

CLAUSE AND SENTENCE FINAL PARTICLES IN CHAM

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0. INTRODUCTION

As in other languages of Southeast Asia,¹ final particles in Cham² play an important part in expressing the mind of the speaker as he meets different situations. Final particles are used as negatives, limitives, interrogatives, imperatives, prohibitives and emphasisers, and in calls and responses.³

Final negative and limitive particles are on the clause level, while others function on the sentence level.⁴ For example, in the following quotative sentence, two final particles occur on the clause level, one on the sentence level.

Dua urang day nao thang khĭk thang ka,
2 person younger sibling go house watch house first,

bloh muk kaya ba mai ðang wŏk hai.
then get food bring back eat again imp.

'Do me a favour and go watch the house first, then get food and bring it back for us to eat (as before).'

ka is a final particle for the first clause (cf. 2.2), wõk for the second clause (cf. 2.6) while hai as the imperative particle refers to the entire sentence (cf. 4.6).

1. NEGATIVES

Negative particles function on the clause level. The second example in 1.2. is a medial clause in a conjunctive sentence.

1.1. In normal speech final particle ô is used to express negative.

Mư kau pòch ô. 'My father won't scold.'

Chuh mưng djuh ô. 'It is not burned with wood.'
burn with wood neg.

ka...ô expresses incomplete action, ka occurring preverbally.

Dahlăk ka hu nưk ô. 'I don't have children yet.'

Nhu ka thau khăr ô. 'He doesn't know the script yet.'

di...ô intensifies negative action or thought. di occurs before the verb.

Nưk di păng amek amư ô.
child intens. listen mother father neg.
'He doesn't listen to his parents at all.'

Dahlăk di hu kanăi ô.
I intens. past remember neg.
'I certainly didn't remember.'

1.2. In formal speech, known as dôm glong 'speaking high', preverbal ôh is the usual form of negative. Most often this negative is intensified by adding final particle ô.

Hray dīt ôh thik takôi mưnưk.
day Sunday neg. cut throat chicken
'Chickens are not killed on Sunday.'

Urang lingiu ôh tamư hu dalăm thum ô.
person outside neg. go into able in shelter intens.
'An outsider is not permitted in the shelter at all.'

Di kal năn dahlăk ôh ka thau gết ô.
then I not yet know anything intens.
'In those days I didn't know anything at all.'

2. LIMITIVES

Particles which limit the action include pajɔ̌, ka, min, ray, tra and wǔk. These are final particles on the clause level.

2.1. pajɔ̌ alternates with jɔ̌ or in colloquial speech yɔ̌. It expresses completed action or a continuing state. In questions it may occur with interrogative intonation or with ka ô (cf. 3.4). It does not occur with negatives.

Ni jǔh krah-hadah kau, hɜ̌ thau pajɔ̌.

'This is my intelligence, you know by now.'

Tapai biāk blǔk-blǎng jɔ̌.

'The rabbit is really crooked (as always).'

Huāk yɔ̌.

'Finished eating.'

2.2. ka 'first' gives the meaning of completing one action before something else is done.

Hɜ̌ bray kau chǎk hɜ̌ wǔk ka.

'Let me tie you up first.'

Nhu padǎl urang sahlih kan dī nhu ka.

'He ordered the people to exchange fish for him first.'

2.3. min expresses 'just, only'. It may be mildly emphatic.

Nhu birau khing likay min.

she new marry man just

'She just recently took a husband.'

Ba nao pah mach jhik wǔk siam min.

take go rent machine sew again good just

'I'll go rent a sewing machine again, just as good.'

Ông nǎn sup mư̄ta liwik hai birau min?

'Has he been blind for a long time or just recently?'

2.4. ray expresses the meaning of 'also, too', and often occurs with preverbal jang 'also'.

Nhu jang mai thǔng dahlǎk ray.

'He also went with me (too).'

Dahlǎk likau dua ɔ̌n dua hadiup pathang ông ray.

'I beg to thank both of you also.'

2.5. tra as a final particle means 'anymore'. It is related to tra in temporal phrases meaning 'later, more'. It occurs only in negative constructions.

Hadiup dray ôh hu dok thõng dray tra.
wife self neg. have live with self anymore
'My wife will not live with me anymore.'

Tapai ôh khin mưnhum ia tra.
'Rabbit would not dare drink water anymore.'

Amư ôh dok hu liwik thõng graup anưk tra.
'I am not able to live long with you children anymore.'

2.6. wõk 'again' as a final particle brings the situation back as it was before. It may also have a meaning of 'closing up' or 'tightening'.⁶

Nhu mưk rong karay ka day wõk.
'He got a different crab for his brother (as before).'

Dahlăk pablay padai ba jiên ka ông mưk wõk.
'I will sell rice and bring the money back to you.'

Hư bray kau chăk hư wõk ka.
'Let me tie you up (tight) first.'

3. INTERROGATIVES

Interrogatives may be signalled by the following final particles which are on the sentence level: lay, hai ô, ka ô, ray, biăk min, biăk hai thoh, biăk nao, le, như, pa and kach. Interrogative intonation is found on all questions whether final particles are used or not.

3.1. The intonation pattern which usually accompanies questions is a rise on the last element in a sentence. Simple negative questions usually take this intonation pattern rather than an interrogative particle.

Ai nao thang ô? 'Aren't you going home?'

3.2. lay is the simple interrogative final particle, expecting a response of 'yes' or 'no'. It may be answered by a nod or shake of the head.

Ai takư lay 'Do you want to?'
Bingì lay 'Is it delicious?'
Hư dôh sruh lay 'Do you see the nest?'