

MAIN CLASSIFIERS

CEV	<u>In respects to the whole body</u>		
	ib ce ris tsho	- A complete	
	zam cev khaub	- Wear a suit	
	mob ib ce	- Have pain through the whole body	
CUB	<u>A fire</u>		
	ib cub tagw	- a batch of wood	ib cub nceb
	ib cub thee	- a batch of coal	- a clump of mushrooms
			ib cub yub kua
			- a square of pepper
			txob
CUAM	<u>A whole sandwiched between two sticks, a set</u>		
	ib cuam nqeeb	- a "tile" of straw	ib cuam
	ib cuam nqaij	- a skewer of meat	- once, an occurrence
	ib cuam neeg	- a group adminis- tered by a leader	ib cuam rog
			- a battle
			ib cuam plaub
			- a trial
CHA	<u>A room of the home.</u>		
	ib cha tsev	- a room	
	(ib kem tsev)	- a room	
DAIM	<u>Things that are flat, sheets, plates, areas</u>		
	ib daig ntawv	- a sheet of paper	ib daig ntaub
	ib daig nplooj	- a leaf	- one piece (cloth)
	ib daig txiag	- a board	ib daig khaub
	ib daig teb	- a field	- a garment
	ib daig liaj	- a rice field	ncaws
			ib daig tiab
			- a skirt
			ib daig sev
			- an "apron"
			ib daig pam
			- a blanket
FAB	<u>Section, division, side</u>		
	ib fab ntaub	- a piece of cloth	
	ob fab	- the two parts of a couplet.	
HOM	<u>Species, kind (very general)</u>		
	ib hom noog	- a species of bird	
KAB	<u>A pinch, dose, a "pipe" of tobacco or opium</u>		
	ib kab yeeb	- a pipe of opium	
KAUJ	<u>A roll, which is wound in several turns</u>		
	ib kauj xov	- a spool of thread	
	ib kauj hlau	- a roll of wire	

KOB A rain

ib kob nag - a rain (occurrence)

KUAM A hand of bananas

ib kuam txiv - a hand of bananas

(ib thij txiv.) - (same)

(ib lub txiv...) - a banana

(ib tau txiv...) - a diet

KHAWV A bite (unless pointed out that “los”)

ib khaw mov - A mouthful of rice

ib khaw zaub - “ vegetable

ib khaw dej - a sip of water

LEEJ (See special notes below)**LO/LOS** Word, speech

ib lo lus - A word

lo lus ntuas - The sermon

Bite, sip

ib los mov - a mouthful of rice

ib los dej - a sip of water

ua ib los npuas - he makes a “drool”

ib los 32 hnyav - 32 teeth

LUB(Used as a catchall)Objects hollow or round (large)

lub yeem xyam - the camera

lub thoob - the bucket

lub khaub hnab - the ball

lub vas - the hawk, net

lub lwj - the bellows

lub tuj lub - the top

lub tshuaj - the pill

lub qhov - the hole

lub qhov rooj - the door

lub qhov rai - the window

lub ncauj - the opening

lub paj - the flower

lub xauv - the necklace

lub zuag - the comb

lub laj kab - the fence

Body parts (see also “tus”)

lub cev - the body

lub taub hau - the head

lub pob ntseg - the ear

lub qhov muag - the face

lub plawv - the heart

lub duav - the hip

lub hauv caug - the knee

lub siab - the liver

Vehicles, machines, motors

lub tsheb - the car

lub dav hlau - the plane

lub nees zab - the bicycle

lub nkoj - the boat

lub tshuab - the engine

Clothes (see also “daim”)

lub tsho - the shirt

lub ris - the pants

Premises, buildings

lub teb chaws - the country

lub zos - the village

lub tsev - the house

Abstract words

lub caij - time

lub lis piam - week

lub npe - the name

lub koob meej - fame

lub tswv yim - intelligence

lub cim xeeb - memory

lub hwj chim - dignity

lub hwj huam - power

lub neej - life

lub tsev neeg - family

NKAWM A pair, a couple (not for eyes, arms, legs)

- ib nkawg khau - a pair of shoes
 ib nkawg nyuj - a pair of cows
 ib nkawg niam - a (married) couple
 txiv

NPAUM 1, 2, 3... times as

- siab 2 npaug lub - Twice as high as the
 tsev house.

NPLOOJ A “Leaf” of the liver and lungs

- nplooj siab - lobe of the liver
 2 nploog ntsws - both lungs

NQE Verse, couplet

- hu ob nqe - sing two verses

NRIG One (blow) of the fist

- ntaus ib nrig - hit (one) punch

NTU A period of time (2, 3 months), a distance, a section, a chapter

- nyob ib ntus - Stay a while
 mus ib ntus kev - go part way
 ntu peb - Part III (of a book)

NTWG Groups of things strung on a stick or a rope

- ib ntwg ntses - string of fish
 ib ntwg nqaij - string of meat
 ib ntwg txiv - a series of nuts
 plaws ploom bound together

NTHWV A gust of wind

- ib nthwv cua - a gust
 ib nthwv rog - a rush of soldiers

NTSUJ A strip of land

- ib ntsug teb - a strip of land

A round (= nthwv)

- ib ntsug rog - a round of fighting
 ib ntsug luam - a round of trade

PAB A group of men, a herd, a school of fish

- ib pab neeg - a group of men
 ib pab noog - a band of birds

POB Things together to form a package, a ball, a lumpBut if it is just a round thing, we say “lub pob...”

ib pob	- a packet	ib lub pob zeb	- a stone
ib pob a(v)	- a clump of dirt	ib lub pob kws	- a corn cob
ib pob mov	- a rice ball	lub pob ntseg	- the ear
ib pob ntsev	- a bucket of salt	lub pob hauv caug	- the knee
ib pob ntawv	- a paper package	lub pob qij txha	- the joint
ib pob khaub	- a bundle of clothes	ib lub pob caus	- a knot
ncaws		ib lub pob caus	- a knot of a tree
		ntoo	
		ob lub pob ntshav	- both ovaries

PHAU Things stacked one on the other, a bundle, a stack

ib phau ntawv	- a book	(compare with “tshooj”)
ib phau nyiaj	- a bundle	
ib phau khaub	- a pile of clothes	

PHAUM In the same year, season

ib phaum me tub	- boys born in the same year
nws yog kuv	- He/ It is the same phaum age as me
ib phaum txiv ntoo	- fruit the same season

Epidemic

ib phaum mob	- an epidemic
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PHIAJ A row, things one beside the other

= nqaj - in front range : mus kev ua ib nqag
 ≠ leej - in single file : mus kev ua ib leej

sawv ua ib phiaj	- standing and in a row
ib phiaj xauv	- necklace row

PLAS Vast area

ib plas toj	- pan of mountains
ib plas teb	- a large field

PLUAS Meals, eat once, one dosage

noj ob pluag	- two meals
noj ua ib pluag	- take in a dose
sib ceg ib pluag	- fighting over a good shot
nyiaj ib pluag	- a bout of lamenting

QAIS One strand

ib qais plaub hau	- strand of hair
ib qais xov	- skein of thread

QHOV Thing

qhov no - this
ib qho khoom - a thing

RAB Thing

rab riam - the knife
rab diav - the spoon
rab diav hmuov - the fork
rab hmuov - the lance
rab koob - the needle
rab txiab - the scissors
rab teev - the scale
rab khib - the caddisflies

rab phom - the gun
rab hneev - the crossbow

RAUV A square of embroidery

ib rauv paj ntaub - a square of embroidery

REV A bunch of fruit, leaves or flowers

ib re nplej - a plume of rice
ib re txiv ntoo - a bunch of fruit

ib re paj - a cluster of flowers
ib re nplooj - a cluster of leaves

TAUV A thicket, a cloud

ib tauv ntoo - a grove
ib tauv nroj - a clump of grass
ib tauv nceb - a clump of mushrooms
ib tauv huab - a cloud

TAWB An emission of excrement

ib tawb quav - a dropping
ib tawb quav twm - a buffalo dropping
ib tawb zis - pee
ib tawb qaub - spit
ncauj

TOM A round of opium pipe

≠ ib khaw, ib kab = a "pipefull," a ball
ib tom yeeb - three balls

Place, hole

qhov (chaw) no - this place
ua 2 qho teb - do the field at two locations
ntau qhov chaw - in many places

ib qho xu kev - an isolated area
qhov chaw ua si - the playground

rab rauj - the hammer
rab taus - the ax
rab ciaj - the tongs
rab txhaum - the chisel
rab kaw - the saw
rab laum - the crankshaft
rab pheej txam - the plane
rab txuas - the pruning knife
rab liag - the sickle
rab hlau - the hoe
rab pav txhwj - the spade

TUS

Living beings, humans or animals

tus dab	- the spirit
tus neeg	- the man
tus tub	- the son
tus muam	- the sister
tus tsiaj txhu	- the animal
tus noog	- the bird

Representing or closely affecting the**man**

tus plig	- the soul
tus duab	- the shadow
(mais, daim duab	- the picture)
tus mlom	- the statue
tus roj	- footprint
tus hneev	- footprint
tus mob	- disease
ua ib tug npawm	- have malaria
tus dab ntub	- sleep
tus yam ntxwv	- behavior
tus piv txwv	- example
tus lwj lwm	- example
ib tug cai	- a law
tus nqe	- the price

Living things that move

tus dej	- the river
tus kwj deg	- the gutter

TWW

A large amount (see “tauv”)

ib tw av	- a pan of mountains
ib tw dej	- a downpour
ib tw nag	- a rainfall
ib tw huab	- a cloud

THAJ

An area of vegetation**(Compare with “tshav”)**

ib thaj chaw	- land
ib thaj av	- a field
ib thaj nplej	- a rice field
ib thaj ntoo	- a wood

THIJ

A hand of bananas (see “kuam”)

TSAB

A letter (mail), a message

ib tsab ntawv	- a letter
ib tsab xov	- a message

TSIG

A time to sleep, a cock’s crow

tsaug ib tsig zog	- take a nap
qaib qua ob tsig	- the cock crew twice

Many parts of the body**When in pairs, see “txhais”**

tus nplaig	- the tounge
tus hniav	- the tooth
tus ntiv	- finger
tus qau	- the penis
(mais, lub pim	- the vagina)
tus tw	- tail
tus pob txha	- bone
(mais, txhais ceg	- leg)

Things slightly long (≠ txoj)

tus choj	- the bridge
tus mem	- the pen
tus yuam sij	- the key
tus ntsia	- the nail
tus pas	- the stick
tus nkhib ntoo	- the fork
tus ceg ntoo	- branch
tus ceg rooj	- the stand
tus nqaj	- the raft
tus ncej	- column
tus ntaiv	- scale
tus ntaub	-the section of fabric

A shamanist service

ib thaj neeb	- a service to the Neng spirits.
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TSOB A plant (shrub)

ib tsob ntoo	- a tree
ib tsob nplej	- a rice plant
ib tsob xyooj	- a bamboo plant
ib tsob nroj	- a grass plant
ib tsob pos	- clump of thorns

TSHAV An open field (compare with “thaj”)

lub tshav nplej	- threshing floor
lub tshav nyuj	- courtyard of cows
lub tshav zaub	- pasture
lub tshav dav hlau	- airfield
lub tshav qaib	- place of festivities

TSHOOJ Stack of things on top of each other (Compare with “phau”)

cov tshooj ntawv	- pile of books
ib tshooj hli	- one month doubled
cov tshooj khaub ncaws	- stack of clothes

TXAUM A pinch, a load of stills

ib txaum ntsev	- a pinch of salt
cub ib txaum	- distil a load of stills

TXOJ Long, thin things

(Compare with “tus”)

txoj xov	- string
txoj hlua	- the rope
txoj xov hlau	- the wire
txoj hmab	- the vine
txoj phuam	- the towel

Abstract words

txoj hauj lwm	- work
txoj sia	- life
txoj hmoov	- fate
txoj cai	- law

TXHAIS A piece of a pair

ib txhais khau	- a shoe
ib txhais tes	- a hand
ib txhais npab	- a shoulder
ib txhais ceg	- a leg

YAM Any given thing (=qhov)

ib yam khoom	- one thing
ib yam hauj lwm	- a work
ib yam xov	- a news
tsis ua ib yam dab tsi	- not do anything

Road, compound names with “kev”

txoj kev	- the road
txoj kev nyuaj	- the difficulty
t.k. kaj lug	- peace and content
t.k. thaj yeeb	- peace
t.k. txom nyem	- misery
t.k. txaj muag	- shyness
t.k. nyob twj lig	- freedom

ZAJ Story, song, prayer, phrase, paragraph, notice

zoj kwv huam	- history
zaj dab neeg	- legend
zaj kwv txhiaj	- singing (Hmong)
zaj tshoob	- singing (wedding)
zaj hu nkauj	- singing (universal)
zaj teev Ntuj	- prayer (catholic term)
kuv yuav koj zaj	- I agree with you

A Special Classifier: LEEJ

Distinction between ‘neeg’ and ‘leej’

NEEG means “man” in the general sense and, without regard to sex, is a noun that is defined and works with the classifier “tus”. It comes in many compounds.

Nws yog neeg ruam	- He is an idiot.
Muaj neeg coob coob	- There are many people.
Cov neeg nyob zej zog	- The villagers
Pej kum neeg	- Foreigners
Tsev neeg	- a household
Yim neeg	- a family
Haiv neeg	- a race
-- eej neeg	- a generation
	+
	+++

LEEJ is a classifier for humans alone, but generally, it can't bear to name after ‘him’, because ‘he’ is somehow its own name and means “tus neeg” (t.n.: ‘????’). It is found, however, with “neeg” and with “niam” and “txiv” in the sense of “mother” and “father”, because we know that with the classifier “tus” these two words mean the same as “sister (t.n.: mother, actually) or the “husband”.

Leej is interchangeable with “tus” (alone), or “tus neeg” and indeed, we sometimes prefer it first because it is more explicit (“ib tug” could also mean an animal), and second because it is lighter.

leej neeg	- man
leej niam	- the mother (≠ tus niam laus = the sister)
leej txiv	- the father (≠ tus txiv = the husband)
tshuav rau tus	- there are six people
“ tus neeg	- (same)
“ leej	- (same)
“ leej neeg	- (same)

Kuv yuav mus kuv ib leeg xwb	- I will go alone
Leej twg yuav mus?	- Who will go?
Nyob hauv koj tsev muaj pes tsawg leej?	- How many people live in your home?
Muaj coob leej nyob ua ke	- There are many people living together.

