Issues on the reconstruction and affiliation of Proto-Miao-Yao
Weera Ostapirat
Mahidol University

In this talk, I present a new look at the phonological reconstruction of Proto-Miao-Yao. Particular attention is devoted to the outstanding problems concerning the reconstruction of initial consonants and clusters. Based on the new reconstructed system, I discuss the viability of some proposed lexical items shared between Miao-Yao and other language groups. A modest goal is to put the long-ranged comparisons on the firmer ground based on established sound correspondences.

Key words: Miao-Yao, phonological reconstruction, lexical comparison, genetic relationship, East Asian language family