

Chapter 9

Complex clauses

9.1 Introduction

This chapter briefly presents complex clause constructions in Eastern Lawa. It discusses coordinate clauses in (9.2) and subordinate clauses in (9.3). The constituent structure of subordinate clauses is investigated with complement clauses, adverbial clauses and relative clauses.

9.2 Coordination

Coordination refers to syntactic constructions in which two or more units of the same type are combined into a larger unit and still have the same semantic relations with other surrounding elements. The coordinated units may be words, phrases, clauses or sentences (Haspelmath 2007:1). In Eastern Lawa coordinate clauses, the conjunction *miah* 'and' is used to join two independent clauses. The coordinate clauses can be schematized as below.

$XP_{\text{COORDINATE}}: [X(P) \textit{miah} X(P)]$

If the subject of both clauses is the same, the subject is usually dropped in the latter sentence as in example (202). In example (202), *miah* conjoins two independent clauses. The subject of the verb *kaik* 'wash' in the first clause and *hew* 'go' in the second clause is the same.

(202)

(ʔaj)	<i>kaik</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>teʔ</i>	<i>miah</i>	<i>hew</i>	<i>niŋ</i>	<i>p^hεʔ</i>
I	wash	face	my	and	go	to	forrest
(I)	washed my face and went to the forest						

In example (203), two sentences with different subjects are conjoined.

(203)

(ʔaj) hew pa:saŋ miah paŋ hew wiaŋ
 I go Pa Sang and you go Chiang Mai
 I went to Pa Sang and you went to Chiang Mai

Example (204) shows *miah* combined with *ʔəŋ*, a subject anaphor, to form *maŋ*²⁸ which is also glossed here as ‘and’.

(204) LC.251

teʔ mah juaŋ newm maŋ juaŋ tiaŋ
 so be village Bo Luang and village Bo Sangae
 So (he) is (from) Bo Luang and Bo Sangae

9.3 Subordination

A subordinate clause is a clause that does not stand alone as a sentence (Kroeger 2005:219). Three basic types of subordinate clauses are discussed in this section: complement clauses, adverbial clauses and relative clauses.

9.3.1 Complementation

A complement clause is a type of clause which fills an argument slot in the structure of another clause. (Dixon 2010:370) In Eastern Lawa, there is no complementizer to introduce the complement clause. The schema for a complement clause is as follows:

$S_{\text{COMPLEX}}: [NP_{\text{SUB}} V_{\text{MATRIX}} [S_{\text{COMPLEMENT}}]]$

Examples (205) and (206) illustrate complement clause constructions.

Example (205) has a main clause *ʔaj joʔ piʔapəŋ tʰɔ* ‘I saw the woman’ with *piʔapəŋ tʰɔ hɔk kʰua* - being the object of the main clause verb ‘to see’.

(205)

<i>ʔaj</i>	<i>joʔ</i>	<i>piʔapəŋ</i>	<i>tʰɔ</i>	<i>hɔk</i>	<i>kʰua</i>
1SG	see	woman	DEM	hang.out	clothes

I saw that woman hanging out washing

Example (206) has the thoughts of the frog as the object of the matrix clause.

²⁸ More investigation is required into the properties of *maŋ*.

(206) BDF.21

<i>ləj</i>	<i>kit</i>		<i>kuat</i>	<i>k^hriap</i>	<i>kaⁿdəw?</i>	<i>miah</i>	<i>sə?</i>	<i>t^hɔh</i>	
then	think		want to	follow	child	and	dog	DEM	

Then (the frog) thought "(I) want to follow the child and that dog"

9.3.2 Adverbial subordination

An adverbial clause is a type of subordinate clause that functions as an adjunct of the main clause (Kroeger 2005:219). In Eastern Lawa adverbial subordinate clauses can come before the main clause or after it.

S_{COMPLEX}: [S_{SUBORDINATE} S_{MAIN}]/[S_{MAIN} S_{SUBORDINATE}]

9.3.2.1 Temporal adverbial clauses

Temporal adverbial subordinators introduce dependent clauses that modify the main clause and give information about the time the main clause takes place.

The word order in temporal adverbial clauses is VS - SV. That is VS in the subordinate clause and SV in the main clause.

9.3.2.1.1 Adverbial clauses using *bat* 'when'

Example (207) is one sentence made up of a subordinate temporal adverbial clause, followed by the main clause. Note *bat* occurs clause initial, but there is room for a connective to the previous clause as in example (207).

(207) R.56 (Subordinate clause)

<i>kam t^hɔh</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>kɔh</i>	∅	<i>masa?</i>
after.that	when	wake	3SG	morning

R.57 (Main clause)

<i>kaⁿdəw?</i>	<i>ⁿdi</i>	<i>kunce</i>	<i>pi?</i>	<i>ləwh</i>	<i>te?</i>	<i>ka?əwh</i>	<i>t^hɔ</i>
child	get	key	REL	had	PRO.SUBJ	yesterday	DEM

After that, when (he) awoke in the morning, the child got the key which he had yesterday.

In example (208) the adverbial subordinator *bat* is used to introduce the adverbial clause. The adverbial clause precedes the main clause and the constituent order in the adverbial clause is VS.

(208) (subordinate clause)

bat kih ta? saw pε tʰɔ
when slice uncle Saaw mango DEM

(main clause)

kʰo lɔk doih te? kʰo
 do.accidentally cut finger PRO.SUBJ do.accidentally
 When uncle Saaw sliced the mango, (he) accidentally cut his finger.

9.3.2.1.2 Temporal adverbial clauses using *kaŋ* ‘before’

Another temporal adverbial clause is a ‘before’ clause whose construction is different from ‘when’ clauses discussed above. The *kaŋ* ‘before’ adverbial clause is schematized as below.

$S_{\text{BEFORE CLAUSE}}: [kaŋ S_{\text{FUT}}, S_{\text{MAIN}}]$

The word order in *kaŋ* ‘before’ adverbial clauses seems to be SV. In (209), the adverbial clause comes first, introduced by *kaŋ* ‘before’ and followed by the main clause. Interestingly this order can be reversed as in (210) with the main clause coming first and the adverbial clause afterwards.

(209)

kaŋ sam hew ɲa? take ʔapɾɔh kʰua te?
before FUT go to headman change clothes PRO.SUBJ
 Before going to the headmans, (I) changed my clothes a little

(210)

ʔapɾɔh kʰua te? kaŋ sam hew ɲa? take
 change clothes PRO.SUBJ **before** FUT go to headman
 (I) changed my clothes a little, before going to the headman

Example (211) has a similar structure with a subordinating temporal adverbial introducing a dependent clause. The main clause “he went to the market” is SVO and the subordinate clause is VSO “go up he to school”.

(211)

puj t^hɔ *hew to kat* *kaŋ* *huak te?* *hɔŋhian*
3SG go to market before go.up PRO.SUBJ school
He went to the market before going up to school

9.3.2.1.3 Other Temporal Adverbial clauses

Example (212) has *mah* 'while' as a temporal adverbial subordinator appearing after the verb and introducing the subordinate clause 'while I made food' to encode simultaneous action.

(212)

piʔapəŋ t^hɔ *ʔaic mah juh* *(ʔaj) piɸuan*
woman that sleep while do.make 1SG food
She slept while I made food

9.3.2.2 Reason adverbial clauses

Adverbial clauses for 'reason' use the subordinate conjunction *k^hɔw*. Example (213) provides an example of a 'reason' adverbial clause.

(213) (subordinate clause)

k^hɔw *kuat sɸm ta sa:w* *t^hɔ*
~~because~~ hungry uncle Saw DEM
Because uncle Saw is hungry,

(main clause)

sam hew sewp taih *niŋ p^hε?*
FUT go find mushroom in forest
he will go to find mushrooms in the forest

9.3.2.3 Conditional adverbial clauses

Conditional adverbial clauses are also composed of a dependent conditional clause and an independent main clause. The main subordinate conjunction used in conditional clauses is *pin*.

In (214), the subordinate conjunction *pin* is used for conditional clauses and the adverbial clause has a VS construction.

(214)

pɪn *klaic* *p^hia* *pa?* *lia* *hej* *cewp* *ke?* *nɔ?*
if fast come 2SG than this meet 3SG eh
If you had come faster than you did, (you) would have met him eh

In (215) the subordinate conjunction *pɪn* is used for a conditional clause and the adverbial clause has a VS construction.

(215)

(*ʔaj*) *sam* *ʔain* *dəw* *nia?* *pɪn* *jit* *laj* *t^hɔ*
1SG FUT return soon house if stop rain DEM
I will go home soon if the rain stops

Example (216) has the same conditional adverbial *pɪn* 'if' introducing the subordinate clause.

(216) (main clause)

pɪj t^hɔ *ʔah* *sam* *hew* *nia?* *mɛ*
she would have gone to wedding

(subordinate clause)

pɪn *jɔŋ* *ʔəŋ* *nia?* *mɛ* *kaj* *laʔaj*
if know SUBJ.PRO wedding was today

She would've gone to the wedding, if she had known it was today.

9.3.2.4 Concession adverbial subordinators

Concession adverbial subordinators introduce dependent clauses to add information that gives a contrast with the main clause. In example (217) the main clause and subordinate clauses and can be reversed.

(217) (subordinate clause)

paŋ hua na ʔəŋ kiah ʔəŋ juhkan kaŋ sɔm ʔnɔŋ
even.though boss theirs give.let them work half.day only
Even though their boss let them work half a day only,

(main clause)

puj ŋan noj ʔdaŋ na? lɔwh te? juhkan wan saw
workers complain **still** at having PRO.SUBJ work Saturday
the workers still complained at having to work on Saturday

Example (218) is another example of concession adverbial subordination.

(218) (main clause)

puj tʰɔ ʔdi: ʔdaŋ rot tʰɔ
he purchase **still** car DEM

(subordinate clause)

paŋ jɔŋ Ø ŋuah rot tʰɔ piaŋ la ʔəŋ
even.though know he price car DEM expensive for him
He still bought the car, even though he knew it was (too) expensive for him

Example (219) shows that the subordinate clause can be SV causing the main clause to become VS.

(219) (subordinate clause)

ʔu: jɔŋ kit haik laŋ kɔw ʔəŋ ri? ʔah to? kanaj juan hej
in.spite.of fact 3SG grow.up inside village this
In spite of the fact that he grew up in this village,

(main clause)

ʔu: kiah te? keh kʰrəʔŋ lavia?
NEG give PRO.SUBJ ability speak Lawa
it didn't give him the ability to speak Lawa

9.3.2.5 Purpose or Result adverbial subordinators

“Purpose” or “result” adverbials introduce dependent clauses to add information about the aim of the main clause. Purpose or reason clauses usually imply some intention or plan by the subject of the main clause.

Example (220) has the main clause before the subordinate clause and both are SVO word order.

(220) (main clause)

puj campen juh kan k^hrəŋ jaŋ
person must (TH) work every kind
People must do every kind of work,

(subordinate clause)

tian pa? sam ɭawh sɔm
in.order.to 2SG will get food
in order to have something to eat.

9.3.3 Relative clauses

A relative clause is a clause that functions as a modifier of the head noun in a noun phrase. There are three basic parts of a relative clause construction: the head noun, the modifying clause and the relativizer (Kroeger 2005:230). Relative clauses in Eastern Lawa always follow their heads; therefore, they are postnominal.

In Eastern Lawa, the relativizer *pi?* is optionally used to introduce relative clauses. *pi?* can be used for both animate and inanimate entities. The relativized position can only be either the subject or the object. The oblique position cannot be relativized. The schematic construction for the relative clause is as below.

S_{RELATIVE} : [(*pi?*) S]

Only VS word order is allowed inside relative clauses.

When we compare examples (221) and (222) we see that the relativizer is optional, as it appears in the noun phrase in (222) *kaⁿɔw? pi? p^hiat [?]nɔŋ* but not in the same noun phrase in (221).

(221) R.44a

kaⁿdɔw? ti? pui cɔh kaⁿdɔw? Ø p^hiat [?]nɔŋ t^hɔ
 child one Clf. invite child REL arrive alone that
 One of the kids invited the child who arrived alone,

R.44b

lɔŋ pət ŋɔ
 try switch on light
 try switching on the light.

(222) R.45

wat pət ŋɔ kaⁿdɔw? pi? p^hiat [?]nɔŋ mait aphawm
 when switch on light child who arrive alone happy
 When (he) switched the light on, the child who arrived alone was happy

Example (223) demonstrates a relative clause modifying the head noun *kaⁿdɔw?* ‘child’ and it gives additional information about it. The head noun *kaⁿdɔw?* ‘child’ is the subject of both clauses – the relative clause and the matrix clause. There is a gap in the subject position in the relative clause. The word order within the relative clause is VS. The verb has to appear directly after the relativizer *pi* within the relative clause. Therefore, the gap for the subject is marked after the verb in (223).

(223)

ka ⁿ dɔw?		pi	pian	Ø	k ^h ai liat ʔɔk	t ^h ɔ		ʔi:	jum	ka?ew
child		REL	have		dengue (TH)	that		COMPL	die	yesterday

That child, who had dengue fever, died yesterday

Sentence (224) contains a headless relative clause in which no head noun is expressed. Headless relative clauses are frequently found in Eastern Lawa.

(224) R.2

tia? ʔu/ jɔŋ pi juh te?
 bored not know REL do PRO.SUBJ
 Bored (he) didn’t know that which he should do.

9.4 Summary

This chapter presented complex clause constructions in Eastern Lawa. It discussed coordinate clauses in (9.2) and subordinate clauses in (9.3). The constituent structure of subordinate clauses was investigated with complement clauses, adverbial clauses and relative clauses.

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