

## The Pragmatical Use of /yùu/

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Thai language has rules that the language teacher for foreigners should emphasize. He should introduce them to the basic structures of the sentences in order to remember and to know how to use.

This paper will demonstrate that knowing only the meanings of a word does not always help the learner to understand or to use words. Therefore we must know how to use words in contexts too. First of all the word to be learned must be inserted in the basic sentence structures. From this exercise we can see the different uses of the word. After knowing the basic structures the teacher should show rules and methods for expanding the basic structures, ways to negate the sentences and so on.

The given basic structures should be similar to the structures of the learners' language because the similarity will help them to remember the structures.

Now I will demonstrate how to explain the use of /yùu/<sup>1</sup>. The word /yùu/ can function alternately as a) a verb b) auxiliary verb or c) adverb of manner.

(Remark: /yùu/ in idioms will be not treated in this paper.)

A. We will begin with the verb form because /yùu/ is used very often as verb. The basic structure that is most similar to an English structure is as follows:

/yùu/ + /prep./ + /noun/

e.g. (khǎw) yùu nay bân

(He) is in the house.

In every language, pronouns can be used in the place of nouns. We will demonstrate this rule in the Thai language to show that it is possible:

/yùu/ + /prep./ + /pron./

e.g. (nǎnsǔu) yùu kàb thəə  
(The book) is with her.

We can see that /prep./ + /noun/ can tell us about location. In Thai we can eliminate /prep./ and still retain the indicate location in the sentence, for example:

/yùu/ + /noun/

e.g. (khǎw) yùu sǔan  
(He) is in the garden.

There is another way to tell the place:

/yùu/ + /adv./

e.g. (khǎw) yùu khâaŋ bon  
(He) is upstairs.

We will talk about this structure later. Now we come back to the above example in which /prep./ is eliminated but we still have the location in the sentence. If we change /noun/ to /pron./ as we usually can do, the locative meaning will disappear. The new meaning has to do with the power or the influence of the /pron./ on the subject of the sentence. This change of meaning is for us a sign of the idiomatic use of /yùu/ which is not a concern of this paper. Nevertheless two examples are given for the sake of understanding:

/yùu/ + /pron./

e.g. (man) yùu theə  
She has (it).

Most commonly this structure will have the particle /là/ after the pronoun. This particle helps us to emphasize the meaning:

/yùu/ + /pron./ + /là/

e.g. (man) yùu chán là  
I have got(it).

So much for the structure of idiom.

It is possible to expand the basic structures with /kamləŋ/ or /yaŋ/ by putting it in front of /yùu/:

/kamləŋ/ + /yùu/ + /prep./ + /noun/

e.g. (khǎw) kamləŋ yùu náy sǔan  
(He) is now in the garden.

/yaŋ/ + /yùu/ + /adv./

e.g. (khǎw) yaŋ yùu khâaŋ bon  
(He) is still upstairs.

It is also possible to negate all of the basic structures by putting /mây/ <sup>2</sup> in front of /yùu/ as follows:

/mây/ + /yùu/ + /noun/

e.g. (khǎw) mây yùu sǔan  
(He) isn't in the garden.

/mây/ + /yùu/ + /adv./

e.g. (khăw) mây yùu khâaŋ bon  
(He) isn't upstairs.

If one wants to use /kamlaŋ/ or /yaŋ/ with /mây/ in the same sentence one can use the following basic structure:

/kamlaŋ/ + /mây/ + /yùu/ + /noun/

e.g. (khăw) kamlaŋ mây yùu sũan  
(He) isn't in the garden now. (It's our best chance to steal his mangoes.)

/yaŋ/ + /mây/ + /yùu/ + /adv./

e.g. (phǒm) yaŋ mây yùu khâaŋ bon  
(I) am not upstairs at the moment. (Don't phone me now.)

Now we go back to the basic structure /yùu/ + /adv./. By now we have learned that this structure gives us information regarding place. But /adv./ can give information about time or manner too. Let us examine this structure. It is a little bit different from English or German:

/yùu/ + /adv. of time/

e.g.	(khăw) yùu	wan níi, phrũn níi,
		waan níi,
		naan, dǎaw diaw
	(He) is, will be, was present	today, tomorrow,
		yesterday,
		for a long time,
		for a short time

/yùu/ + /adv. of manner/

e.g. (khǎw) yùu sabaay, dii  
(He) lives comfortably, well.

(Remark: We can begin a sentence with /adv. of time/ but not with /adv. of manner/, for example:

wan níi (khǎw) yùu = Today (he) is present.

(wrong) sabaay (khǎw) yùu = Comfortably (he) lives.)

If we want to negate these sentences we have to beware of the following things:

1. In the sentence with /adv. of time/ one has to negate /yùu/ by putting /mây/ in front of /yùu/:

e.g. khǎw mây yùu wan níi  
He isn't present today.

2. In the sentence with /adv. of manner/ one has to negate /adv./ by putting /mây/ in front of /adv./:

e.g. khǎw yùu mây sabaay  
He lives uncomfortably.

The following things in the group of /adv. of time/ are very interesting:

1. If /adv./ concerns hours, days, months or years we have to negate /yuu/:

e.g. khǎw mây yùu 5 pii (khǎw yùu khêê 2 pii)  
He will not stay 5 years. (He will stay only  
2 years.)

2. If /adv./ concerns the length of a stay we can negate /yùu/ or /adv./ as we like. But /dǎaw diaw/ is an exception. In this case, we have to negate /yùu/:

e.g. khăw mây yùu naan

or khăw yùu mây naan (yùu khê 5 naatii)

He does not stay very long. ( He stays only 5 minutes)

e.g. khăw mây yùu dǎaw diaw (khamooy khăw baan)

He was absent for a short time. (His house was broken into.)

To expand the sentence with /kamlan/ or /yan/ we must be careful of the following things: If the sentence has /adv. of time/ we can not expand the sentence with /kamlan/. /yan/ can be used in sentences of both /adv. of time/ and /adv. of manner/:

e.g. khăw yan yùu phrûnníi

He is still there tomorrow.

e.g. khăw yan yùu sabaay

He still lives comfortably.

(Remark: If we put /adv. of place/ into the sentence with /adv. of time/ we can also use /kamlan/ to expand such a sentence, for example:

khăw kamlan yùu thǎi krunthêep tɔɔn níi

He is now in Bangkok.)

We are going to the next basic structure:

/yùu/ + /verb/

e.g. (khăw) yùu rian, fùk, sɔɔn

(He) stays in order to learn, to practice, to teach.

Actually this structure comes from 2 sentences, namely:

(khăw) yùu

(He) stays.

(khăw) rian

(He) learns.

Because the subjects of the two sentences are the same we can delete the last one:

(khăw) yùu rian

The last verb can tell us the reason for staying. Foreign students will no longer be confused if we put the place and object into the sentence to tell where the subject stays and what he does, as in the following example:

$$/yùu/ + /prep./ + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{noun} \\ \hline \text{pron.} \\ \hline \end{array} + /verb/ + /noun/$$

(khăw) yùu kàb yaay tham kàb khâaw

(He) stays with grandmother in order to cook food.

Again we can eliminate /prep./. But it is better to change  $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{noun} \\ \hline \text{pron.} \\ \hline \end{array}$  to /place's name/ as follows:

$$/yùu/ + /place's name/ + /verb/ + /noun/$$

e.g. (khăw) yùu Chiangmây rian khom phíw tâa

(He) stays in Chiangmai in order to learn computer.

These two structures can be changed by moving the phrase /yùu/+ /prep./ +  $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{noun} \\ \hline \text{pron.} \\ \hline \end{array}$  or /yùu/+ /place's name/ to the end of

the sentence. The meaning is still the same:

e.g. khăw tham kàb khâaw yùu kàb yaay

khăw rian khom phíw tâa yùu Chiangmây

We can rewrite the phrase another way too. I mean we can move just only /prep./ + 

noun
pron.

 to the end of the sentence and the meaning is still the same:

/yùu/ + /verb/ + /noun/ + /prep./ + 

noun
pron.

e.g. (khăw) yùu rian khom phíw tãe thii krunthêep  
(He) stays in Bangkok in order to learn computer.

(Remark: If /verb/ belongs to the proceeding verbs (for example: to cry, to laugh, to sleep etc.) we can put it at the end of the sentence but not directly after /yùu/:

e.g. khăw yùu thii roonrian rónhâay  
He cried as he was in the school.  
(wrong) khăw yùu rónhâay thii roonrian  
He stayed at school in order to cry.)

In every case, one can expand the sentence with /kamlay/ or /yan/ by putting it in front of /yùu/. One can also negate every structure with /mây/ by putting it before /yùu/. But to use /kamlay/ or /yan/ and negate the sentence at the same time is not allowed.

B. Our next structure uses /yùu/ as an auxiliary verb. We will start with the following structure:

/adj./ + /yùu/

e.g. (kaafɛɛ) rón yùu  
(The coffee) is still hot.

To expand this structure with /kamlay/ or /yan/ is a bit confusing because of the following restrictions:



1. If we use /kamləŋ/ we should delete /yùu/:

e.g. kaafɛɛ kamləŋ rɔ́ɔn  
The coffee is still hot.

2. If we use /yaŋ/ we still have /yùu/:

e.g. kɛɛŋ yaŋ khem yùu  
The soup is still salty.

There are 3 ways to negate this structure:

1. delete /yùu/ and put /mây/ before /adj./:

e.g. kaafɛɛ mây rɔ́ɔn  
(The coffee) is not hot.

2. delete /yùu/ and add /léɛw/:

e.g. kaafɛɛ mây rɔ́ɔn léɛw  
The coffee is no longer hot.

3. delete /yùu/ and add /ləəy/:

e.g. kaafɛɛ mây rɔ́ɔn ləəy  
The coffee isn't hot at all.

To expand one sentence with /kamləŋ/ and negate with /mây/ is not allowed. But /yaŋ/ and /mây/ can be used together:

e.g. bia yaŋ mây yen  
The beer is still not cold.

The next structure is:

/noun/ + /yùu/  
time

The noun has to do with time increments (for example: 2 hours, 3 o'clock, 5 days) with periods of the day (for example: morning, late morning) or with periods of the year (for example: winter, summer etc.):

e.g. 5 moonj yùu

(It) is 5 o'clock. (It isn't 6.)

chăw yùu

(It) is morning. (It isn't late morning.)

năa năaw yùu

(It) is winter. (It isn't summer or rainy season.)

We can expand this structure with /kamlaŋ/ or /yaŋ/. If we want to negate it, we use the pattern:

/mây/ + /noun/ + /léew/

e.g. mây bàay léew (yen léew)

(It) isn't afternoon. (It's evening already.)

It is impossible to expand the sentence with /kamlaŋ/ or /yaŋ/ and to negate it at the same time with /mây/.../léew/. We can only say /yaŋ/ + /mây/ + /noun/ or /yaŋ/ + /mây/ + /noun/ + /ləay/

e.g. yaŋ mây bàay (phên thianj yùu)

(It) is still not afternoon. (It's noon right now.)

or yaŋ mây bàay ləay (khun kôc cà klàb bân léew)

(It) is still not afternoon. (And you will go back home.)

The next structure with /yùu/ as auxiliary verb is:

/verb/ + /yùu/

e.g. (khăw) làb yùu

(He) is sleeping.

If /verb/ is a transitive verb we can expand the sentence with object as follows:

/verb/ + /noun/ + /yùu/

e.g. (khǎw) kin kúaytǎw yùu

(He) is eating noodles.

If we want to give more information about eating we can put /adv./ after /noun/ as follows:

/verb/ + /noun/ + /adv./ + /yùu/

e.g. (khǎw) fan phlen phlœn yùu

(He) listens to music with fascination.

If we want to give more information about the noun we can put /adj./ or /name/ or /possessive pronoun/ behind the noun as follows:

/verb/ + /noun/ + /adj./ + /adv./ + /yùu/

e.g. (khǎw) kin khǎaw rón rón aròy yùu

(He) is eating hot rice with appetite.

/verb/ + /noun/ + /adj./ + /poss./ + /adv./ + /yùu/

e.g. (thân) duu ñaanwícay plèek plèek khǒng phôm  
phlœn yùu

(You) are looking at my terrific research work with  
fascination.

/verb/ + /noun/ + /name/ + /adj./ + /poss./ + /adv./ + /yùu/

e.g. (khǎw) khǎb rót seetron may khǒng khǎw prǒw yùu

(He) is driving to show off his new citron.

Actually it is not the aim of this paper to show how to expand nouns. But I think it is worth while to know the word order.

We can expand all of these structures with /kamləŋ/ or /yaŋ/ by putting them before the verb.

To negate the sentence we can use 2 different methods:

1. to negate /verb/ we use /mây dâŋ/ and delete the modifier(s) and /yùu/

/mây dâŋ/ + /verb/ + /noun/

- e.g. (khăw) mây dâŋ kin khâaw  
(khăw kin kúaytǎaw tàan hâak)  
He isn't eating rice. (But noodles.)

2. to negate /adv./ we use /mây/ + /adv./ + /ləəy/

- e.g. khăw kin khâaw rón rón mây aròy ləəy  
For him hot rice doesn't taste good at all.

Here, we can use /kamləŋ/ and still negate the sentence. But the negation should be /mây chây../yùu/:

- e.g. khăw mây chây kamləŋ kin khâaw rón rón aròy yùu  
(khăw kamləŋ kin kúaytǎaw tàan hâak)  
He isn't eating hot rice with appetite.  
(He is eating noodles.)

We can use /yaŋ/ and still negate the sentence. But the modifier(s) and /yùu/ must be deleted:

/yaŋ/ + /mây/ + /verb/ + /noun/

- e.g. (khăw) yaŋ mây kin khâaw  
(He) hasn't eaten yet.

The next interesting structure is:

/mii/ + /verb/ + /yùu/

e.g. (khăw) mii kin yùu

(He) still has (something) to eat.

This structure is not understandable for foreigners because /mii/ or "to have" is a transitive verb. The question "What does he have?" is raised very often in reaction to this structure. That's why we have to add an object to this structure after /mii/ as follows:

/mii/ + 

noun
name

 + /verb/ + /yùu/

e.g. (khăw) mii ahăan kin yùu

(He) still has food to eat.

This structure gives the following information: Who has what for what? The meaning of this structure will change if we put the word /hây/ before /verb/:

e.g. khăw mii mămûaŋ hây kin yùu

He still has mangoes for (us) to eat.

If we want to identify the person who receives the thing offered we can put his name (or a pronoun) after /hây/ as follows:

/mii/ + 

noun
name

 + /hây/ + 

noun
pron.
name

 + /verb/ + /yùu/

e.g. (khăw) mii năŋsũu hây raw àan yùu

(He) still has books for us to read.

And if we want to give more information about the books we can expand the noun in the same way as in the last structure.

This structure can be expanded with /kamlan/ or /yan/ by putting it before /mii/.

There are 3 ways to negate the sentence:

1. put /mây/ before /mii/ and delete /yùu/:

/mây/ + /mii/ +	noun name	+	/hây/ +	noun pron. name	+	/verb/
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e.g. (khăw) mây mii naan hây chăntham  
(He) has no work for me to do.

2. put /mây/ before /mii/, delete /yùu/ and add /léew/

/mây/+ /mii/+	noun name	+	/hây/+	noun pron. name	+	/verb/+ /léew/
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e.g. (khăw) mây mii naan hây chăntham léew  
(He) has no work for me to do at all.

3. put /mây/ before /mii/, delete /yùu/ and add /ləay/:

/mây/+ /mii/+	noun name	+	/hây/+	noun pron. name	+	/verb/ + /ləay/
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e.g. (khăw) mây mii naan hây chăntham ləay  
(He) has no work for me to do at all.

(Remark: If we use /yùu/ + /léew/ in Nr. 2 we will have /yùu/ as an idiom because of the following meaning: He definitely has no work for me to do.)

The ways to use /kamləŋ/ or /yaŋ/ and negate the sentence at the same time are as follows:

1) /kamləŋ/ + /mây/ + /mii/ ... and delete /yùu/

e.g. (khăw) kamləŋ mây mii n̄aan hây tham  
(He) has no work for (me) to do now.

2) /yaŋ/ + /mây/ + /mii/ ... and delete /yùu/

e.g. (khăw) yaŋ mây mii n̄aan hây tham  
(He) still has no work for (me) to do.

3) /yaŋ/+/mây/+/mii/... and delete /yùu/ and add /ləəy/

e.g. (khăw) yaŋ mây mii n̄aan hây tham ləəy  
(He) still has no work for (me) to do at all.

4. /yaŋ/ + /mây/ + /mii/ ... /yùu/ + /ləəy/

e.g. (khăw) yaŋ mây mii n̄aan hây tham yùu ləəy  
(He) still has no work for (me) to do.  
(Maybe he will have some next time.)

c. The next structure is /yùu/ as adverb of manner. To use /yùu/ as adverb of manner one must say it twice. It means "without warning". We will start with the following structure:

/yùu yùu/ + /subj./ + /verb/

e.g. yùu yùu khăw maa  
He comes without warning.

We can emphasize the verb by putting the particle /kôo/ before /verb/ :

/yùu yùu/ + /subj./ + /kô/ + /verb/

e.g. yùu yùu khăw kô maa

He comes without warning.

The subject can stay at the beginning of the sentence and the meaning is still the same:

/subj./ + /yùu yùu/ + /kô/ + /verb/

e.g. khăw yùu yùu kô maa

He comes without warning.

In Thai we can eliminate /subj./ and still understand the sentence. And /particle/ too can be eliminated. Finally the structure will look like this:

/yùu yùu/ + /verb/

e.g. yùu yùu maa

(He) comes without warning.

To expand this structure with /kamlan/ we need two sentences. The first sentence gives one situation which flows normally and the second sentence gives the new information which disturbs the situation in the first sentence:

(/subj./) + /kamlan/ + /verb/

/yùu yùu/ + (/subj./) + /kô/ + /verb/

e.g. (khăw) kamlan làb yùu yùu (khăw) kô rôṇghâay

(He) is sleeping. Suddenly he cries.

(Remark: 1. If /subj./ in both sentences are the same person we can use it once or twice or not at all.

2. If /subj./ are not the same person we should add the subjects.)



If /verb/ are transitive we can add objects. Moreover we can add /adv./ or /prep./ +

noun
pron.
name

into the sentence too:

(/subj./) + /kamlaŋ/ + /verb/ +	noun	+ /adv./
	pron.	
	name	

/yùu yùu/ + (/subj./) + /kôc/ + /verb/ + /prep./ +	noun
	pron.
	name

e.g. (phǒm) kamlaŋ àan sèephèəndin phlæən  
 yùu yùu mēe phlɔɔy kôc phlòo khān tian  
 As (I) was reading Seephandin, suddenly Maephloy  
 emerged near my bed.

To expand the sentence with /yaŋ/ we must negate the sentence with /mây dâŋ/ or /mây than/; that is the condition:

(/subj./) + /yaŋ/ +	mây dâŋ	+ /verb/
	mây than	

/yùu yùu/ + (/subj./) + /kôc/ + /verb/

e.g. (phǒm) yaŋ | mây dâŋ | phùut  
                               mây than  
 yùu yùu (thəə) kôc rɔɔn hāy  
 (I) haven't said anything and (she) cried.

In the above examples I have explained several ways in which /yùu/ can be used. This does not mean that I have conveyed all of the uses of /yùu/. However, these examples demonstrate the way in which basic structures and simple rules can be utilized to teach foreigners some basic uses of the word /yùu/.

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> The word /yuu/ has been analysed in several ways as shown in the following works: Phraya Upakitsilpasarn, **Làkphasăthai** (Bangkok: Thaiwattanaphanit, 2524), pp. 85-86.

Prapa Sookgasem, **Morphology, Syntax and Semantics of Auxiliaries in Thai** Ph. D. Dissertation, University of Arizona, 1990.

<sup>2</sup> The negation with /mây/, /mây dăy/ is explained in the following work: Bunjob Phandhumatha, **Lúksanàphasăthai** (Bangkok: Ramkhamhaeng University, 2528), pp. 193-195.

### References

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