

## CHAPTER 5

### MODIFICATION OF THE CLAUSE

#### 5.0 Introduction

Healey (1992:85) says “most languages allow certain modifications to many of their clause types, such modifications affect several clause types in the same way, and it is simpler and clearer to describe the modification and give examples, rather than to set up another group of clause types”. The features that may be considered to be modifications of clause types are focus, emphasis, command, question, and negative. Lahu Shi also employs modifications in its clause types. The modifications that will be considered here are focus, emphasis, negative, and interrogative.

The following section will describe focus and emphasis clauses, negative clauses, and interrogative clauses in Lahu Shi. This section also includes relative clause descriptions.

#### 5.1 Focus and emphasis in Lahu Shi

There are various ways to emphasize one particular part of the clause depending on the language. Healey (1992:86) states four features of emphasis in Doing Grammar as follows:

- Adding an emphatic affix or particle.
- Repeating the element in question.
- Changing the order of elements in the clause.
- Using a passive clause or passive-like clause to change the focus.

In Lahu Shi, focus or emphasis may be indicated in two ways. The first is done by changing the order of elements in the clause. As was mentioned previously, Lahu Shi clause structure is SOV, subject comes first followed by the object and verb. In order

to emphasize the object of a clause, The object is placed before the subject elements. Some examples are shown below:

Example 66 : Sentence #4 (C/D)

*Awg lawn u ve haq jawd mawd gha sir lehq*  
*story that OM king able to know CONJ*  
*n det Pn n v v Pnf*

“The king heard of it and desired it very much.”

The sentence is illustrated as follow:

<i>Awg lawn u ve haq</i> <i>story that OM</i> <i>n det Pn</i>	<i>jawd mawd</i> <i>king</i> <i>n</i>	<i>gha sir lehq</i> <i>able to know CONJ</i> <i>v v Pnf</i>
O	S	V

In general, the subject “jawd mawd” must come first, but within this clause “Awg lawn” is in focus, then it comes first indicated to be object by the object marker “haq”.

Example 67 : Sentence #13 (C/D)

*Yehg u ve haq maq yad teq pa kha nehax saw vid lar*  
*house that OM soldier group best guard to MOTION TOWARD*  
*n det Pn n n adj v Pv Pv*  
*che yaog.*  
*CHE DECL*  
*Pu Pf*

“The best of the soldiers (were set) to guard the house.”

<i>Yehg u ve haq</i> <i>house that OM</i> <i>n det Pn</i>	<i>maq yad teq pa kha nehax</i> <i>soldier group best</i> <i>n n adj</i>	<i>saw vid lar</i> <i>guard to MOTION TOWARD</i> <i>v Pv Pv</i>
O	S	V

Within this clause “yehg u ve” (the house) is in focus. It is the direct object shown the object marker “haq”. Since “the house” is in focus, it comes first in the cause.

There are some other particles used to emphasize one particular part of the clause, such as “hawg”, “mehr”. The following are some examples containing emphasis particles.

Example 68 : Sentence #25 (C/D)

<i>Na</i>	<i>mix</i>	<i>khawehr</i>	<i>faz</i>	<i>chaq</i>	<i>haq</i>	<i>cheq</i>	<i>che</i>	<i>gha</i>	<i>hawg</i>
<i>cat</i>		<i>mouse</i>			<i>OM</i>	<i>bite</i>	<i>CHE</i>	<i>must</i>	<b><i>EMPHATIC</i></b>
<i>n</i>		<i>n</i>			<i>Pn</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Pu</i>	<i>v</i>	<b><i>Pf</i></b>

“It’s surely (just) a cat chewing on a mouse.”

The emphatic particle “hawg” is used at the end of the verb phrase. It emphasizes the verb phrase “cheq che gha” meaning “must bite”. The speaker says that the cat was certainly biting something, probably a mouse.

Example 69 : Sentence #28 (C/D)

<i>"Sehx</i>	<i>sir</i>	<i>gha</i>	<i>vehor</i>	<i>mehr"</i>
<i>amulet</i>	<i>able to</i>	<i>COMPLETE</i>	<i>-finish</i>	<b><i>EMPH</i></b>
<i>n</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Vv</i>	<i>-prt</i>	<b><i>disc</i></b>

“I was able to get the amulet.”

The particle “mehr” is used at the end of the verb phrase. In this situation the speaker wants to emphasize that he achieved doing something. In sentence #28, the speaker emphasizes that he is successful in getting the amulet.

## 5.2 Negative clause in Lahu Shi

Whaley (1997:288) defines negative as “a grammatical category employed to deny the actuality of an event or some portion thereof”. Negation may be clausal negation (negating an entire proposition), for example, *I didn't do it*, or constituent negation (negating particular constituents of clauses), for example, *I have no bananas* (Payne 1997:282). Givon (1984:232) says that negation markers are marked on the verb, most commonly in conjunction with the tense-aspect model morphology, or they may be affixes (appearing as prefixes or verb suffixes). As in the examples below:

Bemba: Negation appears as a prefix.

affirmative	negative
ba – à – boombele	ta – ba – à – boombele
they – PAST – work	NEG – they – PAST – work

Japanese: Negation appears as a verb suffix.

affirmative	negative
bin – o kowasi – dalo	bin – o kowasa – nai – dalo
bottle – ACC break – FUT	bottle – ACC break – NEG
“(he) will break the bottle”	“(he) won't break the bottle”

Ute: Negation is marked both before and after a verb.

affirmative	negative
wuuka – y	ka – wúuka – wa – y
work – IMM	NEG – work – NEG – IMM
‘(he) is working’	‘(he) isn't working’

Matisoff (1982) describes negation in Lahu Na, saying that the most important adverb /mâ/ meaning “not” is used in a negative clause. It precedes the verb with no intervening particles between it and the following verb. The /mâ/ or /mâ/ also precedes the first verb in the series when the verbal nucleus is a “pre-head concatenation”. The pre-head concatenation is a string of verbs where the head verb is at the end. When the verbal nucleus contains a post-head versatile verb, the position of /mâ/ depends on the meaning to be conveyed. A versatile verb is a verb that functions as an aspect particle when it follows the head verb.

Like Lahu Na, adding the adverb “ma” forms Lahu Shi negation. There are three forms of “ma”, including “ma” (as a basic form), “maq” (strong negation), and “maz” (strongest negation). Only two forms, “ma” and “maq” are found in the texts, the other form, “maz” is gained in elicitation with Lahu Shi people. In summary, the difference between them is the degree of negation. Some examples illustrating the negative clause in Lahu Shi follow:

Example 70 : Sentence #5 (C/D)

*Kheh te lehq yawd ca lawg vig liz vig maq gha.*  
*so CONJ 3S go and ask buy FOC buy NEG -strong able to*  
*adv:tm Pnf pro v v v disc v adv v*

And so, he tried to buy it from them, but couldn't.

From the Example 70, “maq” precedes the verb “gha”, meaning “not”. The meaning is determined according to the features which are given by Matisoff (1982), that is the position of the adverb “maq” depends on the meaning to be conveyed. In this situation, it needs the meaning of “not be able to”, therefore “maq” comes before “gha”. The negative expression is quite strong in this clause.

Example 71 : Sentence #29 (C/D)

*a mawr awg sehr phad ngag haq awr maq car vad." lehd koz*  
*soon owner IS OM food NEG -strong feed eat thus speak*  
*adv:tm n pro Pn n adv v v disc v*  
*che yaog.*  
*CHE DECL*  
*Pu Pf*

“(I’m afraid that) soon the master won’t feed me anything!” (it)  
 thus spoke.

In Example 71, the verb phrase is a pre-head concatenation therefore “maq” precedes the first verb in the series “car”. The meaning is “not feed”. It is quite a strong negative expression.

## Example 72 : Sentence #33

*Te pawz lehr ix mag ca duhd ma tuhz lehq a kaz ghig*  
*one time[event] after 3Dual go and think NEG leave CONJ water liquid*  
*num adv Puf pro v v adv v Prf n n*

*puhg pad lo jo mi chehd che yaog.*  
*edge of near LOC place sad sit dwell CHE DECL*  
*n adj Pn adv v v Pu Pf*

“After that, they had no thought (didn't know what to do) and sat dejected near the bank of the water (stream).”

In Example 72, “ma” precedes “tuhz” meaning “not go out”. The meaning of the verb string is “thought not go out” duhd ‘thing’ is not negated, only ‘leave’ tuhd.

### 5.3 Interrogative in Lahu Shi

Payne (1997:295) says that languages always have some grammaticalized means of specifying that a particular utterance is to be understood as a request for information rather than an assertion. There are two types of interrogative, including information questions and yes/no questions.

Healey (1992:87) stresses some features of yes/no questions and informative question in “Doing Grammar”. Languages may express interrogative in one or more of the following ways:

1. using a sentence-final particle or clitic.
2. adding a clitic to the first word in the clause.
3. adding an interrogative affix to the verb.

Some languages change the order of the words in the clause and use question intonation when the clause is an interrogative. Information questions may have a question word added first in the sentence or in the same position as the answering word.

Matisoff (1982) describes how Lahu Na forms yes/no questions and information questions. He found that the strategy employed in yes/no questions is to use the particle /la/ at the end of the clause. In information questions, the particle /le/ is used at the end of the clause. There are both yes-no questions and information questions in Lahu Shi.

The Lahu Shi interrogative does not involve either intonation or inversion, as in most OV languages. The Lahu Shi interrogative clause starts with a subject followed by an object and a verb. The yes-no questions used a question marker “la” marked at the end of the clause. There are two question markers in the information question. One is a question word, the other is a question marker “le”. “le” is marked at the end of the clause, a question word is replaced in the noun phrase. Some examples are given below:

Yes-no question : *awr cad peor la?*  
*rice eat ASPECT QUESTION*  
*n v Vv interog : Y/N*  
 “Have you eaten?”

Information question : *Nawg athoq te chehd cheawg le?*  
*2s what make CONTINUING CHE QUESTION*  
*Pro interog v Vv Pu interog:In form*  
 “What are you doing?”

Given here is a yes-no question found in the text entitled “Male gives Birth” as follows:

Example 73 : Sentence #15 (M)

<i>"Khar</i>	<i>lehq</i>	<i>nawr</i>	<i>pa</i>	<i>kanx</i>	<i>jehg</i>	<i>daq</i>	<i>tug</i>	<i>mad</i>	<i>lag</i>
<i>where</i>	<i>CONJ</i>	<i>2S</i>	<i>father</i>	<i>work</i>	<i>meet</i>	<i>together</i>	<i>PURPOSE</i>	<i>NEG</i>	<i>come</i>
<i>interog</i>	<i>Pnf</i>	<i>pro</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>adj</i>	<i>Pv-nom</i>	<i>adv</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>cheawg</i>		<i>la</i>							
<i>CHE</i>	<i>- affirmative</i>	<i>QUESTION</i>							
<i>Pu</i>	<i>- Puf</i>	<i>interog:Y/N</i>							

“Where is your father that he is not coming to the village work meeting.”

At the end of the verb phrase contains the Y/N question particle “la”. In this sentence, the headman wants to know why the man’s father did not come.

#### 5.4 Relative clauses in Lahu Shi

Whaley (1997:290) defines a relative clause as a clause that modifies a noun, much in the same way that an adjective does. A relative clause is introduced by words (e.g what, where, etc. in English) called introducers. The introducers mark the occurrence of a relative clause which is embedded within the larger structure. Healey (1992) defines relative clauses as clauses that are subordinate clauses embedded as noun modifiers inside noun phrases.

According to Matisoff (1982:473) the Lahu Na relative clause is a clause embedded in a larger sentence, that modifies a particular noun. The particle “ve” is used as a relativizer in this language or it can be left out. Relative clauses optionally contain one or more associated noun phrases, and obligatorily contain a verb phrase. It may not contain an agent-noun phrase (subject) in an intransitive verb phrase and it may not contain an agent or object noun phrase that refers to the same entity as the head noun of relative clause in a transitive verb phrase. In general a relative clause precedes the head noun called a ‘left relative clause’. However it is possible to transfer a relative clause to follow the head noun called a ‘right relative clause’.



There are both ‘left relative clauses’ and ‘right relative clauses’ in Lahu Shi. The relative clause may be embedded either in subject element or object element. The following are examples illustrating relative clauses in Lahu Shi.

Example 74 : Sentence #34

<i>Awg</i>	<i>yand</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>ve</i>	<i>khuh</i>	<i>Ghig</i>	<i>phid</i>	<i>jawd</i>	<i>mawd</i>	<i>teq</i>	<i>kheh</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>kaz</i>	<i>khuh</i>	<i>tuhaz</i>	<i>che</i>	<i>haq</i>
<i>time</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>otter</i>	<i>king</i>	<i>one</i>	<i>animal</i>	<i>water</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>surface</i>	<i>which</i>	<i>OM</i>					
<i>adv:tm</i>	<i>det</i>	<i>Pn</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>num</i>	<i>clf</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Pn</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>REL</i>	<i>Pn</i>					
<i>ix</i>	<i>mag</i>	<i>gha</i>	<i>mawg</i>	<i>lehq</i>	<i>ted</i>	<i>tag</i>	<i>maq</i>	<i>suhaz</i>	<i>lehax</i>	<i>ter</i>	<i>yug</i>	<i>lehq</i>	<i>nex</i>	<i>kix</i>		
<i>3Dual</i>	<i>able</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>see</i>	<i>CONJ</i>	<i>short</i>	<i>quickly</i>	<i>CONJ</i>	<i>firmly</i>	<i>grab</i>	<i>CONJ</i>	<i>press_on</i>	<i>put_in</i>				
<i>pro</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Pnf</i>	<i>adj</i>	<i>adv</i>	<i>Pnf</i>	<i>adv</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Pnf</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>v</i>				
<i>lar</i>				<i>lehq</i>	<i>koz</i>	<i>che</i>	<i>"Yaq</i>	<i>ni</i>	<i>nawg</i>	<i>ngad</i>	<i>lux</i>	<i>mawq</i>	<i>kaw</i>	<i>khuh</i>	<i>ve</i>	
<i>MOTION TOWARD</i>				<i>CONJ</i>	<i>speak</i>	<i>CHE</i>	<i>today</i>	<i>2per</i>	<i>fish</i>	<i>large</i>	<i>mouth</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>genitive</i>			
<i>Pv</i>				<i>Pnf</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Pu</i>	<i>adv:tm</i>	<i>pro</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>adj</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Pn</i>	<i>Pn</i>			
<i>Sehx</i>	<i>sir</i>	<i>haq</i>	<i>mad</i>	<i>yug</i>	<i>khuhqax</i>					<i>ver</i>	<i>nawg</i>	<i>haq</i>	<i>ngag</i>			
<i>amulet</i>	<i>OBJ</i>	<i>NEG</i>	<i>grab</i>	<i>return[something]</i>	<i>-PROGRESSIVE</i>	<i>EMPHATIC</i>	<i>2S</i>	<i>OM</i>	<i>IS</i>							
<i>n</i>	<i>mkr</i>	<i>adv</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>-prt</i>	<i>Pnf</i>	<i>pro</i>	<i>Pn</i>	<i>pro</i>							
<i>ni</i>	<i>ghad</i>	<i>cheq</i>	<i>cad</i>	<i>tug</i>	<i>yaog"</i>	<i>lehd</i>	<i>koz</i>	<i>vid</i>	<i>che</i>	<i>yaog.</i>						
<i>two</i>	<i>person</i>	<i>bite</i>	<i>eat</i>	<i>PURPOSE</i>	<i>DECL</i>	<i>thus</i>	<i>speak</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>CHE</i>	<i>DECL</i>						
<i>num</i>	<i>clf</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Pv-nom</i>	<i>Pf</i>	<i>disc</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Pv</i>	<i>Pu</i>	<i>Pf</i>						

“At that time, the otter king surfaced out of the water, the two of them saw it, quickly pounced on it, held it down, and said, "(If) you don't go and get the amulet in the mouth of the big fish and bring it back (to us), we will bite/eat you," (they) thus spoke to (it).”

There are seven clauses in Example 74. The first clause contains three main elements as follows:

<i>Ghig phid jawd mawd</i> otter king n n	<i>a kaz khuh</i> water in n Pn	<i>tuhaz</i> surface v	<i>che haq</i> which OM REL Pn	<i>ix mag</i> 3Dual pro	<i>gha mawg lehq</i> able to see v v Pnf
<i>teq kheh</i> one animal num clf					
S	Locative		V		
	O			S	V

“They saw the otter king surfaced out of the water.”

In the clause above, the object element contains a relative clause. It is a right relative clause where the head noun “Ghig phid jawd mawd” precedes the relative clause “ a kaz khuh tuhaz che”. “haq” follows the verb phrase, then it marks the whole NP relating clause as the object. This is because the object was shifted to the first element in the sentence, resulting in an OSV order instead of the former SOV.

Example 75 : Sentence #45

*Kheh te lehq Na mix khawehr u ve a yax yax jaz kae lehq Naz kag jawd*  
so CONJ cat that slowly sneak go CONJ crow king  
adv:tm Pnf n det adv v v Pnf n n

*mawd u ve haq pawz yug kix lar lehq koz che*  
that OM jump grab put in MOTION TOWARD CONJ speak CHE  
det Pn v v v Pv Pnf v Pu

*"O cox lo suhz cehg thag lo nad chehd che*  
way over there LOC place tree top LOC place roost CONT. which  
n Pn n adj Pn v Vv REL

*Naz kag u ve teq kheh ngag ved Seh x sir thuz chid ve*  
crow that one animal IS genitive amulet peck lifthold leave  
n det num clf pro Pn n v v v

*lar che yaog" lehd koz vid che yaog.*  
MOTION TOWARD CHE DECL thus speak to CHE DECL  
Pv Pu Pf disc v Pv Pu Pf

“Then the cat crept (hunting style) up and jumped on and caught

the king of the crows and said, "The crow which is roosting in the tree way over there picked up and carried away (in it's beak) my amulet." (it) thus spoke."

There are four clauses in Example 75. Clause #3 contains three main elements as follows:

<i>suhz</i> <i>cehg</i> <i>thag lo</i> tree top LOC place <i>n</i> adj <i>Pn</i>	<i>ngag ved</i> IS genitive <i>pro Pn</i>	<i>thuhz chid ve</i> peck lifthold leave <i>v v v</i>
<i>nad chehd che Naz kag</i> roost CONT. which crow <i>v Vv REL n</i>	<i>Sehx sir</i> amulet <i>n</i>	<i>lar che yaog"</i> MOTION TOWARD CHE DECL <i>Pv Pu Pf</i>
<i>u ve teq kheh</i> that one animal <i>det num clf</i>		
S	O	V

In the subject element there is a relative clause.

<i>suhz</i> <i>cehg</i> <i>thag lo</i> tree top LOC place <i>n</i> adj <i>Pn</i>	<i>nad chehd che</i> roost CONT. which <i>v Vv REL</i>	<i>Naz kag u ve teq kheh</i> crow that one animal <i>n det num clf</i>
Location	V	S

"The crow which was roosting on the top of a tree pecked and brought my amulet away."

In the clause above a relative clause is embedded in a subject element. It is a left relative clause where the head noun "Naz kag" follows the relative clause "suhz cehg thag lo nad chehd che".

## 5.5 Summary

This chapter has discussed that focus and emphasis clauses in Lahu Shi are formed by changing the order of elements in the clause. That is, usually a subject comes first followed by an object and a verb, but in order to show emphasis the object precedes the subject of the clause. It is also possible to show emphasis in one particular part of the clause by employing an emphasis particle. Adding the adverb “ma” before the verb in order to convey negation forms the negative clause. Two types of questions are described including Y/N questions and information questions. The word “la” marks the Y/N question whereas information questions are marked by the word “le”. There is also a question word used in the noun phrase of an information question.

This chapter also describes a relative clause, including a “left relative clause” in which a relative clause precedes the head noun, and a “right relative clause” in which a relative clause follows the head noun.