

Chapter 3

Adverbial Adjuncts

In order to define adjuncts, arguments must first be discussed. Kroeger (2005: 58ff.) contends that arguments are generally required for the utterance to be complete. They are subclassified by the verb, which means that the verb selects which arguments it will take. Also, a clause can only have one of each type of argument, which means that an argument in a clause is unique. Adjuncts, on the other hand, are elements in a sentence that give additional information, but are not necessary for the sentence to be complete. They are not subclassified by the verb, but can generally be added to any clause. Also, many adjuncts with the same function can be added to the same clause.

Adjuncts can be phrases or clauses. They are usually adverbial. Since adverbial phrases can modify entire propositions as well as verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs, Schachter and Shopen (2008: 20) define the function of adverbial phrases as “modifiers of constituents other than nouns.” Semantically, adverbial phrases give information about time, manner, instrument, or place. Adverbial phrases can modify the degree of attributive verbs. Adverbial phrases also give information about the speaker’s attitude toward the desirability or rightness of a thing or situation. They give information about the character or motives of a subject. Epistemic comments are also coded as adverbial phrases.³⁶

Since the structure of adjuncts is so varied, they will be grouped by function, rather than structure. Location adjuncts are discussed in 3.1. Time adjuncts are discussed in 3.2. Manner, degree, and instrumental adjuncts are discussed in 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5, respectively. Finally, epistemic adjuncts are discussed in 3.6.

3.1 Location adjuncts

Location adjuncts give information about the location of the sentence. The one-word location adjunct *məŋhun* ‘Məŋhun’ is modifying the verb *huut* ‘arrive’ in (97).

³⁶ Adverbial phrases communicating the speaker’s attitude or the character or motives of a subject have not yet been identified in Man Noi Plang.

(97) Trip.003

cɔt ɛ mɔ lei p^hat hət a iŋ huɪt lei huɪt məŋhun
 finished 1pl then then drive car RF go arrive then arrive **Menghun**
 V CLI CONJ CONJ V N PRT Vmot Vmot CONJ Vmot **Nprop**

When we finished, we then drove the car and arrived in Menghun.³⁷

In (98) the NP *na icij ke* 'I Zhing's house' is a phrasal location adjunct modifying the clause.

(98) Trip.054

ɔn a som ɛ na icij ke
 then RF eat 1pl **home** **Izhing** **3pl**
 CONJ PRT V CLI N **Nprop** **PRO**

Then we ate at Izhing's house.³⁸

The prepositional phrase *juŋ en* 'at this [place]' in (99) is also a phrasal location adjunct modifying the clause.

(99) Brothers.035

ʔɣn kɔ lat la nɔ wanawa ʔu ti katam u watkɔŋ
 3sg then after that say that Wanawa 1sg main.part worship 1sg special.knowledge
 PRO CONJ CONJ V DEM Nprop PRO MKR V CLI N

 ti pun sip pai pi juŋ en
 main.part attained ten more.than year **at** **this**
 MKR ASP NUM QUANT N **PREP** **DEM**

He then after that said that - Wanawa [Parasi], "I [have] worshiped the special knowledge for more than ten years here."³⁹

In (100) the clausal location adjunct *huɪt ʔɛ juŋ k^ha hən* '[when] we arrived at the big road' is modifying the main clause *mɔ iumpan ka ta kei la tianhua* 'then Iumpan gave [us] a telephone [call]'.

(100) Trip.070

ɛ juŋ huɪt k^ha hən mɔ iumpan ka ta kei la tianhua
 1pl **at** **arrive** **road** **big** then Iumpan give hit to obl.arg.mkr telephone
 CLI PREP Vmot N Vst CONJ Nprop V V PREP PREP N

When we arrived at the big road, Iumpan gave [us] a telephone [call].

³⁷ *hət* 'car' is a loan word from Dai.

³⁸ The pronoun *ke* '3pl' is functioning genitively; it refers to Izhing's entire family.

³⁹ *pi* 'year' is a loan word from Dai.

3.2 Time adjuncts

Time adjuncts comment on the time of an action. The two adverbs *kasa* ‘next day’ and *sinj^{hi} t^{hi}ien* ‘Sunday’ are modifying the entire utterance in (101).

Likewise, the temporal adverbial clause *pun ka cet ta pai* ‘after seven o’clock’, which is also in (101), is modifying the entire utterance.

(101) Church.069

on a kasa sinj^{hi} t^{hi}ien ?u lei kuh pun ka cet ta
 then RF next.day week day 1sg again get.up attained dummy.sub seven hour
 CONJ PRT ADV N N PRO ADV V ASP MKR NUM N

pai
 after
 ADV

Then the next day [on] Sunday, I then go up after seven o'clock.

Most adverbial phrases in the corpus are temporal. They can consist of two adverbs or an adverb with other temporal elements. Janzen (1976: 690) reports that in Ruching Palaung adverbial phrases consist “of a small class of more or less close-knit morphemes with merging semantic load.” In (102) the adverbial phrase *te ceaο* ‘at the beginning, early’ modifies the clause *la ke* ‘they said’.

(102) Church.029

te ceaο on a la ke mei nɔn la kɔt la ke mei
 at.the.beginning early that RF say 3pl prepare who say wrong say 3pl prepare
 ADV ADV PRO PRT V PRO V INTG V Vst V PRO V

fa ?ε kapɔ
 share 1pl sing
 V PRO V

Early at the beginning of that [game] they said to prepare, whoever spoke wrong, they said, we [should] prepare to share [a song].

In (103) the adverb *lakak^{han}* ‘about’ is modifying the classifier phrase *ti ta* ‘one hour’, which is modifying the adverb *pai* ‘after’. This same structure can also mean “one hour later” as (104) illustrates. Context determines the meaning.

(103) Trip.009

huut ε jun ja ?ε mɔ lakak^hau ti ta pai jɣ nɔ
 arrive 1pl at home 1pl just.then about one hour after do that
 Vmot CLI PREP N PRO CONJ ADV NUM CLF ADV V PRO

We arrived at my home just after one o'clock, [we] do that.

(104) Data.090

huut ε jun ja ?ε mɔ lakak^hau ti ta pai jɣ nɔ
 arrive 1pl at home 1pl then about one hour after do that
 V CLI PREP N PRO CONJ ADV NUM N ADV V DEM

We arrived at my home about one hour later, [we] do that.

In (105) the temporal adverbial clause *cɔ la ka jɣ* 'as soon as they said this' modifies the following clause *huut pɣ* 'the things arrived'.

(105) Brothers.088

on a lut pɣ ti kah cɔ la ka jɣ
 then RF suddenly things main.part emphasis.marker as.soon.as say 3du do
 CONJ PRT ADV N MKR PRT ADV V CLI V

ti huut pɣ ti tat^heit tat^heit
 main.part arrive things main.part boom boom
 MKR V N MKR ONO ONO

And then suddenly the things - as soon as they spoke this - the things arrived - boom, boom!
 Sentence-initial temporal adverbial clauses have a particular syntax that is discussed in 6.2.1. An example of a sentence-initial temporal adverbial is given in (106) where the adverbial clause *cɣt kapɣ* 'after singing' is modifying the clause *kε kɔ ka ?ε taokao* 'they then had us pray'.

(106) Church.005

cɣt kapɣ kε kɔ ka ?ε taokao
 finished sing 3pl then give 1pl pray
 V V PRO CONJ V PRO V

[We] finished singing, then they had us pray.

Adverbs of frequency are a subcategory of time adverbials that code particular temporal aspects. In (107) the frequency adverb *lei* 'again' takes the whole proposition as its scope. The frequency adverb *jam* 'often' occurs twice in (108). Its scope is also the whole proposition.

(107) Brothers.049

kasa na ti pa kɔ lei lih ɛɔ ti sɔt ti
 next.day topiclzr main.part 2du then again go.down look.for main.part grab main.part
 ADV PRT MKR PRO CONJ ADV V V MKR V MKR

lat sai la ɣn nɔ
 be.about.to sand say 3sg that
 AUX N V CLI DEM

"Tomorrow also you then again are about to go down and look for and get sand," he said that.

(108) Church.007

naŋ kɔ ke mok ɲam ti hɣi ciaot^haŋ ɲam ti hɣi ka ke
 person then 3pl sit often main.part go church often main.part go give 3pl
 N CONJ PRO V ADV MKR V N ADV MKR V V CLI

ti cu
 main.part group
 MKR N

Then the people who often sit at church, who often go, they were put into a small group.⁴⁰

3.3 Manner adjuncts

Manner adjuncts comment on the manner of an action or an agent. In (109) *kɔi* 'slowly' describes the manner of *lih* 'go down'. The manner adverb *vai* 'quickly' is modifying the verb *lih* 'go down' in (110). 'Suddenly', in (105), is also a manner adverb.

(109) Trip.066

kɔi lih ɛ
 slowly go.down 1pl
 ADV V CLI

We went down slowly.

(110) VP.045

vai ʔɛ ti lih
 quickly 1pl main.part go.down
 ADV PRO MKR V

We went down quickly.

The clausal manner adjunct that is modifying the verb *aŋ* 'be stupid' in (111) is *jaŋ lik* 'like a pig'.

⁴⁰ *ciaot^haŋ* 'church' is a loan word from Chinese.

(111) Brothers.114

kɔm	ka	ʃɹ	ti	ni	k ^h ai	aŋ	jaŋ	lik
just.then	3du	do	main.part	this	very	stupid	be.same.as	pig
CONJ	PRO	V	MKR	DEM	ADV	Vst	V	N

Just then she [the bad wife] did this, "[You are] very stupid like a pig!"

3.4 Degree adjuncts

Degree adjuncts are adverbs that give information about extent.⁴¹ The adverb *p^heo* 'extremely' describes the extent of *eo ŋan* 'despise and bully' in (112). In (113) *ham* 'very' is modifying the extent of the verb *hip* 'grassy'.

(112) Brothers.008

pɹi	k ^h ai	cat	pɹi	ɛɔ	ŋan	ta	ʔa	p ^h eo
person	really	***	person	despise	bully	to	1du	extremely
N	ADV	***	N	V	V	PREP	PRO	ADV

"People really despise and bully us extremely [and never stop]."

(113) Trip.050

kaɦɹm	ɔn	ham	hip	ka	maŋ	hai	ka	ɛɔ
forest	that	very	grassy	top.cont	not	good.easy	top.cont	look.for
N	DEM	ADV	V	MKR	NEG	V	MKR	V

That forest is very grassy, it's not easy to look for [fruit].

3.5 Instrumental adjuncts

Instrumental adjuncts give information about the instrument used to perform an action.⁴² Plang codes instrumental adverbials as prepositional phrases. In (114) the prepositional phrase *ta pi* 'with a pen' is modifying the verb *mai* 'write'. In (115) the prepositional phrase *ta kaŋɔn* 'with a knife' is modifying the verb *ʃɹ* 'do'.

⁴¹ Givon splits this category into "adverbs modifying adjectives" and "emphatic 'adverbs'" (2001a: 94). Since Plang does not have a separate adjective class and the 'function words' Givon identifies in his emphatic category are not numerous in Plang, it seemed practical to have only a degree category at this time.

⁴² Although instrument phrases can be treated as obliques (Payne 1997: 48), the present study treats them as instrumental adverbials as in Givon (2001a: 90).

(114) Grammar.044

ka	ti	mai	ka	tu	ta	pi
3du	main.part	write	3du	words	by	pen
PRO	MKR	V	CLI	N	PREP	N

She writes with a pen.

(115) Grammar.045

tapasoŋ	en	ʃɹ	t ^h uh	ta	kaŋon	a
old.man	this	do	chopsticks	by	knife	RF
N	DEM	V	N	PREP	N	PRT

The old man makes chopsticks with a knife.⁴³

3.6 Epistemic adjuncts

Epistemic adverbials usually give the speaker’s opinion of the truth of an event (Givon 2001a: 92). At this time only one epistemic adverbial has been found in Plang. In (116) *jəŋ* ‘perhaps’ codes the character’s opinion of the possibility of forgetting how difficult life has been.

(116) Brothers.021

kasa	jəŋ	ʔa	kɹt	pi	tok	pi	p ^h an	ti	pi	haipaʔsi
next.day	perhaps	1du	all	forget	poor	forget	***	main.part	forget	pathetic
ADV	ADV	PRO	ADV	V	V	V	***	MKR	V	V

ti	la	ʔɹn	ti	la	nɔ
main.part	say	3sg	main.part	say	that
MKR	V	PRO	MKR	V	PRO

"Afterward perhaps we will be able to then forget [how] poor, forget ***, forget [how] pathetic [things are]" said he, said this.

3.7 Purpose Adjuncts

The clause *ɛɔ tɯpʉh a juŋ kaɦɹm* ‘look for mushrooms in the forest’ in (117) may be an example of an adverbial purpose clause (the free translation reflects this hypothesis). However, it could also be interpreted as two coordinated verbs, which would be translated “Then I Zhing made us go and look for mushrooms in the forest.”

⁴³ *t^huh* ‘chopsticks’ is a loan word from Dai.

(117) Trip.047

a	mɔ	iciŋ	ka	lei	ka	suh	ʔɛ	tuh	ɛɔ	tupuh	a
RF	then	Izhing	3du	then	3du	cause	1pl	go.up	look.for	mushroom	RF
PRT	CONJ	Nprop	PRO	CONJ	PRO	V	PRO	V	V	N	PRT

juŋ	kahɣm
at	forest
PREP	N

And then IZhing made us go look for mushrooms in the forest.

Another possible purpose adjunct is found in (118). The clause *taokao* ‘pray’ is either a purpose adjunct or it is coordinated with the verb *let* ‘go in’. The free translation reflects the adjunct interpretation. If the verbs were in coordination, the free translation would be “[I] went in and prayed first.”

(118) Church.072

let	taokao	ɔ
go.in	pray	first
V	V	ADV

[I] went in to pray first.

3.8 Reason Adjuncts

Reason adjuncts are always clausal adjuncts (Payne 1997: 316-317). In (119) the clausal adjunct *aip^hatciŋ hak ʔɣn jam* ‘because Aiphatzhing was crying’ gives the reason for the main clause *tuh ɛɔ ʔɛ tik^hau* ‘we looked for [only] a while’. Like many other adjuncts, reason adjuncts add important semantic information, but are still syntactically unnecessary.

(119) Trip.048

tuh	ɛɔ	ɛ	tik ^h au	aip ^h atciŋ	hak	ʔɣn	jam
go.up	look.for	1pl	a.while	Aiphatzhing	because	3sg	cry
V	V	CLI	ADV	Nprop	CONJ	PRO	V

We looked for [only] a while because Aiphatzhing was crying.

The clausal adjunct *hak ka pxi k^hai cat ciaŋ patimat kom* ‘because she *** [was] a person [who was] very able to serve’ in (120) is giving the reason for the main clause *ka la nɔ* ‘she said that’.

(120) Brothers.022

kamuun	aihonom	non	ka	kah		hak	ka	pri	k ^h ai	cat
wife	Aihonom	just.then	3du	emphasis.marker		because	3du	person	really	***
N	Nprop	ADV	PRO	PRT		CONJ	PRO	N	ADV	***

ciaŋ	patimat	kəm	ka	la	nɔ	ɣ	ɣ	ɣ	ciao	ʔu	cai	ʔu	kala
able	serve	very	3du	say	that	agree	agree	agree	lord	1sg	man	1sg	no
MOD	V	ADV	PRO	V	DEM	V	V	V	N	PRO	N	PRO	NEG

kujo
matter
N

Aihonom's wife she just now, because she *** [was] a person [who was] very able to serve, she spoke that, "Okay, okay, okay, my lord, my man, no problem."

3.9 Conditional Adjuncts

Plang conditional clauses occur before the main clause. The temporal connector *kɔ* occurs at the beginning of the main clause. In (121) the clausal adjunct *ka ciaŋ patimat kasat pa* ‘[If] they are able to serve [following] after you’ sets the condition for the accomplishment of the main clause *kɔ mut* ‘then [they will] change’.

(121) Brothers.057

ka	ciaŋ	patimat	kasat	pa	kɔ	mut
3du	able	serve	after	2du	then	change
PRO	MOD	V	ADV	PRO	CONJ	V

"[If] they [the wives] are able to serve [following] after you, then [they will] change."

In the "Brothers" text another conditional adjunct, which is given in (122), immediately follows (121). The conditional clausal adjunct *ka un ciaŋ patimat raksa pa* ‘[If] they cannot serve and obey you’ is linked to the main clause *mok ka juŋ pe ti nɔ ai* ‘they will remain there where you all are’ by the temporal connector *kɔ* ‘then’.

(122) Brothers.058

ka	un	ciaŋ	patimat	raksa	pa	kɔ	mok	ka	juŋ	pe	ti	nɔ
3du	not	able	serve	obey	2du	then	exist	3du	at	2pl	main.part	that
PRO	NEG	MOD	V	V	PRO	CONJ	V	CLI	PREP	PRO	MKR	DEM

ai	la	ɣn	nɔ
***	say	3sg	that
PRT	V	CLI	DEM

"[If] they cannot serve and obey you, then they will remain there where you all are," he said that.