

LATERAL-NASAL ALTERNATION IN AUSTRONESIAN
AUSTRONESIAN "NASAL CONGESTION"
THE CASE FOR LATERAL/NASAL ASSIMILATION OR DISSIMILATION
or LATERAL-NASAL ALTERNATION IN AUSTRONESIAN

R. David Zorc, Ph.D.
McNeil Inc. Language Research Center
6525 Belcrest, Suite 550, Hyattsville, MD

There are a number of reconstructions posited for Proto-Austronesian or some of its meso-languages which differ by one segment. These have traditionally been labelled "doublets". One such kind will be treated in this paper, namely those that differ by having PAN *l (or *L) and any member of the nasal series (particularly *m, *n, *ŋ, but also *ñ and *N).

The provenance and antiquity of this alternation will be under investigation. Can we establish a priority of one set over the other? Has the presence of two nasals in some forms led to dissimilation, or has a lateral assimilated to a nasal? What of the possibility that this kind of alternation has led to spurious reconstructions?

TRIPLET SETS WITH *n, *l, *d

*laŋúy 'swim'
*naŋúy
*taŋúy
*daŋúy

*liŋas 'burn'
*niŋas
*diŋas

*na 'already'
*la
*da

1. WORDS AFFECTED BY NASAL/LATERAL SWITCHING.

*lamúk 'mosquito'
*namúk
*ñamúk

*li:Ru 'winnowing basket'
*ni:Ru
*ñi:Ru

LATERAL-NASAL ALTERNATION IN AUSTRONESIAN

*qaNi:ŋuH 'shadow'

*qani:nuh

*qali:nuh

*luáj 'water buffalo'

*qanuáj / *nuáj

* inuaŋ

*laCéŋ 'nettle' vs *naCéŋ 'vegies'

originally proposed as *nateŋ / *lateŋ [vegetable]

PHF *qaNuNaŋ

*laŋkaʔ 'jackfruit'

*naŋkaʔ

*ñŋkaʔ

*li:pen 'tooth'

*ni:pen

*ŋi:pen

*ŋi:luH 'set teeth on edge; sharp flavor'

*niluH

*ñiluh

*linuh

*(qa)li:maH 'hand'

*nima

*-nabuq 'fall'

*-labuq

*nukaʔ 'wound'

*lukaʔ (with *ma-)

*nataD 'yard'

*lataD

*Liteq 'sap'

*Niteq

*liket 'resin'

lsg ni:kat

LATERAL-NASAL ALTERNATION IN AUSTRONESIAN

*qaniRuan [bee]

*liRuan

*na-lawar 'bright'

*na-nawar

*liwanar

*mana:kem 'old'

*mar()kem

*ʔi:lek 'mosquito'

*tag(e)nek

*lalej 'housefly'

lv *naned

Bl *lanjed

*lamíʔ 'delicious'

*namíʔ

*bìla:bil 'leech'

Isi binabil

*lauŋ 'shaded'

*nauŋ

CCr *dugí 'chaff'

PSF *LukiS

Akl Eu:kus 'squid'

Ceb nu:kus

LATERAL-NASAL ALTERNATION IN AUSTRONESIAN LOANS

^xliŋgo 'Sunday'

^xmiŋgo

^xamarilyu 'yellow'

Man amarilyu

^xsolda:do 'soldier'

Tag sunda:lo, WBM sundaru

^xlunár 'mole'

^xnunál

2. WORD WITH TWO NASALS

*wanáN 'left(side)'

*DaNúm 'drinking water'

*inúm 'to drink'

*ŋamin 'all'

*tañam 'taste'

3. WORDS WITH A LATERAL AND A NASAL

*tali:ŋaH 'ear'

*leŋáh 'sesame'

*tuq(e)laŋ 'bone'

*pu:liŋ 'get mote/dirt in eye'

*bu:LaN 'moon'

4. WORDS WITH A FLAP AND A NASAL

*dapáN 'sole'