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 khīk thang ka,
2 person younger sibling go house watch house first,
blo muk kaya ba mai bang wōk 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).'

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ka is a final particle for the first clause (cf. 2.2), wɔk 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 ö is used to express negative.

My kau pɔch ö.    'My father won't scold.'
Chuh mung djuh ö.    'It is not burned with wood.'
burn with wood neg.
ka...ö expresses incomplete action, ka occurring preverbally.

Dahlæk ka hu nuk ö.    'I don't have children yet.'
Nhu ka thau khær ö.    'He doesn't know the script yet.'
di...ö intensifies negative action or thought. di occurs before the verb.

Nuk di pang amek amù ö.
child intens. listen mother father neg.
'He doesn't listen to his parents at all.'
Dahlæk di hu kanal ö.
I intens. past remember neg.
'I certainly didn't remember.'

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

Hray di thik taköi munük.
day Synday neg. out throat chicken
'Chickens are not killed on Sunday.'
Urang linglu öh tamù hu daläm thum ö.
person outside neg. go into able in shelter intens.
'An outsider is not permitted in the shelter at all.'
Di kai nän dahlæk öh ka thau gët ö.
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 pajo, ka, min, ray, fra and wök. These are final particles on the clause level.

2.1. pajo alternates with jơ or in colloquial speech yơ. It expresses completed action or a continuing state. In questions it may occur with interrogative intonation or with ka o (cf. 3.4). It does not occur with negatives.

Ni jơh krah-hadah kau, hu thau pajo.
'This is my intelligence, you know by now.'

Tapai biāk blōk-blāng jơ.
'The rabbit is really crooked (as always).'

Huāk yơ.
'Finished eating.'

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

Hu bray kau chāk hu wök ka.
'Let me tie you up first.'

Nhu padāl urang sālih kan di 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 nāo pah mach jhik wök slām min.
take go rent machine sew again good just
'I'll go rent a sewing machine again, just as good.'

Őng nān sup mūta 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 thōng dahlāk ray.
'He also went with me (too).'

Dahiāk likau dua on dua hadiup pathang ŏng 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 óh hu dok thong dray tra.
'wife self neg. have live with self anymore
'My wife will not live with me anymore.'

Tapai óh khin munghum ia tra.
'Rabbit would not dare drink water anymore.'

Amu óh dok hu liwik thong graup anuk tra.
'I am not able to live long with you children anymore.'

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

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

Dahlak pablay padai ba jien ka ong muk wok.
'I will sell rice and bring the money back to you.'

Hu bray kau chak hu wok 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 ó, ke ó, ray, blak min, blak hai thoh, blak nao, le, nhur, 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 ó?  '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 takru lay  'Do you want to?'
Bingi lay  'Is it delicious?'
Hu bôh sruh lay  'Do you see the nest?'