

## THE STATUS OF *MAN* AND *TEL* IN PRE-ANGKORIAN KHMER

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This paper will examine the function of the words *man* and *tel* as they are used in the relative clause construction. These words are found in the pre-Angkorian dated inscriptions from the period between A.D. 600 to 800. Lexicase dependency grammar is used in this analysis (Taylor 1971). This investigation expands on material covered in the author's master's thesis, "Syntax of Dated Pre-Angkorian Inscriptions Nouns and Noun Phrases."

The N<sub>2</sub> *man* or *tel* bears the lexical feature [+rltv]. In the indirect verbal relative clause construction, the N<sub>2</sub> *man* or *tel* is found either between the head noun of a noun phrase and a following verbal relative clause, or between the preposition *ta*<sub>4</sub> and the S of the relative clause.

The two possible syntactic analyses for this structure differ in the relationship postulated to hold between N<sub>2</sub> and the following S. In the first analysis, N<sub>2</sub> is the regent of S<sub>2</sub> and outside the verbal relative clause S<sub>2</sub>, as in Thai (Savetamalya 1988). In the second analysis, the relative N<sub>2</sub> is a dependent of the verb inside the verbal relative clause S<sub>2</sub>, as in English. These analyses are illustrated in the following diagrams.

In diagram #1, the [2([+rltv])] and [2([+prdc])] imply that N<sub>2</sub>, the nominal relative noun *man* or *tel*, is functioning as a predicate attribute of the regent N<sub>1</sub>. In the lexical matrix of N<sub>2</sub>, [3([+V])] and [3([+fint])], mean *man* or *tel* requires a dependent verb as its complement. Thus *man* or *tel* function as 'complementizers', the marker of the beginning of a verbal relative clause.

In diagram #2, [3([+V])] in N<sub>1</sub> shows that the verb is an endocentric dependent of N<sub>1</sub>, and [2([+rltv])] indicates that this verb expects a relative noun as

dependent. Thus the relative noun *man* or *tel* is the dependent of the verb in the relative clause  $S_2$ , and this V, in turn, is the direct dependent attribute of the  $N_1$ .

Diagram #1

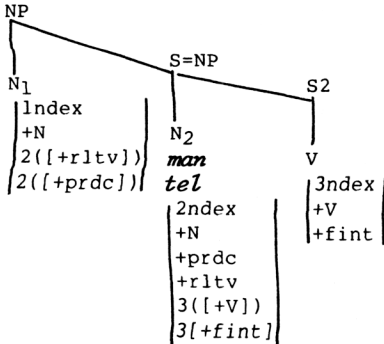
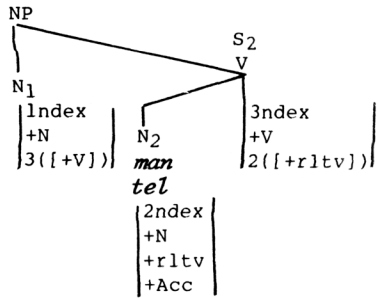


Diagram #2



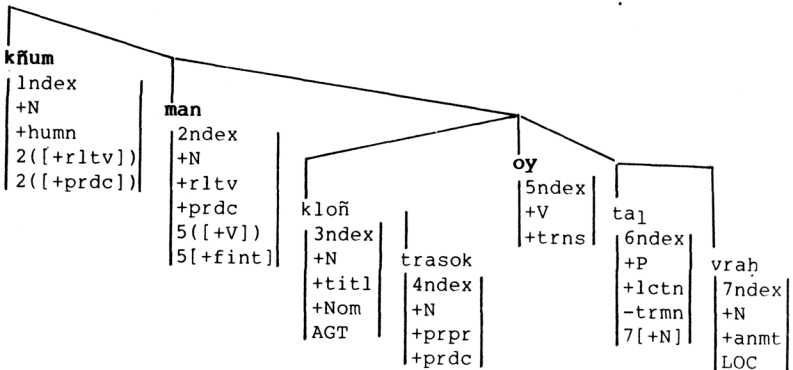
Examples 1a and 1b illustrate each alternative analysis.

# 1. EXAMPLE OF *MAN* OR *TEL* AS REGENT OF THE VERBAL RELATIVE CLAUSE

1a. (K.561:27-28)

kñum man kloñ trasok oy taḷ vraḥ  
 slave whom Baron Trasok give to Vrah

Slaves whom the Baron Trasok gave to the Vrah



In word 1 of example 1a the contextual features [2([+rltv])] and [2([+prdc])] imply that the relative predicate noun *man* is an adjunct to the noun *kñum*. In word 2, the contextual features [5([+V])] and [5([+fint])] imply that the noun *man* requires a verb as its complement and S is obligatory.

In this phrase, *kñum* [+humn] is the regent of the relative noun *man*. The relative noun *man* [+rltv, +prdc] is the predicate attribute to the regent noun *kñum*, and, in turn, is the regent of the verb *oy*, the head of this sentence *kloñ trasok oy ta1 vraḥ*. *Man* links its regent *kñum* to its dependent clause *kloñ trasok oy ta1 vraḥ*. *Man* directly dominates or cap-commands the following relative verbal clause. In turn, *man* is cap-commanded by the head of the noun phrase, to which it bears a predicate relation. In the relative verbal clause *kloñ trasok oy ta1 vraḥ*, there is a missing object of the verb *oy*. *Oy* is a ditransitive verb, meaning that it expects a Patient, an object that bears the Accusative case form. The prepositional phrase 'to the Vrah' *ta1 vraḥ*, with *vraḥ* [LOC] bears the Locus case relation, is the indirect object of the verb 'give' *oy*. Semantically *man* represents the missing object. *Man* [+prdc] is co-referential both with the head noun *kñum* and with the missing object of the verbal relative clause, thereby establishes a link of coreference between the head noun *kñum* and the missing argument of the verb *oy*.

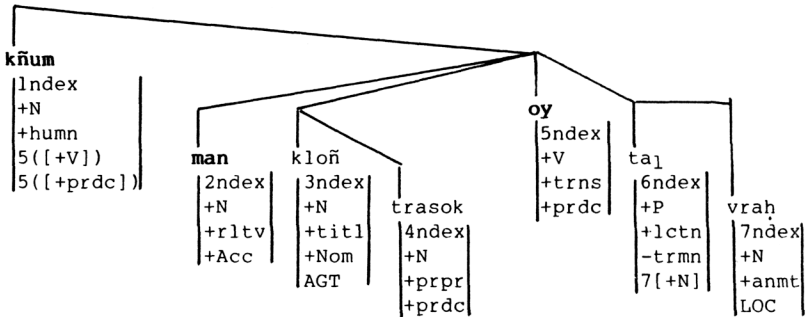
## 2. EXAMPLE OF *MAN* OR *TEL* AS DEPENDENT OF THE VERBAL RELATIVE CLAUSE

The same example is analyzed according to the second analysis in example 1b.

1b. (K.561:27-28)

kñum man kloñ trasok oy ta1 vraḥ  
 slave whom Baron Trasok give to Vrah

Slaves whom the Baron Trasok gave to the Vrah



In example 1b, *kñum* [+humn] is the regent of the verb *oy*, and *oy* is the head of the relative clause *man kloñ trasok oy ta1 vrah*. The verb *oy* has: *kloñ trasok* as subject [+Nom, AGT], *ta1 vrah* as its indirect object, and *man* as a clause-initial [+Acc] topic dependent of the verb *oy*. *Man* is coreferential both with the head noun *kñum* and with the missing object of the head verb of the verbal relative clause *oy*.

After presenting the same data in each of these two alternative analyses, the structure in diagram #1 is preferable to the one in diagram #2 based on the evidence discussed in the following section. This preference implies that the word *man* or *tel* with lexical feature [+prdc] is the regent of a dependent verbal relative clause and links its regent to its dependent relative clause attribute.

### 3. ANALYSIS OF *MAN* OR *TEL* AS [+prdc] REGENT OF THE VERBAL RELATIVE CLAUSE

This section will show that *man* or *tel* is a relative noun and should function as predicate rather than the clause-internal topic in the relative clause NP-S construction. The [] is used in the tree diagram as a convenient way of indicating the position of the missing NP. It is not part of a formal lexicase representation.

#### 3.1 *GUI ~ GI* AS REGENT OF *TEL* [prdc]

In this analysis, *gui ~ gi* is an intransitive copula verb and must have a predicate dependent noun as attribute. In example 2, *gi* is the regent of the clause, and is followed immediately by *tel* and a finite clause with a missing direct object. As copula verb, *gi*