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Analytical Study on Naming Systems of Kachin for Cataloguing

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Abstract

The purpose of the paper is to fill the gaps in the cataloguing headings of Myanmar personal authors which are not fully discussed in the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR). The focus is on the six ethnic groups of Kachin nationalities namely Jinghpaw, Zaiwa or Azi, Lawngwaw or Maru, Lacid, Rawang, Lisu. Unlike other Myanmar nationalities, Kachin has used clan names in accordance with their traditional custom. The paper analyzed, based on the AACR, the fundamental principles of their naming systems, the elements composed of in names to propose cataloguing headings of Kachin names. What it is found through research are that Kachin has practiced two prominent naming systems, and clan names are used as surname or family names. Complying with the AACR, clan names of Kachin nationalities will serve as cataloguing headings. The result will be useful for Myanmar librarians in cataloguing books by Kachin personal authors. It can also serve in compilation of Name Authority File as one of the portion for Kachin nationalities. Therefore cataloguers can avoid inconsistency in making heading for Kachin personal authors.

Keywords: Name authority file, Naming system, Jinghpaw, Zaiwa or Azi, Lawngwaw or Mary, Lacid, Rawang, Lisu.

1. Introduction

In general it is assume that Myanmar national has used no surname or family names. But, there are some exceptions. Unlike other Myanmar nationalities, some Kachin nationalities have used their clan name as a family name in their name. This is distinctive custom among Myanmar nationalities.

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This research will emphasis on Kachin tribes namely (1) Jing-Hpaw (2) Zaiwa (*a*) Azi, (3) Lawngwaw (*a*) Maru, (4) Lacid (*a*) Lashi, (5) Rawang and (6) Lisu especially on their fundamental principles of naming system. Thoroughly understanding on the elements composed of in names and composition of name can increase the ability to create the proper heading for catalogue.

1.1 Aims and Objectives

1. To analyze the fundamental principles of Kachin naming systems
2. To propose cataloguing headings of Kachin names
3. To serve in compilation of Name Authority File as one of the portion for Kachin nationalities

2. Naming System

2.1 Jinghpaw

Jinghpaw names are usually organized by clan name and the name of order of birth number.²

The names of the children (for either sex) of commoner are prefixed by *N* or *Ma*.

E.g- $N + Gam = N Gam$
 (*prefix*) + (*birth number*)

$Ma + Gam = Ma Gam$
 (*prefix*) + (*birth number*)

The prefix *Ma* (meaning child) is generally replaced with the clan name when a person reaches the age of 20 or so.

E.g- $Marip + Gam = Marip Gam$
 (*clan name*) + (*birth number*)

Sometimes given name (personal name) is placed at the end of their names.

E.g- $Zatang + Kha + Ra = Zatang Kha Ra$
 (*clan name*) + (*birth number*) + (*given name*)

The abbreviated form of clan names is frequently used.

E.g- $L. Hkawn Yi = Lazum Hkawn Yi$

² O Hanson. The Kachin : Their customs and traditions. Rangoon : American Baptist Mission Press, 1913. 32 (Here after cited as Hanson)

The personal names of the children of chief (*Duwa*) are preceded by the honourific terms **Zau** for males and **Nang** for females. These titles are equivalent to **Sir** or **Lord** and **Lady**.³

E.g. *Zau* + *Gam* = *Zau Gam*
 (*honourific term*) (*birth number*)
 Nang + *Lu* = *Nang Lu*
 (*honorific term*) (*birth number*)

For the chief family, the honorific prefix **Zau**, **Hkum** and **Nang** are used instead of using family name. But, sometime such chief names are preceded by the clan names.

E.g.- *Lazum* + *Zau* + *Tu* = *Lazun Zau Tu*
 (*clan name*) (*honorific term*) (*birth number*)

Sometimes they also used western (Christian) names either in full or abbreviated form in their name.

E.g.- *P(Patrick)* + *Lahpai* + *Shawng* = *P. Lahpai Shawng*
 (*western name*) + (*clan name*) + (*birth number*)
 Treza + *Maran* + *Hkawng* = *Treza Maran Hkawng*
 (*western name*) + (*clan name*) + (*birth number*)

2.2 Zaiwa (a) Azi

The naming system of the **Zaiwa** (or) **Azi** is the same as in Jing-hpaw and they also used the **Jing-Hpaw**'s name of order of birth.

E.g.- *Mwihpu* + *Ja Tawng* = *Mwihpu Ja Tawng*
 (*clan name*) (*birth Number*)

Sometimes they used clan name in short form.

S. Gum Maw = *Shanghtin Gum Maw*

2.3 Lawngwaw (a) Maru

The naming system of Lawngwaw is differed from Jinghpaw. The last syllable of father's name is used as initial syllable of offspring's name. They have no name of order of birth.

³Hanson, 34.

