

## Chapter 26

### **Loanwords in Ceq Wong, an Austroasiatic language of Peninsular Malaysia\***

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#### **1. The language and its speakers**

Ceq Wong is an Aslian language of Peninsular Malaysia. Aslian languages belong to the Mon-Khmer branch of Austroasiatic and are spoken in both Malaysia and southern Thailand. Aslian has three main internal divisions: Northern, Central, and Southern, with Ceq Wong affiliated with the Northern division (Diffloth 1975)<sup>1</sup>.

The Ceq Wong inhabit the mountainous tropical rainforest on the southern foothills of Gunung Benum in the Krau Game Reserve in the central region of the Peninsula along the Teris and Lompat Rivers and their tributaries (Map 1).

The Ceq Wong have a unique position within Northern Aslian, being somewhat isolated from the remainder of the group in the centre of the Peninsula; all other speakers are located in the north. In all probability the Ceq Wong represent a relict Northern Aslian population, and it was from here that the languages spread north<sup>2</sup> (see Burenhult 2009+; Burenhult et al. 2009+).

Neighboring languages are Jah Hut, a probable isolate in Aslian (G. Diffloth, p.c.; Dunn et al. 2009+) located to the east, and Temuan, a Malay dialect spoken by Aboriginal Malays<sup>3</sup> to the south and west (Map 1).

The Ceq Wong were first encountered by a European when colonial British game warden Charles S. Ogilvie, made contact with them in 1938 in the then-named King George V National Park, Pahang. He published several articles including word lists (Ogilvie 1940, 1948, 1949), and so, although describing himself as neither “ethnologist or philologist” (Ogilvie 1949: 11), produced the first ethnographic and linguistic documentation of the Ceq Wong.

\* The subdatabase of the World Loanword Database that accompanies this chapter is available online at <http://wold.livingsources.org>. It is a separate electronic publication that should be cited as: Kruspe, Nicole. 2009. Ceq Wong vocabulary. In Haspelmath, Martin & Tadmor, Uri (eds.) *World Loanword Database*. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library, 871 entries. <<http://wold.livingsources.org/vocabulary/26>>

<sup>1</sup> Recent research suggests a fourth branch containing Jah Hut, formerly a member of the Central group (Diffloth & Zide 1992; Dunn et al. 2009+).

<sup>2</sup> Benjamin (1976) nominated the area around Gunung Benum as the location of the secondary dispersal of Aslian throughout the Peninsula. Bulbeck (2004) includes this area in his Aslian homeland.

<sup>3</sup> Aboriginal Malays are most likely descendants of Orang Asli who shifted into the Malay cultural-linguistic sphere, but did not adopt Islam.