

M220
The song of a woman and a man called Ndlw.

Sung by Tao Zi-gai.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document E (no. 15, page 38).

Line 1 . In Document E the word CT^{'nc}, meaning "settlement" or "neighbourhood" is wrongly written C†^{'nc}.

Lines 9 to 16 . In Document E these lines appear in the order:- 10, 9, 12, 13, 11, 14, 15, 16. This is probably due to the error of a copyist at some point during the transmission of the text. In addition, the words Δⁿ □_n J³, "river Gi-bang", are missing in line 9, and the word □_n, "flood-plain", at the end of line 12 has been interchanged with J̇^o Tⁿ, "localities" in line 13. This throws the parallelism of both stanzas into confusion.

Lines 17 18 . In the Miao text these appear as a single long line.

Line 27 . In Document E this line is placed between lines 21 and 22.

Line 35 . The expression Y" C□" Y" C J², which has been translated, "rain and showers", means literally, "water from the mouth and nose". It is derived from the story that rain originates from the mouth and nose of Thunder, envisaged as a great giant. The expression occurs again in line 38.