CHAPTER 7

SENTENCES

7.0 Introduction

Clauses can be combined to make a larger unit. The combination of clauses can be categorized into two ways: One is a Complex sentence that consists of one main clause and one or more subordinating clauses. The other is a Coordination sentence that consists of at least two clauses, and each clause is main clause. In this section, each type of clause is discussed under sections 7.1 Complex sentence and 7.2 Coordination sentence. A simple sentence consists of only one clause.

7.1 Complex sentences

Complex sentences refer to the combination of clauses that consist of one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses. The subordinate clauses usually include subordinate conjunctions as a part of the subordinate clauses. The main clauses can stand alone, but the subordinate clauses cannot. The accusative case marker *li*[31] is also used to mark dependent clauses; or is a morpheme of a morphologically complex dependent clause marker. The following complex sentence types have been observed.

Time

In example 232, the subordinate clause functions as a time indicator for the main clause. The subordinate conjunction *li*[31] which indicates time occurs in the final position of the subordinate clause, and the main clause occurs after the subordinate clause.

232.

ɲ̩^{3}	*ŋ*^{5}*dɔʔ*^{31}	*d͡zɔ*^{3}	*li*^{31}	*ŋa*^{5}	*ʔa*^{3}*ŋũɛ̃*^{5}	*taɔ*^{3}	*lɔ*^{3}
1S	fish	eat	when	1Sposs	mother	turn	come

'When I ate fish, my mother came back.'

There are also time elements which indicate the sequence of time. The event in one clause occurs before or after the event in the other clause, so each event does not occur at the same time. In example 233, the subordinate conjunction is *t*^{h}*aŋ*^{3}*li*^{31} 'after' shows that the event of the main clause occurs after the event of the subordinate clause. The subordinate conjunction *t*^{h}*aŋ*^{3}*li*^{31} 'after' occurs in the final position of the subordinate clause.

233.

ɲ̩^{3}	*ŋ*^{5}*dɔʔ*^{31}	*diɛ*^{3}	*d͡zɔ*^{3}	*t*^{h}*aŋ*^{3}*li*^{31}	*ŋa*^{5}	*ʔa*^{3}*ŋũɛ̃*^{5}	*taɔ*^{3}	*lɔ*^{3}
1S	fish	finish	eat	after	1Sposs	mother	turn	come

'After I finished eating fish, my mother came back.'

In example 234, the sequential relation between the main clause and the subordinate clause is opposite to the sequential relation in example 233. In example 234, the event of the main clause occurs before the event of the subordinate clause. In Ngo Chang, there is no subordinate conjunction which expresses the sequential relation of "before". For expressing that the event in the main clause occurs before the event of the subordinate clause, the subordinate clause should express that the event has not completed yet.

234.

ɲ̩^{3}	*ŋ*^{5}*dɔʔ*^{31}	*ma*^{31}	*diɛ*^{3}	*d͡zɔ*^{3} *ʃi*^{31}	*li*^{31}	*ŋa*^{5}	*ʔa*^{3}*ŋũɛ̃*^{5}	*taɔ*^{3}	*lɔ*^{3}
1S	fish	NEG	finish	eat yet	when	1Sposs	mother	arrive	come

'When I did not finished eating fish yet, my mother came back.'

Reason

In example 235, the subordinate conjunction $k^ha^3su^5ge^3li^{31}$ 'because' expresses the reason of the main clause occurs in the initial position of the subordinate clause. The semantic relation of the main clause and the subordinate clause is usually the result-reason relation. The subordinate clause occurs after the main clause.

235.

$n̥^3$	$nɔ^3$	$k^ha^3su^5ge^3li^{31}$	$n̥^3$	$jiet^{\text{-}6}$	ma^{31}	$\widehat{dʒɔ}^3$
1S	sick	because	1S	sleep	NEG	sufficient

'I feel sick because I slept insufficiently.'

In Ngo Chang, not all clauses which have the result-reason relation can occur with the subordinate conjunction $k^ha^3su^5ge^3li^{31}$ 'because'. The main clause which describes the result is more prominent than the subordinate clause which describes the reason. If the main clause and the subordinate clause are of the same prominence, the coordinate conjunction la^5 'and' is preferable as in the following sentence.

236.

$n̥^3$	$nɔ^3$	la^5	$\widehat{tsi}^3juŋ^5$	$lɔ^5$
1S	sick	and	hospital	go

'I was sick and went to hospital.'

In example 236, the first clause and the second clause have the same prominence, and the coordinate conjunction la^5 'and' connects two clauses. Longacre (1985:245) calls this relation "circumstance", and claims that "many languages distinguish circumstance from cause in their surface structure." See the section on compound examples in 7.2 for more information.

Condition

In example 237, the subordinate conjunction *ŋɔat*$^{-6}$ *li*^{31} occurs in the end position of the subordinate clause *mau*^{3} *ŋaŋ*^{3} 'rain stops', and marks the subordinate clause as the condition of the main clause. Since the subordinate clause is the condition of the main clause, it is unknown whether the event of the main clause will occur or not. Thus the main clause usually occurs in the future sense as in example 237.

237.

mau^{3}	*ŋaŋ*^{3}	*ŋɔat*$^{-6}$ *li*^{31}	*ɳ*^{3}	*t*^{h}*u*^{3}	*lɔ*^{5}	*da*^{31}
rain	stop	if	1S	out	go	FUT

'If it stops raining, I will go out.'

Concession

When the subordinate clause is the concession of the main clause, the main clause describes the unexpected event. In Ngo Chang, this relationship between the subordinate clause and the main clause is signaled by the subordinate conjunction *li*^{3}*eʔ*^{5} 'although'. In example 238, the subordinate conjunction *li*^{3}*eʔ*^{5} occurs in the final position of the subordinate clause.

238.

mau^{3}	*wu*^{5}	*njei*^{31}	*li*^{3}*eʔ*^{5}	*ɳ*^{3}	*t*^{h}*u*^{3}	*lɔ*^{5}	*da*^{31}
rain	fall	PROG	although	1S	out	go	FUT

'Although it is raining, I will go out.'

Simultaneous

There is also a subordinate conjunction which shows that the event in the subordinate clause and the event in the main clause happen at the same time. The two events do not have to occur completely together, but they share the same time at least partially.

In example 239, the subordinate conjunction *uʔ^{5}li^{31}* 'while' occurs in the final position of the subordinate clause. In Ngo Chang, the predicates of subordinate clauses are usually described by the progressive form. In example 246, the time of 'I was eating fish' is partially overlapped with the time of 'my mother came back'.

239.

ɲ^{3}	*ŋ^{5}dɔʔ^{31}*	*d͡zɔ^{3}*	*njei^{31}*	*uʔ^{5}li^{31}*	*ŋa^{5}*	*ʔa^{3}ŋũɛ̃^{5}*	*taɔ^{3}*	*lɔ^{3}*
1S	fish	eat	PROG	while	1Sposs	mother	turn	come

'While I was eating fish, my mother came back.'

7.2 Compound sentences

Compound sentences consist of two or more clauses, and all the clauses are main (or independent) clause. The relationship between clauses is not that one clause is dependent on the other clause. Coordinate conjunctions are employed to link between the clauses, and different kinds of conjunctions express different semantic relations between clauses. In Ngo Chang, three conjunctions that express the semantic relationship between clauses are found in compound sentences as in the following examples.

Addition

The semantic relation of addition means that all clauses are of equal prominence. In example 240, the coordinate conjunction *la^{5}* 'and' occurs between two clauses.

240.

ŋa^{5}	*ʔa^{3}bi^{5}*	*wui^{3}*	*la^{5}*	*ŋa^{5}*	*aʔ^{31}man^{3}*	*su^{45}*
1Sposs	older sister	run	and	1Sposs	older brother	walk

'My older sister ran and my older brother walked.'

The coordinate conjunction *la*^{5} 'and' can be omitted as in example 241. Three independent clauses are juxtaposed without the coordinate conjunction in example 241.

241.

ŋa^{5}	*ʔa*^{3}*bi*^{5}	*wui*^{3}	*ŋa*^{5}	*aʔ*^{31}*man*^{3}	*su*^{5}
1Sposs	older sister	run	1Sposs	older brother	walk

ŋa^{5}	*ʔa*^{3}*mju*^{5}	*di*^{3}*ja*^{3}
1Sposs	younger sister	skip

'My older sister ran; my older brother walked; my younger sister skipped.'

If the subject of the second clause is the same as the subject of the first clause, it can be omitted. In example 242, the subject *njaŋ*^{3} 's/he' is omitted in the second clause.

242.

njaŋ^{3}	*t*^{h}*ɔʔ*^{5}	*la*^{5}	*di*^{3}*ni*^{5}	*tai?*
3S	wake	and	clothes	change

'She/He woke up and changed clothes.'

If events of each clause occur sequentially, the coordinate conjunction *lɔ*^{3}*la*^{5} 'and then' is often utilized. In example 243, the coordinate conjunction *lɔ*^{3}*la*^{5} 'and then' occurs between the second last clause and the last clause. The coordinate conjunction *la*^{5} 'and' after the first clause can be omitted.

243.

njaŋ^{3}	*t*^{h}*ɔʔ*^{5}	*(la*^{5}*)*	*di*^{3}*ni*^{5}	*tai?*	*lɔ*^{3}*la*^{5}	*ʤuŋ*^{3}	*ma*^{3}	*lɔ*^{5}
3S	wake	(and)	cloth	change	and then	school	LOC	go

'She/He woke up, changed clothes, and then went to school.'

Contrast

In example 244, the coordinate conjunction *ŋɔat˧˥laɔ³eʔ⁵* 'but' connects two independent clauses, and expresses that the second clause is something different in contrast.

244.

ɳ̩³	*dʒuŋ³*	*ma³*	*lɔ⁵*	*ŋɔat˧˥laɔ³eʔ⁵*	*njaŋ³*	*dʒuŋ³*	*ma³*	*ma³¹*	*lɔ⁵*
1S	school	LOC	go	but	3S	school	LOC	NEG	go

'I went to school but s/he did not go to school.'

If the subjects of clauses are the same entity, only the subject in the first clause is explicitly described. In example 245, the subject *ɳ̩³* 'I' can be omitted in the second clause.

245.

ɳ̩³	*nɔ³*	*ŋɔat˧˥laɔ³eʔ⁵*	*dʒuŋ³*	*ma³*	*lɔ⁵*
1S	sick	but	school	LOC	go

'I was sick but went to school.'

Alternation

The coordinate conjunction *ŋɔat˧˥ja³* 'or' occurs between clauses, and shows the semantic relation of alternation between clauses. In example 246, the subjects of two clauses are the same entity, so the subject in the second clause can be omitted.

246.

njaŋ³	*dʒuŋ*	*ma³*	*hjuʔ⁵*	*njei³¹*	*ŋɔat˧˥ja³*	*gi³*	*laŋ⁵*	*ma³*	*d͡ʒi³ʃap˧˥ʃap˧˥*	*njei³¹*
3S	school	LOC	study	PROG	or	river		LOC	swim	PROG

'S/he is studying at school or swimming in the river.'

7.3 Comparison

In Ngo Chang, the comparative construction most frequently occurs with adjectives, stative verbs, and also some other kinds of verbs. There are three types of comparison; equative, comparative and superlative as in the following subsections.

7.3.1 Equative

An equative form expresses the equal degree of quality between the two entities.

In the Ngo Chang equative forms, one entity is marked by ja^3, and the marker $daʔ^{31}ji^5$ 'equal' expresses the equal level of quality.

247.

$njaŋ^3$	ja^3	$ŋ̣^3$	$daʔ^{31}ji^5$	$njaŋ^{31}$
3S	INST	1S	equal	tall

'She/He is as tall as I.'

In example 247, the entity $njaŋ^3$'s/he' is marked by ja^3 and the marker $daʔ^{31}ji^5$ 'equal' which occurs before the adjective $njaŋ^{31}$ 'tall' expresses the same level of degree between $njaŋ^3$'s/he' and $ŋ̣^3$ 'I'.

7.3.2 Comparative

In Ngo Chang comparative clauses, the standard is expressed in the possessive form, the marker is described by $tʰɔʔ^5li^{31}$ 'than', and the quality is expressed by adjectives.

248.

$njaŋ^3$	$gaʔ^{31}$	$ŋa^5$	$tʰɔʔ^5li^{31}$	$njaŋ^{31}$
3S	TOP	1Sposs	than	tall

'She/He is taller than I.'

In example 248, the marker $t^hɔʔ^5li^{31}$ 'than' occurs after the standard $ŋa^5$ 'my' to which the topic is compared, and the quality is expressed by the adjective $njaŋ^{31}$ 'tall'.

The intensifier $\widehat{dze}^5la^{31}$ is often used in a comparative construction for emphasizing the comparative quality as in the following sentence.

249.

$njaŋ^3$	$gaʔ^{31}$	$ŋa^5$	$t^hɔʔ^5li^{31}$	$\widehat{dze}^5la^{31}$	$njaŋ^{31}$
3S	TOP	1Sposs	than	INTS	tall

'She/He is much taller than I.'

In example 249, the intensifier $\widehat{dze}^5la^{31}$ occurs before the adjective $njaŋ^{31}$ 'tall' for stressing the comparison between the topic $njaŋ^3$'s/he' and $ŋa^5$ 'I'.

Ngo Chang comparative structures can occur without the standard with which the topic is compared.

250.

[illegible]	$gaʔ^{31}$	$t^hɔʔ^5li^{31}$	$njaŋ^{31}$
3S	TOP	than	tall

'She/He is taller.'

In example 250, the standard is not explicitly described; however, the marker $t^hɔʔ^5li^{31}$ 'than' implies that the topic $njaŋ^3$'s/he' is compared with some entities.

In Ngo Chang, the standard is expressed by the possessive form; for example, in example 248, the standard is described by the possessive pronoun form $ŋa^5$ 'my'. If the standards are described by the noun phrases, they are described with the genitive marker da^3. However, the genitive marker da^3 is often omitted.

The comparative structures also occur with verbs which imply some degrees.

251.

hai^{5}	*la*^{3}*k*^{h}*ui*^{5}	*ga?*^{31}	*hau*^{5}	*la*^{3}*k*^{h}*ui*^{5}	*(da*^{3}*)*	*t*^{h}*ɔ?*^{5}*li*^{31}	*jɔ*^{3}	*wui*^{3}
this	dog	TOP	that	dog	(GEN)	than	can	run

'This dog can run faster than that dog.'

In example 251, the comparative marker *t*^{h}*ɔ?*^{5}*li*^{31} 'than' occurs after the standard *hau*^{5} *la*^{3}*k*^{h}*ui*^{5} 'that dog' before the verb phrase *jɔ*^{3}*wui*^{3} 'can run'. The verb *wui*^{3} 'run' implies some degrees of speed. The standard *hau*^{5} *la*^{3}*k*^{h}*ui*^{5} 'that dog' can be described without the genitivemarker *da*^{3}.

7.3.3 Superlative

A superlative form expresses the highest degree of comparison. Superlative forms can be described with or without the items to which topics are compared. In Ngo Chang, the marker *t*^{h}*aŋ*^{31} 'most' expresses the highest level of degree.

252.

njaŋ^{3}	*ga?*^{31}	*njaŋ*^{31}	*t*^{h}*aŋ*^{31}
3S	TOP	tall	most

'She/He is the tallest.'

In example 252, the marker *t*^{h}*aŋ*^{31} 'most' occurs after the adjective *njaŋ*^{31} 'tall' and expresses the highest degree of quality. The compared entities that the topic is compared with are not illustrated in example 252; however, the marker *t*^{h}*aŋ*^{31} 'most' expresses that the topic has the highest degree of property within a certain entity.

In example 253, the intensifier *d͡ze*^{5}*la*^{31} can occur with the marker *t*^{h}*aŋ*^{31} 'most' for emphasizing the comparison.

253.

njaŋ^{3} *gaʔ*^{31} *d͡ze*^{5}*la*^{31} *njaŋ*^{31} *t*^{h}*aŋ*^{31}
3S TOP INTS tall most

'She/He is by far the tallest.'

The Ngo Chang superlative clause also can be expressed with the known standard.

254.

njaŋ^{3} *gaʔ*^{31} *dʒoŋ*^{31}*lɔʔ*^{32} *ta*^{3}*gaŋ*^{5} *mɔ*^{5} *t*^{h}*ɔʔ*^{5}*li*^{31} *d͡ze*^{5}*la*^{31} *njaŋ*^{31} *t*^{h}*aŋ*^{31}
3S TOP student all PL than INTS tall most

'She/He is by far the tallest of all the students.'

In example 254, the marker *t*^{h}*ɔʔ*^{5}*li*^{31} 'than' occurs after the entity *dʒoŋ*^{31}*lɔʔ*^{32} *ta*^{3}*gaŋ*^{5} *mɔ*^{5} 'all students' which the topic is compared with.