M500

Song of the Master Hmao-sao's daughter Nggu-bang-nzeu.

Recorded by Wang Jian-guo.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document N (no. 41, page 558).

The following pairs of lines appear as single long lines in the Miao text, 15 and 16, 17 and 18, 30 and 31, 32 and 33, 43 and 44, 51 and 52, 72 and 73, 74 and 75, 106 and 107, 108 and 109, 145 and 146, 158 and 159, 160 and 161.

Line 11. Following this line the Miao text adds an extra line.

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Hmaob saod     nggus     bangx   nzeul    shit las   hnod.
Hmao-sao    young woman Bang   youngest not have heard.
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This is probably an intrusion into the text. It omits the title "gi-niao", "Master" which otherwise is used consistently throughout the song, it interrupts the narrative, and upsets the poetic balance of the lines.

Line 22. The final word of this line is printed "ntlwl", but this sound does not seem to exist in Miao. It seems likely therefore to be a misreading of the word "ndliel" which means "smooth", used here in parallel with the word "diex" in the next line, which also means "smooth".

Line 39. In this line and also in lines 40, 41, 60, 75, 77, 82, 84, 127, 128 and 129, the word "jiex" meaning "cattle" is incorrectly written "zhiex".

Line 81. A footnote explains that "dit laol ghat naf" a hand that is paralysed or crippled.

Line 113. This line, which is exactly parallel to line 110 has lost the first four words in the Miao text, and the remaining three words are tacked on to the end of line 112.