PHONOLOGICAL REDUCTION OF SOME FINAL PARTICLES IN MODERN THAI

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In spoken Thai, particles are used a great deal, especially in casual speech; it seems that the more casual the utterance, the greater the use of particles. Some particles, such as the following, occur before the verb.

k่อ as in: ช่าน ก่อ คิด ยัง แล้ว meänkan
I pt think like that also
'I think so too.'

คา as in: ขา คา ผา thay phruñńí
he pt go Thailand tomorrow
'He is going to Thailand tomorrow.'

มะย as in: ถ้า มะย ทู มาระ ช่าน ก่อ มะย pay
if not call come I pt not go
'If you don't call, I won't go.'

คะ (ทรง) as in: ท่ำ ต่อ ทู มาระ ช่าน ทรง คา pay
you must call come I pt will go
'You must call, then I will go.'

Most particles, however, whether they occur in phrases, clauses or sentences, appear in final position, as in the following examples:

ร่ำ as in: ถ้า มะย pay ทามงาน ร่ำ
you not go work Q pt
'Aren't you going to work?'

สิ as in: ไป สิ
go pt
'Yes, I am.' (Of course I am.)

ทะ as in: ยู่ บ้าน ทะ?
stay home pt
'Please stay home.'

99
leay  as in:  yàa  pay  læay
  don’t go  pt
  ’Don’t go.’

lå  as in:  thammay  lá
  why  pt
  ’Why?’  (Why not?)

nòy  as in:  yùu  pen  phànn  chán  nòy
  stay  be  company  I  pt
  ’Please stay and keep me company.’

rōk  as in:  mày  dāy  rōk  chán  tòg  thamółan
  not  can  pt  I  must  work
  ’I can’t, I have to work.’

nà  as in:  thâa  yângan  chán  pay  kâp  theo  nà
  if  I  like  that  I  go  with  you  pt
  ’In that case can I go with you?’

sīa  as in:  thâa  ca  pay  kô  pay  tèn  tua  sīa
  if  will  go  pt  go  get  dressed  pt
  ’If you want to go, then go get dressed.’
  etc.

Most of these final particles are used in utterances to reveal the
speaker's attitude, thought, emotion, mood, etc. regarding the situation
at the time of speaking.

The final particles which will be discussed in detail in this paper
share a common pattern of phonological reduction of initials, finals,
vowels and tones; they can, but do not always, reduce to a common form,
with or without final glottal stop (?), and with one of the three
tones, mid, low, or low falling.

The particles to be discussed here are ùè  /nàʔ/, ùà  /làʔ/, ùɔ̂  /lòʔ/,
uà à /lòʔ/, and ʔà /rōk/. The particle ùè  /nàʔ/, while it does not
undergo consonant, vowel, or tone reduction, is also included in this
discussion because of its close semantic relationship with ùè  /nàʔ/,
which does undergo reduction.¹

Mary Haas (1964) gives a general description of these particles in
her Thai-English Student’s Dictionary which I have taken into account
and to which I have added some detail. I have also taken into account
Richard Noss’s mention of these particles in his Thai Reference Grammar
(Noss 1964).

We will now look at the way each of these particles is used in
utterances, along with examples, most of which are taken from spon-
taneous conversation. Following this, we will examine the phonological
reduction mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Note that reduction
to a with one of the tones mentioned above is not possible in all functions of a particle; in some cases only partial reduction occurs. Where complete reduction is possible, the example is marked with the symbol #.

PARTICLE USE

/t/ /nâʔ/ is used in sentences:

1. Indicating urging, insisting, persuading, or importuning, such as in the situation in which one is invited to go somewhere and answers rather negatively, or shows reluctance to accept the invitation, the inviter might say:

   (1a) pay /nâʔ/  
       go pt  
       'Come on! Please go.'

   or in persuading one's guest to stay as in:

   (1b) yuu koɔŋ thè /nâʔ/  
       stay before pt pt  
       'Please stay for a while.' (Don't go yet.)

2. Expressing the speaker's belief, which, the speaker realises, contrasts slightly with the addressee's belief, as in:

   (2a) chán waa khaw maa leɔw /nâʔ/  
       I say he come already pt  
       'I believe he has already come.'

   (2b) thɔw-ni' ca phoo rua / khoŋ phoo /nâʔ/  
       this much will enough Q / surely enough pt  
       'Will this be enough? / It should be.'

3. Marking the topic of that which immediately follows. The topic, which precedes the particle, can be a simple noun, a phrase or a clause (short or long), as in:

   (3a) n̂ɛn /nâʔ/ khraykhray kó yaak-dâay  
       money pt anybody pt want  
       'Money! Anybody wants it.'

   (3b) phuŋ-yin /nâʔ/ tɔŋ-tua chaŋ thîsût  
       girl pt get dressed slow most  
       'Girls! They get dressed the slowest of all.'

   (3c) tɔon thɔy pay dîi-si  
       when you go Washington, D.C. pt  
       /nâʔ/ chán mǎy-sabaay  
       'When you went to Washington, D.C., I was sick.'
Sometimes the topic comes after the main clause and functions as a
declaration. Some people call this an afterthought topic, as in (3d).
Examples (3a), (3b) and (3c) could also be rewritten or spoken in this
form as well.

(3d) mây mii khray maa kàp khun laey rũu thī sōp khāw dāāy
not have person come with you at all Q that test enter able
/ñä?/
 pt
'Didn't anybody come with you, from among those who passed the
entrance exam?'

4. Indicating the speaker's annoyance. This is used with firm tone of
voice.

(4a) yũt rǒŋ sǐa-thīi thē /ñä?/
stop cry pt pt pt
'Please stop crying.' (Would you please stop crying?)

(4b) rũu leēw /ñä?/, mây tōŋ maa bǒok sām-sām-sānak
know already pt not must some tell repeatedly
'I know. You don't have to tell me over and over again.'

5. Indicating response of limited concession, acceptance or agreement
on a result. This type of statement usually has the pattern
'verb₁ /ñä?/ verb₁ + clause' or 'verb₁ /ñä?/ neg. verb₁ + clause'.
The clause that follows shows that there is some contradiction within
the statement, and the pattern is used to show that the speaker is
aware of the contradictory nature of his utterance.

(5a) rũu /ñä?/ rũu, tē tham ?aray mây dāāy
know pt know but do anything not able
'I know, but there is nothing I can do (about it).'</n

(5b) hān /ñä?/ mây hān rǒōk, tē rũu wāā khāw pen khōn āw-paye
see pt not see pt but know that he be person take
'I know I didn't see him taking it but I'm sure he is the one
(who took it).'</n

6. Ending the utterance with some focus or emphasis, mostly in
questions as in:

(6a) (ca) pay nāy /ñä?/
will go where pt
'And just where are you going?'

(6b) maa thammay /ñä?/
come why pt
'And just what are you here for?'
\( /\text{ná}/\) is used in sentences:

7. Making the utterance milder and more gentle, as in declarative sentences, which convey a mild command, or request for an affirmative answer, or at least for acknowledgement from the addressee. For example:

(7a) pay lá /\text{ná}/
go pt pt
'I'm going now, O.K.?'

(7b) nāngswā ywā bon tō /\text{ná}/
book be on table pt
'The book is on the table, O.K.?'

8. Making milder an utterance which is contradictory or argumentative, used in both negative and positive statements. For example:

(8a) chān wāmāy chāy /\text{ná}/
say not be pt
'I don't think it is, do you?'

(8b) tēc chān wāmāy chāy /\text{ná}/
but I say be pt
'But I think it is, don't you?'

(8c) tēc wēlā phūt kāp farān khāw phūt dīi /\text{ná}/
but time talk with westerner he talk nice pt
'... but when he talks with Westerners, he talks pleasantly.'

9. Making imperative mood more gentle, both in the negative and positive. In this usage the tone of voice is rather soft.

(9a) yāa phēng khāw maa /\text{ná}/
don't just enter come pt
'Please don't come in yet.'

(9b) pīt prātuu dūy /\text{ná}/
close door also pt
'Close the door too, please.'

10. Indicating mild questions, asking for opinions. This is as if the speaker proposes some idea or says what he/she thinks is true and asks for agreement from the hearer. This may be rendered in English by the question tag, as in:

(10a) wannī? akāat dīi /\text{ná}/
today weather nice pt
'The weather is nice (today), isn't it?'
(10b) phaà níi suñy /ná?/
    cloth this pretty pt
    'This material is pretty, isn't it?'

There is also the pattern of '/ná?/ + addressee + /ná?/' usually at the
end of an utterance, in seeking agreement. For example:

(10b') phaà níi suñy /ná?/ coon /ná?/
    'This material is pretty, John, isn't it?'

11. Indicating a request for repetition of information already given,
as in:

(11a) ?aray /ná?/
    what pt
    'What?' (Say it again. I didn't hear you.)

(11b) raän náy /ná?/
    shop which pt
    'Which shop is it?'

(11c) kháw ca pay mwaray /ná?/
    he will go when pt
    'When is it he's going?'

12. Expressing mild reproach and/or criticism, mostly in the form of
questions.

(12a) thammay chaà yałli níi /ná?/
    why slow like this pt
    'How come you're so slow?'

(12b) tham yałli níi ?íik lełw /ná?/
    do like this again pt pt
    'You've done it again, haven't you?'

13. Expressing displeasure, disappointment or complaint. Generally
the speaker repeats the subject of the sentence (addressee) after /ná?/.
In these sentences /ná?/ occurs following an initial vocative. For
example:

(13a) khun /ná?/ khun, máy pay hä chaán báæ ng leey
    you pt you not go see I some pt
    'You! You never went to see me at all.'

(13b) khun /ná?/ khun, thammay tham yałli níi
    you pt you why do like this
    'You! Why did you do that?'
14. Indicating statement of invitation as in:

(14a)  yen นิ่น  pay ท่าน  kхаw ทริม บ้าน /ná?/
evening this go eat rice at house pt
'Why don't you come to dinner at my house this evening? Please come ....'

(14b)  pay นำ ร่ำ ล่ำ แคน /ná?/
go sit car play together pt
'Let's go for a ride, O.K.?'

15. Expressing coaxing, suggesting and requesting, or mild insisting as in:

(15a)  khun ตนเอง  มา /ná?/
you must come pt
'You must come, please.'

(15b)  ย่าา  แพง ดาย /ná?/
don't just go pt
'Please, don't go yet.'

16. Indicating minor annoyance or threat. Such sentences are said in a firm tone of voice. The imperative quality of the utterance is stressed.

(16a)  ย่าา  กหาว  มา /ná?/
don't enter come pt
'Don't come in.'

(16b)  งิ้ว  /ná?/
quiet pt
'Be quiet!'

In a different situation the same construction could be a request for an opinion (as in example 10). For example, if spoken in a very quiet place number (16b) would be translated as 'It's quiet, isn't it?'. In such a situation the tone of voice would be a mild one.

17. Marking topics. As with ว่า /ná?/ in example (3) above, the topic can be a simple noun, a phrase or a clause. However, with ว่า /ná?/ the item marked as topic is also given some emphasis. For example:

(17a)  เร้าน นิ่น /ná?/, ชิน ว่า นํ้า มะย่า ค่อร์ ร๊ก
matter this pt I say not end pt
'I don't think I'll ever see the end of this problem.'

(17b)  ชิน หนี /ná?/, ว่า นิ้า คิด เล่น ญู บาน
I think pt that have box empty loc.pt some
'I think I have some empty boxes.' (I think there are some empty boxes.)
The two particles /láʔ/ and /lâʔ/ are used extensively in modern Thai, and there is some evidence to suggest that they are derivations of the particles ʔaʔ /lētw/ and ʔaʔ /lâw/. With regard to semantics, the particles /láʔ/ and /lētw/ are virtually interchangeable, as are the particles /lâʔ/ and /lâw/. The words /lētw/ and /lâw/ are very common in older works of prose fiction, but /láʔ/ and /lâʔ/ are to be found only very infrequently. Modern prose, on the other hand, makes frequent use of these latter two words. In addition, modern casual conversation relies almost exclusively on /láʔ/ and /lâʔ/. It is also worth noting tonal correspondences between the particles /lētw/ and /láʔ/ and /lâw/ and /lâʔ/. Finally, George McFarland's (1954) Thai-English Dictionary, compiled prior to 1937 includes only /lētw/ and /lâw/, making no mention of either /láʔ/ or /lâʔ/, whereas Haas (1964) includes all four forms.

Thus there is evidence to suggest that /láʔ/ and /lâʔ/ have only recently become the preferred forms and have been derived from /lētw/ and /lâw/ by a process of reduction. Although the evidence is not absolutely conclusive, I feel that it is strong enough for the purpose of this paper.

/as /láʔ/ (as well as ʔaʔ /lētw/) is used in sentences:

18. Indicating that the state of being which is posited by the verb-adjective has just been attained as in:

(18a) phoo /láʔ/
    enough pt
    'That's enough.' (O.K. Enough!)

(18b) dīi /láʔ/
    good pt
    'That's good enough.'

The expression ʔaʔ /dīi lâʔ/ is sometimes used in a sarcastic sense as in:

(18b') dīi /lâʔ/, fāak wây kōn
    good pt entrust keep first
    'Fine, just wait till it's my turn.'

19. Indicating the speaker's consent to something done or said by others as in:

(19a) thūuk /láʔ/ or chây /láʔ/
    correct pt be pt
    'That's correct.' 'That's right.'
20. Situation closing, in order to tell the addressee something and to indicate some change in the situation. For example:

(20a)  cháñ pay /láʔ/
      I go pt
   'I'm going now.' (I'm going to leave now.)

(20b)  cháñ ca kin /láʔ/
      I will eat pt
   'I'm going to eat now.'

(20c)  cháñ chák-ca choɔp khun maa /láʔ/
      I start to like ascend come pt
   'I'm starting to like it now.'

21. Indicating a little annoyance, again with certain tone of voice as in:

(21a)  maa ?iik /láʔ/
      come again pt
   'Here he comes again.'

(21b)  ca tham ?aray kò tham pay thà? cháñ mày sóncay /láʔ/
      will do what pt do go pt I not interest pt
   'Do whatever you want; I don't care any more.'

ás /láʔ/ (as well as ím /lám/, mostly used in question form) is used in sentences:

22. Indicating surprise or the unexpectedness of a situation through the use of questions as in:

(22a)  sawàt pay nǎy /láʔ/
      Sawat go where pt
   'Where has Sawat gone?'

(22b)  thammay khùw mây maa /láʔ/
      why he not come pt
   'How come he didn't show up?'

23. Indicating the speaker's irritation or annoyance, also used with irritated tone of voice as in:

(23a)  maa thammay ?iik /láʔ/
      come why again pt
   'What are you here for this time?'

(23b)  ?aray ?iik /láʔ/
      what again pt
   'Now what!' (What is it this time?)
24. Referring the question back to the other. This can be rendered in English as 'And you?' or 'What about you?'. For example:

(#)24a chán kin lz̄w, khun /lā?/
    I eat already you pt
    'I've already eaten, and you?' (... what about you?)

Sometimes it is used as a retort as in:

(#)24b thâa rēng /lā?/, sw̄s̄at khēt-nāy
    you self pt honest how much
    'And what about you yourself, how honest are you?'

25. Indicating an additional question within conditional statements as in:

(#)25a thâa khâw maa /lā?/
    if he come pt
    'What if he should come?'

(#)25b thâa māy thúuk /lā?/
    if not correct pt
    'What if it's not correct?'

26. Indicating some sarcasm (with sarcastic tone of voice), although not very strong as in:

(26a) ḍō! dīi nī /lā?/
    excl. nice pt pt
    'Oh, nice!' (Oh, swell!)

(26b) ca bōn ḍō? i'k māy /lā?/
    will complain again Q pt
    'Well, are you going to complain any more?'

Another particle that seems to become laʔ (with mid, rather low or low tone) is the particle uwaʔ /lēʔ/. The sound of this particle /lāʔ/ just mentioned does not have a common written form but is sometimes written as waʔ or aʔ.³ uwaʔ /lēʔ/ is used in sentences:

27. Intensifying the statement or pointing out something certain and specific. It is usually preceded by the demonstrative nīʔ, nīʔ (= 'this') or nān, nān (= 'that') as in:

(#)27a rew-khâw, lēn yụu nān /lēʔ/
    hurry up play loc.pt dem. pt
    'Hurry up! Stop fooling around.'

(#)27b chān ?ēng /lēʔ/
    I self pt
    'It's just me.'
The last particle that will be examined here is ว่า อน /raʔk/. This particle can always be pronounced as รัก,  lok, or ่ก (with either mid or low tone) which phonologically seem to be first and second step derivation (1. vowel shortening, 2. r + 1, 3. initial dropping). Very often, especially in fast speech, however, it derives to ฯ.

ว่า อน /raʔk/ is used in sentences:

28. Indicating mild negative statement. (This is the most common use of this particle.) For example:

(28a) จัน มาย pay /raʔk/
I not go pt
'I'm not going.'

(28b) มาย ฮันก /raʔk/ , ยาว pay ละย
not fun pt don't go pt
'It's not fun, don't bother going.'

29. Expressing reassurance as in:

(29a) เธ่ กอน คส สด /raʔk/ ผ่าน /raʔk/ ชิน
you surely will take test pass pt
'I'm sure you'll pass the test.'

30. Expressing mild sarcasm (with sarcastic tone of voice) as in:

(30a) กอน ฮันก /raʔk/ ชันผัน /raʔk/ ชิน
surely fun pt
'That'll be fun!'

(30b) กอน ดาย กอน ผัน /raʔk/ ชันผัน /raʔk/ ชิน
surely get increase salary pt
'You'll probably get promoted.' (Keep on sitting here playing cards.)

If the sentences in (30) are not said with a sarcastic tone of voice, they would be like (29) or be used as consolation. In (30a) then may imply something like 'Don't worry about it, just go. It may be fun.'

31. Indicating some kind of hesitancy in agreeing with somebody as in:

(31a) กอ สูญ ดี /raʔk/ ผัน /raʔk/ ชิน
pt pretty good pt
'Yes, it's pretty.'

It can also be added at the end of the first group in number (5), and make the acceptance a little milder as in:

(31b) รู้ /náʔ/ รู้ /raʔk/ ตี ท่าน ก่าน may ถาม ราญ
(5a') 'I know, I know, but there is nothing I can do about it.'
32. Indicating a little annoyance or reproach in a sarcastic manner as in:

(32a) ช่านэр่า้นรีเอนเปน/รือก/
I read self able pt
'I can read it myself (you don't have to read it out loud).'

(32b) ช่านมิ่ทาวดูรีเอน/รือก/
I have eye look self pt
'I have my own eyes, you know.'

Note that all the particles /น้า?, /น้ำ?, /ล้า?, /ลี่?, /ล่?, and /รือก/ in the examples are presented in their fullest forms. In addition, it should be noted that in each example the particle is placed in utterance-final position. The following part of the study examines the possible phonological reductions that each particle can undergo. Variants of these reduced forms which appear when they are followed by other final particles will be examined as well.

DERIVATION OF THESE FINAL PARTICLES

The phonological rules that seem to be involved in the derivation from /ล้า?/ to /ล้า?/ are:

a) vowel shortening: ล้า? + ล้า
b) vowel shifting: ล้า? + ล้า

c) glottal stop replacing final: ล้า? + ล้า

From /ล้า?/ to /ล้า?/, only rule (c) applies, since the vowel of the original form is short and low (no rule (a): VV + V, nor rule (b): V + V). As for /ล้า?/ being reduced to /ล้า?/, only rule [-central] [+central]

(b) is necessary since the vowel was originally short and the final was the glottal stop.

The following are the reductions that occur in the initial vowels, tones and finals of the particles discussed above.

/น้า?/ is reduced to น้า in 1, 2, 4

/น้า?/ is reduced to น้า in 3, 5, 6

(ล้า? +)/ล้า?/ is reduced to /ล้า?/ in 7-17

(ล้า? +)/ล้า?/ is reduced to /ล้า?/ in 18-21

(ล้า? +)/ล้า?/ is reduced to /ล้า in 22-25

/ล้า in 26
(lè? +)/là?/ is reduced to \{ã\} in 27

/ròk/ is reduced to \{ã\} in 28, 29

The chart shows the most reduced form possible for these particles when they are used in sentence final position. The word /nà?/ always retains the initial but drops the final whereas /nà?/ can either retain the initial and drop the final or drop the initial and retain the final, depending upon the expression.

The words /là?/ (from /lèw/) and /là?/ (from /lè?/) always drop the initial and keep the glottal stop. Their tones can also be leveled towards mid tone. However, /là?/ (from /lâw/) tends to drop both the initial and the final leaving only the vocalic and the tone /ã/, except as in item number (31) where the initial /l/ remains.

The particle /ròk/ is rather unusual in changing to ã or a since the original and reduced forms do not share consonants or vowels, and unlike /lèw/ (which becomes first /lâ?/ and then ã or a), it changes from /ròk/ directly into ã. The process for this reduction involves:

a) vowel shortening: ròk → ròk
b) vowel shifting: ròk → ràk

The glottal stop replacing final: ràk → ràk?
d) initial consonant deleting: ràk → â?

Steps (a), (b) and (c) are the same as those which occur in the reduction of /lèw/ except that there is no particle /rà?/ derived from /ròk/ as /là?/ is derived from /lèw/.

However, in certain situations the final reduction of this particle is ãk or ãk which means that only rule (a) and (d) apply (ròk + ròk + ãk). It is also possible to apply only rule (a) (→ ròk).

The reduced forms above show great similarity in that they share the vocalic nucleus (a low, central, unrounded vowel). The dropping of the initial in the most reduced form causes difficulty in an attempt to determine the underlying form since Thai allows linking between words. For example, นิ and นาน ('this' and 'that') are often linked with these particles becoming:
A          B          C          D
I.  níʔ + náʔ  → nf + âʔ → nfaʔ
II. níʔ + láw → níʔ + láʔ → nf + â → nfa
III. níʔ + lèʔ → níʔ + láʔ → nf + âʔ (ןא) → nfaʔ
IV. níʔ + rǒk  → nf + âʔ (ןא) → nfaʔ
e etc. and
V.  nán + náʔ  → nán + ɾaʔ → nànnəʔ
VI. nán + láw → nán + láʔ → nán + â → nànnə
VII. nán + lèʔ → nán + láʔ → nán + âʔ → nànnəʔ (ןא) → nànnə
VIII. nán + rǒk → nán + âʔ → nànnəʔ (ןא) → nànnə

(/ləʔw/ and /náʔ/ are often used with clearer speech like that in column C.)

In the chart above, column D is the final reduction as uttered in fast speech; column C has the same elements as uttered in speech slower than that of D, and thus the forms remain two syllables. Column B shows another possible derivation (/ləʔw/ → /ləʔ/ and /lèʔ/ → /ləʔ/) which can also be used in slow and clear speech. The citation form is that in column A whereas D is the most common in speech.

In examples I through IV an open syllable with a long vowel is combined with the final reduction of the particles; in such cases the word preceding the particle undergoes vowel shortening as shown in column C and D. The tone of the final particle seems to be of less weight than that of the preceding word, and is usually neutralised. The tone of the new derivation in column D thus takes the tone of that preceding word.

(Thus, níʔ + (āʔ)  → nfaʔ).

(Other examples are níʔ + āʔ → nīʔ, níʔ + āʔ → nīʔ, etc.)

In the first group, I, II and IV have the same reduced form after the linking process; however, they are used in different situations, for example:

I. máy chạy rǒk, ?an nfaʔ + máy chạy rǒk ?an níʔ /náʔ/
II. ?an níʔ +  → ?an níʔ /lèʔ/
IV. máy chạy ?an níʔ + máy chạy ?an níʔ /rǒk/

(Note: máy chạy = 'not', negative; ?an = classifier for things; níʔ = 'this')
Example I is the expression of an afterthought topic (as in (3d)).
Example II is an answer, confirming that a particular topic is the
one being discussed (as in (27)).
Example IV is simply a negative statement with negative particle
/rāk/ at the end which is the most common use (as in (28)).
The second group operates the same way except that the word preceding
the particle is a closed syllable. Since the form of the final reduc-
tions of the particles has no initial consonant, when the two syllables
are put together the final consonant of the preceding syllable becomes
an ambisyllabic consonant, that is, it functions both as the final con-
sonant of the preceding syllable and the initial consonant of the
following syllable.
Confusion also may arise when one of these particles appears in
sequence, either with another member of the same group or with other
final particles, such as those indicating degree of politeness or form-
ality, including those cited on the first page here. The glottal stop
at the end of the reduced forms above, according to the phonological
rule, will be dropped when those forms are followed by other particles.
In addition, the tone will sometimes be levelled (towards mid tone),
which makes most of the forms sound similar, including those of /nāʔ/
and /lāʔ/ which usually are more distinctive than the others discussed
in this paper. Examples of this are:

| I will sit here + pt + polite pt |
| chán ca nāŋ thīi nīi /lēʔ/ /khāʔ/ |
| chán ca nāŋ thīi nīa? (without polite particle) |
| chán ca nāŋ thīi nīă khā (polite particle) |

go + pt + question pt
pay /lāʔ/ /raū/ pay ɗ (without question particle)
pay ɗ lōo (with Q pt which derives to loo)

Thus the final reduction with the glottal stop at the end only occurs
when the particle is in sentence-final position. If another final
particle follows it, the glottal stop is always dropped. The most
reduced form of these particles, then, seems to be a with different
tones and very often mid tone.
NOTES

1. // indicates the underlying form or the tentative form according to the spelling. ___ (underline) indicates the actual spoken form of the particle.

2. For a stronger expression of this type sometimes the vowel is lengthened. This also applies in the use of number 1 as well.

3. Rules of Thai orthography make it impossible to represent a mid tone on a short vowel. These two forms mə̄ and mə̀ would be read in isolation with a low and a high tone respectively. Nevertheless, these forms would be read with mid tone in the proper context.

4. In Bangkok Thai /r/ is often replaced by /l/ in spoken language. Thus, lə̄k is used as well.

5. Vowel shifting: low front vowel → low central vowel (ə → a).
   -[central]
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