

## CHAPTER 6

### COMPLEX SENTENCES

#### 6.0 Introduction

Complex sentences are a combination of multiple clauses which include different kinds of phrases of several grammatical categories. The relationship between phrases, sentences and paragraphs is stated by Payne as follows.

Payne (1990:3) states that:

*All languages, seemingly without exception, possess strategies which permit various types of co-coordinating to occur at the phrases as well as the sentential level, thereby forming complex phrases of various grammatical categories.*

According to Thomson and Longacre (1990:171), all languages have two-clause constructions where one clause modifies the other clause like an adverb modifies a verb. In Geba, there are clauses which modify other clauses like this.

When the clauses combine, they in turn form paragraphs and increasingly larger bodies of discourse. Again, Longacre (1990:235) describes that:

*Clauses-the surface structure units which correspond most closely to individual predication-combine into clusters of clauses which are distinguished in most languages as sentences versus paragraphs. These sentences are tighter bundles than paragraph.*

In Geba, complex clauses are clauses such as relativized clauses, adverbial clauses, complement clauses, passive constructions, causative sentences, and coordinate clauses. This chapter discusses complex clauses with more than one clause and serial verb constructions. Larger structures than these are not discussed in this chapter.

## 6.1 Relativized clauses and clausal complements of nouns

Relative clauses are clauses that modify a noun and sometimes they are known as adjectivized clauses (Peck 1984: 150).

Example (262) shows a relative clause structure in Geba which consists of the common noun *bjà* and a modifying relative clause. The relativizer *dó* functions as a relator which precedes the relative clause. The relative phrase occurs in the same position as an adjective. It precedes the quantifier phrase.

Example (262) shows an externally headed relative clause in Geba.

(262) (Elicitation)

<i>bjà</i>	<i>dó</i>	<i>ālénù</i>	<i>zàrà?</i>	<i>bú</i>	<i>dālà</i>	<i>nù</i>	<i>ḡē</i>	<i>kòládè?</i>	<i>kʰàtākʰò?</i>
person	who	enter	church	in	many	that	have to	take off	shoes
N	REL	V	N	LOCN	QNT	DEM	AUX	V	N

People who enter the church should take off (their) sandals.

In example (263), the head noun is the subject of the embedded clause. This sentence structure is possibly an internally headed relative clause.

(263) (Elicitation)

<i>āmìṃù</i>	<i>kó</i>	<i>kʰàtākʰò</i>	<i>āḡóṡà</i>	<i>dā</i>	<i>bwè</i>	<i>nù</i>	<i>sāmò</i>
woman	wear	sandals	white	one	CLF	be	beautiful
N	V	N	N	NUM	CLF	COP	ADJ

The lady wearing white sandals is beautiful.

Example (264) includes the relative clause in bold.

(264) BH 010

<i>mègānòākʰòsé</i>	<i>bjà</i>	<b><i>dó</i></b>	<b><i>āḡélò</i></b>	<b><i>dé</i></b>	<b><i>kʰòwèkʰòkʰà</i></b>	<b><i>dé</i></b>	<i>dālà</i>	<i>nò</i>	<i>sā</i>
because of that	person	who	love	thing	mercy	thing	many	that	3S
CONJ	N	REL	V	N	V	N	QNT	DEM	PRN

Because of that people who love and mercy others will be blessed.

(265) WL 009

The work that I must do is teach Sunday school.

## 6.2 Adverbial clauses

<sup>8</sup> The regular structure of the relativized clause is as follows.

The lesson which he taught yesterday was difficult.

The lesson which he taught yesterday was difficult.

found in declarative clauses and they are often connected by discontinuous subordinate conjunctions.

In example (266), *dǒ.... ɛgɛdànù* surrounds the adverbial clause.

(266) WL 005

<b>dǒ</b>	jā	dò	t <sup>h</sup> à	θàzē	<b>ɛgɛdànù</b>	jā	mè	ḡè	pòmū
when	1S	big	ascend	youth	time	1S	work	have	to woman
ADV	PRN	ADJ	DIR	N	N	PRN	V	AUX	N
gērē		k <sup>h</sup> ò	tā	plà					
organization		leader	one	time					
N		N	NUM	CLF					

When I became a youth, I had to do a woman leader one time.

Example (267) shows the usage of the subordinate marking *ḡé.... ɛlèkánù*.

(267) WL 009

<b>ḡé</b>	jā	ʔò	jā	ʃibùp <sup>h</sup> ábúp <sup>h</sup> òʔ	<b>ɛlèkánù</b>	dǒʔ	jā	ʔò	kī
when	1S	have	1S	family	after	and	1S	have	N
ADV	PRN	V	PRN	N	ADV	CONJ	PRN	V	CONJ
jāp <sup>h</sup> òjēlì	jā	sàʔì	ḡè	jāp <sup>h</sup> òjēlì					
my children	1S	take care	have to	my children					
N	PRN	V	AUX	N					

After I had my family, I had my children and I took care of my children.

Adverbial clauses in Geba modify a verb phrase or a whole clause. The following sections discuss different types of adverbial clauses, time, purpose, reason, conditional, negative conditional, concessive, substitutive, and additive, which are found in Geba.

### 6.2.1 Time

Time adverbial words such as *ɛtʃ<sup>h</sup>ɪ* or *ʃé.... ɛk<sup>h</sup>é* form the head of the adverbial clause. Examples (268), (269), and (270) show time adverbial clauses in Geba.

In some of these constructions *dō* can optionally appear at the beginning of the clause.

(268) (Elicitation)

(dó)wè zú ɛ́tʰɪ̀ nù hɛ́? θàdʒθàdʒ  
rain fall time this walk slowly  
N V N DEM V ADV

Walk slowly when it rains.

(269) WL003

lɛ́ jə ʃɪpʰò? ɛ́kʰɛ́ nù jə mō jə pà? θɛ́lɔ́ jɛ́ 6ɛ́tʃàkɪ  
when 1S young time this 1S mother 1S father teach 1S about  
ADV PRN ADJ N DEM PRN N PRN N V PRN PREP  
dɛ́θɔ́dʒùθɔ́dʒɛ́ lə́mùhɛ́ nù  
religion evening FP  
N N FP

When I was young, my parents teach me about religious things in evenings.

Example (270) uses *ɛ́kʰɛ́ nù* to show a simultaneous expression in Geba.

(270) (Elicitation)

sə θábò ɛ́kʰɛ́ nù sə jè tʰà  
3S sing time this 3S smile ascend  
PRN V N DEM PRN V DIR

He smiles while singing.

## 6.2.2 Purpose

Purpose adverbial clauses use the subordinate conjunction *ɛ́nɪtʃʰɪ́*. Examples (271) and (272) show purpose subordinate clauses in Geba.

(271) (Elicitation)

sā sàtʰì ǎmìkʰó ǎnìtʰí sā tʰà ʈò?  
 3S see man for 3S ascend tree  
 PRN V N BENF PRN DIR N

He climbed the tree in order to see the man.

(272) (Elicitation)

sā pʰlò sàmébwé ǎnìtʰí nù sā bè pʰá? só sɛ?  
 3S pass exam for this 3S have to read much book  
 PRN V N BENF DEM PRN AUX V ADV N

He should study hard to pass the exam.

### 6.2.3 Reason

The subordinate conjunctions *ǎmúló* and *ǎkʰòsé* are used to express the meaning of reason in Geba as in example (273) and (274).

(273) (Elicitation)

sā sàʔì bè bwèsè ǎmúló sā dèmè ʔóʔé  
 3S take care have to patient because 3S work much  
 PRN V AUX N CONJ PRN N ADV

Because she cares for the patients, she is busy.

(274) BH 009

mémèdó sā mè tǎ wè nò bɛ̀bàbɛ̀sɛ̀ ǎtʰì nò sā lè  
 but for 3S older brother one CLF that trouble time that 3S go  
 CONJ PRN N NUM CLF DEM V N DEM PRN V  
 dó sā ʈǎrè? ǎkátʰī sā ʈǎrè bɛ̀sʰò dó sā kǎ dè lǎwá  
 to 3S horse feet 3S horse worry which 3S 1Pex hit each other  
 PREP PRN N N PRN N V REL PRN PRN V RECP

ǎk<sup>h</sup>òsé sǎ    ǝǎrè    swè    ǝúwù? sè    lǝ  
 so    3S    horse run leave 3S    FP  
 CONJ PRN N    V    V    PRN FP

But for the older brother, when he was in troubled he went to his horse but his horse worried that he would beat him so it ran away.

Example (275) shows the subordinate marker *gǎnòǎk<sup>h</sup>òsé* connecting an explanatory clause.

(275) BH 005

mémèdó sǎ    ǎmè                      dǎ    wè    nò    sǎ    dǝ?    tǎk<sup>h</sup>ók<sup>h</sup>ó                      sǎ  
 but for 3S    older brother one    CLF that 3S    ride the same time 3S  
 CONJ    PRN N                      NUM CLF DEM PRN V    ADV                      PRN  
  
 dè sǎ    ǝǎrè    tǎk<sup>h</sup>ók<sup>h</sup>ó                      gǎnòǎk<sup>h</sup>òsé nò    sǎ    ǝǎrè    tǎ    dó    tǎ  
 hit 3S    horse the same time that's why that 3S    horse not    CLF not  
 V    PRN N    ADV                      ADV    DEM PRN N    NEG CLF NEG  
  
 ǝélò? sè    nó?  
 love 3S    not  
 V    PRN NEG

But for his older brother, he rides his horse and also he bit his horse, that's why his horse didn't love him.

#### 6.2.4 Conditional clause

The 'if' clause expresses a conditional circumstance to form an adverbial clause and *mǐ* can only appear in the second position. In conditional sentences the 'if' particle is obligatory.

Example (276) shows the semantic meaning of a past time conditional clause.

(276) (Elicitation)

nā mī ʔò bɛ pʰó gɛrɛ bú nù nā sàtʰi bɛ  
 2S if stay where flower garden in this 2S see have to  
 PRN CONJ V ADV N N LOCN DEM PRN V AUX  
 pʰó ɛmò dɔ̀lɑ̀ nù lɔ̀  
 flower beautiful many this FP  
 N ADJ QNT DEM FP

If you were in that garden, you would see beautiful flowers.

### 6.2.5 Negative conditional

A negative conditional adverbial clause in Geba is expressed by negative discontinuous morphemes. In this case, the negative adverbial appears optionally at the beginning of the sentence and is later followed by the discountinuous negative morphemes and finally followed by a conjunction [(mīdɛmī)..... tɛ.... nɔ? .... kīdɔ]. Examples (277) and (278) show negative conditional clauses in Geba.

(277) (Elicitation)

wɛ tɛ zú nɔ? kīdɔ kɛ lé sà dɛjɔ  
 rain not fall not then will go see movie  
 N NEG V NEG CONJ AUX V V N

It doesn't rain; we'll go see the movie.

(278) (Elicitation)

mīdɛmī wɛ tɛ zú mà nɔ? kīdɔ kɛ lé sà dɛjɔ  
 if rain not fall PRT not then will go see movie  
 ADV N NEG V PRT NEG CONJ AUX V V N

If it doesn't rain, then we'll go see the movie.



### 6.2.6 Concessive clause

The concessive clause in Geba is substituted or embedded in another clause by the word *mī* which means 'although'. Example (279) shows the concessive clause structure in Geba.

(279) (Elicitation)

dèjɔ́	tā	mòbé	jé	nòʔ	mī	jā	lè	sà	ní	gé
movie	not	good	1S	not	if/although	1S	go	see	happen	COMP
N	NEG	ADJ	PRN	NEG	CONJ	PRN	V	V	V	PRT

Although the movie is not good for me, I happened to watch it.

### 6.2.7 Substitutive

Substitutive clauses in Geba are marked by the word *āk<sup>h</sup>é* 'while' or the word *bàsámì* 'instead of'. Example (280) and (281) show the substitutive clauses.

(280) (Elicitation)

wà	kā	ḡè	mè	séʔ	āk <sup>h</sup> é	nù	wà	ḡājà
1Pex	will	have to	work	book	time	this	1Pex	play
PRN	AUX	AUX	V	N	N	DEM	PRN	V

While we should have been studying, we played.

(281) (Elicitation)

wà	kā	ḡè	mè	séʔ	bàsámì	wà	ḡājà
1Pex	will	have to	work	book	instead of	1Pex	play
PRN	AUX	AUX	V	N	CONJ	PRN	V

Instead of studying, we played.

### 6.2.8 Additive

Additive clauses can be found as both negative and affirmative constructions. The additive markers are *tāk<sup>h</sup>ánɔ́ʔ.... gó* 'not only....also' and *tāplák<sup>h</sup>à.... gó* 'at the

same time....also'. The first example, (282), shows a negative structure used to form an additive clause type.

(282) (Elicitation)

p<sup>h</sup>ĩ sèsàthì tǎk<sup>h</sup>ánó? p<sup>h</sup>ĩ gó sé? θápò dǎlà  
bring Bible not-only bring also book sing many  
V N NEG-ADV V CONJ N V QNT

Not only bring a Bible, bring a song book at the same time, too.

In example (283), the additive construction occurs in the affirmative construction.

(283) (Elicitation)

p<sup>h</sup>ĩ sèsàthì tǎplák<sup>h</sup>à p<sup>h</sup>ĩ gó sé? θápò dǎlà  
bring Bible one-time-only bring also book sing many  
V N NUM-CLF-ADV V CONJ N V QNT

At the same time as bringing a Bible, bring a song book, too.

## 6.3 Complement

In this section, subject complements and object complements are discussed. Nonan (1985) states, that a typical complement clause is a clause, which functions as an argument and may be the subject or object in another clause.

### 6.3.1 Subject complement

A clause embedded as the subject of another clause is found in Geba. In example (284), the subject complement clause *jā bə dǎnè* appears at the beginning of the sentence followed by the predicate *ǎmǎ wè* 'good'.

(284) (Elicitation)

jā bə dǎnè ǎmǎ wè  
1S play piano good COMP  
PRN V N ADJ PRT

Playing the piano is enjoyable.

### 6.3.2 Object complement

There are two kind of object complements discussed there. One is an object complement that is a noun phrase and that has a clausal complement as in example (285).

(285) WL 004

jā	θāhé	đó	mī	kābísè?	ālēāwè	lénì	đó	jā	θā?	bú
1S	know	which	be	Lord	words	enter	to	1S	heart	in
PRN	V	REL	COP	N	N	V	PREP	PRN	N	LOCN

I know God's word enters into my heart.

The second one is alternatively the object complement which is a clausal complement as in example (286).

(286) (Elicitation)

sā	sātʰì	sā	pʰò	hà
3S	see	3S	child	cry
PRN	V	PRN	N	V

She sees her child cries.

### 6.4 Serial verb constructions

Serial verbs consist of the combination of two or more verb roots. Serial verb phrases are commonly found in Geba. They express one simple event or a complex event. A serial verb construction in Geba contains two or more verb roots which are not compounded or members of separate clauses. However, some verb series in a sentence are compounded.

Example (287) is a verb compound because the meaning of the combined verbs is not compositional. This is an exocentric compound. *nì* 'get' followed by the word *bè* 'suffer' forms the meaning 'receive'.

(287) WL 011

jā    nì    ɓè    dēk<sup>h</sup>òdē?á    jā    nì    ɓè    dēhówè    dò    dò  
 1S    enter    suffer    strength    1S    enter    suffer    blessing    big    big  
 PRN   V       V       N                    PRN   V       V       N                    ADJ   ADJ

I receive great strength.

Different types of serial verbs, such as, simultaneous serial verbs, sequential verb, and 'want' serial verbs, are presented in this section.

#### 6.4.1 Simultaneous serial verbs

The motion verb /é, which means 'go', also functions as a serial verb to express the motion of the arguments of the following main verb. The actions are done simultaneously. Examples (288) and (289) show the structure of /é and other main verbs 'take', 'see', 'pick', 'do' to show the forward direction and motion of the arguments associated with 'take'. In examples (288) and (289) the actions are done simultaneously.

(288) (Elicitation)

maùŋ    lè    jóŋ    ɓpísɓp<sup>h</sup>ò    dó    tʃaúŋ    nò  
 Maung   go   take   child   to   school   FP  
 PROP   V   V       N                    PREP   N       FP

Maung took the child to school.

(289) WL 004

kɔ́bísè?    ɔ̀lèɔ̀wè    lé    nì    dó    jā    θà?    bú  
 Lord    words   go   enter   to   1S    heart   in  
 N        N        V   V       PREP   PRN   N       LOCN

God's words enter into my heart.

In the following serial verb construction, the first verb expresses the action; the second verb denotes a result of that action to form a simultaneous serial verb.

(290) GA 8(2)

jā mè lādè? maùŋ  
 1S make/cause fall Maung  
 PRN V V PROP

I made Maung fall.

## 6.4.2 Sequential verbs

In the following serial verb examples, two action verbs are attached to each other to show that the actions are done successively. In example (291) the action of the second verb is done first.

(291) BH 009

sā θā̀rè swè θúwì? sè lā  
 3S horse run leave 3S FP  
 PRN N V V PRN FP

His horse left him and ran away.

In examples (292) and (293), the actions are done sequentially in the order given.

(292) (Elicitation)

jā lè sàt<sup>h</sup> bjà sè wát<sup>h</sup>ó  
 1S go see person 3S ASP  
 PRN V V N PRN PRT

I went to see the man.

(293) (Elicitation)

sā gé fà? ʔi θék<sup>h</sup>wè?  
 3S return put give corn  
 PRN V V V N

He returns and stores the corn.

### 6.4.3 'Want' serial verbs

Another kind of serial verb construction is with the verb *θèʔ* or *θàʔ* 'want' which never appears as a main verb but only as an auxiliary<sup>9</sup>. In this kind of serial verb construction the subject sometimes appears after the verb. Example (294) shows 'want' as a normal SVO word order.

(294) GA 18(1)

maùŋ θà lè bwé lèp<sup>h</sup>èt<sup>h</sup>í  
Maung want go buy tea  
PROP V V V N

Maung wants to buy tea.

Examples (295), (296), and (297) show the subject moved to the object position and the sentence structure changes to VSO.

(295) GB 6.6(1)

θèʔ sàt<sup>h</sup>ì jè bjà  
want see 1S person  
AUX V PRN N

I want to see the man.

(296) DB 019

θà ʔà wè kǎdǎ kǎʔ ǎlǎwè tǎ mǎbé  
want eat still again 1Pin other one day  
AUX V AUX ADV PRN ADV NUM N

We still want to eat again the next day.

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<sup>9</sup> It is possible that 'want' verbs are sentential complement taking verbs. That possibility is not explored here.

(297) DB 019

θà ʔà kɛʔ tʰó kī kǎpʰúʔī θà mɛ̀pétʰàʔ  
 want eat 1Pin PRT and stomach want full  
 AUX V PRN PRT CONJ N AUX ADV

We want to eat until our stomach is so full.

## 6.5 Passive Construction

The combination of *bè* 'suffer' and *dè* 'thing' gives a meaning which is passive-like. In example (298), the passive particle *bèdè* comes before the main verb to form the passive structure in Geba. The agent is conjoined by the preposition *dó* 'by' which is optional. The action performed can be positive or negative.

(298) GB 14.2 (5)

maùŋ bèdè dè sè dó zò  
 Maung have to hit 3S by Zaw  
 PROP AUX V PRN CONJ PROP

Maung was hit by Zaw.

## 6.6 Causative sentences

Causative type clause constructions are also found in Geba. The causative verb precedes the main verb as in example (299).

(299) GA 8(1)

jǎ mè làdèʔ tʰī maùŋ lǝ  
 1S make/cause fall PRT Maung FP  
 PRN V V PRT PROP FP

I made Maung fall.

In another causative construction, the first verb expresses the action; and the second verb denotes the result of that action as in example (300), (301), and (302).

(300) GA 8(2)

jā mè làdè? maùŋ  
1S make/cause fall Maung  
PRN V V PROP

I made Maung fall.

(301) (Elicitation)

sā mè wé sā ?à í? θāđé dè dó ǎnít<sup>hí</sup>  
3S make/cause dry 3S eat PRT all year for for  
PRN V V PRN V PRT ADV N PREP BENF

He makes (the corn) dry (in order) to eat for all year.

(302) (Elicitation)

sā gé mè wé gé θék<sup>h</sup>wè? tāsà? dó sā ʃi bú  
3S return make/cause dry return corn some at 3S house in  
PRN V V V V N QNT PREP PRN N LOCN

nò

FP

FP

He makes corn dry at his house.

A stative clause describes the subject of that clause as in the condition of having done or suffered the event. Example (303) is a stative clause showing the actual action with the causative verb structure showing the condition.

(303) (Elicitation)

jā mè gò háθù?  
1S make/cause hot curry  
PRN V ADJ N

I make the curry hot.



## 6.7 Coordinate clauses

Coordinate clauses in Geba can be joined by coordinate particles such as 'but' and 'and'. In example (304), the two clauses are joined by the coordinate particle *bàràs<sup>h</sup>á* to form a coordinate clause.

(304) GB 16.1(2)

maùŋ lè dèk<sup>h</sup>ló **bàràs<sup>h</sup>á** zò ʔdà hì bú  
Maung go outside but Zaw stay house in  
PROP V N CONJ PROP V N LOCN

Maung went out but Zaw stayed home.

In example (305), the two clauses are joined by the coordinate particle *kĩdʒʔ* 'and'.

(305) (Elicitation)

maùŋ lè dó mǐlèklé **kĩdʒʔ** zò lé dó tʃaún  
Maung go to forest and Zaw go to school  
PROP V PREP N CONJ PROP V PREP N

Maung goes to the forest and Zaw goes to school.

## 6.8 Conclusion

Different kinds of complex clauses and the sentences are found in Geba. This chapter only gives some examples of a more rich phenomena. Relativized clauses, and different kinds of adverbial clauses, such as, time, purpose, reason, conditional clause, negative conditional, concessive clause, substitutive and additive, were described.

Different kinds of complements, such as, subject complements, object complements, were also presented. Different kinds of serial verb constructions simultaneous serial verbs, sequential verbs and 'want' serial verbs were discussed.

Finally, passive construction, causative sentences and coordinate clauses were discussed.