

# Chapter 7

## Conclusion

### 7.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of findings along with a conclusion and suggestions for further research.

### 7.2 Chapter 1

Chapter 1 gave a general background of Bru Khok Sa-at, including its location and relation to other languages. It gave a basic overview of the thesis and discussed the linguistic background of Bru Khok Sa-at. It looked at the history and current lifestyle of residents and gave a very basic overview of Bru Khok Sa-at phonology. It highlighted other literature written on Bru and related languages.

Bru Khok Sa-at is geographically close to So as well as being in the same linguistic subfamily. Other languages compared with Bru Khok Sa-at, include Eastern Bru, also in the same subfamily, and Kuy and Pacoh. According to the Ethnologue, Kuy is also in the West Katuic group (Lewis 2009). However, according to Miller and Miller, Kuy is in the West Katuic group, Bru and So are in the North Katuic group, and Pacoh is in the East Katuic group (1996).

### 7.3 Chapter 2

Chapter 2 focused on major word classes. Major classes were defined and subsets examined. Nouns included noun compounding and modifiers. There were a few examples of morphology including *ra-* that marks plurals or recipients and *k<sup>h</sup>wa:m-* that is a nominalizer. Exploration of the limited morphology in Bru Khok Sa-at would be fruitful for further research. Elicitation and analysis of compound nouns, elaborated expressions, and noun modification would be interesting especially as related to other MSEA language. Despite initial appearances, word formation seems to be a complex and productive process in Bru Khok Sa-at.

Verbs looked at reduplication and copulas. As there were no clear examples of passive voice in the texts, elicitation is needed to clarify this area. There were a few examples glossed as passive, but these need to be checked with more examples and texts. Much further analysis into specific types of tense, aspect, mood, and modality is possible.

Adjectives were examined and considered to have strong verbal properties. The pragmatics of adjective reduplication would be rich for further study with added data from texts and elicitation. The texts seem to indicate that adjectives function as stative verbs, but further research involving more texts and grammatical theory could be done.

Adverbs were looked at as a whole and also divided to look at adverbs of degree, place, frequency, manner, and time. Further research on the pattern, function, and scope of adverbs would be helpful.

Major word classes in Katuic languages examined all appear to act the same way except Eastern Bru where adjectives seem to act more like adverbs, by modifying both nouns and verbs, than verbs able to stand alone as a predicate.

## **7.4 Chapter 3**

Chapter 3 focused on minor word classes. These were also defined and subsets examined. Pronouns were examined including personal pronouns, reciprocal pronouns, and indefinite pronouns. Further research is needed to determine the full scope and usage of the indefinite pronouns.

Other classes were examined including demonstratives, quantifiers, numerals, classifiers, and prepositions. Reduplication of quantifiers could be studied with further texts and elicitation. The phonological variation in numbers would be an excellent study. Classifiers could be studied for their use in place of nouns. Minor classes of verb adjuncts included auxiliaries. Further research is needed on the distinction between the categories of auxiliaries. Conjunctions were examined for both type of coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. Mention was made of interjections and negators. Clausal constituents, namely particles and topic markers were remarked upon.

Minor word classes do show some differences among Katuic languages. While most examined include politeness distinctions in pronouns, Eastern Bru and Pacoh do not. All of the languages examined included classifiers and particles, as is typical for MSEA languages.

## 7.5 Chapter 4

Chapter 4 focused on phrases. It discussed the constituents of noun phrases including nouns, adjectives, determiners, quantifiers, and numbers. Generally numbers and quantifiers are used with classifiers, but further research is needed to determine when they are used independently of classifiers. Elicitation and further understanding of the surrounding languages would be helpful. It is possible the some constructions reflect the influence of Thai. Special attention was paid to classifier phrases. When classifiers precede noun phrases, further more data and further analysis is needed to determine if this is juxtaposition for emphasis or a topic-comment structure. Other uses of classifiers include their use with demonstratives. Further research on the overall usage and semantic properties of classifiers is needed. Noun phrases including basic noun phrases, possessive phrases, and relative clauses are also discussed. Noun adjuncts, namely prepositional phrases were examined.

This chapter also discussed constituents of verb phrases including adverbs, negators, and auxiliaries. Further research into the use of multiple auxiliaries is needed. It also discussed verb phrases including simple verb phrases, coordinated verb phrases, serial verb phrases, adjective (stative verb) phrases, and copula phrases. Bru Khok Sa-at has head-initial noun phrases along with the other languages examined. This was also true of relative clauses. Prepositions rather than postpositions are used in all languages examined. While Eastern Bru and Bru Khok Sa-at often differ in linguistic features, the use of classifiers as independent markers without numbers or quantifiers is also reflected in Eastern Bru. All of the languages examined seemed to have some type of serial verbs, but specific comparisons were difficult due to the different grammatical theories and terminology used.

## 7.6 Chapter 5

Chapter 5 focused on clauses. Verbal and non-verbal predicates were examined including intransitive, transitive, ditransitive, adjectival predicates, nominal predicates, existential predicates, and comparative clauses. Different speech acts were examined including declaratives, various types of interrogatives, and

imperatives. The role of intonation in speech acts needs further research with a language resource person. A few variations in clausal structure were also examined, though much more work could be done with more texts and elicitation. Particles as clausal constituents were also examined. Further research is needed to determine the semantic differences between these particles.

All of the Katuic languages examined were SVO. While many of the verbal predicates looked the same, some of the features of non-verbal predicates were handled differently especially whether a copula was used over juxtaposition. So and Bru deserve a closer look, as the So of Dong Luang researched by Chollada and Bru Khok Sa-at, not only used the same types of non-verbal predicates, but often the same or similar words. In all languages, particles were often used to indicate different moods. However, many grammars mentioned the use of intonation as well.

## **7.7 Chapter 6**

Chapter 6 focused on various types of complex sentences. A complex sentence is formed by the conjoining of more than one clause. More research could be done in determining how a sentence is defined in Bru Khok Sa-at. Coordinating clauses were examined including simultaneous, sequential, and conditional coordination. Discourse conjunctions and combinations of conjunctions were also mentioned. Much research could be done in distinguishing between the two based on the definition of a sentence. Subordinating clauses were analyzed including complement clauses. Further elicitation and analysis is needed to determine if there is a distinction between direct and indirect speech. Adverbial clauses analyzed included time, manner, purpose, reason, result, and conditional. Relative clauses were also looked at and determined to have external heads. Further research is needed to determine if relative clauses with internal heads are possible.

Much less comparative information was found on complex sentences, though most grammars included a look at relative clauses and conditional clauses. Once again, the So of Dong Luang, and Bru Khok Sa-at, were using not only the same pattern but the same word to mark speech clauses.

## **7.8 Conclusion**

The goal of this thesis was to describe the basic syntax of phrases, clauses and sentences in Bru Khok Sa-at using narrative texts. From this thesis, it can be seen

that this is possible. Some of the limitations included having only a few examples of some particles, prepositions, and coordinators. It did show some excellent variation in sentence structure.

PAYYAP UNIVERSITY