

Chapter 4

Phrases

4.1 Introduction

This chapter utilizes the word classes discussed in Chapter 2 Major Word Classes and Chapter 3

Minor Word Classes. However, the focus is now on phrases. A phrase is “a group of words which can function as a constituent within a simple clause” (Kroeger 2005: 35), though one word can often function as an entire phrase. The constituent structure and order of constituents are examined here. In addition, the function of noun phrases and verb phrases will be discussed specifically.

4.2 Noun Phrase Constituents

Certain words modify the head noun in noun phrases. These will be examined, followed by a more detailed look at noun phrases and their functions. Noun phrases generally serve as arguments for verbs (Dryer 2007a).

4.2.1 Quantifiers

A quantifier phrase is made up of one or more quantifiers often coupled with an adverb. For more on quantifiers see section 3.5 Quantifiers.

Quant P = Quant (+ Quant) (+ Adv)

Quantifiers are generally used with classifiers, but not always.

Example (96) shows a quantifier as part of a classifier phrase which, in this case, is the entire noun phrase.

Seven Orphans 136

(96)	<i>pea</i>	<i>kan</i>	<i>jiɾ</i>	<i>ɲɛʔ</i>	<i>kuɾ</i>	<i>naʔ</i>
	Vt	Pro	Vi	Prt	Quant	Clf

invite RECIP shake Prt_completive every Clf_person

[They] encouraged each other to shake [with fright] every last person.

Example (97) shows a quantifier phrase without a classifier.

Seven Orphans 12

(97) ɔ:n ηkoa? bu:n kɔ:n paleaj?

Vt Pro Vt N Quant

allow 1S have **child many**

"Please let me have many children..."

Sometimes quantifiers can modify coordinated verb phrases.

Example (98) shows a quantifier modifying a coordinated verb phrase.

Seven Orphans 199

(98) it tʰɔ: it do:j paleaj? lu?

Vt N Vt N Quant Adv

take rice take rice.cooked **many very**

...[he] then took a large amount of rice and cooked rice...

4.2.2 Numerals

There are two types of numerals in Bru Khok Sa-at. For more specifics on numerals see section 3.6 Numerals.

4.2.2.1 Cardinals

A number phrase is made up of more than one number, which may be coordinated by a conjunction. Numbers are often used with classifiers. This is discussed further in 4.2.3 Classifiers.

NumP = Num (+ Num) (+ Coord) (+ Num)

Numbers generally follow the noun head it modifies.

Example (99) shows a quantifier following the noun.

Seven Orphans 69

(99) kɔ:n ba: na?

N Num Clf

child two Clf person

..two of the children...

The noun head the numeral modifies does not need to be explicitly present.

Example (100) shows an elided noun head.

Seven Orphans 6

(100) *tɛ: ba: na? tɛ: rua? le:w*
Coordconn Num Clf Neg Adj Prt
but two Clf_person NEG happy Prt_seq_completive

But they were not happy.

Numbers greater than ten are compounded.

Example (101) shows a compounded number.

The Big Snake Son-in-Law 158

(101) *p^hɔ: tɛ? muaj tʃit la? sv:ŋ siŋai*
Subordconn Vt Num Num Coordconn Num Clf
when come one ten CONJ five Clf_day

After fifteen days...

A non-specific number may be made by putting two numbers in succession.

Example (102) and (103) show non-specific numbers.

The Big Snake Son-in-Law 141

(102) *p^hɔ: po:n siŋai sv:ŋ siŋai*
Subordconn Num Clf Num Clf
when four Clf_day five Clf_day

After four or five days...

Seven Orphans 192

(103) *ba: pai siŋai tɔ: pa?*
Num Num Clf Adj
two three Clf_day next

A few days later...

Numbers are generally followed by classifiers, but not always. When not followed by a classifier, the number seems to precede the head noun of the noun phrase.

Example (104) shows a number preceding the head noun without a classifier.

Seven Orphans 176

(104) *tapu:l kɔ:n kamɔ:t*
Num N N
seven child orphan

...the seven orphans.

Example (105) shows a number preceding a noun that is used as an indefinite number and may have a discourse function.

Seven Orphans 7

(105) *mɯaj sidaw*

Num N

one night

One night...

Sometimes the head noun precedes the number and still no classifier is used.

Example (106) shows a number with no classifier.

Seven Orphans 186

(106) *kamu:l tapu:l*

N

Num

female.unmarried seven

...the seven young women...

4.2.2.2 Ordinals

Ordinals are usually created with a periphrastic construction by using a relativizer, and they are not used with a classifier except when a classifier is used in the place of a noun head.

OrdinalP = NP (+Relativizer) + Num

Examples (107) and (108) show ordinal numbers.

Seven Orphans 197

(107) *se:m kuaj tʰi: ba: kuaj tʰi: paĩ*
 N N Subordconn Num N Subordconn Num
 younger.sibling person REL two person REL three

...the second oldest sister and the third oldest...

Buyeang Fish 101

(108) *tʃu: tʰi: paĩ*
 Clf Subordconn Num
 Clf_time REL three

"On the third time..."

Example (109) shows an ordinal with the relativizer elided.

(109) *ntʃʰaĩ matʃit la? mɯaj*
 Clf Num Coordconn Num
 Clf_month ten and one

...the eleventh month...

4.2.3 Classifiers

A classifier phrase is typically a number or quantifier with a classifier modifying a head noun. See 3.7 Classifiers for a representative list of classifiers.

ClfP = Num/Quant + Clf

Example (110) shows the most basic form of classifier phrase, which is preceded by a noun head.

Buyeang Fish 2

(110) *kr̥uaj̥ m̥uaj̥ kr̥uaj̥*

N Num Clf
city one Clf_city

a city.

Example (111) shows that classifier phrases may be repeated for emphasis.

Big Snake Son-in-Law 13

(111) *kɔ:n̩ kamu:l̩ m̥aī̯ m̥uaj̥ na? m̥uaj̥ na?*

N N Pro Num Clf Num Clf

child female.unmarried 2S one Clf_person one Clf_person

...one of your daughters...

Occasionally, classifier phrases may precede the noun head. This may place them in juxtaposition with the classifier phrase or be a topic-comment structure. More data and further analysis of this structure is needed.

Examples (112) and (113) show classifier phrases preceding the head noun.

Seven Orphans 56

(112) *ba: na? m̥paī̯ ajak*

Num Clf N N

two Clf_person wife husband

Both the husband and wife...

Wild Buffalo Ear 79

(113) *m̥uaj̥ nam̩ katur̩ sijur̩*

Num Clf N N

one Clf_thing ear buffalo.wild

...one more thing, the wild buffalo ear."

Classifiers are occasionally used along with determiners.

Example (114) shows a classifier used along with a determiner in a noun phrase.
Wild Buffalo Ear 49

(114) *atʃɔː toː kiː*
 N Clf Det
 dog Clf_animal that
 ...that dog.

Further research is needed to explain the use of classifiers for purposes other than quantifying, and an explanation will not be attempted here.

4.3 Noun Phrases

“A Noun Phrase...is a phrasal constituent whose head is a noun,” (Kroeger 2005: 87).

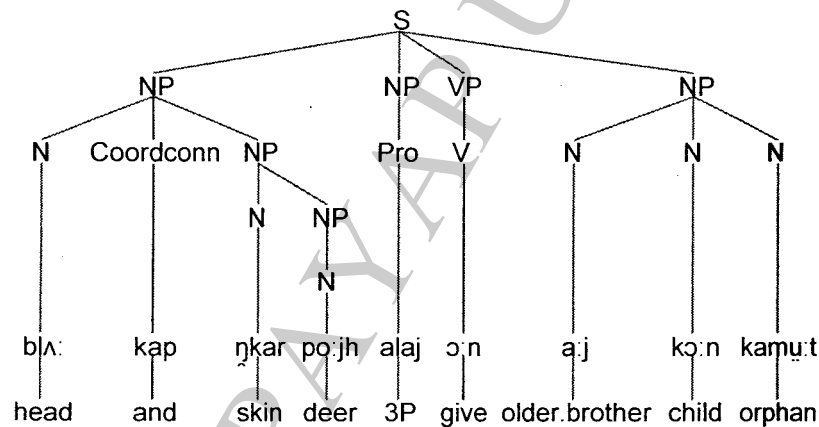
In this data set from Bru Khok Sa-at, a noun phrase can be the subject, object, indirect object, object of a preposition, or speech referant (vocative).

Example (115) shows a noun phrase as a subject, object (fronted) and indirect object. Examples (116) through (118) identify each noun phrase.

Grandfather Ghost 85

(115) *blɔː kap ŋkar poːjh alaj ɔːn aːj kɔːn kamɯːt*
 N Coordconn N N Pro Vd N N N
 head and skin deer 3P give older.brother child orphan

They gave the head and the skin of the deer to the older orphan child.



Example (116) shows a noun phrase (pronoun) subject. In Bru Khok Sa-at, a subject is the noun phrase that typically precedes the verb phrase.

(116) *alaj*

Pro

3P

They...

Example (117) shows a noun phrase object. In Bru Khok Sa-at, the object normally follows the verb phrase. However, in example (117) the object is fronted. See 5.4.2 Fronted Object Clauses for more on this topic.

(117) *bləː kap ŋkar poːjh*
 N Coordconn N N
 head and skin deer

...the head and skin of the deer...

Example (118) shows a noun phrase indirect object. In Bru Khok Sa-at, the indirect object normally follows the verb phrase and precedes the direct object.

(118) *aj kɔːn kamɯːt*
 N N N
 older.brother child orphan

...older orphan child.

Example (119) shows a noun phrase as a predicate nominative.
 Big Snake Son-in-law 177

(119) *ajəaː tʰaw a-naiː pɛn mpeː an*
 N Adj Pro Cop N Pro
 grandmother old INTENS-this be mother 3S

...this old grandmother was her mother.

Example (120) shows a noun phrase as the object of a preposition.
 Wild Buffalo Ear 70

(120) *nəŋ doŋ hiː*
 Prep N Pro
 in house 1P_exc

...in our house?"

Example (121) shows a noun phrase as a speech referent (vocative).
 Buyeang Fish 69

(121) *ɔː kaː tʃuaj maiː tɔː buːn tʃaw vj*
 N Coordconn Vt Pro Neg Vi N Adj
 grandmother so help 2S NEG able grandchild dear

"I can not help you, dear grandson."

4.3.1 Simple Noun Phrases

The following section analyzes simple noun phrases. Possessive noun phrases and relative clauses will be discussed in sections 4.3.2 Possessive Noun Phrases and 4.3.3 Relative Clauses afterwards.

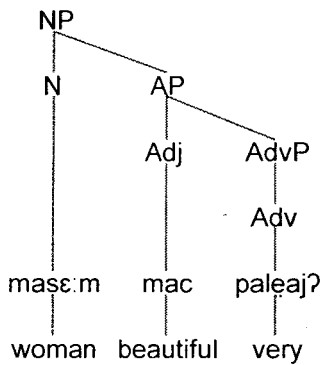
NP = N (+Det) (+AP) (+ClfP)

Example (122) shows a noun phrase consisting of an adjective phrase and an adverb phrase.

Wild Buffalo Ear 32

(122) *mase:m mac paleaj?*
 N Adj Adv
 woman beautiful very

...a very beautiful woman.

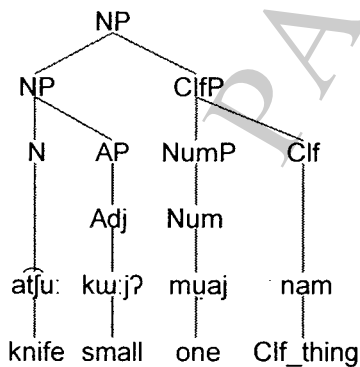


Example (123) shows a noun phrase made up of an adjective phrase and a classifier phrase.

Seven Orphans 153

(123) *atfu: ku:j? muaj nam*
 N Adj Num Clf
 knife small one Clf_thing

...a small knife.



4.3.2 Possessive Noun Phrases

In Bru Khok Sa-at, possessive markers are identical in form to personal pronouns (examples of 1S, 2S, 3S, 1P_inc, 1P_exc). See section 3.2.1 Personal Pronouns for further discussion on personal pronouns. Possession is normally marked by simple juxtaposition. The possessive marker *kʰɔ:ŋ* is normally used for noun phrases and occasionally with pronouns.

NP_{poss} = NP_{possessed} (+ possessive marker) + NP_{possessor}.

POSS *kʰɔ:ŋ*

Possessive markers indicate possession.

Example (124) shows a possessive marker indicating possession.

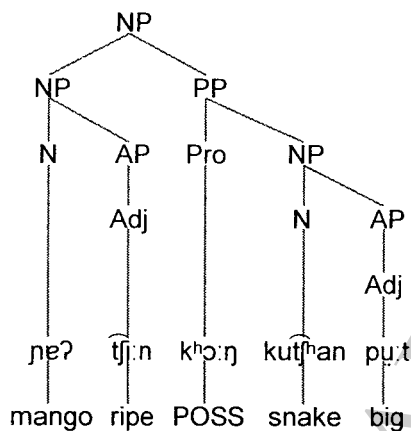
Big Snake Son-in-law 23

(124) *ŋe? tʃi:n kʰɔ:ŋ kutʃʰan pu:t*

N Adj Poss N Adj

mango ripe POSS snake big

...the big snake's ripe mangoes...



Possessive markers also indicate kinship relations.

Example (125) shows a possessive marker indicating kinship relations.

Wild Buffalo Ear 94

(125) *ŋpai kʰɔ:ŋ tʃaw*

N Poss N

wife POSS grandchild

...the grandson's wife...

Example (126) shows a kinship relation by simple juxtaposition without using the possessive marker.

Wild Buffalo Ear 18

(126) *t̄faw* *ɖ?*
 N N

grandchild grandfather

... the grandfather's grandson...

Generally, pronouns in simple juxtaposition follow the noun they possess or relate to indicate possession.

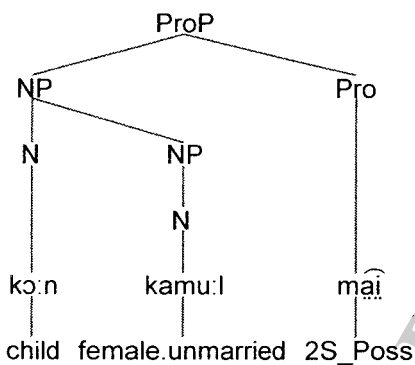
Example (127) shows a singular possessive pronoun.

Big Snake Son-in-law 13

(127) *kɔ:n* *kamu:l* *māi*
 N N Pro

child female.unmarried 2S

...your daughters...



Examples (128) and (129) show a plural possessive pronoun.

Seven Orphans 132

(128) *t̄fak* *haj*
 N Pro

body 1P_inc

...our bodies...

Seven Orphans 141

(129) *m̄poa* *hi?*
 N Pro

father 1P_exc

...our father...

Example (130) shows one possessive with a compound noun phrase.

Big Snake Son-in-law 156

(130) *doŋ mpe? doŋ mpoa ŋkoa?*

N N N N Pro

house mother house father 1S

...my mother and father's house...

Occasionally, the possessive marker is also used with pronouns.

Example (131) shows a possessive marker used with a singular pronoun.

Wild Buffalo Ear 82

(131) *t̄faw kʰɔ:ŋ ŋkoa?*

N Poss Pro

grandchild POSS 1S

...my grandson."

Examples (132) shows a possessive marker used with a plural pronoun.

Wild Buffalo Ear 104

(132) *law kʰɔ:ŋ alaj*

N Poss Pro

shed POSS 3P

...their storage shed...

4.3.3 Relative Clauses

A relative clause is a clause "...which modifies the head noun within a noun phrase," (Kroeger 2005: 230). Restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses will be examined here as they impact the noun phrase. Further information on the structure of relative clauses, which are externally headed, is discussed in 6.3.4 Relative Clauses.

NPrel = NP + Rel + C

4.3.3.1 Restrictive Relative Clauses

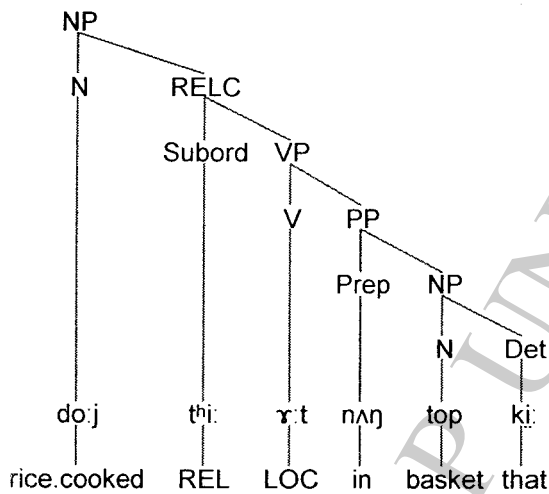
Restrictive relative clauses restrict the head noun phrase's reference (Kroeger 2005: 231).

Example (133) is a restrictive relative clause.

Wild Buffalo Ear 44

(133)	<i>tə:</i>	<i>bun</i>	<i>aməʔ</i>	<i>ka:</i>	<i>tʃa:</i>	<i>doj</i>		<i>tʰi:</i>		<i>ɾ:t</i>		<i>nəj</i>	<i>top</i>
	Neg	Cop	Pro	Vaux	Vt	N		Subordconn	Vi			Prep	N
	NEG	EXIST	who	dare	eat	rice.cooked	REL		located	in		basket	
	<i>ki:</i>	<i>ɲa:n</i>	<i>alaj</i>	<i>kut</i>	<i>pəj</i>	<i>aneə</i>	<i>vil</i>	<i>si</i>	<i>ku:a</i>	<i>alaj</i>			
	Det	Subordconn	Pro	Vi	Subordconn	N	N	Vaux	N	Pro			
	that	because	3P	think	COMP	people	village	IRR	poison	3P			

...neither of who dared to eat the rice which was located in that basket there, because they thought that the villagers might have been trying to poison them.



4.3.3.2 Non-Restrictive Relative Clause

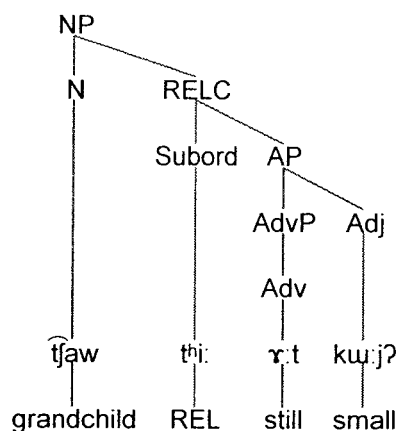
Non-Restrictive relative clauses give more information about the head noun phrase's reference, but do not restrict it (Kroeger 2005: 231). In the Bru Khok Sa-at texts this is often new information.

Example (134) is a non-restrictive relative clause.

Grandfather Ghost 10

(134)	<i>tah</i>	<i>ɔ:n</i>	<i>tʃaw</i>		<i>tʰi:</i>		<i>ɾ:t</i>	<i>ku:jʔ</i>	<i>ɾ:t</i>	<i>məj</i>	<i>naʔ</i>
	Vt	Vt	N		Subordconn	Adv	Adj	Vi	Num	Clf	
	leave	cause	grandchild	REL		still	small	live	one	Clf_person	

[His] leaving caused the grandchild who was still small to live all alone.



4.4 Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases are headed by a preposition (Nichols 1986: 57) and take a noun phrase object. See 3.8 Prepositions for a list of prepositions.

PrepP = Prep + NP

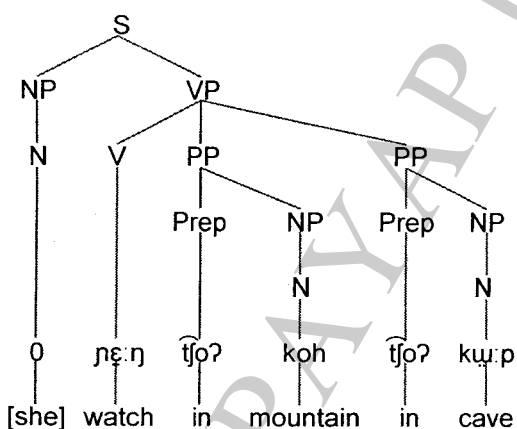
Example (135) shows a preposition phrase.

Buyeang Fish 90

(135) *nɛ:ŋ tʃoʔ koh tʃoʔ ku:p*
 Vt Prep N Prep N

watch in mountain in cave

[She] looked in the mountains and in the cave...



Example (136) shows how prepositional phrases can also take pronouns as objects.

Grandfather Ghost 53

(136) *an pʌʔ tʃoʔ maɪ tʃʌ: dʌ:*
 Pro Vi Prep Pro Prt Prt

3S go to 2S Prt_seq_completive Prt_informative

"It has gone towards you!"

4.5 Verb Phrase Constituents

Certain words and phrases modify the head verb in verb phrases. These are examined below, followed by a more detailed look at verb phrases and serial verbs.

4.5.1 Adverbs

Adverb phrases consist of more than one adverb or negator. See section 2.5 Adverbs for further discussion on adverbs or section 3.12 Negators for further discussion on negators.

AdvP = (Neg +) (Adv +) Adv

Example (137) shows an adverb modifying another adverb.

Buyeang Fish 15

(137) *p^hɔː tɔʔ jɔːŋ tɔːp*
 Subordconn Vt Adv Adv
 when come far quite

When they had gone quite far...

Example (138) shows a negator with an adverb.

Seven Orphans 4

(138) *tɔː kɔːj buːn kɔːn*
 Neg Adv Vt N
 NEG ever have child

[They] never had children...

4.5.2 Auxiliaries

Auxiliaries add further context to verbs including aspect, mood and modality. For further discussion on auxiliaries see section 3.9.1 Auxiliaries.⁶ For definitions of aspect and modality see section 2.3 Verbs.

AuxP = (Neg +) (Aux +) Aux

Example (139) shows a negator and auxiliary before a verb.

Seven Orphans 138

(139) *mpaiː tɔː tɔŋ ŋkɔh ŋkoa? dɔːk*
 Pro Neg Vaux Vt Pro Prt
 2P NEG must fear 1S Prt_contradiction

..."Actually, you all do not have to fear me."

⁶ PROG, *nto:m*; dare, *kaː*; must, *tɔŋ*; IRR, *si*; want, *jaʔ*

Example (140) shows two auxiliaries with one verb.

Wild Buffalo Ear 69

(140) *an nto:m si k^ho:j doj*

Pro Vaux Vaux Vt N

3S PROG IRR steam rice.cooked

...she was preparing to steam rice.

4.5.2.1 Progressive Aspect

Progressive aspect is an event that shows continuing progress of the event over time (Kroeger 2005: 348). In Bru Khok Sa-at it is marked by an auxiliary verb.

Example (141) shows a clause with progressive aspect.

Wild Buffalo Ear 3

(141) *ba: na? nai nto:m ta? t^hro: t^hrai*

Num Clf Det Vaux Vt N N

two Clf_{person} this PROG make/do rice field

These two were working in the rice fields.

Example (142) shows an extremely rare construction for this corpus of progressive with irrealis.

Wild Buffalo Ear 69

(142) *an nto:m si k^ho:j doj*

Pro Vaux Vaux Vt N

3S PROG IRR steam rice.cooked

...she was preparing to steam rice.

4.5.2.2 Irrealis Mood

Irrealis mood is used for a range of situations to lessen the certainty of the reported event (Timberlake 2007: 326).

Examples (143) and (144) show two clauses that use irrealis mood.

Seven Orphans 30

(143) *ηkoa? si tah alaj naη pruj*

Pro Vaux Vt Pro Prep N

1S IRR leave 3P in hole

"I will leave them in the hole."

Wild Buffalo Ear 44

(144) *aneə vil si ku:ə alaj*
N N Vaux N Pro

people village IRR poison 3P

...the villagers might have been trying to poison them.

4.5.2.3 Optative Modality

Optative indicates realizable wishes or desires (Trask 1993: 195).

Example (145) shows an optative clause.

Big Snake Son-in-law 76

(145) *hi? ja? bu:n*
Pro Vaux Vt

1P_exc want have

We want to have [a husband]...

4.5.2.4 Desiderative Modality

Desiderative modality indicates wishes or desires that are not realizable (Trask 1993: 80).

Example (146) shows a clause with desiderative.

Big Snake Son-in-law 85

(146) *ηkoa? tæ ka: mət*
Pro Neg Vaux Vt

1S NEG dare enter

...I do not dare to enter [the house]."

4.5.2.5 Deontic Modality

Deontic modality indicates permission, obligation, or prohibition (Trask 1993: 76).

Example (147) shows deontic modality.

Big Snake Son-in-law 13

(147) *tæ: kəm kamul m̄aī muaj na? muaj na?*
Coordconn N N Pro Num Clf Num Clf

but child female.unmarried 2S one Clf_person one Clf_person

təŋ pen ŋpāī ηkoa?

Vaux Cop N Pro

must be wife 1S

But one of your daughters must become my wife.

4.6 Verb Phrase

A verb is the head of a verb phrase (Lunaghi & Parodi 2008: 152).

4.6.1 Simple Verb Phrases

The following section analyzes simple verb phrases. Coordinated verb phrases and serial verbs will be analyzed in sections 4.6.2 Coordinated Verb Phrases and 4.6.3 Serial Verbs respectively.

VP = (Neg +) (AdvP +) (AuxP +) V (+ AdvP)

Example (148) shows a verb phrase consisting of a verb followed by an adverb phrase.

Seven Orphans 45

(148) *m̄poa it simu: a-t̄fo:n pruam*
 N Vt N Vi Adv

father take vine CAUS-go.up also

The father pulled up the vine also.

Example (149) shows two verb phrases in two separate clauses of a complex sentence. One verb phrase consists of a negative with a verb and the other is made up of an auxiliary phrase with a verb.

Big Snake Son-in-law 86

(149) *kʰan ta: mu:t ŋkoa? si a-t̄f̄it m̄ai*
 Subordconn Neg Vt Pro Vaux Vt Pro

if NEG enter 1S IRR CAUS-die 2S

..."If you don't enter, I will kill you."

4.6.2 Coordinated Verb Phrases

In Bru Khok Sa-at, verbs are only coordinated by coordinating conjunctions as part of two coordinated clauses. When verbs are in juxtaposition to one another, they are serial verbs.

Example (150) shows verbs coordinated by a coordinating conjunction as part of two coordinated clauses.

Grandfather Ghost 34

(150) *o: hi? si p̄ea an pa? ho: kap ŋkr̄uaŋ tran*
 Interj Pro Vaux Vt Pro Vi Vi Coordconn Vt N

oh 1P_exc IRR invite 3S go make.noise and flush animal

"Oh, we will invite him to go make noise and flush out animals."

4.6.3 Serial Verbs

In a serial verb construction, other clausal constituents may not come between the two verbs (Dryer 2007c: 126). In Bru Khok Sa-at, this includes elided clausal arguments.

Example (151) shows a combination of verbs that use one verb for the English gloss see + come = find.

Buyeang Fish 74

(151)	<i>kʰan</i>	<i>tʃilaj</i>	<i>wisɛt</i>	<i>māi</i>	<i>tʃuaj?</i>	<i>an</i>	<i>hu:m</i>	<i>tɔ?</i>	<i>pai</i>	<i>tʃu:</i>
	Subordconn	N	N	Pro	Vt	Pro	Vt	Vt	Num	Clf
	if	mirror	magic	2S	search	3S	see	come	three	Clf_time

"If your magic mirror searches for him and finds him three times..."

4.6.3.1 Sequential

Examples (152) and (153) shows two verbs whose actions that follow one another sequentially.

Seven Orphans 27

(152)	<i>pɛa</i>	<i>alaj</i>	<i>pɔ?</i>	<i>pɪc</i>	<i>pɔŋ</i>
	Vt	Pro	Vi	Vt	N
	invite	3P	go	dig	bawng.root

"[I] will ask them to go dig bawng roots."

Seven Orphans 193

(153)	<i>mɔt</i>	<i>sɛ:k</i>	<i>tʰrɔ:</i>	<i>naŋ</i>	<i>baw</i>	<i>tapu:l</i>	<i>na?</i>	<i>ŋpɛ?</i>	<i>tɪja?</i>
	Vt	Vt	N	Prep	N	Num	Clf	Prep	Prep

enter request rice from young.man seven Clf_person like before
 [They] went and requested rice from the seven young men just like before.

4.6.3.2 Result

Example (154) shows how the second verb shows the result of the first.

Seven Orphans 62

(154)	<i>kal</i>	<i>kapɛh</i>	<i>dom</i>	<i>atɛt</i>	<i>alaj</i>
	N	N	Vi	Vt	Pro

tree gabeh.fruit **fall cover** 3P

"The gabeh tree will fall on top of them."

4.6.3.3 Direction

Examples (155) and (156) show how one verb may express action while the second verb may indicate the direction of the action.

Seven Orphans 14

(155)	<i>naw</i>	<i>ly:j</i>	<i>asuaj</i>	<i>kuaj</i>	<i>bu:n</i>	<i>bon</i>	<i>ta?</i>	<i>se:n</i>	<i>ky:t</i>	<i>tapu:l</i>
	Pro	Coordconn	Vt	N	Vt	N	Vt	Vi	Vt	Num
	3S	so	send	person	have	merit	come	descend	birth	seven

na?

Clf

Clf_person

And so He sent seven unborn children who had merit to go down to be born.

Seven Orphans 86

(156)	<i>atfujh</i>	<i>t^haw</i>	<i>ly:j</i>	<i>tajah</i>	<i>tfu:</i>	<i>don</i>
	N	Adj	Coordconn	Vi	Vt	N
	grandfather	old	so	walk	return	house

And so the old grandfather walked back home.

Unlike auxiliaries which appear before the main verb and do not serve as a full verb form, verbs indicating direction appear after the verb as in the case of serial verbs. They also generally function as independent verbs in other contexts.

4.6.4 Adjective (Stative Verb) Phrases

Adjectives function as stative verbs in Bru Khok Sa-at.

AP = (Neg+) (AdvP+) Adj (+AdvP)

Example (157) shows an adverb phrase after an adjective.

Seven Orphans 39

(157)	<i>mpoa</i>	<i>mpoa</i>	<i>pəŋ</i>	<i>simu:</i>	<i>huk</i>	<i>lu?</i>
	N	N	N	N	Adj	Adv
	father	father	bawng.root	vine	big	very

..."Father, Father, [here is] a very big root."

Example (158) shows a negative in front of an adjective.

Seven Orphans 38

(158)	<i>ta:</i>	<i>huk</i>
	Neg	Adj
	NEG	big

"[It's] not big..."

Example (159) shows an adverb phrase on either side of the adjective.

Seven Orphans 38

(159) *ɾt ku:j? nɔŋ*

Adv Adj Adv

still small still

...[it's] still too small."

4.6.5 Copula Phrase

Copulas are verbs that link a subject and a complement (Crystal 1992: 85). Unlike other verb phrases, copulas require a noun phrase complement.

CopP = (Neg+) (AdvP+) (AuxP+) Cop + NP

Example Buyeang Fish 76

(160) shows a copula with a negator and adverb.

Buyeang Fish 76

(160) *tɔ: kɾj bu:n amɔ? tɔ? tɛ: tʃilɔŋ wisɛt ŋkoa? bu:n*

Neg Adv Cop Pro Vi Prep N N Pro Vi

NEG ever EXIST who hide from mirror magic 1S able

..."There has never been [anyone] who could hide from my magic mirror."

Example (161) shows a copula with an auxiliary.

Big Snake Son-in-law 21

(161) *ɪʃɔ: tɔŋ pɛn ŋpai kutʃan huuk dɔ:*

Coordconn Vaux Cop N N Adj Prt

then must be wife snake big Prt_informative

...then [that person] must become the wife of a big snake."

4.7 Conclusion

Enfield cites that MSEA languages are not morphologically marked for head-dependent structure relations. Constituent order helps determine phrasal heads (2005: 186). Bru Khok Sa-at holds to this pattern.

In Bru Khok Sa-at the noun head is generally initial. Bru Woen Buek (Pattiya 1981: 111), So (Migliazza 1998: 96-98) and Kuy (Bos 2009: 9) also have the noun head initially. Pacoh has the noun head initial in simple noun phrases, but the classifier phrase may precede it (Alves 2006: 43-45).

Possessive noun phrases in Bru are head initial and then show the noun phrase possessor. There is a possessive marker that may or may not be used either a pronoun or a simple noun phrase is used for the noun phrase possessor. A similar pattern is seen in Eastern Bru (Carolyn Miller 1964: 74). Kuy also has head initial possessive phrases; however there is no possessive marker. Possession is indicated by simple juxtaposition (Bos 2009: 31).

Like simple noun phrases, the noun head in a relative clause is initial. This agrees with Pattiya's analysis of Bru Woen Buek (1981: 109). So (Migliazza 1998: 96), Kuy (Bos 2009: 9), and Pacoh (Watson 1976: 227) also have this order.

Numeral phrases in Bru Khok Sa-at are frequently used with classifiers, but not always. Carolyn Miller shows that numbers are also used with nouns without classifiers in Eastern Bru. In this case, the number precedes the noun head, but the classifier phrase also usually precedes the noun head (1964: 70).

Classifiers phrases in Bru Khok Sa-at generally follow the head noun and include a number or quantifier. However, occasionally classifiers can be used without quantifiers. Carolyn Miller demonstrates this as occurring in Eastern Bru as well (1964: 69-70).

Bru Khok Sa-at uses prepositions versus postpositions. Bru Woen Buek (Pattiya 1981: 131), Eastern Bru (John Miller 1964: 55), So (Miglizza 1998: 72), Kuy (Bos 2009: 25-26) and Pacoh (Alves 2006: 79-84) also have prepositions.

Verb heads are generally toward the end of a verb phrase in Bru Khok Sa-at. There are three different elements that may precede the head verb and only one that follows. However, some other verbal modifiers are being analyzed as particles in section 5.5 Particles. Pattiya in her tagmemic analysis of Bru Woen Buek reports two preverbal slots and one post verbal slot (1981: 143-144). Migliazza reports that in So, verbs are usually initial, but he may be referring more specifically to serial verbs (1998: 92).

Bru Khok Sa-at has serial verbs that include purpose, sequential action, direction, and result. Bru Woen Buek also has serial verbs, which Pattiya calls verb concatenation. She makes a distinction between main verb concatenation and main verbs with directional verbs (1981: 161-164). So also has serial verbs. Migliazza

does not mention specific semantic types, but he does mention directionals as auxiliaries. However, he does not define auxiliaries or defend his choice of term (1998: 92-96). Bos in Kuy also comments on directionals, but also tentatively includes them in serial verb constructions. Other serial verb types include instrumental, causative, resultative, benefactive, and motion (2009: 43-45, 60-62). Alves argues that Pacoh has verbs that take other verbs as compliments rather than using the term serial verbs. However, they cover many of the same semantic functions (2006: 106-112).

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