PECULIARITIES OF INSTRUMENTAL NOUNS IN THAI\textsuperscript{1}

Udom Warotamasikkhadit

This paper aims to show that a prepositional phrase signifying \textit{Instrumental Adverb} does not exist in deep structure as has been assumed by a number of transformational grammarians.\textsuperscript{2} I will argue that the instrumental prepositional phrase in Thai is transformationally derived from another source of basic structure, that is, from a sentence containing \textit{chây} ‘to use’.\textsuperscript{3} I fully realize that an instrumental noun does not play a significant role in the Thai language as it does in some Indo-European and American Indian languages, where instrumental forms are overtly signified. It is amazing how Thai speakers can sort out the instrumental nouns in surface structure from other patient nouns, as both superficially appear in the same position in a sentence, for example:

\begin{enumerate}
\item a. kh\text{ää}w \text{kin} t\text{ä}k\text{ì}ap
   he eat chopstick
   He eats with chopsticks.
   
b. kh\text{ää}w \text{kin} k\text{ü}ayt\text{ë}w
   he eat noodle
   He is eating noodles.
\item a. kh\text{ää}w kh\text{ï}an m\text{ï}+ s\text{ä}y
   he write hand left
   He writes with his left hand.
   
b. kh\text{ää}w kh\text{ï}an c\text{ö}tm\text{ä}y
   he write letter
   He is writing a letter.
\item a. kh\text{ää}w h\text{ù}ŋ th\text{à}an
   she cook charcoal
   She cooks with charcoal.
\end{enumerate}
b. khāw ḥūŋ khāaw
    she cook rice
    She is cooking rice.

(4) a. khāw yiŋ pi+nn
    he shoot gun
    He is shooting (by using a gun).

b. khāw yiŋ nōk
    he shoot bird
    He shot a bird.

(5) a. khāw yēp cāk
    he sew machine
    He sews.

b. khāw yēp sā
    she sew blouse
    She is sewing a blouse.

(6) a. khāw thaa lípsātīk
    she paint lipstick
    She puts on lipstick.

b. khāw thaa nāa
    she paint face
    She paints her face.

It is evident that (1a), (2a), (3a), (4a), (5a), and (6a) contain an instrumental noun while (1b), (2b), (3b), (4b), (5b), and (6b) contain a patient noun in the surface structure.

Deep Structure of Instrumental Nouns

Neither Fillmore (1968) nor Chafe (1970) distinguishes two kinds of instrumental nouns as is proposed in this paper. Fillmore (1968) considers an instrumental case as “the case of the inanimate force or object causally involved in the action or state identified by a verb.”

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Peculiarities of Instrumental Nouns

Chafe (1970) considers “an instrument being some object which plays a role in bringing a process about, but which is not the motivating force, the cause or the instigator. It is subsidiary to the agent—something which the agent uses.”

Let us consider the following sentences:

(7) a. khâw cháy tàkîap kin khâaw
    he use chopstick eat rice
    He uses chopsticks to eat rice.

b. khâaw kin khâaw dúay tàkîap
    he eat rice with chopstick
    He eats rice with chopsticks.

c. khâaw kin tàkîap
    he eat chopstick
    He eats with chopsticks.

(8) a. khâw cháy tháaw pàet pratuu
    he use foot open door
    He uses his foot to open the door.

b. khâw pàet pratuu dúay tháaw
    he open door with foot
    He opens the door with his foot.

c. khâw pàet tháaw®
    he open foot
    He uncovers his foot.

Note that (7a), (7b), and (7c) are related, but (8c) is not related to (8a) and (8b), and tháaw ‘foot’ is not an instrumental noun as tàkîap ‘chopstick’ is in (7c). There is parallelism between (7a) and (8a), (7b) and (8b), but not between (7c) and (8c). I propose that the sentence underlying (7a), (7b), and (7c) is different from the sentence underlying (8a) and (8b).
NP₁ must be animate and NP₂ must be inanimate. The noun following 蹰йте ‘to use’ will be an instrumental noun as follows:

\[(10) \quad x\ N P₁ \text{ 踟йте} \ N P₂ \text{ 踟йте} \ N P₃ \text{ 蹦} \rightarrow x\ N P₁ \text{ 踟yte} \ N P₂ \ N P₃ \text{ 蹦} \quad [+\text{inst1}]
\]
\[
\text{if } N P₁ = N P₃
\]

\[(11) \quad x\ N P₁ \text{ 踟yte} \ N P₂ \ N P₃ \text{ 蹦} \rightarrow x\ N P₁ \text{ 踟yte} \ N P₂ \ N P₃ \text{ 蹦} \quad [+\text{inst2}]
\]
\[
\text{if } N P₂ = N P₃
\]

The feature [+in instrumental 1] will be incorporated in NP₂ if NP₁ is the same as NP₃, and the feature [+in instrumental 2] if NP₂ is the same as NP₃.

Let us consider the deep structure of (7a).

\[(12) \quad \text{khâw 蹰yte} \text{ tàkiap khâw kin khâaw} \text{ he use chopstick he eat rice}
\]

By applying rule (10), tàkiap ‘chopstick’ in (12) will be assigned [+in instrumental 1] because NP₁, the one who uses chopsticks, and NP₃, the one who eats rice, are the same person.

Let us also consider the deep structure of (8a).