

RESUME

Name: Jamin Robert Pelkey

Date of Birth: February 22, 1974

Place of Birth: Ripley, Mississippi, USA

Education:

2004. M.A., Linguistics and Translation. Payap University: Chiangmai, Thailand.

1996. B.A., English Literature and Philosophy. Montana State University: Bozeman, Montana.

1992. Diploma. Bruce High School: Bruce, Mississippi.

PAYAP UNIVERSITY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am pleased to express gratitude to Stephanie Jill, my bride and confidant for countless acts of kindness toward me during this research endeavor.

Great appreciation is also extended to my thesis committee for their facilitation, expertise, and encouragement. Ajahn Ken Manson introduced me to RRG just when I was ready to write ‘anathema’ over grammar theories of all kinds, and he continued to offer excellent insight during my research and writing. Dr. Brian Migliazza, and Ajahn Noel Mann also provided timely help in a variety of ways.

Further appreciation goes to Dr. Fraser Bennett who helped me dream this project into existence and helped salvage more in my phonology notes than a leaky syllable template, to John Alsop without whom I would have spent an extra month trying to tease apart phonemes, to Dr. Robert Van Valin for spending two whole weeks in 2001 masterfully presenting the details of *Syntax* to an RRG workshop in Horsley’s Green, to Ivan and Margaret Lowe for paving our way to the workshop, to Chuck Walton who took extra time in Dallas to tutor me from his own experience in RRG, to Andy Eatough for being one of my Yipho heroes, to Allen & Stepheny James and Mark & Jenny Roberts for their logistical assistance in Yunnan, to Rob Fried for helping me understand the Vietnam side of Phula, to Ajahn Karen Block and the Payap University Graduate Linguistic Department for providing infrastructure, guidance, and a progressive graduate program, and to William Faulkner for helping me understand that run-on sentences are quite acceptable in the English language.

Gratitude goes to my parents Rob and Joan Pelkey for teaching me that the most important verbs are ‘love’ and ‘worship’—both verbs having the same Undergoer.

Gratitude goes to Matt Rojahn, who along with J.R.R. Tolkien, George MacDonald, and Stephanie Jill helped keep my imagination alive during this research project.

A hearty round of cheers to Huangwei and Makun, the foreign affairs administrators of Mengzi Teacher's College, who facilitated this research by tending to multiple, governmental, visa, and logistical details related to our stay in Honghe Prefecture.

Lastly, and deeply felt, accolades of thanksgiving to Zhu Jinkuan (祝进宽), Zhu Qinghua (祝清华), and other Phowa speakers who patiently repeated themselves and explained themselves—often for hours on end—attempting to answer obscure questions on everything from shivering goats and snapping ropes to rolling sifters and falling reeds.

The remaining errors in this document are mine alone.

March 1, 2004