Comparative Method Exercise

Burman

Below are some forms from three Burman languages: Burmese, Atsi, and Maru. Ignoring the suprasegmentals (diacritics that indicate different tones) and just concentrating on the consonant segments, state the correspondences that hold among these languages with regard to nasals and fricatives. For each correspondence set that you identify, propose a reconstruction of a Proto-Burman sound that developed into the sounds attested in the languages for that correspondence set.

What do you believe the consonants in the Maru form in (6) would have been if it had survived (the word was simply lost in Maru, replaced by a completely different root)? Consider the same for (10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burmese</th>
<th>Atsi</th>
<th>Maru</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. əwêi</td>
<td>sùi</td>
<td>sã</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. əié | ʃt | ʃi | 'blood'
| 3. əaŋ | sat | séŋ | 'die'
| 4. əauŋ | ʃuŋ | ʃok | 'kill'
| 5. ʃeŋ | sɨŋ | sãŋ | 'drink'
| 6. əən | ʃám (knife) | - | 'liver'
| 7. ʃeŋ | sik | ʃak | 'iron'
| 8. ʃeŋ | ʃō | ʃō | 'new'
| 9. eðun | súm | sãm | 'meat'
| 10. əouŋ | sut | - | 'three'
|        |      |      | 'wipe' |