CAUSE AND RESULT CLAUSES FROM THE RAMKAMHAENG INSCRIPTION TO MODERN THAI

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Introduction

In this paper, we investigate the words used to express the meanings of cause and result obtaining between pairs of clauses in the Ramkhamhaeng manuscript, in the Ayuddhaya, Sukhothai, and Ratanakosin periods, and in modern Thai. We identify the words we consider to have such a linking function, assign a word class to each of them based on its syntactic function, characterize the semantic contribution that each makes to the text, and give a representative syntactically analyzed sentence for each class. We discuss differences between the stages, and make proposals about what changes took place to get from the earlier stage to the later stage. The framework used in the syntactic analysis for all stages is lexicase dependency grammar.

We find that cause and result clauses are linked by various syntactic mechanisms, including clause-linking verbs, adverbs, prepositions (including 'subordinating conjunctions' as a subset), and extension and non-extension nouns, used alone or in combinations.

The following connecting words have been identified in our original data set.

Grammatical classification of cause and result words

Verbs: Verb + preposition

nîâŋ

nîâŋ is the main verb of the sentence as a whole, and appears between two dependent sentences. The preceding sentence is the subject surrogate and the second is a situational source of the first; so 'S₁ comes from S₂'. The hypothesis that nîâŋ is a verb is supported by the fact that it is followed by a prepositional phrase introduced by càak 'from', or by a directional adverb maa 'toward speaker' followed by càak.

1) Structural pattern:

\[ \begin{align*}
&\text{TH0200804} \\
&S₁ nîâŋ \\
&\quad \text{TH0200804} \\
&\quad V \quad \text{càak} \\
&P \quad S₂ \\
&S₁ nîâŋ \\
&\quad V \quad maa \quad \text{càak} \\
&\quad \text{Adv} \quad P \quad S₂
\end{align*} \]

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2) Sentential example:

\[ \theta^a \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{?aakāat} & \text{rōn} & \text{māy} & \text{tu̯k} \\
\text{weather} & \text{hot} & \text{not} & \text{fall} \\
N & V & N & V
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{cāt} & \text{maa} & \text{chak} & \text{fōn} \\
\text{very} & \text{hither} & \text{From} & \text{rain} \\
Adv & P & N & V
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{v} & \text{come} & \text{the} & \text{cause} & \text{that} & \text{it} & \text{does} & \text{not} & \text{rain} \\
N & Adv & P & Adv & V
\end{array} \]

*The weather is hot due to (the cause that) it does not rain.

Adverbs (pre-verbal)

Ciǐ

The adverb ciǐ appears between the Nominative dependent ('grammatical subject') and the root verb of the second clause of a two-clause subordinating construction. The Nom actant of the second clause is normally identical with the Nom of the preceding clause and so is commonly omitted. Syntactically, ciǐ indicates that the second verb is the head verb of the whole construction, even though unlike a 'complementizer' preposition, it does not occur at the boundary of either clause.

3) Structural pattern:

\[ \begin{array}{ccc}
S & (NP) & ciǐ \\
& Adv &
\end{array} \]

4) Sentential example:

\[ \theta^b \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{fōn} & \text{māy} & \text{tu̯k} & \text{?aakāat} & \text{ciǐ} & \text{rōn} \\
\text{rain} & \text{not} & \text{fall} & \text{weather} & \text{then/so} & \text{hot} \\
N & V & N & Adv & V
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{v} & \text{come} & \text{the} & \text{cause} & \text{that} & \text{it} & \text{does} & \text{not} & \text{rain} \\
N & Adv & P & Adv & V
\end{array} \]

*It does not rain, therefore it is hot.*

The construction is typologically different from Modern Thai in that the common position for adverbs in Modern Thai is clause-final, not pre-verbal. The clause-second position in Thai is otherwise limited to negative and tense-marking adverbs, and in Khmer only to negative adverbs. In Chinese, however (South Min kōh, Mandarin jiǔ), similar adverbs with almost identical functions occur in the same post-subject pre-verb position.

5) Modern Thai (\(\theta^b\))

\[ \begin{array}{ccccccc}
fōn & māy & tōk & ?aakāat & ciǐ & rōn \\
\text{rain} & \text{not} & \text{fall} & \text{weather} & \text{then/so} & \text{hot} \\
N & Adv & V & N & Adv & V
\end{array} \]

*It does not rain, therefore it is hot.*

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6) Modern Thai (Indrambarya 1994, 14a, reformatted by SS)

lèk khoay khit wàa thùkkhon cá? khoy khâw
Lek ever think that everyone will wait he
N V V P N Adv V N
'Lek once thought that everyone would wait for her.'

7) Khmer negative adverb (KM101003f, Chhany Sak-Humphry, SS reformatting)

koat min mæk meel 'nækumnii tee
he +ngt v come see patient +ngtv
N Adv -trns -trns N Sprb
'He does not come to see the patient.'

8) Taiwanese clause-linking adverb kòh (TW2002H192, SS reformatting; h is [ʔ])

goa kòh khi pattii khòa⁵, long khòa⁵ bò.
l just go elsewhere seek all seek unsuccessful
'I went elsewhere to look but couldn't find any.'

9) Taiwanese clause-linking adverb kòh¹ (TW203541c2, SS reformatting)

ī tī hakhäu kòh chin gāu thakchheh.
he at school then very clever study
'At school he's very good at studying.'

10) Mandarin clause-linking adverb (TW203541c2, SS reformatting) &

tā mâle wō yídün, wō jiù huǐjiāle.
she scolded me a whack I just returned home
'After she scolded me, I just went home.'

kōp

kōp has the same syntactic properties as cīng. kōp may also be preceded by a non-clausal time expression.
As mentioned above, it is similar in shape as well as in syntactic properties to South Min Chinese kòh.

11) Sentential example:

θ̂h

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DIGUET, E.- étude de la langue tai précédée d'une notice sur les races des hautes régions du Tonkin; Comprendant grammaire, méthode d'écriture tai et vocabulaires. Hanoi, F. H. Schneider, 88, 2, 192, 1vp. 1895.


Prepositions, extension fact

dūay

The extension preposition dūay marks its dependent V₁ as a subordinate clause depending on the following verb.

12) Structural pattern:

\[
\text{dūay} \quad \text{V₂} \\
\quad \quad \quad \text{V₁} \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{P} \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{+xtms}
\]

'given V₁, therefore V₂'

13) Sentential example:

\[
\text{dūay with} \\
\quad \text{phrä? ná?rëchtcheëthää (title) (name)} \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{mii have} \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{yanj to} \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{yuu stay} \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{phrä?toj one} \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{Adj}
\]

\[
\text{cığj nây phisëksii marry} \\
\quad \text{then/so not} \\
\quad \quad \quad \text{V} \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{Adv}
\]

'Because there still was Phranaret, the brother, (he) did not get married...'

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