THE STATUS OF THE WORD *hāy* IN THAI

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1. INTRODUCTION

There has long been controversy about the word *hāy* 'to give' in Thai: about how many homophonous words *hāy* exist in Thai and to which grammatical categories they belong. This paper examines the status of the form *hāy* based on distribution and meaning. Within the Lexicase version of dependency grammar, this analysis classifies the form *hāy* into six homophonous variants: three ditransitive verbs, two causative verbs, and an adverb.

The form *hāy* is most commonly a verb carrying the meaning 'to give'. However, there are several homophonous *hāy*'s, as illustrated in the following example:

(1)  *Nāy bōk wāa mēe hāy tōy hāy kumee dēeg hāy sōm*
    Noy say that mother cause Toy give key Dang cause repair
    rōt hāy mīchanān cā? tii hāy.
    car for otherwise will hit for
    Noy said that mother ordered Toy, under the threat of being hit, to give the key to Dang to fix the car for (mother).

The forms pronounced as *hāy* in the example above differ in distribution and meaning. The purpose of this paper is to classify the Thai form *hāy* into different categories based on their distribution and meaning. The syntactic framework used in this analysis is Lexicase, a version of dependency grammar developed by Stanley Starosta in the early 1970s. While the first part of this paper is an introduction, the second part is a review of previous analyses of *hāy*. Sections 3–5 provide a reanalysis of the form *hāy*: §3 discusses the ditransitive verbs *hāy* 'to give'; §4 discusses the causative verbs *hāy*; and §5 discusses the adverb *hāy*. The last part of the paper presents a conclusion.

2. PREVIOUS ANALYSES

2.1 PANUPONG 1970

Vichin Panupong's work *Inter-sentence relations in modern conversational Thai* is a detailed structuralist analysis of spoken Thai based on the use of test frames. Panupong

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(1970:122) proposes the two test frames (a) and (b) for ditransitive verbs, as shown in example (2).

(2) a. \[ n \ 2 \ n \ n \ lēēw \]
    b. \[ n \ kamlaŋ \ 3 \ n \ n \] (where \( n \) refers to NP \( lēēw \) is an adverb of completion and \( kamlaŋ \) is an adverb of progression)

Panupong states that any words which may replace 2 in (a) and 3 in (b) are to be labelled as ditransitive verbs. Since \( hāy \) in (3) fits in either position, it is an instance of a ditransitive verb in Panupong’s classification.

(3) a. \( Mēē \ hāy \ tag \ nīt \ lēēw. \)
    mother give money Nit already
    Mother has already given Nit some money. (Panupong 1970:122)

b. \( Mēē \ kamlaŋ \ hāy \ tag \ nīt. \)
    mother in.progress give money Nit
    Mother is giving Nit some money. (Panupong 1970:122)

However, Panupong does not state how she would treat \( hāy \) in (4) below, in which the third NP of pattern (a) is replaced by a prepositional phrase.

(4) \( Mēē \ hāy \ tag \ kēē nīt. \)
    mother give money to Nit
    Mother gave some money to Nit.

Panupong analyses \( hāy \) in (5) and (6) in terms of its function and considers it to be a “verbal linker” because it links two verbs. However, she does not state to which grammatical category (i.e. a noun, a verb, a preposition, or an adverb) this verb linker \( hāy \) belongs.

(5) \( Côtmāy \ chabāp \ nīi \ tōŋ \ ǹān \ hāy \ dīi. \)
    letter issue this must read linker good
    This letter must be read carefully.

(6) \( Khruu \ sāŋ \ hāy \ ǹān \ nāŋṣī. \)
    teacher order linker read book
    The teacher ordered us to read a book. (Panupong 1970:164–165)

2.2 DEJTHAMRONG 1970

Orathai Dejthamrong (1970), Panupong’s student, investigates the grammatical function of \( hāy \) and finds five syntactically distinct but orthographically and phonemically identical forms of \( hāy \). These forms are: a ditransitive verb, a preposition, a causative transitive verb, a clause linker, and a postverb functioning as part of the nucleus.

Dejthamrong defines ditransitive verbs in accordance with Panupong’s (1970) ditransitive verb test frames. However, Dejthamrong notes that there are three types of ditransitive verbs: those that require a preposition, such as \( sōŋ \) ‘to send’, as in (7); those that do not allow a preposition, such as \( tōŋp \) ‘to answer’ in (8); and those that may or may not have a preposition, such as \( hāy \) ‘to give’ in (9).
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(7) a. *Lék sọj còmṭacy orathay.
   Lek send letter Orathai
   Lek sent the letter to Orathai.

b. Lék sọj còmṭacy kée orathay.
   Lek send letter to Orathai
   Lek sent the letter to Orathai.

(8) a. Kháw tɔ̀p khamṭhām khɔ̀ nii khruu.
   he answer question bunch this teacher
   He answered this question for the teacher. (lit. He answered this question the teacher.)

b. *Kháw tɔ̀p khamṭhām khɔ̀ nii kée khruu.
   he answer question bunch this to teacher
   He answered this question for the teacher. (lit. He answered this question to the teacher.)

(9) a. Dēng hāy nàgsʰi dêkdêk.
   Dang give book children
   Dang gave the children some books.

b. Dēng hāy nàgsʰi kée dêkdêk.
   Dang give book to children
   Dang gave some books to the children.

Verbs which require prepositions do not fit in Panupong’s verb test frame. Dejhamrong’s explanation for treating such verbs as ditransitive verbs is based on their overlapping distribution. They are included, according to Dejhamrong (1970:43), only because they may replace ditransitive verbs like ห่าย ‘to give’ and cèèk ‘to distribute’ when such verbs are followed by a preposition.

ห่าย in (10) and (11) is considered to be a preposition, since it fits in a preposition test frame, while ห่าย in (12) is identified as a causative transitive verb followed by a clause.

(10) Dēng yim hāy chān.
   Dang smile give I
   Dang smiled at me.

(11) Dēng kwâat bâan hāy mēe.
   Dang sweep house give mother
   Dang swept the house for her mother.

(12) Dēng hāy nàng kwâat bâan.
   Dang cause younger.sibling sweep house
   Dang had his younger sibling sweep the house.

Dejhamrong considers ห่าย in (13) and (15)–(18) to be instances of ห่าย functioning as a “clause linker”, which “introduces” a noun clause or an adverbial clause. For example, in (13a), ห่าย is analysed as a clause linker, introducing a noun clause, because ห่าย chān maa may be replaced by a noun nàgsʰi ‘book’, a direct object of the transitive verb tɔŋkaan ‘to want’, as in (13b) (Dejhamrong 1970:100).
(13)a. Deeg tōŋkaan háy chán maa.
Dang want I come
Dang wants me to come.

b. Deeg tōŋkaan nāgsi.
Dang want book
Dang wants a book.

When háy occurs with the ditransitive verb bōk ‘to tell, to order’, as in (14a), Dejthamrong treats the clause introduced by háy as a direct object of the verb because it may be replaced by the noun khāw ‘news’, as shown in (14b), despite the meaning difference of the verb bōk. However, according to Dejthamrong, “unlike other ditransitive verbs”, which require a direct object to precede an indirect object, the indirect object deeg ‘Dang’ precedes the direct object noun clause in (14a). To accommodate this fact, Dejthamrong (1970:101) stipulates that when the direct object is a noun clause, it appears after an indirect object.

(14)a. Khāw bōk deeg háy klāp bāan.
he order Dang return home
IO DO

He ordered Dang to return home.

b. Khāw bōk khāw deeg.
he tell news Dang
DO IO
He told Dang the news.

In Dejthamrong’s analysis, the clause linker háy may introduce an adverbial clause modifying a verb, as in (15a) and (16a). Háy and the words that follow it constitute an adverbial clause because one could replace the clause with the adverb yāaŋray ‘how’, as in (15b), and thammay ‘why’, as in (16b) (Dejthamrong 1970:120–121).

I will sleep comfortable
I will sleep comfortably.

b. Chán cā? nōn yāaŋray?
I will sleep how
How will I sleep?

(16)a. Nit yōk kāw’i háy khēsk nāŋ.
Nit lift chair guest sit
Nit got a chair for the guest to sit on.

b. Nit yōk kāw’i thammay?
Nit lift chair why
Why did Nit lift a chair?

Dejthamrong also considers the háy which can appear only at the beginning of a sentence to be a clause linker introducing an adverbial clause, as in (17a), because háy plus the words which accompany it may be replaced by yāaŋray yāaŋray ‘whatever happens’ in (17b) (Dejthamrong 1970:123).