

## Instructions for: The Boro-Garo Cognate Spread Sheet

The Excel spread sheet gives the data used in Jose and Burling's *Comparative Phonology of the Boro-Garo languages*. Mysore: Central Institute of Indian Languages, 2005. This version of the spread sheet is somewhat more elaborate than that given in the monograph and it is arranged so as to allow it to be sorted in various ways.

First, you must download the spread sheet to your own computer, and you must have Excel installed in your computer. The spread sheet is arranged with one cognate set in each row, and with information about the cognates given in the columns. Each row of the spread sheet, gives the gloss of a cognate set, a proposed reconstruction, the words that we judge to be cognates in the Tiwa, Boro, Garo, and Rabha columns, several additional columns that allow you to sort the rows in several ways. If you inspect the spread sheet you will see the following columns:

1. Gloss. This gives an English gloss for some or all of the words in the row. The words in each row are taken to be cognates of one another, but they are not always synonyms. When the meaning of an apparent cognate in one of the four language deviates from the meaning of the others, a note about its special meaning will be found in the cell under that language. When the sheet is sorted alphabetically by the gloss, many words occur twice, in adjacent rows. For instance "agree" will be found on both lines 6 and 7, and "ashes" is found on lines 17 and 18. These doubled rows are given in order to provide a separate row for each syllable in the word. In rare cases (e.g. lines 57-59) three lines are needed for three syllable words. (1), (2), or (3) show which syllable is analyzed on which line. Where there are two cognate sets which seem reasonably synonymous, the two are distinguished as (A) and (B). For example, there are two cognate sets whose members mean "ask, request". These are found on lines 20 and 21.

The final 26 rows in the table (rows 750-77) are titles. These become useful only when the table is sorted by Column 15 "Sema" (see below).

2. Proto Form. The reconstructions that we offer for each of the syllables is given in column 2. These reconstructions follow the correspondences described in Chapter Three of the monograph. We

regard reconstructions enclosed in [ ] as tentative or even speculative.

3 Tiwa; 4 Boro; 5 Garo, and 6 Tiwa give the words in each of the four languages for which we have data. The transcriptions follow the descriptions of the languages given in Chapter One of the monograph. Parentheses ( ) around an entire word or syllable indicate that we judge it *not* to be cognate with the other words or syllables in the row. Parentheses around a single part of a word indicate that the enclosed part does not follow the usual correspondences, but parts of the word remaining outside the parentheses do fit the usual patterns, making the word a good candidate for a cognate even if one part is deviant.

8 \*I; 10 \*V; 12 F; 14 T. These four columns give reconstructions for the four parts of the syllable: initial consonant, vowel, final consonant, and tone. These should be the same as the reconstructions given in column 2, except that in 8, 10, 12, and 14, the syllables are divided into their constituent parts.

7 IC-#; 9 V-#; 11 FC-#; 13 T-#. These columns give a different number for each reconstructed item. These allow the rows of the entire table to be sorted by any of the four constituents of the syllable. For example, by sorting on column 7, all syllables with the same Initial Consonant will be collected together. By sorting on columns 9, 11, or 13, you can sort by the vowels, the syllable final consonants, or the tones. Of course, you can sort on the even numbered columns instead of these odd numbered columns. However by sorting on the odd numbered columns, initials of the same manner of articulation will appear together. If you sort on 7 Initial Consonants, the labials all come first, followed by apicals, then velars and then the other classes of consonants. If you sort on 8 \*I, the consonants will be sorted in alphabetical order.

By using these columns you can quickly see how much evidence is found for each reconstructed consonant, vowel, or tone, and you can look for patterns that the authors may have missed.

15 Sema(ntic). By sorting on the final column you will group the lines according to semantic category. All kinship terms will come together, as will all domestic animals, all body parts and so on.

*Directions for sorting an Excel table:* First, you must select (highlight) the entire table by clicking on the diamond at the upper left. This is just to the left of column one and just above row one.

Click on "Data/Sort" and the "Sort" window will come up. Be sure to highlight the "Header row" button and not the "No header row" button, so that row one, which has the column titles, will stay in place. Then select the first column that you want to sort by. For example if you want to sort by initial consonants, you select IC-# in the upper space. Next you might want to sort on "gloss" so that the rows within, for example, initial "ph" will be sorted alphabetically. You should then place "gloss" in the second space.

Click on "OK", wait just a moment and the chart should be resorted.