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 N₂ man or tel bears the lexical feature [+rltv]. In the indirect verbal relative clause construction, the N₂ man or tel is found either between the head noun of a noun phrase and a following verbal relative clause, or between the preposition ta₄ and the S of the relative clause.

The two possible syntactic analyses for this structure differ in the relationship postulated to hold between N₂ and the following S. In the first analysis, N₂ is the regent of S₂ and outside the verbal relative clause S₂, as in Thai (Savetamalya 1988). In the second analysis, the relative N₂ is a dependent of the verb inside the verbal relative clause S₂, as in English. These analyses are illustrated in the following diagrams.

In diagram #1, the [2([+rltv])] and [2([+prdc])] imply that N₂, the nominal relative noun man or tel, is functioning as a predicate attribute of the regent N₁. In the lexical matrix of N₂, [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 N₁ shows that the verb is an endocentric dependent of N₁, 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 S₂, and this V, in turn, is the direct dependent attribute of the N₁.

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 ta1 vraḥ
slave whom Baron Trasok give to Vraḥ

Slaves whom the Baron Trasok gave to the Vraḥ
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 kňum. 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, kňum [+humn] is the regent of the relative noun man. The relative noun man [+rltv, +prdc] is the predicate attribute to the regent noun kňum, and, in turn, is the regent of the verb oy, the head of this sentence kloň trasok oy taľ vrah. Man links its regent kňum to its dependent clause kloň trasok oy taľ vrah. 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 kloň trasok oy taľ vrah, 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' taľ vrah, with vrah [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 kňum and with the missing object of the verbal relative clause, thereby establishes a link of coreference between the head noun kňum 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.

lb. (K.561:27-28)

kňum man kloň trasok oy taľ vrah
slave whom Baron Trasok give to Vrah

Slaves whom the Baron Trasok gave to the Vrah
In example 1b, \( \text{k\text{"u}m} \ [+\text{humn}] \) is the regent of the verb \( \text{oy} \), and \( \text{oy} \) is the head of the relative clause \( \text{man klo\text{"o}n trasok oy t\text{a}l vra\text{"a}} \). The verb \( \text{oy} \) has: \( \text{klo\text{"o}n trasok} \) as subject \([+\text{Nom, AGT}]\), \( \text{t\text{a}l vra\text{"a}} \) as its indirect object, and \( \text{man} \) as a clause-initial \([+\text{Acc}]\) topic dependent of the verb \( \text{oy} \). \text{Man} is coreferential both with the head noun \( \text{k\text{"u}m} \) and with the missing object of the head verb of the verbal relative clause \( \text{oy} \).

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 \( \text{man} \) or \( \text{tel} \) with lexical feature \([+\text{prdc}]\) 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 \( \text{man} \) or \( \text{tel} \) 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 lexicae representation.

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

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