CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In this thesis, the structure of the Ngo Chang language is discussed within the theory of Functional Grammar developed by Simon C. Dik. Functional Grammar is a general theory of the organization of natural language taking into consideration the capacities of natural language users. Dik (1997a:3) explains the fundamentals of Functional Grammar as "a language is in the first place conceptualized as an instrument of social interaction among human beings, used with the intention of establishing communicative relationships;" and "a natural language, in other words, is seen as an integrated part of the communicative competence of NLU[1]." Dik uses the term, "verbal interaction" to describe a language as social interaction. In the communication of "verbal interaction," speakers and addressees utilize "linguistic expressions". Dik (1997a:4) states the relation between "linguistic expressions" and "verbal interaction" as "linguistic expressions should be described and explained in terms of the general framework provided by the pragmatic system of verbal interaction."

Functional Grammar utilizes a functional approach to natural languages, so functional relations at different levels of grammatical organization take on an important role.

In this chapter, adequacy is introduced in section 2.1, and functional relations are explained in section 2.2.

13

[1] Natural Language Users

2.1 Adequacy

Dik (1997a:12) states that

> "The aim of the theory of FG is to provide the means and principles by
> which functional grammars of particular languages can be developed.
> And the highest aim of a functional grammar of a particular language
> is to give a complete and adequate account of the grammatical
> organization of connected discourse in that language."

According to Dik (1997a:12-15), standards of adequacy such as pragmatic adequacy, psychological adequacy and typological adequacy are of particular importance for the theory of Functional Grammar. Also, a certain degree of both abstractness and concreteness is necessary for applying standards of adequacy to the grammatical organization of natural languages. This section describes standards of adequacy in section 2.1.1. The ideas in this section are based on Dik (1997a).

Pragmatic adequacy

Functional Grammar utilizes a pragmatic theory of communicative interaction. Linguistic expressions are related to how they are used in communicative interaction. Therefore,

> "we must not think of linguistic expressions as isolated objects, but as
> instruments which are used by a Speaker in order to evoke some
> intended interpretation in the Addressee, within a context defined by
> preceding expressions, and within a setting defined by the essential
> parameters of the speech situation" (Dik 1997a:13).

Pragmatic adequacy is applied to the pragmatic functions described in 2.2 later.

Psychological adequacy

Based on pragmatic adequacy, linguistic expressions are relevant to users such as Speakers and Addressees. Therefore, in Functional Grammar, a language should correspond with psychological models. Psychological models are divided into production models and comprehension models. Production models illustrate how speakers produce linguistic expressions; comprehension models illustrate how addressees interpret linguistic expressions.

> "In order to attain psychological adequacy in the naturalistic sense intended here, the productive mode should be supplemented with a interpretive mode, consisting of rules and principles for arriving at an analysis and interpretation of given linguistic expressions" (Dik 1997a:14).

All aspects of the grammar should be psychologically adequate.

Typological adequacy

Dik (1997a:14) explains that "The requirement of typological adequacy obviously entails that the theory should be developed on the basis of facts from a wide variety of languages, and that its hypotheses should be tested on facts from yet further languages." Typological adequacy is important for analyzing the language in this thesis.

2.2 Functional relations

In Functional Grammar, functional relations at different levels are important for conceptualizing linguistic expressions. Dik (1997a:26) describes three levels of functional relations as follows.

(i) **Semantic functions** (Agent, Goal, Recipient, etc.) specify the roles which the referents of the terms involved play within the State of Affairs designated by the

predication in which these terms occur. This distinction is helpful in describing the relation between participants in clauses and also for case marking.

(ii) **Syntactic functions** (Subject and Object) specify the perspective from which a State of Affairs is presented in a linguistic expression. These syntactic functions are implemented in describing mostly in cases, clause types, clause modifications and sentences.

(iii) **Pragmatic functions** (Theme, Topic, Focus, etc.) specify the informational status of a constituent within the wider communicative setting in which it occurs (that is, in relation to the pragmatic information of S and A at the moment of use). In this thesis, pragmatic functions are beneficial for discussions of the topic case marker in 3.6 and the constituent order for the focus element in 5.3 and 5.4.

These three functions are embedded in linguistic expressions. Dik (1997a:27) states that "the three types of function distinguished in FG determine crucial aspects of both the content and the form of linguistic expressions, and play a role in many of the rules which specify the formal and semantic properties of these expressions."

Functional Grammar is utilized in investigating and analyzing the data; the results are presented in a description consistent with functional - typology terminology.