

THE FORM AND FUNCTION OF CHUAVE CLAUSES

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0. Introduction

While clauses are a relevant phenomenon in Chuave syntax, they are relatively uninteresting to study and individually do not carry a high functional load. Rather, it is the relationships between clauses and the chaining of clauses together that forms the "backbone" of the language and carries the meaning forward in the communication situation. Clauses carry such a low functional load because they normally have so few constituents. Many clauses have just one constituent, the predicate, and the overwhelming majority have three or fewer constituents. Often the subject of a sentence will be in one clause while the object is in a second clause. That means that sentences are normally composed of a number of short clauses joined together in relationships described in two previous papers ("From Deep to Surface Structure in Chuave" and "Interclausal Relationships in Chuave").

A clause in Chuave is defined as a predicate and its associated constituents. All those constituents precede the predicate, and thus the boundaries of a clause are easily determined. All clauses end with a predicate, and any constituent following the predicate is in a separate clause. This statement must be modified in a few instances where a constituent is placed after its predicate for purposes of focus. I have described this situation in another paper ("Addenda to Chuave Morphology and Syntax", section 5.0), but basically, in the normal case, all constituents of a single clause ~~pre~~^scede the predicate.

The predicate is the key constituent of a clause. It is the only obligatory constituent. It is the constituent to which all the other constituents relate. The subject and indirect object constituents are always cross-referenced to the predicate, and the object constituent can be. The predicate consists of a verb or one of the three types of verb phrases.

Seven other constituents can be found in a Chuave clause, but, of course, never all at the same time. It cannot be said often enough that clauses usually consist of just one or two constituents besides the predicate. Sometimes a speaker may use three. In some very rare instances he might use four constituents besides the predicate in one clause but never as many as seven.

Since Chuave does not use any case markings on its clause level constituents to signal their role in the clause, one must rely on the context within which the clause occurs, the

semantics within the clause itself, the order of the constituents within the clause, or a combination of these factors, in order to determine the function of each constituent in a particular clause. All of these factors must be taken into account because the order of clause level constituents is not fixed. The situation in Chuave is that there are three levels of rigidity in the order of these constituents. Three of the nuclear constituents, subject, object, and predicate, remain pretty much in that order. The predicate, as mentioned earlier, always comes last in a clause, but the object is sometimes placed ahead of the subject for emphasis. A second level of rigidity pertains to the indirect object, which has a little more freedom to appear in various places in the clause. As a general rule, if the indirect object is a single word, it appears closest to the predicate, but if it is a phrase, it tends to occur before the object. The remaining four clause level constituents, temporal, locative, instrument, and manner, have much more freedom to occur anywhere in the clause.

However, after looking at thousands of examples of clauses, I have distilled them down to the following preferred order for the ~~xx~~ clause constituents:

Temp / Su / IO / Ob / Loc / Inst / Man / Pred

This preferred order, then, can be used to interpret clauses that could be taken as ambiguous. In a clause such as example 1, the normal interpretation would be that Baundi hit Kiaki because the subject normally precedes the object.

1. Baundi Kiaki su-Ø-m-e
 Baundi Kiaki hit a 3rd per. obj-non.f-3s-indic
 'Baundi hit Kiaki.'

Example 2 introduces a case where semantics plays a role in interpreting a clause. Even though the object is initial in the clause, the semantics tell us that sugar cane does not eat a small boy, but it's the boy who must be eating the sugar cane.

2. bo-rai gan gauwo no-Ø-m-e
 sugar cane-this child small eat-non.f-3s-indic
 'The child ate this sugar cane.'

Example 3 introduces a similar case. In the text from which this example is taken, a man by the name of Aro had just told me a story, and in commenting on that, another speaker moved the fact of the story, which was the object of the clause, before the subject, who is Aro himself. Both the context in which this clause appears and the semantics of the different roles of the clause constituents make it obvious which phrase is the subject and which is the object.

3. no ka-nom gurom towane gera Aro komiti
 our talk-our joint one very Aro Komiti
mora epena di ero-Ø-m-ie
 enough now say give to 2s obj-non.f-3s-decl
 'Aro, (a member of the) Komiti, has now finished
 telling you our very short story.'

1.0. Clause Constituents

1.1. Inner Nuclear Constituent

The predicate is the most nuclear constituent of the clause because it is the only constituent that must obligatorily occur in all clauses. A predicate can be just a simple verb,

or it can be composed of any of the types of verb phrases that are described in the paper "A Description of Chuave Phrases" (Section 1.0).

Each predicate is sub-categorized according to which of the other nuclear clause level constituents it has the potential of occurring with. If a predicate has the potential of occurring with a subject only, it is categorized as an intransitive predicate. If it has the potential of occurring with an object as well as with a subject, it is categorized as a transitive predicate. And lastly, if it has the potential of occurring with an indirect object as well as a subject, it is categorized as a benefactive predicate.

The term "potential" has been chosen because in connected textual material, overt appearance of any of the nuclear constituents except the predicate is not obligatory. This statement is especially apparent in the case of transitive and benefactive predicates. Some examples will help make this point clearer.

4. a. yai ta sowel-kan i-re
man another shovel-generic get-seqSS
'A man took a shovel,'
- b. u-re
come-seqSS
'came,'
- c. kokonan i-na-iy-e di-ro
work get-will-1s-indic say-~~xxx~~ seqSS
'said, "I'll get work,"'
- d. akai sunə de-re
space middle leave-seqSS
'left (the shovel) inside (the garden),'

- e. di sombero-kan i-re
axe sombero-generic get-seqSS
 'took the sombero axe,'
- f. u-n-g-u-a-i
come-3s-dep-3s-non.s-dem
 'when he came,'
- g. sombero i-ro
sombero get-seqSS
 'took the sombero (axe),'
- h. u-ro
come-seqSS
 & 'came,'
- i. kon Ø-na-ro
road go-will-seqSS
 'and wanting to go on the road,'
- j. u-Ø-m-ie
come-non.f-3s-decl
 'he came.'

In Example 4 clause (a) has a transitive predicate because both the subject and object constituents occur with it in the clause. But clauses (d), (e), and (g) are also transitive, even though in clause (d) neither the subject nor the object overtly appear, and in clauses (e) and (g) the subject constituent does not appear. The important point, however, is that both the subject and the object have the potential to appear in these clauses. Clauses b, f, h, i, and j are all intransitive, even though the subject constituent appears in none of them. But it has the potential of appearing in these clauses, while no object nor indirect object has that potential, so they are all intransitive predicates.

- 5. a. ari kanaka moi-ke-Ø-in-goro
people uncivilized be-not-non.f-3pl-seqDS
 'The uncivilized people weren't there,'

- b. ne yai goi fu-re
you man die go-seqSS
'you, a white man, ~~went~~ went,'
- c. eran kei nare-n-g-a-i
roof build give to 1s obj-2s-dep-non.s-dem
'concerning you building a roof for me,'
- d. ne ga-n kou koi-n-g-a
you skin-your red have-2s-dep-non.s
'though you have red skin,'
- e. ne fu-re
you go-seqSS
'you went,'
- f. eran kei nare-re
roof build give to 1s obj-seqSS
'built the roof for me,'
- g. tai kokonan akire di nare-re
something work help give to 1s obj-seqSS
'helped me with some work,'
- h. kapu si ke-na-i-k-a-i
pork hit cook-will-1s-dep-non.s-dem
'and when I kill and cook a pig,'
- i. epe gauwo-toka no-wa-n-ie
like that small-very eat-will-2s-decl
'you will eat a little bit like that.'

In example 5 the predicates in clauses a and b are intransitive because they have the potential of occurring only with a subject, and in each case the subjects are overtly present. The predicate of clause c, however, is benefactive because it has the potential of occurring with an overt indirect object as well as with a subject and an object. In this case, the indirect object is found internally in the verb narengai 'you gave to me,' but it does not appear overtly in the clause. The same is true of clauses ~~f~~ f and g in

example 5.

One other word must be said about this matter of potentiality. Certain clauses have more potential for having the various constituents appear than others. Those clauses are ones near the beginning of a narrative when the various participants are being introduced and those clauses that occur right after a predicate that indicates that the next clause will have a different subject (see "Chuave Medial Verbs" section 1). Because this clause introduces another subject, it is sometimes inserted by a speaker.

I now to examples of these three sub-categories of predicates.

1.1.1. Intransitive Predicates

6. kari fu-Ø-m-e
car go-non.f-3s-indic

'The car went.'

7. kongo munmane wom di-Ø-im-e
rock many very is-non.f-3pl-indic

8. nimi su-wa-n-goro¹
rain hit a 3s obj-fut-3s-seqDS

'The rain will hit and....'

¹Because the verb su- means 'to hit a 3s object', one might think that this predicate should be considered transitive. In other occurrences of this verb, it is true, it is usually transitive, but in this case the object of what the rain hits never appears overtly, and so I am considering this particular instance as intransitive. To say that the rain is hitting a person or hitting the ground, a speaker uses another

verb that is transitive: nimi bui naro-Ø-m-e
 rain rub give to 1s obj-non.f-
 3s-indic

'I was rained on.'

9. kamun tako-n-g-u-a
 sky light up-3s-dep-3s-non.s

'After the sky lights up,....'

1.1.2. Transitive Predicates

10. Opai gan kanu-Ø-m-e
 woman child see-non.f-3s-indic

'The woman saw the child.'

11. wa-m kui-n-g-u-a
 son-his bear-3s-dep-3s-non.s

'When he bore his son,....'

12. yai ta ka di-ro
 man another talk say-seqSS

'The man said talk and....'

13. nai-ke-yo
 hit a 1s obj-not-imper

'Don't hit me!'

1.1.3. Benefactive Predicates

14. yai ta ka di noro-Ø-m-e
 man another talk say give to 1pl obj-non.f-3s-indic

'The man said talk to us.'

15. ya-rom-i kere ero-n-g-u-a
 man-this-this count give to 3pl obj-3s-dep-3s-non.s

'When this man read to them,....'

16. yai kouna-nam i kapu opom di te-Ø-i-koro
 man age mate-my this pig show say give to 3s
 obj-non.f-
 1s-seqDS

'I showed the pig to my male age mate, and....'

17. ena ya-rom-dai kapu ori opom di
 then man-this-this pig big show is
to-wa-iy-e
 give to 3s obj-fut-1s-indic

'Now, I will show the big pig to this man.'

1.2. Outer Nuclear Constituents

The three outer nuclear clause level constituents are subject, object, and indirect object. All of them can be composed of the same lower level constituents (namely any of the non-verb phrases as described in § "A Description of Chuave Phrases", Section 2.0, except the Locative Phrase and the Numeral Phrase; an appropriate interrogative pronoun can also appear as the subject, object, or indirect object in a clause.), and so, in order to distinguish them from one another, one must rely on the semantics of the clause, on the context, or on the order of the constituents within the clause, as I have mentioned earlier. However, two other factors help distinguish two of these constituents from the others. First, the subject is always cross-referenced with the subject suffix on the verb and must agree with it in person and number. Secondly, the ~~xxx~~ indirect object is always cross-referenced to the verb in the predicate that means 'to give to a particular object' and so must agree with it in person and number.

Some examples of how these three outer nuclear constituents interact with one another are as follows:

18. S O P
opai gan kui-n-g-u-a
 woman child bear-3s-dep-3s-non.s

'After the woman bore a child,.....'

19. $\overbrace{\text{koroware}}^O$ $\overbrace{\text{na}}^S$ $\overbrace{\text{su-wa-iy-e}}^P$
 chicken I hit a 3s obj-will-1s-indic

'I will kill a chicken.'

20. $\overbrace{\text{dou kapuka wi-yom-dai}}^O$ $\overbrace{\text{bi-nom ga-nom}}^{IO}$
 frog bird feather-its-these head-our skin-our

$\overbrace{\text{i}}^I$ $\overbrace{\text{bei ere-ro}}^P$
 this do give to 3pl obj-seqSS

'We put (on our heads and bodies) (dried) frogs and bird feathers, and...'

21. $\overbrace{\text{na}}^S$ $\overbrace{\text{ka ta}}^O$ $\overbrace{\text{ne}}^{i\ddot{o}}$ $\overbrace{\text{di ero-wa-iy-e}}^P$
 I talk another you say give to 2s obj-will-1s-indic

I'll tell you another story.'

1.3. Peripheral Constituents

The four peripheral constituents are locative, temporal, manner, and instrument. The first three of these constituents are different from the nuclear constituents in that they can occur more than once in any particular clause. Another difference between the locative, temporal, and manner constituents and the nuclear constituents is that these three are much more free to occur in various places in the clause,—any where from near the front of the clause to near the predicate,—than the nuclear constituents. These facts aren't true of the ~~instrument~~ instrument. In the few instances where the instrument constituent occurs in a clause, there is only one manifestation of it in any one clause, and it always appears as a single word, a noun. Moreover, it invariably occurs immediately preceding the predicate.

The locative, temporal, and manner constituents, in contrast to the instrument constituent, have a variety of

manifestations. The locative constituent is most often a locative phrase, but an intensive phrase or an interrogative word can also appear as a locative. The temporal constituent is most often simply a single time word, but an intensive phrase, a noun phrase, or an interrogative expression can also indicate time in a clause. Finally, the manner constituent usually consists of a single word, an attribute as described in "Word Formation in Chuave", but an intensive phrase can also signal manner in a clause.

Some examples of the peripheral constituents are as follows:

1.3.1. The Locative Constituent

22. yokoi Goi moi-n-g-u-a
friend Goi is-3s-dep-3s-non.s

'Concerning (our) ~~friend~~ friend who is in Goi,....'

23. koro eri nuwi gere-ro
there tree Nuwi cut for firewood-seqSS

'He cut a Nuwi tree for firewood there and....'

24. koi kuki gai kopuna-kan tei
there bag string bag food-generic here

i-Ø-m-ia
get-non.f-3s-emph

'Here he got some food (that was) there in the string bag.'

25. no-rai iki-rai kui-kan yu gui-ro
we-dem house-dem grass-generic pull up-seqSS

'We pulled up the grass at the house and,....'

1.3.2. The Temporal Constituent

26. no koma moi-pun-g-a-i
we before is-we-dep-nons-dem

'When we existed before,....'

27. koimoi-ri tokoi are-re
morning-in again get up-seqSS

'They got up again (early) in the morning, and....'

28. tokoi epena i u mari fu-ro
again now this come clear go-seqSS

'Again we revealed (ourselves) now, and....'

29. taroma wom de-ro
afternoon very leave-seqSS

'We left late in the afternoon, and....'

30. kakom-dai tei kopuna wei-pun-g-a
time-this there food harvest-we-dep-non.s

'When we had harvested the food there at that time,....'

1.3.3. The Manner Constituent

31. mora iki ta iki ta iki
enough house another house another house

ta Mi fai-n-g-u-a
another Mi sleep-3s-dep-3s-non.s

'(Whether) they had already slept in the various houses at Mi, (or)....'

32. ama yo munmane ~~***~~ munmane di-ro
also nothing many many is-seqSS

'There is also much (wood) just there, and....'

33. gavman misin tekoi si dau-ro
government mission again hit cling-seqSS

'Again we cling to the government and missions, and....'

34. eran-dai borom-di wom tei-rai mora kei
roof-this top-at very there-this enough build

moko-pun-g-a-i
go-up-we-dep-non.s-dem

'After we had completely built up there at the very top of the roof,....'

1.3.4. The Instrument Constituent

35. tokoi eri di si-in-g-a
again wood axe hit a 3s obj-3pl-dep-non.s

'When they had chopped the wood with an axe,....'

36. kimi ~~noixxxx~~ noi-re
 bow ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ hit a 1pl obj-seqSS

'They shot at us with bows, and....'

37. kan si-re
 rope hit a 3s obj-seqSS

'They tied him with a rope, and....'

38. kongo di ya dumui nou moi-ro
 rock axe here sharpening rock sharpen is-seqSS

'They were sharpening a stone axe here with a sharpening rock, and....'

2.0. Clause Types

Based on the kinds of predicates already discussed, Chuave has four clause types: Intransitive, Transitive, Intransitive Benefactive, and Transitive Benefactive. These clause types are distinguished by which and how many of the outer nuclear clause constituents have the potentiality of appearing in the clause. The following chart (where + indicates the obligatory occurrence of that constituent, - the obligatory non-occurrence of that constituent, and ± the optional occurrence of that constituent) shows the possibilities:

	Subject	Object	Indirect Object	Predicate
Intransitive	±	-	-	+
Transitive	±	±	-	+
Intransitive Benefactive	±	-	±	+
xxxx Transitive Benefactive	±	±	±	+

As for the peripheral clause level constituents, they can all occur optionally with each of the clause types.

2.1. The Intransitive Clause

The intransitive clause is distinguished from the other

ABBREVIATIONS

decl	=	declarative mood
dem	=	Demonstrative
dep	=	dependant
emph	=	emphatic mood
fut	=	future tense
imper	=	imperative mood
indic	=	indicative mood
Inst	=	instrument
IO	=	indirect object
Loc	=	locative
Man	=	manner
non.f	=	non-future tense
non.s	=	non-simultaneous
Ob	=	object
obj	=	object
pl	=	plural
Pred	=	predicate
seqDS	=	sequence, Different Subject
seqSS	=	sequence, same subject
Su	=	subject
Temp	=	temporal
1pl	=	first person plural
1s	=	first person singular
2s	=	second person singular
3pl	=	third person plural
3s	=	third person singular

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