Chapter 5 Simple Clauses

5.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the simple clause structure of Kayan Lahta. In Kayan Lahta, sentences can be divided into two types: non-verbal clauses and verbal clauses. Non-verbal clauses are subdivided into equative-like clauses, locative clauses, existential clauses, clausal possessions and quantifications. Verbal clauses include intransitive clauses, transitive clauses, motion clauses and ditransitive clauses.

5.2 Basic structure of clause

A sentence can be made up of at least one and optionally more than one clause. A clause can stand as a complete sentence and is usually independent.

The linear order of elements in a clause can be represented as below:

$$(NP_{SUB}) V (NP_{IOBJ})(NP_{OBJ})(PP)$$

In this structure, the first noun phrase is the subject of the clause. The second noun phrase is the indirect object and the third noun phrase is the direct object. The simplest clause is composed by only a predicate since (V) is always obligatory in every clause.

Examples below are the simple sentences that consist of one simple independent clause.

Two independent clauses can be connected by conjunction as in (124). In this example, there are two simple independent clauses taJpil baJ jal 'the fly flew' and p^hal plaJ s^han ? lal 'the father saw (the fly)' and they are connected by the conjunction daJ 'and'.

Two clauses also can be connected by the conjunction $k \ni l$ 'after that' as in example below shows.

In example (122) the two clauses of $n = lof so^{u} \eta \int k^{h} u f$ sleep together on the mountain' and $lwa\eta f taf \eta = i\eta f$ go hunting' are connected by the conjunction $k = i\eta f$ then'. In this sentence, the subject is omitted.

5.3 Clause Types

In Kayan Lahta, clause types can be separated into non-verbal clauses and verbal clauses.

5.3.1 Non-verbal clauses

Non-verbal clauses are composed by a noun phrase followed by an optional copula and a complement. When a copula appears, it is used to link the subject to the object or complement. Five subtypes of non-verbal clauses: attributive clause, equative clause, existential clause, clausal possession and quantification are found in Kayan Lahta.

5.3.1.1 Attributive clauses

'me.' is used in a manner that looks like a verb in some sentences in Kayan Lahta shown as in examples (126) and (127). In this kind of sentence, the adjective functions as a complement.

However, I will interpret 'mes' as a topic marker rather than a full verb based on the following examples.

In the two examples (125) and (126), only the adjectives can be negated, not $m\varepsilon J$. This indicates that ' $m\varepsilon J$ ' is more likely part of the NP and not a copula.

5.3.1.2 Equative clauses

Equative clauses identify two noun phrases as denoting the same individual. A copula mwa^{i} is used to link the two noun phrases in equative clauses in Kayan Lahta. Equative clauses have two main meanings: that two individuals are the same or that the noun phrase subject entity is a member of a set. See (128), (129) and (130).

The topic marker ' $m\varepsilon J$ ' can co-occur with the copula ' $mwa^i J$ ' in equative clause as in example (128) or the copula can be omitted as in example (129). To change an

affirmative sentence into negative sentence, the copula mwa^{ij} 'is' can be negated, not the topic marker $m\varepsilon J$, see (130).

5.3.1.3 Existential clauses

An existential clause expresses the existence of an entity. The verb olis used in existential clauses.

Existential clause structure:

Noun Phrase + 'oJ' forms an existential clause, as in (131).

5.3.1.4 Clausal possession

In next two examples, clausal possession also occurs when oJ follows the two noun phrases. One noun phrase is the possessor and the second noun phrase is the possessed. In this case, oJ is considered to be a copula and not a full verb.

Different from example (131), of can be a full verb and it has the meaning 'live' or 'stay' in example (134).

(134) la1 məJkəJsha?1
$$k^ha+l$$
 p^ha+l dəJ p^hu ?1 oJ lo time long-ago when father and son live together TIME ADV TIME N CONJ N V ADJ 'Long ago, the father and the son lived together.'

5.3.1.5 Quantification prediction

Quantity can be expressed by a combination of number and classifier which is separated from the subject NP by o.J.

(135)
$$pad p^hu?l$$
 od $payd$ $plad$

1s son exist two clf

POSS N V NUM CLF

'I have two sons.'

5.3.2 Verbal clauses

In verbal clauses, different clause types can be distinguished based on transitivity. They are based on the number of arguments.

Table 21 Verbal clauses in Kayan Lahta

Glause Types		5 97 X 60 136	*OBJĪ	OBJ2	OBL
Verbal	transitive	1	√		
	intransitive	~			
	motion	V			\
	ditransitive	4	1	√	

5.3.2.1 Intransitive clause

An intransitive clause is distinguished from other clauses by the absence of an object. In this clause structure, the noun phrase can be an agent or a patient. This is the simplest clause structure in Kayan Lahta.

The basic structure of the intransitive clause is:

The examples below show an intransitive clause. The subject functions as a patient in example (139) and functions as an agent in example (137). In (138) of is an aspect marker and not a copula or full verb.

In the example (137) the noun pla/ba/ta/ is followed by the verbs $p^hu/ja/$ and fa/, connected by the conjunction da/. The noun phrase pla/ba/ta/ is the subject in this clause and the verb $p^hu/ja/$ and fa/ are the verbs of the clause.

The next two examples are predicate adjectives which are also intransitive.

- (139) fwiJ kəJmiJ əJlə+
 dog tail long
 N N ADJ
 'The dog's tail is long.'

5.3.2.2 Transitive clause

A transitive clause is distinguished from other clauses by the presence of object argument. The basic transitive clause has two arguments: the subject argument and the object argument.

The basic structure of the transitive clause is:

The sentences below show examples of transitive clauses. Serial verbs (V V sequences) are treated as a single predicate in this discussion.

- (141) plud plaJ anJ jenl child clf eat rice-cooked

 N CLF V N

 "The child ate cooked-rice.
- (142) plut plaJ lot van?? taJpit baJ
 child clf follow hit fly clf
 N CLF V V N CLF
 'The child follows (and) hits the fly.'
- (143) kaljan?1 lwanJ nit teⁱŋ7 baJ də1 tuJ Kayan porcupine clf go get in forest N.PROP v Ν CLF PREP Ν 'The Kayan got a porcupine in the forest.'

All the examples shown above take both the subjects and the objects. In the example (143) the preposition phrase follows the object.

5.3.2.3 Motion clause

The verbs in motion clauses are motion verbs. They usually take a subject argument without an object argument. A motion verb is usually followed by a goal phrase, which can be a noun phrase (144), (145) or a prepositional phrase (146) or nothing (147).

The basic structure of the motion clause is:

[NP VPGOAL]

5.3.2.4 Ditransitive clause

A ditransitive clause is distinguished from other clauses by the presence of two objects: direct object and indirect object. In this clause structure, the indirect object

directly occurs after the verb and it is followed by the direct object. They are not marked by any case or other markers.

The basic structure of a ditransitive clause is:

[NP_{SUB} VP NP_{IOBJ} NP_{OBJ}]

- (148) tjaJ i9n] plaJ ple. ve1 ∫a27 baJ owner house clf compensate 35 chicken clf POSS N CLF V PRO N CLF 'The house owner compensated me a chicken.'
- (149) kaJjaŋ?1 jə J $p^h U$ aŋ] bəJuJ te'n 7 baJKayan not give PaO eat porcupine clf N.PROP NEG v ٧ N.PROP CLF 'The Kayan did not give the Pa O a porcupine to eat.'
- (150) bəJuJ p^hiJ аηЈ ka.ljaŋ?1 shan 7 də27 PaO give eat Kayan elephant clf N.PROP V V N.PROP N CLF 'The Pa O gave the Kayan an elephant to eat.'
- (151) mpla1 jał ve1 ъſ liJ beiŋ4 Зs 1s book give one clf PRO v PRO NUM CLF 'He/she gave me a book.'

All the examples above indicate ditransitive clauses that consist of a subject noun phrase, a verb and two objects: direct and indirect. In all the examples, the indirect objects are directly followed by the direct object and they are preceded by the verb. The order of the post verbal NPs in a ditransitive clause cannot be reversed.

5.4 Semantic Roles and Relationships

This section describes the coding of some semantic relationships in Kayan Lahta.

5.4.1 Agent

An agent carries out the action of the situation. It is the cause of the event. The agent can be marked by topic marker $m\varepsilon J$. Sometimes, the topic marker can be omitted with no meaning change. The agent can be a pronoun or a noun. Important agent arguments always appear as subjects.

In example (155), a subject 'father' is the agent that carries the action of hitting dog. In (156) the dog is the agent.

5.4.2 Experiencer

An experiencer is less connected to subject position but if there is an object, then the experiencer is the subject.

5.4.3 Patient

A patient is the participant of a situation upon whom an action is carried out. The patient argument appears as an object that directly follows an action verb and there is no marker between verb and patient in Kayan Lahta. Similar to agent, the patient can be a pronoun or a noun. It cannot appear after an oblique but can appear after indirect object noun phrase. (See section 5.3.2.4)

The patient argument can appear as a subject in an intransitive clause structure. See example (160).

5.4.4 Location

Or

In examples (162), the location, $\theta a\eta J f \partial t$ on the tree' gives the information of where the bird is. In this example, the location phrase $\theta a\eta J f \partial t$ on the tree' is connected by the preposition $d\partial t$ or bat.

The preposition can be omitted as in example (160). Even though the preposition is omitted, the three examples (160), (161) and (162) have the same meaning as (159).

The following are examples of locations with different localizers in Kayan Lahta.

(161)
$$na+shan21$$
 $la+\theta an l\theta al$ of talmans $ku21$

1s look see fruit exist basket inside

PRO V V N V N LOCZR

'I see the fruit is inside the basket.'

In the above examples, the localizer follows the noun and there are no preposition between the noun and the verb. It seems more natural in Kayan Lahta to omit the preposition.

Both preposition and localizer can also be omitted in a sentence. The example below shows a location and both preposition and localizer are omitted.

5.4.5 Manner

Manner relationships in Kayan Lahta are coded by adding an adverb. The manner answers the question 'how'. Adverbs follow the verb and modify the verb.

Most of the adverbs are reduplicated. This kind of adverb show the extent to which something happens.

5.4.6 Recipient

As discussed with ditransitive clauses in section 5.3.2.4, there is no marker to introduce a recipient. The recipient directly follows the verb and precedes the direct object. The recipient is also called the indirect object.

(171) nai jai vei pjani mai

1s give 2s basket clf

PRO V RECIP N CLF

'I give you a basket.'

5.4.7 Instrument

Kayan Lahta codes the instrument role with a dal 'with' to introduce an instrument. It precedes the noun in an instrument prepositional phrase and it follows the core clause.

In above examples, the two instruments: təˈJdəŋJ 'knife' and piJ 'rope' occur after the instrument marker dəJ. In all examples, the subjects are omitted and the instrument locational phrases occur after the main verbs and the object NP if it appears.

5.4.8 Accompaniment

The accompaniment marker daJ is used to introduce an accompaniment. The sentence structure in accompaniment sentence is the same as in instrument but there is an animate argument in an accompaniment sentence.

5.4.9 Beneficiary

A beneficiary is coded with the benefactive marker $\eta a + l$ combining with the preposition da + l to express the intended recipient.

Example (175) shows that the intended recipient $pa+p^hu?+1$ 'my son' occurs after a preposition da+1 and it precedes the benefactive marker pa+1.

5.4.10 Time

Time gives the information of when the event takes place. The time is mostly coded with the postposition k^ha^d . The time phrase always precedes the main clause. They modify the entire clause in the sentence.

In the example above, the event happens after the time the when the first event happens. The Kayan were given food to eat at the time the elephant is killed. In this example, both of the agents in the time postpositional phrase and of the main clause are omitted. And typically the main clause is preceded by the time postpositional phrase.

Sometimes, the time is coded with no postposition as in (177).

The circum-positions lal and k^hal encode temporality. lal expresses the past time.

In example (178), the time phrase $lall maJkaJs^hall k^hall$ precedes the core clause $aJp^hall daJaJp^hull oJ \thetaaJ papt.$ In this example, by including the time preposition lall, it means that the events happened in the past.

5.5 Conclusion

In this chapter, simple clauses were presented. Two types of clauses: copula clauses and verbal clauses were discussed. Under copula clauses, attributive clauses, equative clauses, location clauses, existential clauses, clausal possession and quantification modification were presented. Intransitive clauses, transitive clauses, motion clauses ditransitive clauses were presented under verbal clauses. Specific forms for encoding agent, patient, location, manner, recipient, instrument and time were included in this chapter under the section on semantic relationships.