There are two main realisations of this morpheme, dox (to⁴) and doengx (toŋ⁴). In addition, the latter is a near homophone and shares a semantic field with doengz (toŋ²) ‘together, together with’, a Han loan from 同 tóng.

Neither Li Fang Kuei nor Liáng and Zhāng provide reconstructions of this item. However, Pittayaporn reconstructs PT *kanA for ‘each other, together’ (741), a word found in the SW branch.

In many areas dox and doengx are used interchangeably as a verbal prefix indicating reciprocal verbal action (or in transitive verbs, indicating that the object is affected by the verbal action). The Zhuang dialect survey data probably indicate only relative frequency, but for what they are worth, doengx (and doengz) are recorded for the northern border of GX, for Tiandong and points west, and all of EY. Both dox and doengx are found in both NZh and SZh areas. The survey of Guizhou Bouyei did not collect data on this morpheme.

There are minor differences in local pronunciation. Dox is found with Tone 2 (A2) in Hechi, Long’an, and the SZh areas. The rime -u is found in Guixian, -ɔ in Long’an, and -ø in Shangsi. With doengx, -ʊŋ is found in northern GX and in Yanshan, -ɔŋ in Jingxi and -ɔŋ in Guannan south, -aŋ in the Sha dialects of EY, and so on. These minor local variations are not reflected in the script.

The broad distinction between dox and doengx is clearly reflected in the script, with the northern and western areas of GX showing 同 tóng and central GX showing dox written with a variety of characters. However, synonym substitution is prevalent: that is, pre-verbal 同 tóng is often recited as dox, and characters like 度 dì and 托 tuō are often read as doengx.

Character List

The following table gives a listing of all characters used for dox in the traditional texts from all locations. The table also lists the locations where each character or character variant is found.
Sources: Traditional texts from survey locations.