DIRECTIONAL AUXILIARIES IN DAAI CHIN

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0. Introduction

The Daai Chin language\(^1\) belongs to the Southern Branch of the Kukish Section of the Tibeto-Burman language family. It is spoken by approximately 30,000 people in the townships of Matupi, Mindat, Kanpetlet and Paletwa in the Southern Chin Hills of Burma.

Within the Chin language family Daai Chin is most closely related to Mûn Chin (also called Mindat Chin), Chin Pon (also called Út Pû) and Matu Chin.

This paper is based on a dialect of Daai Chin spoken in Kanpetlet township.\(^2\)

1. The auxiliary verb system in general

Preverbal auxiliaries. Eight preverbal auxiliaries have been found so far. All of them are directional and they are mutually exclusive. They are never used as main verbs, except jâng.

Postverbal auxiliaries. The postverbal auxiliary system is much more complicated. There are more than fifty postverbal auxiliaries, which can be divided into several sets according to their position and meaning. The auxiliaries closest to the verb tend to be directionals, following them are causatives, reciprocals, attitudinals, phases, speech act indicators, and the like.

2. Preverbal auxiliaries

The eight preverbal auxiliaries form four pairs. Three of these pairs express the spatial directions forward, down and up. The fourth pair expresses the temporal direction ‘in advance’. The pairs are divided by the two manners reaching out (physical or mental, without change of present position) and going.

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Table 1: The preverbal auxiliaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>reaching out</th>
<th>forward</th>
<th>down</th>
<th>up</th>
<th>in advance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>going</td>
<td>hei</td>
<td>juk</td>
<td>jän</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>va</td>
<td>ju</td>
<td>jäng</td>
<td>ana</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

a) **hei**³ ‘to V to the front, to V in forward direction, to V over there’

\[
\begin{align*}
  kah &hei pyen⁴ kyo & & \\
  \text{I forward speak futile} & \\
  \text{I speak to them over there (though without success)} & \\
  lóu &hei bük-a⁵ & & \\
  \text{field front look-IMP} & \\
  \text{look in front to the field} & \\
  lung &sun ah hei xot-in & & \\
  \text{stone this he forward throw-quick} & \\
  \text{he quickly throws the stone over there} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

b) **va** ‘to go and V to the front, to go and V in forward direction, to go and V over there’

\[
\begin{align*}
  ah &nih va-dou u & & \\
  \text{he PL forward-greet mPL} & \\
  \text{go and greet them} & \\
  ím-a &va-lut lü kah hmuh & & \\
  \text{house-in forward-enter and I see} & \\
  \text{and I saw that he went and entered the house over there} & \\
  kah &va-hmuh kti & & \\
  \text{I forward-meet PRES} & \\
  \text{I go and meet (him) over there} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

c) **juk** ‘to V downwards, to reach down and V’

\[
\begin{align*}
  juk &kkhuui hlü be kti & & \\
  \text{downward help want again PRES} & \\
  \text{he wants to help (him) again from above} & \\
  kah &juk péét & & \\
  \text{I down give} & \\
  \text{I reach down and give} & \\
  juk &pyén-a & & \\
  \text{down speak-IMP} & \\
  \text{speak downwards} & \\
\end{align*}
\]
d) ju ‘to go down and V’

\[ \text{kah ju-lit lut ei be kkhai ni} \]
\[ \text{I down-go enter self again will indeed} \]
\[ \text{I myself will go down and enter again} \]

\[ \text{ju-pe-a} \]
\[ \text{go-down-give-IMP} \]
\[ \text{go down and give it} \]

\[ \text{ah ju-mtheh lo} \]
\[ \text{he go-down-tell come} \]
\[ \text{he comes to the state of going down and telling} \]

e) jän ‘to V upwards, to reach upwards and V’

\[ \text{ah jän kpyaa in} \]
\[ \text{he up discard quick} \]
\[ \text{he quickly throws (it) away upward} \]

\[ \text{kah jän poh ei kkhai ni} \]
\[ \text{I up do self will indeed} \]
\[ \text{I myself will reach upwards and do (it).} \]

\[ \text{jän kthāh be-a} \]
\[ \text{up ask again-IMP} \]
\[ \text{ask again upwards (ask someone who is higher)} \]

f) jāng ‘to go up and V’

\[ \text{kah jāng pyen} \]
\[ \text{I go-up speak} \]
\[ \text{I go upwards and speak} \]

\[ \text{im kkaan-a ah jāng poh} \]
\[ \text{house up-in he go-up does} \]
\[ \text{he goes up into the house and does (it)} \]

\[ \text{ah ve nāk-a jāng hmu-hūt-a} \]
\[ \text{he stay place-at go-up look-IMP} \]
\[ \text{go up to the place where he is and look for (it) back there} \]

g) na ‘to V in advance, ahead’

\[ \text{nah na-poh am ve} \]
\[ \text{you ahead-work not is} \]
\[ \text{you have not done it in advance} \]

\[ \text{kei noh kah na-ei ma kti} \]
\[ \text{I SUBJ I ahead-eat go-ahead PRES} \]
\[ \text{I eat in advance (of everybody else)} \]

\[ \text{ah na-mtheh} \]
\[ \text{he ahead-tell} \]
\[ \text{he tells it in advance} \]
h) **ana** 'to go and V in advance, ahead'

```plaintext
ana-ngshut ip kti-é
go-ahead-start sleep PRES-PL
they go and fall asleep in advance
```

```plaintext
ana-pyén hü kom kti
go-ahead tell around of:course PRES
of course he has gone and told it around in advance
```

```plaintext
ana-poh u bā
go-ahead do PL all-right?
go and do it in advance, will you?
```

3. **Postverbal semidirectional auxiliaries**

The semidirectional, the first seven auxiliaries after the verb, do not form a tight semantic set, but are a composite of direction, phase, and distributiveness. Most of them can also be used as a main verb.

- **pha** to arrive at the state of Ving
- **lo** to come to the state of Ving
- **vaai** to go and V, to V forward
- **seh** to V and bring along
- **hü** to V from place to place
- **táák** to V and leave behind
- **hüt** to V back there

Note that Table 2 shows **lo**, **vaai**, and **seh** as a mutually exclusive set, though their relationships with other auxiliaries are different.

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$X$ = fixed order

$R$ = reversible order

$O$ = mutually exclusive

**Table 2**: Postverbal semidirectional: pairwise co-occurrence and order