



Population in China:
 6,113 (1995)
 7,000 (2000)
 9,030 (2010)
Location: Yunnan
Religion: Buddhism
Christians: None Known

Overview of the Angku

Countries: Myanmar, China, Laos, possibly Thailand

Pronunciation: "Ung-ku"

Other Names: Kiorr, Con

Population Source:
 6,113 (1995 GEM);
 Out of a total Bulang population of 82,280 (1990 census);
 2,359 Kiorr in Laos (1985 F. Proschan)

Location: *SW Yunnan:* The Angku inhabit the western banks of the Lancang (Mekong) River in Xishuangbanna Dai Prefecture

Status:
 Officially included under Bulang

Language: Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Northern Mon-Khmer, Palaungic-Khmuic, Palaungic, Western Palaungic, Angkuic

Dialects (4):
 Angku, Kiorr, Amok, Pou Ma

Religion:
 Theravada Buddhism, Animism

Christians: None known

Scripture: None

Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: ANG00



Dwayne Graybill

Location: Approximately 6,000 Angku people inhabit six villages in southern Yunnan Province.¹ Several thousand Angku speakers live in Laos, Myanmar, and possibly Thailand. The Angku in Yunnan are located on the western banks of the Lancang (Mekong) River in Xishuangbanna Prefecture. The mighty Mekong flows south from Yunnan through the countries of Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and finally spills out into the ocean in southern Vietnam. More than 2,500 Kiorr, listed as a dialect of Angku, live in northern Laos.²

Identity: The term *Angkuic* is used by linguists as a generic term to describe many Palaungic languages, but there are also people who speak a specific language by that name. In China the government has officially counted the Angku as members of the Bulang nationality, but the Angku language is not intelligible with Bulang.

Language: Angku is a Mon-Khmer language that is distinct and inherently unintelligible with the other Mon-Khmer languages in the province such as Wa, Bulang, and De'ang. Angku is possibly the same language as Puman. There are four Angku dialects, some of which may also qualify as distinct languages.³

History: The Angku, in addition to the Wa, Bulang, and De'ang minorities, were originally part of a large Austro-Asiatic group that occupied much of Yunnan before the Dai and Yi people arrived. "They were driven out of their habitats by the invaders, dispersed and split into the isolated groups they are today."⁴ The Angku in countries outside China used the Mekong River to migrate away from the oppression of their Dai and Han landlords.

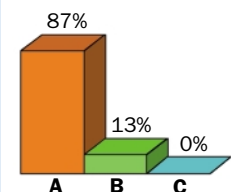
Customs: Most Angku women are fond of chewing betel nut which blackens their teeth and gums. Stained teeth are considered a mark of beauty among Angku women. Since the betel juice only stains temporarily, some women use black dye to artificially

stain their teeth. Body tattooing was common among the Angku in the past but now is rarely practiced.

Religion: The Angku, like their Bulang counterparts, are staunch followers of Theravada (also known as *Hinayana*, "Lesser Vehicle") Buddhism. Angku life revolves around the local temple. Traditionally all Angku boys become novice monks and live in the temple until they are 12 years old. The Angku obey the three tenets of Buddhism: practicing self-discipline, teaching, and discussing doctrine. Buddhist temples are found in most Angku villages.

Christianity: Few Angku have ever been exposed to the gospel. Their villages are away from the mainstream of travelers; therefore, it takes a specific effort to make contact with the Angku. So far the few Christian workers who have labored in the region have preferred to target the larger minorities, leaving the Angku without any witness or church. The nearest Christian community to the Angku are the approximately 1,500 Tai Lu and Han Chinese Christians living in Jinghong. There are no Scriptures or ministry tools available in the Angku language.

Status of Evangelization



A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Were evangelized but did not become Christians
C = Are adherents to any form of Christianity