The following texts were collected in the Northern Chin Hills of Burma in
1954 and, together with collateral linguistic notes, form the major basis for
the article, "A Provisional Sketch of Sizang (Siyin)-Chin", ASIA MAJOR, n.s.,
X:2 (1963), pp. 222-278. Two of the texts, the first and last of those that
follow, were submitted with the grammar but could not be included. That I pre-
sent them now I owe to the encouragement of my colleague, Dr. Scott DeLancey.
I have departed from the orthography of the grammar in two respects.
Tones, which there preceded the syllable, here are noted on the first vowel,
thus: 1) low level, unmarked; 3) high, level, /á/; 2) rising, /ã/; 4) falling
/ã/. Secondly, I have omitted the mora following final continuants (see dis-
cussion in the grammar, p. 228f.). The terminology of the grammar, although
outdated, has been retained for purposes of consistency.
Tone sandhi, which is complex in Sizang, accounts for what seems at first
a bewildering variation in the tone upon a given lexeme.
For the reader who does not consult the grammar, let me say that these
texts are the product of ten days' work with Lian Kham, a Sizang from Buan Man
Village, in the Tiddim Subdivision, who was then official interpreter in the
administrative town of Tiddim. They were gathered in the course of a brief
linguistic survey I undertook as a member of a party sponsored by the Univer-
sity of Rangoon, to which I was then attached as a Fulbright research fellow.
I express my gratitude to the University, to the government of the Union of
Burma, and to the Fulbright Foundation for the opportunity provided me. Methods
of research are sufficiently set forth in the grammar and need not be repeated
here.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the texts. References are given
here to the section of the grammatical sketch where the morphemes are treated.
ADV  adverbial
AG  agentive (ergative) 2.0a
ALT  altruistic 3.43.9
ALTER  alterocentric (benefactive/malefactive) 3.42.22
ASS  associative 3.42.1
CAUS  causative 3.42.21
CLASS  numerical classifier 2.5
COMP  comparative 3.47.1
COND  condition
DEIC  deictic 3.41.12
EMPH  emphatic particle
IMP  imperative 3.44.2, 4.31.4
INTR  intransitive
INTER  interrogative 4.31.3
LOC  locative 2.0b
NOM  nominalizer 2.22.3, 2.23
PL  plural 2.0e
REC  reciprocal 3.41.2
SUP  superlative 3.47.2
TEMP  temporal partial 4.33.1
VPF  verb particle, final 4.31
VPNF  verb particle, non-final 4.32, 4.33
A. sa'i a-i-na. thữ.

elephant celebrate-NOM affair

1) nị dâng la'i-in, kà-pu. kà-pà. té nun tâk
day differ during-TEMP my-father's father my-father PL alive

2) la'i-in, sa'i a-kà. tíaq-in, á-lu. pùa. a.
during-TEMP elephant he-shoot when-TEMP its-head carry a-shoulder VPNF

3) khua. mual² pân mual sú-ak³ a., thà-u tăm má-mà. kâ-p a.,
village shrine from shrine emerge VPFN gun many very shoot VPFN

4) a-sa'i a-á'i hû. tu'a a-a'i-na. a., nú. tâ.
his-elephant they-celebrate VPF that he-celebrate-NOM at woman both

5) pâ. tâ. khuaq túm a., siel ki. tâ. da-k tal tâ. thû-a-in, sù-n tâ.
man and drum beat VPNF mithan horn both gong set and play-TEMP day both

6) zâ'n tâ. á-la-m hû. a-sa'i á'i⁵ ni-in khua. mual a.
night and they-dance VPF his-elephant celebrate day-TEMP village shrine at

7) á-la-m phòt hû. á-sa'i lu. sî-a mí. hiq li-in zûq
he-dance first VPF his-elephant head itself person four-AG carry on pole⁶

8) a. á-sa'i a'i pâ. sa'i lu. tûq-a. to. sâ-k hû.
VPNF his-elephant celebrate man elephant head on-LOC sit CAUS VPF

9) á-khua. mual pân in 'n. dôq pùa. a., láp pùi⁷
he-village shrine from AG house up to carry a-shoulder VPFN dancing ASS

10) hû. tu'a á-sa'i á'i-na. in siel khôq khôq khôq
VPF that(place) his-elephant celebrate-NOM at mithan PL cow PL

11) gô. hû. a-thû. tíaq-in á-sa'i á'i
slay sacrificially VPF he-die when-TEMP his-elephant celebrate

12) a-kí-têp⁸ té na-a-in diel kaq kha'i hû. siel á'i te.
his-memorial PL NOM-LOC streamer white hang up VPF mithan celebrate PL

13) in á-vom kha'i hû. sà-ha.q á'i te. in á-san kha'i hû. tu'a
AG black hang up VPF tiger celebrate PL AG red hang up VPF that

14) a-a'i pâ. thû. zà-k tíaq-in, á-iñ kûan-pùi. te. in tu'a
he-celebrate man die finish when-TEMP his-house work-ASS PL AG that

15) diel kha'i thè.i nò.n gòl hû.
streamer hang up can EMPH not VPF

On the Elephant Celebration

Formerly, when our forefathers were alive, when someone shot an elephant,
they carried its head a-shoulder (on a frame), announcing it from the village
shrine with the firing of very many guns, and they celebrated his elephant. At
the place where the celebration was held, both men and women beat the drum and
played both mithan horn and gong-set, and day and night they danced. On the
day on which they celebrated his elephant, he danced first of all (of them) at
the village shrine. Four persons bore the elephant head itself, atop which
they had the man sit who celebrated the elephant. From their village shrine up
to his house, they bore him a-shoulder, dancing as they came. At the place
where he celebrated the elephant, he sacrificed mithans and cattle.

When he died, as a record of his elephant celebration (they) hung up a
white streamer. Those who had celebrated a mithan hung up a black one. Those
who had celebrated a tiger hung up a red one. After that celebrant was dead,
the members of his household could no longer hang up that streamer.
Notes

1. cf. tú'a la'i 'there'

2. mual, lit. 'mountain'. The village shrine is located at the entrance to the village; here are located memorial markers commemorating the dead.

3. mual sū'ak 'to give public notice, announce'.

4. The mithan horn, held upright by the tip, is beaten with a stick; the gong-set consists of three small gongs of graduated size.

5. Alternatively, one may say: a sa'i a a'i ni in.

6. The elephant head is borne by the four men on a bamboo frame. The verb can also be used of a group lifting and carrying a table without the use of such a frame.

7. Almost certainly, this associative particle is related to (and perhaps identical with) the relational, pūi 'with'.

The order of the final part of the sentence on line 10 may be rearranged thus:

inh dōg lap pūi a pūi hī.

8. Kī-tēp, lit. 'to press (between hands), to pinch (between boards)'. The term is here translated as 'record'. The memorial post is placed at the grave of the deceased.

B. mi. há'u pā. le. mī. zō.q pā. tāg thu.

person rich man and person poor man old story

1) tāg la'i-in há'u sā' khāt le. á-zō.q mī. hiq khāt dūi. suq
ancient when-TEMP rich ( ) one and a poor person one jungle in
2) sā' sī'a khām hī. á-zō.q pā. in le'i a sī'a a,
animals set snare together VPF the poor man AG field in set snare VPNF
3) a hā'u pā. in ēg kū.g tūg a sf'a hī. mī. há'u pā. in
the rich man AG tree standing in he-set snare VPF person rich man AG
4) a-sa' sī'a-na. mī. zō.q pā. hē.k gōl in vil kū. hī.
his-deer set snare-NOM person poor man know not AG watch secretly VPF
5) tā' bāg a a-ñīl tīq-a. le'i a a' á-zō.q pā. sa.
that resemble VPNF he-watch when-TEMP field in the poor man deer
6) sī'a-na. suq-a. sā'khi. khāt ō.k a. mī. há'u pā.
set snare-NOM in-LOC barking deer one snare VPNF person rich man
7) sī'a-na. thīg tūg-a. bāg mā. ō.k gōl hī.. tā tīq-in,
set snare-NOM tree in-LOC thing not(INTENS) snare not VPF that when-TEMP
8) mī. há'u pā. in mī. zō.q pā. sa. sī'a-na. suq-a. ō.k
person rich man AG person poor man deer set snare-NOM in-LOC snare
9) sā'khi. sī'a sū. t a. à-ña. sf'a-na. thīg kū.g tūg-a.
barking deer the very untie VPNF his set snare-NOM tree standing on-LOC
10) ō.k sāk a., tī a kī.k hī.. in a-thēt tīq-in, mi.
snare CAUS VPNF return home again VPF house he-arrive when-TEMP person
11) há'u pā. in mī. zō.q pā. mūn-a., "tī sa' sī'a vīl kā-to.g^2," rich man AG person poor man to-LOC we deer set snare look at we-let us
12) tī. a' pā. hī., ta tīq-a. a mī. in a-sa. sī'a-na.
say VPNF invite VPF that when-TEMP the two AG their-deer set snare-NOM
13) a-pa\i\ kh\am\ h\i\, a-th\et\ ti\a\q-in\, mi\, h\a\-u p\a\ in mi\, zo\n\ they-go together VP\F they-arrive when-TEMP person rich man AG person poor

14) p\a\ m\u\n-a\, "n\a\g\ sa\ si\a\-na\ sug-a b\a\q m\a\, z\k bo\, man to-LOC your deer set snare-NOM in-LOC thing not(INTENS) snare not

15) ke\i\ si\a\-na\ sug-a s\a\-khi\, kh\at\ z\k h\i\," tf\i\ in\3 a\u h\i\, my set snare-NOM in-LOC barking deer one snare VF say VPFN shut VPF

16) ta\, ti\a\q-in\, mi\, zo\n\ p\a\ in\, "\a\m\ g\a\l fn!" that when-TEMP person poor man AG believe not IMP

17) a-ma\t\e\n\ ni\ k\i\-ha\u a\, kh\a\ h\a\-u s\a\ p\a\ t\u\q-a\, he PL two REC-querrel VPNF village rich ( ) man to-LOC

18) k\i\-khi\a a\, h\a\-u s\a\ p\a\ in á-th\u\ s\n\ s\k\ a\, mi\ h\a\u REC-complain VPNF rich ( ) man AG matter examine CAUS VPNF person rich

19) p\a\ in z\o\ s\k\ a\, mi\ zo\n\ p\a\ in l\e\l s\k h\i\, ta\, ti\a\q-in\, man AG win CAUS VPNF person poor man AG lose CAUS VPNF that when-TEMP

20) mi\ zo\n\ p\a\ lu\g kim g\a\l a\, "b\i\-p\i\ ma\n\ p\a\ in person poor man mind content not VPNF ear-big (rabbit) chief man AG

21) tf\-khen s\k\ t\u\ h\i\," tf h\i\, we-decide CAUS will VF say VF

22) kh\a\ h\a\-u s\a\ p\a\ in\, "t\u\a l\e\ b\i\-p\i\ ma\n\ vá\ s\a\m tá\ v\u\n," village rich ( ) man AG go(?) and rabbit chief go summon IMP

23) tf\ a\, b\i\-p\i\ ma\n\ s\a\m t\u\-in\, mi\ zo\n\ p\a\ pai\ a\, b\i\-p\i\ say VPNF rabbit chief summon will-TEMP person poor man go VPNF rabbit

24) ma\n p\a\ s\a\m h\i\, b\i\-p\i\ ma\n\ p\a\ in\, "k\o\q pai\5 t\u\ h\i\, chief man summon VPNF rabbit chief man AG I to you go will VF

25) k\o\q th\e\t ma\-tep\6 n\a\ g\a\k v\u\n," tf\ a\, vá\i th\a\ h\i\, I to you arrive until you wait IMP say VPNF word send VF

26) tu\a z\k ni\ thum ni\ ti\a\q-in\, b\i\-p\i\ ma\n\ p\a\ kh\a\ h\a\-u s\a\ that after day three day when-TEMP rabbit chief man village rich ( )

27) p\a\ k\u\g theq phe\q h\i\, a-th\et\ ti\a\q-in\, kh\a\ h\a\-u s\a\ p\a\ in man place arrive late VF he-arrive when-TEMP village rich ( ) man AG

28) b\i\-p\i\ ma\n\ p\a\ m\u\n-a\, "b\a\g h\o\g h\a\i\7 n\i\ z\i\-am," tf\i\ in t\e\i\ h\i\, rabbit chief man to-LOC why hither tardy you INTER say VPNF abuse VF

29) b\i\-p\i\ ma\n\ p\a\ in\, "k\o\q pai\-na\ l\a\m-p\i\ a\, gun val s\e\n rabbit chief man AG I (DEIC) go-NOM path big on river bank gravel

30) a\ k\a\n a\, ka-ph\e\l na t\u\, h\a\n bo\m t\a\ t\u\i\ t\a\i\ a\, on burn(INTR) VPNF I-prevent in order man's basket with water carry VPNF

31) ka-ph\e\l-na\-in\ ko\q h\a\i h\i\," tf h\i\, I-prevent-NOM-because I(DEIC) tardy VF say VF

32) ta\, ti\a\q-in\, kh\a\ h\a\-u s\a\ p\a\ in\, "gun val s\e\n when-TEMP village rich ( ) man AG river bank gravel burn(INTR)

33) q\e\i\ g\a\l h\i\, h\a\n bo\m t\a\ t\u\i\ t\a\i\ la\, óm q\e\i\8 g\a\l h\i\," tf h\i\, ever not VF man's basket with water carry also be ever not VF say VF

34) ta\, ti\a\q, b\i\-p\i\ ma\n\ p\a\ in\, "hi\-p\e\u h\i\, gun val s\e\n that when rabbit chief man AG affirmative VF river bank gravel