'SERIAL' AND 'COMPLETIVE' VERBS IN KHMER?¹

CHHANY SAK-HUMPHREY

University of Hawaii at Manoa

1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this investigation is to consider the question of whether the terms 'serial verb' (SV) and 'completive verb' or 'resultative verbs' (CV) can be used appropriately for any classes of constructions in Khmer syntax. In order to do this, I will: (1) briefly state a definition of serial verbs (SV) and resultative verbs (RV); (2) match Khmer data against these definitions of SV and RV; and (3) reexamine the Khmer constructions that are found to fit these definitions within the framework of lexicaledge dependency grammar in order to determine whether the same data can be described using dependency grammar notions of binary dependency relations, complements versus adjuncts, missing complement subject and object in finite and non-finite subordinate clauses, and/or coordination. This preliminary survey does not attempt to explain the entire structure of Khmer verbs, but only looks at a small representative set of data to serve as a point from which future study can begin.

2. PREVIOUS ANALYSIS

A number of linguists have tried to define serial verb constructions of mainland Southeast Asian languages in various forms through their particular theoretical frameworks on a set of data. Huffman (1967), in a structuralist analysis, called the SV 'attributive verb sequences' and CV 'completive verbs'. According to Huffman, CV occur in post-posed constructions, express completion, and expect results or the achievement verbs which initiate an action. In addition, in negativization, negative markers follow the initial verbs, as opposed to the coordinate or attributive verb sequences in which the negative precedes the first verb of the sequence (Huffman 1967:171). Thus, the negativization pattern of the completive verb is different from the one in coordination or attributive verb sequences. Thepkanjana (1986), in a tranformational analysis of Thai, defined a serial verb as a verb that acts as a complement to the preceding verb. She noted that verbs in a string do not have to share the same subject or object as in causative verbs (with hay construction), passive verbs (thuuk construction), or resultative
verbs (tham construction). According to her, the resultative verb complement stated the change in the status or the coming into existence of a certain condition of an entity as the result of an action denoted by the preceding verb (Thepkanjana 1986:95). However, she does not mention the syntactic relation of the verb in the negation. Schiller (1991), in an autolexical monostratal theory, agreed with others in terms of the requirement to have no overt conjunction in the SV. Clark (1992) stated that serial verbs are in coordination, not subordination. Wilawan (1992), a lexicase dependency analyst (currently writing her dissertation on this SV topic), indicated (at this stage of her analysis) that, particularly for Thai and Khmer languages, these SV are in subordination, not coordination.

Does Khmer have serial verbs? In answering this question, I consider the following questions: (a) Are serial verbs complements of the higher clause? (b) Can serial verbs have the ‘same subject or switch subject’ as the higher clause? (c) Can the V₂, in serial verb constructions be negated? (d) In serial verbs construction, can the V₂ and its following words be topicalized, (e) Can NP (except subject) be topicalized, and (f) Are completive constructions verbs serial verb constructions?

3. MATCHING DATA WITH DEFINITION AND APPLYING A LEXICASE ANALYSIS

In this analysis, I group the data into: (1) intransitive verbs followed by non-finite intransitive verbs (2) intransitive verbs followed by non-finite transitive verbs (3) transitive verbs followed by non-finite intransitive verb and (4) transitive verbs followed by non-finite transitive verbs.

To see if there are any constructions in Khmer that fit the patterns in all of these four groupings, I consider (a) the presence of an overt subject with the second verb of a two-verb series and, if possible, a three-verb series (b) the negation test (c) NP topicalizing and (d) the clefting test.

3.1 INTRANSITIVE VERB FOLLOWED BY A NON-FINITE INTRANSITIVE

3.1.1 Overtly Marked Coordination and Subordinations

By the definition of SV, overtly marked coordinate and subordinate sentences in Khmer are serial verb sentences; however, I propose that they are not serial constructions.
1. **nisët**  
   **mook**  
   **saalaa**  
   **daaëmbëo**  
   **riiøn**  
   student  
   come  
   school  
   in order  
   study  
   ‘He comes to school in order to study’.

In example 1, the main or higher clause *nisët mook saalaa* is followed by a subordinate or lower clause *daaëmbëo riïøn*. The preposition *daaëmbëo* is in the exocentric construction with *riïøn*. The implied subject of *riïøn* is *koøt*.

2. **thnaj néh**  
   **koøt**  
   **tëw**  
   **saalaa**  
   **haaaj**  
   **tëw**  
   phsaar  
   today he go school and go market  
   ‘Today, he goes to school and goes to the market’.

Example 2 shows a coordination clause construction marked by the coordinate conjunction *haaaj*. The implied subject *koøt* can be inserted, and thus we have two separated sentences. Therefore, it is not a serial construction because the $V_2$ is a finite verb. In addition, without an overtly marked
conjunction, as in sentences 1 and 2, subordination and conjunction clauses in Khmer can be determined by context or by intonation or a slight pause which can denote the clause boundary.

3.1.2 Same Subject

According to previous analysis, the term 'same subject' is used when the subject of the first verb is the same as the missing subject of the second verb. This type of construction is illustrated in the following examples.

3. koat mook phteah lọŋŋ nyŋ kđon
he come house visit with child
+N +V +N +V +P +N
Nom -trns LOC -trns LOC
PAT +fint -fint
actr
'He comes home to visit with the child'.

In example 3, the noun koat is the subject of the verb mook and is also the implied subject of the intransitive verb lọŋŋ. This example has no overt coordination nor subordinate markers. Based on a lexicase analysis, in the subordinate clause construction, the missing actr 'actor' NP in an infinitival complement clause is coreferential with the PAT of the regent (transitive or intransitive) verb. Thus, the second clause lọŋŋ nyŋ kđon is an infinitival complement to the main verb mook, because koat cannot be inserted in front of the verb lọŋŋ. If it is, we have two separate sentences. Thus, the criterion is still relevant; if an overt subject cannot be inserted, then the V₂ is a non-finite verb.

4. viō qâŋkuj yum kraaom dâaəmchâo
she sit cry under tree
+N +V +V +N +N
Nom -trns -trns +lctn LOC
PAT +fint -fint +rltr
actr
'She sits crying under the tree'.

In example 4, the verbs qâŋkuj and yum are both intransitive verbs. The overt subject viō in the main clause is coreferential with the missing subject in the lower subordinate clause yum kraaom dâaəmchâo, with yum as its non-finite verb. It is non-finite if we cannot add the subject in the second
position and still have a single sentence. This clause is the complement to the main verb qangkuj because it cannot be topicalized. The clause also provides an additional manner for how 'she cries under the tree'.

5. koat tōw Waikiki room cīāmūaj jāən
he go Waikiki dance with us
'He goes to Waikiki to dance with us'.

Example 5 has the pronoun koat as the subject of the directional intransitive verb tōw, and koat is also the implied subject of the following intransitive verb 'to dance' room. The subordinate clause room cīāmūaj jāən has verb room as regent and the prepositional phrase cīāmūaj jāən as its adjunct. This subordinate clause is a complement, not an adjunct, because it cannot be topicalized.

3.1.3 Negation test

Some negation adverb markers of Modern Khmer (MK) are qat, pum, kom or min. They are placed before the verbs they are modified. The negation adverb marker tēe is used mostly with min, or pum, and placed at the end of the sentences, but it is optional in colloquial speech.

In a negative clause construction, the adverbs min, or qat is placed in front the verb, and tēe is placed at the end of a clause or sentence (as illustrated in the following examples). There is no syntactic difference between these negation markers; however, the semantic differences are not discussed in this study. In addition, for the convenience of the reader, this paper mostly uses min or qat.

3a. koat min mook phtēah lān jīn kōn tēe
he neg. come house visit with child neg.
'He does not come to the house, to visit with the child'.

4a. viə min qangkuj yum kraamom daaomchāə tēe
she neg sit cry under tree neg.
'She does not sit crying under the tree'.

5a. koat qat tōw Waikiki room cīāmūaj jāən tēe
he neg. go Waikiki dance with us neg.
'He does not go to Waikiki to dance with us'.

These negative sentence constructions exhibit the distribution of negation adverb markers min (qat)...tēe. The
adverb marker *min or qat* precedes the main verb of the higher clause, and the negation adverb marker *tée* is optionally located at the end of the sentence, as shown in examples 3a, 4a, and 5a. This negation adverb marker *tée* is unique in the sense that it can be used to mark the boundary of a clause or a sentence.

3a’. *koat moo k* phtcoh min lōn nyh kōn tée
   he come house neg. visit with child neg.

4a’. *koat qaukuj min yum* kraamo daaomchōo tée
   she sit neg cry under tree neg.

5a’. *koat tōw Waikiki qat room ciomūj jōn tée*
   he go Waikiki neg. dance with us neg.

The constructions 3a’, 4a’ and 5a’ are unacceptable, implying that the verbs in the lower clauses cannot be negated. In conclusion, negation is applicable to the main verb or to the finite clause. The order is such that negation adverb marker *min* or *qat* preceeded the verb of the higher clause [-trans], and the negative adverb marker *tée* marked the end of the sentence.

1.4 Topicalizing Test

The purpose of this section is to use the topicalizing test to justify that the words following *V₁* and *V₂* can be topicalized and are nouns. These nouns are the non-final complements for their required regents verbs. There are three factors which show that they are non-final complements to the main verb *V₁* or the non-finite verbs *V₂* because (1) some people in the SV literature mentioned that SV are a series of verbs without NP complements following them, (2) another group of people questioned the syntactic status of the *V₂*, that they are adverbs rather a non-finite verbs, (3) or that *V₁* and *V₂* are compound verbs.

In a Khmer construction, in order to be a topicalized NP, an NP has to be definite. Thus, the insertion of a definite determiner is necessary for common nouns.

3c. phtcoh nēh koat *moo k* lōn nyh kōn
   house this he come visit with child
   ‘To this house, he comes to visit the child’.

Example 3c shows that the NP ‘house’ *phtcoh* [LOC] can be topicalized..
In example 4c, we can topicalize the non-final locus complement NP ‘under the tree’ kraaom daaomch’oa from the complement of the second clause, but not from the clausal complement yum kraaom daaomch’oa itself.

Example 5c shows that the NP Waikiki can be topicalized. This proper noun Waikiki is a non-final locus complement to the intransitive verb t’ow in the higher clause.

Thus, we could say that the non-subject NP of the intransitive verb in the higher clause; the NP of the non-finite intransitive verb in the lower clause can be topicalized; and they are the non-final complements of the V1, and V2 in the higher, and lower clauses.

3.1.5 Clefting Test on NP
This test is used to affirm that the words which were topicalized previously are nouns and are heads of their own noun phrases.

Based on this observation (example 3d-5d), noun-phrase clefting is possible in the intransitive verb followed by a non-finite intransitive, and these words, phteah, kraaom, andWaikiki, are nouns and heads of their own NP because they can be the dependents of the copula verb k’yy.
3.2 INTRANSITIVE VERB FOLLOWED BY A NON-FINITE TRANSITIVE

In the following sentences, the first verbs are intransitive, and the second verbs are non-finite transitive.

3.2.1 Same Subject

6. kmènŋ mɔɔk phsaar tij siiwɔphɔw
   child come market buy book
   +N   +V   +N   +V   +N
   Nom -trns +lctn +trns PAT
   PAT +fint LOC -fint Acc
   actr
   ‘The child comes to the market to buy books’.

7. kmènŋ mɔɔk tij siiwɔphɔw piii phsaar
   child come buy book from market
   ‘The child comes to buy books from the market’.

8. kɔɔt tɔɔw peet mɔɔl neɔk cumjɔy
   he go hospital see patient
   ‘He goes to the hospital to see the patient’.

9. kɔɔt tɔɔw mɔɔl neɔk cumjɔy naw peet
   he go see patient at hospital
   ‘He goes to see the patient at the hospital’.

In examples 6 to 9, the NPs kmènŋ and kɔɔt are both actors [+Nom, PAT, actr] of the intransitive verbs in the higher clauses and are both coreferential with the implied [AGT, Nom, actr] agents of the non-finite transitive verbs in the lower clauses. The second verbs in these sentences are complements rather than adjuncts because their regent verbs, mɔɔk and tɔɔw, require non-finite verbs as their dependents, and we cannot topicalize these second clauses: tij siiwɔphɔw, tij siiwɔphɔw piii phsaar, mɔɔl neɔk cumjɔy, and mɔɔl neɔk cumjɔy naw peet respectively.

10. kmɔɔ chɔɔr tij cɔɔk jɔɔm
    child stand buy banana eat
    +N   +V   +V   +N   +V
    Nom -trns +trns PAT +trns
    PAT +fint -fint Acc -fint
    actr
    ‘The child stands up to buy bananas to eat’.
Example 10 has three verbs. The subject kmēn of the main verb chōr [-trns] is coreferential with the subject of the verb tīn [+trns] in the lower clause, and this missing subject is in turn coreferential with the subject of its own subordinate clause. The object cēek of the subordinate clause is coreferential with the missing object of its own subordinate clause pam. The regent verb chōr requires non-finite the clausal complement tīn cēek pam where the non-finite verb tīn functions as its head.

3.2.2 Negation test

In the following examples, I make negative sentences by trying to place the adverb markers min (or qat).....(tée) in different positions within these sentences for the purpose of establishing a negativization pattern in these complement clauses.

6a. kmēn min mook phsaaar tīn šiōwpʰəw (tée) child neg. come market buy book neg.

'Ve the child does not come to the market to buy books'.

6a'. *kmēn mook phsaaar min tīn šiōwpʰəw child come market neg. buy book

7a. kmēn qat mook tīn šiōwpʰəw pii phsaaar (tée) child neg. come buy book from market neg.

'Ve the child does not come to buy books from the market'.

7a'. *kmēn mook qat tīn šiōwpʰəw pii phsaaar tée child come neg. buy book from market neg.

8a. koat qat tōw peet mōol neak cumɲyy (tée) he neg. go hospital see patient neg.

'Ve does not go to the hospital to see the patient'.

8a'. *koat tōw peet qat mōol neakcumɲyy tée he go hospital neg. see patient neg.

9a. koat min tōw mōol neak cumɲyy nōw peet tée he neg. go see patient at hospital neg.

'Ve does not go to see the patient at the hospital'.

9a'. *koat tōw min mōol neak cumɲyy nōw peet tée he go neg. see patient at hospital neg.
10a. kòon min choor tîn cèek nam tée child neg. stand buy banana eat neg. ‘The child does not stand to buy banana to eat’.

10a’. *kòon khnôm choor min tîn cèek nam tée child I stand neg. buy banana eat neg.

As a result, the finite verbs \( V_1 \) in the higher clauses can be negated (examples 6a-10a), but \( V_2 \) or the non-finite verbs in the lower clauses cannot be negated (examples 6a’-10a’). Again this is the pattern of negation in these sentences with the adverb marker \( \textit{min} \) or \( \textit{gat} \) always preceding the verbs in the higher clauses, but not the non-finite verbs, and the negative adverb marker \( tée \) is placed at the end of the lower clauses or is used to mark the boundary of the sentences.

3.2.3 Topicalizing Test

In the following examples, I topicalize the words following the \( V_1 \) and the \( V_2 \) in the above examples to show that the \( V_2 \) are non-finite verbs, not prepositions or adverbs, and that these words are nouns.

6b. phsaar néh kmèen mook tîn siiwphâw market this child come buy book ‘(At) this market, the child comes to buy books’.

6b’. siiwphâw néh kmèen mook phsaar tîn book this child come market buy ‘These books, the child comes to the market to buy’.

7b. siiwphâw néh kmèen mook tîn pii phsaar book this child come buy from market ‘This book, the child comes to buy from the market’.

8b. peêt néh koat tòw móol neak cumjûy hospital this he go see patient ‘(At) this hospital, he goes to see the patient’.

8b’. neak cumjûy néh koat tòw peêt móol patient this he go hospital see ‘This patient, he goes to the hospital to see’.

9b. neak cumjûy néh koat tòw móol nôw peêt patient this he go see at hospital ‘This patient, he goes to see at the hospital’.
10b. cèek néh kòon choor tìn nam
banana this child stand buy eat
'This banana, the child stands up to buy.'

Examples 6b to 10b, 6b' and 8b' are acceptable. This implies that these words phsaar, sìiawphàw, peet, neèk cumnìyìy and cèek are NPs in the higher clauses with the intransitive verbs and NP in the lower clauses with non-transitive finite verbs.

Here, I am using the omission test on implied object NP sìiawphàw, neèk cumnìyìy and cèek in examples 6b', 8b', and 10b to confirm that the stranded V₂ words are non-transitive verbs, not adverbs.

6b''. *kmèveŋ mook phsaar tìn
book this child come market buy

8b''. *koøt tòw peet móøl
patient this he go hospital see

10b'. *kòon choor tìn nam
child stand buy eat

As a result, the constructions are unacceptable, implying that the words tìn, móøl, and nam are non-finite transitive verbs because they are looking for their implied object NPs that were missing and unrecovered.

3.2.4 Clefting Test

6c. kûy phsaar daaøl kmèveŋ mook tìn sìiawphàw
is market which child come buy book
'It is the market to which the child comes to to buy books'.

6c'. kûy sìiawphàw daaøl kmèveŋ mook phsaar tìn
is book which child come market buy
'It is the books that the child comes to the market to buy'.

7c. kûy sìiawphàw daaøl kmèveŋ mook tìn pii phsaar
is book which child come buy from market
'It is the books that the child comes to buy from the market'.
8c. kyy peet daael koet tōw móol nek cunηyy
     is hospital which he go see patient
     'It is the hospital that he goes to see the patient'.

8c'. kyy nek cunηyy daael koet tōw peet móol
     is patient which he go hospital see
     'It is the patient that he goes to the hospital to see'.

9c. kyy nek cunηyy daael koet tōw móol nōw peet
     is patient which he go see at hospital
     It is the patient whom he goes to see at the hospital'.

10c. kyy cēck nēh daael koet choor pām
     is banana this which he stand eat
     'It is the banana that he stands eating'.

As shown in examples 6c to 10c and, 6c'and 8c', clefting the same words as in the topicalizing test support that they are nouns and heads of their own NP.

In conclusion, the characteristics of intransitive verb $V_1$
     when followed by a $V_2$ non-finite intransitive or transitive, and
     serial verbs can be summarized as followed. (1) The notion of
     the 'same subject' in SV and non-finite subordinate clauses are
     similar in that the actors [+Nom, PAT, actr] of the intransitive
     verbs in the higher clauses are both coreferential with the
     implied [PAT, Nom, actr] patient of the non-finite intransitive
     or [AGT, Nom, actr] agents of the non-finite transitive verbs in
     the lower clauses. (2) Only main verbs or finite verbs $V_1$ can
     be negated. (3) $V_2$ or the non-finitive verbs cannot be negated. (4)
     Words which follow the main verbs $V_1$ and the second verbs $V_2$
     are non-final complements and thus can be topicalized
     (topicalizing test) and are heads of their own noun phrases
     (clefting test). (5) The $V_2$. are verbs not adverbs. (6) The $V_1$
     and $V_2$. are not compound verbs.

3.3 TRANSITIVE VERB FOLLOWED BY A NON-
     FINITE TRANSITIVE

3.3.1 Switch Subject
     The 'switch subject' (in SV) means that the object of a
     verb is interpreted as the subject of the following verb. By this
     definition, kruupeet in sentence 11 is the switch subject. This
     implies that the object noun phrase kruupeet of the main verb
     noom is interpreted as the subject of the following verbs tip and
     jam in this sentence.
11. koət noəm kruu pəet tip cəek nam
   he take doctor buy cąek eat
   +N +V +N +V +N +V
   Nom +trns Acc +trns PAT +trns
   AGT +fint PAT -fint Acc -fint
   actr
   ‘He takes the doctor to buy bananas to eat’.

   In example 11, noəm [+trns] is the regent of the entire
   clause. Since this verb is a three-argument verb, the subordinate
   clause tip cəek nam is a complement rather than an adjunct.
   The accusative patient kruu pəet is the implied subject of the
   transitive verb tip and of the second verb nam.

12. koət yook kandiəw kaat srówow
   he take sickle cut rice plant
   ‘He takes the sickle to cut the rice plant’.

   In example 12, kaat srówow, ‘to cut the rice plant’ is the
   complement of the verb yook. The missing subject of kaat gets
   its index [1] from the agent of the higher verb.

3.3.2 Negation Test
11a. koət min noəm kruu pəet tip cəek nam tėc
    he neg. take doctor buy banana eat neg.
    ‘He did not take the doctor to buy bananas to eat’.
11a'. *kəət nəhm kruu pəet qat tən cèek nəm
he take doctor neg. buy banana eat

12a. kəət min yəok kandìiəw kəat səəow təəe
he neg take sickle cut rice plant neg.
‘He does not take the sickle to cut the rice plant’.

12a'. *kəət yəok kandìiəw min kəat səəow təəe
he take sickle neg cut unhusked rice neg.

Sentences 11a, and 12a show the normal pattern of the negation of sentential complements. Examples 11a’, and 12a’ are unacceptable. This implies that we cannot negate the second non-finite verbs in these constructions.

3.3.3 Topicalizing Test

11a. kruu pəet nəh kəət nəhm tən cèek nəm
doctor this he take buy banana eat
‘This doctor, he takes to buy banana [and] to eat’.

11a’. cèek nəh kəət nəhm kruu pəet tən nəm
banana neh he take doctor buy eat
‘This banana, he takes the doctor to buy and to eat’.

12a. kandìiəw nəh kəət yəok kəat səəow
sickle this he take cut rice plant
‘This sickle, he takes to cut the unhusked rice’.

12a’. səəow nəh kəət yəok kandìiəw kəat
rice plant this he take sickle cut
‘This rice plant, he takes the sickle to cut’.

Sentences 11a, 12a, 11a’ and 12a’ show that we can topicalized the words that followed the V₁ and V₂. These words are the non-final complements of the V₁ and V₂.

3.3.4 Clefting Test

11c. kyy kruu pəet daaəl kəət nəhm tən cèek nəm
is doctor who he take buy banana eat
‘It is this doctor who he takes to buy bananas to eat’.

11c’. kyy cèek daaəl kəət nəhm kruu pəet tən nəm
is banana that he take doctor buy eat
‘It is the bananas that he takes the doctor to buy [and] eat’.
12c. kyy kandiow daael koat yok kaat srōow
is sickle which he take cut rice plant
'It is the sickle which he takes to cut the rice plant'.

Again as in topicalizing section, the words kruu peet, cēk, and kandiow in the lower and the higher clauses can be clefted. Thus, they are nouns, heads of their own NP.

3.4 TRANSITIVE VERB FOLLOWED BY A NON-FINITE INTRANSITIVE

In the following section, we examine the constructions that have the transitive verbs as regents and are followed by non-finite intransitive dependents.

3.4.1 Switch Subject

13. khpom viioj kōon jum
I beat child cry
+N +V +N +V
+Nom +trns +PAT -trns
+AGT +fint +Acc -fint
actr
'I beat the child, (she) cries'.

14 wiιa noom kmēŋkmēŋ rut lōo phnum
he take? children run top mountain
'He takes the children running on the mountain'.

In these two examples, 13 and 14, the transitive verbs viioj, and noom have their subjects khpom, and wiιa [Nom, AGT, actr] respectively. The NP kōon, and kmēŋkmēŋ, are their direct objects, and the intransitive non-finite verbs, jum and rut, as their subordinate clauses respectively. The implied subjects, Nom/PAT, of these two non-finite verbs, jum and rut are coreferential with the direct objects kōon and kmēŋkmēŋ, [Acc, PAT] of the main verbs viioj, and noom, in accordance with the standard lexicase rule for missing actors in infinitival complements. The missing lower actor is coreferential with the regent clause’s PAT.

The subordinate clauses jum, and rut lōo phnum are complements to their regent verbs viioj and noom respectively.

3.4.2 Negation test

13a. *khpom min viioj kōon jum (tēc)
I neg. beat child cry neg.
'I did not beat the child to cry'.
13a'.  khnom  min  viioj  kdon  qaooj  jum  (tée)
      neg.  beat  child  give  cry  neg.
'I did not beat the child to cry'.

13a''. khnom  viioj  kdon  min  jum  (tée)
      I  beat  child  neg.  cry  neg.
'I cannot beat the child to cry'.

14a.  wiio  min  noom  kmeeŋkmeeŋ  rut  lō phnum  (tée)
      he  neg.  take  children  run  up  mountain  neg.
'He did not take the children running on the mountain'.

14a'. *wiio  noom  kmeeŋkmeeŋ  min  rut  lō  phnum  tée
      he  take  children  neg.  run  up  mountain  neg.

As shown in sections 1.3, 2.2, and 3.2, the adverb negation marker is normally marked on the main verbs or the finite verbs, but not the non-finite verbs. In examples 13a, the regent verb viioj in negative pattern cannot take the non-finite subordinate clause jum as its immediate dependent. The structure requires the word qaooj 'to give, or to cause to' as its immediate dependent, as shown in example 13a'.

In example 13a'', the V₂ jum can be negated, the construction is acceptable (as shown). This implies that the V₂ jum could be either a finite verb or an adverb. Similar patterns are shown in the completive verbs section.

Examples 14a and 14a' show that only the finite verbs can be negated, but not the non-finite verbs.

3.4.3 Topicalizing Test

13b.  kdon  néh  khnom  viioj  jum
      child  this  I  beat  cry
'This child, I beat [him] to cry'.

13b'. kdon  néh  khnom  min  viioj  qaooj  jum  (tée)
      child  this  I  neg.  beat  give  cry  neg.
'This child, I did not beat [him] to cry'.

13b''. kdon  néh  khnom  viioj  min  jum  (tée)
      child  this  I  beat  neg.  cry  neg.
'This child, I cannot beat [him] to cry'.
14b. kmèen kmèen néh wïa noom rut lɔɔ phnumchildren this he take run up mountain
'These children, he took [them] running on the mountain'.

14b'. lɔɔ phnum néh wïa noom kmèen kmèen rut up mountain this he take children run
'On this mountain, he took the children running'.

Examples 13b, 13b', and 13b'' show that we can topicalize the non-final complements of V₁. Examples 14b and 14b' show the words that follows the V₁ and the V₂ can be topicalized.

3.4.4 Clefting Test
In these type of constructions, clefting on NP can be done as illustrated in these following examples.

13c. kîy kɔɔn néh daaɛl khənom vïaaj jum
is child this who I beat cry
'It is this child who I beat [him] to cry'.

14c. kîy kmèen kmèen néh daaɛl wïia
is children this who he
noom daaɔr lɔɔ phnum
take walk up mountain
'It is these children whom he took running on the mountain'.

This clefting test supports the claim that the words which following the V₁ and the V₂ are nouns because they are the dependents of the copula verb kîy.

In conclusion, the constructions that have the transitive verbs regents and are followed by non-finite transitive or intransitive dependents can have the following characteristics. (1) They can have a 'switched subject' as in SV constructions, (2) In general, adverbs markers in these constructions negate only the finite or main verbs but not the non-finite verbs. (3) The words which follow the V₁ and the V₂ can be topicalized; thus, they are the non-final complements of their regent verbs, (4) Since they can also be clefted, then they are nouns and heads of their own NP.
3.5 COMPLETIVE VERBS

One of the grammatical criteria that has been proposed as an identifying property of completive verbs is that the $V_2$ may not be negated. However, some constructions in modern Khmer which would otherwise satisfy the definition of completion verbs do allow the second verb to be negated. The following section focuses on these types of constructions.

3.5.1 Same Subject and Switch Subject

15. khnom  tōw  saalaa  koat  baan$^2$
    I go school her can
    ‘I go to her school, I can’.
    ‘I can go to her school’.

    In this construction, the subject khnom of the
    intransitive verb tōw could be semantically interpreted as the
    implied missing subject of the non-finite second verb baan.

16. nisēt  tōw  toon  kapal  haoh
    student go be on time airplane
    ‘The student goes, [he] is on time for the airplane’.
    ‘The student catches the airplane on time’.

    In example 16, the noun nisēt is the Nom-PAT of the
    verb tōw and is interpreted as the implied missing subject of the
    non-finite transitive verb toon.

17. kmēēŋ  rok  moon  khōŋ
    kid look for chicken see
    ‘The kid looks for chicken, [kid] sees [it]’.
    ‘The kid found the chicken’.

    In this example, the noun kmēēŋ functions as the Nom-
    AGT of the transitive verb rok, and it could also be interpreted
    as the implied subject of the non-finite transitive verb khōŋ. The noun ‘chicken’ moon is the Acc-PAT of the verb rok and
    could function as the implied missing object of the non-finite
    second verb khōŋ.

18. khnom  kit  camnaaot  nōh  khos
    I think problem that wrong
    ‘I think of that problem [I] am wrong’.
    ‘I am wrong about solving that problem’.
In example 18, the pronoun *khpom* functions as the Nom-PAT of the transitive verb *kit* and could be interpreted as the implied subject of the non-finite intransitive verb *khos*.

19. vía mól kun néh cap
   he read movie this be ended
   ‘He watches this movie, [it] is ended’.
   ‘He watching the movie toward its ended’.

In example 19, the noun *kun* functions as the Acc-PAT of the verb *mól* and could be the implied missing subject of the non-finite intransitive verb *cap* in the second clause.

In conclusion, the notions of ‘same subject’ and ‘switch subject’ are applicable to these types of constructions as to the serial verbs constructions.

However, there is a group of directional verbs V₂ such as *côol* and *cèep* that some time lexically cannot directly be translated into English as verbs and syntactically may either be interpreted as deverbal adverbs or verbs. The problem that we are facing in here is to find a semantically acceptable implied missing subject for these constructions.

The following examples will illustrate this problem.

20. khnom nam baaj côol
    I eat dinner go in
    ‘I eat dinner, [it] goes in’.
    ‘I really can eat’.

In this example, the verb *nam* has the nouns *khnom* ‘I’ as its Nom-AGT and *baaj* ‘rice’ as its Acc-PAT. The word *côol* could be interpreted as either (a) a verb if the object *baaj* of the V₁ could be interpreted as its implied missing subject, or (b) a deverbal adverb that functions as the dependent of the verb *nam*.

21. koɔt luk phteo̞h néh cèep
    she sell house this to move outward
    ‘She sells this house, [it] moves outward’.
    ‘She is selling this house out’.

In example 21, the transitive verb *luk* has the pronoun *koɔt* as its Nom-AGT and *phteo̞h* as its Acc-PAT. The word *cèep* could either be interpreted (a) as a verb if *phteo̞h* could interpreted as its implied missing subject, or (b) as a deverbal adverb and dependent of the verb *luk*. 
22. khnom kit camnaaot nóh cèen
I think problem that go out
‘I think of that problem, [it] goes out’.
‘I can really solve that problem’.

Example 22 has the verb kit as the regent of the Nom-AGT khnom (similar to ‘I am wrong about solving that problem’ in example 18). The word cèen could be interpreted as either a verb or a deverbal adverb.

3.5.2 Negation Test
When negated these constructions pose another problem because, as stated before, the negation of these types of constructions are grammatically unacceptable on the first verbs, but acceptable on the second verbs, as illustrated below:

15a. khnom tòw saalaa koot min baan tée
I go school her neg. able neg.
‘Today, I am unable to go to her school’.

16a. khnom tòw min toon kapal haoh (tée)
I go neg. be on time air plane neg.
‘I fail to catch the airplane on time’.

17a. kméej mook mœn min khön (tée)
kid look for chicken neg. see neg.
‘The kid cannot find the chicken’.

18a. khnom kit camnaaot nóh qaat khos (tée)
I think problem that neg. wrong neg.
‘I am not wrong about solving that problem’.

19a. víio móol kun néh qaat cap (tée)
he watch movie this neg. be ended neg.
‘He did not finish watching the movie’.

20. khnom nam baaj min cöl (tée)
I eat dinner neg. go in neg.
‘I could not eat dinner’.

21a. koot lük phtēh néh qaat cèen (tée)
she sell house this neg. to move outward neg.
‘She is unsuccessful selling this house’.
22a. kḥnom kit camnaaot nóh qaṭt ḍeṣn (tée)  
I think problem that neg. go out neg.  
‘I cannot really solve that problem’.

In all of the constructions, when the adverb negation marker *min* or *qaṭt* are placed or preceded the second verbs *V₂*, the sentences are grammatically correct. The problem we face here is to determine what are the main verbs of these complective verbs constructions. Are they marked or defined by their positions (as first verbs *V₁*) in those constructions? Or are they based on their negation (that they can take adverb negation markers as dependents)? Are the second verbs *V₂* verbs or deverbal adverbs? If the main verbs of these constructions are based on their positions as first verbs *V₁*, then see alternative (1). If the main verbs of these constructions are determined based on the negation, then see alternative (2).

In alternative (1), I propose that the first verb *V₁* as the main verb or regent of the second clause. If so, the second verb *V₂* could have any of these properties: (a) *V₂* belongs to a group of complective verbs that allows to take the negation adverb markers as their dependents (b) *V₂* belongs to a group of impersonal verbs which doesn’t require a subject or (c) *V₂* is an adverb but not a verb (see diagrams). In alternative (2), I propose that the second verb *V₂* as the main verb or regent of the sentence. *V₂* is an impersonal complective verb, and has the entire first clause as its subject surrogate (see the diagrams below).

**Alternative 1a:**

```
  ┌───────┐  ┌───────┐  ┌───────┐  ┌───────┐  ┌───────┐  ┌───────┐
  │ tāw   │  │ saalaa │  │ baan   │  │ min    │  │ tée    │
  └───────┘  └───────┘  └───────┘  └───────┘  └───────┘
       │                  │                  │                  │                  │
       │ 2ndex            │ 3ndex            │ 6ndex            │
       └────────────────┘  └────────────────┘  └────────────────┘
         │                      │                      │                      │
         │ +V                    │ +N                   │ +V                  │
         └──────────────────┘  └─lctn──┘  └─5ndex──┘  └─tée──┘
            │                        │                      │                      │
            │ 1ndex                 │ 4ndex               │ 7ndex               │
            └──────────┘            └──────────┘            └──────────┘
                │                    │                    │                    │
                │  +trns              │  +Adv               │  +Adv               │
                └──────────┘            └──────────┘            └──────────┘
                    │                        │                      │                      │
                    │  +N                  │  +Adv               │                      │
                    └──────────┘            └──────────┘            └──────────┘
                          │                        │                      │                      │
                          │  PAT                 │  LOC                │                      │
                          └──────────┘            └──────────┘            └──────────┘
                                │                        │                      │                      │
                                │  COR                 │                      │                      │
                                └──────────┘            └──────────┘            └──────────┘
```

For example 15, the alternative 1a is to propose that the verb *tāw* is the regent of the clausal constituent *baan*. This implies that the verb *baan* might belongs to a ‘complective verbs
group' [+cmpt] that is allowed to take negation markers \( \text{min... tee} \) as its dependents.

With this alternative 1a, we have the negation marked not on the main verb \( V_1 \) but instead on the second verb \( V_2 \) in the lower clause, and this verb \( V_2 \) belongs to a subclass of verbs, ‘completive verbs’.

Alternative 1b:

In alternative 1b, the \( V_1 \) is the verb \( \text{t\text{\textcircled{\textit{w}}}'} \), the regent of the clausal constituent \( \text{baan} \). This implied that the verb \( V_2 \) \( \text{baan} \) could be an impersonal verb.\(^\text{14}\) Since some of these constructions have problems with the implied missing subject of \( V_2 \), this alternative 1b helps to resolve this issue because, in lexicase, the impersonal verb cannot have subject.

Thus, with this scenario, we must justify that \( V_2 \) is an impersonal verb and is allowed to be negated, which conflicts with the general norms that ‘only the main verb \( V_1 \) can be negated’.

Alternative 1c:
Based on the proposed alternative 1c, the $V_1$ $t\text{\texttw}w$ as the main verb has $kh\text{\textit{pom}}$ as its Nom-AGT, the location noun $saalaa$ as its LOC complement and the deverbal adverb $baan$ as its dependent. This implies that the $V_2$ $baan$ is not a verb, but a deverbal adverb, and can take adverb negation marker $min...t\text{\textee}$ as its dependents.

In alternative 1c, we have one problem to justify, that the ‘$V_2$ ‘ is not a verb, but an adverb, and can take other adverbs such as negation adverb markers as its dependents. With this alternative, we will have no ‘completive verbs constructions’, because we will have only one sole verb in both the affirmative and negative patterns and ,thus, one clausal sentence.

Alternative 2:

Alternative 2 suggeststhat the second verb $V_2$ $baan$ belongs to the CV completive verbs series as main verb or regent of the entire sentence.

3.5.3 Topicalizing Test

Topicalization of noun phrases in examples (15-22) are all acceptable in both the affirmative and negative patterns as illustrated in some of these sentences.

15b. saalaa ko\text{\textat}t n\text{\texteh} kh\text{\textit{pom}} t\text{\texttw}w baan
school her this I go able
‘To her school, I can go’.
15b. saalaa koɔt néh kʰnom tów min baan tée today school her this I go able neg.
'To her school, I am unable to go'.

16b'. kapal haoh néh kʰnom tów min toon tée airplane this I go neg. be on time neg.
'This airplane, I fail to catch on time'.

17b'. moɔn néh kméen rook min khoɔn tée chicken this kid look for neg. see neg
'This chicken, the kid cannot find [it]'.

18b. camnaaot nɔh kʰnom kit kʰos problem that I think wrong
'That problem, I am wrong about solving [it]'.

19b. kun néh víiɔ mɔol cap movie this he watch be ended
'This movie, he did not finish watching [it]'.

20b'. baaj néh kʰnom nam min cɔol tée dinner this I eat neg. go in neg
'This dinner, I could not eat [it]'.

21b. phteɔh néh koɔt luk cɛɛn house this she sell to move outward
'She is unsuccessful selling this house'.

22b'. camnaaot nɔh kʰnom kit min cɛɛn tée problem that I think neg. go out neg.
'That problem, I cannot really solve [it]'.

The NP that followed the V₁ and V₂ in the completive verbs constructions can be topicalized.

5.4 Clefting test
All NP in the completive verbs constructions can be clefted in both affirmative and negative patterns as shown in some of these examples:

15c. kʰy̱ saalaa koɔt daaɛl kʰnom tów baan is school her which I go able
'It is her school to which I can go'.
Clefting of noun phrases in the higher or lower clauses in the ‘completive constructions’ is acceptable and similar to the ‘serial verbs constructions’ or the non-finite subordinate constructions.

4. CONCLUSION

This paper enables me to examine the relationships between the head of the construction and its dependents in a sentence that has more than two verbs with no coordination or subordination marker (including the completive constructions) which were called by others as serial verbs constructions. Thus, there is no difference between the serial verb construction and the non-finite subordination construction. This implies that the serial verb $V_2$ is the non-finite subordinate verb and is the complement of the higher clause. The notions of ‘same subject or switch subject’ are applicable to serial verb constructions, non-finite subordinate constructions, and completive constructions. The $V_2$ and its following words cannot be
topicalized, but the noun phrases NPs following the V₁ and V₂ can be topicalized and clefted. Thus, it indirectly supports the idea that V₁ and V₂ are not compound verbs, and that one is in subordination of the clausal. The missing constituents (subject and object) in the finite and non-finite clauses can be accounted for and justified through the application of the Inflectional Rules and the Linking and Chaining Rules in lexicase general grammar rules.

On the issue of the negation, in term of its generality, the main verb of a construction can be negated with the adverb negation markers. Thus, this seems to distinguish the negative completer verbs constructions from the negative regular non-finite subordinate constructions. As stated again, the problem that we are facing here is to determine the main verb of these completer verbs constructions in both affirmative and negative patterns. Are they marked or defined by their positions (as first verb V₁) or by the negation adverb markers (then V₂ is the main verb), or do we consider that V₂ is a deverbal adverb (then V₂ is not a verb)? In this paper, I have proposed some alternative ways to examine these questions. However, I leave the principled choice among these alternatives to future study.

Notes

1. I am very grateful to Professor Stanley Starosta for his valuable criticism and comments on this paper. Errors and omissions are of course my own.
2. The square brackets in the tree diagram are used as a convenient way of indicating the implied dependent of the word.
3. The application of Control rules is not discussed in this analysis.
4. This clause cannot be topicalized, and it describes 'his intent of coming to school'. The regent verb mok requires an infinitival complement.
5. oot qəŋkuj koqt yum kraom daamchéo. These are two separate sentences. Each one has its own overt subject koqt.
6. In Modern Khmer a clause final locus complement cannot be topicalized.
7. All V₁ and V₂ can occur as the only single verb in a sentence.
8. Some of these constructions in Modern Khmer have been referred to as 'completive verb constructions' by Huffman (1986:171-175).
9. This word *baan* has different semantic and syntactic function then the auxiliary verb *baan* in this example:

\[ \text{k} \text{ñom } \text{baan } \text{t} \text{w } \text{saalaa } \text{koot} \]

'I have gone to her school'.

10. In this context, it is the noun ‘movie’ that ‘is ended’ and not the person who watch it, because we can substitute this word with other nouns such as *lkaaon* ‘play’, *siiwphow* ‘book’ or *kaaseet* ‘newspaper’

11. However, the root predicate test with inanimate objects tells us that they are rather deverbal homophonous adverbs, and suggests that the negation test be revised to allow *min*... *tee* to negate directional adverbs, which would result in a more consistent analysis. Further investigation will shed more light on this issue.

12. *baaj còol phôs luj còol krîpaw*

'rice go in stomach money enter into pocket pocket'

'The rice goes into the stomach'.

'The money goes into the pocket'.

13. Other subordinate constructions negations are not marked on the finite main verbs, but on the non-finite verb as shown below:

\[ \text{sokha } \text{chaa } \text{spôj } \text{dak } \text{saac } \text{craaen} \]

'Sokha fries the cabbage, [she] puts lots of meat'.

'Sokha fries the cabbage, putting lots of meat'.

\[ \text{sokhaa } \text{chaa } \text{spôj } \text{min } \text{dak } \text{saac } \text{craaen tée} \]

'Sokha fries the cabbage, not putting lots of meat'.

In this example, Sokha, the Nom-AGT of the transitive verb *chaa* functions as the implied missing subject of the non-finite transitive verb *dak*. This construction does not belong to the 'complective verbs constructions', and it does not have 'subject surrogate' either. The word *dak* is not an adverb because it has the noun *saac* as its Acc-PAT.

14. According to Pagotto, impersonal verbs appear with phrasal constituents in the preverbal position. She referred to such a phrases as 'subject surrogate'.

According to Pagotto (1985), there is a class of verbs in English called impersonal ([+mprs]) verbs which do not allow a [+Nom] argument.
References


