Looking Ahead

Khek-Bangka is in a moribund state, with young speakers increasingly less likely to pass the language on to their children. Thus, its use may decline dramatically within a generation or two.

With proper planning and documentation, we could preserve and later revitalize the language. At the same, we could also learn more about the Khek-Bangka people and culture.

Proverbs

Lep ma cew het ji ca loy.  
Farmer’s hat gone, umbrella comes.  
When a door closes, a window opens.

Siw ci au lo’ mo au chut.  
It’s easier to bend the fingers in than out.  
Defend our own family rather than strangers.

To learn more about Khek-Bangka, visit:  
www.ling.hawaii.edu/~uhdoc/samkhewjong/

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Ngii hiau kong  
Bangka Boi mo?

Can you speak Khek-Bangka?

www.ling.hawaii.edu/~uhdoc/samkhewjong/
Khek-Bangka Language

Language Info
Khek-Bangka (Sam Khew Jong, Thong Boi, or Bangka Boi) is a Creole language based on Hakka (China) with loan words from other Chinese languages. It is spoken mainly by people of Chinese descent on Bangka Island, Indonesia, with an estimated 300,000 speakers.

Writing System
There is no widely accepted standardized orthography for this language. People normally use the roman-based Indonesian alphabet to write Khek-Bangka. Because of the lack of its own writing system combined with the socio-political situation in the region, the language did not have a chance to develop. Thus, materials written in Khek-Bangka are not readily accessible.

Jit Ha Ko Bangka Boi
A Little Bit about Khek-Bangka
Bangka boi ta Ho Pho Khan Kong loi, lo’ Cung Kwet. The language originated from a language used in Ho Pho village, China.

Mang to Sam Khew Jong.
It is called Sam Khew Jong.

Sa di kai se mo jung thong ngin se sia jin koi jung fan se sia. This language does not use Chinese characters; instead, it uses Latin letters.

Sample Sentence
Marker: sa
Meaning: Plural marker

Ngisah ibuy?
2nd PL go where?
Where are you going?

Marker: het
Meaning: Past

Ki sa con het.
3rd PL go-home PST.
They went home.

Marker: lu
Meaning: Already

Ki con het lu.
3rd.S go-home PST already.
S/he went home already.

Marker: liaw
Meaning: Perfective marker

Co’ liaw mo, ki hang.
Wear PERF hat, 3rd S walk.
After putting on the hat, he walks around.

Greetings
Have you eaten? – Sit fon mang?
How are you? – Ngis ho mo?
What are you doing? – Ngis ma kai?
Happy New Year – Kyung hi ko sin nyen
Happy birthday – Kyung hi ngi sang ngit
Thank you – Si mung

A typical Khek-Bangka family gathering