

Chapter 7

Sentence Types

7.1 Introduction

This chapter looks at different sentence types in Kayah Monu. It provides several illustrative examples for declarative, imperative, and interrogative sentences and describes the patterns for each type. Most languages have specific grammatical patterns that are used to indicate which of these actions the speaker intends to perform: declarative for statements; imperative for commands, and interrogative for questions (Kroeger 2005: 196). Sentence final particles normally are added to declarative sentence to make them express some other illocutionary force.

7.2 Declarative (Statements)

In Kayah Monu, the most basic kind of sentence structure is a simple statement, a declarative sentence. The NP_{Obj} follows both NP_{Sub} and VP; PP and ClfP optionally occur at the end of the clause. The typical structure of a declarative sentence is schematized as below.

S: [NP_{Sub} VP NP_{Obj} (PP) (ClfP)]

Sentence (339) illustrates a simple declarative sentence in Kayah Monu. It consists of NP_{Sub} *ʔàmúpwá* 'the old man', a verb *màt^hʔ* 'build', NP_{Obj} *hí* 'house', PP_{Loc} *dá lā kō* 'in the field' and ClfP *tà mē* 'one/a house'.

(339) ʔàmúpwá màt^hʔ hí dá lā kō tà mē
old.man build house at field in one CLF.round.big
N V N PREP N LCLZR NUM CLF
The old man built a house in the field.

Declarative sentences have been extensively discussed in previous chapters.

7.3 Imperative (Commands)

Imperatives are clause construction types that directly command the addressee to perform some action. They are usually understood to refer to second person subjects. In Kayah Monu, the addressee who is being told to do something is usually omitted and the imperative can be strong or softened by changing intonation.

7.3.1 Regular Imperatives

A regular imperative is usually a declarative clause optionally without both addresser and addressee. Examples below show imperative sentences in Kayah Monu. All sentences are spoken strongly to express command.

(340) hē ʔá báʔù

come eat here

V V DEM.Loc

Come and eat!

(341) tʃó pwè kè tētā

go buy return property

V V V N

Go and buy things!

Sometimes proper nouns can occur in imperative clauses when the addressee is being told to do something with increased urgency or impatience as in (342).

(342) p^hàbò mà p^hwè p^hwè

Phabaw do quickly quickly

NPROP V ADV ADV

Phabaw, hurry up!

A bare verb can also form an imperative structure. For example, *tʃó* 'go' in example (343) has only a verb to form an imperative clause and it was used with a strong voice in giving a command.

(343) tʃó

go

V

Go!

7.3.2 Prohibitive Imperatives

Prohibitive (negative imperatives) have the same form as positive imperatives, except that the clause includes the negation marker. The following examples (344) and (445) compare declarative and imperative clauses. In (344), the actor is giving quite strong command by using imperative negation *má* 'not' whereas in (345), it is not a prohibitive instead the addressee responds by using general negation marker *tə* 'not'.

(344) *mà má* (strong command)

do not

V NEG.IMP

Don't do it!

(345) *mà tə* (refuse to do)

do not

V NEG

I won't do it!

7.3.3 Polite Imperatives

Another possible way of marking imperative sentences in Kayah Monu is by using special final imperative markers. The polite imperative is not necessarily used towards a speaker of higher status, but is used to demonstrate a kind of positive attitude towards the addressee. This is a softer, less direct form of command than the regular imperative and frequently used in hortatory discourse.

The polite imperative is marked by the particle *n̄* and *né*. Examples below show that the speaker can soften the force of an imperative with both final element imperative markers. The first one *n̄* seems to be a Burmese loan word.

(346) *kànè?í h̄ n̄*

remember 1S ASRT

V PRO IMP

Remember me please!

(347) mà hénù né
do that ASRT
V DEM IMP
Do like that!

(348) p̄k^{h5} ʔà hé nū hé tàmə né
as 3S say topic say not IMP.polite
SUBORD PRO V TOP V NEG IMP

!(t)! tell As he said don

Sometimes the polite term *k^{h5}sàdê* ‘please’ is used in request clauses as in (349).

(349) k^{h5}sàdê ʔí hē
please give 1S
IMP V PRO
Give me please!

7.3.4 Hortative Imperatives

The first person always occurs in a hortative construction as an agent of the suggested action. It involves at least two people but the number is not explicitly marked. In these examples (350) and (351), the hortative particle *lá* and *má* are used to express suggested opinion in a clause. The second one *má* seems to be a Sgaw Karen loan word.

(350) pà tʃó lá
1P go HORT
PRO V IMP
Let us go!

(351) ʔàsè tʃó má
3P.poss go HORT
PRO V IMP
They go!

7.4 Interrogative (Questions)

Three basic types of interrogative sentence structures are found in Kayah Monu. The first is the yes-no question, the second is the content question, and the third is the disjunctive-negative question. These broad types are distinguished by the occurrences of sentence final interrogative marker *ʔyà* for yes-no questions *lē* for content questions and *təmè* 'or' for disjunctive questions.

7.4.1 Yes-No Questions

Yes-No questions are sometimes referred to as 'closed questions,' because set of possible answers is closed, containing just two members (yes and no) (Kroeger 2005: 203). In Kayah Monu, the interrogative particle *ʔyà* occurs at the end of the clause to signal a yes-no question as the answer the speaker expects is either 'yes' or 'no'. The following are examples of the interrogative yes-no structure.

(352) nà p^háʔá t^hə hó ʔyà
2S cook PERF COMPL QP
PRO V ASP ASP Q
Have you finished cooking?

(353) nà sákānā múnù jə ʔyà
2S understand Monu language QP
PRO V NPROP N Q
Do you understand Kayah Monu language?

This kind of question would have the answer "yes" or "no".

7.4.2 Content Questions

Content questions are sometimes referred to as 'open questions,' because the set of possible answers is open, with (theoretically) no limit to the number of potential responses and also called 'Wh-questions' (Kroeger 2005: 203). Two parts are required to make content questions in Kayah Monu. The first part is a question proform and the second part is the question particle *lē*. The content question particle *lē* optionally co-occurs with *màtttè* 'why' and *mópe* 'who'. As the question word identifies the sentence as a question, the final question particle is frequently omitted. Table 37 shows the interrogative proforms in Kayah Monu.

Table 37 Interrogative Pro-forms in Kayah Monu

Question Words	Interrogative pro-form
who	<i>mópè</i>
where	<i>bátè</i>
what	<i>títè</i>
when	<i>bák^hàtè</i>
how	<i>hítè</i>
how much	<i>pwétè</i>
why	<i>màttítè</i>

Usually, the questions words are found clause final except *mópè* 'who' and *màttítè* 'why'. If the question particle *lē* occurs, it is clause final after the question word. Each question word has a specific function. For the pro-forms, the positions given are strong preferences but not always the only option.

7.4.2.1 Who

The use of *mópè* 'who' indicate that the speaker thinks that the referent they want to identify is human. In the following examples, the question word *mópè* 'who' occurs with the optional question particle *lē* at clause final. The final particle only appears in (357).

(354) *nà mì mí mópè*
 2S.Poss name be who
 POSS N COP INTRG
 What is your name?

(355) *ʔà hénù mí mópè*
 3S that be who
 PRO DEM COP INTRG
 Who is he/she?

(356) *mópè hè dǎ búlǎ k^hó*
 who come at rice field on
 INTRG V PREP N LCLZR
 Who went to the rice field?

(357) nà kà ʔí mɔ̀pè lē
 2S will give who QP
 PRO ASP V INTRG Q
 Whom will you give it?

7.4.2.2 What

When the speaker thinks that the unknown referent is non-human, the question word *tìtè* 'what' is used. It usually occur clause final sometimes with future marker *hēpē* to show the future tense.

(358) hénù mí tìtè
 that be what
 DEM COP INTRG
 What is that?

(359) pèwə̀pē nà kà mà tìtè hēpē
 tomorrow 2S will do what SF.future
 ADV PRO ASP V INTRG PRT
 What will you do tomorrow?

7.4.2.3 Why

The question word *màtìtè* 'why' usually appears clause initial, and the question particle *lē* is clause final. This question word is used when the speaker does not know the reason for some state or event and is requesting the hearer to provide that information.

(360) màtìtè nà hē dɔ́ búlɔ́ kʰó tɛ̀
 why 2S come at rice field to not
 INTRG PRO V PREP N LCLZR NEG
 Why don't you go to the rice field?

(361) màtìtè nà pwè ʔá hú tɛ̀ lē
 why 2S buy eat rice not QP
 INTRG PRO V V N NEG Q
 Why don't you buy rice?

(362) màtítè nà hē tǎ lē
 why 2S come not QP
 INTRG PRO V NEG Q
 Why don't you come?

7.4.2.4 When

A speaker will choose the question word *bák^hətè* 'when' to request the specific time of an event. The future marker *hēpē* is added clause final for 'when in the future'.

(363) nà tǎ dǎ mādálé bák^hətè
 2S go at Mandalay when
 PRO V PREP NPROP INTRG
 When did you go to Mandalay?

(364) nà kà hē bák^hətè hēpē
 2S will come when SF.future
 PRO ASP V INTRG PRT
 When will you come?

7.4.2.5 Where

The place question word *bátè* 'where' is used when the speaker is uncertain of a location. It usually occurs clause final.

(365) nà ʔǎ bátè
 2S stay where
 PRO V INTRG
 Where do you stay?

(366) k^hʔtànì nà tǎ bátè
 today 2S go where
 ADV PRO V INTRG
 Where do you go today?

7.4.2.6 How

The manner question word *hítè* 'how' also always appears clause final.

(367) *hè bá mà hítè*
1S must do how
PRO MOD V INTRG
How should I do (it)?

(368) *bá p^hʒá dì hítè*
must cook cooked.rice how
MOD V N INTRG
How do (I) cook rice?

7.4.2.7 How many

Kayah Monu uses the same question word to request the quantity and number of referent. When the amount or the number of something is unknown, the quantity extent question word *pwétè* 'how much' or the number question word *pwétè* 'how many' are used and these are both the same.

(369) *ʒá dó pwétè*
be.exist big how.many
COP ADJ INTRG
How many?

(370) *nà nē ʒá pwétè*
2S.Poss year have how.many
POSS N V INTRG
How old are you? (Lit: How many years do you have?)

7.4.3 Disjunctive (Negative) Questions

Kayah Monu also has disjunctive questions that are more frequent in conversation than in monologues and narratives. This type of question is formed by combining two parts where the verb followed by the coordinator *təmè* 'or' or subordinator *mé* 'if' then the verb is repeated and optionally followed by negation marker. The schema for disjunctive (negative) question formation is as below.

S_{Disjunctive-Negative Question}: [...V1 (təmè/mé) V1 (tə)]

The following examples show a disjunctive-negative question in Kayah Monu by using *təmè* 'or' and *mé* 'if'. The answer could be 'one of them' or 'both of them' or 'neither of them'.

(371) nà hébá m̀ǹǹ jé t̀m̀m̀ hébá t̀ ʔyà
 2S speak Monu language or speak not QP
 PRO V NPROP N CONJ V NEG Q
 Do you speak Kayah Monu or not?

(372) t̀l̀l̀ nū wé mé wé t̀ d́ bá t̀h̀ pū já
 place topic suitable if suitable not and.then must cut test SF
 N TOP ADJ SUBORD ADJ NEG COORD MOD V V PRT
 You must cut to test if the land is good enough for hill-side cultivation or not.

Sometimes the disjunction can involve an entire VP as in (xx).

(373) nà kà t́ó d́ klá t̀m̀m̀ k̀ d́ hí ʔyà
 2S will go at market or return at house QP
 PRO ASP V PREP N CONJ V PREP N Q
 Will you go to the market or return to the house?

7.5 Summary

In this chapter, three major sentence types, declarative, imperative, and interrogative were presented. Within each category several subtypes are identified. The interrogative forms for yes-no questions, content questions, and disjunctive-negative questions were also discussed.