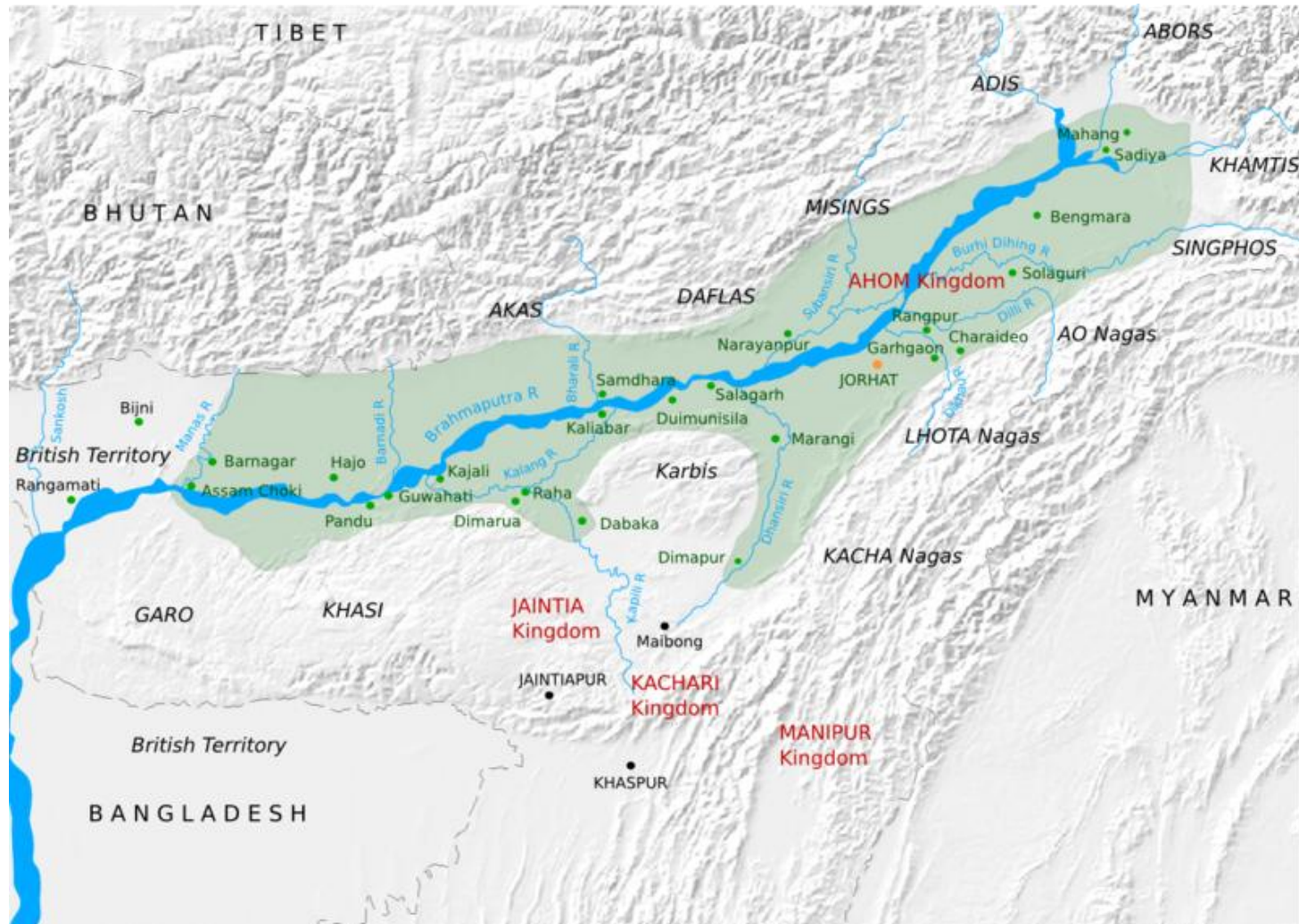


𑜋𑜨 𑜇𑜨𑜃𑜫

Tai Ahom

The Ahom Kingdom in the 18th century



The first Ahom King 𑜋𑜧𑜨𑜃𑜫 𑜎𑜤𑜃𑜫 𑜏𑜤𑜃𑜫 Sukapha



The Ahom Alphabet

ᱠ ᱡ ᱢ ᱣ ᱤ ᱥ ᱦ

k kh ng n ch t

ᱧ ᱨ ᱩ ᱪ ᱫ ᱬ

p d m ph th s

ᱭ ᱮ ᱯ ᱰ ᱱ ᱲ ᱳ

r j ny l b h (a)

Issues with translating Ahom

- No tone marks (spoken language would have had 3-6 citation tones)
- Underspecification of vowel contrasts, particularly front vowels followed by consonant codas, /i/ and /e/ are written the same way
- Up to 20 different meanings for the same glyph

One glyph, many meanings

᠊᠋ᠨᠤᠭ᠎ᠠ (kong)

n. 1. hill; 2. echo; 3. gun; 4. over-sunned paddy; 5. drum; 6. courtyard; 7. courtyard; 8; jaw; 9. Indian aconite;

n., v. 10. heap;

v. 11. prune; 12. prepare for husking; 13. hide; 14. spin; 15. anticipate;

adj. 16. wide; 17. curved.

ମେ ଡାମ୍ ମେ ଫି (Me Dam Me Phi)





The royal palace, Gargaon



Translating Ahom Manuscripts





The manuscript *Ming Mvng Lung Phai*



[The image shows a page from an ancient manuscript with handwritten text in a cursive script, likely Burmese or Thai. The text is written on aged, yellowed paper. There are several lines of text, some starting with large decorative initials. The handwriting is fluid and characteristic of historical Southeast Asian scripts.]

Tong Bong (line 330-1)

