ALLATIVE PREPOSITION IN THAI

Kiyoko Takahashi Kanda University of International Studies kiyoko@kanda.kuis.ac.jp

1. Introduction

ALLATIVE case expresses motion *to* or *toward* the referent of the noun phrase it marks, which is a 'schematic vector' of the path of motion (cf. Talmy 2000: 53-57). The concept ALLATIVE roughly refers to a dynamic spatial relation where a moving entity moves to a reference point. This concept of ALLATIVE entails the whole kinetic PATH schema consisting of SOURCE, PATH and GOAL (cf. Lakoff & Johnson 1999: 32-34). A language may have a number of ALLATIVE markers with different nuances. For example, the English language has several ALLATIVE prepositions: **toward** (GOAL noun phrase), **to** (GOAL noun phrase), **onto** (GOAL noun phrase), and **into** (GOAL noun phrase).

(1)	He walked toward the shop.	(PATH-oriented, unbounded path)
(2)	He walked to the shop.	(GOAL-oriented, bounded path)
(3)	He put the files onto a CD.	(GOAL-specific, affected target entity)
(4)	He put the files into a box.	(GOAL-specific, enclosed goal space)

The preposition **toward** in (1) represents directional or PATH-oriented ALLATIVE implying an unbounded path. The preposition **to** in (2) represents GOAL-oriented ALLATIVE implying a bounded path. The preposition **onto** in (3) represents GOAL-specific ALLATIVE implying an affected target entity. And the preposition **into** in (4) represents GOAL-specific ALLATIVE or ILLATIVE implying an enclosed goal space. Likewise, the Japanese language has two main ALLATIVE particles: (GOAL noun phrase)-**e** and (GOAL noun phrase)-**ni**.

- (5) kare wa arui-te mise-e mukat-ta.
 PRONOUN TOPIC walk-TE shop-toward go-PAST
 'He went toward the shop, walking.'
 (PATH-oriented)
- (6) kare wa arui-te mise**-ni** mukat-ta.
 PRONOUN TOPIC walk-TE shop-to go-PAST
 'He went to the shop, walking.'
 (GOAL-oriented)

The particle **-e** in (5) represents directional or PATH-oriented ALLATIVE and the particle **-ni** in (6) represents GOAL-oriented ALLATIVE.

By contrast, the Thai language, I claim, has only one ALLATIVE preposition proper, namely **yan**. This preposition is derived from a verb meaning 'maintain,' 'sustain,' 'exist,' or 'bring about.' In modern Thai the lexical item **yan** expresses two grammatical concepts, namely CONTINUOUS aspect and ALLATIVE case. When it precedes a verb phrase, as in (7), it represents CONTINUOUS aspect, that is, to

Kiyoko Takahashi

continue doing or being. When it precedes a noun phrase, as in (8), it represents ALLATIVE case, that is, to or toward a goal.

- (7) kháw **yan** dəən rɔ̂ɔp ráan PRONOUN CONTINUOUS walk around shop 'He was walking around the shop.'
 (CONTINOUS aspect)
- (8) kháw dəən pay **yan** ráan PRONOUN walk go ALLATIVE shop 'He walked to the shop.'

 (ALLATIVE case)

This study focuses on the latter grammatical meaning of **yan**, namely ALLATIVE. The aim of this study is to attest to **yan**'s grammatical status as ALLATIVE preposition by examining actual tokens gathered from corpus data including published literary works, magazines and newspapers.

This paper is organized in the following way. In Section 2, I will make some remarks on the nature of **yaŋ** to which little attention has hitherto been given. In Section 3, I will point out some distinctive features lying between the ALLATIVE preposition proper **yaŋ** and ARRIVAL verbs in order to show their different nature and use. And Section 4 provides concluding remarks.

2. The nature of ALLATIVE preposition yan

Let us start with outlining the nature of the Thai ALLATIVE preposition yan.

2.1. Non-obligatory ALLATIVE marker

yan is not an obligatory ALLATIVE marker. It is observed that motion expressions with the ALLATIVE preposition yan abound in literary works, but the expressions are seldom used in everyday conversation. This is partly because without the overt ALLATIVE marker, a default ALLATIVE sense of Thai motion expressions could emerge from serialization of a PATH verb (e.g. pay 'go') and a GOAL noun or prepositional phrase, as illustrated in (9) and (10).

- (9) kháw dəən khûn pay [yôɔt khǎw]
 PRONOUN walk ascend go mountaintop
 [GOAL Noun Phrase]
 - 'He walked up to the mountaintop.'
- (10) kháw dəən khûn pay [bon yôɔt khǎw]
 PRONOUN walk ascend go on mountaintop
 [GOAL Prepositional Phrase]

'He walked up to the mountaintop.'

The allative preposition in Thai

2.2. Specific ALLATIVE marker

The ALLATIVE preposition **yan** indicates the endpoint of an 'axial motion' which is forward motion of an entity along an axial path, as exemplified in (8) above. The prepositional phrase beginning with **thun** can indicate the endpoint of an axial motion as well, as in (11).

(11) kháw dəən pay càak bâan **thủn** roon rian PRONOUN walk go from house to school 'He walked from his house to the school.'
(Axial motion)

The endpoint of a 'horizontal or vertical motion' which is the shift of the head of a line extending from a fixed point along a horizontal or vertical path, on the other hand, is marked by hǎa, as in (12), and caròt, còt or thun, as in (13).

- (12) kháw hắn nâa khâw **hǎa** dèk PRONOUN turn face enter to child 'He turned his face to the child.'
 (Horizontal motion)
- (13) moon kháw càak/ tân tèe hủa caròt/ còt/ thủn tháw look PRONOUN from head to foot '(She) looked at him from head to toe.'

 (Vertical motion)

At any rate, these lexical items (or ARRIVAL verbs) are not prepositions 'proper' but verbs that are capable of serving as prepositions in certain contexts. We shall return to this point in Section 3.4.

2.3. Fully grammaticalized ALLATIVE marker

The grammatical concept ALLATIVE expressed by **yan** is distinct from the verbal concept ARRIVAL expressed by a variety of ARRIVAL verbs (e.g. **thuňn** 'arrive,' **khâw** 'enter,' **sày** 'put in,' **pathá?** 'collide,' **yùt** 'halt,' **thâap** 'lay flat against,' **sùu** 'arrive and share/stay,' etc.). Consider a contrastive pair of examples in (14) and (15).

- (14) a. kháw dəən khûn pay **thǔn** yôɔt khǎw PRONOUN walk ascend go arrive mountaintop 'He walked up and arrived at the mountaintop.' (Complex event)
 - b. kháw dəən khûn pay (yaŋ) yôɔt khǎw PRONOUN walk ascend go (to) mountaintop 'He walked up to the mountaintop.' (Simplex event)

Kiyoko Takahashi

(15) a. maa yùt thii ráan come halt at shop '(He) came and stopped at the shop.' (Complex event)

b. maa (yaŋ) thii ráancome (to) at shop'(He) came to the location of the shop.'(Simplex event)

(14a) and (15a) include an ARRIVAL verb (thun 'arrive,' yut 'halt') while (14b) and (15b) do not. The former expressions have a complex event structure consisting of a motion and an arrival as a result, which I call 'ARRIVAL event' (cf. Takahashi, to appear), while the latter expressions have a simplex event structure consisting of a single motion to an endpoint. In this study the concept ARRIVAL is defined as an event of a moving entity's reaching an endpoint as a result of its prior motion along a path toward the endpoint. The concept ARRIVAL may involve the characteristic of a goal entity and/or the type of effect resulting from the arrival. Whereas the concept ALLATIVE is highly schematic and purely directional, the concept ARRIVAL is fairly rich in the content of event. In other words, the former is grammatical and semantically bleached; the latter is lexical and contentful.

3. ALLATIVE preposition yan vs. ARRIVAL verb sùu

To clarify the grammatical status of **yaŋ** as ALLATIVE preposition proper, in this study I will compare **yaŋ** with **sùu** as a representative of ARRIVAL verbs. The meaning of **sùu** is somewhat complex, namely 'arrive and share/stay,' as exemplified in (16).

(16) kháw kèp mankhút pay sùu phuân bâan PRONOUN gather mangosteen go arrive and share/stay neighbours 'He harvested mangosteens and went to share them with his neighbors.' (Tomita 1990: 1835)

In (17) **sùu** follows a series of locomotion verbs. In such a context, **sùu** is often considered as an ALLATIVE preposition.

(17) lên nii khâw pay sùu ?aaraam phrá?phútthacâw run flee enter go arrive and share/stay temple '(He) ran away and got to the temple and stayed in.' > '(He) ran away into the temple.'

Indeed, **sùu** can function as a preposition. However, as will be discussed later, it is the case with some marked contexts such as when being in combination with another particular preposition (e.g. <u>càak</u> kruŋthêep **sùu** manilaa 'from Bangkok to Manila') or when used in more abstract domains than the spatial domain (e.g. **sùu** ?aanaakhót 'into the future').

Based on my examination of corpus data including many tokens of **yan** and **sùu**, I argue that **yan** has undergone the process of grammaticalization much further than **sùu**.