

## CHAPTER 6

### COMPLEX SENTENCES

#### 6.0 Introduction

Complex sentences are a combination of multiple clauses which include different kinds of phrases of several grammatical categories. The relationship between phrases, sentences and paragraphs is stated by Payne as follows.

Payne (1990:3) states that:

*All languages, seemingly without exception, possess strategies which permit various types of co-coordinating to occur at the phrases as well as the sentential level, thereby forming complex phrases of various grammatical categories.*

According to Thomson and Longacre (1990:171), all languages have two-clause constructions where one clause modifies the other clause like an adverb modifies a verb. In Geba, there are clauses which modify other clauses like this.

When the clauses combine, they in turn form paragraphs and increasingly larger bodies of discourse. Again, Longacre (1990:235) describes that:

*Clauses-the surface structure units which correspond most closely to individual predications-combine into clusters of clauses which are distinguished in most languages as sentences versus paragraphs. These sentences are tighter bundles than paragraph.*

In Geba, complex clauses are clauses such as relativized clauses, adverbial clauses, complement clauses, passive constructions, causative sentences, and coordinate clauses. This chapter discusses complex clauses with more than one clause and serial verb constructions. Larger structures than these are not discussed in this chapter.

## 6.1 Relativized clauses and clausal complements of nouns

Relative clauses are clauses that modify a noun and sometimes they are known as adjectivized clauses (Peck 1984: 150).

Example (262) shows a relative clause structure in Geba which consists of the common noun *bjà* and a modifying relative clause. The relativizer *ɔ* functions as a relator which precedes the relative clause. The relative phrase occurs in the same position as an adjective. It precedes the quantifier phrase.

Example (262) shows an externally headed relative clause in Geba.

(262) (Elicitation)

bjà      ɔ      ɛ́lɛ̀nù zàrà?      bú      dɛ̀là      nù      ɓè      kòládè? kʰàtɛ̀kʰò?  
 person who enter church in      many that have to take off shoes  
 N      REL V      N      LOCN QNT DEM AUX V      N

People who enter the church should take off (their) sandals.

In example (263), the head noun is the subject of the embedded clause. This sentence structure is possibly an internally headed relative clause.

(263) (Elicitation)

ɛ̀mìmù kó      kʰàtɛ̀kʰò ɛ̀bóθà dɛ̀      bwè nù      sɔ̀mò  
 woman wear sandals white one CLF be beautiful  
 N      V      N      N      NUM CLF COP ADJ

The lady wearing white sandals is beautiful.

Example (264) includes the relative clause in bold.

(264) BH 010

mègɛ̀nòɛ̀kʰòsé      **bjà      ɔ      ɛ̀bélò dé**      kʰòwèkʰòkʰà dé      dɛ̀là      nò      sɔ̀  
 because of that **person who love thing** mercy      thing many that 3S  
 CONJ      N      REL V      N      V      N      QNT DEM PRN

ɓè      hòwé nù    lɓ  
 have to bless this    FP  
 AUX    V      DEM FP

Because of that people who love and mercy others will be blessed.

In example (265), the noun *dèp<sup>hi</sup>dèmè* is followed by the complementizer to form a clausal complement of the noun structure.

(265) WL 009

dèp<sup>hi</sup>dèmè dó      jā      ɓè      θèlɔ́      sándéskúl      nù  
 work      which 1S    must teach Sunday school FP  
 N            REL    PRN AUX V      N                    FP

The work that I must do is teach Sunday school.

In Geba, there are also different sentence structures in which the head noun is the object of the embedded clause<sup>8</sup>.

## 6.2 Adverbial clauses

Dependent clauses in Geba can be formed by adding a subordinate conjunction such as: when, if, since, after, before, because. Adverbial clauses are mostly

<sup>8</sup> The regular structure of the relativized clause is as follows.

<i>múdāni</i>	<i>dèmèlɔ́</i>	<i>dó</i>	<i>sā</i>	<i>θèlɔ́</i>	<i>dā</i>	<i>dé</i>	<i>nù</i>	<i>ɓà</i>
yesterday	lesson	which	3S	teach	one	thing	this	difficult
ADV	N	REL	PRN	V	NUM	CLF	DEM	ADJ

The lesson which he taught yesterday was difficult.

But sometimes, the head is internal as in the following example where the head noun is the object of the embedded clause.

<i>múdāni</i>	<i>sā</i>	<i>θèlɔ́</i>	<i>dèmèlɔ́</i>	<i>dā</i>	<i>dé</i>	<i>nù</i>	<i>ɓà</i>
yesterday	3S	teach	lesson	one	thing	this	difficult
ADV	PRN	V	N	NUM	CLF	DEM	ADJ

The lesson which he taught yesterday was difficult.

found in declarative clauses and they are often connected by discontinuous subordinate conjunctions.

In example (266), *dó... əgədànù* surrounds the adverbial clause.

(266) WL 005

*dó jā dò tʰà θàzē əgədànù jā mē ʔè pòmū*  
 when 1S big ascend youth time 1S work have to woman  
 ADV PRN ADJ DIR N N PRN V AUX N

*gərə kʰò t̄ə plà*  
 organization leader one time  
 N N NUM CLF

When I became a youth, I had to do a woman leader one time.

Example (267) shows the usage of the subordinate marking *ʔé ... ələkánù*.

(267) WL 009

*ʔé jā ʔò jā ʃibùpʰábúpʰòʔ ələkánù dɔʔ jā ʔò kī*  
 when 1S have 1S family after and 1S have N  
 ADV PRN V PRN N ADV CONJ PRN V CONJ

*jəpʰòjəli jā sàʔi ʔè jəpʰòjəli*  
 my children 1S take care have to my children  
 N PRN V AUX N

After I had my family, I had my children and I took care of my children.

Adverbial clauses in Geba modify a verb phrase or a whole clause. The following sections discuss different types of adverbial clauses, time, purpose, reason, conditional, negative conditional, concessive, substitutive, and additive, which are found in Geba.

### 6.2.1 Time

Time adverbial words such as *ətʰɪ* or *ʔé... əkʰé* form the head of the adverbial clause. Examples (268), (269), and (270) show time adverbial clauses in Geba.

In some of these constructions *dó* can optionally appear at the beginning of the clause.

(268) (Elicitation)

(*dó*)wè zú ɛtʰi nù hɛʔ θàdʒθàdʒ  
 rain fall time this walk slowly  
 N V N DEM V ADV

Walk slowly when it rains.

(269) WL003

ɬé jə ʃipʰòʔ ɛkʰé nù jə mō jə pàʔ θɛ̀lɔ́ jé ʒɛ̀tʃàkī  
 when 1S young time this 1S mother 1S father teach 1S about  
 ADV PRN ADJ N DEM PRN N PRN N V PRN PREP  
 dɛ̀θə̀bùθə̀bɛ̀ ləmùhé nù  
 religion evening FP  
 N N FP

When I was young, my parents teach me about religious things in evenings.

Example (270) uses *ɛkʰé nù* to show a simultaneous expression in Geba.

(270) (Elicitation)

sə θábò ɛkʰé nù sə jè tʰà  
 3S sing time this 3S smile ascend  
 PRN V N DEM PRN V DIR

He smiles while singing.

### 6.2.2 Purpose

Purpose adverbial clauses use the subordinate conjunction *ɛnɪtʰɪʔ*. Examples (271) and (272) show purpose subordinate clauses in Geba.

(271) (Elicitation)

sā sàtʃʰì ǎmikʰó ǎnitʃʰí sā tʰà θòʔ  
3S see man for 3S ascend tree  
PRN V N BENF PRN DIR N

He climbed the tree in order to see the man.

(272) (Elicitation)

sā pʰló sàmébwé ǎnitʃʰí nù sā ǂè pʰáʔ só séʔ  
3S pass exam for this 3S have to read much book  
PRN V N BENF DEM PRN AUX V ADV N

He should study hard to pass the exam.

### 6.2.3 Reason

The subordinate conjunctions *ǎmúló* and *ǎkʰòsé* are used to express the meaning of reason in Geba as in example (273) and (274).

(273) (Elicitation)

sā sàʔì ǂè bwèsè ǎmúló sā dèmè ʔóʔé  
3S take care have to patient because 3S work much  
PRN V AUX N CONJ PRN N ADV

Because she cares for the patients, she is busy.

(274) BH 009

mémèdó sā mè tǎ wè nò ǂèǂàǂèsé ǎtʃʰì nò sā lè  
but for 3S older brother one CLF that trouble time that 3S go  
CONJ PRN N NUM CLF DEM V N DEM PRN V  
dó sā θǎrèʔ ǎkátʰí sā θǎrè ǂèsʰò dó sā kǎ dè lǎwá  
to 3S horse feet 3S horse worry which 3S 1Pex hit each other  
PREP PRN N N PRN N V REL PRN PRN V RECP

ǎk<sup>h</sup>òsé sǎ    ǒǎrè    swè    ǒúwù? sè    lǎ  
 so    3S    horse run leave 3S    FP  
 CONJ PRN N    V    V    PRN FP

But for the older brother, when he was in troubled he went to his horse but his horse worried that he would beat him so it ran away.

Example (275) shows the subordinate marker *gǎnòǎk<sup>h</sup>òsé* connecting an explanatory clause.

(275) BH 005

mémèdó sǎ    ǎmè                    dǎ    wè    nò    sǎ    dǎ?    tǎk<sup>h</sup>ók<sup>h</sup>ó                    sǎ  
 but for 3S    older brother one    CLF that 3S    ride the same time 3S  
 CONJ PRN N                                  NUM CLF DEM PRN V    ADV                    PRN  
  
 dè sǎ    ǒǎrè    tǎk<sup>h</sup>ók<sup>h</sup>ó                    gǎnòǎk<sup>h</sup>òsé nò    sǎ    ǒǎrè    tǎ    dó    tǎ  
 hit 3S    horse the same time that's why that 3S    horse not    CLF not  
 V PRN N    ADV                    ADV                    DEM PRN N    NEG CLF NEG  
  
 ǒélò? sè    nǎ?  
 love 3S    not  
 V    PRN NEG

But for his older brother, he rides his horse and also he bit his horse, that's why his horse didn't love him.

### 6.2.4 Conditional clause

The 'if' clause expresses a conditional circumstance to form an adverbial clause and *mǎ* can only appear in the second position. In conditional sentences the 'if' particle is obligatory.

Example (276) shows the semantic meaning of a past time conditional clause.

(276) (Elicitation)

nā mī ʔò bé p<sup>h</sup>ó gārè bú nù nā sàt<sup>h</sup>i ɓè  
2S if stay where flower garden in this 2S see have to  
PRN CONJ V ADV N N LOCN DEM PRN V AUX  
  
p<sup>h</sup>ó ɓmò dālà nù lō  
flower beautiful many this FP  
N ADJ QNT DEM FP

If you were in that garden, you would see beautiful flowers.

### 6.2.5 Negative conditional

A negative conditional adverbial clause in Geba is expressed by negative discontinuous morphemes. In this case, the negative adverbial appears optionally at the beginning of the sentence and is later followed by the discontinuous negative morphemes and finally followed by a conjunction [(*mīdāmī*).... *tā*.... *nó?* .... *kīdō*]. Examples (277) and (278) show negative conditional clauses in Geba.

(277) (Elicitation)

wè tō zú nó? kīdō kō lé sà dējó  
rain not fall not then will go see movie  
N NEG V NEG CONJ AUX V V N

It doesn't rain; we'll go see the movie.

(278) (Elicitation)

mīdāmī wè tō zú mà nó? kīdō kō lé sà dējó  
if rain not fall PRT not then will go see movie  
ADV N NEG V PRT NEG CONJ AUX V V N

If it doesn't rain, then we'll go see the movie.



## 6.2.6 Concessive clause

The concessive clause in Geba is substituted or embedded in another clause by the word *mī* which means 'although'. Example (279) shows the concessive clause structure in Geba.

(279) (Elicitation)

dèjǒ tǎ mǎbé jé nǎ? mī jǎ lè sà ní gé  
 movie not good 1S not if/although 1S go see happen COMP  
 N NEG ADJ PRN NEG CONJ PRN V V V PRT

Although the movie is not good for me, I happened to watch it.

## 6.2.7 Substitutive

Substitutive clauses in Geba are marked by the word *ǎk<sup>h</sup>é* 'while' or the word *bàsámi* 'instead of'. Example (280) and (281) show the substitutive clauses.

(280) (Elicitation)

wà kǎ bè mè sé? ǎk<sup>h</sup>é nù wà gǎjà  
 1Pex will have to work book time this 1Pex play  
 PRN AUX AUX V N N DEM PRN V

While we should have been studying, we played.

(281) (Elicitation)

wà kǎ bè mè sé? bàsámi wà gǎjà  
 1Pex will have to work book instead of 1Pex play  
 PRN AUX AUX V N CONJ PRN V

Instead of studying, we played.

## 6.2.8 Additive

Additive clauses can be found as both negative and affirmative constructions. The additive markers are *tǎk<sup>h</sup>ánó?... gó* 'not only....also' and *tǎplák<sup>h</sup>à.... gó* 'at the

same time....also'. The first example, (282), shows a negative structure used to form an additive clause type.

(282) (Elicitation)

p<sup>h</sup>ĩ sèsàt<sup>h</sup>ĩ tāk<sup>h</sup>ánó? p<sup>h</sup>ĩ gó sé? θápò dǎlà  
 bring Bible not-only bring also book sing many  
 V N NEG-ADV V CONJ N V QNT

Not only bring a Bible, bring a song book at the same time, too.

In example (283), the additive construction occurs in the affirmative construction.

(283) (Elicitation)

p<sup>h</sup>ĩ sèsàt<sup>h</sup>ĩ tǎplák<sup>h</sup>à p<sup>h</sup>ĩ gó sé? θápò dǎlà  
 bring Bible one-time-only bring also book sing many  
 V N NUM-CLF-ADV V CONJ N V QNT

At the same time as bringing a Bible, bring a song book, too.

### 6.3 Complement

In this section, subject complements and object complements are discussed. Nonan (1985) states, that a typical complement clause is a clause, which functions as an argument and may be the subject or object in another clause.

#### 6.3.1 Subject complement

A clause embedded as the subject of another clause is found in Geba. In example (284), the subject complement clause *jā bǎ dǎnè* appears at the beginning of the sentence followed by the predicate *ǎmǎ* 'good'.

(284) (Elicitation)

jā bǎ dǎnè ǎmǎ wè  
 1S play piano good COMP  
 PRN V N ADJ PRT

Playing the piano is enjoyable.

### 6.3.2 Object complement

There are two kind of object complements discussed there. One is an object complement that is a noun phrase and that has a clausal complement as in example (285).

(285) WL 004

jā θāhé dó mī kābísè? ə̀ləəwè lénì dó jā θà? bú  
1S know which be Lord words enter to 1S heart in  
PRN V REL COP N N V PREP PRN N LOCN

I know God's word enters into my heart.

The second one is alternatively the object complement which is a clausal complement as in example (286).

(286) (Elicitation)

sā sàtʰì sā pʰò hà  
3S see 3S child cry  
PRN V PRN N V

She sees her child cries.

### 6.4 Serial verb constructions

Serial verbs consist of the combination of two or more verb roots. Serial verb phrases are commonly found in Geba. They express one simple event or a complex event. A serial verb construction in Geba contains two or more verb roots which are not compounded or members of separate clauses. However, some verb series in a sentence are compounded.

Example (287) is a verb compound because the meaning of the combined verbs is not compositional. This is an exocentric compound. *nì* 'get' followed by the word *ðè* 'suffer' forms the meaning 'receive'.

(287) WL 011

jā nì bè dēk<sup>h</sup>òdēʔá jā nì bè dēhówè dò dò  
1S enter suffer strength 1S enter suffer blessing big big  
PRN V V N PRN V V N ADJ ADJ

I receive great strength.

Different types of serial verbs, such as, simultaneous serial verbs, sequential verb, and 'want' serial verbs, are presented in this section.

### 6.4.1 Simultaneous serial verbs

The motion verb *lé*, which means 'go', also functions as a serial verb to express the motion of the arguments of the following main verb. The actions are done simultaneously. Examples (288) and (289) show the structure of *lé* and other main verbs 'take', 'see', 'pick', 'do' to show the forward direction and motion of the arguments associated with 'take'. In examples (288) and (289) the actions are done simultaneously.

(288) (Elicitation)

maŋj lè jóʔi əpísəp<sup>h</sup>ò dó tʃaúnj nò  
Maung go take child to school FP  
PROP V V N PREP N FP

Maung took the child to school.

(289) WL 004

kəbísèʔ əjèəwè lé nì dó jā θàʔ bú  
Lord words go enter to 1S heart in  
N N V V PREP PRN N LOCN

God's words enter into my heart.

In the following serial verb construction, the first verb expresses the action; the second verb denotes a result of that action to form a simultaneous serial verb.

(290) GA 8(2)

jā mè làdè? maùŋ  
1S make/cause fall Maung  
PRN V V PROP

I made Maung fall.

### 6.4.2 Sequential verbs

In the following serial verb examples, two action verbs are attached to each other to show that the actions are done successively. In example (291) the action of the second verb is done first.

(291) BH 009

sā ǝrè swè ǝwì? sè lō  
3S horse run leave 3S FP  
PRN N V V PRN FP

His horse left him and ran away.

In examples (292) and (293), the actions are done sequentially in the order given.

(292) (Elicitation)

jā lè sàt<sup>h</sup>i bjà sè wát<sup>h</sup>ó  
1S go see person 3S ASP  
PRN V V N PRN PRT

I went to see the man.

(293) (Elicitation)

sā gé ǝà? ʔi ǝék<sup>h</sup>wè?  
3S return put give corn  
PRN V V V N

He returns and stores the corn.

### 6.4.3 'Want' serial verbs

Another kind of serial verb construction is with the verb *θè?* or *θà?* 'want' which never appears as a main verb but only as an auxiliary<sup>9</sup>. In this kind of serial verb construction the subject sometimes appears after the verb. Example (294) shows 'want' as a normal SVO word order.

(294) GA 18(1)

maùŋ θà lè bwé lèp<sup>h</sup>èt<sup>h</sup>í

Maung want go buy tea

PROP V V V N

Maung wants to buy tea.

Examples (295), (296), and (297) show the subject moved to the object position and the sentence structure changes to VSO.

(295) GB 6.6(1)

θè? sà<sup>h</sup>í jè bjà

want see 1S person

AUX V PRN N

I want to see the man.

(296) DB 019

θà ?à wè kōdō ké? əlōwè tō m̀b̀é

want eat still again 1Pin other one day

AUX V AUX ADV PRN ADV NUM N

We still want to eat again the next day.

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<sup>9</sup> It is possible that 'want' verbs are sentential complement taking verbs. That possibility is not explored here.

(297) DB 019

θà ?à kέ? t<sup>h</sup>ó kī kōp<sup>h</sup>ú?ī θà mēpét<sup>h</sup>à?  
want eat 1Pin PRT and stomach want full  
AUX V PRN PRT CONJ N AUX ADV

We want to eat until our stomach is so full.

## 6.5 Passive Construction

The combination of *bè* 'suffer' and *dè* 'thing' gives a meaning which is passive-like. In example (298), the passive particle *bèdè* comes before the main verb to form the passive structure in Geba. The agent is conjoined by the preposition *dó* 'by' which is optional. The action performed can be positive or negative.

(298) GB 14.2 (5)

maùŋ bédè dè sè dó zò  
Maung have to hit 3S by Zaw  
PROP AUX V PRN CONJ PROP

Maung was hit by Zaw.

## 6.6 Causative sentences

Causative type clause constructions are also found in Geba. The causative verb precedes the main verb as in example (299).

(299) GA 8(1)

jā mè làdè? t<sup>h</sup>ī maùŋ lō  
1S make/cause fall PRT Maung FP  
PRN V V PRT PROP FP

I made Maung fall.

In another causative construction, the first verb expresses the action; and the second verb denotes the result of that action as in example (300), (301), and (302).

(300) GA 8(2)

jā mè lādè? maùŋ  
 1S make/cause fall Maung  
 PRN V V PROP

I made Maung fall.

(301) (Elicitation)

sā mè wé sā ʔà í? θādé dè dó ǎnìtʰí  
 3S make/cause dry 3S eat PRT all year for for  
 PRN V V PRN V PRT ADV N PREP BENF

He makes (the corn) dry (in order) to eat for all year.

(302) (Elicitation)

sā gé mè wé gé θék<sup>h</sup>wè? tāsò? dó sā ʃí bú  
 3S return make/cause dry return corn some at 3S house in  
 PRN V V V V N QNT PREP PRN N LOCN

nò  
 FP  
 FP

He makes corn dry at his house.

A stative clause describes the subject of that clause as in the condition of having done or suffered the event. Example (303) is a stative clause showing the actual action with the causative verb structure showing the condition.

(303) (Elicitation)

jā mè gò háθù?  
 1S make/cause hot curry  
 PRN V ADJ N

I make the curry hot.



## 6.7 Coordinate clauses

Coordinate clauses in Geba can be joined by coordinate particles such as 'but' and 'and'. In example (304), the two clauses are joined by the coordinate particle *bàràs<sup>h</sup>ú* to form a coordinate clause.

(304) GB 16.1(2)

maùŋ lè dèk<sup>h</sup>lò bàràs<sup>h</sup>ú zò ?dà hì bú  
Maung go outside but Zaw stay house in  
PROP V N CONJ PROP V N LOCN

Maung went out but Zaw stayed home.

In example (305), the two clauses are joined by the coordinate particle *kīdǝ?* 'and'.

(305) (Elicitation)

maùŋ lè dó mǐlèklé kīdǝ? zò lé dó tʃaúŋ  
Maung go to forest and Zaw go to school  
PROP V PREP N CONJ PROP V PREP N

Maung goes to the forest and Zaw goes to school.

## 6.8 Conclusion

Different kinds of complex clauses and the sentences are found in Geba. This chapter only gives some examples of a more rich phenomena. Relativized clauses, and different kinds of adverbial clauses, such as, time, purpose, reason, conditional clause, negative conditional, concessive clause, substitutive and additive, were described.

Different kinds of complements, such as, subject complements, object complements, were also presented. Different kinds of serial verb constructions simultaneous serial verbs, sequential verbs and 'want' serial verbs were discussed.

Finally, passive construction, causative sentences and coordinate clauses were discussed.