

# KHMER FINAL PARTICLES *phəw* & *dae*

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## 1 Introduction

In Khmer, there are a number of words occurring at the end of sentences, clauses, or phrases which add meanings such as “question” or “emphasis”. Huffman(1967) and Ueda(2002) refer to these words as “final sentence particles”, Jacob(1968) calls them “final phrase particles”. Because it is difficult to identify the exact locus of occurrence of these words, I will call them “final particles” collectively in this paper. This paper deals with two “final particles”, *phəw* and *dae*, which occur with an apparently similar meaning “too, also”.

- (1) msəl məŋ      kɲom riən      nəv      pannaalaj *phəw*  
yesterday      I      study      at      library  
riən      nəv      ptəəh *phəw*  
study      at      home      FP

“Yesterday I studied at library, and studied at home, too”

- (2) msəl məŋ      kɲom riən      nəv      pannaalaj  
yesterday      I      study      at      library  
haəj      nəv      ptəəh kɔɔ      kɲom riən      *dae*  
and      at      home      I      study      FP

“Yesterday I studied at the library. I also studied at home, too”

There also exist usages of *phəw* and *dae* which cannot be translated into “too” or “also”.

- (3) cɲaŋ      *phəw* !  
delicious      FP  
“It is unexpectedly delicious!”

- (4) - cɲaŋ      tɛə      - “Is it delicious?”  
delicious      (question)  
- cɲaŋ      *dae*      - “It is not so delicious.”  
delicious      FP

Table 1 shows the range of meanings assigned to *phəw* and *dae* in three previous studies.

**Table 1:** *Previous studies*

	<i>phɔɔŋ</i>	<i>dae</i>
Huffman (1967:196)	“too, also”	“as well”
Jacob (1968:102)	“too, as well”	“too, also, even so”
Ueda (2002:46)	“to emphasize the clauses”	“to express that a sentence shares the same predicate as the other sentence”

Huffman(1967) notes that *phɔɔŋ* means “too, also” and *dae* means “as well”. Jacob(1968) states that *phɔɔŋ* means “too, as well” and *dae* means “too, also, even so”. Ueda (2002) observes that *phɔɔŋ* is used “to emphasize the clauses” and that *dae* is used “to express that a sentence shares the same predicate as the other sentence”.

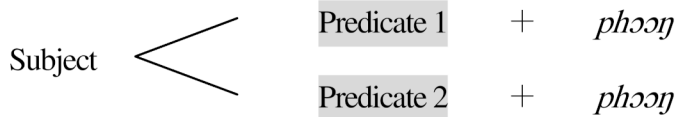
Previous studies seem to have left it unclear what the differences are between these two particles. This paper is intended to identify the function of each particle and the differences.

## 2 Analysis

In this section, based on my elicitation results, I will show how *phɔɔŋ* and *dae* are used. It should be noted that the range within a syntactic unit (e.g. phrase, clause, sentence) where a final particles operates is referred to as its “scope”, which is somewhat different from the general usage of this term. Each “scope” is indicated by a gray square.

### 2.1 *phɔɔŋ*

The scope of *phɔɔŋ* is one predicate and its function is to parallel different predicates in a sentence as in Figure 1.

**Figure 1:**

#### 2.1.1 Basic usage

First, consider example (5).

- (5)    jòp mən            kɲom    ɲam    baaj    *phɔɔŋ*  
          last night    I            eat    dinner    FP  
          ɲə̀əl    tuurɛ̀ətə̀h    *phɔɔŋ*  
          watch    TV            FP  
          “I ate dinner, watched TV, too”

As in Figure 2, two different predicates, *ɲam baaj* “ate dinner” and *ɲə̀əl tuurɛ̀ətə̀h* “watched TV”, are both followed by *phɔɔŋ* in a sentence.

**Figure 2:**

Subject		Predicate		
knom		jam baaj	+	phəw
I		eat dinner		
		məəl tuurəətəh	+	phəw
		watch TV		

Scope : ate dinner  
Parallel Predicate : watched TV

Example (5) shows that these two activities occurred at the same time.

(6a) is an example where only the objects of the predicates occur in parallel.

- (6a) nəək kruu tən krooc phəw ceek phəw  
 teacher buy orange FP banana FP  
 “The teacher bought orange, and banana, too”

Figure 3 shows how just the objects, “orange” and “banana”, are arranged in parallel.

**Figure 3:**

Subject	Verb		Object		
nəək kruu	tən		krooc	+	phəw
teacher	buy		orange		
			ceek	+	phəw
			banana		

(6a) indicates that the teacher bought both the orange and the banana at the same time. We can in fact repeat the verb twice as in (6b) and have two parallel predicates.

- (6b) nəək kruu tən krooc phəw tən ceek phəw  
 teacher buy orange FP buy banana FP  
 “The teacher bought orange, and bought banana, too”

Scope : bought orange

Parallel Predicate : bought banana

So it is safe to say that, even in (6a), two predicates (not only objects) are paralleled.

It is not acceptable to repeat the subject twice as in (6c).

- (6c) \*nəək kruu tən krooc phəw  
 teacher buy orange FP  
 nəək kruu tən ceek phəw  
 teacher buy banana FP

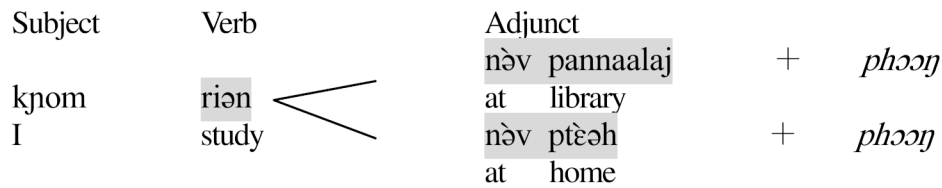
The observation that the scope of *phəw* is one predicate, thus holds true.

Let's move to (7a), where only adjuncts are arranged in parallel.

- (7a) msəl mən kɲom riən nəv pannaalaj phɔɔŋ  
 yesterday I study at library FP  
 nəv ptəəh phɔɔŋ (= 1)  
 at home FP  
 “Yesterday I studied at library, and at home, too”

Figure 4 shows how the two adjuncts are paralleled and that “T” studied both at library and at home.

**Figure 4:**



As in (6b), we can repeat the verb twice as in (7b).

- (7b) msəl mən kɲom riən nəv pannaalaj phɔɔŋ  
 yesterday I study at library FP  
 riən nəv ptəəh phɔɔŋ  
 study at home FP  
 “Yesterday I studied at library, and studied at home, too”

Scope : studied at library

Parallel Predicate : studied at home

### 2.1.2 When parallel predicates are contextually recoverable

When parallel predicates are not expressed explicitly, they need to be presupposed in the context. (8) is an utterance of surprise by the speaker at his friend's ability to speak Chinese.

- (8) ʔaɛŋ niʔjəəj phəəsaa cən phɔɔŋ  
 you speak Chinese FP  
 “You speak Chinese, too!?”

Scope : speak Chinese

Parallel Predicates : speak Khmer, speak English, etc...

In (8), there must be one or more languages that the person can speak. For example, the person may be able to speak Khmer and English besides Chinese.

### 2.1.3 When parallel predicates are not contextually recoverable

Unlike examples shown above, there exist some examples of *phɔɔŋ* in which parallel predicates are not contextually recoverable.