

Some Differences between *Hmong Daw* and *Mong Leng* Dialects

(c) Jay Xiong

Like I said before, the majority of these two dialects are the same, and roughly about 30 percent that are different. When someone said he/she is **Hmong Daw**, it means he/she speaks the Hmong Daw dialect. **Daw** = Hmong Daw, and **Leng** = Hmong Leng below.

Consonants*

Daw	Leng	Daw Example	Leng Example	English meaning
d	dl	<u>d</u> ev, dub, dab	<u>d</u> lev, dlub, dlaab	dog, black, ghost
hm	m	<u>H</u> moob, hmo	<u>M</u> oob, mo	Hmong / Mong, night
hn	n	<u>h</u> nub	<u>n</u> ub	sun
nt	nt, ndl	ntuj , dej nt ws	ntuj , dlej ndl wg	universe , water runs

Notice that the *Mong Leng* dialect does not have the *nasal-aspirated* consonants, i.e., **H**mong is **M**ong, and **h**nub is **n**ub etc... My youngest son one time said, “**Yawm txiv moog dloctor lawm.**”

Vowels*

Daw	Leng ¹	Daw Example	Leng Example	English meaning
o	o, u, ua	mov, tus os , loj, nov	mov, tug us , luj, nuav	rice, duck, big, here
a	aa	txav, av, mus	txaav, aav, moog	move, dirt, go
ia	a	txiav, iav	txav, av	cut, a mirror
ai	ai and a	hais lus, tais, diav	has lug, tais, dlav	speak, bowl, spoon
u	u and oo	hu, mus , tus luj	hu, moog , tug luj	call, go, a mongoose

¹ Not always used as indicated, however.

Pronouns*

Daw	Leng	Daw Example	Leng Example	English meaning
nej	<u>me</u> j	nej mus	mej moog	you go (<i>you all</i>)
nws	nw <u>g</u>	nws los	nwg lug	he/she/it comes (<i>returns</i>)
lawv	puab	lawv tuaj	puab tuaj	they come (<i>visiting</i>)

The pronouns “koj” and “kuv” are the same in both dialects. Some Hmong Leng use the word “**Ib**” like the Hmong Daw word “**Wb**”, for example: **Ib ob leeg moog** means “**Wb ob leeg mus**” in Hmong Daw.

Verbs*

Daw	Leng	Daw	Leng	Daw	Leng	Daw	Leng	Daw	Leng
me	<i>miv</i>	pom	<i>pum</i>	ncaj	<i>ncaaj</i>	zam	<i>zaam</i>	xav	<i>xaav</i>
hais	<i>has</i>	sov	<i>suv</i>	iab	<i>ab</i>	zov	<i>zuv</i>	ziab	<i>zab</i>

* Only a few listed here. It will require more than one page to cover the difference between these two dialects.