

CHAPTER 5

MISCELLANEOUS PARTICLES

5.0 Introduction

Three sentence final particles, which do not fit into the categories discussed in chapters two, three and four, are discussed in this chapter as miscellaneous particles.

5.1 Third person speaker marker particle *ɲá-ə̄* (085-3SMS)

The third person speaker marker particle *ɲá-ə̄* (085-3SMS) is a spoken quotation mark that marks a statement which is a quotation from a third party. The first party makes a statement, which is a direct quotation from the third party, for the second party. The speaker marker particle *ɲá-ə̄* always co-occurs with the close-quotation particle *dʒé* (section 2.2.5.2), and the former is dependent on the latter. Either of the two particles can be sentence final, depending on sentence structure. Example 5.1 illustrates the particle *ɲá-ə̄* in sentence final position.

(5.1)

lá -ə̄ dʒé ɲà m̄á ɲá-ə̄
come (043-2PIS) (086-3QMS) 1S mother (085-3SMS)

My mother says, “Come!”

A quoted positive statement marked by the particle *ɲá-ə̄* is often composed of an obligatory verb phrase that is marked by command particle *-ə̄* (043-2PIS), the obligatory quotation marker particle *dʒé*, an obligatory third person noun or pronoun, and the speaker marker particle *ɲá-ə̄*. The sample sentence in example 2.18, *lá-ə̄ dʒé ɲà m̄á ɲá-ə̄* ‘My mother says, “Come!”’ is composed with the verb phrase *lá-ə̄*

‘Come!’ the quotation marker particle *dʒé*, the third person common noun *ɲàmā* ‘my mother,’ and the speaker marker particle *ɲá-ə̄*.

A quoted sentence that takes the particle *ɲá-ə̄* as sentence final is usually constructed in a reversed order, i. e. having the subject in the end of the sentence rather than in the beginning. Such a reversed structure is a common expression in the Akha language so far as quotation particles are concerned. The speaker marker particle freely occurs both in positive and negative sentences. The negative expression *tʰà lá dʒé ɲà m̄ ɲá-ə̄* ‘My mother says, “Don’t come,”’ (example 5.2) is as natural as *lá-ə̄ dʒé ɲà m̄ ɲá-ə̄* ‘My mother says, “Come”’ (example 5.1) in the Akha language.

(5.2)

tʰà lá dʒé ɲà m̄ ɲá-ə̄
PRHB come (086-3QMS) 1S mother (085-3SMS)

My mother says, “Don’t come!”

The third person speaker marker *ɲá-ə̄* has three functions (see Table 86). It is not applicable as a positive or negative sentence marker because it freely occurs in both.

Particle	Functional Categories		Functional Loads
<i>ɲá-ə̄</i> (085-3SMS)	1	Sentence type	3 rd Person speaker marker
	2	Subject-Person	Third person subject marker
	3	Positive/Negative	Both
	4	Tense	Present tense marker

Table 86. Functions of the third person speaker marker particle *ɲá-ə̄* (085-3SMS)

5.2 Third person quotation marker particle *dʒé* (086-3QMS)

The third person quotation marker particle *dʒé* (086-3QMS) closes a direct quotation from a third party. It may also co-occur with the open quotation mark *ɲá-ə̄* (section 5.1). The particle *dʒé* may occur in the final position of a phrase or a sentence.

(5.3)

ɲà mā ɲá-ə̄ lá -ə̄ dzé
 1S mother (085-3SMS) come (043-2PIS) (086-3QMS)

My mother says, 'Come!'

A typical quoted statement is usually composed of a noun phrase marked by the speaker marker *ɲá-ə̄* (085-3SMS), a verb phrase marked by the command particle *-ə̄* (043-2PIS), and the quotation marker *ɲá-ə̄*. Example (5.4) is composed of the subject *ɲà mā* 'my mother' which is marked by the speaker marker *ɲá-ə̄* (085-3SMS), the verb *lá* 'come,' the command sentence particle *-ə̄* (043-2/3PIS), and the quotation marker particle *dzé*

Example 5.4 is a reordering of example 5.3 that keeps the particle *dzé* in sentence final position. Example 5.2, the negative construction composed of the same elements, can be reordered in the same way to keep the particle *dzé* in final position, as shown in example 5.4, by adding the prohibitive verb prefix *t^hà* to the verb *lá* 'come.'

(5.4)

ɲà mā ɲá-ə̄ t^hà lá dzé
 1S mother (085-3SMS) PRHB come (086-3QMS)

My mother says, "Don't come!"

Either of the two quotation particles can be sentence final depending on sentence structure.¹⁰

The quotation marker particle *dzé* has the same three functions as the speaker marker *ɲá-ə̄* (see Table 87).

¹⁰ Example 5.1 illustrates the particle *ɲá-ə̄* in sentence final position.

Particle	Functional Categories		Functional Loads
<i>dʒé</i> (086-3QMS)	1	Sentence type	third person quotation sentence marker
	2	Subject-Person	Third person subject marker
	3	Positive/Negative	Both
	4	Tense	Present tense marker

Table 87. Functions of the third person quotation marker
particle *dʒé* (086-3QMS)

5.3 Reiterative particle *lé* (087-2RS)

The reiterative particle *lé* (87-2RS) is a repetition of an imperative sentence that has already been uttered. It is an insistence to carry out of what has been ordered. The particle *lé* is also used in declarative and interrogative sentences as an insistent particle. Nevertheless, when a declarative sentence is modified by adding the particle *lé*, it becomes somewhat imperative because of the illocutionary force represented by that particle.

Like the command particle \rightarrow (043-2PIS) and negative command particle \emptyset (044-2NIS), the particle *lé* is confined within a verb phrase, usually the last verb phrase of a sentence. However, it never immediately follows a verb stem, i. e. there must always be a sentence particle between the verb stem and the particle *lé*. A command particle or a prohibitive particle may immediately follow the verb stem, but the particle *lé* will never do that. It usually comes after one of those particles because its major function is to mark the repetition of the same sentence. The following example would be helpful to understand the reiterative particle.

(5.5)

ʔí -ḡ
go (043-2PIS)

Go!

ʔí -ḡ lé
go (043-2PIS) (087-2RS)

I said [you] go!

In the first sentence in example 5.5, a command clause *ʔí-ḡ* ‘go,’ can be repeated as in the second sentence, *ʔí-ḡ lé* ‘I said [you] go,’ to insist a person not delay obedience to a commanded. In the same way, a prohibitive clause *t^hà ʔí* ‘Do not go’ can be repeated as *t^hà ʔí lé* ‘I said [you] do not go.’ As far as imperative expressions are concerned, the particle *lé* is never followed by any other particles, although it may be preceded by some sentence particles.

The reiterative imperative particle *lé* has three functions (see Table 88). Unlike the command particle *-ḡ* (043-2PIS) and negative imperative particle *ø* (044-2NIS), it does not function as negative or positive sentence marker, because that function is taken either by the particles that precedes it and the verb suffix *-ḡ*.

Particle	Functional Categories		Functional Loads
<i>lé</i> (087-2RIS)	1	Sentence type	Imperative sentence marker
	2	Subject-Person	Second person subject marker
	3	Positive/Negative	NA
	4	Tense	Present tense marker

Table 88. Functions of the reiterative imperative particle

lé (087-2RIS)