

# AN ANALYSIS OF COHESION IN SGAW KAREN FOLK NARRATIVES

by

CHAIYATHIP KATSURA



Presented to the Faculty of Graduate School of Payap University

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS

PAYAP UNIVERSITY, CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

JUNE 1993

## RESUMÉ

Name	Chaiyathip Katsura
Date of Birth	3 December, 1966
Place of Birth	Bangkok, Thailand
Education	1973-1982; Seventh Day Adventist School; Certificate of Mathayom 3 1982-1985; Sammuk Christian Academy; Certificate of Mathayom 6 1986-1990; Payap University; Bachelor of Arts, English

PAYAP UNIVERSITY

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the following people without whose assistance this thesis could not have been completed.

My appreciation is expressed first of all to Mr and Mrs Paul John, my language associates, who not only patiently helped me study the Sgaw Karen language but also worked hard with me on narrating and glossing the folk tales used in this thesis.

My thanks also go to A. Fran Woods, my current thesis supervisor, A. Martin Culy, my former supervisor, A. Erik Andvik and A. Bill Hanna, supervising staff members, for their valuable comments and suggestions for writing this thesis as well as for using a computer.

Gratitude is also extended to my father, my first language teacher, who was--and still is--always willing to provide me linguistic documents. Also, I thank him for challenging me throughout this academic programme.

> In addition to those mentioned above, another person whom I would like to appreciate is A. Pranee Wongjamrat, a librarian at Payap University Central library, who helped me in search of some reference materials used in this thesis.

Last but not least, my deepest gratitude goes to God for the wisdom, strength, guidance and encouragement given to me all the time. My achievement could not have existed had He not been helping me.

## ABSTRACT

### AN ANALYSIS OF COHESION IN SGAW KAREN FOLK NARRATIVES

Chaiyathip Katsura, M.A.

Payap University, Chiang Mai, 1993.

Supervising Professor: Fran Woods

This thesis is an attempt to describe five major sources of cohesion in Sgaw Karen folk narrative discourse.

The first chapter provides brief overviews of the discipline of discourse, the concept of cohesion, information about the Sgaw Karen and background to data collection. Chapter 2 discusses the notional and surface structures of Sgaw Karen folk narratives. Chapter 3 focuses on cohesion through various types of linkage and conjunction. In chapter 4 cohesion through participants is discussed, with the focus on a participant's initial identification and maintenance. Chapter 5 studies cohesion achieved by the selection of lexical items. Substitution and ellipsis as cohesive devices are examined in chapter 6. The final chapter (7) is the conclusion of the cohesive mechanisms and their significance to textual cohesion.

## บทคัดย่อ

วจนะสัมพันธ์วิเคราะห์ในนิทานพื้นบ้านภาษากะเหรี่ยงสะกอ

วิทยานิพนธ์ฉบับนี้ได้นำเสนอปัจจัยหลักห้าประการที่ก่อให้เกิดวจนะสัมพันธ์ในนิทานพื้นบ้านภาษากะเหรี่ยงสะกอ

บทแรกได้นำเสนอความรู้โดยทั่วไปเกี่ยวกับวิชาวจนะวิเคราะห์ความหมายของวจนะสัมพันธ์ ความรู้โดยทั่วไปเกี่ยวกับชาวกะเหรี่ยงสะกอ และรายละเอียดการเก็บข้อมูล บทที่สองได้ศึกษาโครงสร้างระดับลึกและระดับพื้นผิวของนิทานพื้นบ้านภาษากะเหรี่ยงสะกอ บทที่สามมุ่งศึกษาวจนะสัมพันธ์จากกลวิธีการเชื่อมโยง บทที่สี่นำเสนอวจนะสัมพันธ์จากตัวละครในเรื่อง โดยเน้นความสำคัญที่การอ้างถึงครั้งแรกและครั้งต่อ ๆ ไปของตัวละคร บทที่ห้าศึกษาวจนะสัมพันธ์โดยความสัมพันธ์กันของคำศัพท์ที่ถูกเลือกใช้ บทที่หกทำการศึกษาวจนะสัมพันธ์โดยกลวิธีการแทนที่และการละเว้น ในบทสุดท้ายเป็นการสรุปปัจจัยต่าง ๆ และความสำคัญซึ่งมีต่อวจนะสัมพันธ์

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	v
Abstract	vi
List of Figures	x
List of Abbreviations	xi
Chapter 1 : Introduction	1
1.1 General Background to the Discipline of Discourse	1
1.2 The Concept of Cohesion	2
1.3 General Information of Sgaw Karen	3
1.4 Data Collection	8
Chapter 2 : Discourse Macro-structure	9
2.1 Notional Structure	10
2.2 Surface Structure	27
2.3 Summary	50
Chapter 3 : Cohesion through Linkage and Conjunction	51
3.1 Linkage	52
3.2 Conjunction	57
3.3 Summary	67
Chapter 4 : Cohesion through Participants	68
4.1 Participants and their Initial Identification	69
4.2 Participant Maintenance as a Feature of Cohesion	83
4.3 Participant Re-introduction as a Feature of Cohesion	95
4.4 Summary	96

Chapter 5 : Cohesion through Lexical Items	98
5.1 Reiteration	98
5.2 Nominalisation of a Verb	103
5.3 Nominal Classifiers	104
5.4 Summary	105
Chapter 6 : Cohesion through Substitution and Ellipsis	106
6.1 Substitution	106
6.2 Ellipsis	112
6.3 Summary	114
Chapter 7 : Conclusion	116
Appendix A : Texts Used for Study in this Thesis	119
Appendix B : Verb Density Graphs of the Stories Used in this Thesis	173
References	178

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Schematic Chart of Sino-Tibetan Groups.	4
Figure 2. Sgaw Karen Consonant Phonemes.	5
Figure 3. Sgaw Karen Consonant Clusters.	6
Figure 4. Sgaw Karen Vowel Phonemes.	6
Figure 5. Sgaw Karen Tones and Tone Descriptions.	7
Figure 6. The Structure of the Title of a Legend.	29
Figure 7. Verb Density Graph of "The Story of Khunawlei and Nawmuey".	32
Figure 8. Verb Density Graph of "The Story of Mueyaephæ".	33
Figure 9. Vividness Parameter.	37
Figure 10. The Structure of a Thematic Title.	42
Figure 11. Verb Density Graph of "The Story of Nyali".	45
Figure 12. Verb Density Graph of "The Story of the Brave Orphan".	45
Figure 13. The Initial Identification of Each Type of Participant.	83
Figure 14. Sgaw Karen Third-person Pronouns.	85
Figure 15. Participant Maintenance.	95
Figure 16. Participant Re-introduction	96
Figure 17. Forms of Reiteration	99



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Coor.	Coordinator
Conj.	Conjunction
N.Cl.	Nominal Classifier
NC.	Negative Word Complement
P	Paragraph Indicator
SC.	Subject Complement
SEP.	Statement-ending Particle

PAYYAP UNIVERSITY