The Karen or Kayin people are a Sino-Tibetan language speaking ethnic group located in southern and southeastern Burma (Myanmar). The Karen makes up approximately 7 percent of the total Burmese population of approximately 50 million people. The Karen languages consist of three mutually unintelligible branches: Sgaw, Pwo, and Pa'o. The most common language being Sgaw, which is spoken by many subgroups of the Karen. Most people know of the Karen people from television documentaries, magazines and encyclopaedias for the brass rings the women wear on their neck, making their neck seem longer and stretched. Their mythology states that the people believe it will make the woman unattractive and prevent tigers from biting them. The most common explanation is quite the opposite- The extra-long neck is considered a sign of beauty and wealth and that it will attract a good husband. As time goes by more rings are added, the longer the neck, the more beautiful the woman is considered.

As we are getting more and more Karen speakers in Australia, we have been searching for resources which will assist their learning of English and also make them feel more comfortable in their new home.

This list shows the first of what we have found so far – limited but a start.

**Thesaurus of Karen Knowledge Naive Karen Dictionary Vol. 1**
Written by Say Kau-Too
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 337
Language: Karen
Thesaurus of Karen Knowledge comprising traditions, legends, poetry, customs, superstitions, demonology, therapeutics, etc. forming a complete native Karen dictionary, with definitions and examples, illustrating the usage of every word in Sgaw Karen language. Volume 1 of 4
Price: $44.00

**English - Pwo Karen Picture Dictionary**
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 112
Languages: English/Pwo Karen
An illustrated dictionary in English and (Eastern) Pwo Karen languages. Popular topics covered: the human body, face, hands and feet, organs and skeleton, related verbs, related adjectives, family, emotions, clothing etc.
Price: $39.95

**Drum English – Karen Picture Dictionary**
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 112
Languages: English/Sgaw Karen
A 112 pages illustrated dictionary in English and Sqaw Karen languages. Popular topics covered: the human body, face, hands and feet, organs and skeleton, related verbs, related adjectives, family, emotions, clothing etc.
Price: $39.95

**Karen Folklore**
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 112
Language: Karen
A collection of traditional Karen folklore collected from Karen elders, documenting not only widely recognized folklore of the Karen people but also stories and beliefs unique to particular areas of Karen state, Burma.
Price: $29.95
Krenni Folklore
Cover: Paperback.
Number of pages: 60.

This collection of traditional Karenni folklore was published in cooperation with Karenni community elders in northern Thailand both within and outside the refugee camps.

Price: $27.95.

Karen Proverbs
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 48
Languages: English/ Sgaw Karen

A collection of over 100 traditional Karen proverbs and their meaning in both Sgaw Karen and English languages. This collection of Karen proverbs was compiled not only to document and preserve them for future generations of the Karen, but also to provide greater understanding of traditional Karen culture and values to non-Karen speakers of English. In addition, it is hoped that it will be useful for Karen educators to assist them in passing on traditional Karen values and culture to their students and children. "If you want to know a people, know their proverbs." English proverb

Price: $27.95

The Karen
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 144
Language: Karen


Price: $39.95

Drum Karen – English Student Dictionary
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 220
Languages: English/Sgaw Karen

Sgaw Karen to English Dictionary. As there is no pictorial assistance, this book is recommended for intermediate and higher.

Price: $39.95

Drum English – Karen Student Dictionary
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 211
Languages: English/Sgaw Karen

English to Sgaw Karen Dictionary. No picture aid, Suited for intermediate and higher.

ISBN: 9749248409
Price: $39.95
The Amazing Animal Facts.
Written by Lilly and Pa Saw Htee’s
Cover: Paperback
Language: Karen
Pages: 56

This book includes 50 interesting questions and answers about the animals’ kingdom. Each question is accompanied by an additional fascinating fact. Both English and Sgaw Karen text is included.
Price: $32.95

The Golden Lotus and Other Stories.
Cover: Paperback
Language: Karen

This collection of traditional folk tales as retold by the Drum Publication Group includes stories from Burma, China, Japan, Korea and more. In Sgaw Karen Language
Price: $32.84

The Tales of the Brothers Grimm: Karen Version
Cover: Paperback
Number of pages: 80

A collection of ten Grim Brothers fairytale in Sgaw Karen language
Price: $29.95

The Happy Prince and Other Stories.
Cover: Paperback.
Language: Karen
Pages: 80

A collection of Classic Oscar Wilde Short Stories translated into Sgaw Karen. These stories were selected to appeal to middle to high school students and include such stories as The Happy Prince and The Centerville Ghost among others.
Price: $32.95

Stories for Little Children.
Cover: Paperback
Language: Karen
Pages: 144

Written by members of the Karen community largely as part of Karen literature workshops held both within Burma and the Thai border refugee camps, this collection includes over 60 original stories for young children in Sgaw Karen language.
Price: 36.95
Aesop’s Fables
Cover: Paperback
Language: Karen
Pages: 156

This is a revised and expanded collection of classic Aesop’s Fables. In this new edition, the number of stories was more than doubled and replaced the popular and out of print previous editions. A collect of over 70 Aesop's Fables in Sgaw Karen language
Price: $34.95

Also available: Everyday Australian Picture Dictionary S'gaw Karen $50.00

Nominated for the Telstra 2010 Business Awards

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