

Petr Jandáček

## SŁƏḶ (SLON) WAS APPARENTLY THE TRANS-EURASIAN WORD FOR MAMMOTH/ELEPHANT

### Povzetek

Videti je, da je bil SŁƏḶ kamenodobna vse-evrazijska beseda za slona. Oblika SŁƏḶ je ohranjena kot SLONN v jeziku Samijev na Laponskem, kot ZILONis v Latviji, SŁOŃ na Poljskem, SLON v vseh drugih slovanskih jezikih ter oblike SIOD, SAḶ, ČAD, ZAAN, MASAN, ZO itn. po Aziji. Po objavi dveh prispevkov o tem sem raziskoval v Kambodži, Vietnamu, Laosu in zlasti na Tajskem ob živih slonih. Litovska beseda za slona je DRAMBLYS in kamboška (Hmeri) je DAMbREY. Prepričljivo je dejstvo, da je od Laponske do Tajske beseda za slona neka oblika besede **Słəŋ**.

### Introduction

During last years I studied the words for the animal Elephant in central and western Eurasia as well as in southern Africa [1-3]. My results were commented from the point of view of DNA Genealogy [4]. The DNA Genealogy data indicate that the word SŁƏḶ (SLON) seems to be carried by the Eurasian haplogroup K-M9, which arose around 55,000 years ago [4], if not already by people of a previous haplogroup. From haplogroup K-M9 derived later the haplogroups N, O, P, Q, R, R1a, R1b. Haplogroup O is predominant one in China, Tibet, Vietnam, Cambodia, and generally in South East Asia. Those carry word SLON in variations. Haplogroup Q is represented in Mongolia, among some Siberian people, and among Native Americans. Haplogroup R1a has the highest content among Slavic people. Again, they are SLON-saying population. FEL-FEEL-PEEL-PIL-saying populations belong mainly to Semitic people having haplogroups J. There is at present only a highly stretched assumption that the latter group of words possibly developed in a way similar to SŁƏḶ > SəLəḶ > SəLə > SəLə > PəLə > FəLə > Fel > El Fel > Elefant. How and when the West-European people having haplogroup R1b received the word Elefant / Elephant is not yet clear. There is indicated a Semitic influence. Another not yet resolved question is whether the African words for Elephant derived from the people of haplogroup E of about 45,000 years ago.

It is also interesting that haplogroup C, which is now characteristic for Mongols and Australian Aborigines, existed about 36,000 years ago on the Russian plane [5], where it could had been in contact with the haplogroup I Europeans.

The remote similarity between Eurasian and southern African words for Elephant

may indicate a much earlier origin of a SLƏD-like word for Elephant. It could have been the heritage of the BT people of about 70,000 y ago or even of the Alpha people of about 160,000 y ago or even of their predecessors of more than 200,000 y ago. All of them knew the animal Elephant in one or another version. Whether this word originated in Africa or Eurasia is not yet clear since there is no sufficient proof for African origin of *Homo sapiens sapiens* [6].

## South East Asian field research

Maria Gimbutas established Lithuanian as the “Sweetheart Language” of Indo-Europeanists. Ostensibly some of the predecessors of the Baltic languages once extended eastward all the way to the Ural Mountains [7].

In Lithuanian, the word for “Elephant” is “DRAMBLYS” and in Latvian the word for “Elephant” is “ZILONIS”. Evidently the two extant Baltic languages are not related in their words for “Elephant”. We should ask if these two Baltic words for “Elephant” are related to any other words in the world. Alas! The Cambodian (Khmer) word for Elephant is “DAMREY” (in fact pronounced “DAMBREY”) [8]. In my travels through South East Asia

Slavic (general)	SLON
Polish	S”u”OÑ
Saami/Lapp	SLONN
Roma	SLONO
Kalderash	woroSLANO, SLONO
Latvian	ZiLONUS
Mongol	ZAAN
Chinese	SeeAHNg
Hakka (south China)	SiONg
Japanese	ZO
Tibetan	GLAN
Laotian	SANg
Thai*	CHANg
LongNeck Karen	T!sA!ŋ
Balong	maSA’N
Hmong	SUEH
Khmu	SIJANG
Northern Thailand	JANG
Mon (Tibetan-Burmese)	CiOUNg
Tocharian A	onKaLAM
Tocharian B	onKoLMo

\* The CH in the Thai word is more like a S<sub>j</sub>, thus S<sub>j</sub>A’Ng

Table 1. Words for ELEPHANT in Eurasia.

in 2015 I witnessed that the indigenous people categorically drop the “s” sound at the end of a word. When speaking English they say “pry” instead of “price”, “how” instead of “house”, “sick” instead of “six” or “whore” instead of “horse”. This prompts me to speculate that the original Khmer word for “Elephant” used to be “DAMBREYS”. Possible understanding of the word DRAMBLYS = the trumpeting animal. In Slovene: trobiti = to trumpet; tromba (oldfashioned) = the trumpet, the trump; trobec = elephant’s nose. In Czech: troubiti etc. Similar forms of the word are common throughout Europe.

Abbreviated forms of the Latvian word “ZILONIS” are found in Laos as “SAN” and in Lapland’s Sa’mi language as “SLONN”. From Arctic Scandinavia - to Tropical South East Asia there is a continuous and contiguous series of words for “Elephant” which resemble the Latvian ZILONIS.

As languages evolve and speciate they have a proclivity to simplify and abbreviate long words. Using this model, we can speculate that the Baltic languages indeed have retained very ancient and protracted words for “Elephant”. Below are a few samples, which demonstrate that majority of Eurasian languages have words for ELEPHANT which categorically start with a dental - S or Z and terminate in a nasal N or ŋ.

The Tocharian words are likely from the Slavic-like word for “TUSKS” = OKEL, KEL or KEL. nGAR is the Thai word for “Ivory”. The “r” is semi silent and “L” like, and ergo the word is close to nGAŁ and not very different from KEL.

In the dialect in villages east of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, the word for SLON is pronounced **suən** with accent on the short ə [9].

The first 15 lines in the list in Table 1 were relatively easy to obtain, (what in America we call “Low Hanging Fruit”). The LongNeck Karen, Balong, Hmong, Khmu, Northern Thai, Standard Thai, and Mon information was acquired IN SITU in South East Asia from and through our guide Kasemchati Chotichawong who often put me in touch with Native speakers for example the lady Sao who provided the Balong word “maSAN” and a LongNeck Karen lady gave me the native word T!sA!ŋ.

I found it very reassuring that the new sources confirmed my hypothesis that words for “ELEPHANT” are PREDICTABLY similar across Eurasia even though the languages belong to DIFFERENT FAMILIES such as Sino-Tibetan, Tibetan-Burmese, Mon-Khmer etc.

Experience has taught me that linguists at most universities have contempt for writings such as this Slavo-Centric Information since it does not conform to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century linguistic paradigm - “BOX”. It is by design that this paper is written in a style, which avoids academic sophism. Sophism is a deceptive style of writing, which creates a jargon to keep amateurs from publishing common sense. It works like a liturgical language to keep common sense folks from maturing into “heretics”. This paper is intended for common sense people of Eurasia who have a mind open to new understanding and not confined to the academic “box”. This is evidence that Slavic Languages are a bridge between PAN-EURASIAN and more recent - INDO-EUROPEAN.

The TransEurasian linguistic reconstruction **SŁəŋ** is a blend of sounds, which typically constitute the word for ‘ELEPHANT’ from Lapland (the homeland of the Sámi People in Arctic Scandinavia) to Thailand (in Tropical South-Eastern Asia).

SŁəŋ fine-tuning is subject to modification as it passes through various Language Families across all of Eurasia. For instance, Sámi language in Norway and Sweden is a Uralic Language, Latvian is a Baltic Language, Polish is a Slavic Language as also are Russian, Polabian, Slovenian, Macedonian, and tongues of most locales between Ljubljana, Skopje, Vladivostok and Prague. Mongolian is an Altaic Language. Tibetan and Chinese belong to Sino-Tibetan family. Thai and Lao languages belong to the Tai-Kadai family. Other Language Families, which embrace the SŁəŋ model as their word for “ELEPHANT” include Tibetan-Burmese, Japonic-Ryukyuan, and Mon-Khmer. There are spillovers into Alaska and the NW coast of America in the Athapaskan Languages, and into the Horn of Africa with Amharic.

In spite of the fact that we are dealing with eleven different Language Families and a plethora of individual languages, the words for “ELEPHANT” categorically begin with a dental S/Z and end with a nasal N, ŋ or Nj, Ņ.

The middle part of SŁəŋ (Łə) ranges in pronunciation from A or O or UO, WO to an alveolar contact L, to Polish Ł, to schwa = ə - as undifferentiated semivowels. Not surprisingly, in Eastern Asia, speakers avoid the “L” sound.

Thus we are dealing with the fact that in Deep Structure the word SŁəŋ is ubiquitous. In local Specific Expression it is subject to ethnic modifiers.

Please allow here a humorous but true analogy to biochemistry. Most people recognize that by DNA a Chimpanzee is 98% similar to a Human Being. But, most people do not know that Plants and Animals are also largely similar and some proteins contain nearly identical arrangements of amino acids. Thus, in the basis of biochemistry, it is legitimate to refer to the soybean as a “Human Bean”. On the one hand it demonstrates that Nature invented DNA based on Adenine, Guanine, Thymine and Cytosine only once and bestowed it upon all subsequent life. And, on the other hand it suggests some Mammoth Hunting group coined the word SŁəŋ and it became a loan word all across Eurasia and across Beringia and to Ethiopia.

Czech works well to demonstrate how to mutate the “N” in SLON into the “Ņ” (Slovenian “NJ”) in derivatives of the word. Thus One SLON but several SLONjI. Female Elephant is a SLONjICE, a baby Elephant is a SLUNjE. In other words the N is palatalized as in KONj.

Thus the ŋ at the end of SŁəŋ may manifest itself an N or Nj or ŋ, depending on locale or other modifiers.

## Conclusion

SŁəŋ was *apparently* the Paleolithic Trans-Eurasian word for “ELEPHANT” at a time when most economy was based on the MAMMOTH and the Tusks/Ivory, Bones, Skins, Flesh, Fats, Wools, Dung and other resources of the giant creature. Like petroleum today, commerce 10,000 to 20,000 years ago was based on the elephantine products and exploration. Mammoth tusks provided the nearest thing to metals and plastics before the chalcolithic. Jewelry, beads for wampum trade, sculpture (Venus Figurines), religious items and other objects of value adorned the living and the dead. Mammoth bones and tusks

were used for igloo-like dwellings covered by SŁəŋ skins and heated and lit by flaming mammoth blubber. Mammoth shoulder-blades were lids to sarcophagi. Dried dung was fuel and smoldering mosquito repellent. It was also dog food for coprophagous canines. The skull of an Elephant is very human-like but gigantic, and with an opening in the middle of the forehead which *could* accommodate a single giant eye. When found out of context, such giant skulls spawned the myths about Papinijuwari, TSONoqua and Cyclops or omniscient SŁəŋtovid. “SŁəŋ” is preserved as “SLONN” in the tongue of the Sámi of Lapland, ZILONis in Latvian, Słoŋ in Polish, Slon in all of the other Slavic languages and variants of SION, Saŋ, Čaŋ, Zaan, maSan, Zo etc in Asia.

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## Abstract

SŁəŋ was apparently the PALEOLITHIC TRANS-EURASIAN word for “ELEPHANT”. SŁəŋ is preserved as SLONN in the tongue of the Sámi of Lapland, ZILONis in Latvian, SŁOŃ in Polish, SLON in all of the other Slavic languages and variants of SION, SAID, ČAD, ZAAAN, MASAN, ZO etc in Asia. After publishing two papers I did additional field-

research in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and especially in Thailand with living elephants. The Lithuanian word for “Elephant” is “DRAMBLYS” and the Cambodian (Khmer) word for “Elephant” is “DAMBREY”. More compelling is the fact that in a continuum from Lapland to Thailand the word for “Elephant” is some form of “Sḷəŋ”.