A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE KARAO LANGUAGE

IN BENGUET[1]

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(I)

The Karao language is a minority language in Bukod, Benguet[2] and is spoken only in two barrios - Karao and Ikip - which belonged to one barrio before.

The people in Karao and Ikip are tri-linguals: Karao, Inibaloy[3] and Ilocano. Inibaloy is a lingua franca in Bukod[4] and its vicinity, and Ilocano for Benguet province.

Although the people speaking Karao have been assimilated into the Inibaloy culture and language[5] with a lot of words observed in the language, Karao still keeps its independency. Even the people in Bukod, which lies only 6 kilometers away from Karao, can not understand the Karao language and its cognate languages have not been identified yet.

(II)

Most of the basic words are borrowed from Inibaloy and at first, the language seems to be one of the dialects of Inibaloy.

/toktok/	'head'	(=Inibaloy)
/bali/	'house'	(=Inibaloy)
/pataŋ/	'hot'	(=Inibaloy)
/buloŋ/	'leaf'	(=Inibaloy)
/súbil/	'lips'	(=Inibaloy)
/daɓi/	'male'	(=Inibaloy)
/biʔi/	'female'	(=Inibaloy)

But in addition to the large amount of borrowings, they are still using words of their own; that is, they are using genealogically different kinds of words for one meaning, one of which is a loan word from Inibaloy or Ilocano and the other of which belongs to their own language:

'to suck'	/supsup/	(=Inibaloy)
	/dupdup/	
'water'	/tꞏanum/	(=Inibaloy)
	/dꞏoꞏo/	
'tasteless'	/dansis/	(=Inibaloy)
	/talmay/	
'to burn'	/muꞏpuúlan/	(=Inibaloy)
	/mꞏsifꞏlan/	

But some words are of their own:

	KARAO	INIBALOY	
		Reid (1971)	Scheerer (1905)
'father'	/aːwa/	aːma	aːma
'fly (insect)'	/atimuŋ/	paŋat	apaŋat
'anus'	/qayqaymꞏt/	gwanɒs	obꞏt₆
'big'	/banay/	ꞏꞏbadꞏg	abaꞏg
'butterfly'	/taːtatꞏau/	boꞏboꞏdo.	bul-bul-o
'monkey'	/bulaŋan/	ꞏaqi	ba-xés

Too many borrowings from Inibaloy have introduced new phonemes into the Karao language.

Original Karao might not have differentiated the phonemes /t/ and /θ/. Generally speaking the phones [t] and [θ] are allophones which show the complementary distribution. That is, in the medial position the phoneme /t/ is changed into [θ]; in other positions /t/ becomes [t]. But the effect of the large amount of borrowings lets the phone [t] become distinctive in the medial position. As a result the allophones become distinctive; that is, two different phonemes.

/namat/ + /an/ ———	[namaθan]	'to taste'
/muθúg/	[moθog]	'nose'
/k*tap/	[kətap]	'blanket'
/butiq/	[butiq]	'one eyeed person'

This is also the case with the phonemes /p/ and /f/.

/afəy/	[ʔafəy]	'fire'
/kafəs/	[kafəs]	'cotton'
/apul/	[ʔæpul]	'lime'
/dupa/	[dupaʔ]	'face'

(III)

Karao has 19 consonants and 2 semi-vowels and 4 vowels;

Consonants

	B.	LD.	D.	A.	PA.	V.	U.	G.	
STOP	b			d		g			(+Voiced)
	p			t		k	q	?	(+Voiced)
							ɓ		(+Voiced)
FRICATIVE									(−Voiced)
		f	θ	s					
NASAL	m			n		ŋ			
LATERAL (Approximant)				l					
CENTRAL (Approximant)				r					
AFFRICATE					dʒ				(+Voiced)
					tʃ				(−Voiced)

Semi Vowels

w   y

B= Bilabial
LD = Labio-Dental
D = Dental
A = Alveolar

PA = Palato-Alveolar
V = Velar
U = Uvular
G = Glottal

Vowels

i   u

ə

a

/:/   (Time-Duration)

(IV)

Consonants

/b/

/banay/	[banay]	'big'
/buwa/	[buwaʔ]	'betel nut'
/mabiday/	[mabiday]	'alive'
/umbaŋət/	[ʔombaŋət⁰]	'bad smelling'
/kurab/	[kořab⁰]	'blind'
/tayab/	[tayab⁰]	'to fly'

/p/

/pili/	[pili?]	'to choose'
/pispis/	[pispis]	'to choose'
/kulput/	[kolpot⁰]	'cloud'
/dəpuk/	[dəpok⁰]	'dust'
/kulcip/	[kokcip⁰]	'dream'
/tʃokap/	[tʃohap⁰]	'barefoot'

/d/

/dupa/	[dupaʔ]	'face'
/dima/	[dimaʔ]	'five'
/iqdog/	[ʔeqdog⁰]	'egg'
/masdaw/	[masdaw]	'to get surprised'
/biltʃad/	[biltʃad⁰]	'to lie down'
/dziŋəd/	[dziŋəd⁰]	'nape'

/t/

/tiɲil/	[tiɲil]	'nipple'
/tu u/	[to o]	'man'
/maʔtəŋ/	[maʔtəŋ]	'raw'
/matpəl/	[matpəl]	'to roof'
/yakdut/	[yakdotᵒ]	'to roast'
/damut/	[damotᵒ]	'root'

/g/ /

/gaθas/	[gaθas]	'milk'
/guwa/	[gowaˀ]	'to kill a carabao'
/ugi/	[ˀogiˀ]	'yam'
/aguwab/	[ˀagowabᵒ]	'to yawn'
/ugət/	[ˀogətᵒ]	'buttocks'
/ugan/	[ˀogan]	'gray hair'
/bənəg/	[bənəgᵒ]	'back'
/kuməg/	[koməgᵒ]	'hard (of substance)'

/k/

/kawadzən/	[kawadʒan]	'bamboo'
/kantʃin/	[kaŋtʃin]	'goat'
/akəs/	[ˀakəs]	'belly'
/busakan/	[busakan]	'east'
/buwək/	[buwəkᵒ]	'hair'
/atak/	[ˀatakᵒ]	'bolo'

/q/

The phoneme /q/ is different from the phoneme /k/;

/kapkap/	[kap°kap°]	'to slice'
/qapqap/	[qap°qap°]	'to touch'
/qaiwat/	[qaiwat°]	'eel'
/qirul/	[qerol]	'thunder'
/siqmat/	[seq°mat°]	'to catch'
/iqat/	[ˀeqat°]	'to tie'
/adaq/	[ˀadaq°]	'wine'
/puuq/	[puoq°]	'typhoon'

/ˀ/

The glottal stop is distinctive only in the medial position. If a word begins or ends with a vowel, the glottal stop is automatically placed before or after the vowel:

/saˀqi/	[saˀqeˀ]	'one'
/saqi/	[saqeˀ]	'leg'
/uqi/	[ˀoqeˀ[	'matter in the eyes upon awaking'
/amiˀin/	[ˀamiˀin]	'all'
/tʃipˀul/	[tʃip°ˀol]	'ashes'
/paniqi/	[pañeqeˀ]	'bat'
/abusi/	[ˀabosiˀ/	'ant'

/f/

The phoneme /f/ appears only in the medial position, and the phoneme /p/ does appear even in the medial position, which makes the two distinctive.

/afu/		[ˀafoˀ]	'grand parents'
/inˀapu/		[ˀinˀapoˀ[	'son or daughter in law'
/difunɨk/		[difunɨkᵒ]	"a kind of banana'
/ufa/		[ˀofaˀ]	'hen'
/aˀufa/		[ˀaˀofaˀ]	'hungry'
/tafɔy/		[tafɔy]	'rice wine'

/θ/

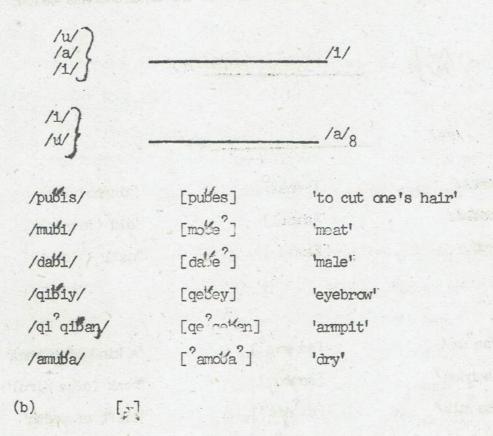Just like /f/ the phoneme /θ/ appears only in the medial position. But the phonemes /t/ and /θ/ are in opposition.

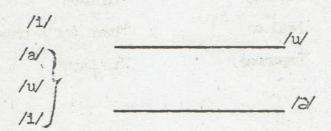| /maθa/ | | [maθaˀ] | 'eye' |
/pataŋ/		[pataŋ]	'hot'
/ba:θu/		[ɓa:θoˀ]	'stone'
/muθug/		[moθogᵒ]	'nose'
/uθak/		[ˀuθakᵒ]	'brain'
/piθu/		[piθoˀ]	'seven'
/maθiba/		[maθebaˀ]	'fat'

/b/

/b/ appears only in the medial position and is realized as three phones: [β], [X], [h].

(a)   [β]

/b/ is realized as [β] in the environments below:

$$\left.\begin{array}{c} /u/ \\ /a/ \\ /i/ \end{array}\right\} \underline{\hspace{4cm}} /i/$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{c} /i/ \\ /u/ \end{array}\right\} \underline{\hspace{4cm}} /a/_8$$

/pubis/	[puβes]	'to cut one's hair'
/mubi/	[moβe²]	'meat'
/dabi/	[daβe²]	'male'
/qibiy/	[qeβey]	'eyebrow'
/qi²qibary/	[qe²qeβen]	'armpit'
/amuba/	[²amoβa²]	'dry'

(b)   [x]

The phonem /b/ is realized as [x] in the environments below:

$$\begin{array}{c} /i/ \\ /a/ \\ /u/ \\ /i/ \end{array} \left.\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array}\right\} \begin{array}{l} \underline{\hspace{3cm}} /u/ \\ \\ \underline{\hspace{3cm}} /a/ \end{array}$$

/iɓul/	[ˀexol]	'tail'
/saɓət/	[saxət°]	'sick'
/uɓəs/	[ˀoxs]	'hard shell
/si:ɓu/	[se:xoˀ]	'elbow'

(c) [h]

The phoneme /ɓ/ is realized as [h] in the environments below:

/u/
/a/ } _____ /u/

/a/ _____ /a/

/aɓat/	[ˀahat°]	'ginger'
/baɓul/	[bahol]	'old (female)'
/kuɓu/	[kohoˀ]	'nail'

/s/

/saˀwa/	[saˀgwaˀ]	'a kind of banana'
/suŋsuŋ/	[soŋsoŋ]	'beak (of a bird)'
/saˀŋit/	[soˀŋit°]	'cleft of teeth'
/bulsis/	[bulsis]	'bile'
/usap/	[ˀosap°]	'bubble'
/sisiw/	[sisiw]	'chicken'
/kalˀas/	[kalˀas]	'bark (of a tree)'
/manamus/	[manamus]	'to bathe'

/m/

/maptəŋ/	[maptəŋ]	'beautiful (as of voice)'
/maŋalkal/	[maŋalkal]	'to chew betel nut'
/umas/	[ˀomas]	'to break'
/amiˀin/	[ˀamiˀin]	'all'
/isanum/	[ˀisanum]	'to cook'
/tʃarəm/	[tʃarəm]	'deep (cliff)'

/n/

The phoneme /n/ is realized as [ñ] before /i/ and [n] before any vowels other than /i/.

/qayˀinit/	[qayˀiñitᵒ]	'to wink at'
/anini/	[ˀañiñiˀ]	'evil spirit'

/nut/	[notᵒ]	'not (negative)'
/namit/	[namitᵒ]	'to taste'
/unˀus/	[onˀos]	'to hate'
/inum	[ˀinom]	'to drink'
/maŋan/	[maŋan]	'to eat'
/baŋun/	[baŋon]	'to get up'

/ŋ/

/ŋitŋit/	[ŋitᵒŋitᵒ]	'to show teeth'
/ŋarub/	[ŋarob]	'young'
/buŋuŋ/	[buŋoŋ]	'dumb'

/aŋub/	[ˀaŋobᵒ]	'to smell'
/kuraŋ/	[koraŋ]	'span'
/pasiŋsiŋ/	[pasiŋsiŋ]	'star'

/l/

The phoneme /l/ appears only in medial and final positions.

/kilig/	[kiligᵒ]	'bank of the river'
/pultak/	[poltakᵒ]	'bald head'
/bilug/	[bilogᵒ]	'boat'
/tʃipˀul/	[tʃipˀol]	'ashes'
/pu:ɓol/	[pu:hol/	'bones'

/r/

The phoneme /r/ is realized as a tap and appears only in the medial position.

/karab/	[karabᵒ]	'to climb'
/baru/	[baro]	'clothing'
/ŋarab/	[ŋarabᵒ]	'live coal'

/dz/

The phoneme /dz/ appears only initially and medially.

/dzasdzas/	[dzasdzas]	'to breathe'
/dzugdzug/	[dzugdzug]	'earthquake'
/badzas/	[badzas]	'to borrow'

/trəytəizən/	[trəytədzən]	'bridge'
/kadzu/	[kadzoˀ]	'tree'

/tʃ/

The phoneme /tʃ/ appears only in initial and medial positions.

/tʃaran/	[tʃaran]	'road'
/tʃintʃin/	[tʃintʃin]	'wall'
/tʃala/	[tʃalaˀ]	'blood'
/agtʃiˀin/	[ˀagtʃiˀin]	'to carry'
/maˀtʃim/	[maˀtʃim]	'afternoon'

Semi-Vowels-

The phoneme /w/ is realized as two phones [w] and [gw]. The distribution of the two depends on the positions where the phoneme is.

(a)　[gw]　　　　Initially　　　　　(#_____)

　　　　　　　　　After a consonant　(C_____)

(b)　[w]　　　　After a vowel　　　(V_____)

　　　　　　　　　at final position　(_____#)

(a)　　　　[gw]

The phone [gw] is a kind of affricate, starting with [g] sound with lips sounded and followed by a labio-velar voiced fricative. In Reid (1971) and Ballard (1964) this sound is transcribed as 'b', and in Scheerer (1905) done as 'gua' or 'goa'. [9]

/wara/	[gwaraʔ]	'none'
/wanan/	[gwanan]	'right hand'
/wili/	[gwiliʔ]	'left hand'
/balwak/	[balgwakᵒ]	'bird trap'
/taʔway/	[taʔgway]	'to call'
/makwas/	[makᵒgwas]	'deer'

(b) [w]

/kaibuwan/	[kaibowan]	'cogon'
/buwak/	[buwʒkᵒ]	'hair'
/kawaŋ/	[kawaŋ]	'crow'
/mawsil/	[mawsil]	'to pursue'
/awili/	[ʔawiliʔ]	'left'
/awanan/	[ʔawanan]	'right'
/miyaw/	[miyaw̄]	'cat'
/payuw/	[payow]	'paddy field'

/y/

/yapus/	[yapos]	'used up'
/yaskəl/	[yaskəl]	'to choke'
/payad/	[payadᵒ]	'wing'
/kayaŋ/	[kayaŋ]	'above'
/pilay/	[pilay]	'cripple'
/atəy/	[ˀatəy]	'to dive'

Vowels

/a/

/anəl/	[ˀaŋəl]	'body'
/asanəm/	[ˀasanəm]	'later on'
/kalat/	[kalatᵒ]	'to bite'
/ba:la/	[ba:laˀ]	'burned rice after cooking'
/paŋa/	[paŋaˀ]	'branch'

/u/

The phoneme /u/ is realized as [u] or [o] freely.

/ugət/	[ˀogətᵒ]	'buttocks'
/ufa/	[ˀofaˀ]	'hen'
/kulput/	[kolpotᵒ]	'cloud'

/cu.e:/	[ɔɔ:ʔeo]	'to cook'
/saɓuqu/	[sahoɔoʔ]	'cobra'
/sa:ɓu/	[sa:hoʔ]	'comb'

/i/

The phoneme /i/ is realized as [i] or [e] and the two phones show complementary distribution:

[e]   Before or after /ɓ/, /q/, or /y/

[i]   Any position other than before or after /ɓ/, /q/ or /y/.

(a)   [e]

/iqan/	[ʔeqan]	'to give'
/iqat/	[ʔeqatº]	'to tie'
/yimin/	[yemin]	'beard'
/bayin/	[bayen]	'ashamed'
/paniqi/	[pañeqeʔ]	'bat'
/daɓi/	[daɓeʔ]	'male'

(b)   [i]

/inapo/	[ʔinapoº]	'daughter or son in law'
/ili/	[ʔiliº]	'country'
/bilaŋ/	[bilaŋ]	'to count'
/bali/	[baliʔ]	'house'

/ə/

/bəqaquw/	[bɤqɑow]	'fox tail millet'
/tʃinəl/	[tʃinəl]	'to hear'
/bəl at/	[bəlˀatˀ]	'heavy'
/aˀaθ w/	[ˀaˀaθ w]	'loss'
/akəw/	[ˀakəw]	'day'

Accent   (/:/)

Accent, which is time duration at the penultimate syllable, is distinctive.

c	⌠ /si:ɓuw/	[se:ɣoˀ]	'elbow'
	⌡ /siɓul/	[seɣol]	'hoarse'

/pu:ɓul/	[pu:hol]	'bone'
/kantʃa:rɯ/	[kantʃa:ɤoˀ]	'cooking pot'
/a:wa/	[ˀa:waˀ]	'father'
/ni:ni/	[n̪i:n̪iˀ]	'to laugh'
/saqi/	[saqeˀ]	'leg'
/bulan/	[bulan]	'moon'
/uθut/	[oθotˀ]	'rat'

Acknowledgements

Notes

(1)   At the Congress, the author discussed pronouns, linkers and basic sentence types in addition to the phonology. But in this paper, only the phonological aspect of the language is discussed.

(2)   The province of Benguet is located in the central part of the Luzon Island in the Philippines, and its capital is La Trinidad. Baguio is one of the biggest cities in Benguet.

(3)   The language name has been given variously as Nabaloy, Ibaloy or Inibaloy, all of which mean stranger or language of the stranger. In this paper, preference is given to Inibaloy.

(4)   Bukod is located in the eastern part of Benguet and Karao and Ikip belong to the municipality of Bukod. The two barrios are located about 6 kilometers away from Bukod.

(5)   Especially on the occasion of funeral, which is called 'Kaniyao', they do not use their own language but rather Inibaloy.

(6)   Karao uses obat for 'buttocks.'

(7)   In this paper 'q' and 'k' and 'b^W' in Reid (1971) are transcribed as /ʔ/ and /q/ and /w/ ([gw]) respectively.

(8)   In the data the combination of /ø/ and /ö/ could not be observed.

(9)   It is not sure whether the Karao language originally has the phone [gw]. It might be the influence of the Inibaloy language, as it has the phone or phoneme synchronically.

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