

Chapter 8

Conclusion

8.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the findings from previous chapters are summarized and suggestions for further research are provided.

8.2 Summary of Findings

This research is made up of eight chapters and is based on research carried out on the Taw Khu dialect in Kayah State, Myanmar.

Chapter one introduced the classification of the language, the people, geography, demography, general information, scope of the research, methodology, literature review on previous studies, and an overview of previous phonological study.

Chapter two described different types of major word classes, minor word classes, and morphological process. The grammatical basis for each word class was described, which included nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, demonstratives, classifiers, numerals, quantifiers, preposition and relativizer, localizers, conjunctions, question words, particles, and directional verbs.

Verbs were divided into main verbs and auxiliaries which occur with the main verbs. Some auxiliaries appear regularly after the verbs and others before the verb. Directional verbs occur as helping verbs to the main verb to show the direction of the actor. Adjectives were discussed to be similar to verbs in negation and modification by post-verbal auxiliaries. But adjectives are distinct from verbs in *tə*-adjective nominalization, the position of modifying head noun in NP, the use of the relativizer *dá* with modifiers, and the comparative and the superlative constructions. Adverbs typically follow the verb and modify the verb, adjective or another adverb.

Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns follow the main verb to form reflexive or reciprocal clauses. Demonstratives are used to point out a particular thing and they usually follow the head noun, and can be linked by a copula. Conjunctions link two words, phrases or clauses and the question words sometimes occur as discontinuous forms. Final particles distinguish illocutionary forces such declarative, imperative,

interrogative by following each. Classifiers are divided into a number of different subclasses based on grammatical distribution. Auto-classifiers are also nouns. The general locative preposition *dá* always precedes the noun to express the general location and the localizers are obligatory occur at final position to point out a specific place.

Chapter three described noun phrase structure. NP can be head nouns preceded by an optional possessive noun phrase and followed by optional adjectives, numeral, quantifier, classifier, demonstrative, and topic marker. In appositional noun phrases, the specific noun phrase follows the general noun phrase. Coordinate noun phrases consist of two similar head constituents joined by a conjunction. Classifiers accompany nouns to mark a specific class of nouns and form classifier phrases. The quantifier phrase or classifier phrase are optional. The classifier phrase sometimes can displace to a sentence final position.

Chapter four provided the structures of the verb phrase. The verb phrase optionally starts with an auxiliary (AUX₁) which is followed by the head verb (V*), and an auxiliary (AUX₂) usually aspect marker, and lastly by an optional constituent (XP), which is often adverbial. Finally a negation marker may appear. Adverb phrases always follow the predicate. Multiple verb constructions consist of the combination of two or more verb roots. In a multiple verb construction, usually the first verb is a head. They express one simple event or a complex event. Different types of multiple-verbs constructions such as simultaneous, sequential, resultative, and directive were discussed.

Chapter five presented simple clauses. Equative clauses, existential clauses, possessive clauses, locative clauses, and attributive clauses are all kinds of non-verbal clauses. They are typically composed of a noun phrase followed by a copula and an optional copula complement. For verbal clauses, the subject is almost always obligatory. There are three different copulas '*mí*', '*?á*', and 'zero' in Kayah Monu. A benefactive constituent can follow or precede the indirect object constituent. Time constituents can appear at both initial and final of the sentence. A location constituent is an oblique argument; they usually occur at the end of the sentence and often a localizer is obligatory. Instrument constituents occur in transitive and ditransitive clauses. Unlike the beneficiary, there is no localizer or marker next to the instrument.

Chapter six analyzed complex clauses in Kayah Monu. Coordinate clauses are two independent clauses and can be joined by coordinating connectives such as *dá*

'and.then', and *támè* 'or'. If the subjects of both clauses are the same, the subject is not normally mentioned in the latter sentence. There is a complementizer for object complements and sometimes they look similar to multiple verbs construction. Kayah Monu has postnominal relative clauses and the relativizer follows any attributive modifying the head noun to indicate a relative clause. There is no specific relative pronoun instead the relativizer *dá* (same as the preposition *dá*) is used to modify the head noun. Adverbial conjunctions (subordinating conjunctions) are used to introduce adverbial clauses or follow them.

Chapter seven described sentence types and there are different types such as declarative, interrogative, and imperative. Sentence final particles are normally added to declarative sentence to create some other illocutionary force. There are three basic types of interrogative sentences: yes-no questions, content questions, and disjunctive-negative questions. These broad types are distinguished by the occurrences of sentence final interrogative marker *ʔà* for yes-no questions *lè* for content questions and *támè* 'or' for disjunctive question.

8.3 Further Research

A grammatical analysis of a language is never perfect. This section provides applicable suggestions that still need further research. Verb and adjective can only be separated on some tests, but most tests do not make this separation. Therefore, it is recommended to do further study on distinguishing verbs and adjectives because at clause and sentence level the distinction between these two is weak.

It is also recommended to do further investigation on the word *ʔà*. It functions as adjective nominalizer, third person singular pronoun and sometimes it is not clear that whether it is prefix or not.

The two aspect markers *tʰá* 'perfective' and *hó* 'completive' appearance in the verb complex need to be explained in more detail. The role of *dá* needs more research as it can function as a locative preposition by preceding a noun, as a relativizer following the head noun in relative clause, and as temporal preposition appear at start position introducing adverbial time clause.

Classifier usages and the displacement of classifier phrases also need more data and research. For simple and complex sentences, the most interesting area to focus on is subject-verb intransitivity and their alternation into verb subject sentences.

The discourse-pragmatics with a discussion of topic, focus and various discourse markers are also invaluable features for further research. As this thesis is an initial work on the descriptive grammar of Kayah Monu, many features may need to be investigated in more detail.

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