

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

6.0 Introduction

In this chapter, discussions in the previous chapters are summed up, the stem choice determining factors are identified and an explanation is offered.

6.1 Summary of previous chapters

Verb stem choice discussions in the previous chapters 3, 4, and 5 are summarized in the following table.

	Stem I	Stem II
Nominalization	Subject	non-Subject
Relativization	Subject	non-Subject
Valence change	Decrease	Increase
Complementation	<i>ah</i> marked clause	clause without subordinator
Adjoined clauses	Switch-reference	Adverbial clause
Focus	- Sentence focus, - Predicate focus, - Unmarked narrow focus	- Marked narrow focus, - Contrastive focus
Deontic modality	Possibility	Necessity

Table 14: Chart of stem choice motivating factors

6.2 Determining factors of stem choice

The chart shows that stem choice in *K'Chò* is conditioned by at least two principal factors; namely syntactic factors and pragmatic factors. Each factor will be discussed in 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 respectively.

6.2.1 Syntactic factors

Syntactic factors include grammatical relations and subordination.

6.2.1.1 Grammatical relation factor

In *K'Chò*, stem choice is sensitive to the distinction between the subject and other grammatical relations. In *K'Chò*, intransitive and transitive subjects require stem I, while the object and other grammatical relations require stem II. This is seen with nominalization (3.1) and relativization (3.2).

In nominalization, the verb stem choice is determined by the type of the argument that is being nominalized. 'Subject' nominalization (3.1.1) requires stem I, while non-subject nominalization (3.1.2 and 3.1.3) requires stem II.

The same is found for relativization. Stem I is used when the subject is relativized (3.3.1) and stem II is used when non-subject noun phrase is relativized (3.3.2).

Verb stem choice is influenced by the addition or deletion of a grammatical relation in valence changing. Valence decreasing (3.2.1) requires stem I, while valence increasing (3.2.2) requires stem II. Valence decreasing, whether by detransitivizing or deriving reflexive and reciprocal verbs, in effect is depriving the verb of one of its arguments, leaving only one core syntactic argument. Conversely, valence increasing, whether by causative or applicative derivation, normally consists of adding or increasing the number of argument/s to the valence of the base verb. In causative derivation, the subject of non-causative verb is demoted to non-subject status when the causer is introduced. In applicative derivation, an object is added to the non-applicative verb.

6.2.1.2 Subordination factor

Another syntactic factor triggering stem choice is subordination. In subordinate clauses, the stem choice is conditioned by the degree of dependency between the clauses. More independent subordinate clauses have stem I, while more dependent

subordinate clauses have stem II. Verbal complement clauses in 4.2.1.1, which are marked with subordinator *ah*, are more independent and they use stem I which may be marked with tense. Switch-reference clauses in 4.2.2 are intermediate in dependency to the main clause. They use stem I, but tense may not be marked and agreement may only be marked as a suffix. Argument complement clauses without subordinator as in 4.2.1.2 and adverbial clauses in 4.2.3 are the most dependent clauses. They allow only stem II, which may not be marked with tense.

6.2.2 Pragmatic factors

The various types of focus structures and the semantic difference of deontic modalities also influence the choice of verb stem in *K'Chò*.

Sentence, predicate, and unmarked narrow focus require stem I. Marked narrow focus and contrastive focus require stem II.

Deontic possibility or permission is associated with the use of stem I, while deontic necessity or obligation is associated with the use of stem II.

6.3 Conclusion

The above data show that stem determining factors cannot be attributed to a single parameter in *K'Chò*. Syntactic and pragmatic factors are the two main factors motivating the stem choice. These two principal parameters subsume several other grammatical and pragmatic domains governing the stem choice in *K'Chò*.

Stem I is the default form, while stem II is the marked form which is used in grammatically or pragmatically marked constructions in *K'Chò*.

Constructions involving the subject argument such as nominalization or relativization use the default form. The marked form is used in the same grammatical constructions associated with other non-subject arguments. The default form is used in valence decreasing, while the marked form of the verb is used in valence increasing.

Complement clauses marked by a subordinator *ah* uses the unmarked form, while complement clauses without a subordinator use the marked form. Switch-reference clauses also use the unmarked form. Adverbial clauses use the marked form.

The default form is used in sentence focus, predicate focus, and unmarked narrow focus, while the marked form is used for marked narrow focus and contrastive focus.

Finally, deontic possibility marking permission or command uses the unmarked form, and deontic necessity denoting obligation uses the marked form.

So, a grammatical theory that considers only morphological, phonological or syntactic aspects will find the explanation of the factors that determine verb stem choice in *K'Chò* difficult and unmotivated, and will have to resort to a list of syntactic environments. A grammatical theory that incorporates pragmatics provides a more holistic, motivated, and clear explanation of the factors that determine verb stem choice.

6.4 Further study

An analysis of verb stem choice from the perspective of several different grammatical theories would provide an excellent comparison of the strength of those models to handle novel features that have only received cursory analysis.

This study could be expanded to other Chin languages. First by describing the pattern of verb stem alternation from a syntactic perspective and then by comparing the patterns of verb stem choice across all the Chin languages.