Neither Li Fang Kuei nor Liáng Mǐn and Zhāng Jūnrú provide a reconstruction for this item, a frequently used noun meaning ‘speech’ in NZh. Liáng and Zhāng (Gàilùn p. 448) reconstruct initial *ɣw- for a noun with the same meaning, but this is Siamese khwaːm², found in the SW and Central Tai languages but not in NZh, the Kam-Sui languages, Lakkia, Lingao, Qiongshan or Hlai.¹ Luo Yongxian, however, identifies hauq as a common Tai etymon (‘news, message’), and links it with Lao khaaw, Dehong xaa, White Tai khaau, and Longming khaaw, with Tone class B1. He suggests also that it may be related to Chinese 告 gào ‘to inform’.² Pittayaporn does not reconstruct PT for this etymon.

A number of morphemes are found in the Zhuang dialect survey data. Hauq (haːu⁵) is listed for Nandan in the north, the Nung dialects of EY, and Jingxi-Napo and Debao in the S. We know from our own survey materials, however, that hauq is not confined to these few locations: it is found in texts from Donglan, the Tianzhou area, Wuming, and east-central GX.

Other morphemes found in the survey data are:

wa⁶ found widely in the NE, the central N, east-central GX, Wuming and Yongning, the Youjiang River basin, the Zuojiang River basin as far west as Longzhou and Daxin. This area includes both NZh and SZh locations. This item is likely to be related to Ch. 話 huà, pronunciation of which in most PH dialects is wa²² or something similar.³

waːm² found in Jingxi and Debao
kɔ³ found in Daxin
la⁶ tua² found in Qiubei

There is also a morpheme with an alveolar stop, affricated alveolar stop or alveolar liquid initial, simplex vowel -o- or -u-, -n coda, and Tone 2:

¹ It is not listed either in CTSB.
³ Lǐ Liánjìn p. 84 item 839.
Sources: Traditional texts from survey locations.

Map 30.1

Hauq speech'
Common Characters in Traditional Texts

Sources: Traditional texts from survey locations.