

VERB STEM ALTERNATION IN DAAI CHIN

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0. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to show the phonological patterns of verb stem alternation in *Daai Chin*, and to describe the syntactic conditions that lead to the manifestations of the alternating verb stems. I would like to regard this paper as only a preliminary account of verb stem alternation in *Daai*.

I assume the phonological patterns of stem alternation to be rather complete, though an accurate tonal analysis cannot be given at this point.¹ This paper shows the most frequent occurrences of the two alternating verb stems, but no claim is made that this is an exhaustive account or analysis of the topic.

Though verb stem alternation is considered by some to be one of the principal distinguishing features of Chin languages, and most verbs of Central and Northern Chin languages seem to have two alternating stem forms, in *Daai Chin* verb stem alternation is not really a frequently occurring phenomenon. So far 1115 verbs have been investigated. For 927 verbs, stem alternation cannot be established. Only 189 verbs show alternating stems, which is about 17% of all the *Daai* verbs recorded to date.

¹ In the *Daai* orthography tone is not marked. There was once an attempt to mark tone; it has since been abandoned, as tone differs from village to village. For this paper texts have been consulted that were transcribed when tone marking was used, and I have worked with two informants to restore the old tone marking. Therefore in this paper high tone is marked with a colon following the vowel, and mid-level tone is unmarked. But *Daai Chin* has more than one high tone. There are at least high falling and high tense (creaky) tones to be distinguished. High falling tone occurs most frequently in closed syllables with long vowel, high tense tone with open syllables or closed syllable with short vowels. But there are cases when high tense tone and high falling tone do not occur in complementary distribution. The orthography used in this paper does not show this differentiation. Also, apart from mid level tone (unmarked) and the two high tones, there is a low falling tone unmarked in the orthography and in this paper.

I. VERB CLASSES

Previously I had attempted to categorize the Daai Chin verbs into three classes:² Class I, showing no stem alternation; Class II and Class III showing alternating forms of the stem, that I call stem A and stem B. In verb Class II the base form is realized in stem A, in Class III the base form is realized in stem B. In order to give a clearer picture of the different morphophonological changes taking place in the verb classes, I have now recategorized the Daai verbs into four classes; that is, I have broken up the former Class III into Class III and Class IV.

1.1. Verb classes and transitivity

In the northern Central Chin language Lai (Lehman 1996: 46), the selection of stem I or stem II (equivalent to my stem A and stem B) seems to depend on the transitivity of the verb. Intransitive verbs use stem I for everything except gerundives and nominalizations. For transitive verbs only negatives take stem II. Daai does not show this same distinction, though in some verb classes more transitive verbs can be found than in others.

1.2. Verb Class I

Of the 1116 verbs investigated, 927 verbs belong to Class I and do not have alternating verb stems. Intransitive verbs (including descriptive verbs or adjectives) and transitive verbs can be found in nearly equal number. As shown in Table 1, all types of syllabic patterns are represented.

<i>gloss</i>		<i>transitivity</i>
<i>glad</i>	je	intrans
<i>roll together</i>	kkhyo:	trans
<i>lie</i>	hleei:	intrans
<i>stick to</i>	koop	intrans
<i>close</i>	bit	trans
<i>grind</i>	kkye:t	trans
<i>broken</i>	ak	intrans
<i>pluck</i>	khyan	trans
<i>suppress</i>	nam	trans
<i>sober</i>	ngthiim	intrans
<i>overcome</i>	nääng	trans

Table 1. Examples of Verb Class I

² See Hartmann 2000.

1.3. Verb Class II

53 verbs belong to Class II. For verbs of Class II, stem A gives the base form and phonologically more 'complete' form of the verb. It may consist of an open syllable or a syllable closed with a stop (labial, alveolar, velar or glottal). The nucleus can consist of either a long or a short vowel; the syllable can carry mid-level or high tone. Stem B has always dropped the coda and has a very short vowel as nucleus. Stem B verbs tend to behave like bound morphemes and become phonologically linked to the following particle of the verb phrase or clause. But in a sentence-final negative clause, stem B can occur as the final word of a sentence, though this is rather rare.

<i>gloss</i>	<i>stem A</i>	<i>stem B</i>	<i>transitivity</i>
<i>hold</i>	bi	bi-	trans
<i>live</i>	ve	ve-	intrans
<i>arrive</i>	pha	pha-	intrans
<i>see</i>	hmuh	hmu-	trans
<i>die</i>	thih	thi-	intrans
<i>fall over</i>	kyuk	kyu-	intrans
<i>hunt</i>	hoot	ho-	trans
<i>cut</i>	khyeet	khye-	trans
<i>insult</i>	bee:t	be-	trans
<i>fall</i>	kyaa:k	kya-	intrans
<i>drink</i>	oo:k	o-	trans

Table 2. Phonological Patterns of Stem Alternation for Verb Class II

1.4. Verb Class III

This class consists of 80 verbs. In Class III, stem B shows the base form and may consist of a variety of syllabic patterns: open syllables, glides, or any of the four stops as coda. The nucleus can be a long or short vowel; the syllable usually carries usually high tone, but occasionally mid-level tone. Stem A always has a final glottal stop and shows vowel shortening. '[I]-glides' are usually retained, with shortening of the preceding vowel. '[U]-glides', only occurring when preceded by o, are lost. High tone changes to the tone occurring with glottal stop, which is higher than mid-level tone.

<i>gloss</i>	<i>stem A</i>	<i>stem B</i>	<i>transitivity</i>
<i>touch</i>	hneh	hne:	trans
<i>take</i>	loh	lou:	trans
<i>get up</i>	thoh	thou:	intrans
<i>raise up</i>	mthoh	mthou:	trans
<i>buy</i>	kkhyäih	kkhyäi	trans
<i>think</i>	ngngaih	ngngaai	intrans
<i>weep</i>	mboih	mbooi:	intrans
<i>sleep</i>	ih	ip	intrans
<i>go</i>	seh	sit	intrans
<i>carry</i>	kkoh	kkot	trans
<i>shoot</i>	kah	kaa:p	trans
<i>harvest</i>	ah	aat	trans
<i>cut down</i>	shah	shaa:t	trans
<i>instruct</i>	msuh	msuu:k	trans

Table 3. *Phonological Patterns of Stem Alternation for Verb Class III*

1.5. *Verb Class IV*

This verb class comprises three subgroups with very similar patterns of alternation, and consists of altogether 56 verbs, where stem B appears to be the base form. In subgroup (a) the coda of stem A is always realized as the alveolar nasal, and the coda of stem B as the velar nasal. Long vowels are retained in both stems; stem B may have high tone, stem A never has high tone. In subgroup (b) labial, alveolar and velar nasals can occur as coda in stem A and stem B, both stems can have long or short vowels, and stem B always has high tone. In subgroup (c) stem A and stem B contain ‘[I]-glides’, with so far only one exception, a ‘[U]-glide’. Vowel length and vowel quality are the same for stem A and stem B, but stem B always has high tone.

<i>gloss</i>	<i>stem A</i>	<i>stem B</i>	<i>transitivity</i>
Subgroup (a)			
<i>run</i>	don	do:ng	intrans
<i>hold firm</i>	ksün	ksü:ng	trans
<i>put upright</i>	mtun	mtung	trans
<i>leave</i>	joon	joong	intrans
<i>put into</i>	mtaan	mtaa:ng	trans
Subgroup (b)			
<i>speak</i>	pyen	pye:n	trans
<i>low</i>	neem	nee:m	intrans
<i>transgress</i>	kkaan	kkaa:n	trans
<i>heap up</i>	kkuung	kkuu:ng	trans
Subgroup (c)			
<i>appear</i>	pou	pou:	intrans
<i>stitch/sew</i>	khyüi	khyüi:	trans
<i>work</i>	khüüi	khüüi:	intrans
<i>dried up</i>	käai	käai:	intrans
<i>waste sthg</i>	phyooi	phyooi:	trans

Table 4. Phonological Patterns of Stem Alternation for Verb Class IV

2. SYNTACTIC CONDITIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF VERB STEM A

To provide a graphic picture of how verb stem alternation is working in the context of the clause and the sentence, a Daai Chin text, the folktale *The pig's work is the dog's profit* has been chosen, and all verbs showing alternating forms (Class II to Class IV) have been charted. The first chart, Table 5, shows the occurrence of stem A forms in finite clauses. The second chart, Table 6, shows the occurrence of stem A in non-finite clauses.

2.1. Results of charting a natural text

In **Table 5**, we see that in a finite clause, stem A always occurs after subject agreement and can be followed by one or more auxiliary verbs. It is never followed by the tense markers *kti* (non-future) or *kkhai* (future).

Table 6 shows the occurrence of stem A in the non-finite clause. Again we see that stem A is nearly always preceded by subject agreement. These non-finite clauses are all subordinate, and linked to the following clauses by conjunctions referring back to the verb (action, condition) presented by stem A.

<i>ref.N</i>	<i>CONJ</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>IO</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>NEG</i>	<i>OU</i>	<i>S.AGR</i>	<i>O.AGR</i>	<i>v-stem + stem</i>	<i>APPL</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>EVID</i>	<i>EMP</i>
004	lū						x	x	ve	pūi			mioh	
005	lū		x				x	x	phvoh		vaai	shak		
007	lū						x	x	tiuh					
029	o						x	x	ngnhge-naa:k					
036	lū						x		kkoh		lo	tuhan	x	
039							xx		phvoh					
042		x		x			x		phvoh					
045		x		x			x		kkoh		lo	kvo		
046	lū	x					x		kkoh		lo		ni	
049	üng			x		x	x		hmuh					
050				x		x			ti				x	

Table 5. Stem A in the finite clause (Dog text)

<i>ref.N</i>	<i>CONJ</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>NEG</i>	<i>S.AGR</i>	<i>v-stem + stem</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>CONJ</i>
008					x	pha					jata
010		x	x		x	phyoh					k'um üng
011		x				leh		lo			üng
015			x		x	biuh					
016		x			x	khiüi-khoom	naa:k				
023		x				seh		hü			k'um üng
028				am	x	phyoh					ta
032		x			x	pha		be			üng
033					x	lo		be			üng
033	üng		x		x	kkoh		lo			val
036					x	pha		lo			üng ta
037					x	pha		be			jata
047		x	x		x	ksa:ng-naa:k					val

Table 6. Stem A in the non-finite clause (Dog text)

Clausal conjunctions requiring stem A:	<i>ta</i>	‘if’
	<i>jata</i>	‘as soon as’
	<i>üng</i>	‘when’
	<i>üng ta</i>	‘when/after’
	<i>k’um üng</i>	‘while/during’
	<i>vai</i>	‘in order/so that’
	<i>phäh</i>	‘because’

The study of other texts further supplemented by elicited data seems to give the following conditions for selection of stem A:

Stem A occurs:

- (a) following subject agreement
- (b) preceding the particle *vai* that marks exhortative and suggestive clauses and frustrated purpose
- (c) in non-finite clauses with the above listed conjunctions
- (d) nominalizations

Examples: The examples below show stem A of the verb *phyoh/phyou*: ‘weed’ – a very important work process in mountain rice cultivation. Examples marked with (T) are taken from the folktale *The pig’s work is the dog’s profit*.

- (1T) *Lou: phi kah pät noh ni kah phyoh*
 Mountain field also AGR:1S ANAP ERG only AGR:1S weed-A
 ‘The mountain field I also weeded by myself.’
- (2) *Ling So noh lou: ah phyoh vai shü*
 Ling So ERG mountain field AGR: 1S weed-A PURP IRREAL
 ‘Ling So should have weeded the mountain field (but did not do it).’
- (3) *Lou: nih phyoh vai -a*
 Mountain field AGR:1INC.DU/PL weed-A EXH IMP
 ‘Let us weed the field!’
- (4) *Ling So noh lou: käh ah phyoh vai shü*
 Ling So ERG mountain field NEG AGR:3P weed-A PURP IRREAL
 ‘Ling So should not have weeded the field (but he did it).’
- (5T) *Vok noh lou: ah phyoh k’um üng ui:*
 pig ERG field AGR:3P weed-A while dog
ta ip ei kti
 FOC sleep-B INT TNS
 ‘While the pig weeded the field the dog slept.’
- (6) *Ling So noh lou:- phyoh am yü-na*
 Ling So ERG weeding NEG like-B
 ‘Ling So does not like weeding.’

3. SYNTACTIC CONDITIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF VERB STEM B

<i>ref.N</i>	<i>CONJ</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>NEG</i>	<i>O.AGR</i>	<i>v-stem + stem</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>CONJ</i>
005		x	x		x	msuu:k-mtheh				lü
007				käh		ve-	ei			lü
007	lü			käh		nglü:ng-yaih				lü
030		x	x	käh		pye:n	ei	be	khoh	lü
032	üng		x			ngngaai-ngngaai				lü
034		x	x			kkot				lü
036	üng ta	x	x			suui-msaaü	in	ma		lü
036	lü		x			hut				lü
046		x			x	suui				lü
046	lü				x	hut				lü

Table 7. Stem B in the non-finite clause (Dog text)

3.1. Result of charting stem B

Table 7 shows stem B in the non-final clause and makes it obvious that stem B always occurs before the conjunction *lü* and never with any of the other conjunctions listed under 2.1. *Lü* is a non-specific clause-chaining conjunction, occurring frequently in complex sentences, and can string together several clauses, frequently consisting just of a single verb or verb phrase.

In **Table 8** we see that stem B is realized in the finite clause when followed by the tense markers *kü* (non-future) or *kkhai* (future), and that several auxiliary verbs can be inserted between the main verb and the tense marker. Stem B also occurs in imperative clauses, in question clauses and in negative clauses. Subject agreement may occur before stem B, but is not frequent.

Ref.N	CONJ	S	O	NEG	S. AG	O. AG	v-stem + stem	AUX	AUX	EVID	TNS	NUM	IMP	QU	EMP
001		x					khüüi:-khoom			mjoh	kti	e:			
002		x					ve-			x	kti	xooi:			
006	lū						khüüi:					ni-	bä		
008	lū						phyou:				kti				
009	lū		x	am			phyou:			x					
010	üng	x					ip	ei			kti				
012		x					lo-				kkhai			mä	
014	kkhaia	x					sit			x	kti				
020			x	x	x		ei	hlü			kti				ni
024			x		x		ei	hlü			kti			ja	
025			x				phyou:		vaai				-a		
026	lū						phyou:						bä		
027			x	x	x		bük		lo-		kkhai				ni
034	lū						lo-		be		kti				
037		x	x			x	kkot		lo-		kti				ni

Table 8. Stem B in the finite clause (Dog text)

3.2. Summary

Stem B occurs:

- (a) before tense markers *kti* (non-future) and *kkhai* (future)
- (b) in imperative clauses
- (c) in permissive clauses
- (d) in negative clauses
- (e) in interrogative clauses
- (f) in non-finite clauses before the conjunction *lū*

EXAMPLES:

- (8 T) *Vok ta kho-mü veia lou: mtu:n-ei lū phyou: kti*
 Pig FOC evening until mountain field strive-hard CONJ weed-B TNS
 'As for the pig, it strove hard and weeded the field till evening.'
- (9) *Ling So noh lou: phyou: kkhai*
 Ling So ERG mountain field weed-B TNS
 'Ling So will weed the field.'
- (10T) *Lou: hin phyou: vaai -a*
 Mountain field this weed-B DIR-go IMP
 'Go weed this field.'
- (11T) *Mtu:n-ei lū phyou: bä*
 Strive-hard CONJ weed-B POL.IMP
 'Strive hard and weed!'
- (12) *Lou: phyou: she*
 Field weed-B let
 'Let (him) weed the field!'
- (13) *Lou: käh phyou: -a*
 Field NEG weed-B IMP
 'Don't weed the field!'
- (14) *Ling So noh lou: phyou: kkhai am ni*
 Ling So ERG field weed-B TNS NEG EMP
 'Ling So will not weed the field.'
- (15) *Ling So noh lou: phyou: kti mä*
 Ling So ERG field weed-B TNS QUEST
 'Does/did Ling So weed the field?'
- (16) *Ling So noh lou: phyou: kkhai mä*
 Ling So ERG field weed-B TNS QUEST
 'Will Ling So weed the field?'
- (17) *Ling So noh lou: am phyou: lū ip kti*
 Ling So ERG field NEG weed-B CONJ sleep-B TNS
 'Ling So did not weed the field and slept.'

4. APPLICATIVES

The pattern of distribution for stem A and stem B described above seemed quite reliable till I came across sentences like example (18), in the folktale *The two flutes*. Example (18T) shows stem A in a syntactic environment where stem B would have been expected, i.e. in a non-final clause before the conjunction *lǜ*.

- (18 T) *Nghnu:mi sa: -a thoon ni- lǜ kshu:m shuk*
 woman young GR become DU CONJ paddy **pound-A**

‘(They) became young women and pounded the rice (for him)

pee:t ni- lǜ mü su buh khüün pee:t
 APPL-BEN DU CONJ evening DEM rice cook APPL-BEN
 and cooked the evening meal and

ni- lǜ tui: laa:k pee:t ni- lǜ
 DU CONJ water **fetch-A** APPL-BEN DU CONJ
 fetched the water (for him) and

ana- khüüi: khüüi: mjoh kti xooi:
 DIR-in_advance work-B work-B EVID TNS DU
 worked in advance.’

A few sentences further on in the story we again find stem B as expected.

- (19 T) *Mat noh kshu:m shu- lo- lǜ mat*
 One ERG paddy **pound-B** AUX-come CONJ one

‘One pounded the rice and one

noh tui: la- lo- lǜ
 ERG water **fetch-B** AUX-come CONJ
 fetched the water and

mek-mek -a khüüi: lo- mjoh kti xooi:
 diligently GR work AUX-come EVID TNS DU
 (they) worked diligently.’

Note that in (18 T) verb stem A is used and the verb is followed by the benefactive applicative ‘*pee:t*’ ‘**V_{on} behalf**’.

Applicatives are operators - in the case of Daai Chin, verb phrase particles - that mark the verb for the semantic role of a direct object.³ A peripheral participant is made into a direct object. Transitive verbs that already have one

³ For a discussion of applicatives in Lai Chin, see Peterson 1998:96ff. [Ed.]

direct object are changed to ditransitive verbs and the result is a three-argument construction.

- (a) *Benefactive applicative*: V+**pee:t** ‘V-on-behalf’; main verb *pee:t* ‘give’

The agent does something for or on behalf of somebody, who is made into a direct object, and we find object agreement.

- (b) *Causative applicative*: V+**shak** ‘cause-to-V’; no longer occurs as main verb

The agent causes somebody else to act. The undergoer, who is caused to act, is marked as indirect object with the postposition *üng*, and is to be regarded as second object.

- c.) *Comitative applicative*: V+**püi** ‘V-together-with’; noun *püi* ‘friend’

The agent acts together with somebody else. The person with whom the agent acts is made direct object, and is referred to by object agreement.

- d.) *Relinquitive applicative*: V+**taa:k** ‘V-leaving-smb-behind’; main verb *taa:k* ‘put, keep’

The agent acts (mostly contrary to expectation) without anyone else, or leaves someone behind while acting. Note that *taa:k* shows verb-stem alternation even when occurring as applicative (see examples 29. and 33.)

4.1. Examples from narrative texts

- (20 T) *Nah-nih ei k'hleei nah taa:k pee:t ni- bä*
 AGR:2DU/PL eat left-over O.AGR:1S **keep-A** **APPL-BEN** DU POL.IMP
 ‘Keep for me what you leave over from eating, will you.’

- (21 T) *Ah kkhyu sun noh khya-xang uum sun üng*
 POSS:3S wife DEM ERG brass vessel DEM from

oo:k lo shak lü
drink-A AUX-come **APPL-CAUS** CONJ
 ‘His wife caused (him) to drink from a brass cup and...’

In the collection of texts consulted for this paper, V+**taa:k** could not be found in the syntactic environment for stem-B.

- (22 T) *Kpami sa noh vah jah voo:k*
 man young ERG new-field O.AGR:3DU/PL **cut-A**

vaai püi mjoh kti.
 DIR-go **APPL-COM** EVID TNS

‘The young man went to cut down (the wood for) the new field together with them.’

Note that the benefactive argument is especially likely to trigger the selection of stem-A. The following examples show that a verb expressing an action done for somebody else seems to require stem-A even if not followed by the benefactive applicative *'pee:t'*.

Example (23 T) is a variation of (20 T), taken from the same narrative:

- (23 T) *Nah-nih ei k'hleei nah taa:k kom ni- kti*
 AGR:2DU/PL eat left-over O.AGR:1S **keep-A** surely DU TNS
 'You surely keep for me what you have left over from eating.'

- (24 T) *Pakshe Nääng noh ju jah buih lü*
 Old-man Nääng ERG rice wine O.AGR:3DU/PL **pour-A** CONJ
 'The elder Nääng, poured out ricewine for them and....'

- (25 T) *Ah be-be noh ah na-na üng*
 POSS:3S older-brother ERG POSS:3S younger-brother POSTPOS

aai nghlúi boo:k yoh lü
 chicken male white **kill-A** CONJ
 'The elder brother killed a white rooster for the younger brother and...'

4.2. Elicited data

4.2.1. Declarative clause

- (26) *Ling So noh lou: nah phyoh pee:t kti*
 Ling So ERG field O.AGR:1S **weed-A** **APPL-BEN** TNS
 'Ling So weeds the field for me.'
- (27) *Ling So üng lou: kah phyoh shak kti*
 Ling So POSTPOS field S.AGR:1S **weed-A** **APPL-CAUS** TNS
 'I cause Ling So to weed the field.'
- (28) *Ling So noh lou: nah phyoh püi kti*
 Ling So ERG field O.AGR:1S **weed-A** **APPL-COM** TNS
 'Ling So weeds the field with me.'
- (29) *Ling So noh lou: nah phyoh ta- kti*
 Ling So ERG field O.AGR:1S **weed-A** **APPL-RELIN** TNS
 'Ling So weeds the field leaving me behind.' (This could mean 'He finished weeding the field without waiting for me,' or 'He started without waiting for me.')

4.2.2. Imperative clause

- (30) Lou: *phyoh* *pee:t* -a
Field **weed-A** **APPL-BEN** IMP
'Weed the field for me!' (or for somebody else)
- (31) Ling So *üng* *lou:* *phyoh* *shak* -a
Ling So POSTPOS field **weed-A** **APPL-CAUS** IMP
'Cause Ling So to weed the field.'
- (32) Lou: *phyoh* *püi* -a
Field **weed-A** **APPL-CAUS** IMP
'Weed the field together!' (with me or somebody else)
- (33) Lou: *phyoh* *ta-* -a
Field **weed-A** **APPL-RELIN** IMP
'Weed the field leaving me behind', i.e. 'Weed the field without waiting for me.'

4.2.3. Negative clause

- (34) Ling So *lou:* *am* *phyoh* *pee:t*
Ling So field NEG **weed-A** **APPL-BEN**
'Ling So does not weed the field (for me or anyone else).'
- (35) Ling So *üng* *lou:* *am* *phyoh* *shak* *ngü.*
Ling So POSTPOS field NEG **weed-A** **APPL-CAUS** 1PM
'I don't cause Ling So to weed the field.'
- (36) Ling So *noh* *lou:* *am* *phyoh* *püi.*
Ling So ERG field NEG **weed-A** **APPL-COM**
'Ling So does not weed the field together (with me or anyone else).'
- (37) Ling So *noh* *lou:* *am* *phyoh* *ta.*
Ling So ERG field NEG **weed-A** **APPL-RELIN**
'Ling So does not weed the field without waiting for me.'

The same pattern works for most of the syntactic conditions listed in 3.1 above: negative imperative, question and negative question.

This works also for intransitive clauses with action verbs like '*don/do:ng*' 'run' or '*seh/sit*' 'go' and these four applicatives change intransitive verbs into transitives.

5. RELATIVIZATION AND NOMINALIZATION

5.1. *Relativization of the agent requires stem B*

- (38) *Lou:* *phyou:* *kti* *lo-* *kti*
 Field weed-B REL come-B TNS

‘The one who weeds/has weeded the field comes.’

- (39) *Lou:* *phyou:* *kkhai* *Ling So* *kah* *hlü-ei* *kti*.
 Field weed-B REL Ling So AGR:1S want TNS

‘I want the Ling So who will weed the field.’

5.2. *Relativization of place of the action and quality of the action requires stem A*

- (40) *Lou:* *kah* *phyoh* *naa:k* *lou:-ma* *thuu:k* *kti*
 Field AGR:1S weed-A NOM-LOC field-plot far-away TNS

‘The field that I weeded is far away.’

- (41) *Ling So* *-a* *lou:* *phyoh* *am* *do*
 Ling So POSS field weed-A NEG good

‘Ling So’s weeding is not good’—or: ‘the weeding Ling So did is not good.’

Examples (40) and (41) show that relativization of the place of action and of the action itself lead to nominalization.

ABBREVIATIONS

1PM	first person marker	IMP	imperative
1S	first person singular	INC	inclusive
3S	third person singular	INT	intentionally
ANAP	anaphor	IO	indirect object
AGR	agreement	IRREAL	irrealis
APPL	applicative	LOC-NOM	locative nominalization
AUX	auxiliary	NEG	negative
BEN	benefactive	O	(direct) object
CAUS	causative	O.AGR	object agreement
COM	comitative	P	person
CONJ	conjunction	PL	plural
DEM	demonstrative	POL.IMP	polite imperative
DIR	directional	POSS	possessive
DU/PL	dual/plural	POSTPOS	postposition
DU	dual marker	PURP	purpose
EMP	emphasis	QU, QUES	question
ERG	ergative	REF.N	reference number
EVID	evidential	REL	relativizing marker
EX	exclusive	RELIN	relinquitive
EXH	exhortative	S	singular; subject
FOC	focus marker	S.AGR	subject agreement
FUT	future	S.FIN	sentence final particle
GR	general relator	TNS	tense

KEY TO ORTHOGRAPHY

ph, th, kh, sh	aspirates [p ^h , t ^h , k ^h , s ^h]
syllable final h	glottal stop [ʔ]
hm, hn, hng	voiceless nasals
hl	voiceless lateral fricative [ɬ]
x	voiceless velar fricative [χ]
y	voiced velar fricative [ɣ]
v, j	voiced approximants [β, j]
kC	preglottalized [ʔ] consonant
k'V	preglottalized [ʔ] vowel
mC, nC, ngC	prenasalized [m, n, ŋ] consonant
m'V, n'V, ng'V	prenasalized [m, n, ŋ] vowel
Cy	velarised [C ^y]
i, ü, u	high vowels [i, u, u]
e, ä, o	mid vowels [ɛ, ə, ɔ]
a	low central vowel [a ~ ɑ]

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