<u>Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area</u>

Conjoined Structures with /əməchuŋ/ in Meiteiron

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0. /əməchuŋ/ 'and'[1] in Meiteiron conjoins constituents. It can join phrases, clauses, and sentences as well as single words. In this paper a short account of the various structures which can be joined by /əməchuŋ/ is given. Although /əməchuŋ/ conjoins structures in Meiteiron, there are other conjuncts which also join structures such as the complex conjunction /..-gə...-gə/ and /..-gə/.

1. Phonologically each occurrence of /əməchuŋ/ is attached to the immediately preceeding noun phrase and after each occurrence of /əməchuŋ/ it is possible to pause.

(1) cawbə əməchuŋ/ tombə cak cari
    Chaoba and   Tomba meal eat(continue)

1.1 All the constituents may have /əməchuŋ/ attached to them except the last member of a series.

(2a) cawbə əməchuŋ/ tombə əməchuŋ/ Ibeton əməchuŋ/ əy cak cari
     Chaoba and   Tomba and   Ibeton and   I meal eat

1.2 All the occurrences of /əməchuŋ/ can be optionally deleted except the last in the series. Thus, (2a) above can be transformed into:

(2b) cawbə tombə Ibeton əməchuŋ/ əy cak cari
     Chaoba Tomba Ibeton and   I meal eat

Here, (2a) and (2b) are grammatical variants of each other.

2. /əməchuŋ/ joins different NPs and different VPs:

(3a) tombənə kəppi cawbənə celli məninə nokyi əməchuŋ əynə lawri
     Tomba weeps Chaoba runs   Mani laughs and   I shout

(3b)[2] tomba kəppi cawbə celli məni nokyi əməchuŋ əy(nə) lawri
     Tomba weeps Chaoba runs Mani laughs and   I   shout

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[1]Meiteiron /əməchuŋ/ is only approximately the same in meaning as the English <u>and</u>.

[2]Since (3b) differs from (3a) morphologically, they do not constitute an ideal minimal pair, but (3b) shows some of the possible variation.

(3c) tombənə kəppi əməchuŋ cawbənə celli əməchuŋ məninə nokyi əməchuŋ
   Tomba   weeps   and   Chaoba   runs   and   Mani   laughs and

    əynə lawri
    I   shout

Here (3a) and (3b) are grammatical and are acceptable as meaningful
sentences in this language, and they can be treated as variants. Sentence
(3b) is meaningful but it is unacceptable to speakers of the languagə.
Here we may point out that in cases where the constituents are senteɪces
only the next to the last constituent in the series is followed by
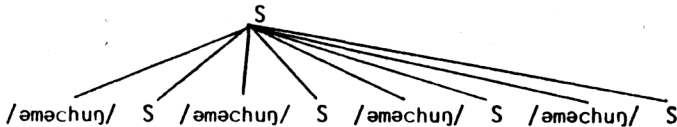/əməchuŋ/.

(4) cawbə celli əməchuŋ əy tummi
    Chaoba   runs   and   I sleep

In (4) above only two sentences are joined by /əməchuŋ/. (4) is
grammatical as well as meaningful and is acceptable to speakers of the
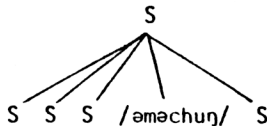language.

The structure /tombənə kəppi, cawbənə celli, nokyi əməchuŋ əynə lawri/
can be represented by the following tree:
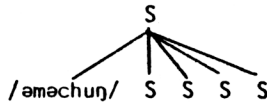
A transformation copies /əməchuŋ/ before each S, and we get:

A set of transformations then deletes all occurrences of /əməchuŋ/
except the last leaving the following tree:

The structure is (3a) which, as has already been pointed out, is
grammatical as well as meaningful and is acceptable to speakers of the
language.

3. Co-referentiality. In case there are only two sentences with coreferential NPs, we have

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                S
              / | \
            /   |   \
/əməchuŋ/   S   S
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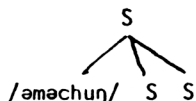
The conjunction transformation will place /əməchuŋ/ between the two sentences. [Note: This tree requires no additional transformations. The transformations mentioned above are sufficient to generate this structure.]

(5a) cawbənə kəppi əməchuŋ cawbənə celli
     Chaoba weeps   and   Chaoba   runs

Sentence (5b) shows the deletion of the repeated NP (Equi-NP deletion):

(5b) cawbənə kəppi əməchuŋ celli
     Chaoba weeps   and   runs

The pronoun /məhak/ could be used in place of the second NP but it is ambiguous in this case, because it could mean someone other than Chaoba.

(5c) cawbənə kəppi əməchuŋ məhaknə celli
     Chaoba weeps   and   he   runs

In (5c) above /məhaknə/ does not necessarily refer to /cawbə/, although it may. It could also refer to someone other than /cawbə/. Hence, deletion is the best alternative to avoid this sort of confusion.
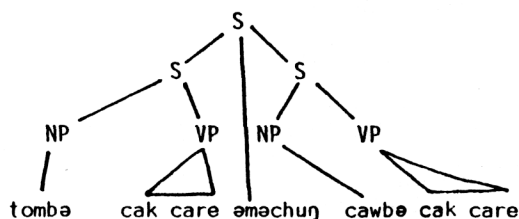
4. Gapping.

(6a) tombə əməchuŋ cawbə cak[3] care[4]
     Tomba   and Choaba meal eat/have/take

(6b) tombə cak care
     Tomba meal have(completive)

(6c) cawbə cak care
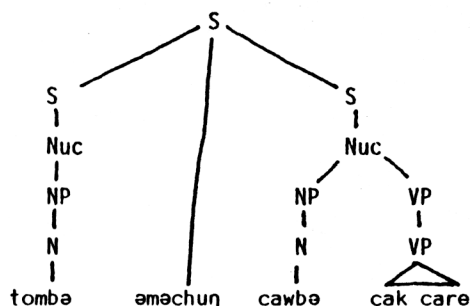   Chaoba meal have(completive)

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[3]/cak/ also means 'cooked rice'. Here the appropriate sense is 'a meal'.
[4]/cabə/ means 'eat'. Here /care/ is used to mean 'taking (a meal)' or 'having (a meal)'.

Tomba   meal taken and   Chaoba meal taken

Through a transformation, we get:

Tomba and   Chaoba   meal taken

(7a) ibemhəl əməchuŋ ibeton channəri
      Ibemhal and Ibeton play (continue)

(7b) ibemhəl channəri
      Ibemhal plays

(7c) ibeton channəri
      Ibeton plays

In mutual action the preferable form is /-gə/. In (7a) above the
meaning may be Ibemhal and Ibeton are playing separately or it can mean
they are playing different games. Thus the preferred construction
is:

(8a) ibemhəlgə ibetongə channəri
      Ibemhal with Ibeton with play

(8b) ibemhəl ibetongə channəri
      Ibemhal Ibeton with play