DISCOURSE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF A ZERO PRONOUN IN A PASSAGE FROM THE PHRÁRÂATCHAWÍCAAN

John A. Grima

Li and Thompson (1979) showed in a quite convincing way that the identification of the antecedents of hypothetical instances of "zero pronoun" across sentences in Chinese texts was in no way correlated with structural, semantic, or linear properties of the sentences containing either the antecedent or the zero. Instead they found that identification was accomplished pragmatically, utilizing "speakers' and hearers' abilities to make inferences beyond what sentences actually say." Despite claims which suggest the contrary in Grima and Strecker (1976), Bandhumedha (1976), Jones and Diller (1976:11), and Panupong (1970:192), the same analysis is undoubtedly indicated for Thai: there is no consistent relationship between the grammatical role, linear position, or related syntactic and semantic structure of zero pronouns and their antecedents in Thai.

In this paper, my focus will be on only one example of zero anaphora, in which the zero and its antecedent are separated by many sentences and by over one hundred words of text. I will assume that the ultimate determination of the antecedent is a pragmatic exercise. It will be my purpose to demonstrate that aspects of the hierarchical, repetitive, and syntactic structure of the discourse that contains it are relevant to the success of this instance of zero anaphora. These factors will be said to work to contribute to the building of redundancy in an otherwise quite complex text, not as absolute determinants of the antecedent of the zero. Thus the conclusions of the paper concern the system and devices of well-formed Thai discourse and only indirectly the grammar of zero anaphora.

1. This example is taken from the Phrârâatchawícaan of Rama V, King Chulalongkorn (Râtchakaan Thîi Hâa 1973:54–55), written in the early part of the twentieth century. The section of the work from which it is excerpted is an attempt by Rama V to identify the author
of the memoir on which his book is a commentary. In the immediately preceding paragraph he had determined that the author was a woman and asserted that she was probably a member of the Thonburi ruling family. The example paragraph is presented in support of this latter point.

Abbreviations
ES Empty subject (independent 0)
CP Completive particle
IR Irrealis
KS Khun Luang S+a (a late Ayudhaya king)
LT Lord of Thonburi (= King Tak Sin, first king after the fall of Ayudhaya, whose capital was Thonburi)
RC Relative conjunction
Q Quotative
SP Sequence-marking particle (also marks predicates)
W Writer of the memoirs
// Signals a syntactic boundary more or less equivalent to a sentence boundary

I. khɔ̀khwaam th��i 0 hên chên níi
material RC Rama V opine like this
II. phr59
because
II.A phûu khīan nápthh+ câw kruṭ thonbùrii //
W respect LT
II.A1a 0 rîak 0 wåa phèën-din tôn
W call LT Q reign first
II.A1b 0 chày thɔ̄y-kham klàaw thɔ̄t 0 dooy
W use idiom speak arrive LT with
khwaam-khaw-ròp
respectfulness
Discourse Factors

m'ran yàaŋ lùuk-làan c'àw kruŋ thonbùrii phùut
same kind descendants LT speak
taam thìi
to according to

0 dày khooy faŋ pen 'an màak //
Rama V CP ever listen to a lot

II.A2a m'ìa 0 klàaw thèŋ sànyaawipàl'at 0 0 kò
time W speak arrive mental aberration LT W SP
klàaw dùay khwaam-hèn-cày wàa 0 pen
speak with sympathetic understanding Q ES to be
kaan-baŋ?eèen 0 pen pay chên nàn dùay 0 pen
accident ES to be go like that because ES to be
weelaa 0 khrò? kam lè? pen weelaa 0 cà sìn
time LT bad karma and to be time LT IR out of
bun sìn wàatsànàa //
merit out of merit

II.A2b m'ìa 0 klàaw thèŋ kaan-dùríaay 0 0 kò
time W speak arrive fierceness LT what she says SP
khòon-khàaŋ cà pen kham yòu khàaŋ ?ùat?ùat
almost, appears IR to be word to be located side brag
wàa 0 kèŋkàat r+ 0 cay-khòo dèt-dìaw yàaŋ
Q LT bold or LT character decisive kind
dìaw kan kàp lùuk-làan khùn lùaŋ s'rà klàaw
same reciprocal with descendants KS speak
thèŋ khùn lùaŋ s'rà yòk yò Sinatra 0 nay kaan thìi
arrive KS praise KS in clausal nominalizer
0 mìi khwaam-hèn-lùaŋ-nàa chên 0 rùusìk-tua
KS have foresight an instance KS be aware

161
John A. Grima

wâa 0 sîn bun lêêw //
Q KS out of merit CP
mîa khâw chēn (0) ĕay (0) bûat 0
time ‘they’ invite KS give KS become a monk KS
kê yindii priidaa thî 0 cà?êêk bûat //
SP happy happy conjunction KS IR leave become a monk
khrán mîa câw bunmiïraammâlak pay chuan (0) ĕay
time time lord Bunmiïraammalak go persuade KS give
(0) sîk 0 kê mây yêm sîk //
KS leave the monkhood KS SP not agree leave mh.
0 wâa 0 sîn bun lêêw //
KS Q KS out of merit already
0 yàa pay
KS & Bunmiïraammalak negative imperative go
sûu khâw lêy //
fight ‘them’ at all
II.A3 daŋ nîi pen tôn //
‘like this for openers’

II.B lê? 0 pen phûu rûu kirîyaa ?âtchaasây
W to be person know habits character
câw kruŋ thonbûrii sîŋ lûuk-lân
LT RC descendants
khâw
3rd person (= lûuk-lân)
lâw kan yûu wâa mîa 0 că râp-sâŋ
relate reciprocal be located Q time LT IR speak
kâp khray khray 0 kê yöm rîak
with who who (anybody) LT SP usually call