

**Hua-Miao Archive
Songs and Stories**

Miao Social Life

Old marriage customs and songs about marriage
Songs M301 to M314
Transcription and Notes

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However, we would be most grateful if you would reference the source.

The Hua-Miao Archive
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M301

3⁸ 3^{nc} Y⁻ L₁₁ 3_v Y⁻ ㄟ^{''} Y⁻ ㄩ_o.
method of old which arrange marriage.

U_{o6} ㄩ_{no} ㄟⁿ S^{''}.
Wang Ming-ji wrote.

ㄩ_s Y⁻ ㄥ^r ㄩ^{''}. ㄚ̄ Y⁻
begin make approach. necessary make

Δ^{''} ㄩ^{''} ㄥ^r ㄩ^{''}.
four times approach.

Y⁻ ㄥ^r ㄩ^{''}, ㄩ₁₁ ㄥ^r 'C^v ㄩ_v Yⁿ ㄟⁿ
make approach, thirteen days is one time

ㄩ_v Y⁻
which make

ㄥ^r ㄩ^{''}. Y⁻ Lⁿ ㄟⁿ ㄩ_n ㄩ_v, Yⁿ ㄩ⁻ ㄟ^v
approach. do like this said that, one ba-zhu

ㄩ₁₁ Yⁿ
go one

ㄟㄟ_n Yⁿ ㄩ⁻ ㄟ^v ㄩ_v ㄩ₁₁ ㄥ^r 'C^v. T^{''} ㄩⁿ
occasion. one ba-zhu is thirteen days. get not

T^{''} C⁸
get bride

ㄚ̄ ㄩ₁₁ Δ^{''} ㄟㄟ_n.
necessary go four occasions.

1. S^v ㄩ₁₁ C_v. ㄟ⁸ ㄩ_o. L⁻ ㄩⁿ ㄥ^r.
first go ask, raise cause others not able.

2. ㄩ₁₁ C_v ㄩ_o. Tⁿ L^v.
go ask cause answer words.

3. ㄩ₁₁ C_v ㄩ_v T^{''} L^v.
go ask which get words.

4. ɔ₁₁ ɛ^{no} ɕ^ʰ ʈ_ʂ.
go bring wife finish.

l'ɔ̄ ʋ̄ ʈ- ʈ'' ɣⁿ ɕɕⁿ ɛ̄ⁿ
bring bridegroom come to one measure road

ɛ^{nc},
completed,

ɔ₀ ʌ^v ʌ_l ʈ- ɛ^{no} ɕ^ʰ. ɛ̄^v ɔ_v ɕ^ʰ
cause friends come fetch bride. if bride

ɛ_v ɔ₁₁,
willing go,

ɕ^{nc} ʋ_v ʌ_l ɛ_v ɔ̄^v ʈ'' ʋ̄ⁿ
mother father also willing give to bridegroom,

ɣ^v ʌⁿ
make like

ɕ̄ⁿ ʋ_v ɕɔ̄- ʈ^r ɕɕ₁₁ ɔ₀ ɕɕ₀ ɔ₁₁.
this at home send bridesmaids cause with go

ʈ'' ɔ_v ɣ^v ʌ_v ɔ₁₁ ɛ^{no} ɕ^ʰ ɣ̄ⁿ,
when young men go fetch bride at that time,

ɔ̄-
there are

ɕɔ̄'' ʒ^o ʈ- ɕɔ̄_ʂ ɕ^ʰ ɔ̄^v ʈ-
girls village come help bride hold back come.

ɕ^{nc} ʋ_v
mother father

ɣ^v ɕ^{nc} ɣ^v ɕ^v ʈⁿ ɔ̄^v ɛ^{no}.
sisters-in-law brothers not take notice so it is.

ʋ^{nc} ɛ^{no}
but fetch

C^ḡ ɔ- Yⁿ L^ḃ Y⁻ L₁₁ C₁₀. ɔ₁₁
bride there is one classifier older person with go.

L^ḃ
the

C^ḡ E_n V̄ T̄ E^{nc}.
bride thus bridegroom take hold of completed.

Jⁿ t^{nc}
prepare

C₁₁ ʒⁿ T_ḡ, C^ḡ E⁻ E₁₀ ɔ₁₁,
bridesmaids well finish, bride if willing go,

Ī^u J^ḃ Yⁿ
all one

t₁₁ S^r L₀ C₁₁ V⁻ T_ḡ,
company return come eat food finish,

Yⁿ t₁₁ L_ḡ
one company gone

T_ḡ. C^ḡ E⁻ Tⁿ E₁₀ ɔ₁₁ t^r t^r J₁₁
finish. bride if not willing go the middleman

Tⁿ C̄ⁿ T^u L^u S^ḡ T_ḡ.
to this break words away finish.

Tⁿ C₁₁ⁿ E^{''} Ā J^ḡ L^ḃ.
young women marriage require seven persons.

Ā J^ḃ
require five

L^ḃ Tⁿ C₁₁ⁿ, Yⁿ L^ḃ
classifier young women, one classifier

Y⁻ J⁰ E^{''},
matron marriage,

Ā Lᵇ Cᶜ T̄'. Eₙ ᵔ-
require the bride as well. thus there are

Jᶜ Lᵇ.
seven classifier.

Y⁻ Cᵛ E''' Ā Jᵇ Lᵇ,
young men marriage, require five classifier,

Tᵤ Yⁿ
then one

Jⁿ Lᵤ tᵤ, Yⁿ Lᵇ ᵔᵤ ḡ tᵤ,
older man, one person who is head man,

Yⁿ Lᵇ ᵔᵤ
one person who is

tʳ Vᵤ Tᵛ T- E= T- E=
nephew the person come cattle. come cattle

ᵔᵤ Vᵤ Λₙ E'''.
which are from family marriage.

Tₙ C T̄'. Y⁻ E''' Ā
say clearly. Making marriage require

Sᵛ ᵔᵤ Y⁻ Cᶜ
first go make wife

Lⁿ ᵔᵤ Y⁻ Jₙᵤ Lᶜ. Y⁻ Sᵟ Cᵀᶜ Vᵤ
about two years gone. two sides mother father

Tᵛ ᵔ- Eₙ
all have thus

Tⁿ Tᵔ Tₙᶜ Y⁻ E'''. Y⁻ E''' Ā
equal true make marriage. make marriage require

ᵔ- Yⁿ
give one

Tᵤ Cᵀ, Jᵇ Tᵤ E'ᵣ,
classifier cow, five classifier goats,

Yⁿ T_v C]̄.
one classifier pig.

V^{nc} [̄. Ā t_u J^o T_v [̄.
but only require total seven classifier cattle.

C^o J^{nc} Ā Y⁻ Yⁿ L^u [̄'^o
bride hers require make one classifier gown

V̄ [̄'.
bridegroom new.

L^u [̄'^o Ā, D_u Y⁻ C^o L_ε T_δ V^{nc}
the gown this, go make bride gone finish but

Ā S^r
require return

L_o C^{nc} V_v C]̄- Y⁻ D_u,
come mother father house make go,

T⁻ L_{nc} S_o [̄'^o
presently reckon gown

V̄ [̄'^{nc}. CT^u †^r J^u]_u Ā
bridegroom new. cloth middleman is required

Λ_n T^u [̄'^{nc}
family giving

T^u D⁻ T^u †^r †^r J^u [̄^o D_u T^u
son give for the middleman convey go for

Λ_n T^u [̄'^{nc}
family giving

C†',]^o D⁻ CT^u Y⁻ L^u Δ^o CT^u
daughter knot take cloth embroidery cloth

L^{nc} Y⁻ [̄'^o V̄ [̄'^o [̄_{no}.
red make gown bridegroom new so it is.

M301
Arranging marriages according to the old customs.

Written by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes

This material is in Document B (no. 7, page 32) and in notes following Document B (no. 12, page 37). The style is simple Miao prose as spoken today. The writer carefully avoided using any loan words from Chinese.

M302

C_n J^o J^ɛ Λ_κ J^ɛ Lⁿ J^p.
 the woman Bang man Bang-li-byu.

U_{o6} ɔ_{n6} Γⁿ S₁₁.
 Wang Ming-ji wrote.

Γ^{'11} CT^v Jⁿ CΓ^p Γ_n Jⁿ L_o,
 from sky scattered material arrived sphere,

Γ^{'11} C_n J^o J^ɛ Γ_n L_o C^{no}.
 for the woman Bang thus come live.

J^{nc} Tⁿ Jⁿ CΓ^p Γ_n L_n V₁₁,
 weave earth scattered material arrived ridges,

Γ^{'11} Λ_κ J^ɛ Lⁿ J^p Γ_n L_o t₁₁.
 for man Bang-li-byu thus come dwell.

5 J₁₁ C̄ t^κ L_o J¹¹,
 year this able come know,

J¹¹ C_n J^o J^ɛ J̄ Y⁻ Γ^{'11},
 know the woman Bang rise make marriage,

J¹¹ Λ_κ J^ɛ Lⁿ J^p Lⁿ J_ɔ J^o,
 know man Bang-li-byu about begin wedding,

C_ɔ Lⁿ J_ɔ J_o Jⁿ L^p T^v Tⁿ C^ɔ ɔ₁₁ Y⁻
 they about begin cause the son go make

C^ɔ.
 bride.

Γ^{'nc} Jⁿ L^p T^v Tⁿ C†['], G_u C_{nc} L₁₁ C^{no}
 took the daughter girl adult remain

Γ_{nc} Δ^ɔ.
 learn spirits.

10 J₁₁ C̄ t^κ L_o J¹¹,
 year this able come know,

J" C_n J^o J^δ J̄ †' C],
know the woman Bang rise build house,

J" Λ_ε J^δ Lⁿ J^p J̄ †' [ʔ.
know man Bang-li-byu rise build home.

∩_o Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ C†', G_v C_{nc} L_{ii} ∩_{ii} C^o CT",
cause the daughter girl adult go fell trees,

∩_o Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ C†', G_v C_{nc} L_{ii} ∩_{ii} I',
cause the daughter girl adult go drag in

CT".
trees.

15 I', Cⁿ J^δ L_o CT^v T^{nc},
drag in posts come below plain,

I', Cⁿ Λ^b L_o J_n Δ_ε.
drag in rafters come above pass.

Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ C†', G_v C_{nc} L_{ii} I',
the daughter girl adult dragged in,

I', [̣ⁿ ∩_{ii} Y⁻ J^r CT" L_o C_{enii}
dragged in nine ten various trees come arrive

T_δ,
finish,

Δ_n C_n †^r T_v C_n
except connector three classifier connector

J^r Cⁿ CT_o J_n I^b.
straight with above ridge.

20 C_n Y⁻ C_n J⁻ C^b L_o C_n
connector make connector the bride so connector

L_o,
come,

Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C^o Y⁻ C_n J⁻ C^o
the son make connector the bride

J^r t^c L_o.
not able come.

Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C^o Y⁻ C^o T_u T̄ S^r
the son make bride then return come back

L_o t_o,
come reach,

J_o Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C^o Lⁿ D_u D_u I['] CT["],
cause the son going go drag in trees,

I['] C_n t^r T_u Cⁿ T^u Cⁿ
drag in connector three classifier beams beams

J^r C^o C_o C_u T_o.
straight with arrive finish.

25 J_o Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C^t, G_u C_{nc} L_u D_u C^o CT["].
cause the daughter girl adult go erect trees.

D_u C^o Cⁿ J_u Y⁻ J^r CT["] C_o T_o
went erect nine ten various trees stand done

T_o.
finish.

Δ_n C_n t^r T_u Cⁿ T^u Cⁿ
except connector three classifier beams beams

J^r C^o C_o J^r T["].
straight stand not get.

Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C^o J_u T^u Tⁿ G_u 3["] L_u C^o,
the son nursing baby well encircled arm,

J^o Tⁿ C_o D_u C^o,
raised hand with go erect,

30 ʔ̄ tʳ T_v Cʔ̄ⁿ T^u Cʔ̄ⁿ Jʳ Cʔ̄^ʳ
 erected three classifier beams beams straight

 Cʔ̄^p T_ʒ T_ʒ.
 stand done finish.

J_{ni} Ā tʳ L_o Jʳ,
 year this able come know,

Jʳ C_n J^o J^ʒ J_{ni} Y⁻ ʔ̄ʳʳ,
 know the woman Bang year make marriage,

Jʳ Λ_ɛ J^ʒ Lⁿ J^p J_{ni} Y⁻ ʔ̄^o.
 know man Bang-li-byu year make wedding.

ʔ̄^o ʔ̄_o Jⁿ L^ʔ T^u Tⁿ Cʔ̄ʳ, G_v C_{nc} L_{ni} ʔ̄_{ni} Y⁻
 allow cause the daughter girl adult go make

 C^ʳ.
 bride.

35 ʔ̄_o Jⁿ L^ʔ T^u Tⁿ C^ʳ C^{no} ʔ̄_{nc} Δ^ʒ.
 cause the son remain learn spirits.

J_{ni} Ā tʳ L_o Jʳ,
 year this able come know,

Jʳ C_n J^o J^ʒ J_{ni} tʳ^o Cʔ̄-
 know the woman Bang year build house,

Jʳ Λ_ɛ J^ʒ Lⁿ J^p J_{ni} tʳ^o ʔ̄^p.
 know man Bang-li-byu year build home.

Jⁿ L^ʔ T^u Tⁿ C^ʳ tʳ^o,
 the son built,

40 tʳ^o C_n J^o J^ʒ C_n Λ_ɛ J^ʒ Lⁿ J^p
 built the woman Bang the man Bang-li-byu

 C_n J⁻ Cʔ̄-
 connector the house.

J⁻ Cʔ̄- CΔ^{nc} J^p Jʳ ʔ̄^{no} ʔ̄^{nc},
 the house inside in order to put,

ʔ̄^{nc} Jⁿ L^ʔ T^u Tⁿ C^ʳ ʔ̄^{nc} ʔ̄^ʒ tʳ^o.
 put the son place hang cross-bow.

J⁻ C[-] J_{||} J^p J^r [°_{nc}] [°_{nc}],
the house outside in order to put,

[°_{nc}] Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ C†', G_v C_{nc} L_{||} [°_{nc}] T^{||} ɔ̃.
put the daughter girl adult place to hemp.

45 Y^{||} t_{nc} J^r Λ^o J⁻ J^p C_n †'
water cold not is the thing connector offer

J['],
guests,

Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ C†', G_v C_{nc} L_{||} J^r Λ^o J⁻ [̃^o]
the daughter girl adult not is the seed

C_n †' [°_{nc}].
connector offer marriage.

Y⁻ [°_{nc}] C_n J^o J^o Λ_s J^o Lⁿ J^p [°_{nc}],
why the woman Bang man Bang-li-byu take,

[°_{nc}] Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ C†', G_v C_{nc} L_{||} L_o †'
take the daughter girl adult come offer

[°_{nc}].
marriage.

Λ_v CΔⁿ Λ_v Jⁿ †' J^r Λ^o J⁻ [̃^o] L_{||}
wild rice wild millet not is seed plant

C_L V_o,
in garden,

50 Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ C†', G_v C_{nc} L_{||} J^r Λ^o J⁻ [̃^o] L_{||}
the daughter girl adult not is seed plant

C_L C[-].
in house.

J['] C_L Λ_v CΔⁿ Λ_v Jⁿ †' T^{||}
do not waste wild rice wild millet in

Tⁿ C_L,
ground healthy,

J'~ CEn J^n L^b T^u T^n Ct', Gu Cnc L11 T''
do not waste the daughter girl adult on

Ĉ Ĉ''.
road marriage.

M302

Old Miao songs about marriage. 1.

The Woman Bang and the Man Bang-li-byu.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document B (no. 8, page 35).

M303

\ddot{V} $J^n \text{C}'^u$ I'^u . U_{n6} $\text{D}_{n6} \text{C}^n$ S_{11} .
 bridegroom friends sang. Wang Ming-ji wrote.

$\ddot{t} J^r \text{C}\Delta_n$ $J^r \text{C}\Delta_n$ L^n ,
 hawthorn blossoming late,

Z'' $J^- L_{11}$ $\text{D}_{11} \text{C}''$ CJ' ,
 good old folk go eat meat,

J^r T'' C_n $J^- J^r$ T'' CJ' C'' .
 not got connector anything toward meat marriage.

Ct_u CJ' $\text{C}\bar{L}_o$ CJ^- C^{no} $\text{Ct}'_{nc} L_{nc}$ T''
 slice meat with pig carry white toward

CJ' C'' .
 meat marriage.

5 J^r T'' C_n $J^- J^r$ T'' CJ' J° ,
 not got connector anything toward meat wedding,

Ct_u Λ^δ $T^n J_{11}$ T'' CJ' J° .
 slice sheep back toward meat wedding.

$J_n \text{C}_n$ t^c L_o S^δ ,
 tomorrow able come away,

Λ_c $\text{J}^n t^r$ t^c L_o t^r ,
 man father able come send,

t^r C_n Y^- L^b $\text{b}^- \text{C}^{no} L^n \Lambda_{11}$
 send connector two classifier attendants

CJ^- ,
 wearing,

10 CJ^- C^b Δ^u $L^n \text{D}_{11}$ J_1 $\text{J}^n T_3$,
 wearing capes black going bearing wine horns,

b^n C^{nc} $\text{D}^n S^{nc}$ T_o $\text{J}' \text{C}\bar{C}^\delta$,
 pour wine clear waiting entrance,

ḅ Ē Ḍⁿ S^{nc} T_o CṬ_u Δ^u,
pour wine clear waiting beside door,

Y⁻ J^{'-} [^{'''} J^{'-}]^o CḲ_{ni}.
make guests marriage guests wedding arrive.

Λ_ε †^r †^c L_o †^r,
man father able come send,

15 †^r C_n Y⁻ L^ḅ T^u S^ḅ Lⁿ T^u S_s.
send connector two classifier skilled waiters.

C_n Y⁻ L^ḅ T^u S^ḅ Lⁿ T^u S_s CṬ_o.
connector two classifier skilled waiters with

T^ḅ V^ḅ,
replenished baskets,

T^ḅ V^ḅ J^{'-}]_o CḲ_ε,
replenish baskets do not cause stop,

T^ḅ T_u J^{'-} J_o.
replenish bowls do not rest.

J_n [C_n †^c L_o S^ḅ,
tomorrow able come away,

20 J^{'-} [^{'''} J^{'-}]^o C^{''} T_ḅ T_ḅ,
guests marriage guests wedding eat done finish,

Ḍ_n C^{''} CṬ_o T_ḅ T_ḅ.
you eat with done finish.

M303
Old Miao songs about marriage. 2.
Song by the bridegroom's friends.

Collected by Wang-ming-ji.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document B (no.9, page 34).

M304

ㄘㄩㄥˊ ㄓㄩˋ ㄩˋ ㄊㄜˊ ㄓㄩˋ.
 song which make match.

ㄨㄨㄥˊ ㄨㄥˊ ㄇㄩㄥˊ ㄙㄩˋ.
 Wang Ming-ji wrote.

ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ,
 sunshine shine very fine,

ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄆㄛˋ ㄆㄛˋ ㄌㄣˊ ㄘㄩˋ ㄆㄛˋ ㄐㄩˋ ㄐㄩˋ,
 sunshine birds black very fly to and fro,

ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄕㄩˋ ㄊㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ
 sunshine brothers brothers-in-law situated

ㄕㄩˋ ㄆㄛˋ,
 roads far,

ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄕㄩˋ ㄊㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄩˋ ㄊㄩˋ
 sunshine brothers brothers-in-law get

ㄊㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ.
 come together.

5 ㄘㄩˋ ㄕㄩˋ ㄨㄥˊ ㄙㄩˋ ㄐㄩˋ ㄆㄛˋ ㄊㄩˋ,
 fill wine clear share drink,

ㄊㄩˋ ㄕㄩˋ ㄨㄥˊ ㄙㄩˋ ㄊㄩˋ ㄐㄩˋ ㄊㄩˋ,
 drink wine clear drink not enough,

ㄊㄩˋ ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄎㄩˋ ㄕㄩˋ ㄓㄨˋ ㄊㄩˋ ㄓㄨˋ
 discuss way marriage way wedding discuss cause

ㄊㄩˋ.
 get.

ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ,
 sunshine shine very fine,

ㄕㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ ㄆㄛˋ ㄆㄛˋ ㄌㄣˊ ㄘㄩˋ ㄆㄛˋ ㄐㄩˋ ㄘㄩˋ,
 sunshine birds black very fly all about,

10 $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$ CT^v $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$ Tⁿ C^u V^u C^{no} $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$
 sunshine brothers brothers-in-law situated roads

$\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$,
 wide,

$\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$ CT^v $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$ Tⁿ C^u V^u T-
 sunshine brothers brothers-in-law come

J^r C $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$,
 meet together.

CTⁿ $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$ Dⁿ Sⁿ J^r T^v T_u,
 fill wine clear share drink,

T_u $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$ Dⁿ S^{nc} T_u Tⁿ $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$,
 drink wine clear drink not limit,

T_p $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$ C^{'nu} $\bar{\text{L}}^{\text{̄}}$ J^o T_p
 discuss way marriage way wedding discuss

J_o C $\bar{\text{T}}^{\text{̄}}$.
 cause please.

M304
Old Miao songs about marriage. 3.

A match-making song.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document B (no. 10, page 35).

Line 3. In the Miao text the initial \bar{c} ' CT^v, “in the sunshine”, is missing.

Line 4. In the manuscript this line is written twice, for no apparent reason.

Line 9. Following this line the manuscript repeats line 3.

M305

C]'']_u †^r †^r J'' †^r ǀ^u †_u.
 song which arrange for middleman arrange for headman.

U_{o6} ɔ_{o6} Cⁿ S_u.
 Wang Ming-ji wrote.

J̄ J^r C_L. †^r †^r J'',
 who with arrange for middleman,

Λ_ς Jⁿ †^r †^r †^r J''.
 man father arrange for middleman.

J̄ J^r C_L. †^r ǀ^u †_u,
 who with arrange for headman,

Λ_ς Jⁿ †^r †^r ǀ^u †_u.
 man father arrange for headman.

5 †^r Jⁿ L^b T^u †^r J''
 arrange for the person middleman

7. Jⁿ L^b T^u ǀ^u †_u,
 and the person headman,

C^o]_o. 3_u Yⁿ †ⁿ Jⁿ,
 allow cause sit one top place because,

Jⁿ Λ_ς Jⁿ †^r C= C_o. J^z.
 because man father livestock multiply.

Λ_ς Jⁿ †^r †^ς L_o. ǀ,
 man father able come clear,

10 ǀ †ⁿ C^{'=} C^{nc} Y⁻ J^r,
 clear place of honour completed for whom,

C^{nc} T^{'u} Jⁿ L^b T^u †^r J'' C_u.
 completed for the person middleman thus.

Λ_ς Jⁿ †^r †^ς L_o. ǀ,
 man father able come clear,

ǀ †^r ǀ^u C^{nc} Y⁻ J^r,
 clear place at head completed for whom,

Γ^{nc} Γ^{'n} Jⁿ L^b T^u Γ^u t_u Λ_u.
completed for the person headman oh.

15 J_n Γ_n †^c L_o S^δ,
tomorrow able come away,

Jⁿ L^b T^u †^r Jⁿ Jⁿ L^b T^u Γ^u t_u Γ_n D_u T⁻,
the middleman the headman thus did take hold of,

T⁻ J^o Jⁿ D_u C†^r CΓ^{no}, CΓ^{no}.
take hold of woman aunt name over and over.

J^o Jⁿ D_u J^{'c} J^δ T⁻ J^δ Γ^{'o} Jⁿ L^{nc} 'C^δ D_u
woman aunt took skirts gowns all put on went

t_o,
meet,

t_o Jⁿ L^b T^u †^r Jⁿ Jⁿ L^b T^u Γ^u t_u.
meet the person middleman the person headman.

20 Jⁿ L^b T^u †^r Jⁿ Jⁿ L^b T^u Γ^u t_u CΓ_o.
the person middleman the person headman with

D_u Δ_c,
went took off,

Δ_c Lⁿ J^{'n} L_u Γ^o CΓ_n 3ⁿ.
took off all round laid down completely well.

J^o Jⁿ D_u Γ_n Tⁿ J^δ T⁻ Γ_n,
woman aunt thus the skirts thus,

J^o Jⁿ D_u Tⁿ Lⁿ J^{'n} L_u D_n Γ^{no} L_c.
woman aunt get all round connector carry gone.

J_n Γ_n †^c L_o S^δ,
tomorrow able come away,

25 Jⁿ L^b T^u †^r Jⁿ Jⁿ L^b T^u Γ^u t_u Γ_n
the person middleman the person headman thus

D_u T⁻,
did take hold of,

T⁻ J^o Jⁿ D_u C†^r t_u t_u.
take hold of woman aunt name again and again.

J° J° ɔ J'ɛ J° T° T° Y J° L^{nc} 'C̄ ɔ_{||}
woman aunt took skirts aprons all put on went

t_o,
meet,

t_o J° L' T^u t^r J_{||} J° L' T^u Γ̄ t_{||}.
meet the person middleman the person headman.

J° L' T^u ʒ^r J^{||} J° L' T^u Γ̄ t_{||}
the person middleman the person head man

J̄ J' Δ_ɛ,
forthwith took off,

30 Δ_ɛ L° J' L_{||} Γ° C_{||} ʒ^{||}.
took off all round laid down completely well.

J° J° ɔ C_n T° J° Y C_n,
woman aunt thus the aprons thus,

J° J° ɔ J'ɛ L° J' L_{||} ɔ_n J' L_ɛ.
woman aunt took all round connector folded gone.

C_n J° 'G^u L° C_{no} C_J^{||} ɔⁿ S^{nc},
connector women wine jars bubbled clear,

C_J^{||} C_n J° ɔ_n J⁻ S^δ.
bubbled connector women plural liquid yeast.

35 C_n J° 'G^u L° C_{no} C_J^{||} J° Tⁿ,
connector women wine jars bubbled on the ground,

C_J^{||} C_n Λ_ɛ ɔ_n J⁻ C̄.
bubbled connector men plural liquid wine.

C_t⁻ T_ɛ C_n ɔ_{||} Γ^{'no},
sprig bamboo thus did push through,

Γ^{'no} Δ̄ L° C_J^{||} J^r C_{no} C_t,
push through neck in order to suck,

C_t C_n J° 'G^u J° C_{no} J⁻ 'G^u Δ°.
suck connector women wine jars the jars fat.

- 40 C_n J^o 'G^u Lⁿ E_{no} J^{''},
connector women wine jars struck down,
J^{''} Lⁿ J⁻ L_{||} S^δ CT^u T^ε.
struck down the old folk away edge fire.
CT_v Lⁿ J⁻ L_{||} S^δ J⁻ CT_{||},
pull the old folk away aside,
J_o CT_δ CT_o CT_δ J^r Tⁿ,
cause go together go on the ground,
CT_o CT^u Tⁿ CT_δ T_ε,
with ridges out,
- 45 Tⁿ 'D^{''} J⁻ L_{||} Tⁿ.
the Miao old folk land.
CT⁻ T_ε E_n D_o E^{'no},
sprig bamboo thus did push through,
E^{'no} Δ Lⁿ CJ^{''} J^r E^{no} CT_v,
push through neck in order to suck,
CT_v C_n J^o 'G^u Lⁿ E_{no} J⁻ 'G^u Dⁿ.
suck connector women wine jars the jars milk.
†^r Γ^δ J⁻ L_{||} T_n L^u E^{''},
middle aged said words many,
- 50 J_n C_n J^o D_n Jⁿ E^{''}.
said connector woman her marriage.
C_n J^o 'G^u Lⁿ E_{no} J^{''},
connector women wine jars struck down,
J^{''} †^r Γ^δ J⁻ L_{||} S^δ CT^u T^ε.
struck down middle aged away edge fire.
CT_v †^r Γ^δ J⁻ L_{||} S^δ J⁻ CT_{||},
pull middle aged away aside,
J_o CT_δ CT_o CT_δ J^r Tⁿ,
cause go together go on the ground,
- 55 CT_o CT^u Tⁿ CT_δ T_ε,
with ridges out,

3^r Γ^δ J⁻ L₁₁ CT_δ.
middle aged plains.

J_n E_n †^c L_o S^δ,
tomorrow able come away,

J_o Jⁿ L³ T^u Tⁿ Ct', G_u C_{nc} L₁₁
cause the person daughter young woman adult

J,
get up,

J J⁻ J³ CT_o CE_r Γ'',
get up arise with comb head,

60 J_o Γ'' CA_{nc} Γ'' J⁻ CA_s.
cause head smooth head flowing.

J_n E_n †^c L_o S^δ,
tomorrow able come away,

J_o Jⁿ L³ T^u Tⁿ Ct', G_u C_{nc} L₁₁
cause the person daughter young woman adult

J,
get up,

J J⁻ J³ L_o CE_r Γ'',
get up arise come comb head,

J_o Γ'' CA_{nc} Γ'' CA_{nc} L_{nc}.
cause head smooth head very smooth.

65 D- 'C^u Jⁿ L³ T^u Tⁿ Ct', G_u
there is day the person daughter young woman

C_{nc} L₁₁ CT_o,
adult with,

CT_o Δ_o E_{no} J⁻ Ct'' J'',
with shadow crops,

J'' Λⁿ Tⁿ Λ_o L_c J^u E'''.
crops waving gone to marriage.

ɔ- 'C^u Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ Ct', G_u
there is day the person daughter young woman

C_{nc} L_u Ct_o,
adult with

Ct_o Δ_o [C^{no} J^r Ctⁿ L_u,
with shadow harvest,

70 L_u Λⁿ Tⁿ Λ_o L_ε J^u]_o.
harvest waving gone to wedding.

M305
Old Miao songs about marriage. 4.

Song about entertaining the middleman and the headman.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document B (no. 11, page 35).

Line 1. In the manuscript the word ㄘㄥ is missing. It has been restored here to maintain the proper balance with the parallel line 3.

Lines 5, 6 and 7. These lines have been strung together into a single long sentence in the Miao manuscript.

Line 8. There appears to have been some disruption of the text by which this line was moved to a place following line 11. This upsets the poetic balance of lines 9 to 14, where lines 9, 10 and 11 are exactly balanced by lines 12, 13 and 14. The sense and symmetry of the whole passage is restored when line 8 is returned to its rightful place following line 7.

Line 18. The last two words of this line, ㄉㄨ ㄊ, "went to meet", have disappeared from the manuscript, and with them the whole of the next line. The proper sense of the passage and the parallelism with the next stanza require their restoration.

Line 25. The Miao text omits ㄘㄥ ㄉ ㄊ, "thus did take hold of", at the end of this line. It has been restored to preserve the parallelism with line 16.

Line 27. The expression ㄐㄛ ㄐㄥ ㄉ, "aunt", has been incorrectly written ㄐㄛ ㄊ ㄉ here and again in line 32. In the manuscript this line stops at the word ㄉ, and is followed by a repetition of the whole line with the words ㄉ ㄊ added at the end.

Line 32. Following the second section of the song, lines 15 to 32 the Miao manuscript inserts the following lines:

ㄆ ㄐㄥ ㄊ ㄊ ㄌ ㄊ,
man father able come arrange for,

ㄊ ㄊ ㄐ ㄐ
arrange for place at bottom completed for whom,

ㄘ ㄊ ㄊ ㄊ ㄊ ㄊ
completed for the middleman oh.

The man, the father entertained,
And kept the lowest place for whom?
He kept it for the middleman.

These lines seem to be entirely out of place. They do not connect with either the section that precedes them or with that which follows. If they belong anywhere it is in section one, lines 1 to 14, for it is there that the places at table are described. Moreover they do not preserve the poetic pattern. Throughout the song a mention of the middleman is always balanced with a mention of the headman. Here the latter has disappeared altogether. However the chief problem is that these lines contradict directly what has been said before. Far from being welcomed and given the place of honour, the middleman is here snubbed and insulted by having to sit in the lowest seat. Why this sudden change of attitude? There is no hint of a reason anywhere in the song, and the final section implies that the middleman's mission was ultimately accomplished. A marriage was indeed arranged. The conclusion seems to be that these three lines are in fact an intrusion into the text, and would be better left out, but where and how they originated remains unexplained.

Lines 49 and 50. In the manuscript these two lines follow line 52. However discussion of the projected marriage must have taken place before the men subsided, dead drunk, on to the floor.

M306

C]'']_u T_l [=
 song which collect cattle pig go to family marriage.

U_{o6} ɔ_{n6} [° S_u.
 Wang Ming-ji wrote.

J̄ J^r †^r †^r J^u.
 who arranged for middleman.

Λ_s Jⁿ †^r †^r †^r J^u.
 man father arranged for middleman.

J̄ J^r C_l. †^r [°'.
 who with arranged for marriage.

Λ_s Jⁿ †^r C_l. †^r [°'.
 man father with arranged for marriage.

5 †^r T^u C_n †^r ʒ_s Tⁿ C]''
 arranged for get connector three kinds maidens
 [°',
 marriage,

†^r T^u C_n †^r ʒ_s J^r C^u
 arranged for get connector three kinds brothers
 [°'.
 marriage.

†^r T^u C_n †^r ʒ_s Tⁿ C]''
 arranged for get connector three kinds maidens
 [°',
 marriage,

T^u J^r C_l'^u †^r Jⁿ †_u.
 wearing leg bands arranged properly.

†^r T^u C_n †^r ʒ_s J^r C^u
 arranged for get connector three kinds brothers
 [°',
 marriage,

10 'C̄ C'° C_v J^δ Tⁿ V_v,
wearing gowns silk garments brightest,

J^δ Tⁿ V_v J^r J^{nc} 6^δ.
garments brightest together weave braid.

J^δ Jⁿ L₋ J^r J^{nc} J^r,
garments flowing together weave tassels,

J^{nc} J^r †^r C_{ni} †_v.
weave tassels knotted properly.

J^{nc} 6^δ †^r C_{ni} T_n.
weave braid useful fitting.

15 CT_o Jⁿ L^β T^v Tⁿ C†', G_v C_{nc} L_{ii} C_{ii}.
with the daughter young woman adult go.

J_n C_n †^c L_o S^δ,
tomorrow able come away,

Jⁿ †^o Jⁿ L⁻ J^β,
we follow our backs,

Jⁿ C₋ Tⁿ T^{nc} Jⁿ L⁻ 3^δ,
we looked ground level our appearance,

Jⁿ L⁻ 3^δ 3₋ 3^δ C_v CT^β,
our appearance appearance is worth,

20 CT^β C''' Tⁿ J^o Lⁿ J_β J⁻ J^o L_o,
worth marriage from beginning come,

T₋ Tⁿ C''' Tⁿ J^o C_v †_i J_i.
collect get marriage cow deer.

Jⁿ †^o Jⁿ Lⁿ J^β,
we follow our backs,

Jⁿ C₋ Tⁿ T^{nc} Jⁿ L⁻ 3^δ,
we looked ground level our appearance,

Jⁿ L⁻ 3^δ 3₋ 3^δ C_v CT^β,
our appearance appearance is worth,

25 CT^β C''' Tⁿ J^o Lⁿ J_β J⁻ J^o L_o,
worth marriage from beginning come,

T₁ T^u [ʰ Tⁿ ɟ^o λ^s ɕ₁ L̄.
collect get marriage sheep small rabbit.

J_n [ɲ t^ʰ L_o S^s,
tomorrow able come away,

Jⁿ L^ʰ T^u ɣ̄ t_u T₁,
the headman collected,

T₁ Jⁿ L^ʰ T^u Tⁿ C t^ʰ, ɕ_u C_{nc} L_u C J^ʰ,
collected the daughter young woman adult worth,

30 Jⁿ L^ʰ T^u ɣ̄ t_u T₁ J^r T^u.
the headman collected not get.

T_u T^u Jⁿ L^ʰ T^u Tⁿ C t^ʰ,
then for the daughter,

C [ɣ^r Jⁿ L^ʰ C^u J^r T_r T₁,
debt the brother youngest collected,

T₁ T^u [ʰ Tⁿ ɟ^o ɕ₁ C J^r L^r
collected get marriage small pig as big as

ɕ₁ C^s,
small rat,

T₁ T^u [ʰ Tⁿ ɟ^o ɕ₁ [ɣ^r L^r
collected get marriage small goat as big as

ɕ₁ L̄.
small rabbit.

M306
Old Miao songs about marriage. 5

Song of collecting livestock from the bridegroom's family.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document B (no. 12, page 37)

Line 13. Following this line the Miao manuscript inserts,

J ^{nc}	J ⁿ L ^ʔ	T ^u T ⁿ C ⁺ '	G _u	C _{nc} L _{ii}
weave	the	daughter	young woman	adult

In this sentence the “young woman” is the direct object of the verb “to weave”, which is a nonsense in Miao as it is in English. Moreover, whatever it may mean, the line is out of place at this point, since lines 11 to 14 form a complete, properly balanced stanza without it. Thus, either the line must be deleted as an intrusion into the text, or amended and repositioned to make it fit the context. The second alternative has been chosen for the following reason. All the elaborate arrangements described in the preceding lines were to provide the bride with an escort worthy of the occasion. The six young people, suitably dressed for the part, were to accompany her to her new home, and the lines which follow describe what an impressive sight they were as they passed along the road. However, it is nowhere actually stated in the song that these folk, in all their finery, were escorting a bride, and it may be that this indeed was the purpose of the line under discussion. So if the initial word J^{nc}, “weave”, is removed as having been copied by mistake from lines 11 to 14, and the words CT_o, “with”, and ɔ_{ii}, “go”, are added to the beginning and end of the line respectively, then it will read,

CT _o	J ⁿ L ^ʔ	T ^u T ⁿ C ⁺ '	G _u	C _{nc} L _{ii}	ɔ _{ii}
with	the	daughter	young woman	adult	go

That is, “to go with the daughter, the adult young woman”. If, now, this amended line is inserted as line 15, the meaning of the whole of the first half of the song will be clarified.

M307

C]'']^u T^ɔ [',. U_{n6} ɔ_{n6} [ⁿ S_{''}.
 song which serving breakfast. Wang Ming-ji wrote.

C]'' Ṣ ɔ^ɔ C]'' Ṣ [',^o,
 maiden sewed hemp maiden sewed gown,

Ṣ C]'']^u C]'']_ɔ [',^o
 sewed youth mature youth forthcoming gown

Ṿ [',^ɛ,
 bridegroom,

Ṣ C]'']^u C]'']_ɔ [',^o
 sewed youth mature youth forthcoming gown

]_o ɓ^o.
 cause big.

S^ɛ]_o]^ɔ]ⁿ L T^ɔ Δ'^u
 Sewed cause garment flowing give face

[',^{''},
 bride's family,

5 Ṣ]_o]^ɔ Lⁿ V_o T^ɔ Δ'^u
 sewed cause garment curving give face

]^o.
 bridegroom's family.

]_o C]'']^u C]'']_ɔ C]'_ɔ T^ɔ
 cause youth mature youth forthcoming go serve

V^ɔ,
 baskets,

T^ɔ V^ɔ][']]_o C]'_ɛ,
 serve baskets do not cause stop,

T^ɔ T_{nc}][']]_o J_o.
 serve basins do not cause rest.

C]'' Δ^ɛ †^ɛ L_o Δ_o,
 youths serving able come laugh,

- 10 Δ. Ct'ʷ Δ. Ct'ʳ t₋,
laughing and smiling waited upon,
- t₋ [ʳʰ Tʳ]°. Jʳ Ḍ C]Ḍ Jʳ Ḍ Tʳ.
waited upon marriage by arm by hand.
- ɔ̄ ɔ_n C[ⁿⁱ 'CḌ L. Jʳ CT_n,
take your mouth bag come we fill,
- CT_n V̄ CΔⁿ Ct'nc L_{nc} ɔ_n Tʳ J'ʳ,
fill cooked rice white you carry show,
- J'ʳ [̄ Tʳ Ḍ L_Ḍ L_Ḍ J_v C]-,
show children gone at home,
- 15 ɔ̄ [̄ J'ʳ L. Jʳ CT_n,
take thus pot come we fill,
- CT_n [̄^{nc} ɔ̄ S^{nc} L. Tʳ J'ʳ,
fill wine clear come carry show,
- J'ʳ Lʳ Jʳ L_Ḍ L_Ḍ J_v [ʳ].
show old folk gone at home.
- Jʳ Tʳ C_n J̄ Jʳ T'ʳ,
not get connector anything for,
- T'ʳ [ʳʰ Tʳ]° Cʳ t. C]-.
for marriage eat reach home.
- 20 ɔ̄ C]ʳ [̄^{no} Ct'nc L_{nc} T'ʳ,
take meat white for,
- T'ʳ [ʳʰ Tʳ]° Cʳ t. C]-.
for marriage eat reach home.
- Jʳ Tʳ C_n J̄ Jʳ T'ʳ,
not get connector anything for,
- T'ʳ [ʳʰ Tʳ]° Cʳ t. [ʳ^{nc}.
for marriage eat reach place.
- ɔ̄ V̄ CΔⁿ Ct'nc L_{nc} T'ʳ,
take cooked rice white for,
- 25 T'ʳ [ʳʰ Tʳ]° Cʳ t. [ʳ^{nc}.
for marriage eat reach place.

M307
Old Miao songs about marriage. 6.

Song about serving breakfast.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document B (no. 13, page 38)

Line 19. In the manuscript the expression $\square'' \top^{\circ}$, “the wedding party”, is replaced by $\top'' \square'' \top'' \square^{\circ}$, “the wedding guests”. However, this reading is not repeated in the balancing lines which follow, that is in lines 21, 23 and 25, and is probably, therefore, a mistake.

M308

Ȳ ˈɔ̄" Cɔ̄" Ȳ L̄" ɔ̄u Ȳ ɛ̄". J̄ng t̄o.
 Miao song old which make marriage. number seven.

'C̄u ɔ̄u ɔ̄'n L̄" CT̄u,
 stars encircle sky,

Ȳ" t̄nc ɔ̄'n L̄" t̄',
 water cold encircle earth,

Ȳ" t̄nc J̄r Λ° J̄r L̄p Cn
 water cold not is kind of thing connector

t̄' J̄r
 offer guests,

J̄n L̄p T̄u T̄n Ct̄', Ḡu Cnc L̄" J̄r Λ°,
 the daughter young woman adult not is,

5 J̄r Λ° J̄r L̄p Cn t̄' ɛ̄".
 not is kind of person connector offer marriage.

Cn J̄ J̄r Cno J̄s ɛ̄",
 connector who situated begin marriage,

J̄o J̄n Cnc Λs [no J̄n t̄r Cno J̄s ɛ̄".
 woman mother man father situated begin marriage.

Cn J̄ J̄r Cno J̄s J̄p,
 connector who situated begin wedding,

J̄o J̄n ɔ̄ Cno J̄s J̄p.
 woman aunt situated begin wedding.

10 L̄o J̄n Cnc Λs [no J̄n t̄r L̄ ɔ̄ ɛ̄ni,
 woman mother man father have caught,

ɛ̄ni J̄' J̄o V̄n t̄s L̄o T̄.
 caught chicken see official able come kill.

Ī'u L̄n J̄r L̄" T̄- Ē ɛ̄n.
 call old folk come reckon time.

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [no] Jⁿ t^r L_o J^{'b},
woman mother man father have opened,

30 J^{'b} Δ^u J⁻ T_u T^{''} [']^{''} C[_{ni}].
opened door planks for marriage arrive.

[̂] CΔ_z CΔ_z C_n T['] C^{nc},
road very smooth connector paved silver,

[̂] CΔ_z CΔ_z C_n C[_{ni}] J^u.
road very smooth connector arrived gold.

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [no] Jⁿ t^r C_o L_o S^u t^r
woman mother man father did come first arrange

T^{''},
get,

t^r T^{''} C_n Y⁻ L^b b_o
arrange get connector two classifier young men

[no] Lⁿ Y_u C[_z] T^ς T^{''}.
attendants go light torches.

35 J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [no] Jⁿ t^r C_o L_o S^u t^r
woman mother man father did come first arrange

T^{''},
get,

t^r T^{''} C_n Y⁻ L^b C[_{ni}]
arrange get connector two classifier youths

[no] J^r J^u C[_z] b_o [̂]
carry wine horns go pour wine.

C_n Y⁻ L^b b_o C[_{ni}]
connector two classifier young men youths

[no] Lⁿ Λ_u C[_z] b_o [̂],
attendants went pour wine,

b_o [̂] Jⁿ S^{nc} L_o J^r J_o,
poured wine clear come mingle,

b_o [̂] Jⁿ S^{nc} L_o J^r J_o.
poured wine clear come mix.

40 Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†', G_u C^{nc} L_u L D_u J_o,
the daughter young woman adult had seen,

Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†', G_u C_{nc} L_u T'' C^{'b} C^{'b}.
the daughter young woman adult trembled.

C'' T- L C'' T_u,
marriage came also marriage drank,

T_u C^{nc} Dⁿ S^{nc} 3'' J^{'o} C_{nc}.
drank wine clear well cups thin.

C'' T- C_n C'' T_u,
marriage came thus marriage drank,

45 T_u C^{nc} Dⁿ S^{nc} 3'' J^{'o} C^{'=}.
drank wine clear well cups new.

Λ_ε C^{no} Jⁿ †^r L D_u T^u,
man father has filled up,

T^u CΔⁿ C C^{'nc} L_{nc} 3'' V^δ C^{'=},
filled up rice white well baskets new,

T^u C†^r C†^r C^{no} C†^{'nc} L_{nc} 3'' C†_u T_u.
filled up meat pig white well within basins.

C'' T- L C'' C'',
marriage came also marriage ate,

50 C'' J^{'o} CΔⁿ J⁻ 3_r C†_o L_ε T_δ,
ate supper rice hot with gone finish,

C'' J^{'o} C†^r C†^r C^{no} C†_{nc} L_{nc} C†_o L_ε T_δ.
ate supper meat pig white with gone finish.

C_n J_u J^{'o} Jⁿ C^{nc} C^{'-},
thus was woman mother grieved for,

C^{'-} J^{'o} Jⁿ C^{nc} Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†^r,
grieved for woman mother the daughter,

Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†', G_u C_{nc} L_u,
the daughter young woman adult,

55 J^ε J^{'b} C_n C†^u Δ'',
rose up left thus shelter door,

3" CT'" E_n C† E^.
well depart thus shelter home.

E_n]_v E'" T^n]^° E'^-,
thus was bridegroom family grieved for,

E'^- E'" T^n]^° 3" C^~]^v L^n V_ξ CT'^ξ,
grieved for bridegroom family good ox long horn,

C^~]^v L^n V_ξ CT'^ξ T_n L_°]_· S^r T'_s.
ox long horn cross over come not return drive.

60]_n E_n †^ξ L_° S^ξ,
tomorrow able come away,

S^ξ CT^v E^no T-]^n C†,
morning bring come early,

]^°]^n C^nc Λ_ξ E^no]^n †^r T'_s,
woman mother man father drove out,

T'_s C^~ C^b]^- C_· C]_v C]_ξ,
drove out cattle horses fine outside plain,

T'_s C^~ C^b]^- C_· C]_v E^- T̄,
drove out cattle horses fine outside grazing,

65 T'_s Λ^ξ E'^r CT_n]^n CT^- L_° E^- CE^no.
drove out sheep goats jostling come pasture.

†" C^b †^r C^b]^n C^v,
those people arranged relatives,

†" L^b T- †"]^v T^n
those folk came from their place,

†" L^b †" CE^no
those folk they remember.

70 Ė Δ^n J^r Λ^°]^- L^p C_n E^ξ C]_,
road far not is the thing connector lead pig,

\bar{E}^n Δ^n C_n $\bar{\Lambda}$ L^n CE^{no} T- CE^r
road far connector must us remember come meet

C^u .
relatives.

M308
Old Miao songs about marriage. 7.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 1, page 1).

In the Miao manuscript this song is set out as a piece of continuous writing. Generally the punctuation indicates how the lines should be divided, but at a number of points a passage simply runs on as though it were a single long sentence. This is the case with lines 4 and 5, lines 14, 15 and 16, lines 18 and 19, lines 25 and 26, and lines 57, 58 and 59.

M309

Y⁻ 'ɔ'' C]'' Y⁻ L₁₁ ɔ_u Y⁻ ɛ'''. Λ_n t_o.
 Miao song old which make marriage. number eight

C]'' Tⁿ ɔ_o J^r C_{n11} Tⁿ J_{nc} CT⁻,
 girl hands smooth hands join hemp,

ɛ''^ɔ CT^u †^c L_o ʒ'',
 fine weather able come good,

ʒ'' C]'' T_r ɽ^p L_c CT^u Δⁿ.
 good girl carry skeins gone edge stream.

C]'' ɽ^p C]'' S^o ɛ^ɔ,
 girl skeins girl yarn hung,

5 ɛ^ɔ Lⁿ ɔⁿ Cɛ^r, Tⁿ Tⁿ Cɛ^r V^ɔ.
 hung quickly in the garden plot.

Λ_c ɛ^{no} ɔⁿ †^r ɛ_n ɔ_l 'C^o,
 man father thus did hear,

'C^o ɔⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†', G_u C_{nc} L₁₁.
 heard the daughter young woman adult.

Λ_c ɛ^{no} ɔⁿ †^r CT_l C^{nc} Λ^ɔ L_o ɛ^{nc} ɛ^ɔ,
 man father mated ewes come breeding,

CT_l C]'' Cɛ^r Lⁿ ɛ^{nc} Yⁿ Cɛ_{nc}
 mated pigs spotted one pair.

10 Λ_c ɛ^{no} Lⁿ †^r ɛ_n ɔ_l †^r,
 man father thus did arrange,

CT_l C_v C^b J⁻ C_l L_o J^b J_l.
 mated cattle horses many come all constantly.

J^o ɔⁿ C^{nc} Λ_c ɛ^{no} ɔⁿ †^r †^r J^r T^{'nc} S^{nc},
 woman mother man father pair together heart,

the ɔⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†', G_u C_{nc} L₁₁ J^r T^{'n} L^u,
 the daughter young woman adult not for words,

Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†', G_u C_{nc} L_{ii}
the daughter young woman adult

15 J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [^{no} Jⁿ †^r D₋ E['] E_u.
woman mother man father were unwilling.

E['] Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†', G_u C_{nc} L_{ii} E_n,
grieved the daughter young woman adult thus,

ξ J^b E_n C^{||} Δ^{||}.
rise go away thus shelter door.

E['] Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C†', G_u C_{nc} L_{ii} E_n,
grieved the daughter young woman adult thus,

ξ CT^{'''} E_n C^{||} E[~].
rise leave thus shelter home.

20 Λ_ς [^{no} Jⁿ †^r E_n D₋ †^r,
man father thus did arrange,

†^r T^u Λ_n T^u Y⁻ CT^{'b},
arranged person relative person cook,

Λ_n T⁻ L₋ Λ_n I^{'u},
relative came also relative called,

I^{'u} J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [^{no} Jⁿ †^r Y⁻ J^u C[]],
called woman mother man father welcome house,

Λ_n T⁻ L₋ Λ_n Y⁻,
relative came also relative made,

25 Y⁻ J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [^{no} Jⁿ †^r J⁻ J^u E[?].
made woman mother man father welcome home.

M309
Old Miao songs about marriage. 8.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 2, page 2).

The following pairs of lines are written as single sentences in the Miao text. 4 and 5, 16 and 17, 18 and 19.

Line 17. The expression $\overset{\zeta}{\text{J}} \text{J}^{\flat}$, “rise and go away” in this line and the corresponding expression $\overset{\zeta}{\text{J}} \text{CT}^{\flat}$, “rise and leave” in line 19 are missing in the Miao text, but without them the lines do not make sense. They have been restored by reference to previous and subsequent songs where the expressions also occur.

Line 21. A note in the text explains that $\text{T}^{\flat} \text{Y}^{\flat} \text{CT}^{\flat}$ means a person who prepares the meat and vegetable dishes at a meal.

Line 23. A note in the text gives the meaning of $\text{Y}^{\flat} \text{J}^{\flat} \text{C}\square$ - as “to cause to rest in the house”, that is to extend hospitality. Presumably the parallel expression, $\text{J}^{\flat} \text{J}^{\flat} \text{C}^{\flat}$ in line 25 has a similar meaning.

M310

Y⁻ 'D'' C[]'' Y⁻ L_{||}]_u Y⁻ C'''. Cⁿ t_o.
 Miao song old which make marriage. number nine.

CT_v C'' C'''' L_ς CT_v j̇ L_o,
 winter passed gone weather warm come,

CΔ^{nc} Tⁿ T^ɔ C^ɔ Y⁻ J'' C^o.
 world people made farming early.

D_ɛ t_o Λ^ɛ C_{no} Tⁿ C^ɔ l_n,
 did reach sheep bring the horse month,

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς C_{no} Jⁿ t^r J_ɔ Y⁻ J''.
 woman mother man father began make farming.

5 Y⁻ T'' Cⁿ Tⁿ]_{||} C̄ J'' C_n J̄^u
 made get nine the ten kinds crops thus filled

Tⁿ,
 land,

D_ɛ C_{no} Jⁿ t̄['] J⁻ C⁻ C_n J̄^u C''^{nc}.
 did plant millet scattered thus filled place.

D_ɛ t_o C_v C_{no} Tⁿ C_ɛ l_n,
 did reach ox bring the rat month,

t['] ʒ_ɛ J'' Jⁿ t̄['] J⁻ C⁻ D_ɛ J̄,
 all kinds crops millet scattered did ripen,

J̄ C_n V_ɛ V_u ʒ'' Λ₋ Λ^ɔ.
 ripened thus yellow very good outstanding.

10 J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς C_{no} Jⁿ t^r C_t T_{||} J^r C_t T^u,
 woman mother man father discussed and discussed,

C_t Lⁿ T^u C_L t₋ C''',
 discussed with join marriage,

C_t Lⁿ T^u C_n t₋ J^o.
 discussed connector join wedding.

J° J° C^{nc} Λ_ς [°^{no} J° t^r D_δ t^r,
woman mother man father did arrange,

t^r J° L^b T^u t^r J^u [°_n D₋ D_u J^r C_n t_o,
arrange the middleman thus did go until reach,

15 t_o J° L^b [°^u T° J° C₋.
reach the in-laws family house.

J° L^b T^u t^r J^u D_δ [°^δ C_{[^{nu}} [°^δ L_o C_u,
the middleman did open mouth open lips ask,

C_u J° L^b T^u T° C_t^r, G_u C_{nc} L_u L_o Y⁻,
ask the daughter young woman adult come make,

Y⁻ J° J° C^{nc} Λ_ς [°^{no} J° t^r D_n
make woman mother man father plural

T^u C_δ
daughter-in-law.

J° J° C^{nc} Λ_ς [°^{no} J° t^r t^ς L_o [°⁻,
woman mother man father able come grieve,

20 [°⁻ J_u J° L^b T^u T° C_t^r, [°_n,
grieve that the daughter thus,

J_u J^b [°_n C_t^u Δ^u,
rise leave thus shelter door,

J_u C_T^u [°_n C_t^u [°^u.
rise go away thus shelter home.

Y⁻ [°_n [°_n 3^δ J° 3₋ Λ_z T_n J_i,
body thus appearance elegant,

J° J° C^{nc} Λ_ς [°^{no} J° t^r L₋ D₋ Tⁿ.
woman mother man father did not answer.

25 J° L^b T^u t^r J^u J^r T^u t_δ,
the middleman not ashamed,

D_δ T^u [°_n 3^o C_T_δ Ā t_o T_δ 'D^o.
did use thus strength argue will reach midnight

J° J° C^{nc} Λ_ς [°^{no} J° t^r C_t^r T^u C_t^r T^u T_n,
woman mother man father whisper and whisper said,

L^u ɔ^u ɔ_o ɟⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ Ct', G_u C_{nc} L_u Tⁿ.
just cause the daughter young woman adult reply.

ɔ_ɛ Tⁿ ɟⁿ L^b T^u t^r ɟⁿ C_n L_o L^u.
did reply the middleman connector words.

30 ɟ_n ɔ_u ɟⁿ ɟ_n t^ɛ L_o S^{ɔ̄},
thus was tomorrow able come away,

S^{ɔ̄} ɟ_n ɟⁿ V_o T- Ct^o,
daybreak come early,

ɟ_o ɟⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ɛ ɟ^{no} ɟⁿ t^r ɟ_n ɔ_u S^r,
woman mother man father thus did return,

S^r C_n L_o L^u Tⁿ ɟⁿ L^b T^u t^r ɟⁿ ɟ^{no}
returned connector word for the middleman carry

Tⁿ ɟⁿ
to in-laws,

ɟ_n ɔ_u ɟⁿ Tⁿ ɟ^o Tⁿ ɟ_o ɟⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ɛ ɟ^{no} ɟⁿ t^r
thus was in-laws got woman mother man father

L^u.
word.

35 ɟ_o ɟⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ɛ ɟ^{no} ɟⁿ t^r ɔ_ɛ ɟ^u,
woman mother man father did feed,

ɔ_ɛ ɟ^u ɟ^r ɟ_o V_u L_o T^u ɟⁿ,
did feed chicken see ruler come pay marriage,

ɔ_ɛ ɟ^u ɟ^r ɟ^r Lⁿ L_o T^u ɟ^o.
did feed pig spotted come pay wedding.

ɟ_o ɟⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ɛ ɟ^{no} ɟⁿ t^r ɟ_n ɔ_u I^u,
woman mother man father thus did call,

I^u ɟ_n ɟⁿ ɟ^r ɟⁿ ɟ^o T-,
called thus neighbours come,

40 ɔ_ɛ T- ɟ̄ ɟⁿ ɟ̄ C_{nu},
did come reckon time reckon date,

ɟ̄ Tⁿ ɟ^ɛ ɟ^{no} Tⁿ ɟ̄ l_n.
reckon get dragon bring the rabbit month.

L° ɔ̃ⁿ Cⁿᶜ Λₛ [ⁿᵒ] ɔ̃ⁿ †ʳ [ₙ] ɔ̃ †ʳ [ₙ],
woman mother man father thus did arrange thus,

ɔ̃ₓ †ʳ Tᵛ Λₙ Tᵛ Y⁻ CT'ᵑ,
did arrange person cook meat and vegetables,

ɔ̃ₓ I'ᵛ [ₙ] ɔ̃⁻ ɔ̃ⁿ ᵛ T- 3̄ [ᵛ].
did call thus those cook rice.

45 I'ᵛ [̄ Tⁿ Λᵢᵢ T- Tₒ J° J'⁻ [ₙ].
called children come wait upon guests thus.

I'ᵛ Jⁿ Lᵑ Tᵛ Tⁿ CT', Gᵤ Cₙᶜ Lᵢᵢ T-
called the daughters young women adult come

Tₓ Y".
carry water.

I'ᵛ Lⁿ J⁻ Lᵢᵢ T- C" CT',
call old folk come eat meat,

I'ᵛ Lⁿ J⁻ Lᵢᵢ T- Tᵢᵢ [̄.
call old folk come drink wine.

ɔ̃ₓ I'ᵛ [ₙ] Cᵑ [ⁿ] [̄ᵑ T- L Cᵑ [ₙ].
did call thus relatives come praise bride thus.

M310
Old Miao songs about marriage. 9.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 3, page 2).

The following pairs of lines appear as single long sentences in the Miao text, 13 and 14, 17 and 18, 35 and 36, 40 and 41.

Line 43. A note in the text gives the meaning of the expression $T^u \Lambda_n T^u Y^- CT'^p$ as, “people who cook meat and vegetables”.

Line 44. A similar note gives the meaning of $\mathcal{D}^- \mathcal{J}^n \check{V} T^- \mathfrak{Z} \mathcal{E}^u$ as, “people who cook the rice”.

M311

Y⁻ 'ɔ'' Cɔ'' Y⁻ L_{||} ɔ_v Y⁻ ɛ'''. ɔ_{||} t_o.
 Miao song old which make marriage. number ten.

C_n ɔ̄ J^r ɛ^{nc} Ct', Ct̄,
 who received daughter early,

J^o ɔⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ɛ ɛ^{no} ɔⁿ t^r ɛ^{nc} Ct', Ct̄.
 woman mother man father received daughter early.

J^o ɔⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ɛ ɛ^{no} ɔⁿ t^r ɔ_n,
 woman mother man father plural,

Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ Ct', G_v C^{nc} L_{||} b^o,
 the daughter young woman adult grew,

5 b^o CT_v ɔⁿ CT_s CT_o ɔⁿ CT_s,
 grew well developed well trained,

b^o CT_v ɔⁿ CT_s ɛ_n ɔ_l ɛ'',
 grew well developed thus did spin,

ɛ'' CT⁻ Ct̄ 3. 3.,
 spun hemp sound squeaking,

ɔ_ɛ Ct̄ Δ⁻ ɛ'' Tⁿ ɔ^o Tⁿ,
 did sound go to in-laws land,

ɛ_n ɔ_v ɛ'' Tⁿ ɔ^o ɛ_n ɔ_l 'C̄.
 thus was in-laws thus did hear.

10 ɛ'' Tⁿ ɔ^o ɛ_n ɔ_l t^r,
 in-laws thus did arrange,

ɔ_l t^r Jⁿ L^b T^v t^r J'' ɛ_n ɔ_l T⁻,
 did arrange the middleman thus did come,

T⁻ C_v J^o ɔⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ɛ ɛ^{no} ɔⁿ t^r ɔ_n,
 come ask woman mother man father plural,

Jⁿ L^b T^v Tⁿ Ct', G_v C^{nc} L_{||} ɔ_{||},
 the daughter young woman adult go,

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ.
go make in-laws daughter-in-law.

15 ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ.
woman mother man father unwilling.

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
woman mother man father able come grieve,

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
grieve that the daughter young woman adult,

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
body appearance body not worn out,

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ.
body not worn out rise leave thus shelter home.

20 ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
woman mother man father able come grieve,

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
grieve that the daughter young woman adult,

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
body appearance body not worn out,

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
body not worn out rise quit thus shelter door.

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
woman mother man father did first allow,

25 ᵛᵛᵛ
allow cause the daughter young woman adult thus

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ,
did take hold,

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ.
take hold woman mother man father spirits.

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛᵛ
the daughter young woman adult take hold not

ᵛᵛᵛ.
get.

M311
Old Miao songs about marriage. 10.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 4, page 3).

Lines 12, 13 and 14. In the Miao text these line are written as a single long sentence without any punctuation.

Line 17. The word 𑄎, “that”, is missing in the Miao manuscript. It must be restored to maintain the parallelism with line 21.

Lines 19 and 23. The form of the two four-line stanzas comprised in lines 16 to 23 requires that lines 19 and 23 should be exactly parallel to one another. To achieve this, line 23 must be restored by adding the first three words, 𑄎 𑄎 𑄎, which have been lost in Document F. However, the main textual problem with these lines is that both have also lost the main operative verb, and as they stand, neither makes good sense. Literally they read, “the parents were grieved that their daughter in the prime of her youth shelter of the home”. Fortunately the song is here using a conventional form of words which also occurs in several other marriage songs. By reference to these the missing verbs can be restored with confidence by adding 𑄎 𑄎, “rise leave” in line 19, and 𑄎 𑄎, “rise go away” in line 23.

M312

Y⁻ 'D'' C[]'' Y⁻ L'']_v Y⁻ C'''.]'' Yⁿ t_o.
 Miao song old which make marriage. number eleven.

J_{ni} C̄ t^c L_o J'',
 year this able come know,

D₈ J'' J^o]ⁿ D₋ Λ_c [°^{no}]ⁿ t^r [n D₋
 did know woman aunt man father thus did

t^r,
 arrange,

t^r C_n Yⁿ L^b T^v t^r J'' [n
 arrange connector one classifier middleman thus

D₋ D_{ni} J^r C_n t_o,
 did go till reach,

D₈ t_o Jⁿ L^b ['' Tⁿ J^o C[]-.
 did reach the in-laws house.

5 Jⁿ L^b T^v t^r J'' D₈ [° C[] [° L^o C_v,
 the middleman did open mouth open lips ask,

C_v J^o]ⁿ C^{nc} Λ_c [°^{no}]ⁿ t^r D_n Ct',
 ask woman mother man father plural daughter

J⁻ l^o L_o,
 eldest come,

L_o T'' J^o]ⁿ D₋ Λ_c [°^{no}]ⁿ t^r D_n Y⁻
 come for woman aunt man father plural make

C^o.
 daughter-in-law.

J^o]ⁿ C^{nc} Λ_c [°^{no}]ⁿ t^r [°[?],
 woman mother man father recalled,

[°[?] t_o J'' T^v J'' Ct', J^r L_n]'',
 recalled reach rear son rear daughter not easy,

10 D₈ C[]_n [n Δ⁸ [n 3_o T̄.
 did expend thus work thus labour hard.

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [C^{no} Jⁿ t^r J^r Tⁿ L^u.
woman mother man father not answer words.

Jⁿ L^b T^u t^r Jⁿ D_ς Y⁻ C_n t^r Jⁿ
the middleman did make connector three times

Y⁻ J_u T_{nc}.
made was right.

D_ς 3_u C^{no} J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [C^{no} Jⁿ t^r D_n
did sit remain woman mother man father plural

J^o [C^u,
room,

[C_n J_u Yⁿ 'D^o CT_s Ā S^o CT_u Ā'.
thus was one night persistent want dawn clear.

15 J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [C^{no} Jⁿ t^r Λ_n J^r Tⁿ,
woman mother man father make excuse not get,

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [C^{no} Jⁿ t^r C^t'r Tⁿ C^t'r T^u T_n [C_n,
woman mother man father whisper argue said thus,

L^u D^u [C^o J_o Jⁿ L^b T^u Tⁿ C^t', G_u C_{nc} L_u
just let cause the daughter young woman adult

D_u,
go,

D_u Y⁻ J^o Jⁿ D_u Λ_ς [C^{no} Jⁿ t^r D_n
go make woman aunt man father plural

C^o T_ς.
daughter-in-law finish.

J_{nu} Ā t^ς L_o Jⁿ,
year this able come know,

20 D_ς Jⁿ J^o Jⁿ D_u Λ_ς [C^{no} Jⁿ t^r [C_n D_u Tⁿ,
did know woman aunt man father thus did get,

Tⁿ J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ς [C^{no} Jⁿ t^r D_n L_o L^u.
get woman mother man father plural the word.

J^o Jⁿ D_u Λ_ς [C^{no} Jⁿ t^r D_ς J^u,
woman aunt man father did feed,

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
did feed chicken see official come pay marriage,

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
did feed thus pig spotted come pay wedding,

25 ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
did call neighbours come,

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
did come reckon time reckon date which make

ᵈᵛ,
marriage,

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
did reckon at dragon bring the rabbit month

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
fifth thus.

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
woman aunt man father then arranged,

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
arranged the middleman then return went back

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
till reach,

30 ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
did reach woman mother man father house,

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
did take thus good time good date tell clear,

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
thus was did reach rabbit month connector

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
fifth thus.

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
marriage party came also marriage party travelled,

ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ ᵈᵛ
did travel thus road winding thus did come.

ᵛᵛᵛ Y⁻ Tⁱ ᵛᵛ Tⁱ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
did make get thus skirts cotton fix

ᵛᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
coloured patches go side by side,

Y⁻ ᵛᵛ Sᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
make cause like thus plain country Yi-bang

Vᵛ Lᵛᵛ Vᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
rice fields fields flat long.

ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
woman mother man father thus did grieve,

50 ᵛᵛ
grieved that the daughter young woman adult,

ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
thus the hand able the hand skilful,

ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
hand able hand skilful hand do what.

ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
hand able hand skilful hand write paper.

ᵛᵛ Sᵛ Tᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
did write get Ruling Race plural the words

ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
separate have order,

55 Sᵛ Tᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
write out Ruling Race plural affairs thus have

ᵛᵛᵛ.
method.

ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
woman mother man father able come say thus,

ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ ᵛᵛ
thus was in-laws plural meat plural meal which

ᵛᵛ Tᵛ,
carry come,

M312
Old Miao songs about marriage. 11.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no.5, page 3).

Line 8. This line and line 9 are written as a single long sentence in the Miao text.

M313

Y⁻ 'D'' C]'' Y⁻ L'' J_u Y⁻ E'''. J_u Y⁻ t_o.
 Miao song old which make marriage. number twelve.

C_n J̄ J^r C[E]'^s Ę Dⁿ S^{nc} ɳ,
 connector who liked wine clear drink,

C_n J̄ J^r C[E]'^s C]'ⁱ C_u.
 connector who liked meat eat.

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ε [E^{no} Jⁿ t^r C[E]'^s,
 woman mother man father liked,

C[E]'^s Λ_ε [E^{no} J⁻ Š^u D_n Ę ɳ.
 liked man Jio-gha-su plural wine drink.

5 J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ε [E^{no} Jⁿ t^r C[E]'^s,
 woman mother man father liked,

C[E]'^s Λ_ε [E^{no} J⁻ Š^u D_n C]'ⁱ C_u.
 liked man Jio-gha-su plural meat eat.

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ε [E^{no} Jⁿ t^r E'^{nc},
 woman mother man father took,

D_ε [E'^{nc} C]'' D_n J̄ C]'' G⁻ Λ_u [E_n D₋
 did take girl daughter girl child thus did

J⁻,
 betroth,

J⁻ T'' Λ_ε [E^{no} J⁻ Š^u Λ_n L_ε t'' T''.
 betrothed for man Jio-gha-su family gone yonder.

10 C]'' D_n J̄ [E_n C]'' G⁻ Λ_u J̄ L^o J̄ C]'' J^r C_n
 girl daughter thus girl child arose to go until

D_u,
 went,

D_u T_r Λ_ε [E^{no} J⁻ Š^u D_n Y'' Dⁿ S^{nc}
 went carry man Jio-gha-su plural water clear

L_ε t'' T''.
 gone yonder.

C]'' ɔ_n ǰ C]'' ǂ⁻ ʌ_{||} C^{no} J^r T''.
girl daughter girl child remain not get.

C]'' ɔⁿ ǰ C]'' ǂ⁻ ʌ_{||} ǰ ǰ^ɔ ǰ CT''' [_n ɔ₋
girl daughter girl child arose to go thus did

ǰ.
rise.

ǰ ǰ^ɔ ǰ CT''' ʌ_{||} ǰ^o Lⁿ S^r ǰ^o L_o t_o,
arose to go then returned came back reached,

t_o J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} ʌ_{||} [^{no} Jⁿ t^r ɔ_n J⁻ ǰ^ɔ T''.
reached woman mother man father plural locality.

30 C]'' ɔ_n ǰ C]'' ǂ⁻ ʌ_{||} ʌ_{||} Jⁿ L^ɔ J^r [^{no} ɔ^ɔ,
girl daughter girl child all around observed,

ɔ^ɔ T'' J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} ʌ_{||} [^{no} Jⁿ t^r ɔ_n Tⁿ
observed to woman mother man father plural the

J⁻ ʌ_{||}.
door.

C]'' ɔ_n ǰ C]'' ǂ⁻ ʌ_{||} J^r C_n J^{'ɔ},
girl daughter girl child opened,

J^{'ɔ} [_n J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} ʌ_{||} [^{no} Jⁿ t^r ʌ_{||},
opened thus woman mother man father door,

J^{'ɔ} [_n ʌ_{||} J⁻ [_n J^{'-} [^{no} C^o.
opened thus door time did not shake noise.

35 J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} ʌ_{||} [^{no} Jⁿ t^r ǰ,
woman mother man father rose,

ǰ L^ɔ ǰ CT''' L_o J^r C_n J_o,
arose to go come saw,

J_o C]'' ɔ_n ǰ C]'' ǂ⁻ ʌ_{||} [_n ɔ₋ ǰ,
saw girl daughter girl child thus did stand,

ǰ J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} ʌ_{||} [^{no} Jⁿ t^r ɔ_n Tⁿ J⁻ ʌ_{||}.
stand woman mother man father plural the door.

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} ɔ_ɔ J^{'ɔ} C[_n t^ɔ L_o C_u [_n,
woman mother did open mouth able come ask thus

40 [ɤ ɤ [̄ Jʳ Ā [ɤ L̄.
you reason you what that you come.

[ɤ]ʳ ɔ̄ J [ɤ]ʳ ǂ̄ Λʳ Jʳ ɤ̄ Tʳ,
girl daughter girl child made answer,

T_{nc} J̄. Λ̄ [̄ Jʳ Š̄ ɔ̄ [ɤ]ʳ ɔ̄
query see man Jio-gha-su plural meat plural

Jʳ,
meal,

Λ̄ [̄ Jʳ Š̄ ɔ̄ Yʳ ɔ̄ [̄ Jʳ
man Jio-gha-su plural water plural wine still

ɤ̄ [̄.
remain much.

Λ̄ [̄ Jʳ †ʳ J̄ Jʳ J̄ [ɤ]ʳʳ L̄,
man father arose to go scold,

45 L̄ J̄. [ɤ]ʳ ɔ̄ J [ɤ]ʳ ǂ̄ Λʳ Ī Sʳ Jʳ.
scold cause girl daughter girl child return.

[ɤ]ʳ ɔ̄ J [ɤ]ʳ ǂ̄ Λʳ ʳ,
girl daughter girl child said,

[ɤ]ʳ ɔ̄ J [ɤ]ʳ ǂ̄ Λʳ ɤ̄ Jʳ Tʳ.
girl daughter girl child remain not get.

Λ̄ [̄ Jʳ †ʳ ɔ̄ [ɤ]ʳ Tʳ.
man father did refuse answer.

Λ̄ [̄ Jʳ †ʳ L̄,
man father scolded,

50 L̄ J̄. [ɤ]ʳ ɔ̄ J [ɤ]ʳ ǂ̄ Λʳ Ī Sʳ Jʳ.
scolded cause girl daughter girl child return.

[ɤ]ʳ ɔ̄ J [ɤ]ʳ ǂ̄ Λʳ ɔ̄ ɔ̄ Jʳ ɤ̄ †̄,
girl daughter girl child did go until reach,

ɔ̄ †̄ Λ̄ [̄ Jʳ Š̄ ɔ̄ †ʳ Tʳ.
went reach man Jio-gha-su plural yonder.

Λ̄ [̄ Jʳ Š̄ [̄,
man Jio-gha-su allowed,

□° ㄱ。 □□" ㄷ_n ㅈ □□" ㅍ⁻ ㄴ_{||} □□,
allowed caused girl daughter girl child go

ㄹ_r ㅕ".
carry water.

55 ㄴ_ㄷ □^{no} ㅈ⁻ ㅅ^u ㄹ⁻,
man Jio-gha-su scolded,

ㄹ⁻ □_n ㄱ_u □□" ㄷ_n ㅈ □□" ㅍ⁻ ㄴ_{||}
scolded thus that girl daughter girl child

ㄹ_r ㅕ" ㅈ^r ㅈ^u ㅌ^u".
carried water not fill tub.

ㄴ_ㄷ □^{no} ㅈ⁻ ㅅ^u □°,
man Jio-gha-su allowed,

□° ㄱ。 □□" ㄷ_n ㅈ □□" ㅍ⁻ ㄴ_{||} □□,
allowed caused girl daughter girl child go

ㅌ^u' ㅈ^u'
pound millet.

ㄴ_ㄷ □^{no} ㅈ⁻ ㅅ^u ㄷ_n □_n ㅌ⁻,
man Jio-gha-su said as follows,

60 ㄷ_n □_n □□" ㄷ_n ㅈ^b □□_{||} ㅍ⁻ ㄴ_{||} □_n,
said thus girl daughter girl child thus,

ㅌ^u' ㅈ^u' ㄷ- ㅕ⁻ □⁺'^r.
pounded millet have coarse.

ㄴ_ㄷ □^{no} ㅈ⁻ ㅅ^u 'ㄷ^u 'ㄷ^u ㄹ⁻,
man Jio-gha-su day day scolded,

ㄹ⁻ □□" ㄷ_n ㅈ □□" ㅍ⁻ ㄴ_{||} ㅌ" ㄷ^o □^u.
scolded girl daughter girl child to hang herself.

□□" ㄷ_n ㅈ □□" ㅍ⁻ ㄴ_{||} □□, ㄹ_r ㅕ",
girl daughter girl child went carry water,

65 □□" ㄷ_n ㅈ □□" ㅍ⁻ ㄴ_{||} ㅈ^o ㄴ^u ㅈ^o ㄹ⁻ □^o,
girl daughter girl child friends raised,

□^o □_n ㅈ^b ㅈ⁻ □^o □□",
raised thus voice sound song,

ꞑꞑ" ꞑꞑ ꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ,
girl daughter girl child raised,

ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ.
raised thus voice sound wept.

ꞑꞑ" ꞑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ,
girl daughter girl child thus did take,

70 ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ,
did take thus girdle able come loop,

ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ,
looped in man Jio-gha-su plural loft,

ꞑꞑ" ꞑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ.
girl daughter girl child died gone finish.

ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ,
man Jio-gha-su took thus,

ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ.
did take girl daughter girl child buried gone.

75 ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ,
man Jio-gha-su thus did return,

ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ
returned word to girl daughter girl child thus

ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ.
woman mother man father gone yonder.

ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ,
girl daughter girl child thus,

ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ.
relatives cousins mothers fathers with get hear.

80 ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꞑꞑ" ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ,
girl daughter girl child thus,

ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ

ꝑꝑ ꝑꝑꝑꝑ,
came arrived,

CE_{ni} Λ_ε [° J̄ Š̄ L_ε t' T".
arrived man Jio-gha-su gone yonder.

Λ_ε [° J̄ Š̄ I'̄,
man Jio-gha-su led,

I'̄,]ⁿ C³]ⁿ C^u J^o]ⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ε [° Jⁿ t',
led relatives cousins woman mother man father,

85 ɔ̄₈ I'̄, ɔ̄_{ii} J^r C_n t_o,
did lead go until reach,

t_o C]'' ɔ̄_n J̄ C]'' G⁻ Λ_{ii} C₃ J̄ ɔ̄³ T".
reach girl daughter girl child her burial place.

]ⁿ C³]ⁿ C^u J^o]ⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ε [° Jⁿ t' [n,
relatives cousins woman mother man father thus,

ʌ_i Jⁿ L₃ J^r [° ɔ̄³,
all around observed,

ɔ̄³ T'' C]'' ɔ̄_n J̄ C]'' G⁻ Λ_{ii} C₃
observed at girl daughter girl child her

̄
J C t³ T".
grave.

90 C]'' ɔ̄_n J̄ C]'' G⁻ Λ_{ii} Δ'' Tⁿ C t³ [n ɔ̄_i
girl daughter girl child door grave thus did

t^ε,
stand,

t^ε T'' C_n Yⁿ t_{ii} C]̄³ Lⁿ T''
stand get connector one clump reeds,

C]'' ɔ̄_n J̄ C]'' G⁻ Λ_{ii} Ĩ'' Tⁿ C t³ [n ɔ̄_i
girl daughter girl child head grave thus did

t^ε,
stand,

t^ε T'' C_n Yⁿ t_{ii} J̄ Š̄ C^ε.
stand get connector one clump wormwood.

J^o]ⁿ C^{nc} Λ_ε [° Jⁿ t' ɔ̄₈ ɔ̄⁻,
woman mother man father did take,

M313
Old Miao songs about Marriage. 12.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 6, page 4).

Line 3. In Document F this line is joined to line 4 in a single long sentence. The same is true of lines 5 and 6.

Line 3. The name $\Lambda_{\epsilon} \text{C}^{\text{no}} \text{J}^{-} \overset{\text{u}}{\text{S}}$ has exactly the same form as the name $\Lambda_{\epsilon} \text{C}^{\text{no}} \text{J}^{\text{n}} \text{t}^{\text{r}}$. There is no doubt that the latter means, “the man, the father”, and in this, and a number of other songs, it has been so translated. The meaning of the former name is not so clear. Λ_{ϵ} is “man”, and C^{no} in this context is a conjunction, but nowhere does the context suggest the meaning of $\text{J}^{-} \overset{\text{u}}{\text{S}}$, and the name does not occur in other songs. In fact $\text{J}^{-} \overset{\text{u}}{\text{S}}$ is the name used for a temporary hut of poles and rough thatch erected in the fields as a shelter from which to guard the ripening harvest. The name may therefore refer to the quality or condition of the man’s house, and so might be translated, “the man, the hovel dweller”, but it is safer simply to transliterate it as “the man Jio-gha-su”.

Line 63. A note in the Miao text explains that $\Delta^{\text{s}} \text{C}\Delta^{\text{u}}$ means “to hang one’s self”.

M314

Y⁻ L₁₁ ɔ_v Tⁿ ɔ- T^u C†', Cɔ^u.
 old folk who not have children song.

ʒ^u T^{nc} T_ɛ ʒ^u Cɬ_ɛ,
 good level land produces good plain,

ʒ^u T^{nc} T_ɛ ʒ^u L^{nc},
 good level land produces good rice fields.

J⁻ C^{ɔ̃} Lⁿ V_o t_ɛ Cɬ_ɛ T^{nc},
 earth banks curving stand plain level land,

J⁻ C^{ɔ̃} Lⁿ V_o J^r t_ɛ C†^u Λ_v,
 earth banks curving not stand tree planted,

5 Λ_ɛ C^{no} ɔⁿ †^r J^r ɔ- T^u.
 man father not have son.

Λ_ɛ C^{no} ɔⁿ †^r S_ɔ,
 man father resembled,

S_ɔ C^u ɔ_n Δ_n ʒ^{nc} ɔ_o Cɬ^{ɔ̃}.
 resembled wild cat clinging by claws partition.

C^u ɔ_n Δ_n J^r t_ɛ C^u J^u,
 wild cat not able eat grain,

Λ_ɛ C^{no} ɔⁿ †^r V_ɔ C_n J^{ɔ̃}.
 man father desired greatly connector food.

10 T^u t_ɛ T^u Tⁿ T^o,
 mountain stand mountain country open,

T^u J^r t_ɛ C†^u †',
 mountain not stand tree lacquer,

J^o ɔⁿ C^{nc} J^r ɔ- C†^u.
 woman mother not have daughter.

J^o ɔⁿ C^{nc} S_ɔ,
 woman mother resembled,

S₃ C" J⁻ T₃ J₁ V⁸ E'°,
resembled fox caught garden,

15 C" J⁻ T₃ J^r †⁶ C" CJ³,
fox not able eat grass,

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} V₃ C_n Y".
woman mother desired greatly connector water.

Λ₆ E^{no} Jⁿ †^r S₃ C" Jⁿ CE₁ E₁₁,
man father resembled magpie weak,

J^o Jⁿ C^{nc} S₃ C" Lⁿ Y⁻ J⁻.
woman mother resembled crow cawing.

M314

Old Miao songs about marriage. 13.

Song of the old folk who had no children.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 19, page 20).

Lines 6 and 7. In the Miao text these lines appear as a single long sentence. The same applies to lines 12 and 13.

Lines 8 and 15. These lines are strictly parallel. The word 𑏓, “able” which is missing in line 8 has been restored by reference to line 15. A copyist’s error has also interchanged the two final words, “grain” and “grass” in these two lines.

Lines 10 and 11. These lines are written as a single sentence in the Miao text.

