	
basket, oranges	vaŋ		pi(i)	
basket			kaŋ	
basket			siryu	
bed, wooden frame	b.raŋ		—	
beer-filter	k.dʒe		povum < Nyishi	
blanket	kombolo		gi (= 'cloth'), kambol	< Assamese
book	ʃʔazi s.lam		—	
box, wooden	piəŋ		gam	
brass vessel			saŋ (< Tibet)	
broom	nam ʃwe	nam ʃo	siryana	cf. Hruso <i>nesi</i> ,
comb	bram		süpa	
cooking pot I	bərtəŋ		kayaŋ (< Tibet)	
cup	t.ləŋ		sətu	
ladle for water	biyuŋ		səʔ	
lamp, pine torch	may ʃʃun		mɛʔce	
mat	rə		pitsən < Nyishi	
mortar	ze yənələ, (BL dələ)		dəraʔ	? cf. Hruso <i>vuʃu</i> , Tshangla <i>lu</i> ,
needle	tgam z.rey		pəmiʔ	
paper			no word	
pestle	pθəl		pəla	cf. Hruso <i>mlye</i> .
pillow	gukoŋ	gokəm	go kāi	this was given for 'head' ? error
plate	ga		piləŋ	< Assamese
shelf I	baʃʃaŋ		pobə < Nyishi	

Gloss	WMiji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
shelf II	t.maŋ			
spoon	paŋʃo		peŋu	
thread	ge k <sup>h</sup> ran, BL kũpo	kəbo	nuʔ, nuu	
trivet, tripod	ʃ.bo		sbəə	
winnowing tray	pray		preə	
<b>Dress</b>				
bag	s.zaŋ		seŋya	
bangle, small	kam k <sup>h</sup> on re		ləray	
bead	sampi		tat <sup>h</sup> e	
belt	kʃitan		dʒat <sup>h</sup> e	
clothing, cloth	gelon		gi	cf. Koro <i>gile</i> , Hruso .
coat	panlɔʔ		no word	
skirt, women	nəmenəra gelon		ɲive aki	
ear-ring	zo rion		po aruŋ	
hairpin, men			gəʃeʔ	
hat I	ʃ.po saŋ		güʃu	
hat II	rago			
hat III	gu t.ɲo			
hat IV	dampən			
necklace	nanay saŋ		tat <sup>h</sup> e saŋ	
pin I	t.k <sup>h</sup> ə			
pin II	b.ʃ <sup>h</sup> enroy			
pipe	may k.ʃon		dədon	
raincoat, men			bəpayʔ	
raincoat, women			pətsa	
ring	gilan	gilan	gəleʔ	cf. Koro <i>lale</i> ,
shoe I	lay ʃ <sup>h</sup> ran		ləlay	
shoe II	lay mia			
shoe II	lay seʔ			
trousers	do naʔa		no word	
walking stick	ge paŋ		debō	

Tools etc.	Miji	EMiji	Bangru	Comment
arrow	k <sup>h</sup> re		ɲit <sup>h</sup> u	
axe	b.le		pərdʒin, purudʒin	? cf. Hruso
bow	nəʔ		kəraɪʔ	cf. Hruso <i>kii</i> . BL give Miji <i>k<sup>h</sup>iri</i> for ‘bow’ but this is probably an error for ‘arrow’ (q.v.)
bullet	may bu zɛn		zɛ	< Tibetan
dao	βay		vɛʔ	
dao, short	βay ʃənʒə		vɛr gu	
dao type			vɛr toŋ	
dao type			mar toŋ	
digging stick	gubaŋ na tar <sup>ʔ</sup> ə			[? transcription]

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Tools etc.	Miji	EMiji	Bangru	Comment
gun	may bu		mabok < Nyishi	cf. 'lightening'
gunpowder			zē	= 'bullet'
hammer	ʃampo	ʃəmpo	bōō, martolə	The <i>martul</i> root is from Assamese, and presumably originally French
hoe	ʃankǎ		tonki < Nyishi	
hoe, big	baray			
knife	vay ʃn	vayʃonzi	vɛ tsn	cf. dao. Hruso <i>vɛtə</i> 'dao'
quiver	t.via		tevi	
rope			ʃuu	suu ~əuu
seed,	tay ʒo loy	tayloy	tay yuwa, BL	
seedling			mətēē	
shield			sətam < Nyishi	
sickle	vay ʃənzi		loŋ pi	
spear	ɖʒoŋ	ɖʒoŋ	gə tsn	cf. Hruso <i>ɛzudzu</i> , Bugun <i>ɖziŋ</i> , Mey <i>ɖʒoŋ</i> ,

Agriculture

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
<b>Crops</b>				
banana	drθal	luʔlaŋ		
bean	ʒɛʒo	ʒɛŋʒu	məmyeʔ	
cassava	ɲaw	ɲǎwʔ	n/r	
cucumber	bθey	pθoyʔ	pleʔ	
chili pepper	ɖʒayu	zayəw	yeda	
garlic	k <sup>h</sup> yomu		talap	
ginger	ɖvo		dəwasan	
gourd			ərəkhi	
greens	t <sup>h</sup> álò	panlo	pēē	
lemon	bdzn			
maize	sbɛʔ		təpu(u)	< Nyishi
millet	pyɔʔ		tamāy	cf. Puroik <i>tamayi</i>
millet, husked			māykoʔ	
millet	katɛ			
orange	narn		n/c	
onion	k <sup>h</sup> ikmo	kiomu	yəkēī	cf. Bugun <i>muan</i> , Mey <i>məŋsiŋ</i> , Khispi <i>məŋ</i> ,
potato	lasɲǒ		ɖʒa	
pumpkin			tapua	
paddy	ɛ	ŋam	ē	
rice	ɛ ngn	ŋam nəgam	ē lēgāy	cf. Hruso <i>o lkə</i> ,
rice, cooked	savo mʃi		ʃē	
soya bean	dbo		pifa(?)	

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
sugar-cane	gθaŋdʒaŋ		bapi <sup>h</sup>	< Nyishi
sweet potato	ɲo kindʒaŋ		gurya	< Nyishi
taro, arum	teaʔ		teoʔ	
vegetable	p <sup>h</sup> en		pee	
walnut	maaŋu		wüa	
wheat	pyoʔ		ẽ kəru	Bangru ‘rice + x’ brought from Tibet

**Foods**

oil, fat	məbaa	məmbau	membau	?cf. Hruso <i>əbi</i> .
dry meat	sʃüŋ mk <sup>h</sup> yaŋ			
egg	do rin	do riŋ	do rãĩ	‘hen’ + <i>rin</i> . cf. Bugun <i>ərii</i> ,
food	savo			
meat	sʃuŋ	sikiyuŋ	su <sup>h</sup>	cf. Hruso <i>fu</i> .
milk	ʃə ɲu			
salt	lu	lə	ruu	cf. PTB * <i>g-ryum</i> ,
beer, wine	ʃaŋ	(pə)ʃaŋ	teii	borrowing from Tibetan <i>ʃaŋ</i> , cf. Koro <i>sai</i> , Hruso <i>t̄ə</i> ,

**Natural world**

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
ashes	may məʔ		lakəpow	
cave	vo		vaʔ	
clay	naʔ		no takẽ	
cloud	myemye		vabə	cf. Hruso <i>mum</i> . The m- root is widespread in Tibeto-Burman and a proposed PTB form is * <i>r.mew</i> .
coal, charcoal	may bü		mee bdʒiŋ	
cold			mega	
darkness			agu	
day, 24 hours	dʒaŋtaŋ			
dust	na nmoʔ		dimar	< Nyishi
earthquake			nove	
field	vaw		waa	
fire	may	may	mee, mii	cf. PTB * <i>mey</i> , Hruso <i>mi</i> , Dirang Monpa <i>mi</i> , Koro <i>mila</i> , Kman mə <sup>h</sup> y, Padam <i>əmə</i> .
flame			meedʒo	
flood			ləgüa	
firewood	may wuʔ		goʔ	
foam, froth			vi lupu	
gravel			meme (?)	
ground, soil	naʔ	naʔ	noʔ	cf. Hruso <i>nɔ</i> , Bengni <i>ɲo</i> , Bugun <i>ɲak</i> ,
hail			lədeʔ	



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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
ice	kriá		karawa	
jungle	b.bu		səmi	
lake, sea	v.bā		kanəŋ	
landslide	ra d.wō		ləgəwa	
light	malàt <sup>h</sup> əŋ	mənətəŋ	netō, kyaŋ	
lightening	zaŋ bliə		der loa	
moon, month	ʒū	lə	alolobāy, libāy	cf. PTB *s.la,
mountain, hill	p <sup>h</sup> uŋ	poŋ	gaŋ, BL səpii	cf. Hruso p <sup>h</sup> ú, Proto-Tangkhalic *p <sup>h</sup> uŋ, cf. Koro goŋ, Written Tibetan s.gaŋ,
mud	na dzo		nə kədʒa, wataŋ	cf. Hruso nə gdzə,
night, darkness	nəgaa	(k/g)əŋgau	nəga	cf. Hruso nekvi,
ocean	sətərəlu			
peak	toŋ ʃuŋ		gaŋ mələgi	
plain	na ʒn		noyüŋ	
plateau	na mʃuŋ mθəŋ		go arō	
rain	frə	frəfrə	ɲidi	
rainbow	ʒma dkey		magi	
river	vu də, BL vəyaŋ	vəyaŋ, vədo	vəgo	
stream			vəgo mene	‘river + small’
stream	vo dzə		wudʒu	
river, big			wukru biti	
riverbank	vu gin		vi baɡi	‘water + side’
sand I	baɣi			< Assamese bālu ‘sand’
sand II	ʃɡri	əəɡəroɣ	sgay	
shadow			ləri seme	
sky	na dʒəŋ	ɡiyaŋ	ɲe dəlu	cf. Hruso ɲe dzə,
sleet			deleyoŋ	
smell, odour			renāy?	
smoke	mayk <sup>h</sup> ən	mayk <sup>h</sup> ən	məkəə	cf. ‘to smoke (meat)’. cf. Hruso mktəŋ,
steam	vo n.ryu		vi ətso, myak <sup>h</sup>	cf. Nyishi mak <sup>h</sup>
snow	dle?		tərē, [ʃʔake]	cf. Proto-Central Naga *rə(?)
star	dətsuŋ	məʃfoŋ biyaŋ	lüʃü	cf. Hruso litsi, Old Chinese *s-ts <sup>h</sup> ŋ.
stone	g.loŋ		kərpə	
storm	yomu		ɲidi dene	cf. ‘thunder’
sun	dʒo	dʒo?	dʒu?	cf. Nah doni, ? Hruso dru,
sunlight			asele dʒu e	
thunder	zaŋ grn		digayin R.	
valley	na ʃu		gaŋ mətsāy, kua trowa (R.)	
water	vu	və	vii	cf. Pumi wi <sup>35</sup> ,
waterfall	vu r.tsaŋ		kuase?	cf. Puroik kuasua?,
wind, air	yo	yo	lowa	cf. Hruso lyu ‘blow’ (wind)
world			ʃaŋgo dogo R.	cf. Nyishi

## Communications

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
road	labəŋ	labəŋ	rɛɛbō	cf. Hruso <i>yabɔ</i> ,
metal road				
footpath				
suspension bridge				
footbridge				

## Metals

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
gold				
iron	sen		səə	cf. Hruso <i>ʃə</i> . Iron is a recent introduction into this area and these represent borrowings, not reconstructible items.
silver				
turquoise			yuu	< Tibetan. cf. Written Tibetan <i>g.yu</i> .

## Plant parts

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
bamboo, large	bràú, dzu		baa	cf. Western Tani <i>sba</i> , Proto-Bodo-Garo <i>*bwa</i> .
bamboo, type			letən	
bamboo, type			vyeswa	
bamboo, small			syə	
bark	wo pri?		gəpya?	
branch	wo ntsaŋ		gole ʃō	
bush	wo zə?		re dūn	
cane	ʃu		ʃuu	cf. Hruso <i>ʃa</i> , proto-Tani <i>*soŋ</i>
creeper, vine	wo dgrĩ		lelye	
flower	wo vɔ?	gəbo	te poa, BL məbuua	cf. Hruso <i>ʃoba</i> , Bugun <i>əbua</i> , Puroik <i>məbuai?</i>
grass	tse		midər, BL rəsyaaɾe	? cf. Hruso <i>susɔ</i> .
fruit	wò té	gutan	gətē, BL mətēɛ	cf. Proto-Kuki-Chin <i>*thay</i> ,
leaf	mle?	məlam, golap	gəryɛ, BL məryɛ	cf. Bugun <i>ərap</i> , Khispi <i>ʔulap</i> , proposed PTB <i>*s-lap</i>
root	wo krn	mək <sup>h</sup> ən, gok <sup>h</sup> rən	məŋapil	? cf. Bugun <i>əɾəŋ</i> ,
pip/stone			məzāy	
stump			səŋ toŋ	< Nyishi
thorn	gzu	(k <sup>h</sup> ə/gə)zau	kəzət	cf. Hruso <i>k<sup>h</sup>su</i> , PTB <i>*m-(d)z(y)uk</i> ,
tree	wne?	(ge/go)noy	gəneye?	lit. ‘wood + mother’
tree sp. I	bzàú			
tree sp. II	gmòú			

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
tree sp. III	gvu			
trunk			gəne yamabo	
wood	u, oʔ	go	goo	

## Wild plants

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
aconite	nəp <sup>h</sup> aŋ		nəpōō	
sago palm			ləwoo	

## Animal parts

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
horn	mʃzō	zuŋ, ʃoŋ	məʃu	? cf. Hruso <i>ušzŭ</i> ,
hoof	zagto		liʃi	< Nyishi
tail	mdmray	mənəmə	mələvyə	cf. Old Chinese <i>*mywɛi</i> , PTB <i>*r-may</i> ,
hump	mkb <sup>y</sup> u		məkəbəʔ	
tusk	mt <sup>h</sup> ŭ			
udder	mŋŭ		ʃuʔ nŭŋ	
fur, feather	məmyú		mumuŋ	cf. Hruso <i>omu</i> , PTB <i>*s/r-mul</i> ,
wing	mk <sup>h</sup> ʃi		məʃ <sup>h</sup> u	

## Animals

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
<b>Domestic</b>				
animal	teŭ		suyu	
domestic animal	nəs teŭ			‘house + animal’
horse	ʃgrə		sükyə	cf. Hruso <i>f(u-)gra</i> .
stallion	ʃgrə mbŭ		sükyə məbi	
mare	ʃgrə mněʔ		sükyə myə	
colt	ʃgrə i		sükyə məʃu	
mithun	ʃəʔ		suʔ	cf. Koro <i>su</i> , Hruso <i>fu</i> and widely in the region
mithun, male			sebi	
mithun			sepe	
cow	dʒfəʔ nəʔ		se	cf. Nyishi
bull	dʒfəʔ bə			
calf	dʒfəʔ zəʔ		se məʃu	
pig	zəʔ	dʒo(?)	ŋu	
boar	zəʔ bu		ŋebi	
sow	zəʔ neʔ		ŋene	
sheep	ʃgθəʔ		yone	
ram	ʃgθəʔ bu		yonebi	
ewe	ʃgθəʔ neʔ		yoneme	

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goat	ʃprn	ʃəpen	sapāi	? cf. Hruso <i>ks(ə)</i> , more plausibly Bugun <i>səp<sup>hin</sup></i>
dog	ʃázi		sopye	
cat	gáʃü		ali	< Nyishi
chicken	do		doo	cf. Hruso <i>ɕʒo</i> . cf. Tibeto-Burman * <i>dow</i> 'bird'
cock	do blā		do pərō	
hen			do ne	
chick			do zimye	
duck	ùsó		kəʒep, R. wiib ɕzu	
drake	ùsó bù			
duck, female	ùsó neʔ			
<b>Wild animals</b>	nə miya ms teũ			
<b>Mammals</b>				
barking deer	tʃshũ		semahã	
bat	vav <sup>vu</sup>		pəpəniŋ	
bear	tʃsã		sətəō	cf. Hruso <i>s̄tō</i>
deer	tʃtsə		sema	
elephant	aʃ <sup>hi</sup>	atay	sətə < Nyishi	cf. Hruso <i>atsə</i> but < Hindi ?
flying squirrel I	ʃbiã		nezeya	
flying squirrel II			məkəni	
flying squirrel III			məni tatã	
fox, wolf			pəsu	< Nyishi
leopard	ʃnmu		məpəru	
lion	bàràgí		R. dowa	
monkey I	ʃbō		poroŋ	
monkey II			posua	
musk deer	tʃtsnãw		senəŋ	
otter			sěě	
pangolin, anteater	ʃgdʒo			
porcupine			sijĩ lopo < Nyishi	
house-rat	ne zu		nəpolo, R. swəni	
bush-rat sp. 1	gʒō sō		kaymya	
bush-rat sp. 2	zu maʔ		pāyli	
bush-rat sp. 3	gʒō lã		pāyma	
bush-rat sp. 4			məsəre	
sambar deer				
squirrel	θe		swayni	
tiger	tndrãw		gani < Nyishi	
marble cat	ʃgrě		məpəru	
wild dog	ʃkʃə			
wolf cf. fox				
<b>Birds</b>				
bird	bzəʔ		pəɕzu	
eagle	glyã		küri	
owl			papu < Nyishi	
kite	glyã si		pəkutʃin < Nyishi	
crow	akramo		puwa < Nyishi	
sparrow	sli			
dove			laga bima	
pigeon			toŋ pəɕzu	

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parrot			bli swadii	
hornbill	gd̥zi, ʃmgrāw		kəd̥zu	
vulture	kayə bu kayəŋ		mət̥ei	
wildfowl	bzu pʷā			
nest			matayi	
<b>Insects</b>				
insect	biθ̥s	biluŋ	bəluŋ (səŋi)	cf. Hruso <i>bul</i> .
ant	ʃŋi		səŋi	cf. also Hruso <i>siŋi</i>
bedbug	ðoorǎ		səlay	
bee sp. I	mi		may	? cf. Hruso <i>məd̥zə d̥</i>
bee sp. II			pəd̥zə	
bee sp. III			kowa	
honey	mi d̥zǎ		kowa d̥zǎ	
butterfly	bap̥e?		pəŋpue	
caterpillar	grimey		yabu dalaŋ < Nyishi	
centipede			bəts̥ua	
cockroach	zaŋzi?		yesələ?	
dragonfly	ŋǎŋ		ʃəkwiayay < Nyishi	
earthworm	buθin		bəsəlɪŋ	
firefly	ŋǎ		maŋine?	
housefly	bzum lö		kəd̥zimye	
leech	dəv̥e?		ləv̥e?	
louse	f̥i		sa	cf. Hruso <i>f̥ə</i> .
mosquito	sirndǎ		tarō	
spider	riam̥e		aparaŋga < Nyishi	
termite			tatsən < Nyishi	
grasshopper			tak̥i	
tick				
scorpion				
insect sp.	d̥zak <sup>h</sup> am			
insect sp.	amreamre			r is tense
<b>Reptiles etc.</b>				
snake	nab̥u	bəu	bəə	cf. Hruso <i>b̄zə</i> , PTB <i>*bəw</i> ,
snake sp. I	b̥u lo		məbidoa	
snake sp. II	b̥u tā		bə pək̥ye	
snake sp. III	b̥u nm̥o?		bə ləva?	
snake sp. IV	b̥w̥i savo		bə riŋʃiŋ	
snake sp. V	bu kpre		bə tsoa	
snake sp. VI	db̥u mu			
frog	zō	d̥zou	dzə	cf. Hruso <i>f̄zə</i> ,
frog sp. I	zō bran		d̥zə sə	
frog sp. II	zō bv̥o?		d̥zə kəlye	
frog sp. III			kaltop < Nyishi	
lizard			loŋ pəʃfaŋ	
gecko			n/f	
tortoise	ád̥zír̥ə		n/f	
turtle			n/f	
crab	pási lád̥è		taʃʃigiri < Nyishi	

**Fish**

fish, generic	teěy	ʃoy	ʃəzə meya	cf. Hruso <i>ḥə</i> ,
fish sp. I	te <sup>w</sup> e lən		məʃeneya	
fish sp. II	słũ		məvə	
fish sp. III	svia?			
fish sp. IV	b.hù			vóhù ?
fish sp. V	br.he?			
fish sp. VI	sgiũ			
fish sp. VII	k <sup>v</sup> aŋri			
fish sp. VIII	nió			

**Abstracts**

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
name	mǎrn	mǎrn	məmyəŋ	cf. PTB *r-mi(ŋ/n), Tawang <i>myeŋ</i> ,
life				
death				
crime				
peace				
soul				
art				
joking				
depth				
war				
place				
work				
medicine	dawa	dawa	doowai	cf. Hruso <i>doya</i> , but both may be < Indo-Aryan <i>davā</i> ,

**Pronouns and demonstratives**

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
I, me	naŋ		no	cf. Proto-Tani * <i>ŋo</i> , Hruso <i>nə</i> ,
you	ni		ni	cf. Old Chinese * <i>na?</i> ,
he, she, it	ayi, BL p <sup>h</sup> eʃu	ay	peteɪ	cf. Hruso <i>yi</i> ,
we (inc.)	aŋi	ani	kaŋi	cf. Hruso <i>ni</i> ,
we dual			kaaree	
you pl.	dʒe, nii	dʒei	dʒe, nii	
they	ayra	ayra	ʃorō	

**Demonstratives**

this	h.nay	həŋa	həŋ	cf. Hruso <i>he...i</i> , Galo <i>hi</i> , Puroik <i>həŋ</i> ,
these	h.ra			
that (level)	payʃu	payʃia	peteɪ	
that (above speaker)	t <sup>h</sup> aŋʃu			
that (below speaker)	poʃu		puteɪ	
those	payʃura			
there			pyaʃ	

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
<b>Interrogatives</b>				
How much, many?	k.na	k <sup>h</sup> əŋa	kunu. ruro	cf. Hruso <i>kya</i> .
What?	tən	tən	taŋ tʃa	
When?	kuk <sup>h</sup> ren		kunuruʃo	
Where?	k <sup>h</sup> əyo	k <sup>h</sup> ək, k <sup>h</sup> roy	koro, BL kəə	Proto-Kuki-Chin * <i>koy</i>
Which?	kuwe		taŋ	
Who?	tʃ	təə	ti	
Why?	k.dute		taŋ bo	
<b>Quantity</b>				
some	may			
anyone				
all	miʃyʊŋ			
whoever				
whatever				
many, much				
nothing				
a little, few	meʔ ~ miya	miya	miigəme	cf. Hruso <i>mi</i> ,

### Abstracts

roll	lloŋ
word	lau
things	loo

### Numerals

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
one	uŋ	uŋ	akəʔ	BL give Miji forms which appear to be cognate to Bangru, not confirmed. cf. Proto-Tani * <i>kon</i> .
two	gəni	kɾn	kəray	cf. Written Tibetan <i>gnyis</i> .
three	gəthən	kəthm	kətayŋ	
four	b`lí	play	purway	cf. PTB * <i>b.liy</i> , Milang <i>pə</i> , Hruso <i>pi</i> , Koro <i>kople</i> , Idu <i>kəpri</i> ,
five	bunə	puŋu	puŋu	cf. Hruso <i>pom</i> . Proto-Central Naga * <i>pha-ŋa</i> .
six	rəʔ	raʔm	rəʔ	cf. Puroik <i>rək</i> , Bugun <i>rəp</i> , general Tibeto-Burman <i>-rok</i> ~ <i>-ruk</i>
seven	miaʔ	miaʔ	m <sup>w</sup> oy	cf. Hruso <i>mrə</i> ,
eight	səgeʔ	ʃəgeʔ	səgay(k)	cf. Hruso <i>skzə</i> , Khispi, Mey <i>sarge</i> .
nine	st <sup>h</sup> ən	ʃəthən	sətəŋ	cf. Hruso <i>st<sup>h</sup>ə</i> ,
ten	lən	lən	rəŋ	cf. Hruso <i>ɬə</i> , Proto-Tani * <i>ryuŋ</i> ,
eleven	leu		əkəne	
twelve	lən gni		k(ə)ray	
			ne	
thirteen	lən		kətay ne	
	g <sup>h</sup> ən			
fourteen	lən b`lí		purway	

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
			ne	
fifteen	lən bgu		puŋu ne	
sixteen	lən réʔ		reʔ ne	
seventeen	limbiaʔ		m <sup>w</sup> oy ne	
eighteen	lən səgeʔ		səgay ne	
nineteen	lən		sətəŋ ne	
twenty	gɲì lən		kəray rən	
thirty	g`tʰən		kətay rən	
forty	b`lí		purway rən	
fifty	buŋə		puŋu rən	
sixty			reʔ rən	
seventy			m <sup>w</sup> oy rən	
eighty			səgay rən	
ninety			sətəŋ rən	
hundred	b.lo	pəloŋ	rən rən	cf. Proto-Tani *luŋ, Koro pàlà.
two	b.lo gɲì			
hundred				
three				
hundred				
four				
hundred				
five				
hundred				
six hundred				
seven				
hundred				
eight				
hundred				
nine				
hundred				
thousand	házarim	hazari	ləŋrəŋ	< Assamese <i>hazar</i> ,
first				
second				
last				

Adjectives

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
alive				
alone				
bad	məni		mənẽĩ(ŋ)	
bare legged				
barren, infertile				
beautiful, charming				
big, wide, broad, thick	mədo		mədua, məbyaa	cf. Hruso dèú



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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
bitter				
brave				
broad				
broken				
can, be able				
cheap				
clean				
clear				
cold				
comfortable				
cruel				
daily				
dangerous				
dark				
dark				
dead				
deaf				
deep	merik	mərə	məryuu	cf. Hruso <i>ryu</i> , Proto-Tani <i>ruŋ</i> , Proto-Kuki-Chin <i>*ruak</i> ,
different				
difficult				
dirty	niŋi		ɲətɛi	
dry	mək <sup>h</sup> yaŋ	mek <sup>h</sup> iyən	məkii	? cf. Hruso <i>k<sup>h</sup>ro</i> .
dull, faded, bleached				
dumb				
dusty, sandy				
dutiful				
easy				
empty	(a/mi)k <sup>h</sup> iyən	mihiyən	məhee	
exact, true, correct				
expensive				
expensive, dear				
false				
famous				
far	mərən	mərən	arəŋ	cf. Bugun <i>ruaŋ</i> , Mey <i>ʔaren</i>
fast				
fat				
ferocious				
foolish				
fresh				
friendly				
full (basket)	lən, p <sup>h</sup> ɪlən	ləndaŋ	ləŋbəla	? cf. Bugun <i>əliyee</i> ,
generous				
good				
good-looking, attractive				
great, distinguished (man)				
guilty				
hard	məgaŋ		məloo	
haughty				
healthy				
heavy	məyi	məley	latəŋ	cf. Bugun <i>əlai</i> , Mey <i>ʔalai</i> , ? Hruso <i>ʔu</i> ,

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
high				
hollow				
honest	bǎmba			
hot, be			luu	NB <i>luu</i> cited in BL for ‘to boil’ is ‘be hot’ but cf. Hruso <i>lun</i> for ‘to boil’
hot, warm	mədʒu	mədʒu	iteoʔ	cf. Hruso <i>ʃu</i> , Proto-Central Naga * <i>tsha</i> , Tshangla <i>ts<sup>h</sup>alu</i> ,
humble				
hungry				
ill, sick	no		noa	
important				
impossible				
intelligent				
invisible				
jolly, smiling				
kind				
late				
lay down				
lay down				
lean				
least				
left				
light in weight				
lonely				
long	məpiyaŋ	məpiyaŋ	məpaŋ, braŋ	cf. Bugun <i>əp<sup>h</sup>yaŋ</i> ,
lukewarm				
magical				
main				
many, more, very				
married (man)				
miserable				
modest				
muddy				
naked				
narrow				
native				
native				
near	məni	məroy	mərəɛ	cf. PTB * <i>s-ney</i> ,
new	məgəniu	məkərə	məkərəə	
next				
Northern				
old (persons)	məʃoʔ	məʃoʔ	məɕuaa	
old (thing)				
old man				
only				
open (place)				
pitiable				
plain, lowland				
poisonous				
polite				
poor				
private				
ready				
rich				

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
right side				
right, correct				
ripe				
robust				
rocky				
rotten				
rough				
round (object)	mədəriu	mədəriu	məwəə	
sacred				
safe				
same				
shallow				
sharp				
sharp				
short	məruŋ	məruŋ	mərōŋ	
shy				
sick				
silent				
sincere				
sinful				
slippery				
slow				
small				
smooth	məbəlyə		ləpərii	
soft				
sour				
spicy	məfu	məfu	səə	cf. Hruso <i>nəfə</i> ,
steep				
straight	mugərəŋ		məkəroo	
strong				
sweet	mədʒəŋ	mədʒan	dʒəŋ	cf. Bugun <i>p<sup>h</sup>iyəŋ</i> ,
tall				
tasty				
thick				
thin				
thin, lean				
thirsty				
tired				
true				
ugly (body)				
ugly (face)				
uncleared (field)				
useful				
useless				
valuable				
weak				
well				
western				
wet				
whole				
wicked				
wide				
wild				
wise				

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
wise, prophetic				
worst				
wrong				
yearly				
zigzag				

### Colours

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
black	mmǝ		wapay	
blue	mɔʒoʔɔʃa		walvay	
brown	mʃi.s.liŋ			
green	mlɔ			
red	mʃ <sup>h</sup> u	məʃi	yatup, BL yateɔʔ	cf. Hruso <i>ɔzu</i>
white	mgraŋ	mugram	lupu	Bangru probably reflects PTB <i>*plu</i> ‘white, silver, money’
yellow	kʃəʔəlɔ			

### Conjunctions

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
with	dʒoru		dʒərə	
and				
because				
then				
so				

### Adverbs

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
today			kunɡu	
tomorrow			mugüa	
yesterday	təɡaa	təɡanogo	ɲɔ, BL degau	
year	dure(n)	dəraŋ	anəŋnəŋ	cf. Tshangla <i>niŋ</i> , Written Tibetan <i>na niŋ</i> ‘last year’

### Verbs

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
abandon, leave	prɔ		vüɔ	
absent, to be	ŋǝ			
abuse I	re			
abuse II	nal			
ache	(m)no			m- prefix is probably a nominaliser
admire	m.zime		loyǝ	
advise	ʃɔʔɔte		tēene	
afraid, to be, fear	rem		miri myeʔ	cf. Bugun <i>ryym</i> ,

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
agree	roy		raydɔ	
angry, to be I	tk <sup>h</sup> u		yefɔ?	
angry, to be II	nan			
answer	ʃɔ <sup>?</sup> ɔpla		tenda	
arise, get up	pyɔ		piplɔ	
arrange	likum bayzã			
arrest I	ʃɔm		kəleyɛ	
arrest II	kaygaŋ			= ‘catch’
arrive I	da <sup>?</sup> aytɔ		dədarɔ	
arrive II	ka <sup>?</sup> atɔ			
ashamed, to be I	nraymoy		ɲiri amɛ	
ashamed, to be II	ray			
ask for	pən		raydɔ	
assemble I	da <sup>?</sup> aykm		wayn ʃude	
assemble II	da <sup>?</sup> aytmu			
attack	tma <sup>?</sup> akey		vayde	
bad, harmful, be	mɲi		talaŋmɔ	
bake, cook	k <sup>h</sup> u		wayndo, BL kuu	cf. Hruso k <sup>h</sup> uù, lit. ‘body + wash’
bathe	za <sup>?</sup> a ley		mədzə rik <sup>h</sup> ɔ	lit. ‘body + wash’
bathe	za <sup>?</sup> a te			
be, is, are			wi	
ill, be	maga <sup>?</sup> ano			
beat (person)	və		vay?	
beat	ʃi			
beat drum	ʃindompwoy		vaso	
beg	pan		gay	
begin, start	rimyoŋ		rüdɔ	
believe	mezən		migyɛ	
belong I	ʃ <sup>h</sup> rusərə gyoŋ			
belong II	ʃ <sup>h</sup> rusərə tay			
bend (road)	kʃ <sup>h</sup> e kgoŋ		təvyəŋ	
bent, be (person)			hoŋkoŋ Nyishi	<
bet	ðuŋgraw [?]			hard to hear
bind, tie	dʒɔ		podʒɛ	
bite	tʔa		to?	cf. Hruso t <sup>h</sup> ɔ
bitter, to be	məvilay		mədzɔ, (BL. kəkyoo)	
blame	tasən		haŋla	
block (river)	waygaŋ		vüŋtãi	
obstruct (s.o., s.t.)	da <sup>?</sup> agaŋ		tětãi	
block (road)	rogaŋ		rətãi	
blow (breath out)	fiə		mài? (dʒɔ)	
blow (wind)	b.ley		luwa	
boil s.t.	dzam		ziŋ	
borrow	k.gyuŋ		kədʒu	
break (cup) I	f <sup>h</sup> ren		varãi	
break (cup) II	bɾɛa			
break, snap	tebaŋ		təkɛ?	
breathe	nətu <sup>h</sup>		solyɛ	
bring	ʒəŋ		lala	
broadcast seeds	tay lo ʃoŋ		vi	

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
build (house)	namrə		poŋle	
build (field shelter)	valrə			
burn (fire)	p <sup>h</sup> ram		(mɛ) lay	
burn (s.t.)			kyok <sup>h</sup>	
burn (s.t.)			ɖzoo, blü	
bury	rəŋ		rəŋ	
buy	pŋ		pāin	
call	dow		dela	
carry (back)	ðoy		lɛ	
carry (front)	ðoy		lõ	
catch	kaygaŋ		tāigõ	
cheat, lie	sal t.la		rəkətə	
chew	ʃ.gre		s.gyɛ	
clean (pot), wash s.t.	dòop ʃyaŋ		rikəʔ	
clear field	vəl p <sup>h</sup> yaŋ		dɛkəʔ	
clear jungle	meme up <sup>h</sup> yaŋ			
climb up I	ðoy		ləvile	
climb up II	k.bə			
close I	pigaŋ		kətāi	
close II	ʃəʔəgaŋ			
Don't close! I	ta pigaŋ			
Don't close! II	ta ʃegaŋ			
cold, become				
collect contributions	kaykum			
collect	likum		ləkāi	
comb	f <sup>h</sup> i		goteu	
come back, return	kaʔaken		kədado	
come	(ha)day		ʔ	
command, order	tay k <sup>h</sup> ran		l.dik <sup>h</sup>	
complete, finish I	ʃulʌn		rəha	
complete, finish II	p.du			
offer condolence	d.h.ri		rə	
contribute	kaykum tebay		bakāi	
correct I	ʃoo k.raŋ		tete	
correct II	rə k.raŋ			
cough	kyiw		səʔ	
count	t <sup>h</sup> ew		ma	
cover	plan.ga		māite	
crack	tebaŋ		preɛ	
cross (river)	dayran			
cross path, meet	labəŋ dayran		dɛk <sup>h</sup> lɛ	
cross path, meet	labəŋ day k.lay			
curse			myee	
cut I	voo		wadʒ	
cut II	tay	tay.na	tɛ	cf. Proto-Tangkhalic *tat, Proto-Tani *tək 'cut up', Tshangla tok.
cut down I	goʔərəl		gəneygüa	
cut down II	tayərəl			

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
dance	ʒey		gobyɛ	
decide	paŋroy		mihavu	
defeat	ʒaŋ		reyɔ̃	
defecate			lai (teai)	poss. cf. Hruso <i>ztsu</i> ‘faeces’, Bugun <i>tsee</i> , Mey <i>tɛaa</i> ,
defend I	k <sup>h</sup> rə <sup>ʔ</sup> ə gaŋ		gitāi	
defend II	ɕʒuŋ gaŋ			
defend III	k.paŋ gaŋ			
dehusk	k <sup>h</sup> ro <sup>ʔ</sup> i		epə	
deliver (child)	ʒəʒə		mə ɕʒudʒu	
deny	maroy		mɛru	
descend I	daygə		yɛloyɛ	
descend II	pə			
desire, want I	moy		lɛmyɛ	
desire, want II	ʃɛy			
die	tóyì, BL <i>ʃi</i>	tey.na	tay	? PTB * <i>səy</i> .
dig	taw		taa	
disappoint I	me ma tə		ama tumtum	
disappoint II	d.xə			
discuss in a group	məpuŋrə paŋ s.groy			a long phrase, probably poorly understood
dislike I	mamoy		mɛgəmyɛ	
dislike II	maʃɛy			
disobey I	maroy		mɛrey	
disobey II	roy guŋ			
distribute	vrə		voi	
disturb I	mari lokã			
disturb II	daʔa gã			
divorce	broroy		vətərə	
do, make	ru	ru	rudʒ, BL da ~ dɛ	cf. Proto-Tani * <i>ryu</i> , Proto-Northern Naga <i>rəy</i> , Bugun <i>ryet</i> , Mey <i>rɛ(t)</i> .
drag I	brɛɛ		sadʒ	
drag II	ro			
drag III	ʃal			
dream	taymə	taymə.na	teɛmə	cf. Old Chinese * <i>C.məŋ.s</i> , PTB * <i>r.man</i> , Kman <i>tā àmùŋ</i> , Idu <i>ɛmò</i> ,
dress, put on	ge t.loŋ		giga	
drink	toŋ		tuŋ	cf. Western Tani * <i>athuŋ</i> ,
Don't drink!	ta toŋ			
drive	d.vi		no word	
drop			parɛi	
drunk, to be	toŋ ren		toŋ mǎi	
earn	b.tyaŋ			
eat	ʃu	ʃu	ʃu	cf. Khispi <i>t<sup>h</sup>a</i> , Mey <i>tɛu</i> , Bugun <i>tsiə</i> , Kman <i>ʃa</i> , Hruso <i>sa</i> ,
eat meat	kyoŋ ʃu			
encircle	daʔiloŋ		vayklɛ	
end	məpədu			
enter	daʔimu		dela	
escape	pze		bkəʔ	
evaporate, dry up	v.kyan		ɕʒɛi <sup>h</sup> a	
expect, hope for I	mɛ		dmay	
expect II	vauna			

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
explain I	ʃɔ.ɔ tɛ		ʃfate	
explain II	ʃɔ.ɔ k.raŋ			
extinguish	r.mey		pay myə̃	
fall (tree)	rl		gə̃dɔ	
fall (object)	down t.laŋ gɔ		ptəlay	
feel	p.tay		mewa	
fight	nau-ri		warɛɛ	cf. PTB *ray,
fill s.t.	pəɛbɛn		ləŋ bəla	
find	ʃay		gɔ̃lu	
finish	cf. riθuŋ		rəha	
complete				
float	n.bryu		dʒāi	
flow	ʃɔ		sa	
fly	k.noy		rəney	
follow	rutl		rūsük	
forget	saŋpo		mɛmɛlu	
free s.o. I	lipyaŋ		vütoto	
free s.o. II	prɔ			
fry	ŋaiw		uuu	
get loose	mɔn		mɛ̃ni	
give	bay	bay	bay	
go, go away	day pyanka		deyatoto	
go along with, accompany	aydʒo deze		wayn dɛrɛ	
go down	podaygɔ		yelɔ̃	
go out, exit	day pyanka		dɛy klɔ	
go up	taŋ day		lɛnɔ	
grind, crush	ri		rài?	Proto-Tani *rit,
grow (child)	duŋ		sənlyɛ	
grow (plant)	ʃən		sənlyɛ	
guard	kn		giɔnvi	
guide	ʃɔ.ɔ tɛ			cf. 'explain'
halt	gyuŋga		giwutɔ	
hang	v <sup>w</sup> a		kədawu	
harvest (rice)	tə		(ɛ̃) ʃɔɔ	
harvest (maize)	pra		təfu kye	
harvest (beans)	pu <sup>h</sup>		məmyɛ kye	
harvest (tubers) I	krow <sup>h</sup>		taplɔ	
harvest (tubers) II	tal			
hatch (egg)	durin greɔ		(dorāi) gə	
hate	t.k <sup>h</sup> ɔ		mɛgome	
have	də		durɔ?	cf. Hruso <i>dūú</i> , Written Tibetan <i>dug</i> .
hear	roy	royna	rayʃ	also 'listen'
help	[gaw] t.rəŋ		terʒet	<
			Nyishi	
hide s.t.	t.zey		vəkə?	
hide yourself			zəkə?	
hold	kaygaŋ		kiagɔ̃	
hope I	menetun			
hope II	mɛyun		dɔmay	
hungry, be	frantey		setay	
hunt	s.kyumeya		te atay	



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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
imitate I	ɾtl		rətey	
imitate II	t.g.ʒay			
imprison	ʃurəntən		kɔ̃	
inform	ʃɔ̃ʔ			
intend I	mɛ		mitileru	
intend II	p.ray			
itch	gudzu		kəɖzu	cf. Hruso <i>səɖzu</i> .
jealous, be	bʒe		səkyi <Nyishi	
join two things together	nəməəroy		ʃəmsi < Nyishi	
journey, travel	day		ɲoyeŋɖe	
jump	ʃ.lu		sololɛ	
keep	roo		uuu	
kick	təgən	tageŋna	paa	
kill	gay	gayna	ko, BL gyaa	
kiss	pnu		ɲɲu	
kneel	layk pəkrə		kəmvu	
knock I	kə		vaso	
knock II	tkl			
know, learn	ɲi	ni	ɲi	
laugh	tʰo	tona	tuwa	
lay egg	durin dren		dorāi ray	
learn	te		rətɛrɛ	
lend	k.gyoŋ		kəɖzu	
lick	k.laʔ		k.ləʔ	Hispi <i>lak</i> , Bugun <i>lyak</i> , PTB * <i>s-lyaw</i> ,
lie, tell	ʃɔ̃kloy		ryu	
lie down	zə		təɖnvu	
lift	yaŋ, ʃaŋ	yan	lɔŋsi	
light s.t.	may ryan			
listen = hear	roy		ray	also 'hear'
observe death taboo			ray	
live	gyoŋ, BL ʃən		ɖzu, BL səŋ	cf. Hruso <i>zo</i> , Old Chinese <i>s-reŋ</i> , PTB * <i>s-riŋ</i> .
look	gaŋ	gaŋna	gɔ̃	cf. Proto-Tani * <i>kaŋ</i> ,
look after	gaŋ be ʒaŋ		geyoŋvay	
lost, to be	mna		mɛɲidɔ	
love	lɔŋʒaŋ		pərye	
mad, to be I	liyaŋ			
mad, to be II	m.byu		təabu	
make mistake I	ruti		rtei	
make mistake II	nawti			
make = do				
marry	kaʔroy		ɲyivanlu	Bangru 'girl + take'
measure	p.ray		prɛ	
meet	t.mu		gɔ̃lude	
melt	ʋwe		ɲɔŋdɔ, dʒɛɛ	BL the lips are very tense when pronouncing /v/
milk (cow)	ɖʒfə na			
mix together	riθəroy		galare	
move I	lu ray		hə	
move I	day ray			
need	m.ʃe			
obey =hear,	roy		ray	

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
listen				
omit	lupɔ			
open I (door)	ho		küa	
open (package)	II hɨyɨŋ		süa	
pack down I	dʒɔ		naysuŋla	
pack down II	ʃʌn			
peel	k <sup>h</sup> ro <sup>y</sup>		kya pree	Final <sup>y</sup> is almost unreleased
persuade	tamu		re ~ rə	
pity	lon ʒaŋ		lõyɔ̃	
play	ʃtu		ptɛdʒ	
plough	gaŋgay		no word	
pluck	pu		po (kwa)	
point	ði		prɛ̃	
pound (e.g. rice)				
pour	pɛ̃		pala	
praise	tsi		k.ram	<
			Nyishi	
pray	taym.re		no word	
prefer	ʃfe		?	
press down	nʌm		nãĩdʒew(u)	
prevent s.o. from doing s.t.	gaʔa t.rɔ		ʃfeŋgo	
promise I	k.ʃaŋgɔ		meyaru	
promise II	tagɔ			
pull	ro, horo	bre, eaana	salaʔ	
punish I	d.hubay		rɔʃfə iŋa	
punish II	te			
push	srl		nãĩŋ s.lo	
put	rou		uuu	
quake, shake	ʃu		rɔŋʃ	
quarrel I	nay roy		bətɔk	<
			Nyishi	
quarrel II	gay roy			
quarrel III	ta roy			
raise, rear	to		dʒu	
read	p <sup>ɛ</sup> yu		no word	
recognise	ptay		gondʒə	
regret	mepyu		mikər	
remember	meɫi		milu	
repair	vuptuu		rəputu	
resemble	gaŋi roy		ʃforazi	
rest, relax	gyuŋga		ʃvɔŋvu	
revenge			raa	
ride I	ʒɔŋ		mɔɔɔludɛ	
ride II	yɔʔ			
ripe, to be = be cooked	myen		vayndo	
roam around I	ray nəgu		deeyi	
roam around II	ku nəgu			
roast	kyaŋ		sɔɔ	
rotten, to be	rum		guatɔʔ	
rub	s.keu		taykɔ,	BL

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Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
run	yəʔ, BL zum		pəsei bi.də	cf. 'ride'
sad, to be	dəhə		məŋdək	
satisfied, to be	mətə			
save	pə		teənde	
saw	guworoy			
say	ta			
scatter	rosamrosa		kmay	
search	ʃay		tayʃ	
see	gan		gəŋʃ	
sell	ðal, p <sup>h</sup> ek <sup>h</sup> o	laəna, k <sup>h</sup> au	laiʃ	cf. PTB *(g/m/s)-lay, Puroik <i>lou</i> ,
send	kal		baka	
sew	kram	k <sup>h</sup> rəmna	kay	cf. PTB *krwi(y)
shake	rən		heʔ	
sharpen (dao)	pɿ		pəna	
shine	d.la		k.ri k.la < Nyishi	
shoot (gun, arrow)	bu		bərde	
shout	go		ləvyetʃ	
show, exhibit	gan		gðəʃa	
shut	pigaŋ		ptay	
sick, to be	magaŋ		nowa	
sing I	yiɛ		te nowa	
sing II	dʒu			
sit down	gyoŋ	goyoŋ	dʒu	cf. Bugun <i>duk</i> , Khispi <i>duŋ</i> ,
slap	poy		pee	
sleep	zey	dʒi	zēy	cf. Hruso <i>dʒmu</i> , Mey <i>dziŋ</i> , Old Chinese *ts <sup>h</sup> im?
slip	mhyɛ			
smell s.t.	ram, BL ɲen		re nay	cf. PTB *s-rim,
smoke (cigarette)	təŋ		təŋ	
smoke (meat)	may i kyaŋ		mey kə, pəʃi	
sneeze	k.tsi		katʃ	Bangru < Nyishi
snore	krā		dʒe teŋe	
sow	ʃuŋ		ɲuwa	
speak	ta	ta	teʃ	cf. PTB*tay/w, Old Chinese *taw-s,
spit	p.də		ye pɰə	
split			pryɛɛ	
stab.pierce	rəŋ		koo	cf. Puroik <i>koo</i> 'hit'
stand up	gyoŋ	giyoŋ	gi	But this is also 'sit down'. Tone difference?
steal	ʃ.kə	ʃik <sup>h</sup> au	delʔkə	cf. PTB *r-kəw, Written Tibetan <i>rku</i> , Proto-Lolo-Burmese *kəw,
store I	ʃoŋ		vuu	
store II	toŋ bə			
suck	bənu		pənuŋ	cf. Puroik <i>pənu</i> .
suffer	no			
surprise I	gaŋ bya		təə	
surprise II	roy bya			
surround	dayʔiloŋ			
swallow	bəluɿ		pəlya, pɛɛ	Proto-Central Naga *m-lyu(k), PTB *mlyəw-k,

Gloss	W Miji	E Miji	Bangru	Comment
swear	θroota			
sweep house, to 'broom'	nam fwoy		sreyako?	
swell	olin		lɔŋ	
swim I	saŋ	vəsaŋ.na	ʃɔ̃	cf. Hruso <i>χu dʒɔ̃</i> ,
swim II	yu	brəo.na		
take	ʔu	lə.na	lu	cf. Hruso <i>lo</i> , Proto-Tani <i>*laŋ</i> , Tshangla <i>la</i> ,
take away	ʔu puwa			
taste	ʃipəgya		ʃgɔ̃	
teach	te		rtə?	
tear	təpsa		po preɛ	
tell	ʃɔ̃	ʃo	ʃfatə	
thank	məvita		te visəmay	
think	mɛ		mi	cf. Puroik <i>mi</i> 'think, wish', Tshangla <i>mi</i>
throw	k.doy		kma?	
tie	dʒɔ̃		podʒɛ	
trust	mezn		sote	
try	ripəgya		rəgɔ̃	
turn round	ʃɔŋ		koyɔŋʃɔŋ	
twist	n.vi		lvay?	
understand	ni			
undress	p.su			
untie	ki		soplə	
urinate	brɛ		btsü	
vomit	mə		mu	cf. Hruso <i>mmàú</i> ,
wait	kn		z.kāi	
wake up	pyɔ		pi pələ	
be awake	p <sup>h</sup> rəu		p <sup>h</sup> i	
walk	day	day?.na	dey	? cf. Hruso <i>dzu</i> , Tshangla <i>dii</i> ,
want	ʃhey		l.mye	? cf. Hruso <i>tsu</i> ,
wash s.t. I	təey		rikɔ?	
wash s.t. II	lai			
watch over	gan			
weave	ʃum	ʃom.na	ʃāi	cf. Old Chinese <i>*tək</i> , Written Tibetan <i>thags</i> , Khispi <i>dak</i> , Proto-Central Naga <i>*tak</i> . For Miji cf. Bokar <i>təum</i> ,
wear	p.lɔŋ		ga	
weep	kram		kyɛ?	cf. proposed PTB <i>*krap</i> ,
whistle			pɔ̃zu	
wipe			taykɔ?	
work			rəɔ̃zu	
write			no word	
yawn			huaryu	

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