Chapter 6 Clause types

6.1 Introduction

In this chapter, different clause types in Kayan Lahta are discussed. First, the major types of clauses including declarative sentences, interrogatives sentences, and imperative sentences are presented. The interrogatives are subdivided into content questions and polar questions. Then the ability sentences, negation, comparatives and superlatives, causatives, reciprocals and reflexives are taken up. Then complete sentence types including simple sentences, coordinate, subordinate, relative clause and adverbial clauses are discussed. Finally, different kinds of serial verb constructions are presented.

6.2 Major clause types

This section discusses three major clauses: declaratives, interrogatives and Imperative.

6.2.1 Declarative

Declarative sentences are used to make assertions about events, states and processes. As seen in chapter five, declarative sentences are SVO. They typically express temporal adverbials first (179) and may often have multiple verbs (180) and (181).

6.2.2 Interrogative

Interrogatives can be divided into two kinds: content questions and polar questions. Content questions involve interrogative pronouns such as what, why, when, where, how many. Some content questions and all polar questions are formed by the adding the word εI before the predicate.

6.2.2.1 Content question

This kind of question is formed by adding the interrogative pronouns at the end of the sentence.

6.2.2.1.1 What

A 'what' kind of content question is formed by adding the question word səlnɛJ 'what.' Using this kind of content question indicates that the speaker expects the unknown referent can be either non-human or human.

In examples (182) and (183), the question word səlnɛl is added at the end of the sentence. For the above questions, the answer can be human and non-human as shown in example (184). Or the answer can be just a noun phrase as shown in example (185).

```
(184) na+
                    shan27 lət
                                    pəJmo∃
                                                swa?7
                                                       pla⊦
          1 s
                    look
                            see
                                    woman
                                                six
                                                        clf
          PRO
                    v
                            v
                                    Ν
                                                NUM
                                                        CLF
          'I saw six women.'
Or
       naf
                shan?7 ləl
                                çollul tha?1
                                                əJ
                                                        ma+
        1s
                look
                        see
                                ring
                                        gold
                                                one
                                                        clf
        PRO
                ٧
                        V
                                N
                                        ADJ
                                                NUM
                                                        CLF
          'I saw a golden ring,'
  (185) palmol
                        s<sup>w</sup>a?7
                                plat
          woman
                                clf
                        six
          N
                        NUM
                                CLF
          'six woman'
Or
        ço-llu-l
                    t<sup>h</sup>a21
                            əJ.ma+
        ring
                   gold
                            one.clf
                   ADJ
                            NUM, CLF
         'a/the golden ring'
```

6.2.2.1.2 Why (Reason)

There are two words, <code>nwel</code> and <code>balsəlnel</code> used for 'why' questions. One kind of 'why' question is constructed by adding <code>nwel</code> at the end of the sentence, (186). The second kind of question is constructed by adding the particle <code>el_after</code> the <code>verb</code> followed by the question word <code>balsəlnel</code> at the end of the sentence, (187). Using these kinds of content question indicates that the speaker does not know the reason for the statement or event.

In example (186) the question word pwell occurs at the end of the sentence.

In example (187), the particle εI occurs after the predicate $\eta sin I$ and it is followed by the question word $baJssJn\varepsilon J$.

The answer for the question can be as below.

The answer for this kind of content question is formed by adding the reason clause at the end of the sentence and joining that clause by the subordinate conjunction malraines to the main clause.

Notice that, for 'why' question that the interrogative pronoun <code>nwel</code> does not occupy the position of the 'answering' clause. <code>balsəlnel</code> or <code>nwel</code> cannot said to be <code>insitu</code>, they are clearly sentence final.

6.2.2.1.3 Why (reason for a future event)

This kind of question is constructed by adding the question word səJnɛJ at the end of the sentences. Different from the content question 'what', using this kind of content question indicates that the speaker does not know the purpose of the statement or event.

'What will you do at the hospital?'

The answer for this kind of content question is formed by adding the clause at the end of the sentence. The clause that gives the purpose is joined to the main clause by the preposition dal.

6.2.2.1.4 How many

This kind of question is constructed by adding the particle $\underline{\varepsilon} + \underline{a} + \underline{t} + \underline{t$

Although the interrogative pronoun is sentence initial, the answer for quantity is sentence final.

6.2.2.2 Polar questions

Different from content questions, polar questions, or "yes/no," questions are constructed by adding the particle <u>e+</u> before the predicate. Using this kind of question indicates that the speaker expects the answer to be 'yes' or 'no', 'true' or 'false'

^{&#}x27;I went to the hospital to see the doctor.'

In examples (195) and (196) the questions are formed by adding the particle εt before the predicates $\theta i ? l$ and $\alpha \eta J$. Notice that in (195), the object is fronted. The answer for the polar question in affirmative would be "yes," or εt followed by the verb or just the verb as in the examples below.

The answer in negative would be:

A polar question is also used to ask permission from someone. See the example below.

In example (199) the question marker ' ε -l' occurs before the ability 'da-l'.

6.2.3 Imperative

Imperatives are used not only to give a command but also to suggest a course of action to the hearer. There is no special marker like the interrogative, to form the imperative, the structure of the imperative question would be:

See the examples below.

In example (200) the imperative question is formed by the verb ku?7 followed by the complement va.

The two commands can be giving by combining the two clauses as in example (203).

In the above example, the two commends: mblu kaid and s^had are combined by the conjunction kad.

6.3 Aspect marking

This section discusses different aspect markings in Kayan Lahta.

6.3.1 Completive aspect marker 'hə-l'

The completive aspect marker hat is used to indicate that the action or event is complete.

6.3.2 Perfective or completive aspect marker 'mjənlthəl'

The aspect marker mjanlthad is used to indicate a completed action or event.

6.3.3 Ongoing aspect marker 'o'

In Kayan Lahta has no tense marker to show the time of the action or event. To indicate the ongoing action or event, of can be used before the verb. The actual meaning of of is 'live/dwell' but it can be used as an ongoing, or imperfective, aspect marker in this case.

(207)
$$nad$$
 of nad k^hopf k^huf

1s on-going sit chair on

PRO ASP V N LOCZR

'I am sitting on the chair.'

6.4 Ability

In Kayah Lahta, ability is coded by the clause-final ability predicate. There are two words that encode ability daJ 'can, talented at, intelligent' and e?1 'able to'. The meaning of daJ also means that someone is allowed to do something.

The above examples show the different meanings of dal. In example (208) it means that the person can speak Phekhon language even though the verb is not expressed. In the two examples, (209) and (210) dal has more than one meaning. The meaning can be distinguished by the intonation of the speaker. Speaking with the low intonation of dal means that the person can do something but it is not sure whether he is good at doing something or not. Speaking with high intonation on the adjective means that person is really good at doing something.

The meaning of dal also means that someone is allowed to do something. In example (211) you are allowed to sleep in the house. It does not mean that you have ability to sleep.

In example (212) it means that the villagers are not able to feed the spirit anymore because they have no more pigs or chicken to offer. It does not mean that the villagers do not have ability to feed the spirit.

All the examples above show the semantic differences between the different markers of ability. The ability marker, *daJ* related to the ability of someone and *?e??* is related to the circumstances.

6.5 Negation

In Kayan Lahta, the negative $j \geqslant 1$ is used to change the polarity of a proposition. Using the negative turns an affirmative statement into a negative statement. The negative $j \geqslant 1$ must occur before the verb.

In example (213) the negative $j \partial l$ occurs before the verb $p^h i J$. In example (214), two clauses are joined by the conjunction $d \partial J$. In both clauses the verbs $n d \partial J$ and $a \eta J$ are being negated by their own negative marker. In example (215) the ability e ? l is negated.

In (215), two clauses are joined by the conjunction daJ. In that sentence, only the ability e77 from the first clause is being negated. The second clause is modified by the first clause, but it is not negated by the negative marker in the second clause. In example (216) the verb is negated.

Different from other Kayan varieties, nouns can be negated in Kayan Lahta, although the example below is the only example in my data. It is also possible that the verb 'be' is omitted in the sentence. But there is not enough evidence to prove that either the noun can be negated or the verb 'be' is omitted. See section 5.3.1.2 for more on equative sentences.

'From that time, the Pa.O and Kayan were not brother and sister anymore.'

In example (217) the two nouns vot and vet are being negated. There is no verb in the sentence.

6.6 Comparative and superlative

In Kayan Lahta, $k^h lon l$ is used together with dal to express the comparative in a sentence. In a comparative sentence, the first noun is compared to the second noun connected by the comparative marker $k^h lon ldal$. But dal does not need to be used to express the superlative. The position of the comparative in a sentence in Kayan Lahta is:

[NP ADJ
$$k^h lon daJ$$
 NP]_s

- (218) mpla1 əJ.lə+ khlon1dəJ ve+
 3s tall than 1s
 PRO ADJ COMP PRO
 'He is taller than me.'
- (219) məlho"?]nəŋl kul k^hloŋldəl məlkwa|nəŋl yesterday hot than today N ADJ COMP N

'Yesterday is hotter than today.'

Examples (218), (219) and (220) express comparative sentences. In these examples, the first nouns are compared to the second nouns and they are connected by the comparative marker $k^h lon lda J$.

In a superlative sentence, a prepositional phrase can occur. The position of the superlative in a sentence in Kayan Lahta is:

[(adpositional phrase) N ADJ $k^h log 7$ (adpositional phrase)]

Or

mplal lat
$$k^h$$
lon ldat nat dat doun ku?l 3s tall than 1s prep village in PRO ADJ COMP PRO PREP N LOCZR

'He is the tallest in my village.'

Examples (221) and (222) express the superlative. In example (222) a prepositional phrase can be seen in a sentence and it can either precede or follow the main clause.

Example (223) is marked by the conjunctions $k^h lon lda J$. In this sentence, 'yesterday' is compared by 'everyday'. Syntactically, it is a comparative sentence. But semantically, it can be both comparative and superlative sentence.

6.7 Causative

Causatives are formed by using the causative verb mod in Kayan Lahta. The verb mod semantically means 'to do' or 'to make' something. In the following examples it is used as a causative verb to form a causative. In a causative sentence, the causative verb normally precedes the main verb.

See the following examples.

In examples (224) and (225) the causatives are formed by using the causative verb. It precedes the verb $p^ha?7$ 'break' in example (224) and fat 'die' in example (225).

In (226), ' $k^h u l'$ is the object of the first clause $vel\ mol\ k^h u l'$ I make Khu' and he also functions as the subject of the second clause $k^h u l' van l' ba l'$ ai? I 'Khu hit Ai.'

6.8 Reciprocal

Reciprocals are formed by using <code>aJplai</code> <code>daJ</code> <code>aJplai</code> 'one another' and <code>loj</code> 'each other' in Kayan Lahta. Semantically, <code>loj</code> means 'together'. In the following examples it is used as a reciprocal meaning 'each other'. In a sentence, the <code>loj</code> 'each other' and <code>aJplai</code> <code>daj</code> <code>aJplai</code> 'one another' appear in the object position.

The following examples express the reciprocal.

6.9 Reflexive

Reflexives are formed differently according to the subjects in a sentence. See the following examples.

Or

The different forms of the reflexive are summarized in Table 22.

Table 22 Reflexives in Kayan Lahta

Subject	Reflexive
Proper Noun	naŋ+
ɲa√'1s'	na+naŋ+
vel '2s'	vel naŋl
na-lpu-l '1pl'	ла-Іри-і пал-і

6.10 Complex clause types

Sentences are made up of at least one clause in Kayan Lahta. In Kayan Lahta, when a single clause is uttered as a complete thought with sentence intonation, it is a simple sentence. A simple sentence can also be marked by adding final particle at the end of the clause. However, typically no final particle occurs in daily speech in Kayan Lahta. Adding a final particle seems more polite and more formal.

The simple sentence structure is illustrated in (234).

[CLAUSE (qal)]

The final particle in example (234) is optional and the meaning of the sentence is stays the same.

6.10.1 Coordinate clauses

One way of forming complex clauses is through coordination. There are two coordinate conjunctions, 'daJ' and 'kad' in Kayah Lahta. They can link the two clauses in a sentence. The two clauses are independent in that they could stand alone to form a sentence.

[Clause dal/kol Clause]

In (235) and (236), the two clauses are linked by the conjunction $d \sigma J$. The use of the conjunction ' $d \sigma J$ ' suggests that the two events happened at the same time. It can be translated as 'and' or 'but' depending on the context. In example (237) the conjunction ' $k \sigma J$ ' is used to link the two clauses in a sentence. The use of the conjunction ' $k \sigma J$ ' suggests that the first event $v \sigma J$ σJ σJ σJ σJ lived in a mountain' happened first and then it was followed by the second event ρJ σJ

In example (238) the agent is omitted. According to the context, the agent is 'the bear'. The agent of the first and the second clause is the same in this example.

6.10.2 Relative clauses

Complex clauses are also created when a relative clause is used to modify a noun phrase inside the main clause. In Kayan Lahta, relative clauses are marked by the relativizer 'də-l' or unmarked and the clause directly follows the noun it modifies. Relative clauses are underlined in the following discussion

Example (238) relativizer is omitted and the relative clause of kalland ku?? 'exist inside the plate' directly follows the noun.

In (239) and (240), the relativizer də+ is used to mark a relative clause that modifies a noun 'pla+ba_Ita_I' 'child' inside the clause.

In example (241) a relative clause modifies the noun which is in the subject position. In this example, the relativizer da follows the noun that the relative clause modifies. The first pla is used as a head noun and the second pla is used as a classifier. In this clause, the relative clause appears between the noun and the classifier.

The relativizer can be omitted as in example (242).

6.10.3 Adverbial clauses

Adverbial clauses are classified based on their syntactic structure and the semantic relationship between the dependent clause and the main clause. Structurally an adverbial clause modifies another (main) clause and is introduced by a subordinate conjunction or preposition and often ended by another dependent clause final subordinator. (Manson, 2010: 396)

In Kayan Lahta subordinate conjunctions are always sentence final but occasionally may appear sentence initial also.

Subordinators are underlined in the following discussion and square brackets surround the adverbial clause.

6.10.3.1 Temporal adverbial clauses

In Kayan Lahta, temporal adverbial clauses are included in the main clauses and they usually appear at the beginning of main clause. When the temporal adverbial clauses come first in a sentence, $sidk^ho^ud'$ 'when' is the subordinate conjunction that is used. Look at examples (243a) and (244a). If the temporal adverbial clause comes at the end of the sentence, the subordinate conjunction is 'bad...... $sidk^ho^ud'$. Look at examples (243b) and (244b).

The two positions of the temporal clauses can be:

[Temporal Clause Main Clause] s

[.....si $dk^h o^u d + Main Clause]_s$

Or

[Main Clause Temporal Clause] s

[Main Clause $ba + \dots s + k^h o^u + j]_s$

(243) a.[an] loJw∐ sidkho"d] taJpi∃ baJjə1 laŋ J eat together delicious when fly clffly descend ٧ ADV ADJ TIME Ν CLF V v

'When eating deliciously, the fly descended.'

- b. taJpi∃ baJjət laŋJ [bal aŋ J loJ wiJ sitkhout] fly clf fly descend ргер eat together delicious when Ν CLF PREP ADV ADJ TIME 'The fly descended when eating deliciously.'
- (244) a.[kaJjaŋ?7 lwanJ te'n 7 baJ k^a-{] jəl p^hiJ an I bə Ju I Kayan go get porcupine clf when not give eat PaO N.PROP V CLF NEG V TIME N.PROP 'When Kayan get a porcupine, they do not give PaO to eat.'
 - b. kaJjan21 jəl p^hil aŋJ bəJuJ [ba+ lwanJ nil te'n] baJ. kha1] Kayan not give eat PaO time go get porcupine when clfN.PROP NEG V N.PROP PREP CLF TIME 'Kayan do not give PaO, when get a porcupine.'

In the two examples above, two positions of the temporal adverbial clauses can be seen. Firstly, the temporal adverbial clauses precede the main clauses and the subordinate conjunctions $sidk^ho^ud$ or k^had 'when' occur at the end of the temporal clause in a sentence. Secondly, the temporal adverbial clauses follow the main clause and the subordinate conjunctions and bad 'when' occurs at the beginning of the temporal clauses and $sidk^ho^ud$ or k^had 'when' at the end of the sentence.

6.10.3.2 Reason clauses

In Kayan Lahta, kod 'so' and maJradmeJ 'because' are the conjunctions that are used in a reason clause. kod 'so' has more than one meaning. In the following examples it gives a reason. In use, the reason clause precedes the result clause and the two clauses are connected by kod 'so' or maJradmeJ 'because'.

- (245) plaJ pla-lbəJtaJ jə7 pjen] [kə/ pja°ŋ1 teˈŋ1 nəte'ŋ] clfchild not feel-well so move come Natei CLF NEG RESN V N. PROP 'The children are not feeling well, so (they) move to Natei.'
- (246) ai?1 θəJviJ [kɔ+ əJ an Jton I ta-[nəiŋ-l] Αi hungry 3s so hunt animal N.PROP V RESN PRO v Ν 'Ai is hungry so he goes hunting.'

In example (249) the coordinator malralmel is used to connect the two clauses.

'I do not go to the rice field because it rain.'

6.10.3.3 Cause-effect clauses

In Kayan Lahta, the same marker kol is used for reason clauses and result clause. So syntactically, they cannot be distinguished. The two clauses can be distinguished only by their meaning.

The result clauses are coded by ko+'so'. In the sentence, the result clauses follow the main clause and the two clauses are connected by ko+'so'.

'The Spirit eats imappropriately so the people die.

(Lit. The Spirit eat (something) wrong so people die.'

In the above three examples, the coordinator kot 'so' is used. The cause clauses occur at the beginning of the sentences and they are followed by the main clauses.

6.10.3.4 Conditional clauses

Conditional clauses are marked by the subordinate conjunction $m\varepsilon J$ 'if'. Conditional clauses describe some hypothetical situation and the consequences of the situation. In a sentence in Kayan Latha, the first part of the sentence is the condition clause

and it describes the hypothetical situation. The second part of the sentence is the clause that describes the consequence of the condition clause.

The following are the examples of conditional clauses.

6.11 Serial verb constructions

In this section, the different kinds of serial verb constructions which include action with purpose, action (cause)-result, motion with goal, motion with direction, action with result, action with completion and action with negative result are discussed.

In Kayan Lahta, two verbs or more which are not lexically related are combined in a serial verb construction. They are very frequent in this language. However, some verbs series are compound and not serial verbs.

In example (255), the two verbs, $s^ha\eta 21$ 'look' and lat 'see' co-occur. However, the meaning of the combined verbs is not compositional. The two verbs are combined to form one meaning 'see'. This is a coordinate compound and not a compositional

serial verb construction. The meaning of serial verbs is more compositional than with compound verbs.

In this section, some types of serial verb constructions will be examined. In this paper, serial verb constructions are treated as a variety of distinct verb pairs that are defined by the semantic relationship between the verbs.

6.11.1 Action with purpose (different agent)

In this serial verb construction, the first verb shows the action of the agent and the second verb express the purpose of the action in each sentence.

In example (257), there are two participants: the agent and the recipient. In this sentence, the action verb p^hiJ 'give' precedes the verb $a\eta J$ 'eat' which express the purpose of the first action. The purpose of Pa.O for giving the meat to Kayan is to eat.

In the above two examples, the agents are omitted and there are no recipients or patients. The verbs and 'eat' is followed by the action verbs, dad 'cook' and mad 'make'. The meaning of both sentences is that the implied agents make something with the purpose of eating.

6.11.2 Action (cause) - result

The verb *moJ* 'make' expresses the action which is caused to happen. It is followed by the verb which expresses the result of the action. Causative verbs were discussed in section 6.6.

In examples (259) and (260), the causative verb moJ 'make' is followed by the result verb p^ha27 'break' and anJial'split'.

6.11.3 Motion with arbitrary goal

In this type of serial verb construction, the two action verbs co-occur to express motion that has goal. They express simultaneous or immediately consecutive action. All the verbs share the same agent as can be seen in the following examples. In all examples below, the goal given is arbitrarily connected to the motion.

(262)
$$t^ha\eta$$
?7 $d\vartheta$?7 $l\varepsilon$ 4 $e^t\eta$ 4 pla 1 $bear$ clf go bite human N CLF V V N "The bear go bite the man."

6.11.4 Motion with direction

In this type of serial verb construction, the two verbs are combined to express motion with direction. The first verb expresses the motion of the agent and the second verb denotes the direction of the action.

6.11.5 Action with result

In this "action with result" serial verb construction, the two verbs are combined to each other to show an action that has the result. The first verb expresses the action of the agent and the second verb denotes the result in this construction. See the examples below:

In example (267) the first verb, *lwayJ* 'hunt' shows the action of the agent, 'Kayan' and has the result that the Kayan get a porcupine.

This serial verb construction can be used in a question form as can be seen in the following example.

6.11.6 Action with completion

The verb bal is combined with the action verb to express that an action is complete. In this serial verb construction, the action verb is followed by the verb bal 'touch' which indicates that the action is completed. Events modified by bal must be of short duration. When bal is used with long duration, events denote the experiential past.

(272) is the example that bal is used with long duration event that denotes the experimental past

6.11.7 Action with negative result

The verb ka^{ij} literally means 'destroy'. In this kind of serial verb construction, the verb ka^{ij} follows the action verbs to show that the action results in a negative outcome. In each sentence, it has intention. The examples below show actions with a negative purpose.

6.12 Conclusion

In this chapter, single clause types were discussed. In the clause types, declarative, content questions and imperative were included. Interrogative and polar questions were discussed under content questions, aspect, ability, negation, comparative and superlative, causative, reciprocal and reflexive were also presented. Brief discussions of complex sentence types which contain coordinate, relative and adverbial clauses were included in this chapter. Finally, several serial verb constructions were presented.