

THO (TAY)

THE SYNTAX OF THO (TAY)

THE SYNTAX OF THO,  
A TAI LANGUAGE OF VIETNAM

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The grammatical model underlying this analysis of Tho syntax closely resembles the scale and category grammar developed by M.A.K. Halliday. This thesis does, however, suggest some major modifications to Halliday's model, and seeks to apply the modified theories to the analysis of Tho, in order to test whether they comprise a usable basis for the description of a language.

Chapter one describes the theoretical standpoint of the thesis, comparing and contrasting it with other grammatical models. In particular the theories of Halliday and those of the tagmemicists are discussed.

Chapter two gives an explanation of the layout of the thesis and other practical details.

Chapter three gives a sketch of the syntactic units of Tho at primary delicacy, showing their structure and their inter-relations.

Chapters four to eight deal with the five units of Tho syntax in more detail, i.e. at secondary delicacy. The units, which are dealt with in successive chapters, are the verbal group, the nominal figure, the nominal phrase, the clause and the sentence.

Chapter nine gives a sample text, parsed to show the assignment of descriptive categories to formal items in the text.

Chapter ten gives another text with a word-for-word translation, but without parsing.

The thesis ends with a bibliography and an index.

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EXPLANATION OF ORTHOGRAPHY

The orthography used in this thesis is that which my wife and I devised for Tho. It is modelled on the Vietnamese Quốc Ngữ, with modifications where Tho shows contrasts not found in Vietnamese. Some problems remain unsolved in the phonology, and further study is needed before a thorough phonological statement can be made.

The orthography may be described in terms of the syllable. Each syllable must have a vowel<sup>1</sup> and a tone. There may also be a consonantal onset and/or a consonantal ending to the syllable. These are represented by orthographical symbols in the following way.<sup>2</sup>

Onsets

<u>Orthography</u>	<u>Approximate phonetic equivalent</u>
b	b
by	bj
c (before all vowels except i, ê, e)	k
ch	t
cho (before a, ă, e)	tʃw
chu (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	tʃw
d	z
do (before a, ă, e)	zw
du (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	zw
đ	d
đo (before a, ă, e)	dw
đu (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	dw
g (before all vowels except i, ê, e)	ʝ
gh (before i, ê, e)	ʝ

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1. The only exception is that nóng 'one' in fast speech becomes ng.
  2. The fact that a particular sequence is provided for in the orthography should not be taken as evidence that it actually occurs in any Tho word.

<u>Orthography</u>	<u>Approximate phonetic equivalent</u>
h	h
ho (before a, ă, e)	hw (ɥ)
hu (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	hw (ɥ)
k (before i, ê, e)	k
kh	kh
kho (before a, ă, e)	khw (kɥ)
khu (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	khw (kɥ)
l	l
lo (before a, ă, e)	lw
lu (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	lw
m	m
my	mj
n	n
ng (before all vowels except i, ê, e)	ŋ
ngh (before i, ê, e)	ŋ
ngo (before a, ă, e)	ŋw
ngu (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	ŋw
nh	ɲ
o (before a, ă, e)	w
p	p
py	pj
ph	f
p'	ph
p'y	phj (pç)
qu	kw
s	s
so (before a, ă, e)	sw
su (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	sw
sl	l
slo (before a)	lw
t	t
th	th
tho (before a, ă, e)	thw (tɥ)

<u>Orthography</u>	<u>Approximate phonetic equivalent</u>
thu (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	thw (t <sub>h</sub> )
to (before a, ă, e)	tw
tu (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	tw
u (before all vowels except a, ă, e)	w
v	v

Vowels

a (when followed by y, u)	ă <sup>3</sup>
a (except when followed by y, u)	a
ă	ă
â	ă
e	ɛ
ê	e
i	i
ia (syllable finally)	iə
iê (not syllable finally)	iə
o	o
ô	o
ơ	e
u	u
ua (syllable finally)	uə
uô (not syllable finally)	uə
ư	i
ưá (syllable finally)	iə
ưó (not syllable finally)	iə
y (after u or qu)	i
ya (after u or qu, syllable finally)	iə
yê (after u or qu, not syllable finally)	iə

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3. It is more convenient with Tho vowels to mark shortness rather than length.

Endings

<u>Orthography</u>	<u>Approximate phonetic equivalent</u>
c	k <sup>4</sup>
i (after all vowels except â)	j <sup>5</sup>
m	m
ng	ŋ
o (after a, e)	w
p	p
t	t
u (after a, â, ê, i, iê, ư, ươ)	w
y (except after u)	j

Note: There is also a sequence (which may be preceded by syllable onsets) which is phonetically  $\text{ei}$ . This might possibly be analysed phonemically as / $\text{ew}$ / (since this sequence of phonemes does not otherwise occur), but orthographically it is written au.

Tones (Shown with the vowel a)

á	High rising
(ã)	High rising, glottalised medially <sup>6</sup> )
a	Mid level
á	Low rising
à	Mid falling
á (without a final stop)	Mid falling, glottalised finally
á (with a final stop)	Low level or low falling
ã (without a final stop)	Low level or low falling

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4. Final stops are unreleased.

5. Vowels glide towards final j and w, but may not reach these positions.

6. This tone only occurs in a very few loans from Vietnamese.



Chapter 1

THEORETICAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 The grammatical model used for this analysis of Tho syntax closely resembles that described by M.A.K. Halliday in his "Categories of the Theory of Grammar".<sup>1</sup> There are, however, some fairly fundamental differences between the two theories which must be clearly stated at the outset. This theoretical introduction will be devoted firstly to outlining Halliday's model, secondly to suggesting some drawbacks to it, and thirdly to presenting a modified model which may then be compared and contrasted with Tagmemics.

1.1 Halliday's model

I shall seek to state briefly the main points of this model as set forth in CTG. The description given here is merely Halliday's scale and category model as I understand it; if at any point my version is not true to CTG, then I must bear full responsibility for the misapprehension. Neither the relation between grammar and phonology, nor that between grammar and lexis, will be covered in this summary.

Halliday suggests four categories which are fundamental to the theory of how language works at the level of grammar. These are not the descriptive categories necessary for the description of any one language (e.g. 'active', 'passive' in English) but rather theoretical categories which must underly any description of the grammar of any language. These categories are linked to one another and to the data by means of three 'scales of abstraction'.

Concerning the categories, Halliday says, "Each of the four is specifically related to, and logically derivable from,

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1. Word 17:241-92 (1961), henceforth abbreviated to CTG.

each of the others. There is no relation of precedence or logical priority among them. They are all mutually defining." (CTG 2.2) The categories are called 'unit', 'structure', 'class' and 'system'. The scales of abstraction are 'rank', 'exponence' and 'delicacy'.

### 1.11 Unit

The unit is "The category set up to account for the stretches that carry grammatical patterns." (CTG 3.2) For instance, in English the units required for a grammatical description would be sentence, clause, phrase (or group), word and morpheme. "The units of grammar form a hierarchy that is a taxonomy." (CTG 3.2) The fact that the units form a hierarchy means that they are a "system of terms related along a single dimension" with "some form of logical precedence (such as inclusion)." (CTG 2.2) To be a taxonomy a hierarchy must fulfill a further two conditions: (1) "There is a constant relation of each term to the term immediately following it, and a constant reciprocal relation of each to that immediately preceding it; and (2) degree is significant, so that the place in order of each one of the terms, statable as the distance in number of steps from either end, is a defining characteristic of that term." (CTG 2.2)

So the units of grammar of any language may be placed in a line so that there is a constant relation between one unit and the one immediately next to it. This relation is that one unit "consists of" one or more of the other unit. In English, each sentence consists of one or more clauses, each clause consists of one or more phrases, etc. For one unit to "consist of" other units, the smaller units may follow one another, interrupt one another, or one may be simultaneous with another.

### 1.12 Structure

Structure is the category set up to account for the

grammatical patterns carried by the units. Each unit may display several possible structures. A structure is made up of elements (e.g. in English clause structure the elements may be termed 'subject', 'predicate', 'complement' and 'adjunct'). The structure consists of these elements in a certain order (e.g. SPCA). Sequence must be distinguished from order. We may find differences in sequence which are not related to a difference in structure (e.g. in English ASP and SPA). Order may show itself in the sequence of elements, but it is at a higher degree of abstraction than mere sequence.

### 1.13 Class

"The class is that grouping of members of a given unit which is defined by operation in the structure of the unit next above." (CTG 5.1) For instance, in English the verbal phrase (or verbal group) may be defined as the set of phrases which may operate at the predicate element of clause structure. This divides it from the nominal phrase, which may not so operate. By this means two classes of phrase are established for English. "A class is not a grouping of members of a given unit which are alike in their own structure. In other words...classes are derived 'from above' (or 'downwards') and not 'from below' (or 'upwards')." (CTG 5.3)

### 1.14 System

Generally, the term 'system' is used to signify a set of terms which are finite in number and individually distinctive and separate. As a category of grammar it is used in a specialised sense.

Although we may say that the verbal phrase operates at the predicate element in English clause structure, if we consider the structure of English clauses in more detail we will find it convenient to set up subclasses of the verbal phrase. For

instance, more detailed accounts of the structure of clauses will have to take into account the fact that active verbal phrases operate differently from passive verbal phrases. There is in fact a system of classes operating at the predicate element.

In general, a more detailed examination of a class may show that it can be divided into a system of subclasses.

### 1.15 Rank

In order to be a hierarchy, the units of a language must allow arrangement in a single dimension, with some form of logical precedence. The scale on which the units are arranged is called rank. Thus the sentence in English is of higher rank than the clause. Downward rank shift is allowed: as, for instance, a clause in English which itself operates at an element of phrase structure. "A unit can include, in what it consists of, a unit of rank higher than or equal to itself but not a unit of rank more than one degree lower than itself." (CTG 3.2)

### 1.16 Exponence

"Exponence is the scale which relates the categories of the theory, which are categories of the highest degree of abstraction, to the data." (CTG 7.3) It is possible to link a category directly with a formal item as its exponent, e.g. "the old man" as an exponent of S in clause structure. It is also possible (and is more desirable) to move step by step down the exponence scale, changing rank where necessary, until the formal item is reached. For instance, an exponent of S in clause structure in English is a nominal phrase. An exponent of this is one of the possible structures for a nominal phrase, say MMH.<sup>1a</sup> An exponent of this would be the string of word classes Article Adjective Noun, and so on.

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1a. Where M is modifier and H is head.

Our aim in grammatical description is to make generalisations. Exponence is the scale which links our generalised statements with the actual occurrences in the data.

### 1.17 Delicacy

"Delicacy is the scale of differentiation, or depth in detail." (CTG 7.4) This has already been mentioned whilst discussing system in 1.14. The least differentiated (most abstracted) structures and classes are spoken of as being at primary delicacy. For instance, SPO could be regarded as a clause structure at primary delicacy in English, whereas  $S_{sg}P_{sg}O$  and  $S_{pl}P_{pl}O$  would be the corresponding secondary structures. The class of nominal phrases is a primary class, but singular nominal phrases and plural nominal phrases are secondary classes. Successively more delicate structures and classes may be described, all of which are also covered by the term "secondary". The more delicate the stage, the more likely the statements are to be statistical, until eventually the point is reached where distinctions are so fine that they can no longer be drawn, even statistically.

The difference between delicacy and exponence needs to be clearly distinguished, as there is great similarity between them. Briefly, delicacy shows the range of structures and classes in greater and greater detail, whereas exponence in its way from the category to the data may select one from among the range of more delicate possibilities. Thus, if SPO is a clause structure at primary delicacy, and  $S_{sg}P_{sg}O$  and  $S_{pl}P_{pl}O$  are the corresponding secondary structures, then  $S_{sg}P_{sg}O$  is an exponent of SPO. Whereas delicacy shows the differentiation among structures and classes, exponence traces out one of each choice to be made. Delicacy is the map of the river, showing successive branching until each tributary is lost in an inland bog, whereas exponence takes a journey from the mouth of the river to one point on the watershed.

1.2 Drawbacks to Halliday's model

1.21 Logical priority of unit and rank

I quote again what Halliday says concerning the categories of the theory of grammar: "Each of the four is specifically related to, and logically derivable from, each of the others. There is no relation of precedence or logical priority among them. They are all mutually defining." (CTG 2.2)

Consider now the following grammar of English:

"A sentence consists of one or more clauses. A clause consists of one or more phrases. A phrase consists of one or more words. A word consists of one or more morphemes."

This grammar is apparently fully in keeping with Halliday's model, and yet it uses only the category 'unit', the scale 'rank' and the relation 'consists of'. It implies a very definite precedence of unit over the other categories, inasmuch as a grammar can be described in terms of unit and rank alone.

This seeming priority of unit over the other categories is a direct consequence of the fact that Halliday's theory does not take account of the class nature of the unit. "Unit", as Halliday defines it, is an abstraction from one or more classes. For instance, the unit "phrase" in English is an abstraction from the nominal phrase and the verbal phrase, each of which have very different syntactic functions, and each of which display a variety of structures. The only link between them is that both may operate in the structure of the clause. It is necessary, from Halliday's viewpoint, to make an abstraction from them, the "unit" if we are to have any descriptive categories arranged on a one-dimensional rank scale. If we treat a nominal phrase as a different unit from a verbal phrase, then the units are no longer

arranged in one dimension, and therefore they cannot constitute a hierarchy.

### 1.22 The relation "consists of"

For Halliday's units to be arranged in the hierarchy he desires, there must be a constant relationship between one unit and the next. The nature of this relationship, he tell us, is that one unit "consists of" one or more of the units next below. In what sense does one unit "consist of" other units? Suppose we consider how a clause in English consists of phrases. To go from the clause to the phrase in one leap leads us to the pseudo-grammar described in 1.21. The alternative to going in one leap is to follow these steps:

One of the classes of clause has one or more structures. Each element of each structure has as exponent a class of the phrase, which operates there.

This means that in going from unit to unit we may pass via class and structure, then along the exponency scale to class again, and back from class to the unit at the rank next below. The relation "consists of" is therefore a very complicated one.

Not only is this relation a complex one: sometimes it is hard to see any justification for it other than the logical necessity of having a constant relation between the terms in a hierarchy. In Tho, as in English, there appears to be a class cleavage below the rank of the clause. A verbal group may only operate at the predicate element of the clause. A nominal phrase may not operate at the predicate element.<sup>1b</sup> Another feature which is similar to English is that when we consider the structure of the verbal group and the nominal phrase there is a great deal of 'in-breeding'. The verbal group consists of such word classes as auxiliaries and verbs, which cannot operate in nominal phrase structure. The verbal group, in fact, seems to be quite distinct

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1b. In CTG 3.3 Halliday suggests that 'group' and 'phrase' have been used interchangeably for the same unit. He proposes using the terms for different classes of the same unit.

from the nominal phrase. Why must the verbal group "consist of" words in the same way as the nominal phrase, when the classes of words involved are so distinct? Why may not the verbal group consist of some word classes, whilst the nominal phrase consists of nominal figures, <sup>1c</sup> which then in turn consist of other word classes? If this state of affairs is discovered in a language, Halliday's theory requires that a verbal figure be set up. Every verbal group will then consist of one and only one verbal figure. In other words, the verbal group will descend unchanged through this rank. As far as the verbal group is concerned, this is a 'dummy' rank, but this is quite valid according to Halliday's theory because "The only theoretical restriction is that each unit must carry at least one structure that consists of more than one place." (CTG 4.2) As the nominal phrase carries a structure which consists of more than one nominal figure, it is of no consequence that the verbal group does not.

The insistence on a strict hierarchy, with each unit consisting of units of the rank next below, means that differences of class are not given the place they should have. To follow this model relentlessly means that the analyst introduces complications through his own inflexibility when the data cries out to be analysed in a different way.

### 1.23 The problem of particles

In Tho, as in other languages, there are certain particles which appear to belong to units as a whole, such as sentences. If every sentence consists of clauses, with nothing left over, how should we treat a sentence particle? Halliday's theory provides for two possibilities here.

(1) Each sentence particle is a clause in its own right, consisting of one phrase, which consists of one word, which consists of one morpheme.

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1c. 'Figure' being a unit between phrase and word.



(2) The sentence particle enters into the structure of one of the component clauses of the sentence.

Possibility (2) again leaves us with two possibilities.

(1) The particle enters into the structure of the clause as a phrase in its own right, consisting of one word, which consists of one morpheme.

(2) The particle enters into the structure of one of the component phrases of the clause.

This bifurcation of possibilities continues right the way down the hierarchy. Our extreme possibilities are to say that the sentence particle is itself a clause, or on the other hand to say that it enters into the structure of a word in a phrase in a clause in the sentence.

To say that a particle is a clause consisting of one phrase consisting of one word consisting of one morpheme, raises the same problem as the hypothetical invention of a verbal figure, considered in 1.22. In effect, we are inventing 'dummy' ranks for particles. It would be much more economical for the description if we were able to make the sentence consist of clauses and morphemes, but this we are forbidden to do. "A unit can include, in what it consists of, a unit of rank higher than or equal to itself but not a unit of rank more than one degree lower than itself. (CTG 3.2)

If we consider the sentence particle to enter into the structure of a word in a phrase in a clause in the sentence, then immediately we must face the question "Which word in which phrase in which clause?" The most natural choice, other things being equal, is the head word of the head phrase of the head clause. To decide which is the head we may use criteria such as obligatory versus optional elements of structure. The net result of these manipulations will be that one word in the sentence will bear an

excessive load of complexity in the description. We would rather put such complexity at the rank of the sentence, because the particles concerned seem to be associated with the sentence rather than with any particular word, but Halliday's model forces us to this unsatisfactory result. What is more, we introduce artificial differences between, for instance, the head and non-head clauses. These might otherwise have been very similar in structure, but we have to distinguish between them because the head clause contains the particle and the non-head does not.<sup>2</sup>

#### 1.24 The raison d'être

Halliday has anticipated the question "Why are 'unit', 'structure', 'class' and 'system' the four categories needed by the theory of grammar?" "If one asks: 'why these four, and not three, or five, or another four?', the answer must be: because language is like that - because these four, and no others, are

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2. The problem of particles is dealt with by John T. Bendor-Samuel in an unpublished article, "Problems in the Analysis of Sentences and Clauses in Bimoba." Bendor-Samuel's solution is to make the particles syntagmatic features of the sentence or the clause, equivalent to such features as the order of elements of structure. In this way he seeks to preserve a hierarchical approach, as outlined in his article "A Structure-Function Description of Terena Phrases," Canadian Journal of Linguistics 8:59-70 (1963). "This model sets up grammatical units which are hierarchically arranged. The hierarchy consists of a series of levels of description.... Each...grammatical unit consists of one or more of the units next below it in the hierarchy." (P.59) This does not prevent him from setting up a grammatical "sub-unit". "The demonstrative expression is considered a grammatical 'sub-unit.' It is clearly useful to be able to group together a number of words and clitics of different classes and make general statements about their occurrence as elements of the nominal phrase. On the other hand, to set up another level between word and phrase would lead to a very redundant and cumbersome statement. It is quite unnecessary for all words to pass through an expression level en route to the phrase. The category of sub-level and sub-unit avoids this." (P.67) It is difficult to see how this can be accommodated into a hierarchy, and unfortunately Bendor-Samuel does not attempt to clarify the matter by defining his use of the term 'hierarchy'.

needed to account for the data: that is, to account for all grammatical patterns that emerge by generalization from the data." (CTG 2.2) In other words, the justification for the four categories is an empirical one. The theoretical categories are produced by a hyper-abstraction from what is known about the patterns in languages which have been analysed. Naturally it will not do to produce the categories first, force languages into them without regard to matters of descriptive economy, and then decide that the categories fit any language perfectly and provide a completely adequate frame of reference for all features found in them. As I have shown in 1.22 and 1.23, some features of Tho syntax can be forced into Halliday's mould, but only at the expense of complicating the description.

If the basis of our grammatical model lies no deeper than empirical considerations, we may expect that the model will have to be revised in the light of further evidence. My contention is that Halliday's model needs to be revised because of evidence such as that which I present in this thesis.

An analogy may be drawn here with geometry. Euclid's postulates comprise a system which generates a logical geometry. They are not, however, the only such system. One of the postulates may be changed, and a non-Euclidean geometry produced which is still non-contradictory. For instance, one of Euclid's postulates states that one and only one line may be drawn through a given point parallel to a given line. This may be waived, and a non-Euclidean geometry produced. Each geometry, whether Euclidean or not, has mathematical validity if it is not self-contradictory. The question, which geometry fits the universe we are living in? is a matter which stands apart from the validity of any geometry. It is an empirical question, to be decided by experiment and measurement.

The system produced by Halliday's four categories and three scales of abstraction is not self-contradictory. It may be reduced to mathematical logic.<sup>3</sup> At the same time we may not expect that it is the only such system which may be devised. Other non-contradictory systems may be produced by altering some of the categories and scales of abstraction. Each theory of grammar needs to be tested empirically to see which best fits the data.

### 1.3 Suggested modifications to Halliday's model

The drawbacks to Halliday's model outlined in 1.2 arise because different classes are united in the units. This is done in order that the units might constitute a hierarchy arranged on the rank scale. This hierarchy is also a taxonomy because one unit "consists of" other units. (See 1.11, p.10) Let us redefine the unit so that it separates different classes.

Definition A unit is the correlation between a class of items and the structure or structures they display.

On this definition the verbal group and the nominal phrase in English are different units. The units of a language are no longer arranged in a single dimension, and therefore they can no longer constitute a hierarchy. Note that the units are defined on the basis of a common syntactic function, which is the essence of class. A unit on this definition has two sides, like the faces of a coin. One is the class aspect, abstracted from the syntactic function of all the exponents of the unit. The other is the structure aspect, abstracted from the structures which all the exponents of the unit display.

Let us now examine the repercussions of this new definition of the unit on the other categories and scales. Structure and system, together with the scales of exponence and delicacy, will be unaffected. In order to see the effect of the change on the scale of rank, we will first consider a replacement for the relation "consists of".

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3. See R.M.W. Dixon, "A Logical Statement of Grammatical Theory," Language 39:4:654-68 (1963).

A class may operate at an element of structure. As a unit is a class, it too may operate at an element of the structure of another unit. This, then, is the way in which one unit "consists of" other units.

Units are classes, but there are some classes which are not units. An example in Tho is the class of final particles. These have no structure, so they cannot be units. They may, however, operate at an element of structure of a unit.

An analogy may be drawn with electric adaptor plugs. An adaptor is essentially a plug on the one side, and one or more sockets of varying shape and size on the other side. The plug side may fit into a socket on another adaptor. Here the plug is the class, fitting into (operating at) one of the sockets (an element of structure) of an adaptor (a unit). Appliances have a plug but no sockets, and correspond to the classes which have no structure, and so are not units. The adaptor which fits into the mains may be compared with the sentence, which operates in discourses or situations.

For Halliday the relation "consists of" is that constant relation existing between successive terms in a hierarchy. For me it shows the interrelation of the units with no hierarchy being involved. The units and classes<sup>4</sup> form a network of interrelations, such as that shown in 3.6, p.48. Not every unit or every class may operate at every element of structure of every unit. A large part of the grammar of a language consists of a description of the different elements at which each unit and class may operate. This may be done in greater or lesser detail, i.e. at secondary or primary delicacy. The two-dimensional array shown in 3.6 is the analogue of Halliday's one dimensional rank scale, showing what units and classes any given unit may consist of.<sup>5</sup>

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4. "Classes" here means those classes which are not units.

5. The array in 3.6 should not be looked upon as intrinsically two-dimensional. A good case might be made for considering it as

We can no longer define class as "that grouping of members of a given unit which is defined by operation in the structure of the unit next above" (CTG 5.1) as there is now no unit above or below. The array in 3.6 should be considered topologically: it may be distorted in any fashion desired, so long as no ruptures occur. However we distort it, it is impossible to arrange the units so that each one only operates in the structure of the unit next above.<sup>6</sup>

We may revise the definition of class in the following way:

Definition A class is a grouping of items which are alike in their grammatical function.

Absolute identity of function is not required. Differences of function are dealt with at secondary delicacy by setting up subclasses.

The sentence often causes difficulty in linguistic description because of the unique position in which it stands. We have defined a unit as the correlation between a class of items and the structure or structures they display. It is obvious that the sentence displays structures: does it have a class aspect to qualify it for consideration as a unit?

R.H. Robins says that,<sup>7</sup> "Traditionally the longest structure within which a full grammatical analysis is possible has been taken as the sentence, or potentially complete utterance." The word "potentially" is an important qualification here. Not every

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basically three-dimensional (as this would allow lines to pass each other without intersecting). However, the main point here is that it would be impossible to represent the information given in 3.6 in a one-dimensional array, as is possible with Halliday's units.

6. It is hard to see how this is possible even for Halliday, as he permits down ranking

7. General Linguistics: An Introductory Survey. London 1964. 5.2, p.190.

sentence can stand as a complete utterance. However, there is a certain completeness about the structure of a sentence.<sup>8</sup> It is the brick which is used to build longer stretches of speech, such as conversations and discourses, but these have not yet been as exhaustively studied as the sentence.

Sentences do, then, comprise a class, as they are alike in their grammatical function. They operate in longer stretches of speech, though not at elements of structure, and they can potentially function as complete utterances. This is, of course, a direct consequence of the completeness of structure which they display. This does not mean, however, that classes are being established on the basis of similarity of structure. Two radically different structures may each exhibit this completeness, and therefore would be able to operate in discourses, or in situations as free utterances.<sup>9</sup>

#### 1.4 Comparison with Tagmemics

##### 1.4.1 Form or function

The unit as I have defined it is the correlation between a class of items and the structure(s) they display. As such, it is strikingly similar to the tagmeme, which is a correlative between the slot and the class which fills the slot. Both the unit and the tagmeme are form-function correlatives. Function is the aspect which both Halliday<sup>10</sup> and Longacre<sup>11</sup> claim to be primary.

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8. Cf. R.E. Longacre, Grammar Discovery Procedures, The Hague (1965), p.17 fn.14. "Sentences are characterized by a degree of closure... not characteristic of lower levels."

9. Cf. CTG 3.3. "There will always be one unit which, more than any other, offers itself as an item for contextual statement because it does the language work in situations: so it might as well always have the same name: 'sentence.'"

10. Cf. R.H. Robins, "Some Considerations on the Status of Grammar in Linguistics," Archivum Linguisticum XI (1959), p.109. "When there is a conflict of classification of morphological paradigm and syntactic function, the latter is given preference in assigning words to word classes." This is quoted in CTG 5.3 fn. 48, with

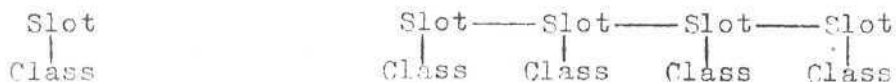
What then is the difference between my unit, based partly on Halliday, and Longacre's tagmeme?

In order to compare the two, we must bring the terminology together. 'Slot' corresponds to 'element of structure', whereas 'class' is common to both theories. 'Tagmeme' corresponds to an element of structure together with the class which operates there (i.e. which 'fills the slot'). 'Syntagmeme' almost corresponds to 'structure', being a string of tagmemes. This is clearly seen in Longacre's words:<sup>12</sup>

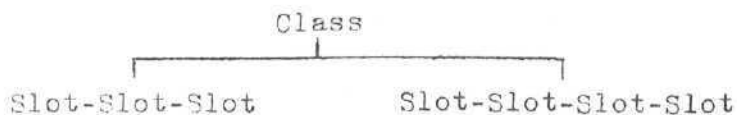
"Pattern and pattern point therefore are properly primitives of linguistic structure. The particular linguistic theory here followed terms the former SYNTAGMEME (construction) and the latter TAGMEME (element of a construction)."

The difference between syntagmeme and structure is that whereas structure is merely a string of ordered slots, syntagmeme includes the attendant classes.

We may represent tagmeme and syntagmeme diagrammatically as follows:



The representation for my unit would then be:



the comment, "I would add 'groups to group classes, etc.'"

11. "Tagmemics makes grammatical functions focal, but associates such functions with sets of items and constructions. A function may be considered a defining property of a set while the set may be said to manifest a function." "Some Fundamental Insights of Tagmemics," Language 41:1:65-76 (1965).

12. Grammar Discovery Procedures, The Hague (1964), p.15. Not all things are to be clearly seen from the words of tagmemicists. One feels that their theories would be better understood and their value far more appreciated if they were not hedged in by an almost impenetrable mass of unnecessarily complex terminology.



This brings to light certain key differences. Tagmemes, syntagmemes and units are all combinations of slots and classes, but the former two have their slots 'above', and the latter has the slots 'below'. This means in effect that in Tagmemics the classes are subordinated to the structures, whereas in my theory the structures are subordinated to the classes.

This may be seen by means of an example from Tho. The equative and predicative clauses (pp.41-43) have radically different structures, but form one class, as both operate at the head element of sentence structure. The clause is therefore a single unit in this grammar. According to tagmemic theory, they would be different clause level syntagmemes, and would only be drawn together as the fillers of the slot of the head tagmeme on the sentence level. That is to say, they would be united at the sentence level but at their own level, that of the clause, they would be separated because of their differing structures. Thus, although Tagmemics pays lip service to the supremacy of function over form, the nature of the tagmeme countermands this.

#### 1.42 Hierarchy or non-hierarchy

In a recent article<sup>13</sup> Longacre defends the concept of hierarchy. Although Tagmemics (unlike Halliday) allows upranking (or level-skipping, as Longacre calls it) as well as down ranking.<sup>14</sup>

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13. "Some Fundamental Insights of Tagmemics," Language 41:1:65-76 (1965).

14. "Hierarchical structuring as commonly conceived involves distribution of lower-level units into higher-level units.... Recursive layerings may occur on the same level: word within word ('compounds'), phrase within phrase..., clause within clause, etc. There may be backlooping from higher levels. Occurrence of a subordinate clause which manifests a phrase level tagmeme (the boy who came yesterday), or of a sentence within a clause (when heads-I-win-tails-you-lose is the order of the day) exemplify first-order backlooping. Occurrence of a sentence within a phrase (his heads-I-win-tails-you-lose attitude) exemplifies second-order backlooping. Level-skipping may also occur: a sentence-level tagmeme manifested by a phrase or a clause-level tagmeme by a word exemplifies first-order level-skipping, while a sentence-level tagmeme manifested by a word exemplifies second-order level skipping." Op.cit. 73-4.

this does not mean that they cling less tenaciously to the notion of hierarchy. Longacre rounds off his article by bringing matrix theory to the defence of hierarchy, as follows:<sup>15</sup>

"In diagram 5, T symbolizes tagmemes identified by subscripts ¶, S, C, P, and W as paragraph level, clause level, phrase level, and word level. D and M symbolize discourse and morpheme as top and bottom points of reference. These six hierarchical levels (and morpheme, which is not a level) comprise the vertical coordinate of the chart. There is a central column labelled HIERARCHICAL with successive columns to the right and left. Cells are filled with symbols for levels. Thus, the intersection of T<sub>C</sub> and HIERARCHICAL is cell P; we read: 'Clause-level tagmeme manifested by a set of phrase-level syntagmemes'.

	LEVEL-SKIPPING <sup>2</sup>	LEVEL-SKIPPING <sup>1</sup>	HIERARCHICAL	RECURSIVE	BACK-LOOPING <sup>1</sup>
T <sub>¶</sub>	P	C	S	¶	D
T <sub>S</sub>	W	P	C	S	¶
T <sub>C</sub>	M	W	P	C	S
T <sub>P</sub>		M	W	P	C
T <sub>W</sub>			M	W	P

DIAGRAM 5. FIELD STRUCTURE OF HIERARCHY

"The field structure represented above has the following characteristics. (1) Every row is displaced one cell to the right in respect to the row above it and one cell to the left in respect to the row below it. (2) Every column is displaced one cell upwards in respect of the next column to the right, and one cell downwards in respect to the next column on the left. (3) All left-to-right descending diagonals have the same cells....

"Notice...that all varieties of mutual imbedding of constructions from various levels find their place in a periodic matrix like that in diagram 5 and none need be considered aberrant or extrasystemic. Rather, the apparent exceptions to hierarchy (recursiveness, back-looping, and level-skipping) are part of a field structure in which hierarchy finds its ultimate justification. The relative spacing - which is possibly the fundamental notion in hierarchy - is preserved regardless of the horizontal or vertical shifting of rows and columns."

The argument here needs to be considered closely. The intersection of T<sub>C</sub> and HIERARCHICAL is cell P because Longacre

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15. Op.cit. 76. Diagram 5 has been reduced in size here by omitting Longacre's LEVEL-SKIPPING<sup>3</sup> and BACK-LOOPING<sup>2</sup>.

considers the manifestation of clause level tagmemes by phrase level syntagmemes to be normal. If he finds a syntagme a level below that which he expected (in this case, a word level syntagme), he calls it first-order level- skipping, and consigns the phenomenon to the column to the left of HIERARCHICAL in his matrix. If the clause level tagmemes are manifested by syntagmemes a level above that which he expected (in this case, clause) they are ipso facto placed in the column to the right of HIERARCHICAL, and termed recursive. This is plainly seen from the quotation given here in footnote 14, page 25.

The explanation of the 'field structure' of the matrix is simply that what was fed into the matrix appears in it. The levels are fixed upon, and the analyst's determination that his hierarchy will not be spoiled causes him to deflect any apparent exceptions to columns other than the central one. The column the exception will be placed in is determined by the hierarchy originally decided on. In fact, the whole argument is a tautology.

### 1.5 Composite formulae

The purpose of grammatical analysis is to make abstractions based on similar but different events. If we find the structures MH, H, HQ and MHQ (where M signifies modifier, H head and Q qualifier), then we can represent these four by a composite formula which is an abstraction from them: (M)H(Q). This is a valid means of expressing the facts in a more economical way. Our composite formula may then be used to 'generate' the original four structures.

If we also find the structures AMH, AH and AMHQ, we may amend our composite formula to read: (A)(M)H(Q) (where A signifies article, say). This will generate the seven structures which we have found so far, and also the structure AHQ, which has not yet been discovered in our corpus of data. However, this is not a drawback to the composite formula, because a grammar should in fact generate sequences which have not been found in the corpus analysed.

The better the grammar, the greater the number of these sequences which are found to be grammatical.<sup>16</sup>

The structures of the nominal phrase in Tho provide us with some interesting problems when we try to make a composite formula. Let us consider the first two structures listed in 3.31, p.43, Nom and Nom Nom. Two composite formulae could be made:

(Nom)Nom            and            Nom(Nom)

The first formula suggests that the second nominal is the head, and the second formula suggests that the first nominal is the head. This in essence exemplifies one of the charges which transform grammarians level at a 'phrase structure' grammar; a PS grammar does not assign its 'P-markers' correctly.<sup>17</sup> The structure is not shown without arbitrariness.

Perhaps one answer to the problem is that we should not take our composite formulae too seriously. They are, after all, mere devices for representing several structures in one formula.<sup>18</sup> When we use a descriptive device we should be able to make it mean (like Humpty Dumpty's words) just what we want it to mean - neither more nor less. So a composite formula such as Nom(Nom) should be

16. If the composite formula generates ungrammatical sequences (e.g. if AHO is not found in text because it is not grammatical), then restrictions can be placed on the formula at secondary delicacy. The value of delicacy here is that highly generalised statements can be made without clouding the issue with a host of amendments, and yet the modifications may be made in their proper place.

17. See for instance P. Postal, "Constituent Structure: a Study of Contemporary Models of Syntactic Description," IJAL 30 (1964), pp. 23,4; E. Bach, An Introduction to Transformational Grammars, New York (1964), pp. 67-8.

18. However, in tagmemic theory a composite symbolisation is given a status of its own. Tagmemicists regularly speak of 'optional' or 'obligatory' tagmemes, as though there were an intrinsic difference between them. In tagmemics individual structures are not usually used (except in the initial stages of analysis). The composite formula is taken as an expression of what a structure actually is.

able to stand for the structures Nom and Nom Nom, and a composite formula such as

$$\text{Nom Link Nom (Link Nom)}^n$$

where n is an integer greater than or equal to zero, should be able to stand for the structures

1. Nom Link Nom
2. Nom Link Nom Link Nom
3. Nom Link Nom Link Nom Link Nom etc.

without any implication that any nominal is more central to the structure than any other. The situation would be different if we had numbered the nominals  $\text{Nom}_1$ ,  $\text{Nom}_2$  etc., or in any other way shown them to be different elements of structure, so that one of the nominals in structure 2. (say) could be identified with one of the nominals in structure 3.

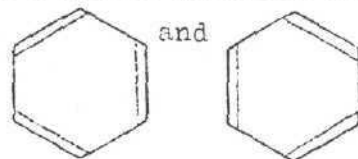
If the transform grammarian still contends that this problem arises because a phrase-structure-type grammar cannot deal with an infinitely recursive structure without imposing too much 'structure' on it, then the following course may be adopted. A composite formula for the nominal phrases above with links could be written as:

$$(\text{Nom Link})^m \text{Nom Link Nom (Link Nom)}^n$$

where m and n are integers greater than or equal to zero. Now structure 3. above may be generated in three different ways from our composite. These may be seen by

- (a) making  $m = 2$  and  $n = 0$
- (b) making  $m = 1$  and  $n = 1$
- (c) making  $m = 0$  and  $n = 2$ .

The structure 3. may be considered to be the result of oscillation between these various structures, just as the benzene molecule may be considered to oscillate between the forms



However, there is no need to resort to such extremes of ingenuity if we refuse to be the slaves of our descriptive techniques.

## Chapter 2

PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION

2.0 Some of the subjects treated in this chapter may seem to be more theoretical in nature than would be expected in a practical introduction. They are, however, matters which affect the practical organisation of material in this thesis.

2.1 The corpus of data

The data used for this thesis were all gathered from one man, Hoàng Chung Minh, aged 56. He had lived most of his life in Kỳ Lừa, just outside the provincial capital of Lạng Sơn, Việt Nam. I met him when both he and I were living in the refugee resettlement village of Tùng Nghĩa, Tuyên Đức province. He would describe his language as Thổ, or Tây, as opposed to Nùng, or Phấn Sling, which latter two terms are used to describe a neighbouring language close to Thổ.

The corpus used for this analysis consisted of the 32 texts which were also used to make the concordance by computer (see Acknowledgements, p.3). Each of the texts were designated by a two letter code name for computer purposes. These are all mnemonic codes, sometimes based on the orthography for Tho which was devised for computer use. The text codes are here given with an explanation of the code, and a brief description of the subject.

BA	Bắc 'North'	Life in the North.
BI	Bi 'marble'	Description of children playing marbles, with comments on the value of recreation.
BU	Burial	The religious ceremonies used at a burial.
CH	Cho 'to name'	Tho customs with regard to giving names to children.
CU	Cúng 'to sacrifice'	Description of a Tho sacrifice, with the implications to daily living.
HF	Hải Phòng	An imaginary letter to the North, telling about the journey from Hải Phòng to the South.

- IL Illness What happened when Mr. and Mrs. Englishman went to Saigon because of illness.
- KH Khăng 'a game with sticks' Description of a game of khăng.
- KI Kiêng 'to fast' The ceremonies and fasting necessary for a Tho person becoming a priest.
- LM Lầu mầu 'drunk' The necessity of living together as good, respectable members of the community.
- ME Mé 'mother' An imaginary conversation with an old Tho woman.
- ML Mē lua 'daughter-in-law' Tho customs pertaining to the conduct of a daughter-in-law after she has gone to live with her husband's family.
- MO Mọt 'woodworm' How to build a house so that it is free from woodworm.
- MT Mãn tây 'potatoes' The problems and hazards of growing potatoes.
- NA Nā 'ricefield' A farmer's calendar in the North.
- PH P'i 'spirit' The different kinds of spirits in the world.
- PO Potatoes An imaginary conversation about potato growing.
- PR Priests The value and functions of different kinds of Tho priests.
- PT Phép-tắc 'politeness' How parents teach their children to be polite.
- RE Return What happened when Mr. and Mrs. Englishman returned from Saigon.
- RP Reply An imaginary reply to HF.
- SA Saigon Visiting relations in Saigon.
- SK Slửa khoá 'clothes' The different ethnic groups, means of transportation, and seasons in the North.
- SU Superstition The superstitions described by the Nung which are no longer regarded by the Tho.
- SV Sláo ví 'cleansing' The situations which bring ceremonial uncleanness, and how this can be cleansed.
- TE Tết 'celebration' The feast days and holidays during the Tho year.
- TH Then 'necromancer' The function of woman necromancers, including a description of a seance.
- TM Too much A complaint about having to give too many texts.

TW	Twice	An appeal to divide our study time into two parts.
VD	Văn đây 'good days'	The necessity for observing propitious and non-propitious days.
WF	Wedding feast	The chagrin of discovering that you didn't invite all your friends to a wedding feast.
ZI	Di-cứ 'refugee'	The refugee agrees to study with the Englishman.

These texts were each tape recorded and transcribed. Each one was spontaneously spoken, although sometimes a topic was suggested beforehand.

The concordance of the texts listed each occurrence of each word in turn, with a line of context, and with the code name of the text and the sentence number. It was used to check rapidly all the occurrences of any word, in order to make generalisations about the function of that word.

Although spontaneous speech is among the most natural kinds of text material, it is almost the most difficult to analyse.<sup>1</sup> Experience with this material has caused me to abandon the idea that a native speaker speaks nothing but grammatical utterances. It is obvious that on occasions a native speaker starts one sentence and abandons it for another before it is completed. There are other times when, having uttered an exponent of a certain element, he decides that another exponent would be more explanatory or otherwise preferable, so that the sentence ends up with two exponents instead of one. (See for instance the two locative elements in ME 7, p.120.) If all these utterances are taken to be fully grammatical, then the grammar of the language is obscured with a mass of irregular forms.

How are we to exclude such non-grammatical items on grounds other than notional? One way would be to check them over again with a native speaker, and test whether he wants to correct

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1. A more natural kind still, perhaps even more difficult to analyse, would be natural conversation recorded in situ.



them. Even this method is fraught with problems, as he may want to correct features which are truly grammatical. I was not able to use this method at all, as the analysis was not done until after I had returned from Viet Nam.

Other criteria can be used, however. The fact that a stretch of speech does not fit the pattern which is well established by abstraction from many other equivalent stretches, is usually the first indication that it may not be grammatical. A sudden pause (which may even occur in the middle of a word, leaving that word unfinished, as in PH 63b, p.139) after which the tempo of speech may be considerably increased, is another sign. We would not expect any such stretch of speech to be repeatable, especially if the speaker has not completed a grammatical unit. The meaning also is a valuable clue which, although we may not be able to formalise, we would be foolish to ignore.

## 2.2 Secondary delicacy

As the concept of delicacy is central to this thesis, and also as it is not very widely used, perhaps more should be said in way of explanation. Delicacy is the scale of depth of detail. At primary delicacy statements are made at the highest level of abstraction. Statements may also be made at a lower level of abstraction, giving more detail of the structures and classes. Any statement which is not at the highest level of abstraction is said to be at secondary delicacy.

Delicacy is a cline (i.e. a continuum), not in the sense that infinite and infinitesimal gradation is possible, but in the sense that there are no definite stopping places, nor any means of comparing the delicacy of two statements about different structures or classes. Or rather, there is only one point where comparison is possible: the point at which we can no longer make further abstractions, i.e. primary delicacy. The fact that secondary delicacy must remain a stretch of territory with no milestones constitutes a problem for the description. The practice in this thesis

will be to give all the information which is known at secondary delicacy, without attempting to divide it into further steps into depth of detail.

What changes might we expect in statements at primary delicacy if we subject them to an increase in delicacy? There are three changes which might affect the structures. These are:

(1) Variations in the sequence of elements which are not significant at primary delicacy might be significant at secondary delicacy. The differences between the sentences "She saw him yesterday" and "Yesterday she saw him" would be dealt with by setting up different structures at secondary delicacy.

(2) A structure may have repetitions of one element at primary delicacy, whereas at secondary delicacy these may have to be distinguished as different elements. One structure of the nominal phrase in English at primary delicacy might be written as  $(M^n)H(Q^m)$ , where M signifies modifier, H head and Q qualifier. At secondary delicacy we would have to recognise the fact of secondary differences between the consecutive M elements. We would then write the structure  $(M_1)(M_2)(M_3)\dots H(Q^m)$ .

(3) One primary structure might have to be split up into two structures at secondary delicacy, with agreement between two elements. For instance, English clause structure might be written as SPOA (subject predicate object adjunct) at primary delicacy, but at secondary delicacy we might write two structures,  $S_{sg}P_{sg}OA$  and  $S_{pl}P_{pl}OA$  to show the agreement between subject and predicate elements for singular and plural number.

Cases (2) and (3) here affect the classes, too, as elements distinguished at secondary delicacy imply that the classes operating at these elements are also to be distinguished at secondary delicacy. There are an additional two reasons for which we might want to set up subclasses at secondary delicacy. These are:

(4) Subclasses of a class might be correlated with particular elements of structure. E.g. at primary delicacy in Tho,

verbs are said to operate at both verbal and adverb elements (p.47). At secondary delicacy different subclasses are seen to operate at each element (pp. 65-8).

(5) Subclasses of a class might be correlated with particular structures. E.g. a different subclass of clause may operate at the head of a structure PrH H (prehead head) from that which may operate at the head of the structure H. In the former case in Tho sentence structure, only a predicative clause may operate, whereas in the latter structure it may be either a predicative or an equative clause.

Of these five cases, (1) is dealt with in this thesis at primary delicacy. This is purely because of considerations of description, not theory. It is accepted that mere linear sequence may nor may not be relevant at primary delicacy. However, I suspect that it is easier for readers to follow a description which indicates any fluidity of sequence at the earliest opportunity, rather than one which states an order for the elements which may not correspond with the sequence of every exponent.

As to cases (2) to (5), it is possible for us to increase the delicacy of a description at one point (two or more points in the case of (3)), whilst keeping other things equal. This is the course which is followed in this description. We cannot describe structures which are uniformly increased in delicacy at every point, because we have no means of comparing the delicacy of one element of structure with another. We can, however, consider each element of structure at a time in more detail. This is why the divisions of Chapters four to eight, dealing with the various units at secondary delicacy, follow the elements of structure of those units.

### 2.3 Sundry points

#### 2.31 The layout

In Chapter 3 all the units of Tho syntax are covered at primary delicacy, and succeeding chapters deal with each unit in

turn, at secondary delicacy. The fact that Chapter 3 starts with the sentence, and that Chapters 4 to 8 end with it, is of no theoretical importance: it is simply found easier to describe Tho syntax in that way.

The five units are named the sentence, the clause, the verbal group, the nominal phrase and the nominal figure. These should not be thought of as being arranged in any hierarchy, as explained in the theoretical introduction. This is why I have avoided linking them together by using common terms such as verbal phrase and nominal phrase, in case any should think that these two units are of the same rank. The terms sentence, clause, group, phrase and figure could have been used, but these might not have been as clearly understood by the reader as the terms verbal group, nominal phrase and nominal figure.

### 2.32 Syntax

If, according to my theoretical standpoint, there are no ranks arranged in a hierarchy, how is it possible to speak of 'syntax'? This surely implies a contrast with 'morphology', both of which terms are dependent on a word rank.

The reason I have used the term 'syntax' rather than 'grammar' is that I do not want to imply that I have dealt with all possible kinds of structures occurring within Tho sentences. Although many of the basic classes<sup>2</sup> of Tho consist of monosyllabic items which can without doubt be said to be single morphemes, there are some items which are of more than one syllable, e.g. phép-tác 'politeness', p'ô-mē 'parents' (literally 'father mother'): Some of these items are obviously bi-morphemic, and all of them may prove to be so on further research. There are no doubt structures to be investigated here which I am not able to investigate.

Although such structures would extend parts of the

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2. By 'basic' here I mean those classes in the diagram given in 3.6 (p.48) which are not counted as units. These are the classes for which I have not given any structures.

diagram in 3.6 (p.48), they would not radically alter it. In place of a word class operating at an element of a unit, we would have a unit with structures at which morpheme classes operate. This unit would itself operate at the element of the higher unit exactly as the word class did previously. My criteria for calling a polysyllabic item a word have been:

(1) In function it behaves identically with many monosyllabic items.

(2) It displays the combination of internal stability and external mobility expected in a word.

Hyphens are used for linking the syllables of such an item together. Perhaps the word is a special case, needing to be specially provided for in a theory of grammar, but Tho provides little in the way of evidence either for or against such an idea.

### 2.33 System

The term 'system' is only used for two or more subclasses which are all exponents of one class at primary delicacy. When a class consists of a closed set of items (and is technically therefore a system) it is still called a class. At secondary delicacy such closed classes are usually listed exhaustively. Examples are given from open classes.

### 2.34 Examples

Examples from text ME are often used. Reference should be made to Chapter 9 (p.115) where text ME appears parsed. Other examples are listed at the end of each chapter.

### 2.35 Index

An index of important subjects is given at the end of the thesis (p.144). Abbreviations are included there.

## Chapter 3

THE UNITS AND THEIR INTERRELATIONS  
AT PRIMARY DELICACY

3.1 The sentence

members of the

The class of sentences have a unique grammatical equivalence. Any text may most conveniently be described in terms of a succession of sentences. It has not been found possible to analyse the structure of a text in terms of elements ordered in places, however, and it is suspected that any such analysis would at best be sketchy and incomplete.

Phonological features may indicate the beginning and end of sentences in the absence of grammatical markers. A major pause is one such phonological feature. However, there is not a one-to-one correlation between stretches of speech bounded by major pauses and grammatical sentences.

3.11 Sentence structures

Sentence structures may be made up of seven elements. These are termed Opener (Opnr), Introduction (Intr), Focus (Foc), Head (H), Pre-head (PrH), Post-head (PoH) and Final (Fin). The structures which have been found to date are listed below.<sup>1</sup>

	H	(ME 13)p.122
	Intr H	(ME 5)p.119
	H Fin	(ME 18)p.124
	Intr H Fin	(Ex. 1)p.49
	Opnr H	(Ex. 2)p.49
Opnr	Intr H	(ME 9)p.121
	Opnr H Fin	(ME 16)p.123
	Foc→H	(Ex. 3)p.49
	Intr Foc H	(Ex. 4)p.50
	Opnr Foc→H	(Ex. 5)p.50
Opnr	Intr Foc H	(Ex. 6)p.50
	Opnr Foc→H Fin	(Ex. 7)p.50

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1. Numbered examples are given in full at the end of this chapter, pp. 49-63. For examples taken from text ME please see Chapter 9, pp. 118-28.

	Opnr	Intr	Foc	H	Fin		(Ex. 8)p.50		
			PrH	H			(ME 8)p.120		
			PrH	H	Fin		(ME 22a)p.125		
		Intr	PrH	H			(Ex. 9)p.51		
		Opnr	PrH	H			(ME 12)p.122		
		Opnr	PrH	H	Fin		(ME 2)p.118		
		PrH	Foc	H			(Ex. 10)p.51		
	Intr	PrH	Foc	H			(Ex. 11)p.51		
	Opnr	PrH	Foc	H			(Ex. 12)p.51		
	Opnr	Foc→	PrH	H			(Ex. 13)p.51		
	Opnr	Foc→	PrH	H	Fin		(Ex. 14)p.52		
	Opnr	PrH	Foc	H	Fin		(ME 10)p.121		
Opnr	Intr	Foc	PrH	H	Fin		(Ex. 15)p.52		
		PrH	PrH	H			(ME 23)p.126		
		PrH	PrH	H	Fin		(ME 26)p.127		
	Opnr	PrH	PrH	H			(Ex. 16)p.52		
	PrH	Foc	PrH	H			(ME 11b)p.122		
Opnr	Intr	Foc	PrH	PrH	H		(Ex. 17)p.52		
	Opnr	PrH	PrH	PrH	H		(Ex. 18)p.53		
Opnr	Intr	PrH	Foc	PrH	PrH	H	(Ex. 19)p.53		
					H	PoH	(Ex. 20)p.53		
		Intr	H			PoH	(Ex. 21)p.53		
		Opnr	H			PoH	(ME 27a)p.127		
		Intr	H			PoH	Fin	(Ex. 22)p.54	
		Foc→	H			PoH	(Ex. 23)p.54		
		PrH	H			PoH	(Ex. 24)p.54		
	Opnr	PrH	H			PoH	(ME 4)p.119		
	Opnr	PrH	Foc	H		PoH	Fin	(Ex. 25)p.54	
Opnr	Intr	PrH	Foc	H		PoH	(Ex. 26)p.55		
					H	PoH	PoH	(Ex. 27)p.55	
		Intr	H			PoH	PoH	(Ex. 28)p.55	
					H	PoH	PoH	Fin	(Ex. 29)p.55
		Opnr	H			PoH	PoH	Fin	(Ex. 30)p.56
		PrH	H			PoH	PoH	(Ex. 31)p.56	

An arrow indicates that the focus element interrupts the (unit operating at the) element to which the arrowhead points. The focus is still considered an element of sentence structure in this case.

A composite formula can be derived from the structures listed above:

$$(Opnr)(Intr)(Foc)(PrH^4)H(PoH^2)(Fin)$$

Brackets indicate elements which are optionally present. Superscript numbers indicate that a succession of such elements may occur up to the number shown. The sequence of the elements is the same as the sequence of the symbols in the composite formula,

except in the case of the focus. The focus may follow the introduction, or the first prehead, or may interrupt the first prehead or the head. In such instances as PH 22b, PH 30a, PH 36b, PH 38 and PH 95a (see Chapter 10) there are several occurrences of the focus in one sentence. Insufficient evidence has been found to decide whether this should be taken account of in the composite formula, or whether these sentences are not fully grammatical.

### 3.12 Exponents of elements of sentence structure

The opener element is the place of operation of a class of opener particles.<sup>2</sup>

The introduction element is the place of operation of a class of introduction particles.

The focus element is the place of operation of a one-term class,<sup>3</sup> namely the item ní. A slight pause usually follows this item. It may help the reader to know that ní seems to throw emphasis of some kind on the preceding unit.

The prehead element is the place of operation of a clause or (rarely) a nominal phrase.

The head element is the place of operation of a clause. The differences between clauses operating at the head element from those operating at prehead and posthead will be explained at secondary delicacy in Chapter 8, p. 109.

The posthead element is the place of operation of a clause.

The final element is the place of operation of a class of final particles. These are usually accompanied by very weak

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2. For examples of these classes, please see the relevant examples from section 3.11, or see Chapter 8.

3. I am departing here from Halliday's division of 'system' from 'class' (CTG 2.1). Please see 2.33, p. 37.



stress, together with a certain amount of centralisation of the vowels, making it very hard to determine their actual phonological form. It may be better to consider that different systems of vowels and tones operate in these particles from those which operate in the rest of the language. However, they are represented in this thesis by the common orthographic symbols.

### 3.2 The clause

The clause displays two radically different structures; so different in fact that we may give different names to them, the equative clause and the predicative clause. Difference of structure is not, however, the criterion for separating units. Predicative and equative clauses together form one class, which operates at the prehead and head elements of the sentence. The occurrence of clauses elsewhere in structures is limited to the predicative clause, but this is taken to be a matter of secondary delicacy, and is dealt with accordingly in Chapter 7.

#### 3.21 The equative clause

##### 3.211 Structure

The equative clause consists of an Implement (Impl) followed by a Complement (Compl). This may be represented by the formula:

Impl Compl

Equative clauses are very rare in comparison with predicative clauses. See Exx. 32, 33 at the end of this chapter, p. 56.

##### 3.212 Exponents of elements of structure

Both the implement and the complement are the places of operation of nominal figures.

#### 3.22 The predicative clause

##### 3.221 Structure

Predicative clause structures may consist of five elements

These are Locative (L), Subject (S), Predicate (P), Object (O), Adjunct (A). The following structures have been found so far:

	P	(ME 1) p.118
S	P	(ME 1) p.118
	P O	(ME 6) p.120
S	P O	(ME 3) p.119
L	P	(Ex. 34) p.57
	P L	(ME 11a) p.121
L S	P	(Ex. 35) p.57
S	L P	(Ex. 36) p.57
	S P L	(Ex. 37) p.57
	L P O	(Ex. 38) p.57
	P O L	(Ex. 39) p.58
L S	P O	(ME 2) p.118
S	L P O	(Ex. 40) p.58
	P A	(Ex. 41) p.58
	S P A	(Ex. 42) p.58
	P O A	(ME 2) p.118
	S P O A	(ME 4) p.119
	L P A	(Ex. 43) p.58
	L P O A	(Ex. 44) p.58
L	S P O A	(Ex. 45) p.59

In these structures the predicate may be in the place shown, or it may be divided between the place shown and the end of the clause (as for instance in ME 9).

A composite formula may be written as follows:

(L)(S)P(O)(A)

with the accompanying comments that:

(1) The locative element may occur preceding or following the subject (or preceding the predicate if there is no subject), or following the object if there is no adjunct (or following the first part of the predicate if there is no object or adjunct).

(2) The predicate may be discontinuous. Part of it must occur at the place shown in the composite formula, but another part may also occur at the end of the clause.

In ME 7 two exponents of the locative occur. Allowance could be made for this by allowing repetitions of the locative element in our composite formula. However, as this is only a rare occurrence (in contrast, for instance, to a sentence with two pre-heads), it seems likely that ME 7 is not fully grammatical. A

notional explanation would be that the native speaker, after uttering an exponent of the locative element, repeats the element to explain the matter in greater detail. This is, however, only a notional suggestion. There is a pause between the two exponents of the locative, perhaps indicate of a structural discontinuity.

### 3.222 Exponents of elements of structure

The locative element is the place of operation of a nominal phrase or a clause. The features which distinguish the nominal phrase or clause operating at the locative element from those operating at other elements of structure (for instance, the subject and object elements of clause structure) will be dealt with at secondary delicacy in Chapter 7.

The subject element is the place of operation of a nominal phrase or a clause.

The predicate element is the place of operation of a verbal group.

The object element is the place of operation of a nominal phrase or a clause.

The adjunct element is the place of operation of a clause. This is in fact a highly specialised type of clause, but this will be dealt with at secondary delicacy in Chapter 7.

## 3.3 The nominal phrase

### 3.31 Structure

All nominal phrases contain nominals, and some also have links and counters. The following structures have been found:

Nom	(ME 6) p.120
Nom Nom	(Ex. 46) p.59
Nom Link Nom	(Ex. 47) p.59
Nom Link Nom Link Nom	(Ex. 48) p.59
Nom Link Nom Link Nom Nom	(Ex. 49) p.59
Link Nom Link Nom Link Nom	(Ex. 50) p.60
Nom Count Nom Count	(Ex. 51) p.60
Link Nom Count Link Nom Count	(Ex. 52) p.60
Nom Count Nom Count Link Nom Count	(Ex. 53) p.60

Not very many examples of the more complex structures occur in any text. Rather than give a composite formula for the nominal phrase, we may say that a nominal phrase consists of nominals, links and counters with the following restrictions:

- (1) Neither links nor counters may be present unless there are two or more nominals.
- (2) Each link must immediately precede a nominal.
- (3) Each counter must immediately follow a nominal.
- (4) A link may occur in first place only if it is not the only link in the nominal phrase.
- (5) If counters are present they must follow every nominal.
- (6) No more than two nominals may occur without links or counters.

### 3.32 Exponents of elements of structure

The nominal element is the place of operation of a nominal figure.

The link element is the place of operation of a class of conjunctions.

The counter element is the place of operation of the item nè 'counting particle'.

## 3.4 The nominal figure

### 3.41 Structure

Nominal figures are composed of elements which are termed Deictic (Deic), Possessive (Poss), Personal (Per), Quantifier (Q), Classifier (Class), Nucleus (Nuc), <sup>Modifier (M)</sup> and Identifier (Iden). The following structures have been found in text material:

	Deic	(ME 30) p.128
	Per	(ME 3) p.119
Poss	Per	(Ex. 54) p.61
	Nuc	(ME 2) p.118
Class	Nuc	(ME 6) p.120
	Q Nuc	(ME 13) p.122
	Q Q Nuc	(Ex. 55) p.61
	Q Q Q Nuc	(Ex. 56) p.61

Q Class Nuc	(Ex. 57) p.61
Q O Class Nuc	(ME 7) p.120
Nuc M	(ME 2) p.118
Class Nuc M	(Ex. 58) p.61
Q Nuc M	(Ex. 59) p.61
Q O Nuc M	(ME 14) p.123
Nuc Iden	(Ex. 60) p.62
Class Nuc Iden	(Ex. 61) p.62
Nuc Iden M	(ME 14b) p.122
Q Nuc M Iden	(Ex. 62) p.62

On the basis of these structures the following composite formulae are set up:

- (1) Deic
- (2) (Poss)Per
- (3)  $(Q^n)(Class)Nuc(M)(Iden)$

Structure 3 must be modified by the additional note that M may in rare cases follow Iden. It is also suspected that further investigation would lead us to write  $(M^m)$  in structure 3.

### 3.42 Exponents of elements of structure

The deictic element is the place of operation of the class of demonstratives.

The possessive element is the place of operation of a one-term class, namely the item hông 'to belong to, as to'.

The personal element is the place of operation of the class of pronouns.

The quantifier element is the place of operation of the class of numerals. These will be subclassified at secondary delicacy in Chapter 5.

The classifier and the nucleus elements are both places of operation of the class of nouns. Different subclasses of nouns may be set up at secondary delicacy on the basis of the operation of nouns at these two elements of structure, but at primary delicacy both classifier and nucleus elements may be considered to be the places of operation of one and the same primary class.

The modifier element is the place of operation of the

class of adjectives, the class of verbs, a nominal phrase or a clause.

The identifier element is the place of operation of the class of demonstratives.

### 3.5 The verbal group

#### 3.51 Structure

Verbal groups may be composed of up to eight elements of structure. These are Preverbal (PrVbl), Reflexive (Refl), Verbal (Vbl), Continuation (Cont), Capability (Cap), Adverb (Adv), Intensive (Intens) and Closure (Clo). There are so many possible structures for this unit that the composite formula will be given first, and then examples. The composite formula is:

$$(PrVbl^n)(Refl)Vbl^3 \dots (Cont)(Cap)(Adv)(Intens)(Clo)$$

The reflexive precedes the last verbal. The notation  $Vbl^3$  indicates that from one to three verbals may be present. The verbal group is discontinuous, the dots indicating that when the verbal group is operating as the predicate of a clause, the object, adjunct or locative may interrupt the predicate at the point indicated. Examples of verbal group structures are as follows:

	Vbl	(ME 2) p.118
	PrVbl Vbl	(ME 2) p.118
	PrVbl PrVbl Vbl	(ME 1) p.118
PrVbl	PrVbl PrVbl Vbl	(ME 3) p.119
	Vbl Vbl	(ME 4) p.119
	PrVbl Vbl Vbl	(ME 21) p.125
PrVbl	PrVbl Vbl Vbl	(ME 13) p.122
	Vbl Intens	(ME 26) p.127
	PrVbl Vbl Intens	(ME 8) p.120
PrVbl	PrVbl Vbl Intens	(ME 28) p.128
PrVbl	PrVbl PrVbl Vbl Intens	(ME 6) p.120
	PrVbl Vbl Vbl Intens	(ME 27b) p.128
	Vbl Cap	(ME 1b) p.122
PrVbl	Vbl Cap	(ME 12) p.122
	Vbl Vbl Cap Intens	(ME 14) p.123
	Vbl Cont	(ME 1) p.118
	Vbl Vbl Cont	(ME 16) p.123
	Vbl Cont Cap	(ME 20) p.125
PrVbl	Vbl Adv	(ME 4) p.119
	Vbl Adv Intens	(ME 10) p.121

	PrVbl	Vbl	Cont	Adv	Intens	(ME 18) p.124
PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl	Clo			(ME 9) p.120
		Vbl	Cont	Cap	Clo	(ME 22b) p.126
		Vbl	Refl	Vbl		(Ex. 63) p.62
PrVbl	Refl	Vbl	Cap			(Ex. 64) p.62

Other examples are given at the end of Chapter 4, pp. 69-74.

### 3.52 Exponents of elements of structure

The preverbal element is the place of operation of the class of verbal auxiliaries. These will be subclassified at secondary delicacy.

The reflexive element is the place of operation of a one-term class, namely the item tō 'reflexive'.

The verbal element is the place of operation of the class of verbs.

The continuation is the place of operation of the class of verbs or a clause. In fact highly specialised subclasses of verbs and clauses operate at this element, but this will be dealt with at secondary delicacy in Chapter 4.

The capability element is the place of operation of (a subclass of) the class of verbs.

The adverb element is the place of operation of the class of verbs. The particular subclass which operates here will be described at secondary delicacy in Chapter 4.

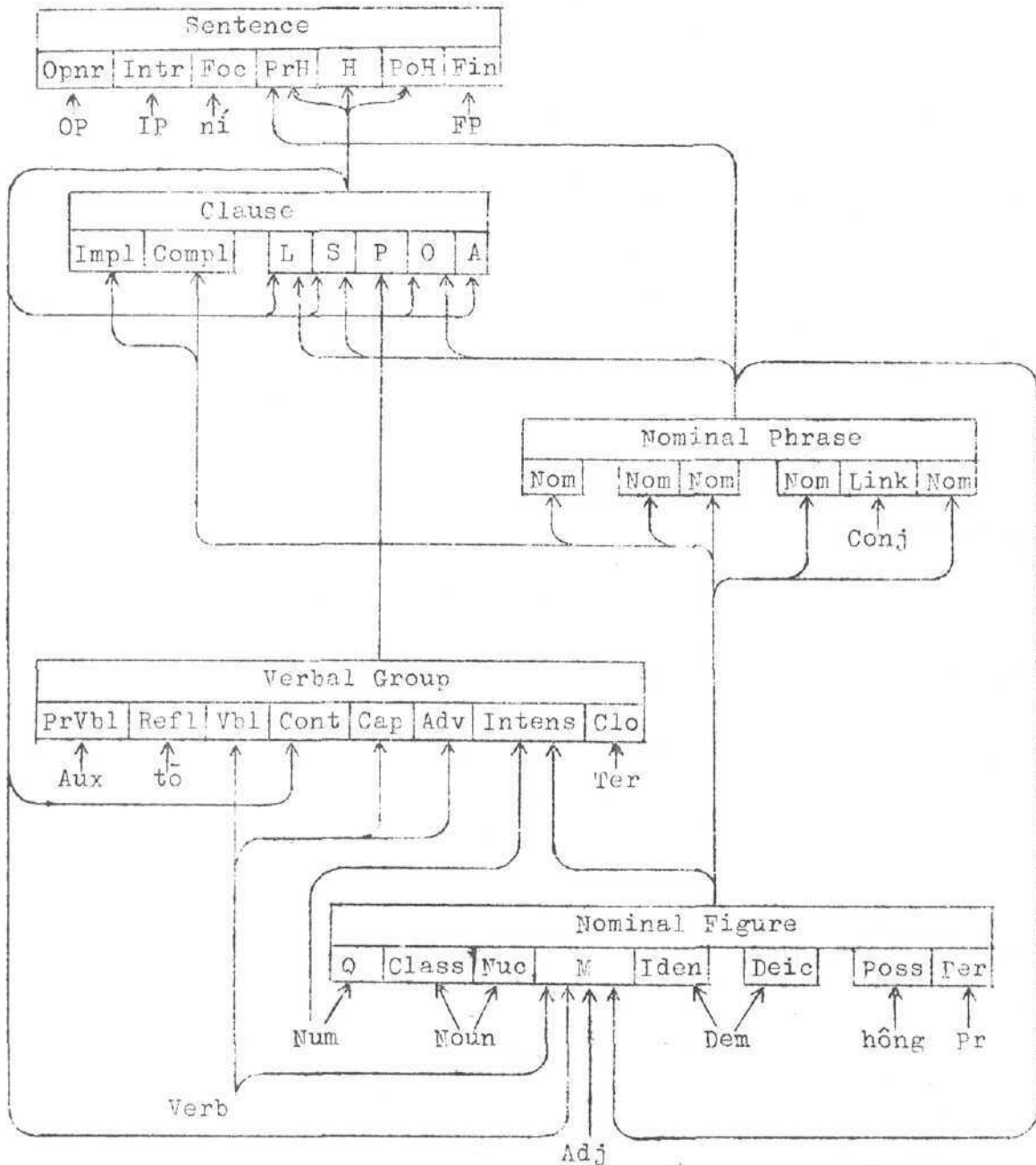
The intensive element is the place of operation of the class of numerals or a nominal figure.

The closure element is the place of operation of the class of terminals.

### 3.6 Diagram of the units and their interrelations

As the units do not form a hierarchy, we cannot represent them as being in a one-dimensional relationship. The place of the one-dimensional hierarchy is taken by the following diagram. It must be emphasised that this is only a diagrammatic representation,

is at primary delicacy only, and even then does not show all the possible structures.



Units are shown in boxes, with the class name above and the main structures underneath. Obligatory or optional elements of structure are not distinguished. Multiple occurrences of any element are not shown. Items not boxed in represent word classes.



The class at the base of an arrow operates at the element at the head of the arrow. For an explanation of the abbreviations used, please see Chapter 9, pp. 116-7, or see the index.

3.7 Examples

With each example, the first line is the free translation, the second is a word-for-word translation (where this is possible), and then follows the actual text, with parsing indicated below it. For an explanation of the parsing, please see Chapter 9, pp. 115-7.

3.71 The Sentence (See pages 38-41)

Ex. 1

Now, I need to go home first.

Now I need go return first

Cơ-này ngò tê cần pây mùa cón ló. WF 49

IP	Clause	FP
Intr	H	Fin
Sentence		

Ex. 2

Now then, there is also the neighbourhood spirit.

Now still have thing spirit neighbourhood

Tò (à)<sup>4</sup> nhằng mì ăn p'i thó. PH 29

OP	Clause
Opnr	H
Sentence	

Ex. 3

As for me, I want to speak lots of texts for you.<sup>4a</sup>

As-to me also also right want speak give you many text

Hông ngò ní, cung tú sũ ái chảng hủ nì lai bài. TM 9

.....	Clause
Foc	H
Sentence	

4. Bracketed forms are not included in the analysis, as they are considered to be hesitation forms.

4a. Dotted lines link together the parts of a discontinuous unit.

Ex. 4

Now, you have the tape-recorder there.

Now also have thing sound like this

Cơ-này ní cung mì ăn phát-âm pần này. TM 13a

IP ní Clause

Intr Foc H  
Sentence

Ex. 5

Now as for me, I love all my friends very much.

Now I also together love all friend much

Tò ngò ní, cung sảy điếp kí p'ĩ-nong lai. SA 7

OP : ní : Clause

Opnr Foc H  
Sentence

Ex. 6

So then I send a letter to my friends.

So now I send letter go give friend

Tò cơ-này ní ngò người chỉ pây hủ n'ĩ-nong. SA 3a

OP IP ní Clause

Opnr Intr Foc H  
Sentence

Ex. 7

Now today, that's what I say.

Now day this as-to me right speak like that

Tò văn này ní, hông ngò sử chàng pần năn ló. SA 28

OP : ní : Clause FP

Opnr Foc H Fin  
Sentence

Ex. 8

But now, the road is rather long, you know.

But now piece road then far little

Tò (à) cơ-này ní lãm tềng dũ quây-vi ỉng ló. SA 16

OP IP ní Clause FP

Opnr Intr Foc H Fin  
Sentence

Ex. 9

Because to take it a little bit at a time is the only way to understand quickly.

Because self take little little self then know quickly

Bởi-vì	<u>dầu</u>	<u>au</u>	<u>nội</u>	<u>nội</u>	<u>dầu</u>	<u>chính</u>	<u>chắc</u>	<u>khóai</u> .	TM 21b
IP	Clause		Clause		Clause				
Intr	PrH				H				
Sentence									

Ex. 10

If your heart is good, your heart isn't bad.

Thing heart of self good self not right thing heart self bad

<u>Ăn</u>	<u>tọng</u>	<u>hông</u>	<u>dầu</u>	<u>đây</u>	<u>ní</u> ,	<u>dầu</u>	<u>mí</u>	<u>sử</u>	(à)	<u>ăn</u>	<u>tọng</u>	<u>dầu</u>	<u>sầu</u> .	TH 65
Clause			ní		Clause									
PrH			Foc		H									
Sentence														

Ex. 11

For instance, I go down the road and notice a gust of wind.

Instance go road self see thing gust gust wind

Ví-du	<u>pây</u>	<u>tàng</u>	<u>ní</u> ,	<u>dầu</u>	<u>hăn</u>	<u>ăn</u>	<u>phá</u>	<u>sá</u>	<u>lầm</u> .	PH 21a
IP	Clause		ní	Clause						
Intr	PrH		Foc	H						
Sentence										

Ex. 12

If you speak about it openly, many friends don't believe it.

But speak out come friend many people not believe

Tò	<u>chàng</u>	<u>óc</u>	<u>mà</u>	<u>ní</u>	<u>p'ĩ-nong</u>	<u>lai</u>	<u>cần</u>	<u>mí</u>	<u>slín</u> .	PH 12b
OP	Clause		ní	Clause						
Oprnr	PrH		Foc	H						
Sentence										

Ex. 13

Now there are some people, you know, who have experienced it, and they believe it.

But have people well see pass then believe

Tò	<u>mì</u>	<u>cần</u>	<u>ní</u>	<u>đầy</u>	<u>hăn</u>	<u>quá</u>	<u>dū</u>	<u>slín</u> .	PH 14b
OP	:		ní	Clause		Clause			
.....									
Oprnr	Foc		PrH	H					
Sentence									





Now all people of me right use woman necromancer much  
 Cơ-này kí cần hông ngò sử dùng mē then lai,  
 IP Clause  
 Intr H  
 Sentence →

not use all Mr. priest few much  
mí dùng kí p'ō thāo kǐ-lai. TH 1  
 Clause  
 ← PoH

## Ex. 22

Now I've talked so much and I've not finished yet.  
 Now self converse not well finish  
 Cơ-này dầu cháng-cỏ mí đảy thuôn ló. SA 31  
 IP Clause Clause FP  
 Intr H PoH Fin  
 Sentence

## Ex. 23

Day and night it watches everything in our village, and doesn't  
 allow any spirit to come or go.  
 Morning night it well watch thing in village self with each-other  
Nướ khăm ní mần đảy ngòi ăn cháng bản dầu đủy căn,  
 : ní : Clause  
 :.....: H  
 ← PoH Sentence →

not give animal spirit any come enter leave  
mí hử tua p'i ca-dăng mà khẩu óc. PH 31  
 Clause  
 ← PoH

## Ex. 24

After you've spoken, I can correct it, and that's all right.  
 Speak already self change change correct again also well  
Cháng dá dầu khōi thối sōi theo, cung đảy. TM 13b  
 Clause Clause Clause  
 PrH H PoH  
 Sentence

## Ex. 25

But if your house doesn't have virtue, it will eat you, and after  
 many days you will die.

But door-house self virtue not have it also right eat  
 Tò (à) tu-duôn dàu (à)phúc-ôú mí mì ní, mần tú sữ kin,  
 OP Clause ní Clause  
 Opnr PrH Foc H  
 Sentence →

long day also right die  
húng vắn tú sữ thài vớ. PH 7b  
 Clause FP  
 PoH Fin  
 ←

Ex. 26

If you summon him to come, then you must write characters and make it all complete.

But if summon come arrive also must write character  
 Tò nếu-mà tắng mà thâng ní cụng phải viết sữ  
 OP IP Clause ní Clause  
 Opnr Intr PrH Foc H  
 Sentence →

complete every thing finished  
đo mọi mèn thuôn. BU 9  
 Clause  
 PoH  
 ←

Ex. 27

The grass all dies, it rains heavily, and you can't release the animals.

Grass then die all then rain much release not possible  
Nhả đũ thài thuôn, đũ p'ân lai, p्यूóí mí đẩ. BA 11  
 Clause Clause Clause  
 H PoH PoH  
 Sentence

Ex. 28

Now I'm planting potatoes, and very busy. I don't have an opportunity.

Now I still plant tuber west busy very not-yet well free  
 Cơ-này ngò nhằng chay mần tây, bần lai, kếng đẩ váng. SA 3b  
 IP Clause Clause Clause  
 Intr H PoH PoH  
 Sentence

Ex. 29

Night and day I have to shut my ears and my eyes and keep still.

I morning night still shut ear shut eye remain  
 Ngò naur khãm cú lấp su lấp tha (là) dú (à) ló. HF 25  
 Clause Clause Clause FP  
 H PoH PoH Fin  
 Sentence

Ex. 30

So I have to shut my ears, shut my eyes and do nothing.  
 So I also shut ear shut eye remain  
 Tò (à), ngò cung lấp su lấp tha dú (à) ló. WF 10  
 OP Clause Clause Clause FP  
 Opnr H PoH PoH Fin  
 Sentence

Ex. 31

Some people come here with a lot of dependants and don't find  
 enough to eat.  
 Have people cross here come also have many people  
 Mì cần quá này mà cung mì lai cần,  
 Clause Clause  
 PrH H  
 Sentence →

look not able eat

sa mí đay kin. HF 18  
 Clause Clause  
 ← PoH PoH

3.72 The clause (See pages 41-3)

Ex. 32<sup>6</sup>

Today is the seventh.  
 Day this number seven  
 Văn này so chết ZI 10  
 NF NF  
 Impl Compl  
 Clause

Ex. 33

Two thousand seven hundred, two thousand eight hundred piastres a  
 hundred kilos.

---

6. Examples from number 32 onwards may or may not comprise the whole sentence of which the reference number is given.



Two thousand seven two thousand eight money hundred kilo

<u>Slong siên</u>	<u>chết, slong siên</u>	<u>pét ngàn</u>	<u>pác cân</u>	PO 20
	NF		NF	
	Impl		Compl	
Clause				

Ex. 34

Then it's very hard to cast out.  
Time that then hard expel

<u>Bất nậ<sup>n</sup></u>	<u>dū</u>	<u>khổ thep</u>	PH 6
NP		VG	
L		P	
Clause			

Ex. 35

In previous times, making a living was fun.  
Day before make eat happy

<u>Văn cón</u>	<u>hất kin</u>	<u>vui</u>	BA 2
NP	Clause	VG	
L	S	P	
Clause			

Ex. 36

The children in the house are still small.  
All child in house still small

<u>Kí lục</u>	<u>đủ đườn</u>	<u>nhặng sláy</u>	RP 9
NP	Clause	VG	
S	L	P	
Clause			

Ex. 37

I came to begin this time.  
I come begin time this

<u>Ngò</u>	<u>mà bắt-dầu</u>	<u>pày nắy</u>	ZI 10
NP	VG	NP	
S	P	L	
Clause			

Ex. 38

The use of money in previous times...  
Day before use money

<u>Văn cón</u>	<u>đùng</u>	<u>ngần-chèn</u>	BA 21
NP	VG	NP	
L	P	O	
Clause			

Ex. 39

I also don't know what news there is of the North.  
 Also not know news what in side North

Cung mí chắc tin-tức ca-dăng đủ bướng Bắc HF 7  
 VG NP Clause  
 P O L  
 Clause

Ex. 40

Morning and evening I shut my ears.  
 I morning evening continue shut ear

Ngò naú khãm cứ lấp su HF 25  
 NP NP VG NP  
 S L P O  
 Clause

Ex. 41

And give to the buffaloes to eat.  
 Come set give buffalo eat

Mà sle hủ vài kin BA 12  
 VG Clause  
 P A  
 Clause

Ex. 42

We would certainly talk together.  
 Self then still well converse with each-other

Đầu tú nhặng đấy chàng-cỏ đủi căn SA 17  
 NP VG Clause  
 S P A  
 Clause

Ex. 43

When your head aches a little bit, then it isn't agreeing with you.  
 Time see thing head ache little then also not fit with it

Rất hăn ăn hua mầu ỉng dầy, đủ tú mí slày ngám sáu mán PH 10  
 NP VG Clause  
 L P A  
 Clause

Ex. 44

Day after day we go to work for them.  
 Day day go do work give of them

Vần vần pây hắt công hủ hông hâu RP 7  
 NP VG NP Clause  
 L P O A  
 Clause

Ex. 45

On an anniversary day he makes an anniversary for his mother and father.

Day anniversary he then makes anniversary give father mother parent

<u>Văn</u>	<u>dô</u>	<u>mãn</u>	<u>dū</u>	<u>hất</u>	<u>dô</u>	<u>hủ</u>	<u>p'ō-mē</u>	<u>thầu</u>
NF		NF	VC		NF		Clause	TF 34
L		S	P		O		A	
Clause								

3.73 The nominal phrase (See pages 13-1)

Ex. 46

Money in thousands or money in ten thousands

Money thousand money ten-thousand

<u>Ngàn</u>	<u>siên</u>	<u>ngàn</u>	<u>phān</u>	BA 22
NF		NF		
Nom		Nom		
NP				

Ex. 47

Money in tens and money in hundreds

Money ten with money hundred

<u>Chèn</u>	<u>slíp</u>	<u>sáu</u>	<u>chèn</u>	<u>pác</u>	BA 23
NF	Conj	NF			
Nom	Link	Nom			
NP					

Ex. 48

Five days or three days or seven days

Five morning or three morning or seven morning

<u>Hả</u>	<u>naứ</u>	<u>hay-là</u>	<u>slam</u>	<u>naứ</u>	<u>hay-là</u>	<u>chết</u>	<u>naứ</u>	BU 3
NF		Conj	NF		Conj	NF		
Nom		Link	Nom		Link	Nom		
Clause								

Ex. 49

Three times upside down or three times the right way up, or one upside down and one the right way up

Three time inverted or three time level or thing level

<u>Slam</u>	<u>bắt</u>	<u>khoảm</u>	<u>hay-là</u>	<u>slam</u>	<u>bắt</u>	<u>ngai</u>	<u>hay-là</u>	<u>ăn</u>	<u>ngai</u>
NF		Conj	NF		Conj	NF		NF	
Nom		Link	Nom		Link	Nom		Nom	
NP →									

thing inverted

ăn khoắm CU 24  
 NF  
 Nom  
 ←

Ex. 50

Either three times upside down or three times the right way up, or three times with one upside down and one the right way up. Either three time inverted or three time level or

Hay-là slam bắt khoắm hay-là slam bắt ngai, hay-là  
 Conj NF Conj NF Conj  
 Link Nom Link Nom Link  
 NP →

three time thing inverted thing level one

slam bắt ăn khoắm ăn ngai nóng CU 18  
 NF  
 Nom  
 ←

Ex. 51

Bicycles, rickshaws

Vehicle kick vehicle hand

Se đạp nề se tay nề SK 38  
 NF NF NF NF  
 Nom Count Nom Count  
 NP

Ex. 52

Either a birthday or an anniversary

Either day birthday or day anniversary

Hay-là văn độ nề hay-là văn khoắm nề BU 25  
 Conj NF Conj NF  
 Link Nom Count Link Nom Count  
 NP

Ex. 53

Gold, silver or flags

Gold silver or flag

Kim nề, ngần nề hay-là cờ nề CU 30  
 NF NF NF NF  
 Nom Count Nom Count Link Nom Count  
 NP

3.74 The nominal figure (See pages 44-6)

Ex. 54

We  
 Of self  
 Hông dầu WF 48  
 hông Pr  
Poss Per  
 NF

Ex. 55

All the onions  
 Several all onion  
 Nhung kí heng RE 6  
 Num Num N  
Q Q Nuc  
 NF

Ex. 56

Five or six or seven people  
 Five six seven people  
 Hà hóc chét cầ BU 6  
 Num Num Num N  
Q Q Nuc  
 NF

Ex. 57

Three loads of grass  
 Three load grass  
 Slam háp nhả TH 11  
 Num N N  
Q Class Nuc  
 NF

Ex. 58

Our hearts  
 Thing stomach of self  
 Ăn tọng hông dầu TH 65  
 N N NP  
Class Nuc M  
 NF

Ex. 59

All the priests

All Mr. priest

Kí	p'ō	thāo	TH 1
Num	N	V	
Q	Nuc	M	
<hr/>			
	NF		

Ex. 60

This text  
Text this

Bài	nầy	TW 15
N	Dem	
Nuc	Iden	
<hr/>		
	NF	

Ex. 61

That word  
Thing word that

Ấn	cầm	nận	WF 32
N	N	Dem	
Class	Nuc	Iden	
<hr/>			
	NF		

Ex. 62

All these matters concerning making a living  
All matter make eat this

Kí	mòn	hất kin	nầy	CH 66
Num	N	Clause	Dem	
Q	Nuc	M	Iden	
<hr/>				
	NF			

3.75 The verbal group (See pages 46-7)

Ex. 63

Lives nearby  
Live reflexive near

Dú	tō	sấu	CU 1b
Aux	tō	V	
PrVbl	Refl	Vbl	
<hr/>			
	VG		

Ex. 64

Cannot reject each other

Not	reflexive	reject		possible <sup>7</sup>	
Mí	t̄o	bó	...	đáy	MT 145
Aux	t̄o	V		V	
PrVbl	Refl	Vbl		Cap	
<hr/>					
VG					

---

7. The dots indicate the place at which the verbal group is interrupted by the object of the clause in which it operates.

Chapter 4

THE VERBAL GROUP  
AT SECONDARY DELICACY<sup>1</sup>

4.1 The preverbals

4.11 Structure

At primary delicacy the preverbals are represented in the structure of the verbal group as (PrVbl<sup>n</sup>). At secondary delicacy it is possible to distinguish between different preverbal elements, and the structure must be rewritten:

$$(PrVbl_6)(PrVbl_5)(PrVbl_4)(PrVbl_3)(PrVbl_2)(PrVbl_1)$$

It is theoretically possible for six elements to be present at the same time, but in practice no more than five have been found together, and two or three are more common. Examples are as follows:

PrVbl <sub>6</sub> PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	(Ex. 1) p.69
PrVbl <sub>4</sub> PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	(Ex. 2) p.69
PrVbl <sub>6</sub> PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	(Ex. 3) p.69
PrVbl <sub>6</sub> PrVbl <sub>3</sub>	(Ex. 4) p.69
PrVbl <sub>5</sub> PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	(Ex. 5) p.69
PrVbl <sub>4</sub> PrVbl <sub>3</sub> PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	(Ex. 6) p.70
PrVbl <sub>3</sub> PrVbl <sub>2</sub> PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	(Ex. 7) p.70
PrVbl <sub>6</sub> PrVbl <sub>4</sub> PrVbl <sub>3</sub> PrVbl <sub>2</sub> PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	(Ex. 8) p.70

4.12 Exponents of elements of structure

Subclasses of the auxiliaries may be set up on the basis of their operation at these more delicate elements of structure. As the auxiliaries precede the verb, they are numbered (like the elements of structure) from those which immediately precede the verb up to those which may occur furthest from the verb, like orders

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1. For a description of the verbal group at primary delicacy, please see Chapter 3, pp. 46-7.  
 2. Numbered examples are given in full at the end of this chapter, pp.69-74. For examples from text ME, please see Chapter 9, p.118.



of affixes. In fact, we find it convenient to call these subclasses of the auxiliaries 'orders'. The number of the order of auxiliaries corresponds with the number of the preverbal element at which it operates, e.g. order 6 of auxiliaries operates at the element PrVbl<sub>6</sub>, and so on. A partial listing of auxiliaries by their orders is given here. Meanings are appended wherever these are known, but often the meanings of auxiliaries are rather elusive, and impart more of a 'flavour' to the clause. Some auxiliaries have not been subclassified because they have not been found with other auxiliaries in a sufficient number of environments to ascertain their order. Examples of such auxiliaries are ná 'do not', phải 'must' and đã 'past tense'.

<u>Order 6</u>	<u>Order 5</u>	<u>Order 4</u>	<u>Order 3</u>	<u>Order 2</u>	<u>Order 1</u>
dū 'then'	khôi 'change'	thói 'change'	nhất 'very'	vẫn 'still'	mí 'not'
	thề 'is'	là 'is'	nhất-hạng 'very'	sử 'is'	những 'still'
	chính 'then'	cung 'also'	tú 'also'	sạy 'need'	kể 'not yet'
	tê		cứ, cứ 'to continue'		
	bú 'not'		tổng 'alone'		
			thôi 'change'		

The sequence in which the auxiliaries may occur is not in fact as inflexible as the above chart makes it appear. Dū may follow bú as well as precede it. Tú may precede dū or bú, as well as follow them. Cung may precede or follow thói, and so may là. Là may also follow nhất or sử. However, in the majority of cases the above description holds good. The statistical nature of statements at secondary delicacy is apparent here.

#### 4.2 The verbals

At primary delicacy the verbals in the verbal group may exhibit the structures Vbl, Vbl Vbl, or Vbl Vbl Vbl. Although

some sequences of verbals have not been analysed further, some aspects of patterning have been discovered. Some sequences of Vbl Vbl structure may be represented at secondary delicacy as Vbl<sub>1</sub> Vbl<sub>2</sub>.

Vbl<sub>2</sub> is the place of operation of all verbs.

Vbl<sub>1</sub> is the place of operation of a system of three subclasses of verbs. These are the stative verbs, the verbs of motion, and the verb đây<sup>2</sup> 'to be acceptable'.<sup>3</sup>

The subclass called verbs of motion comprises only two members. These are:

pây 'to go'  
mà 'to come'

Examples of the subclass of stative verbs are:

đây 'to be good'  
khô 'to be difficult'  
đo 'to be sufficient'  
p'əc, p'əc- p'ē 'to be clean'  
vui, vui-vẻ 'to be happy'  
buồn, buồn-sầu, buồn-bạ 'to be sad'

Of the stative verbs, only đây, khô and đo have been found operating at Vbl<sub>1</sub>, so perhaps a subclass of the stative verbs should be set up. However, the number of instances is very small, and it could be that a larger sampling would show other stative verbs operating there.

For examples of stative verbs operating at Vbl<sub>1</sub> see (p.70) examples 9-11. For examples of a verb of motion at Vbl<sub>1</sub> see examples 12 and 13. (p.71) For an example of đây at Vbl<sub>1</sub> see example 14. (p.71)

### 4.3 The reflexive

It was said at primary delicacy that the reflexive

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3. Stative verbs, verbs of motion, and đây<sup>2</sup> are established as separate subclasses on the basis of their operation at the adverb, continuation and capability elements of the verbal group respectively.

precedes the last verbal. Usually there is only one verbal in the verbal group, as in examples 15 and 16<sup>(p.71)</sup>. An example of the structure Vbl Refl Vbl is given in example 17<sup>(p.72)</sup>. The only exponent of the reflexive element is tō 'reflexive'.

4.4 The continuation

At primary delicacy the continuation was described as the place of operation of the class of verbs or a clause. The subclass of verbs which operates here is the verbs of motion, comprising two members:

- pây 'to go' (Ex. 18) p.72
- mà 'to come' (Ex. 19) p.72

The class of clauses which operates here is a highly specialised subclass, consisting only of the verb pàn 'to be like' followed by a demonstrative. The most common examples are:

- pàn nân 'like that' (ME 1) p.118
- pàn nây 'like this' (ME 11b) p.122

but other examples are found, such as:

- pàn dừ-haú 'however (like how)' (ME 20) p.125

In each case the pàn operates at verbal element in a verbal group, which in turn operates at the predicate element of the clause. The demonstrative operates at the deictic element of a nominal figure, which operates at the nominal element of a nominal phrase, which operates at the object element of the clause.

4.5 The capability

The subclass of verbs which operates here comprises only one member, namely the verb đây 'to be possible, to be acceptable'. For an example, see ME 20. (P.125)

4.6 The adverb

The adverb element is the place of operation of a subclass of verbs, called the stative verbs. Examples of these operating at the adverb element are:

đai	'to be free'	(ME 2) p.118
kh <sup>2</sup> ô	'to be hard'	(ME 18) p.124
đây	'to be good'	(Ex. 20) p.72
vui	'to be happy'	(Ex. 21) p.72

Other examples of the stative verbs (which may also occur at the adverb element) are given in 4.2, p.66.

#### 4.7 The intensive

The intensive is the place of operation of  
(1) an indefinite numeral, such as:

lai	'much, many'	(ME 8) p.120
noi	'a little'	(ME 27b) p.128
k <sup>1</sup> i-lai	'how much, how many'	(ME 14) p.123

(2) a nominal figure of a very restricted kind. Only nominal figures of the structure (O)(O)Nuc(N) are permitted, and the exponents of these elements are severely limited. Some of the nominal figures which have been found are listed under example 22 at the end of this chapter, p.73.

#### 4.8 The closure

The closure element is the place of operation of a class of terminals. These are:

thêm	'more'	(ME 9) p.121
dá	'already'	(Ex. 23) p.74
cón	'beforehand'	(Ex. 24) p.74
mí	'question indicator'	(Ex. 25) p.74
kéng	'yet?'	(Ex. 26) p.74

#### 4.9 Examples

With each example, the first line is the free translation, the second is a word-for-word translation (where this is possible), and then follows the actual text, with parsing indicated below it. For an explanation of the parsing, please see Chapter 9, pp.115-7.

4.91 Preverbals (See pages 6A-5)

Ex. 1

You have to hire...in addition					
then	change	hire	more		
dū	thói (à)	có	...	thêm	ME 9
Aux	Aux	V		Ter	
PrVbl <sub>6</sub>	PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	Vbl		Clo	
VG					

Ex. 2

Also are still going to study					
also	still	go	study		
cung	nhằng	pây	slon		ME 13
Aux	Aux	V	V		
PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl	Vbl		
VG					

Ex. 3

Then you don't have					
then	not	have			
dū	(à)	mí	mì		ME 17
Aux		Aux	V		
PrVbl <sub>6</sub>	PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl			
VG					

Ex. 4

Then it's also like					
then	also	like			
dū	tú	pàn			ME 24
Aux	Aux	V			
PrVbl <sub>6</sub>	PrVbl <sub>3</sub>	Vbl			
VG					

Ex. 5

Then says					
then	change	speak	tell		
chíng	thói	chàng	ca		BU 18
Aux	Aux	V	V		
PrVbl <sub>5</sub>	PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	Vbl	Vbl		
VG					

Ex. 6

Also isn't right					
Also	also	not	right		
cung	tú	mí	sũ	ME	6
Aux	Aux	Aux	V		
PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	PrVbl <sub>3</sub>	PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl		
VG					

Ex. 7

Continued to work					
continue	still	still	work		
củ	vận	nhặng	hất	CU	12
Aux	Aux	Aux	V		
PrVbl <sub>3</sub>	PrVbl <sub>2</sub>	PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl		
VG					

Ex. 8

I really don't know						
then	also	also	indeed	not	know	
dũ	cung	tú	sày	mí	chắc	SU 7
Aux	Aux	Aux	Aux	Aux	V	
PrVbl <sub>6</sub>	PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	PrVbl <sub>3</sub>	PrVbl <sub>2</sub>	PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl	
VG						

4.92 Verbals (See pages 65-6)Ex. 9

That is also very hard to talk about.

Thing that also hard speak (final particle)

Ấn	nận	cung	khỏ	chặng	ló.	TH 76
	Aux	V	V			
	PrVbl	Vbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl <sub>2</sub>			
VG						

Ex. 10

When you think about it, it's fit to laugh about, and also fit to cry about.

Time think	also	also	good	laugh	then	also	good	cry	
Bất nghĩ	cung	tú	đây	khua	dũ	tú	đây	hảy.	38
	Aux	Aux	V	V	Aux	Aux	V	V	ET
	PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl <sub>2</sub>	PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl <sub>2</sub>	
VG					VG				

Ex. 11

Also they have enough to eat

also	enough	eat	
cung	do	kin	BA 5
Aux	V	V	
PrVbl	Vbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl <sub>2</sub>	
VG			

Ex. 12

Go and work		
go	work	
pây	hất	ME 8
V	V	
Vbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl <sub>2</sub>	
VG		

Ex. 13

Come and do		
come	do	
mà	hất	ME 4
V	V	
Vbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl <sub>2</sub>	
VG		

Ex. 14

something to eat			
	acceptable	eat	
tê	đây	kin	ME 29
Aux	V	V	
PrVbl	Vbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl <sub>2</sub>	
VG			

4.93 The reflexive (See pages 66-7)

Ex. 15

We cannot reject each other.

Self not reflexive reject each-other acceptable

Dầu	mí	tō	bỏ	căn	đây.	MT 145
	Aux	tō	V		V	
	PrVbl	Refl	Vbl	---	Cap	
			VG			

Ex. 16

We scold each other

of	self	reflexive	scold	
hông	dầu	tō	đá	LM 20
		tō	V	
		Refl	Vbl	
		VG		

Ex. 17

Ah, then they go suing each other.

Ah	time	this	then	go	reflexive	sue	
A,	bất	nảy	dū	tê	pây	tō	kiện ML 101
			Aux	Aux	V	tō	V
			PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl	Refl	Vbl
			VG				

4.94 The continuation (See page 67)

Ex. 18

If they have two metres, I also have two metres.

They	have	two	metres,	I	also	have	two	metres.		
They	have	two	metre	self	also	have	two	metre	go	
Hâu	mì	slong	síc,	dầu	cụng	mì	slong	síc	pây.	SV 44
					Aux	V			V	
					PrVbl	Vbl			Cont	
					VG					

Ex. 19

A person enters the house

Animal	person	enter	house	come	
Tua	cần	khẩu	dưỡn	mà	PT 42
		V		V	
		Vbl		Cont	
		VG			

4.95 The adverb (See pages 67-8)

Ex. 20

He	converses	very	nicely
Converse	good	very	
Chàng-cổ	đây	lai	ZI 2
V	V	Num	
Vbl	Adv	Intens	
	VG		

Ex. 21

I am very happy to see you.



I	see	happy	very	(final particle)	
Ngò	hấn	vui	lai	ló.	IL 8
	V	V	Num		
	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Adv</u>	<u>Intens</u>		
		VG			

4.96 The intensive (See page 68)

Ex. 22

But I forgot to go just a little bit.  
 But I forgot go little one

Tò	ngò	lũm	pây	ỉ-tít	nóng.	WF 36
	V	V	N	Adj		
			<u>Nuc</u>	<u>M</u>		
			NF			
	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Intens</u>			
			VG			

When I am the least bit free

Self	have	freedom	one	bit	
Dầu	đầy	váng	slắc	ỉ	SA 17
	V		Num	N	
			<u>Q</u>	<u>Nuc</u>	
			NF		
	<u>Vbl</u>	-----	<u>Intens</u>		
			VG		

But I just forgot to go a little bit.  
 But I also also forgot go little already

Tò (à)	ngò	cụng	tú	sây	lũm	pây	ỉng	dá.	WF 17
		Aux	Aux	Aux	V	V	N	Ter	
							<u>Nuc</u>		
							NF		
	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Intens</u>	<u>Clo</u>		
				VG					

Good means good in every way.  
 Good is good finish every thing (final particle)

Đây	là	đây	thuôn	mội	mòn	a.	CU 49
		V	Num	Num	N		
			<u>Q</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>Nuc</u>		
			NF				
	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Intens</u>					
		VG					

Then it's a bit tiring.

Then	tiring	little	one	
Dũ	ngán	ỉng	nóng	TW 15
Aux	V	N	Adj	
		Nuc	M	
		NF		
PrVbl	Vbl	Intens		
	VG			

4.97 The closure (See page 68)

Ex. 23

When it has come out				
It	out	go	already	
Mãn	óc	pây	dá	PH 5a
	V	V	Ter	
	Vbl	Cont	Clo	
	VG			

Ex. 24

Then you're a bit sorry						
Self	then	sorry	go	little	beforehand	
Dầu	dũ	nhận	pây	ỉng	cón	LM 28
	Aux	V	V	NF	Ter	
	PrVbl	Vbl	Cont	Intens	Clo	
	VG					

Ex. 25

Are you still growing anything in the garden at the back?										
At thing garden toward back this still grow anything not										
Dú	ăn	dầy	về	lãng	nây	nhằng	chay	lãng	mí?	RE 2
						Aux	V		Ter	
						PrVbl	Vbl		Clo	
						VG				

Ex. 26

Have you planted potatoes yet?				
plant tuber western yet				
Chay	mãn	tây	kếng?	PO 1
V			Ter	
Vbl			Clo	
VG				

## Chapter 5

THE NOMINAL FIGURE  
AT SECONDARY DELICACY<sup>1</sup>

5.1 The deictic

As stated at primary delicacy, one of the possible structures for the nominal figure is Deic. The deictic is the place of operation of the class of demonstratives. These are:<sup>2</sup>

nây	'this'	(ME 11b)	p.122
nân	'that'	(ME 1)	p.118
dừ	'what?'	(Ex. 1)	p.84
hau	'what, how?'	(Ex. 2)	p.84
dừ-hau	'what, how?'	(ME 20)	p.125
lãng, dăng	'what?'	(Ex. 3)	p.84
ca-lãng, ca-dăng	'what, anything'	(Ex. 4)	p.84

Two other demonstratives, no 'the other' and kia 'yonder' have not yet been found at the deictic element.

5.2 The possessive

As stated at primary delicacy, another possible structure for the nominal figure is (Poss)Per. The possessive element is the place of operation of the item hông, which seems to have some such meaning as 'as to, as for' when at this element. (Ex. 5.p.84)

5.3 The person

The person element of structure is the place of operation of the class of pronouns. Examples of these are:

mé	'Mother, you (to an old woman)'	(ME 1)	p.118
mân	'he, she, it'	(ME 2)	p.118

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1. For a description of the nominal figure at primary delicacy, please see Chapter 3, pages 44-6.

2. Numbered examples are given in full at the end of this chapter, pp.84-96. For examples taken from text ME please see Chapter 9, pp. 118-28.

dầu	'self, oneself'	(ME 12) p.122
có	'elder brother, you (to contemporary)(Ex.6)p.85	
chài	'elder sister, you (to contemporary)(Ex.6)p.85	
Long	'Long (proper name)'	(ME 2) p.118
Phúc	'Phuc (proper name)'	(ME 4) p.119

The class of pronouns may be subclassified into proper names and kinship terms. Proper names may not operate at the person element of the structure Poss Per, whereas kinship terms may.

#### 5.4 The quantifier

At primary delicacy this element was written as ( $0^n$ ). The quantifier is the place of operation of the class of numerals. At secondary delicacy the quantifier is the place of operation of a system of subclasses, the definite and indefinite numerals. These are subclassified on the basis of:

(1) their occurrence in structures with more than one exponent of the quantifier (see the last paragraph in this section, p. 79), and

(2) the fact that the indefinite numerals may also operate at the intensive element in verbal group structure (p.68).

The definite numerals are listed below. Examples are given of each numeral operating at the only quantifier element in a nominal figure, where this has been found.

slăc	'one'	(Ex. 7) p.85
slong	'two'	(Ex. 8) p.85
slam	'three'	(Ex. 9) p.85
slí	'four'	(Ex. 10) p.85
há <sup>2</sup>	'five'	(Ex. 11) p.85
hóc	'six'	(Ex. 12) p.86
chét	'seven'	(Ex. 13) p.86
pét	'eight'	(Ex. 14) p.86
câu	'nine'	(Ex. 15) p.86
slíp	'ten'	(Ex. 16) p.86
pác	'a hundred'	(Ex. 17) p.86
siên	'a thousand'	

phān 'ten thousand'

The first nine numerals here, i.e. from slắc 'one' to cầu 'nine' inclusive, comprise a yet more delicate subclass, the units.

There are another two numerals, ét 'one' and nhĩ 'two'. The way these two numerals affect the subclasses already set up will be explained below.

The indefinite numerals are listed below, with examples of each one operating at the only quantifier element in a nominal figure.

kí	'a few'	(Ex. 18) p.87
kí	'all'	(Ex. 19) p.87
lai	'many'	(Ex. 20) p.87
kí-lai	'how many?, however many'	(Ex. 21) p.87
nội	'a little, few'	(Ex. 22) p.87
mỗi	'every, each'	(Ex. 23) p.87
các	'every'	(Ex. 24) p.88

When there is more than one quantifier element in the nominal figure, certain patterns start to emerge. The first may be assigned the structure:

$$(Q_u)Q_{10}(Q_u)$$

$Q_{10}$  is the place of operation of slíp 'ten'.  $Q_u$  is the place of operation of the units subclass of definite numerals, with the modification that slắc 'one' and slong 'two' cannot occur here, but ét 'one' and nhĩ 'two' can.<sup>3</sup> Examples of this structure are:

slíp ét	'eleven'	(Ex. 25) p.88
slíp nhĩ	'twelve'	(Ex. 26) p.88
slíp há	'fifteen'	(Ex. 27) p.88
nhĩ slíp ét	'twenty one'	(Ex. 28) p.88
há slíp	'fifty'	(Ex. 29) p.89
há slíp há	'fifty five'	(Ex. 30) p.89

---

3. I.e., we have here more delicate subclasses, one consisting of slắc and slong, another consisting of ét and nhĩ, and the third consisting of the remaining units, from slam 'three' to cầu 'nine'.

pét slíp 'eighty' (Ex. 31) p.89

Another structure may be diagrammed as:<sup>4</sup>

$$(Q_u)Q_{100}(Q_u)(Q_{10}(Q_u))$$

where  $Q_{100}$  is the place of operation of pác 'a hundred',  $Q_{10}$  the place of operation of slíp 'ten',  $Q_u$  the place of operation of the units subclass of definite numerals, and  $Q_u$ , the place of operation of the units subclass minus slắc and slong, and plus ét and nhĩ.

Examples of this structure are rare in the texts:

slong pác 'two hundred' (Ex. 32) p.89

pác nhĩ 'a hundred and twenty' (Ex. 33) p.89

Further structures such as<sup>5</sup>

$$(Q_u)Q_{1000}(Q_u)(Q_{100}(Q_u)(Q_{10}(Q_u)))$$

and

$$(Q_u)Q_{10,000}(Q_u)(Q_{1000}(Q_u)(Q_{100}(Q_u)(Q_{10}(Q_u))))$$

are expected, where  $Q_{1000}$  is the place of operation of siên 'a thousand', and where  $Q_{10,000}$  is the place of operation of phần 'ten thousand'. However, although such forms have been heard by the analyst, all the actual occurrences of this kind in the text may be subsumed under one structure:

$$(Q_u)Q_x(Q_u)$$

where  $Q_x$  is the place of operation of the subclass comprising slíp 'ten', pác 'a hundred', siên 'a thousand' and phần 'ten thousand'.  $Q_u$  is here the place of operation of the units subclass. We have to consider here that slắc and ét 'one' are allomorphs of the same morpheme, as are slong and nhĩ 'two'. Ét and nhĩ occur before or after slíp, or after pác, where slắc and slong are never found.

This picture must be further modified by the comment that

4. The nesting of brackets here means that the final  $Q_u$ , may only occur if the optional element  $Q_{10}$  is present.

5. The full structures are given here on the basis of the analyst's experience of other forms which have been heard, not on the basis of actual occurrence in the text material.

the  $Q_u$  element, or even the whole structure  $(Q_u)Q_x(Q_u)$ , may be repeated. We have, for instance, the structures:

$Q_u Q_u$	(Exx. 34, 35)	pp.89,90
$Q_u Q_u Q_u$	(Exx. 36, 37)	p.90
$Q_u Q_u Q_x$	(Ex. 38)	p.90
$Q_u Q_x Q_u Q_u Q_x Q_u$	(Exx. 39, 40)	p.90

In the latter structure, the same lexical item must operate at each of the  $Q_x$  elements.

Structures at whose elements definite numerals operate may be preceded or followed by  $Q_i$ , at which an indefinite numeral operates. The only cases of this found in the texts are:

$Q_x Q_i$	(Ex. 41)	p.91
$Q_u Q_x Q_i$	(Ex. 42)	p.91
$Q_u Q_u Q_i$	(Ex. 43)	p.91
$Q_i Q_x$	(Exx. 44, 45)	p.91

### 5.5 The classifier

As stated at primary delicacy, members of the class of nouns operate at both the classifier and the nucleus elements of the nominal figure. The number of nouns which can operate at the classifier element is severely restricted. On the basis of this fact we can set up a subclass of classifier nouns. A classifier noun may operate at either the classifier or the nucleus elements of structure, whereas a noun which is not a classifier noun may only operate at the nucleus element.

Examples of the main classifier nouns found in the text material are as follows:

ăn	'thing'
baú	'leaf'
chén	'cup, cupful'
co	'plant, tree'
háp	'a load carried suspended from the ends of a yoke'
khào	'a heavy lump'

lãm	'a long thing'
múi	'a seed; small round object'
pát	'bowl, bowlful'
thứ	'kind, sort'
tua	'animal'
cân	'kilogramme'

Examples of the classifiers as they occur in text will be given in 5.6.

### 5.6 The nucleus

The nucleus element is the place of operation of the class of nouns. The nouns may be subclassified on the basis of those classifiers with which they occur. The classification is not clear-cut, however. Some nouns may be preceded by more than one classifier, e.g. cuối 'banana', which may be preceded by either ăn 'thing' or co 'plant, tree':

kí ăn cuối	'all the bananas'	(SU 5)
kí co cuối	'all the banana trees'	(SU 5)

This lack of clear-cut distinctions between subclasses is just what we would expect to find at secondary delicacy (see 1.17, p.13).

Many nouns have not been found preceded by a classifier noun, so these cannot be subclassified. The following list shows the nouns which have been found following the classifier nouns indicated:

Bau 'leaf'	chỉa	'paper'	(BU 18)
	cờ	'flag'	(CU 11)
cân 'kilo'	khẩu	'rice'	(MT 97)
chén 'cup'	lầu	'wine'	(CU 31)
co 'plant, tree'	cuối	'banana'	(SU 8)
	mạy	'wood'	(MO 7)
	thúa	'bean'	(MT 78)
háp 'yoke load'	phìn	'firewood'	(TH 11)
	nấm	'water'	(ML 29)
	nhả	'grass'	(TH 11)



khāo 'lump'	hin	'stone'	(ME 7)
	cuối	'banana'	(SU 15)
lām 'long thing'	lần	'string, thread, tape'	(KH 32)
	mạy	'wood'	(TE 35)
	hương	'incense'	(TH 19)
	hoa	'incense'	(TH 19)
	tàng	'road'	(SA 16)
múi 'seed'	bi	'marble'	(BI 7)
pát 'bowl'	hương	'incense'	(TH 23)
	khẩu	'rice'	(CU 7)
thứ 'sort'	cần	'people'	(SK 1)
	p'i	'spirit'	(PH 63)
	vàng	'gold'	(CU 7)
tua 'animal'	cần	'person'	(ME 6)
	cáy	'hen'	(CU 10)
	lan	'grandchild'	(ML 29)
	lục	'child'	(ML 27)
	mê	'woman, wife'	(KI 43)
	mò	'cow'	(BU 15)
	mu	'pig'	(TH 29)
	pát	'duck'	(CU 6)
	p'i	'spirit'	(CU 37)
	p'ō	'man'	(TH 33)
	vài	'buffalo'	(BA 13)
ăn 'thing'	bàn	'table'	(PH 48)
	bản-dươn	'village'	(ML 41)
	bâm	'tray'	(CU 11)
	bổn-phận	'obligation'	(CU 54)
	bươn	'month'	(BA 6)
	cháo	'divining sticks'	(CU 14)
	etc.		

Ăn occurs with more nouns than any other classifier noun.

5.7 The modifier

At primary delicacy it was stated that the modifier element is the place of operation of the class of adjectives, the class of verbs, a nominal phrase or a clause. These classes will be dealt with in turn.

5.71 Adjectives

The adjectives are a class of words which only operate at this element of structure. Examples are:

Eng	'English'	(Ex. 46)	p.91
nóng	'one'	(Ex. 47)	p.92
đâu-lun	'white bean'	(Ex. 48)	p.92
seng	'green bean'	(Ex. 48)	p.92
đạp	'bicycle'	(Ex. 49)	p.92
ô-tô	'motor vehicle'	(Ex. 50)	p.92

5.72 Verbs

The following are some of the verbs which have been found operating at the modifier element:

thai	'die'	(Ex. 51)	p.92
đây	'good'	(Ex. 52)	p.93
sâu	'bad'	(Ex. 52)	p.93

5.73 Nominal phrases

The only nominal phrase of more than one nominal in structure which has been found operating at the modifier element is the following:

mē then sáu p'ō thāo 'the woman necromancer and the priest' (Ex. 53) p.93

Nominal phrases which consist of only one nominal are in effect nominal figures. Structures of nominal figures operating at (nominal element in a nominal phrase operating at) the modifier element include the following:

Pr (Ex. 54) p.93

Poss Per	(Ex. 55)	p.93
Nuc	(Ex. 56)	p.94
Q Nuc	(Ex. 57)	p.94
Q Class Nuc	(Ex. 58)	p.94
Class Nuc M	(Ex. 59)	p.94

### 5.74 Clauses

Clauses do not often operate at the modifier element, so it is rather difficult to build up a picture of the possible structures. It seems that they may consist of subject, predicate and object elements only, and that the predicate element may only consist of a single verbal, or one preverbal (of which the exponent is mí 'not') and a verbal. Examples are:

P	(Ex. 60)	p.95
P O	(Ex. 61)	p.95
S P O	(Ex. 62)	p.95

Example 60, being a single predicate, suggests that verbs operating at the modifier element in a nominal figure may be interpreted as clauses, consisting of just a predicate, consisting of a single verbal.

### 5.8 The identifier

At primary delicacy it was stated that the identifier element is the place of operation of the class of demonstratives. Examples of this class operating at this element are:

nận	'that'	(Ex. 63)	p.95
nây	'this'	(Ex. 64)	p.95
no	'the other'	(Ex. 65)	p.96
kia	'yonder'	(Ex. 65)	p.96
tâu	'any'	(Ex. 66)	p.96
dăng	'any'	(Ex. 67)	p.96

### 5.9 Examples

With each example, sufficient parsing is included to

illustrate the point under discussion. For an explanation of the parsing and the abbreviations, please see Chapter 9, pp. 115-7.

5.91 The deictic (See page 75)

Ex. 1

What would you do?  
Do what well  
Hất dứ đảy? CU 52  
Dem  
Deic  
NF

Ex. 2

Anyhow  
Like how  
pần hầu CU 48  
Dem  
Deic  
NF

Ex. 3

Have you still anything planted?  
Still plant anything not  
Nhãng chay lăng mí? RE 2  
Dem  
Deic  
NF

Ex. 4

There is nothing  
Not have anything  
Mí mì ca-lăng WF 25  
Dem  
Deic  
NF

5.92 The possessive (See page 75)

Ex. 5

When we meet each other again  
As-to self change well reflexive meet each-other  
Hông dẫu thối đảy tō p'ống căn WF 48  
hông Pr  
Poss Per  
NF

5.93 The person (See pages 75-6)

Ex. 6

You must address them as 'elder brother' or 'elder sister'.  
 Must address become elder-brother become elder-sister

Phải	sing	pần	có	pần	chài	ML 164
			Pr		Pr	
			Per		Per	
			<u>NF</u>		<u>NF</u>	

5.94 The quantifier (See pages 76-9)

Ex. 7

A gold bracelet					
One thing bracelet gold					
Slắc	ăn	myãm	kim	SV	38
Num	N	N	NP		
Q	Class	Nuc	M		
<u>NF</u>					

Ex. 8

These two trays					
Two thing tray this					
Slong	ăn	bâm	nây	CU	16
Num	N	N	Dem		
Q	Class	Nuc	Iden		
<u>NF</u>					

Ex. 9

Three people			
Three people			
Slam	cần	KH	5
Num	N		
Q	Nuc		
<u>NF</u>			

Ex. 10

Four cakes				
Four thing cake				
Slí	ăn	pêng	TE	8
Num	N	N		
Q	Class	Nuc		
<u>NF</u>				

Ex. 11

Five people

Five people

Hả	cần	KH	5
Num	N		
Q	Nuc		
	NF		

Ex. 12

Six people

Six people

Hốc	cần	BU	5
Num	N		
Q	Nuc		
	NF		

Ex. 13

Seven piastres

Seven piastre

Chết	min	MT	19
Num	N		
Q	Nuc		
	NF		

Ex. 14

Eight flags

Eight leaf flag

Pét	bầu	cờ	CU	11c
Num	N	N		
Q	Class	Nuc		
	NF			

Ex. 15

Nine days

Nine day

Cầu	văn	SV	29
Num	N		
Q	Nuc		
	NF		

Ex. 16

Ten years

Ten year

Slíp	pi	CH	12
Num	N		
Q	Nuc		
	NF		

Ex. 17

A hundred kilos

Hundred kilo

Pác	cân	PO 20
Mum	N	
Q	Nuc	
NF		

Ex. 18

Several days

Few day

Kí	văn	BA 20
Num	N	
Q	Nuc	
NF		

Ex. 19

All of us

All person belong self

Kí	cân	<u>hông đầu</u>	PH 44
Num	N	NP	
Q	Nuc	M	
NF			

Ex. 20

Many lessons

Many lesson

Lai	bài	TM 19
Num	N	
Q	Nuc	
NF		

Ex. 21

However many lessons

However-many lesson

Kí-lai	bài	TM 16
Num	N	
Q	Nuc	
NF		

Ex. 22

Rather young

Little year one

Nơi	pi	nóng	ML 169
Num	N	Adj	
Q	Nuc	M	
NF			

Ex. 23

Every tray

Every thing tray

Mỗi	ăn	bâm	CU 7b
Num	N	N	
Q	Class	Nuc	
NF			

Ex. 24Everything to do with trade  
Every matter trade

Các	sự	buôn-bán	BA 20
Num	N	V	
Q	Nuc	M	
NF			

Ex. 25Eleven o'clock<sup>6</sup>  
Ten one hour

Slíp	ét	dờ	TW 6
Num	Num	N	
Q <sub>10</sub>	Q <sub>u'</sub>	Nuc	
NF			

Ex. 26Twelve months  
Ten two thing month

Slíp	nhĩ	ăn	bướn	TE 69
Num	Num	N	N	
Q <sub>10</sub>	Q <sub>u'</sub>	Class	Nuc	
NF				

Ex. 27Fifteen minutes  
Ten five minute

Slíp	hả	phút	BI 1
Num	Num	N	
Q <sub>10</sub>	Q <sub>u'</sub>	Nuc	
NF			

Ex. 28Those twenty one days and nights  
Two ten one night-day that

Nhĩ	slíp	ét	cứn-vần	nậ	KI 36
Num	Num	Num	N	Dem	
Q <sub>u'</sub>	Q <sub>10</sub>	Q <sub>u'</sub>	Nuc	Iden	
NF					

---

6. Subclasses of the numerals are not represented, in order to avoid the multiplication of symbols.



Ex. 29

Fifty kilos  
 Five ten kilo  
 Há slíp cân MT 99  
 Num Num N  
 Q<sub>u</sub>' Q<sub>10</sub> Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 30

Fifty five piastres  
 Five ten five piastres  
 Há slíp há min CH 2  
 Num Num Num N  
 Q<sub>u</sub>' Q<sub>10</sub> Q<sub>u</sub>' Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 31

Eighty piastres  
 Eight ten piastre  
 Pét slíp min CH 3  
 Num Num N  
 Q<sub>u</sub>' Q<sub>10</sub> Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 32

Two hundred metres  
 Two hundred metre  
 Slong pác síc KH 5  
 Num Num N  
 Q<sub>u</sub>' Q<sub>100</sub> Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 33

A hundred and twenty days and nights  
 Hundred two night-day  
 Pác nhĩ cùn-vần TH 2  
 Num Num N  
 Q<sub>100</sub> Q<sub>u</sub>' Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 34

One or two metres of cloth  
 One two metre cloth  
 Slác slong síc p'ái SV 38  
 Num Num N N  
 Q<sub>u</sub> Q<sub>u</sub> Class Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 35

Two or three lessons  
 Two three lesson  
 Slong slam bài TM 1  
 Num Num N  
 Qu Qu Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 36

One or two or three lessons  
 One two three lesson  
 Slăc slong slam bài TM 6  
 Num Num Num N  
 Qu Qu Qu Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 37

Three or five or six days  
 Three five six day  
 Slam hă hóc vãn BU 12  
 Num Num Num N  
 Qu Qu Qu Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 38

Thirty or fifty days  
 Three five ten day  
 Slam hă slíp vãn MO 24  
 Num Num Num N  
 Qu Qu Qx Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 39

Twenty three or twenty four piastres  
 Two ten three two ten four piastre  
 Nhī slíp slam nhī slíp slí min MT 17  
 Num Num Num Num Num Num N  
 Qu Qx Qu Qu Qx Qu Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 40

Two thousand seven hundred or two thousand eight hundred piastres  
 Two thousand seven two thousand eight piastre  
 Slong siên chét slong siên pét ngàn PO 20  
 Num Num Num Num Num Num N  
 Qu Qx Qu Qu Qx Qu Nuc  
 -----  
 NF

Ex. 41

More than ten days  
 Ten many day  
 Slíp lai vãn ZI 5  
 Num Num N  
 $\frac{Q_x \quad Q_i \quad Nuc}{NF}$

Ex. 42

These dozen or more posts  
 One ten many stick post this  
 Slăc slíp lai lăm slâu nầy MO 29  
 Num Num Num N N Dem  
 $\frac{Q_u \quad Q_x \quad Q_i \quad Class \quad Nuc \quad Iden}{NF}$

Ex. 43

One or three or more months  
 One three few month  
 Slăc slam kǐ bươn KI 64  
 Num Num Num N  
 $\frac{Q_u \quad Q_u \quad Q_i \quad Nuc}{NF}$

Ex. 44

Every hundred kilos of rice  
 Every hundred kilo rice  
 Mội pác cân khâu MT 100  
 Num Num N N  
 $\frac{Q_i \quad Q_x \quad Class \quad Nuc}{NF}$

Ex. 45

Several thousand piastres  
 Several thousand piastre  
 Kǐ siên ngàn RP 25  
 Num Num N  
 $\frac{Q_i \quad Q_x \quad Nuc}{NF}$

5.95 The modifier (See pages 82-3)

5.951 Adjectives

Ex. 46

England

Side English  
 Bưởi Eng CU 2  
 N Adj  
Nuc M  
 NF

Ex. 47

A line  
 Thing line one  
 Ắn vọc nóng BI 3  
 N N Adj  
Class Nuc M  
 NF

Ex. 48

Green beans, chopstick beans, white beans  
 Plant bean green bean chopstick bean  
 Co thủa seng nề, thủa myãm nề, thủa đậu-lun nề MT 78  
 N N Adj N NP N Adj  
Class Nuc M Nuc M Nuc M  
 NF NF NF

Ex. 49

Bicycle  
 Vehicle bicycle  
 Xe đạp SK 38  
 N Adj  
Nuc M  
 NF

Ex. 50

Motor vehicle  
 Vehicle motor  
 Xe ô-tô SK 70  
 N Adj  
Nuc M  
 NF

5.952 Verbs

Ex. 51

That dead person  
 Animal person die that  
 Tua cần thai nân BU 18  
 N N V Dem  
Class Nuc M Iden  
 NF



Ex. 56

A person's life  
 Thing life person

An	thời	cần	WF 37
N	N	N	
		Nuc	
		NF	
		Nom	
		NF	
Class	Nuc	M	
	NF		

Ex. 57

The three years  
 Thing three year

An	slam	pi	TH 17
N	Num	N	
	Q	Nuc	
		NF	
		Nom	
		NP	
Nuc	M		
	NF		

Ex. 58

The tray with five cups  
 Thing tray five thing cup

An	bám	hà <sup>2</sup>	ăn	chén <sup>2</sup>	CU 11
N	N	Num	N	N	
		Q	Class	Nuc	
				NF	
				Nom	
				NP	
Class	Nuc	M			
	NF				

Ex. 59

The matter of a dead person  
 Thing matter animal person die

An	ván-đề	tua	cần	thai	BU 21
N	N	N	N	V	
		Class	Nuc	M	
				NF	
				Nom	
				NP	
Class	Nuc	M			
	NF				

5.954 Clauses

Ex. 60

Things which are not good							
All thing speech not good							
	Kí	mòn	chuyện	mí	đây	P <sup>u</sup> 46b	
Num	N	N		Aux	V		
				<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>		
					VG		
					P		
					Clause		
Q	Class	Nuc			M		
			NF				

Ex. 61

The matter of building a house						
Thing matter build house						
	Ấn	vấn-đề	<u>hất</u>	<u>dưỡng</u>		MO 1
N	N		VG	NP		
			P	O		
			Clause			
Class	Nuc			M		
		NF				

Ex. 62

The matter of women who have children									
Thing matter all person sex female have child									
	Ấn	vấn-đề	<u>kí</u>	<u>cần</u>	<u>tàỵ</u>	<u>mē</u>	<u>mì</u>	<u>lục</u>	SV 1
N	N			NP			VG	NP	
				S			P	O	
				Clause					
Class	Nuc				M				
		NF							

5.96 The identifier (See page 83)

Ex. 63

That dead person					
Animal person die that					
	Tua	cần	thai	nậ	BU 18
	N	N	V	Đem	
Class	Nuc	M	Iden		
	NF				

Ex. 64

Today

Day this  
Vấn nầy IL 15  
N Dem  
Nuc Iden  
NF

Ex. 65

This thing and that thing  
Thing other thing yonder  
Mòn nọ mòn kia TE 45  
N Dem N Dem  
Nuc Iden Nuc Iden  
NF NF

Ex. 66

Anywhere  
Place any  
Thĩ tầu PH 55b  
N Dem  
Nuc Iden  
NF

Ex. 67

Any matter  
Matter any  
Việc dăng KI 25  
N Dem  
Nuc Iden  
NF



## Chapter 6

THE NOMINAL PHRASE  
AT SECONDARY DELICACY

6.0 As few examples of this unit are found to display complex structures, little can be said in addition to what was revealed in 3.3, pp. 43-4. Rather than repeat the information given there, it is recommended that the reader turn back to those pages for the basic structures and exponents.

6.1 The links

At primary delicacy only one link element was described. At secondary delicacy we must distinguish two elements, Link<sub>1</sub> and Link<sub>2</sub>. Link<sub>1</sub> occurs in only one structure:<sup>1</sup>

Nom Link<sub>1</sub> Nom (Ex. 1) p.98

Link<sub>2</sub> occurs in the structures:

Nom Link<sub>2</sub> Nom (Ex. 2) p.98

Nom Link<sub>2</sub> Nom Link<sub>2</sub> Nom (Ex. 3) p.98

Link<sub>2</sub> Nom Link<sub>2</sub> Nom Link<sub>2</sub> Nom (Ex. 4) p.98

Link<sub>2</sub> Nom Count Link<sub>2</sub> Nom Count (Ex. 5) p.98

Nom Count Nom Count Link<sub>2</sub> Nom Count (Ex. 6) p.99

Link<sub>1</sub> is the place of operation of a single formal item, sáu 'and, with'.

Link<sub>2</sub> is the place of operation of a single formal item, hay-là 'or'.

Together, sáu and hay-là comprise the class of conjunctions.

6.2 Examples

With each example, sufficient parsing is included to illustrate the point under discussion. For an explanation of the

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1. Examples are given in full in 6.2, pages 98-9.

parsing and the abbreviations, please see Chapter 9, pp. 115-7.

Ex. 1

The paternal father and the daughter-in-law  
 Mister paternal and Mrs. daughter-in-law

<u>p'ō</u>	pú	sáu	<u>mē</u>	lũa	ML 4
NF		Conj	NF		
Nom		Link <sub>1</sub>	Nom		
NP					

Ex. 2

Pomelo leaves or almond leaves  
 Leaf pomelo or leaf almond

<u>Rau puc</u>	hay-là	<u>rau tào</u>	SV 4
NF	Conj	NF	
Nom	Link <sub>2</sub>	Nom	
NP			

Ex. 3

One ring or one gold bracelet or one or two metres of cloth<sup>2</sup>  
 One thing ring hand or one thing bracelet gold or

<u>Slắc ăn</u>	pyóc	mũ	hay-là	<u>slắc ăn</u>	myãm	kim	hay-là
NF		Conj		NF		Conj	
Nom		Link <sub>2</sub>		Nom		Link <sub>2</sub>	
NP							

one	two	metre	cloth	SV 38
<u>slắc</u>	slong	síc	p'ái	
NF		NF		
Nom		Nom		

Ex. 4

Either three times, or two times, or five times  
 Or three time or two time or five time

Hay-là	<u>slam bắt</u>	hay-là	<u>slong bắt</u>	hay-là	<u>hả bắt</u>	BI 7
Conj	NF	Conj	NF	Conj	NF	
Link <sub>2</sub>	Nom	Link <sub>2</sub>	Nom	Link <sub>2</sub>	Nom	
NP						

Ex. 5

Either a birthday or an anniversary

---

2. The arrows signify that the unit is continued on the next line.

Or	day birthday	or	day anniversary	
Hay-là	<u>văn</u> <u>dộ</u>	nề,	hay-là	<u>văn</u> <u>khoản</u> nề
Conj	NF	nề	Conj	NF
Link <sub>2</sub>	Nom	Count	Link <sub>2</sub>	Nom
				Count
NP				

EU 25

Ex. 6

Gold, silver or flags						
Gold      silver                  or      flag						
Kim	nề,	<u>ngàn</u>	nề	hay-là	<u>cờ</u>	nề
NF	nề	NF	nề	Conj	NF	nề
Nom	Count	Nom	Count	Link <sub>2</sub>	Nom	Count
NP						

CU 30

## Chapter 7

## THE CLAUSE

AT SECONDARY DELICACY<sup>1</sup>

7.0 As so few examples of equative clause have been found, no more can be said about them than has already been said in Chapter 3, p.41. This chapter will be completely devoted to the predicative clause.

7.1 The locative

At primary delicacy it was stated that the locative was the place of operation of a nominal phrase or a clause. Details regarding both these kinds of exponents will be given separately.

7.11 Nominal phrases

The following structures have been found for nominal phrases operating at the locative element:<sup>2</sup>

Nom Nom	(Ex. 1)	p.103
Nom Link Nom	(Ex. 2)	p.103
Nom	(Ex. 3)	p.103

The most common structure is that of a single nominal. The structure of the nominal figure operating at this nominal may be:

(1) Nuc. The only examples of this are dó 'hour' TW 14, and páy 'time, once' ME 2, p. 118.

(2) Nuc Iden. (Exx. 3-8, pp. 103-5)

(3) Nuc M. The modifier element here may be the place of operation of an adjective (Ex. 9, p.105) or of a clause (Exx. 10, 11, p. 105).

(4) Class Nuc M. (Ex. 12) p.106

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1. For a description of the clause at primary delicacy, please see Chapter 3, pp. 41-3.

2. Numbered examples are given in full at the end of this chapter, pp.103-8. For examples taken from text ME please see Chapter 9, pp. 118-28.

### 7.12 Clauses

Clauses operating at the locative element may only have the structure P O. The verbal group operating at the predicate element may have the structure of from one to three verbals. None of the other elements of verbal group structure, such as preverbals (see 3.5, pp.46-7) have been found. See Exx. 13-6, p. 106.

### 7.2 The subject

It was stated at primary delicacy that the subject is the place of operation of a nominal phrase or a clause. No limitation on the type of nominal phrase operating here has yet been found. The reader is referred to text ME in Chapter 9 (pp.118-28 ) for examples of nominal phrases operating at the subject element.

Very few examples have been found of clauses operating at subject element. Two can be found in Chapter 9, in ME 6 (p. 120) and ME 1 (p.118). Another is given as Ex. 17 (p.107). At the moment the evidence for these being subject elements rather than prehead elements of sentence structure is rather uncertain. It is suspected that there is almost always a slight pause, or reduction of the tempo, at the end of a prehead element, but not following a subject element. Further criteria will no doubt come to light on investigation of more material.

### 7.3 The predicate

Nothing more can be added at secondary delicacy to the information given in Chapter 3 (pp.41-3) and that given on the verbal group in Chapter 4 (pp.64-74). It should be re-emphasised here that the verbal group operating at the predicate element is discontinuous, the preverbals, verbals and reflexive occurring at one place, and the other elements at the end of the clause.

### 7.4 The object

At primary delicacy it was stated that the object element is the place of operation of a nominal phrase or a clause. As

with the subject, no limitation has been found on the type of nominal phrase operating at the object element. The reader is referred to text ME in Chapter 9 (pp.118-28) for examples of nominal phrases operating here.

A number of examples of clauses operating at object element have been found. These have the following structures:

P	(ME 2)	p.118
S P	(Ex. 18)	p.107
P O	(Ex. 19)	p.107
S P O	(Ex. 20)	p.107

The clauses operating at the object element have not been found to include locative or adjunct elements in their structure. The structure of the verbal group operating at the predicate element of the clause is severely limited. The only preverbal which has been found has as exponent mí 'not' (See Ex. 19, p. 107).

#### 7.5 The adjunct

At primary delicacy it was stated that the adjunct element is the place of operation of a highly specialised clause. The only structures manifested by this clause are P and P O. In addition the verbal group operating at the predicate element may only have the structures Vbl or VblVbl. The only exponents of the predicate which have been found so far are:

đây	'to be acceptable'	
đuôi	'with, to be with'	(Ex. 21) p.108
hử	'for, to give'	(Ex. 22) p.108
khẩu	'into, to enter'	
khỉn	'up, to ascend'	
lồng	'down, to descend'	(ME 18) p.124
óc	'out, to go out'	
quá	'past, to go past, to cross to'	
sáu	'with, to be with'	(ME 2) p.118
thăng	'to, to arrive'	
lồng chang	'down into'	(Ex. 23) p.108
ngang lồng	'lengthwise in'	

tất lòng 'put in'  
 pây hủ 'to go and give to' (Ex. 24) p.108

A distinct subclass of verbs (which may be termed 'adjunct verbs') is seen to operate here.

7.6 Examples

With each example sufficient parsing is included to illustrate the point in question. For an explanation of the parsing and the abbreviations, please see Chapter 9, pp. 115-7.

7.61 The locative (See pages 100-1)

7.611 Nominal phrases

Ex. 1

We'll talk for three days and nights  
 Self converse three night three day  
Dầu chàng-cỏ slam cùn slam vắn SA 27  
 NP VG NF NF  
 Nom Nom  
 NP  
 L  
 S P  
 Clause

Ex. 2

I'll rest a day or two  
 Also rest day or two day  
Cung nghỉ vắn hay-là slong vắn ZI 8  
 VG NF Conj NF  
 Nom Link Nom  
 NP  
 L  
 P  
 Clause

Ex. 3

Today that's how it is  
 Day this also also right like this  
Vắn này cung tú sử pần này WF 44  
 N Dem VG  
Nuc Iden  
 NP  
 Nom  
 NP  
 L P  
 Clause

Ex. 4

I began this time  
 I come begin time this  
 Ngò mà bắt-đầu pây nầy ZI 10  
 NP VG N Dem  
 Nuc Iden  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 S P L  
 Clause

Ex. 5

This morning you also came down to my house<sup>3</sup>  
 Morning this man also descend house belong me go  
 Nầy nầy ông cùng lòng đườn hông ngò pây II 10  
 N Dem NP VG NP  
 Nuc Iden  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 L S P O  
 Clause

Ex. 6

This time I just forgot a bit  
 Time this I also then rather forgot go little already  
 Bất nầy đầu tú dū sơ-sơ lūm pây ỉng dá WF 34  
 N Dem NP VG  
 Nuc Iden  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 L S P  
 Clause

Ex. 7

Then it's hard to drive out  
 Time that then hard expel  
 Bất nần dū khô thep PH 5  
 N Dem VG  
 Nuc Iden  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 L P  
 Clause

3. Dotted lines join together the parts of discontinuous units.



Ex. 8

When you are free  
 Time what you have liberty  
 Lúc tàu nì đây váng ML 126  
 N Dem NP VG NP  
Nuc Iden  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 L S P O  
 Clause

Ex. 9

The other day I was good  
 Day before self good  
 Văn cón dầu (à) đây WF 31  
 N Adj NP VG  
Nuc M  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 L S P  
 Clause

Ex. 10

Before I had finished working, they were looking for me  
 Time as-to self not-yet work well they then search  
 Lúc hông dầu kéng hắt đây hâu dũ sa MT 46  
 N Clause NP VG  
Nuc M  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 L S P  
 Clause

Ex. 11

When you notice your head aching a little bit, it's then that it  
 isn't agreeing with you.  
 Time see thing head ache bit ? then also not fit with it  
 Bất hăn ăn hua mầu ỉng dây dũ tú mí slày ngám sáu mân PF 10  
 N Clause VG Clause  
Nuc M  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 L P A  
 Clause

Ex. 12

When I used to go to school, I also did this  
 I thing time go study letter also like that

Ngò ăn pây pây slon slư cung pần nân TM 11  
 NP N N Clause VG NP  
 Class Nuc M  
 NF  
 Nom  
 NP  
 S L P O  
 Clause

7.612 Clauses

Ex. 13

Just rickshaws and bicycles come and go here  
 Vehicle hand vehicle bicycle at here go return only

Se tay se đạp đủ nầy pây theo thôi SK 74  
 NP VC NP VG  
 P O  
 Clause  
 S L P  
 Clause

Ex. 14

I also do not know what news there is in the North.  
 Also not know news what in side North

Cung mí chắc tin-tức ca-dăng đủ bưởi Bắc HF 7  
 VG NP VG NP  
 P O  
 Clause  
 P O L  
 Clause

Ex. 15

When it gets past the twentieth of December, whatever I do...  
 Exit go arrive month December twenty few I do whatever

Óc pây thăng bướn Lạp nhĩ kỉ ngò hất dừ SA 4  
 VG NP NP VG NP  
 P O  
 Clause  
 L S P O  
 Clause

Ex. 16

On the eight of September nineteen fifty I arrived in Haifong

From year five ten month nine no. eight I come arrive Haifong

<u>Tứ</u>	pi	hả	slíp	bướn	cầu	so	pét	ngò	mà	thăng	Hải-Phòng	HF 1
VG				NP				NP		VG	NP	
P				O								
				Clause								
				L					S	P	O	
				Clause								

7.62 The subject (See page 101)

Ex. 17

What you say is very true  
Talk like that also right  
Chẳng pần nân cung sữ MO 21

VG	VG	
P		
Clause		
S	P	
Clause		

7.63 The object (See pages 101-2)

Ex. 18

Some people know how to drive them out  
Have people know expel  
Mì cần chắc thệp PH 4a

VG	NP	VG	
	S	P	
Clause			
P	O		
Clause			

Ex. 19

If you say you don't believe in spirits...  
Talk not believe spirit  
Chẳng mí slín p'i PH 26b

VG	VG	NP	
	P	O	
Clause			
P	O		
Clause			

Ex. 20

I also didn't know where you were living

I also not know place you at place what  
 Ngò cung mí chắc thĩ nĩ đú thĩ tàu PE 14  
 NP VG NP VG NP  
 S P O  
 Clause  
 S P O  
 Clause

7.64 The adjunct (See pages 102-3)

Ex. 21

We are speaking together  
 Self talk with each-other  
Đầu chàng đuôi căn PH 25  
 NP VG VG NP  
 P O  
 Clause  
 S P A  
 Clause

Ex. 22

I reply to Mr. Englishman  
 I offer word give Mr. English  
 Ngò đợ lời hử ông Eng BA 3  
 NP VG NP VG NP  
 P O  
 Clause  
 S P O A  
 Clause

Ex. 23

Then they put the dead man down into the grave  
 Then take animal person die descend into thing hole go  
Chíng au tua cần thai lồng chàng ăn cùm pây BU 18  
 VG NP VG NP  
 P O  
 Clause  
 P O A  
 Clause

Ex. 24

I send a letter to my friends  
 I send letter go give friend  
 Ngò ngúi chĩa pây hử p'ĩ-nộng SA 3a  
 NP VG NP VG NP  
 P O  
 Clause  
 S P O A  
 Clause

## Chapter 8

THE SENTENCEAT SECONDARY DELICACY<sup>1</sup>8.1 The opener

It was stated at primary delicacy that the opener is the place of operation of a class of opener particles. The meaning of these particles is not always plain or easily translatable. Examples of the class are as follows:<sup>2</sup>

Tò	'Now, but, and'	(ME 2)	p.118
Ớ	'Oh!'	(ME 3)	p.119
Nhé-tú	(meaning not known)	(ME 4)	p.119
Á	'Oh!'	(ME 9)	p.121
Oi-à	'Oh! (Expressing pain or regret)'	(ME 10)	p.121
À	'Ah!'	(ME 16)	p.123

8.2 The introduction

The introduction particle is the place of operation of the class of introduction particles. Examples are as follows:

Cơ-này	'Now, now then'	(ME 3)	p.119
Bởi-vì	'Because'	(Tx. 1)	p.111
Nếu-mà	'If'	(Ex. 2)	p.111
Ví-dụ	'For instance'	(Ex. 3)	p.111

8.3 The focus

Nothing can be added here to the description of the focus at primary delicacy. The reader is referred to Chapter 3, pp.38-40

8.4 The prehead

At primary delicacy it was stated that the prehead

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1. For a description of the sentence at primary delicacy, please see Chapter 3, pp. 38-40.

2. Numbered examples are given in full at the end of this chapter, pp. 111-4. For examples taken from text ME please see Chapter 9, pp. 118-28.

element is the place of operation of a clause or (rarely) a nominal phrase. For examples of nominal phrases operating here, see Exx. 4-6, p.112.

When the exponent of the prehead element is a clause, any one of the following criteria is sufficient to distinguish between the prehead and the head:

- (1) The prehead is an equative clause (Ex. 7) p.112
  - (2) The prehead is followed by focus (ME 10) p.121
  - (3) The predicate of the head clause contains a higher order auxiliary than that of the prehead<sup>3</sup> (Exx. 8, 9, pp. 112-3)
- This does not hold true if the head clause only contains an order 1 auxiliary.

### 8.5 The head

At primary delicacy it was stated that the head element is the place of operation of a clause. This may be an equational clause only if there are no preheads or postheads in the sentence (Ex. 10, p.113). If prehead or posthead elements are present in the sentence, then the exponent of the head element must be a predicative clause. There are no limits to the type of predicative clause acting as the head of the sentence. For examples, see text ME, Chapter 9 (pp.118-28).

### 8.6 The posthead

The posthead element is the place of operation of a predicative clause without a subject. The auxiliaries in (the verbal group operating at) the predicate of the clause may not be of a higher order than those of the clause operating at the head element of the sentence. See Exx. 11, 12, p.113

### 8.7 The final

As was stated at primary delicacy, the final is the place

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3. For a description of the auxiliaries in their orders, please see 4.1, pp. 64-5.



8.82 The prehead (See pages 109-10)Ex. 4

There, that's the whirlwind spirit.				
That that is animal spirit whirlwind				
<u>Nân</u>	<u>ní,</u>	<u>nân sũ tua</u>	<u>p'i slươ̄ng á.</u>	PH 21f
NP	ní	Clause	FP	
PrH	Foc	H	Fin	
Sentence				

Ex. 5

Now the sorcerer, he is good at casting out the 'p'yǎn' spirit. <sup>4</sup>				
But Mr. sorcerer then he clever about expel all spirit				PH 28a
<u>Tò</u>	<u>p'õ pháp</u>	<u>ní,</u>	<u>dũ mân hay</u>	<u>mũa thệp kí p'i p'yǎn nẽ.</u>
OP	NP	ní	Clause	FP
Opnr	PrH	Foc	H	Fin
Sentence				

Ex. 6

Oh, as to that, I've invited many people.						
Oh thing this I also together call many people						
<u>Ói,</u>	<u>ăn</u>	<u>nây</u>	<u>ní,</u>	<u>ngò cụng sả̄y</u>	<u>ca lai cầ̄n.</u>	TH 60
OP	NP	ní	Clause			
Opnr	PrH	Foc	H			
Sentence						

Ex. 7

And now, today being the seventh, and propitious, I came to start work this time.								
But now day this no. seven good I come begin time this								
<u>Tò</u>	<u>cơ-này</u>	<u>ní</u>	<u>vần này</u>	<u>so chết</u>	<u>đây,</u>	<u>ngò mà bắt-đầu</u>	<u>pày này.</u>	TH 10
OP	IP	ní	Clause (Equative)	Clause		Clause		
Opnr	Intr	Foc	PrH		PrH		H	
Sentence								

Ex. 8

When it has come out, then it returns.								
It out go already it then return come								
<u>Mân</u>	<u>óc</u>	<u>pây</u>	<u>dá,</u>	<u>mân</u>	<u>thề</u>	<u>thèo</u>	<u>mà.</u>	PH 5a
NP	V	V	Ter	NP	Aux	V	V	
	Vhl	Vhl	Clo	PrVhl	5	Vhl	Vhl	
		VG				VG		
S		P				P		
Clause				Clause				
PrH				H				
Sentence								

4. In the head of this sentence, the auxiliary dũ of the verbal group operating at the predicate, precedes the subject mân.



Ex. 9

When it comes back, if you drive it out, it will go.  
Come already then drive-out it then change go

Mà	dá	thề	thệp	<u>mãn</u>	dũ	thói	pây.	PH 5b
V	Ter	Aux	V	NP	Aux	Aux	V	
Vbl	Clo	PrVbl <sub>5</sub>	Vbl		PrVbl <sub>6</sub>	PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	Vbl	
<hr/>		<hr/>			<hr/>			
VG		VG			VG			
P		P		O	P			
<hr/>		<hr/>			<hr/>			
Clause		Clause			Clause			
PrH		PrH			H			
<hr/>		<hr/>			<hr/>			
Sentence								

8.83 The head (See page 110)

Ex. 10

Two thousand seven hundred, two thousand eight hundred piastres a kilo.

Two thousand seven two thousand eight money hundred kilo

Slong	siên	chết,	slong	siên	pét	ngàn	pác	cân.	PO 20
			NP				NP		
			Impl				Compl		
			<hr/>						
			Clause						
			H						
			<hr/>						
			Sentence						

8.84 The posthead (See page 110)

Ex. 11

After you've spoken, I can correct it, and that's all right.  
Speak already self change change correct again also well

Chàng	dá	<u>dầu</u>	khôi	thói	sôi	thêu,	cụng	đầy.	TM 13b
V	Ter	NP	Aux	Aux	V	V	Aux	V	
Vbl	Clo		PrVbl <sub>5</sub>	PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	Vbl	Vbl	PrVbl <sub>4</sub>	Vbl	
<hr/>			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		
VG			VG		VG		VG		
P		S	P		P		P		
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>			
Clause		Clause		Clause		Clause			
PrH		H		H		PoH			
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>			
Sentence									

Ex. 12

The buffalo have enough to eat and keep fairly well.

Animal	buffalo	still	well	full	still	improve	improve	well	bit	one	
<u>Tua</u>	<u>vài</u>	những	đầy	ím,	những	đỡ	đỡ	đầy	ìng	nóng.	BA 13
NP		Aux	V	V	Aux	V	V	đầy	NF		
		PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl	Vbl	PrVbl <sub>1</sub>	Vbl	Vbl	Cap	Intens		
			VG				VG				
S			P				P				
	Clause				Clause						
	H				PoH						
Sentence											

8.85 The final (See pages 110-1)

Ex. 13

Then he is quite capable of coming in and eating a person.

But he also enter eat animal person possible

Tò	<u>mân</u>	<u>tú</u>	<u>khẩu</u>	<u>kin</u>	<u>tua</u>	<u>cần</u>	<u>đầy</u>	vớ.	PH 9b
OP			Clause					FP	
Opnr			H					Fin	
Sentence									

## Chapter 9

ANALYSIS OF TEXTExplanation

With each sentence of the text analysed in this chapter, a free translation is given first, then a word-for-word translation (as far as this is possible), and the the sentence of text, with its analysis underneath.

Units are shown by a solid line, with the elements of structure on the line and the class symbol below, e.g.

PrVbl PrVbl Vbl  
VG

indicates an exponent of the class 'verbal group' with a structure consisting of two preverbal followed by a verbal. Similarly

P  
Clause

represents an exponent of the class 'clause' with a structure consisting of a single predicate. The length of the line indicates the extent of the exponent of the unit in the text above. The stretch of Tho above a solid line is the exponent of the unit indicated by the line. Classes which are not units are indicated by the class symbol placed immediately below the Tho word with no intervening line.

Symbols above elements of structure show the classes operating at those elements, e.g. <sup>Aux</sup> PrVbl indicates that a member of the class of auxiliaries operates at preverbal element of structure.

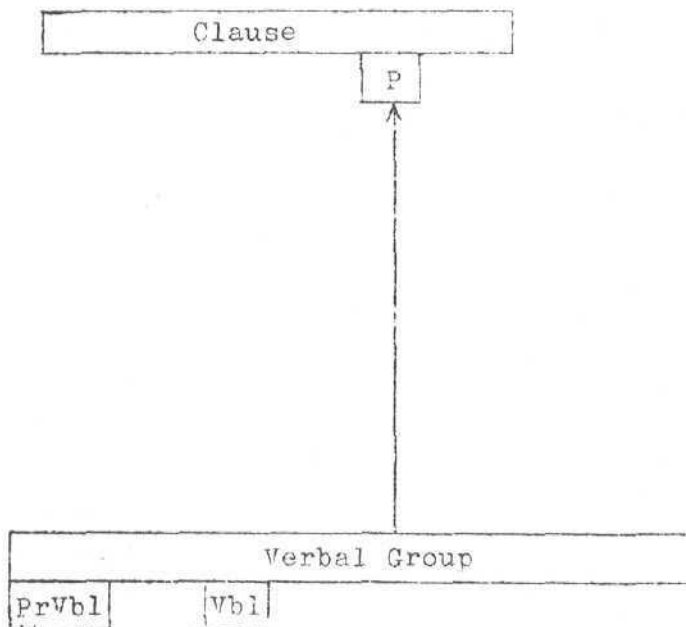
So then in sentence ME 1,

tú    sáy    sū  
Aux    Aux    V  
PrVbl PrVbl Vbl  
VG  
P  
Clause

may be translated into words as follows: tú and sáy are both members of the class of auxiliaries operating at preverbal elements of structure, and sū is a member of the class of verbs, operating at

verbal element of structure. Together they make up an exponent of the class 'verbal group', which operates at predicate element of structure in a clause.

This parsing of the clause tú sà y sū corresponds to the following section of the diagram of the interrelation of the units, given in 3.6, p.48:



The following abbreviations are used for units:

NF	Nominal Figure
NP	Nominal Phrase
VG	Verbal Group

The following abbreviations are used for classes which are not units:

Adj	Adjective
Aux	Auxiliary
Conj	Conjunction
Dem	Demonstrative
FP	Final particle
IP	Introduction particle
N	Noun
Num	Numeral
OP	Opener particle
Pr	Pronoun
Ter	Terminal
V	Verb

In the case of one-term classes, the item itself is used as a symbol for the class, e.g. ní at focus element of sentence structure.

The following symbols are used for elements of structure:

A	Adjunct
Adv	Adverb
Cap	Capability
Class	Classifier
Clo	Closure
Compl	Complement
Cont	Continuation
Count	Counter
Deic	Deictic
Fin	Final
Foc	Focus
H	Head
Iden	Identifier
Impl	Implement
Intens	Intensifier
Intr	Introduction
L	Locative
Link	Link
M	Modifier
Nom	Nominal
Nuc	Nucleus
O	Object
Opnr	Opener
P	Predicate
Per	Person
PoH	Post-head
Poss	Possessive
PrH	Pre-head
PrVbl	Preverbal
Q	Quantifier
Refl	Reflexive
S	Subject
Vbl	Verbal

A dotted line is used to join together the parts of a discontinuous unit.



ME 3

Now he is going to change his mind and charge for it.

Oh! now he then change take money.

Ớ cơ-nầy mân đũ (à) thối thối au chèn.

OP	IP	Pr	Aux	Aux	Aux	V	N
		Per	PrVbl	PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl	Nuc
		NF		VG			NF
		Nom					Nom
		NP					NP
		S		P			O

Clause

Opr Intr

H

Sentence

ME 4

As Phuc entered into an adoption agreement with him, you would think he would do the garden without charging.

Phuc enter adoption with him he also give free come do garden.

Nhé-tú (à) Phúc khẩu lục-chương sáu mân mân tú (à) hủ đai mà hất dầy.

OP	Pr	V	N	V	Pr	Pr	Aux	V	V	V	V	N
	Per	Vbl	Nuc	Vbl	Per	Per	PrVbl	Vbl	Adv	Vbl	Vbl	Nuc
	NF	VG	NF	VG	NF	NF		VG		VG		NF
	Nom		Nom		Nom	Nom						Nom
	NP		NP		NP	NP						NP
				P	O	S		P			P	O

Clause

Clause

Clause

S P O A

Oopr

PrH

H

PoH

Sentence

ME 5

Now he is going to turn round and charge for it.

Now he then change take money.

Cơ-nầy (à) mân đũ (à) thối thối au chèn.

IP	Pr	Aux	Aux	Aux	V	N
	Per	PrVbl	PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl	Nuc
	NF		VG			NF
	Nom					Nom
	NP					NP
	S		P			O

Clause

Intr

H

Sentence

ME 6

When a person acts like that it isn't very good.  
 Make animal person like that also also not right few much.

Hất	tua	cần	pần	nận	cung	tú	mí	sũ	ki-lai.
V	N	N	V	Dem	Aux	Aux	Aux	V	Num
	<u>Class</u>	<u>Nuc</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Deic</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Intens</u>
	NF		VG	NF			VG		
	Nom			Nom			P		
	NP			NP			Clause		
			P	O					
			Clause						
<u>Vbl</u>	-----								
VG									
P	O								
	Clause								
	PrH							H	
Sentence									

ME 7

Now you have to go a long way off, two or three kilometres.  
 Now then go live far distant two three lump stone.

Cớ-nầy	dū (à)	pây	dú	quây,	lần	slong	slam	khào	hin.
IP	Aux	V	V	V	V	Num	Num	N	N
	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Nuc</u>
	VG		VG		VG		NF		
			P				Nom		
			Clause				NP		
					P		O		
							Clause		
	P		L				L		
			Clause						
Intr					H				
Sentence									

ME 8

It's also very far to go to work.  
 Go work also far very.

Pây	hắt	cung	quây	lai.
V	V	Aux	V	Num
<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Intens</u>
VG			VG	
P			P	
Clause			Clause	
PrH			H	
Sentence				



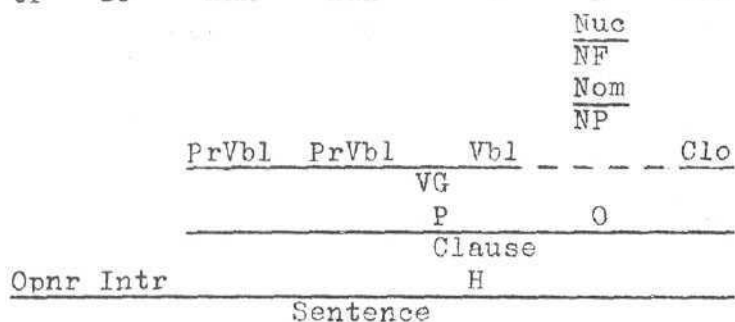
ME 9

And now you have to hire labour for money, in addition.

Oh now then change hire money more.

Á cơ-nầy dũ thỏi (à) có chèn thêm.

OP IP Aux Aux V N Ter



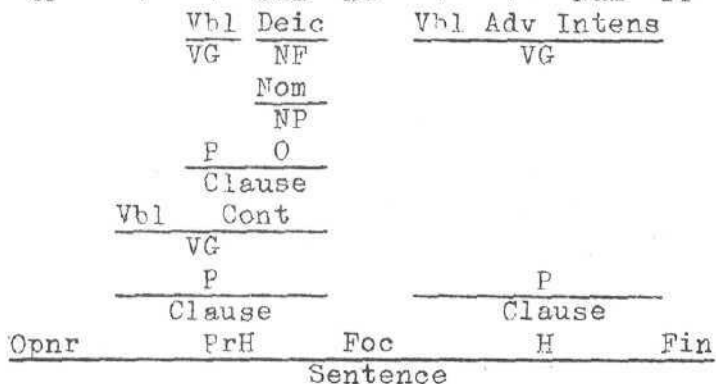
ME 10

Oh, doing that kind of thing makes it very hard, you know.

Oh, do like that do hard very

Oi-à, hất pần nần ní, hất khổ lai ló.

OP V V Dem ní V V Num FP



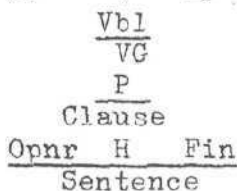
ME 11a

Oh, yes.

Oh, yes

Ớ, sũ à.

OP V FP



ME 11b

Anywhere near here, if you do right, then that's good.  
 Live place any near like this do this well then good.

Dú	kế	tàu	sâu	pần	nầy	ní,	hất	nầy	đây	dū	đây.
V	N	Dem	V	V	Dem	ní	V	Dem	V	Aux	V
	<u>Nuc</u>	<u>Iden</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Deic</u>			<u>Deic</u>		<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>
		<u>NF</u>		<u>VG</u>	<u>NF</u>			<u>NF</u>		<u>VG</u>	
		<u>Nom</u>			<u>Nom</u>			<u>Nom</u>		<u>P</u>	
		<u>NP</u>			<u>NP</u>			<u>NP</u>		<u>Clause</u>	
				<u>P</u>	<u>O</u>		<u>Vbl</u>		<u>Cap</u>		
				<u>Clause</u>			<u>VG</u>				
<u>Vbl</u>							<u>P</u>		<u>O</u>		
<u>VG</u>									<u>Clause</u>		
<u>P</u>		<u>O</u>									
		<u>Clause</u>									
		<u>PrH</u>					<u>Foc</u>		<u>PrH</u>		<u>H</u>
											<u>Sentence</u>

ME 12

But if you don't do right, your household will be solitary.  
 But not do well house self then solitary.

Tò	mí	hất	đây,	dưỡn	dầu	dū	đeo.
OP	Aux	V	V	M	Pr	Aux	V
	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Cap</u>		<u>Per</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>
		<u>VG</u>			<u>NF</u>	<u>VG</u>	
		<u>P</u>			<u>Nom</u>		
		<u>Clause</u>			<u>NP</u>		
				<u>Nuc</u>	<u>M</u>		
				<u>NF</u>			
				<u>Nom</u>			
				<u>NP</u>			
				<u>S</u>		<u>P</u>	
						<u>Clause</u>	
<u>Opnr</u>		<u>PrH</u>				<u>H</u>	
							<u>Sentence</u>

ME 13

The children still go to school, too.  
 All child also still go study letter.

Kí	lục	cụng	nhặng	pây	slon	slú.
Num	N	Aux	Aux	V	V	N
	<u>O</u>	<u>Nuc</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>
	<u>NF</u>			<u>VG</u>		<u>NF</u>
	<u>Nom</u>					<u>Nom</u>
	<u>NP</u>					<u>NP</u>
	<u>S</u>			<u>P</u>		<u>O</u>
						<u>Clause</u>
						<u>H</u>
						<u>Sentence</u>

ME 14

How much work can just one person do?  
 Only one person one go work well few much.

Tan	một	cần	nóng	pây	hất	đầy	kỉ-lai.
Num	Num	N	Adj	V	V	V	Num
Q	Q	Nuc	M	Vbl	Vbl	Cap	Intens
		NF		VG			
Nom							
NP							
S				P			
Clause							
H							
Sentence							

ME 15

If you hire someone, then you will spend all your money.  
 Hire person then all-gone money.

Có	cần,	dū	thuôn	chèn.
V	N	Aux	V	N
Vbl	Nuc	PrVbl	Vbl	Nuc
VG	NF		VG	NF
	Nom			Nom
	NP			NP
P	O		P	O
Clause		Clause		
PrH		H		
Sentence				

ME 16

Ah, we must work like this.  
 Ah acceptable work like this

À,	đầy	hất	păn	nây	ní.
OP	V	V	V	Dem	FP
			Vbl	Deic	
			VG	NF	
				Nom	
				NP	
			P	O	
			Clause		
	Vbl	Vbl	Cont		
	VG				
	P				
	Clause				
	H				
Opnr					Fin
Sentence					

ME 17

If you don't work, you have no food.  
 Not work then not have cook eat.

Mí	hất,	dū	(à)	mí	mì	hung-kin.
Aux	V	Aux		Aux	V	N
PrVbl	Vbl	PrVbl		PrVbl	Vbl	Nuc
<u>VG</u>				<u>VG</u>		<u>NF</u>
<u>P</u>						<u>Nom</u>
<u>Clause</u>						<u>NP</u>
		P				<u>O</u>
		Clause				
PrH		H				
<u>Sentence</u>						

ME 18

When you get down to work and it's left unfinished like this, it's very hard.

When	work	down	go	then	unfinished	like	this	hard	very	
Bất	hất	lõng	pây	dū	dở-dở-dang-dang	pần	nầy	khó	lai	lố.
N	V	V	V	Aux	V	V	Dem	V	Num	FP
		<u>Vbl</u>				<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Deic</u>			
		<u>VG</u>				<u>VG</u>	<u>NF</u>			
		<u>P</u>					<u>Nom</u>			
		Clause					<u>NP</u>			
	<u>Vbl</u>			<u>Cont</u>			<u>P</u>	<u>O</u>		
	<u>VG</u>						Clause			
	<u>P</u>	<u>Pp</u>		<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>		<u>Cont</u>	<u>Adv</u>	<u>Intens</u>	
	Clause									
Nuc		M								
	<u>NF</u>									
	<u>Nom</u>									
	<u>NP</u>									
	<u>L</u>						P			
							Clause			
							H			Fin
							Sentence			

ME 19

It's also a waste.  
 Also waste.

Cung	nhục.
Aux	V
PrVbl	Vbl
<u>VG</u>	
<u>P</u>	
<u>Clause</u>	
<u>H</u>	
<u>Sentence</u>	

ME 20

But now, what can you do?

But now do like how acceptable.

Tò cơ-này hất pần dữ-haứ đạ̉y.  
 OP IP V V Dem V

Vbl Deic  
VG NF  
Nom  
NP  
P O

Clause  
Vbl Cont Cap  
VG  
P  
Clause

Opnr Intr H  
Sentence

ME 21

You have been to work.

Past-tense go work

Đạ pây hất đê  
 Aux V V FP  
PrVbl Vbl Vbl

VG  
P  
Clause  
H Fin  
Sentence

ME 22a

However far it is, you have to bear it.

Far far also must bear

Quây quây cụng phải chịu à.  
 V V Aux Aux V FP  
Vbl Vbl PrVbl PrVbl Vbl

VG VG  
P P  
Clause Clause  
PrH H Fin  
Sentence

ME 22b

What more can you do?  
Do like how acceptable more.

Hất pần dủ-hầu đậy thêm.  
V V Dem V Ter

Vbl	Deic		
VG	NF		
	Nom		
	NP		
P	O		
Clause			
Vbl	Cont	Cap	Clo
	VG		
	P		
Clause			
H			
Sentence			

ME 23

When anyone gets down to work, if he doesn't have a lot, he has a little.

Work down go he not have much he also have little.

Hất lòng pây, mần mí đậy lai, mần cụng đậy nọi.  
V V V Pr Aux V Num Pr Aux V Num

Vbl	Per	PrVbl	Vbl	Intens	Per	PrVbl	Vbl	Intens
VG	NF		VG		NF		VG	
	Nom				Nom			
	NP				NP			
Vbl	Cont	S	P		S	P		
VG			Clause		Clause			
P	A							
Clause					Clause			
PrH					H			
Sentence								

ME 24

That's how it is.  
Then also like that

Dũ tú pần nần ló.  
Aux Aux V Dem FP

PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl	Deic
VG		NF	
		Nom	
		NP	
P		O	
Clause			
H			
			Fin
Sentence			

ME 25

So then if you work you've got to stick at the job.  
 Like this self work self continue job work

Pần	nảy	dầu	hất	dầu	cứ	việc-hất	ló.
V	Dem	Pr	V	Pr	Aux	V	FP
<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Deic</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	
<u>VG</u>	<u>NF</u>	<u>NF</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>NF</u>		<u>VG</u>	
	<u>Nom</u>	<u>Nom</u>		<u>Nom</u>			
	<u>NP</u>	<u>NP</u>		<u>NP</u>			
P	O	S	P	S		P	
Clause		Clause		Clause			
PrH		PrH		H			Fin
Sentence							

ME 26

Much or little, it's your own.  
 Have much have little also is possession self

Đầy	lai	đầy	noi	cung	sử	hú	dầu	dú-vè.
V	Num	V	Num	Aux	V	N	Pr	FP
<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Intens</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Intens</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>		<u>Per</u>	
<u>VG</u>		<u>VG</u>		<u>VG</u>			<u>NF</u>	
P		P					<u>Nom</u>	
Clause		Clause					<u>FP</u>	
						<u>Nuc</u>	<u>M</u>	
							<u>NP</u>	
				P			<u>O</u>	
				Clause				
PrH		PrH		H				Fin
Sentence								

ME 27a

You spend your effort and your energy.  
 But self also lose work lose strength go.

Tò	dầu	cung	tốc	công	tốc	dèng	pây.
OP	Pr	Aux	V	N	V	N	V
	<u>Per</u>	<u>PrVbl</u>	<u>Vbl</u>	<u>Nuc</u>		<u>Nuc</u>	
	<u>NF</u>	<u>VG</u>		<u>NF</u>		<u>NF</u>	
	<u>Nom</u>			<u>Nom</u>		<u>Nom</u>	
	<u>NP</u>			<u>NP</u>		<u>NP</u>	
	S	P	O	<u>Vbl</u>			<u>Cont</u>
	Clause			<u>VG</u>			
				P	O		
				Clause			
Opnr		H		PoH			
Sentence							

ME 27b

If you don't have much to eat, you have a little.

Not have eat much also have eat little.

Mí	đầy	kin	lai	cung	đầy	kin	noi.
Aux	V	V	Num	Aux	V	V	Num
PrVbl	Vbl	Vbl	Intens	PrVbl	Vbl	Vbl	Intens
	VG				VG		
	P				P		
	Clause				Clause		
	PrH				H		
Sentence							

ME 28

You don't have to worry unduly.

Also not worry few much

Cung	mí	lao	kỉ-lai	cá.
Aux	Aux	V	Num	FP
PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl	Intens	
	VG			
	P			
	Clause			
	H			Fin
Sentence				

ME 29

Rain or shine, you have something to eat.

Have rain have fine have acceptable eat

Mì	p'ân	mì	đét	mì	tê	đầy	kin	nè.
V	V	V	V	V	Aux	V	V	FP
Vbl	Vbl	Vbl	Vbl	Vbl	PrVbl	Vbl	Vbl	
	VG		VG	VG		VG		
	P		P			P		
	Clause		Clause			Clause		
				P		O		
				Clause				
	PrH		PrH		H			Fin
Sentence								

ME 30

That's how it is.

Then also like that

Dū	tú	pần	nần	á.
Aux	Aux	V	Dem	FP
PrVbl	PrVbl	Vbl	Deic	
	VG		NF	
			Nom	
			NP	
	P		O	
	Clause			
	H			Fin
Sentence				



Chapter 9

TEXT PH

- PH 1a Now I'll talk about a common matter of this world.  
Now talk in common world  
Cơ-này (à) chẳng dú chung thiên-hạ nê.
- PH 1b I'll talk about the spirits, this spirit and that spirit.  
Talk about matter all spirit, is about spirit what much  
Chẳng mùa sự kí p'i, là mùa p'i ca-dăng lai,  
about spirit what much.  
mùa p'i ca-dăng lai.
- PH 2a Now I'll begin from the beginning.  
Now talk beginning.  
Cơ-này ní, chẳng đầu-tiên.
- PH 2b The first is the 'p'yǎn' spirit.  
kind first is animal spirit  
(Là) thứ nhất ní là tua p'i p'yǎn.
- PH 3 It eats people, you know.  
It eat animal person  
Mân kin tua cần ní.
- PH 4a If there is someone who knows how to drive it out, then  
it's a speedy matter.  
Have person know drive-out then well fast.  
Mì cần chắc thẹp ní, dù đảy khoái.
- PH 4b But some people don't know how to drive it out.  
But have person not know drive-out  
Tò mì cần mí chắc thẹp à.
- PH 5a When it has come out, then it returns.  
It out go already it then return come.  
Mân óc pây dá, mân thề theo mà
- PH 5b When it comes back, if you drive it out, it will go.  
Come already then drive-out it then change go.  
Mà dá, thề thẹp mân dù thối pây.
- PH 5c However many times it goes, it will return.  
Go go it then change return come.  
Pây pây mân dù thối theo mà.

- PH 6 Then it's hard to drive out.  
Time that then hard drive-out  
Bất nậ<sup>n</sup> dũ<sup>2</sup> khô<sup>2</sup> thệp à.
- PH 7a If you look to your own house and its virtue, then there's nothing for you to talk about.  
Is see thing door house virtue self then not talk  
Là ngò<sup>i</sup> ă<sup>n</sup> tu-duôn<sup>2</sup> phúc-đức<sup>2</sup> dầ<sup>u</sup> n<sup>í</sup>, dũ<sup>2</sup> mí<sup>2</sup> chẳ<sup>ng</sup> ló.
- PH 7b But if your house doesn't have virtue, it will certainly eat you, and after many days you will die.  
But door house self virtue not have it also right  
Tò (à) tu-duôn<sup>2</sup> dầ<sup>u</sup> (à) phúc-đức<sup>2</sup> mí<sup>2</sup> m<sup>i</sup> n<sup>í</sup>, m<sup>ân</sup> tú<sup>2</sup> sũ<sup>2</sup>  
eat long day also right die  
kin, hứ<sup>ng</sup> v<sup>ăn</sup> tú<sup>2</sup> sũ<sup>2</sup> th<sup>ai</sup> v<sup>ó</sup>.
- PH 8a Now there's also the 'p'y<sup>án</sup>' spirit.  
Now have animal spirit  
Tò m<sup>i</sup> tua p'i p'y<sup>án</sup>.
- PH 8b It eats you alive, you know.  
It eat alive  
M<sup>ân</sup> kin đ<sup>íp</sup> d<sup>à</sup>-v<sup>ó</sup>.
- PH 9a For instance, suppose I'm sitting and talking like this.  
Example of self continuous sit rest converse like this  
V<sup>í</sup>-d<sup>ụ</sup> h<sup>ông</sup> dầ<sup>u</sup> đ<sup>ang</sup>-s<sup>lì</sup> n<sup>ă<sup>ng</sup></sup> d<sup>ú</sup> chẳ<sup>ng</sup>-c<sup>ỏ</sup> p<sup>ần</sup> n<sup>ắ<sup>ng</sup></sup> ló.
- PH 9b Then it is quite possible for him to come in and eat a person.  
But he also enter eat animal person possible  
Tò m<sup>ân</sup> tú<sup>2</sup> k<sup>h<sup>ẩ</sup>u</sup> kin tua c<sup>ầ<sup>n</sup></sup> đ<sup>ắ<sup>y</sup></sup> v<sup>ó</sup>.
- PH 10 When you notice your head aching a little bit, it's then that it isn't agreeing with you.  
Time notice thing head ache little then also not  
Bất h<sup>ẫ<sup>n</sup></sup> ă<sup>n</sup> h<sup>ua</sup> m<sup>ầ<sup>u</sup></sup> ỉ<sup>ng</sup> d<sup>ầ<sup>y</sup></sup>, dũ<sup>2</sup> tú<sup>2</sup> mí<sup>2</sup> sl<sup>à<sup>y</sup></sup>  
fit with it  
ng<sup>ám</sup> s<sup>áu</sup> m<sup>ẫ<sup>n</sup></sup> v<sup>ó</sup>.
- PH 11 If it doesn't kill you, then you've got it to live with.  
Not die also well live with it  
M<sup>i</sup> th<sup>ai</sup> tú<sup>2</sup> đ<sup>ắ<sup>y</sup></sup> d<sup>ú</sup> s<sup>áu</sup> m<sup>ẫ<sup>n</sup></sup> (à) v<sup>ó</sup>.

- PH 12a But we don't talk widely about it, we don't talk about it.  
But self not talk out come then not talk  
Tò đầu mí chẳng óc mà ní, đū mí chẳng vớ.
- PH 12b If you speak about it openly, many friends don't believe it.  
But speak out come friend many people not believe.  
Tò chẳng óc mà ní p'ĩ-nọng lai cần mí slín.
- PH 13 But you must believe it!  
Then also believe.  
Đū tú slín.
- PH 14a Now there are some people, you know, who have experienced it, and they believe it.  
But have people well see pass then believe.  
Tò mì cần ní đày hăn quá đū slín.
- PH 14b But some people have not experienced it, and they don't believe in spirits like that.  
But have people not well see pass then also not believe  
Tò mì cần mí đày hăn quá ní, đū tú mí slín  
animal spirit like that  
tua p'i pần nận ló.
- PH 15 You must beware of them, you know.  
Also need must beware  
Tú sày cần dít (à) vớ.
- PH 16a Whatever I have, it's my lot, that's all.  
Ah! self whatever also is thing lot self finished.  
À, đầu ca-dăng tú sữ ần phúc-phần đầu thoi.
- PH 16b I talk about spirits, but no one has ever seen one.  
Self talk animal spirit, then not have anyone see.  
Đầu chẳng tua p'i, đū mí mì cơ-nẫu hăn.
- PH 17a If you are worthy of death, then you will die.  
But thing destiny it worthy die then also die.  
Tò (à) ần mìn̄g mần đặng thai đū tú thai.
- PH 17b If you are not worthy of death you will not die.  
But thing destiny not worthy die, then not die.  
Tò ần mìn̄g mí đặng thai, đū mí thai.

- PH 18 And then there are the whirlwind spirits.  
And still have all spirit whirlwind  
Tò nhằng mì kí p'i slường ní.
- PH 19 For instance, I go down the road.  
Instance of self go road.  
Ví-dụ hông dầu pây tàng.
- PH 20 For instance, whatever happens, it's just your lot.  
Instance whatever also is thing number lot self.  
Ví-dụ ca-dẳng cụng là ẳn số phức-phận dầu.
- PH 21a For instance, I go down the road and notice a gust of wind.  
Instance go road self see thing gust gust wind.  
Ví-dụ pây tàng ní, dầu hẳn ẳn phá sá lẳm.
- PH 21b It spins round.  
Of it make spin rise.  
Hông mẳn hẳt quẳn khỉn.
- PH 21c That is, all the dust and dirt flies upwards.  
Is all rubbish all dirt fly up  
Là kí nhủp-nhấp (à) kí tẳm bẳn khỉn nề.
- PH 21d Then all the trees shake.  
Then all whatever tree shake shake.  
Dũ (à) kí ca-dẳng mạy nẳu nẳu.
- PH 21e It spins round and goes "Oh....oh".  
It also spin  
Mẳn tú quẳn ôôôô....<sup>1</sup>
- PH 21f There, that's the whirlwind spirit.  
That that is animal spirit whirlwind  
Nận ní, nận sữ tua p'i slường á.
- PH 22a You must really beware of the whirlwind spirit.  
Animal spirit whirlwind need must beware  
Tua p'i slường sằy cẳn dứu á.
- PH 22b But you know, the person who is worthy of a whirlwind  
spirit eating him, he has to find someone to appease it.

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1. This sentence ends with a vowel approximately cardinal 7 and of approximately two seconds duration, gliding steadily in pitch from low to mid.

But come animal person that he worthy spirit  
 Tò (à) mà ní, tua cần nận ní, mần đảng p'i  
 whirlwind eat then also then seek person come appease  
 slướng kin ní, dū tú dū sa cần mà khấ́t nề.

PH 22c They can appease it all right.  
 Appease well good  
 Khấ́t đả́y đả́y đớ.

PH 22d It must be on the day appointed.  
 Well kind appointed  
 Đả́y thứ hẹn ló.

PH 22e On the day appointed you must buy all the things and you  
 must make a sacrifice to it for it to be really right.  
 Arrive day that arrive thing day appointed that then  
 Thằng vắn nận, thắng ắn vắn hẹn nận ní, dū  
 must buy every thing come must sacrifice of it then well good  
 phải dự mọi mồn mà phải cúng hông mần chắng đả́y đả́y vớ.

PH 23 If you don't, then you will have a dangerous time with it.  
 Not have then also must dangerous with it  
 Ná mớ dū tú sắy hắu-hiế́m sắu mần vớ.

PH 24 Ah, you must really beware of the whirlwind spirit.  
 Ah animal spirit whirlwind need must beware much  
 À, tua p'i slướng sắy cần đứú lại vớ.

PH 25 We're talking together.  
 Self speak with each-other  
 Dầu chắng đườỉ cắn á.

PH 26a If you don't believe it, you must believe it!  
 Not believe also then also believe.  
 Mớ slín, cụng dū tú slín.

PH 26b If you say you don't believe in spirits, what do you  
 believe in?  
 Ah speak not believe spirit still believe what  
 À, chắng mớ slín p'i nhắng slín nầu thề.

PH 27 Yes. PH 28 That is very true.  
 Right. Thing that word thing true really.  
 Sứ Ắn nận cắm ắn sứ cầ-lại.

PH 29 There is also the neighbourhood spirit.  
 Now still is thing spirit neighbourhood.  
 Tò (à) nhằng mì ăn p'i thó.

PH 30a Now, in this village, everyone holds things in common.  
 Now at in village this whoever also also need  
 Cớ-nầy ní dú chang bản nầy ní, cớ-này cụng tú sày  
 together have.  
 sày-cha mì.

PH 30b That is, we build houses together, and everything.  
 Is of self together make house every road.  
 Là hông dầu sày-cha hất dưỡn nê, mội tàng.

PH 30c We make a shrine for the neighbourhood spirit in the  
 village.  
 Self found thing spirit neighbourhood at in village  
 Dầu (là) lập (là) ăn p'i thó dú chang bản ló.

PH 31 Day and night it watches everything in our village, and  
 doesn't allow any spirit to come or go.  
 Morning night it well watch thing in village self with  
 Naur khăm măn đẫy ngòi ăn chang bản dầu đuối  
 each-other not give animal spirit any come enter leave.  
 căn, mí hủ tua p'i ca-lăng mà khẩu óc.

PH 32a The spirit in the neighbourhood is surely good.  
 Animal spirit in neighbourhood also also right good  
 Tua p'i dú thó ní cụng tú sữ đây vớ.

PH 32b It doesn't interfere with anyone else.  
 Also also right it not discord ransack of them  
 Cụng tú sữ măn mí lạp-lùn cháo-nạo hông hâu ní.

PH 33a The neighbourhood spirit is certainly good.  
 Spirit neighbourhood also right good.  
 P'i thó tú sữ đây.

PH 33b Because everyone has concern for one another, we have  
 things in common, that's how it is.  
 Because every person has heart every person has stomach  
 Bởi-vì mội căn mì slim, mội căn mì tọng

2. This sentence was spoken with great hesitation, and neither the structure nor the meaning are quite clear.

with each-other is of self together each-other is have thing  
đuổi căn, là hông đầu sảy-cha căn, là mì ăn  
thing like that already  
mòn pần nặn dá ló.

PH 34 There is also the 'lòi' spirit.  
And still have spirit  
Tò nhặng mì p'i lòi.

PH 35 You have to beware of that one.  
Animal that right need must beware.  
Tua nặn sữ sày cấn dít.

PH 36a That one, the 'lòi' spirit, you must beware of.  
Animal that animal spirit also also need must  
Tua nặn ní, tua p'i lòi ní, cụng tú sày cấn  
beware much animal that  
dít lai vớ, tua nặn vớ.

PH 36b How is that?  
Because like how  
Vì pần hẩu ní.

PH 37a It's the 'lòi' spirit, you know!  
It also right animal spirit  
Mân tú sữ tua p'i lòi về.

PH 37b How could you not need to beware of it?  
Do what not need beware.  
Hất lẳng mí cấn dít.

PH 38 That one eats people, and makes them more and more sleepy.  
Animal that eat people more increase listen rest  
Tua nặn ní kin cấn ní, khăng phát thĩng dú đèo.

PH 39 You must really beware of it.  
Need must beware much  
Sày cấn dít lai vớ.

PH 40a Don't talk about it.  
Not speak  
Mí chảng á.

PH 40b The 'lòi' spirit you must really beware of.  
Animal spirit need must beware much  
Tua p'i lòi sày cần dít lai vớ.

PH 41a Now there still remains the temple spirit.  
And now still remain animal spirit temple  
Tò (à) cơ-này ní nhằng dít tua p'i chùa ní.

PH 41b But that's very good.  
But particularly good.  
Tò nhất-hạng đây.

PH 42 The temple spirit is really a good one.  
Animal spirit temple then then right good.  
Tua p'i chùa dū chính sử đây.

PH 43 Why is it good?  
Good is because like how  
Đây là vì pần háu ní.

PH 44 When it's a holiday or a feast day all of us go and make  
sacrifices to it.  
All person of self time day holiday day feast person  
Kí cần hông dầu bắt vắn nèn vắn lệ, cần  
person also right go sacrifice it  
cần tú sử pây cúng mân cơ.

PH 45 We go to the ceremony, you know.  
Go ceremony  
Pây lệ cơ.

PH 46a Now when we go to the ceremony, we must find good words  
to speak.  
Now go ceremony self must speak conversation is take  
Tò pây lệ ní, dầu phải chẳng chuyện, là au  
all word good come speak  
kí cầm đây mà chẳng (à) vớ.

PH 46b But to speak things which aren't good in the temple isn't  
very good at all.  
But speak all thing speech not good at in temple  
Tò chẳng kí mèn chuyện mí đây ní dít chang chùa  
also not ? good few much  
cung mí slày đây kí-lai vớ.



- PH 47a But as to good people or bad people, it surely knows.  
But animal man good animal man bad of it also know.  
Tò tua cần đây tua cần sấu, hông môn cụng chắc.
- PH 47b We enter the temple.  
Of self enter temple go.  
Hông đầu khấu chùa pây.
- PH 47c We have incense, sticks and gold.  
Self have incense have stick have gold.  
Dầu mì hương, mì lạp, mì vàng.
- PH 47d We go to the ceremony to burn incense, and then enter.  
Self go ceremony burn incense then enter go.  
Dầu pây lệ tam hương, lại khấu pây.
- PH 48a That is to say, where the temple spirit is you must be good.  
that-is at spirit temple then right good.  
(Là) tức-là dú p'i chùa chính sử đây.
- PH 48b If I go in and see any nice things in the temple, I must  
not steal them.  
Self enter go self see thing any good at in temple that  
Dầu khấu pây, dầu hăn môn dăng đây dú chang chùa nận  
self not eat steal it.  
ní, dầu mí kin lặc môn.
- PH 48c I mustn't take anything from the temple, even if I see  
good things, such as money on top of the temple altar.  
Self not take anything at in temple ignore see anything  
Dầu mí au ca-dăng dú chang chùa, mặc-kệ hăn ca-dăng  
good silver money at on thing table temple that  
đây, ngàn-chèn dú têng ăn bàn chùa nận ní.
- PH 48d I mustn't take them, to be truly an honest person.  
But self also not take, then right animal person  
Tò dầu tú mí au, chính sử (à) tua cần vờ.
- PH 49 Now a covetous person, a person whose heart is not good,  
who, if he sees anything in the temple, anything good, he  
takes it, oh, that person is not good.  
But animal person covetous animal person heart not good  
Tò tua cần slim-thám, tua cần slim mí đây (á),

is he see anything at in temple thing thing anything good he  
là mân hăn ca-dăng dú chang chùa, ăn mồn ca-dăng đây, mân  
take oh then right animal person that not good  
au ní, (ớ) dũ sữ tua cần nận mí đây lo.

PH 50 So then the temple spirit knows.  
Like then spirit temple he know  
Pần dũ p'i chùa mân chắc vớ.

PH 51 The temple spirit surely knows.  
Spirit temple also know  
P'i chùa cụng chắc à.

PH 52 Ah, that person isn't good.  
Ah animal person that not good.  
À, tua cần nận ní mí đây.

PH 53 That person isn't good, he's ready to steal.  
He animal person that not good ready eat steal.  
Mân (à) tua cần nận mí đây, hay kin lặc.

PH 54 If I am in the temple and have anything, he takes it.  
I have at in temple have anything he also still take  
Ngò mì dú chang chùa, mì ca-dăng, mân tú nhăng au về.

PH 55a He takes what belongs to the temple spirit, let it be known!  
Also still take possession animal spirit? talk  
Tú nhăng au của tua p'i về chẳng à.

PH 55b So then, people in the village, or anywhere, must not steal.  
So-then is all people at in village or at place any  
Hóa-mà, là kí cần dú đấng bản hay-là dú thĩ taur  
they not go steal  
mân mí pây lặc á.

PH 56 People like that are not good.  
All people like that then not good  
Kí cần pần nận dũ mí đây ló.

PH 57a You need to beware.  
Must beware  
Cần dứu á.

PH 57b You must also beware of the temple spirit.  
Animal spirit temple also need beware.

Tua p'i chùa cúng cần dít.

PH 57c But it only watches.  
But it also right watch come finish.

Tò măn cúng sử ngòi mà thôi.

PH 57d It's nothing really.  
Also not have anything.

Cúng mí mì dăng.

PH 58 Now as to the ancestral spirits in your house, they are good.  
Now animal spirit ancestor house self also also need good.

Tò tua p'i p'âu-pú đườn dàu ní cúng tú sày đây.

PH 59 Why is it good?  
Good because like how

Đây vì p'ần dừ-ha' ní.

PH 60 Because if you have children and grandchildren, night and  
day you offer incense, then the ancestral spirit is good.  
Because self have child have grandchild morning evening

Bởi-vì dàu mì lục mì lan, nư' khãm

self burn incense up go then spirit ancestor of self then good  
dàu tam hương khĩn p'ây. dũ p'i p'âu-pú hông dàu du đây dũ-vè.

PH 61 All of them like that are good.  
Several all like that then good

Nhựng kí p'ần nậ' dũ đây dũ-vè.

PH 62 If God helps you, you have nothing bad to speak of.  
Now still have Mr. sky do for then not speak

Tò (à) nhằng mì p'õ phạ hất hủ ní, dũ bú chảng dấy.

PH 63a So there are all these kinds of spirits, but whatever  
kinds of spirits there are, they are really all good.  
But still have all spirit that come leave all kind

Tò (à) nhằng mì kí p'i nậ', mà kê các thứ

spirit anything also good.

p'i ca-dăng tú đây.

PH 63b If you know how to sacrifice to them, you know how to  
appease them, then you are...if your lot is not to die,  
then they are nothing but good.

Is of self know sacrifice know appease of them is of  
 Là hông dầu chắc cúng, chắc khát hông mân ní, là hông  
 them also also right<sup>3</sup> thing lot of self not die they also also  
 mân cúng tú sữ... ăn số-phận hông dầu mí thai, mân cúng tú  
 good only.  
 đây thôi.

PH 64a But if it's your lot to die, you don't need to be bitten  
 by the spirits.  
 But thing lot of self die not need animal spirit bite.  
 Tò (à) ăn số-phận hông dầu thai, mí sày tua p'i khốp.

PH 64b If you're on the road and stub your toe, you will die, it  
 will be enough to kill a person.  
 Speak self still road then stub-toe also still die  
 Chẳng dầu những tảng về, dū tống-đút tú những thai à,  
 also still die person  
 tú những thai cần à.

PH 65a There is no need to say anything.  
 Not right speak speak  
 Mí sữ chẳng à, chẳng à.

PH 65b Everything just depends on your fate.  
 But thing whatever also is thing fate only.  
 Tò ăn ca-dăng tú sữ ăn mìn̄g thôi.

PH 65c So I've just said those things.  
 Then speak all like that only.  
 Dū chẳng kí pần nậ̄n thôi.

PH 66 If one doesn't believe, he must believe.  
 Now self not believe he also also believe.  
 Tò (à) dầu (à) mí slín, mân cúng tú slín.

PH 67 Ah, that's how it is.  
 Ah like this  
 À, pần nậ̄n cơ.

PH 68 Whether I say this correctly or incorrectly, you friends  
 must consider.

I speak like that right or not right friend check come  
Ngò chẳ̃ng pẳ̃n nẳ̃n nỉ, sữ hay-là mí sữ, p'ĩ-nọng luậ̃n mà ló.

PH 69a We tell each other it is right.  
Self change each-other tell right.  
Đầ̃u thó̃i tồ cạ sữ.

PH 69b What you say is very true.  
Speak like that also also right.  
Chẳ̃ng pẳ̃n nẳ̃n cụng tú sữ.

PH 70 In the area of the Tho people, there is this kind of  
situation with regard to spirits.  
But at thing locality all people Tho then also then  
Tồ (à) dú ẳ̃n đạ̃-p'ườ̃ng kí cẳ̃n Thỏ̃ nỉ, đũ tú đũ  
have arrive that animal spirit  
mỉ thẳ̃ng nẳ̃n tua p'ỉ đầ̃y-cớ.

PH 71a But as to there being many spirits in various places,  
there certainly are.  
But speak many animal spirit many at place any then  
Tồ (à) chẳ̃ng lai tua p'ỉ nỉ, lai dú thỉ tầ̃u, đũ  
also have.  
tú mỉ.

PH 71b As to the epidemic spirit, you must beware of it.  
But enter spirit epidemic must beware  
Tồ khẳ̃u p'ỉ thạ̃i-dầ̃ nỉ, cẳ̃n đầ̃u á.

PH 72a When your head aches, then it can kill a person.  
Time head ache then also die person  
Bắ̃t hua mầ̃u (à) vớ, đũ tú thạ̃i cẳ̃n vớ.

PH 72b You don't talk about it, the epidemic spirit.  
Not speak animal spirit epidemic.  
Mỉ chẳ̃ng vớ, tua p'ỉ thạ̃i-dầ̃.

PH 73 I'm not speaking about an epidemic itself.  
Not have epidemic.  
Mỉ mỉ (à) thạ̃i-dầ̃.

PH 74a The epidemic spirit is something you need to beware of.  
Spirit epidemic need must beware  
p'i thai-dā sà y cǎn díu á.

PH 74b When your head aches, then you'll die.  
Time head ache then die  
Bát hua màu ní, dū thai ló.

PH 75a Now our Tho people, right or wrong, come to that  
conclusion about the kinds of spirits, and as to saying  
that there are a lot, well there really aren't.  
Now all people Tho us right not right have arrive  
Tò (à) kí cǎn Thỏ ngò ní, sữ mí sữ mì thāng  
that species animal spirit ? have speak have many then  
nậ<sup>2</sup> chũng tua p'i ní, dầy mì chāng mì lai ní, dū  
also not have.  
tú mí mì.

PH 75b Now I'm afraid there may be people in some places who  
have many spirits, and I don't know about it.  
But worry have person at place any worry still have  
Tò (à) lo mì cǎn dú thĩ tẩu ní, lo nhāng mì  
spirit anything many not know.  
p'i ca-dǎng lai. mí chắc.

PH 75c But we Tho people have those spirits I've told you about,  
and we must really beware of them.  
But all people Tho us is have all spirit arrive that  
Tò (à) kí cǎn Thỏ ngò sữ mì kí p'i thāng nậ<sup>2</sup>  
matter spirit also need must beware  
mòn p'i ní, tú sà y cǎn díu ló.

PH 76 I've talked a fair amount like this, and now I've  
finished.  
I speak like this improve improve also need finish  
Ngò chāng pần nắy tợ tợ, cụng sà y thuổn á,  
like this.  
pần nắy.

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