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## Tày and Nùng languages in Tuyen Quang

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### Abstract

The Tay and Nung people belong to the same Au-Viet group in the Bach Viet bloc. During the course of history, these two tribes had a close relationship and were easy to get along with, so they were subject to interference and cultural influence from each other. From there, it can be seen that the Tay and Nung people have had a close relationship since ancient times. The Tay language is very close to the language of the Nung branches in Vietnam. This article explores the ethnic and linguistic relationships of the Tay and Nung people in Tuyen Quang province, Vietnam.

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### 1. Introduction

According to historical records, since ancient times, Tuyen Quang was a province inhabited by many ethnic groups. According to author Le Quy Don: Tuyen Quang has human races such as: Nung people, Golden Tooth people, Hoa Thuong people, Ngo Ngan people, seven races of Man people including Son Trang, Son Tu, Cao Lan, Son Man, Son Ban, Son Mieu... are like the Sa Ngoai people, like the La Qua people, like the Sa Tu people..." [5; 11- 12]. Currently, the Tay people are second in population (185,456 people), mainly distributed in Chiem Hoa district, Na Hang district, Nung people 14,214 people live mainly in Son Duong district. Regarding ethnic origin: The Tay people settled very early in Vietnam and were one of the first owners of the ancient Viet country. The Tay people are also called "Tho", referring to aborigines and indigenous people. In addition, the Tay people also have names according to local groups: Tho (old name); Ngan (due to wearing shorter shirts); Phen (in brown shirt); Thu Lao (wrap a scarf into a peak on your head); Pa Di (shirt with embroidered patterns on the neck and fabric across the chest, sleeves connecting many colored fabric segments, roof-shaped hat) [4; 14].

Since the August Revolution, Tay residents have agreed to call themselves Tay and that name has become the official name of this people.

According to author Dao Duy Anh in the work "Vietnam through the generations", the Tay people in our country originate from the Lao Man people in China. The author believes that "*the Nung people in Southern China and the Tay people in Northern Vietnam are their descendants. Especially the Lao people in the Central Highlands at that time*" and "*We can guess that the residents of the Ki Mi continent under the colonial government of An Nam were the predecessors of the Tay and Nung people in the current Viet Bac area*" [1; 103].

ethnic group in our country numbers 968,800 people <sup>[3]</sup>. The Nung people are also called "Nong", including many branches: Nung Giang, Nung Xuong, Nung An, Nung Inh, Nung Loi, Nung Chao, Nung Phan Slinh, Nung Quy Rin, Nung Din. The Nung ethnic group is dispersed in 63 provinces and cities but is most concentrated in the mountainous provinces of the Northeast, including Tuyen Quang. As mentioned, along with the Tay people, the Nung people mostly migrated to Vietnam from China, and became the first Nung residents in Vietnam. The Nung people have close relationships with the Tay people.

The Nung ethnic group in Tuyen Quang mainly belongs to the Nung An branch [2, p.77]. Currently, the Nung people are quite few, the reason for this is because in fact there are many Nung people who have "coordinated" with the Tay people. The connection between the Tay and Nung is also easy to understand because these two peoples have the same origin, the same basic language and customs.

## 2. Content

### 2.1. The relationship between the Tay and Nung people

The Tay people settled very early in Vietnam and were one of the first owners of the ancient Viet country. According to author Dao Duy Anh in the work "Vietnam through the generations", the Tay people in our country originate from the Lao Man people in China. The author believes that "*The Nung people in Southern China and the Tay people in Northern Vietnam are their descendants. Especially the Lao people in the Central Highlands at that time*" and "*We can guess that the residents of the Ki Mi continent under the colonial government of An Nam were the predecessors of the Tay and Nung people in the current Viet Bac area*" [1; 103]. The Tay, Nung and Zhuang Nam people have close relationships with each other. Previously, the Tay, Nung and parts of the Zhuang in Southern Guangxi were called /kan2 tho3/ or /pu1 tho3/ *Tho - indigenous people*. Like the Tay people, in some places in Guangxi, the Zhuang people are called Dai, Tay, Ly, Lao, Liao. The Tay and Nung people distinguish themselves and affectionately call each other *Can Slua Khao (White Shirt People.)* - Tay and *Can Slua Dam* people (*Black shirt people*) - Nung people.

Through research, it has been shown that the Tay and Nung people belong to the same Au-Viet group in the Bach Viet bloc, whose residence areas are North Vietnam and South China China. During the course of history, these two tribes had a close relationship and were easy to get along with, so they were able to interact and influence each other's cultures very favorably. After that, the Lac Viet people gradually migrated downstream to the rivers and coastal areas, gradually forming the modern Vietnamese nation. The Au-Viet people who settled in the mountains and midlands gradually formed the current Tay group [4, p.26]. From there, it shows that the Tay and Nung people have had a close relationship since ancient times.

### 2.2. About the relationship between Tay language and Nung language

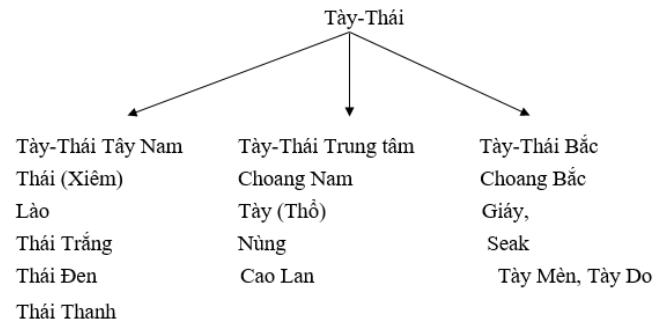
The Tay language and the Nung language are considered to be very close to each other and people have the policy that "on the basis of a common script, it is possible to build a unified Tay - Nung cultural language as means of developing education, culture, and mass information in the Tay and Nung ethnic communities". However, according to research results, based on the phonetic appearance (pronunciation) of each word, people still recognize the difference in language between the Tay and Nung people.

Tay language is a language belonging to the Tai - Ka Dai language family, Tai branch, Tay - Thai branch, Central Tai group. This is the language of the Tay, Thai, Nung, San Chay, Giay, Lao, Lu, Bo Y ethnic groups, distributed from Hainan Island to southern China, northern Indochina, Thailand and northeastern Burma. In ethnic processes, the issue of ethnicity and national language are two aspects closely linked to each other. In that process, language plays the role of both a characteristic and a reflection, preservation, and transmission of the values of the national culture, a means of uniting and uniting the nation, and strengthening the national culture and ethnic social development.

### Tay and Nung languages in the internal division of Tay-Thai languages

Ly Phuong Que's point of view [6], the internal Tay-Thai branch is divided into 3 groups: Northern Tay-Thai,

Southwest Tay-Thai and Central Tay-Thai. like the diagram below:



### Ratio of common words between Tay and Nung languages

In terms of common word proportions and phonetic change processes, the Tay language belongs to the Central group, Tay-Thai branch, Tai-Ka Dai language family. The Central Tay-Thai group includes the Tay language, the language of the Nung branches in Vietnam and the language of the Zhuang people in southern Guangxi (the area south of Nanning city).

The Tay language is very close to the language of the Nung branches in Vietnam.

Although they have close ethnic relationships, before the 50s (20th century), in the awareness of the Tay people as well as the Nung people, there were distinctions: Tay ethnic group, Tay language, Nung ethnic group, Nung language. In the process of investigating the Tay dialects and the Nung languages to create writing, people realized that these two languages are very close to each other. Therefore, people came to the decision to create a common script for both Tay and Nung: Tay-Nung script. In the 1960s and 1970s, Vietnam carried out cultural work with the policy that, based on a common script, it was possible to build a unified Tay - Nung cultural language as a means of developing education, culture, mass information in the Tay and Nung ethnic communities in Viet Bac area.

Based on the results of the researchers' investigation of the common word ratio between Tay and Nung languages.

**Table 1:** Summarizing the percentage of common words between Tay and Thai languages

Thái	Tày	Giáy			
Lào	95	Nùng Cháo	96	Ngạn	95
Lự	93	Xuồng	93	Bô Y	86
Pa Dí	92	Thái (TB)	89	Pu Nà	86
Tày	89	Nùng An	83	Nùng An	80
N. Cháo	80	Lào	83	Cao Lan	78
Nùng Dín	79	Nùng Dín	79	Tày	76
Giáy	76	Lự	80	Thái	76
Xuồng	76	Pa Dí	79	Xuồng	75
Ngạn	76	Ngạn	78	Nùng Cháo	74
Nùng An	75	Cao Lan	78	Nùng Dín	74
Thu Lao	75	Giáy	76	Pa Dí	73
Bô Y	69	Thu Lao	74	Lào	71
Cao Lan	69	Bô Y	69	Lự	71
Pu Nà	67	Pu Nà	68	Thu lao	65
Tóng	43	Tóng	51	Tóng	52
Thuỷ	42	Thuỷ	46	Thuỷ	46

The rate of common words between the Tay language and the Nung languages is from 82% to 96%. This is a high rate. This ratio depends on the contact process between them. The ratio

of common words between the languages of the Tay and Nung people living in the same area may be higher than the ratio of common words between Tay dialects, or between the languages of Nung branches, but residing in different areas. Also according to the research results, the rate of common words between Tay and the languages of Nung Chao, Nung Loi, Nung Inh reaches about 93 - 96%, while the rate of common words between Tay and Nung Din, Nung An only from 79% to 83%, between Tay language and Nung Loi language is only about 86%. Between Nung Din Hoang Su Phi and Tay in Hoang Su Phi there are 88% common words, while between Nung Din Hoang Su Phi and the Nung Chao and Nung Loi branches is only about 86%.

The differences in initial consonants and vowels follow a regular correspondence:

#### About the first consonant:

Tày Thạch An	Nùng Cháo Thạch An
ph	f
th	t
kh	k
j	z
s	𠀠

#### Về nguyên âm:

Tày Thạch An	Nùng Cháo Thạch An
i𠀠	i
𠀠	𠀠
u𠀠	u
𠀠	ă

#### Conclude

The Nung ethnic group in Tuyen Quang mainly belongs to the Nung An branch. Currently, the Nung people are quite few, the reason for this is because in fact there are many Nung people who have "coordinated" with the Tay people. The connection between the Tay and Nung is also easy to understand because these two peoples have the same origin, the same basic language and customs. Regarding the relationship between the Tay language and the Nung language, it is considered that these two languages are very close to each other and *people have a policy of Based on a common script, it is possible to build a unified Tay - Nung cultural language as a means of developing education, culture, and mass information in the Tay and Nung ethnic communities*. However, according to research results, *people still recognize the difference in language between the Tay and Nung people based on the phonetic appearance (pronunciation) of each word*. Therefore, Tay and Nung are still two languages belonging to the Tai-Ka Dai language family.

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