ALLATIVE PREPOSITION IN THAI

Kiyoko Takahashi
Kanda University of International Studies
kiyoko@kanda.kut.ac.jp

1. Introduction

ALLATIVE case expresses motion to or toward the referent of the noun phrase it marks, which is a ‘schematic vector’ of the path of motion (cf. Talmy 2000: 53-57). The concept ALLATIVE roughly refers to a dynamic spatial relation where a moving entity moves to a reference point. This concept of ALLATIVE entails the whole kinetic PATH schema consisting of SOURCE, PATH and GOAL (cf. Lakoff & Johnson 1999: 32-34). A language may have a number of ALLATIVE markers with different nuances. For example, the English language has several ALLATIVE prepositions: toward (GOAL noun phrase), to (GOAL noun phrase), onto (GOAL noun phrase), and into (GOAL noun phrase).

(1) He walked toward the shop. (PATH-oriented, unbounded path)
(2) He walked to the shop. (GOAL-oriented, bounded path)
(3) He put the files onto a CD. (GOAL-specific, affected target entity)
(4) He put the files into a box. (GOAL-specific, enclosed goal space)

The preposition toward in (1) represents directional or PATH-oriented ALLATIVE implying an unbounded path. The preposition to in (2) represents GOAL-oriented ALLATIVE implying a bounded path. The preposition onto in (3) represents GOAL-specific ALLATIVE implying an affected target entity. And the preposition into in (4) represents GOAL-specific ALLATIVE or ILLATIVE implying an enclosed goal space. Likewise, the Japanese language has two main ALLATIVE particles: (GOAL noun phrase)-e and (GOAL noun phrase)-ni.

(5) kare wa arui-te mise-e mukat-ta.
PRONOUN TOPIC walk-TE shop-toward go-PAST
‘He went toward the shop, walking.’ (PATH-oriented)

(6) kare wa arui-te mise-ni mukat-ta.
PRONOUN TOPIC walk-TE shop-to go-PAST
‘He went to the shop, walking.’ (GOAL-oriented)

The particle -e in (5) represents directional or PATH-oriented ALLATIVE and the particle -ni in (6) represents GOAL-oriented ALLATIVE.

By contrast, the Thai language, I claim, has only one ALLATIVE preposition proper, namely yaq. This preposition is derived from a verb meaning ‘maintain,’ ‘sustain,’ ‘exist,’ or ‘bring about.’ In modern Thai the lexical item yaq expresses two grammatical concepts, namely CONTINUOUS aspect and ALLATIVE case. When it precedes a verb phrase, as in (7), it represents CONTINUOUS aspect, that is, to

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continue doing or being. When it precedes a noun phrase, as in (8), it represents ALLATIVE case, that is, to or toward a goal.

(7) kháw yan dān rōop ráan
PRONOUN CONTINUOUS walk around shop
‘He was walking around the shop.’
(CONTOUS aspect)

(8) kháw dān pay yan ráan
PRONOUN walk go ALLATIVE shop
‘He walked to the shop.’
(ALLATIVE case)

This study focuses on the latter grammatical meaning of yan, namely ALLATIVE. The aim of this study is to attest to yan’s grammatical status as ALLATIVE preposition by examining actual tokens gathered from corpus data including published literary works, magazines and newspapers.

This paper is organized in the following way. In Section 2, I will make some remarks on the nature of yan to which little attention has hitherto been given. In Section 3, I will point out some distinctive features lying between the ALLATIVE preposition proper yan and ARRIVAL verbs in order to show their different nature and use. And Section 4 provides concluding remarks.

2. The nature of ALLATIVE preposition yan
Let us start with outlining the nature of the Thai ALLATIVE preposition yan.

2.1. Non-obligatory ALLATIVE marker
yan is not an obligatory ALLATIVE marker. It is observed that motion expressions with the ALLATIVE preposition yan abound in literary works, but the expressions are seldom used in everyday conversation. This is partly because without the overt ALLATIVE marker, a default ALLATIVE sense of Thai motion expressions could emerge from serialization of a PATH verb (e.g. pay ‘go’) and a GOAL noun or prepositional phrase, as illustrated in (9) and (10).

(9) kháw dān khùn pay [yòot kháw]
PRONOUN walk ascend go mountaintop
[GOAL Noun Phrase]
‘He walked up to the mountaintop.’

(10) kháw dān khùn pay [bòn yòot kháw]
PRONOUN walk ascend go on mountaintop
[GOAL Prepositional Phrase]
‘He walked up to the mountaintop.’
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2.2. Specific ALLATIVE marker
The ALLATIVE preposition ยัง indicates the endpoint of an ‘axial motion’ which is forward motion of an entity along an axial path, as exemplified in (8) above. The prepositional phrase beginning with ทุ่ง can indicate the endpoint of an axial motion as well, as in (11).

(11) ข้าว ด้านไป ถึงบ้าน ทุ่ง นอน รียน
PRONOUN walk go from house to school
‘He walked from his house to the school.’
(Axial motion)

The endpoint of a ‘horizontal or vertical motion’ which is the shift of the head of a line extending from a fixed point along a horizontal or vertical path, on the other hand, is marked by ห้า, as in (12), and ค่อย, ค่อย or ทุ่ง, as in (13).

(12) ข้าวหันน้าข้าวห้าได้
PRONOUN turn face enter to child
‘He turned his face to the child.’
(Horizontal motion)

(13) มองข้าวค่อย/ต่ำเหย่าห้าค่อย/ค่อย/ทุ่งท้าย
look PRONOUN from head to foot
‘(She) looked at him from head to toe.’
(Vertical motion)

At any rate, these lexical items (or ARRIVAL verbs) are not prepositions ‘proper’ but verbs that are capable of serving as prepositions in certain contexts. We shall return to this point in Section 3.4.

2.3. Fully grammaticalized ALLATIVE marker
The grammatical concept ALLATIVE expressed by ยัง is distinct from the verbal concept ARRIVAL expressed by a variety of ARRIVAL verbs (e.g. ทุ่ง ‘arrive,’ ข้าว ‘enter,’ อยู่ ‘put in,’ ที่ ‘collide,’ ยูต ‘halt,’ ท้าย ‘lay flat against,’ ซู ‘arrive and share/stay,’ etc.). Consider a contrastive pair of examples in (14) and (15).

(14) a. ข้าวด้านขึ้นไปทุ่งย้อตข้าว
PRONOUN walk ascend go arrive mountaintop
‘He walked up and arrived at the mountaintop.’
(Complex event)

b. ข้าวด้านขึ้นไป (ยัง) ย้อตข้าว
PRONOUN walk ascend go (to) mountaintop
‘He walked up to the mountaintop.’
(Simplex event)
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(15) a. maa yùt thìi rāan
come halt at shop
‘(He) came and stopped at the shop.’
(Complex event)

b. maa (yaŋ) thìi rāan
come (to) at shop
‘(He) came to the location of the shop.’
(Simplex event)

(14a) and (15a) include an ARRIVAL verb (thűŋ ‘arrive,’ yùt ‘halt’) while (14b) and (15b) do not. The former expressions have a complex event structure consisting of a motion and an arrival as a result, which I call ‘ARRIVAL event’ (cf. Takahashi, to appear), while the latter expressions have a simplex event structure consisting of a single motion to an endpoint. In this study the concept ARRIVAL is defined as an event of a moving entity’s reaching an endpoint as a result of its prior motion along a path toward the endpoint. The concept ARRIVAL may involve the characteristic of a goal entity and/or the type of effect resulting from the arrival. Whereas the concept ALLATIVE is highly schematic and purely directional, the concept ARRIVAL is fairly rich in the content of event. In other words, the former is grammatical and semantically bleached; the latter is lexical and contentful.

3. ALLATIVE preposition yaŋ vs. ARRIVAL verb sùu
To clarify the grammatical status of yaŋ as ALLATIVE preposition proper, in this study I will compare yaŋ with sùu as a representative of ARRIVAL verbs. The meaning of sùu is somewhat complex, namely ‘arrive and share/stay,’ as exemplified in (16).

(16) khàw kèp mǎŋkhuṭ pay sùu phùán bān
PRONOUN gather mangosteen go arrive and share/stay neighbours
‘He harvested mangosteens and went to share them with his neighbors.’ (Tomita 1990: 1835)

In (17) sùu follows a series of locomotion verbs. In such a context, sùu is often considered as an ALLATIVE preposition.

(17) lèn rìi khàw pay sùu ?aaraam phráʔphùtthacâw
run flee enter go arrive and share/stay temple
‘(He) ran away and got to the temple and stayed in.’
> ‘(He) ran away into the temple.’

Indeed, sùu can function as a preposition. However, as will be discussed later, it is the case with some marked contexts such as when being in combination with another particular preposition (e.g. câak krûŋth̀ēep sùu manîlaa ‘from Bangkok to Manila’) or when used in more abstract domains than the spatial domain (e.g. sùu ?aanaakhôt ‘into the future’).

Based on my examination of corpus data including many tokens of yaŋ and sùu, I argue that yaŋ has undergone the process of grammaticalization much further than sùu.
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Noss (1964: 148), Kölver (1984: 16), Diller (2001: 165) among others regard both yaŋ and sūu as fully grammaticalized ALLATIVE prepositions. But I do not share this common view. I would claim that yaŋ has become an ALLATIVE preposition and lost its content meaning but sūu has not yet done so. sūu largely functions as an ARRIVAL verb. The following observations serve as a piece of evidence in favor of my claim.

3.1. Non-preposition-like behavior of sūu
First, while yaŋ is always followed by a noun phrase, sūu can take place at the final position of serial verb constructions, as in (18).

(18) น่าน ขุนwoo ที่ี ร้าap เล่ย ยัอต ทำw
that COPULA place flat and hilltop
sūu ผ่ำak ทำw ปราathนำาถ้า คำ?
RELATIVE PRONOUN people PRONOUN wish MODAL
ห่อน tua sūu
sway while hanging body arrive and share/stay
‘That is a flat place and a hilltop, where they wish to lift themselves and get to and stay.’

In this regard, other ARRIVAL verbs behave in the same way. (19) to (21) give other examples ending up with an ARRIVAL verb, namely sāy ‘put in,’ hāa ‘seek’ and thūŋ ‘arrive.’

(19) ยำา หำย ก่ำิ่ืิดลอง ลง sāy
don’t CAUSATIVE dust fall descend put in
‘Don’t let dust fall down and go into (something).’

(20) แมน เล่น ป่ำย hāa
PRONOUN run go seek
‘It ran away and approached (something).’

(21) รำว คำ่ย บ่ำิก สำนก้ำาน sāpparāŋkheē rīi
PRONOUN MODAL carry body decrepit this
daanthān pay thūŋ
tavel go arrive
‘We will travel with these decrepit bodies of us and reach (some place).’

3.2. Linear order constraint on the combination of sūu and yaŋ
Secondly, yaŋ and sūu may co-occur. When they co-occur, as in (22), sūu as an ARRIVAL verb must precede yaŋ as an ALLATIVE preposition. The same observation applies to (23) where thūŋ, an ARRIVAL verb, precedes yaŋ.

(22) ทำw pay sūu yaŋ ที่ี klāy
enter go arrive and share/stay to place near
‘(The sunlight) went inside, reached and stayed, (to) a near place.’
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(23) khabuan thahān daen sūan sanāam maa thūŋ yāŋ
marching line soldier move pass field come arrive to
ʔanūsāawarii
monument
‘The soldiers marched across the field and reached the monument.’ (Intratat 1996: 128)

This is due to syntactic principles of Thai grammar. Considering the fixed linear order of the constituents of a verb phrase, namely verbs are followed by a prepositional phrase, we can say that sūu and thūŋ in the preceding position are more verb-like and yāŋ in the following position is more preposition-like.

3.3. ARRIVAL event denoted by sūu
Thirdly, the usage of the ARRIVAL verb sūu always suggests a ‘stative’ and ‘resultative’ situation after a given arrival, as exemplified in (24) to (26).

(24) khāw klāp sūu bāan
PRONOUN turn back arrive and share/stay house
lāŋ deēm
CLASSIFIER originally
‘He returned and got to the original house and stayed.’

(25) phaa com lōŋ sūu kôn samūt
lead sink descend arrive and share/stay bottom sea
‘(It) led (something) down and got to the bottom of the sea and stayed.’

(26) lōɔŋ khoɔm khuń sūu thoon fāa
float lantern ascend arrive and share/stay sky
‘(They) sent up floating-lanterns which got to the sky and stayed.’

This implication of ‘stasis’ is essentially connected with the verb’s original meaning, that is, to get to some place and share something with someone, as mentioned before.

From the tokens of sūu I gathered, the following scenario of an ARRIVAL event can be generalized: After arrival, the moving entity in question settles in the arrival space; otherwise, the moving entity virtually fades into some space as it goes away from the observer or the moving entity is fused into the setting to the extent that its motion cannot be detected. This is the prototypical ARRIVAL event that sūu denotes.

3.4. Using sūu as ALLATIVE preposition in a limiting case
Actually, sūu can function as a preposition only when the prepositional phrase led by sūu is in combination with an ABLATIVE prepositional phrase (e.g. cāak sūu ‘from … to …’), as in (27), or in adjacency to the ARRIVAL verb khāw ‘enter’ (i.e. khāw sūu ‘move into …’), as in (28).
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(27) ด่วนท่านค่ำครุ้ยฟื้นสุ้ยมานิลาา
travel from Bangkok to Manila
‘(They) traveled from Bangkok to Manila.’

(28) สี่ๆสัทธัณคล้าม่าค่ำสุ้ยตา้เหี้ย
light reflect turn back come enter to eye of
ผู้เหี้ย
viewer
‘The reflected light came into the eyes of the viewer.’

The serialization of the ARRIVAL verb ค่ำ and the preposition สุ้ย brings about an elaborated sense of the ALLATIVE, namely the concept of ILLATIVE or ‘motion into some place.’ Especially, the serialization of ค่ำ and สุ้ย denotes a special type of ILLATIVE that involves the notion of resultant stasis.

Additionally, uses of other ARRIVAL verbs as an ALLATIVE preposition are also subject to the collocational circumstances. That is, the prepositional phrase beginning with ห้า must follow the arrival verb ค่ำ‘enter,’ as in (29)=(12), and the prepositional phrase beginning with รอง, คอ or หู must be combined with an ABLATIVE prepositional phrase beginning with ค่ำ or ต้นต่อ ‘from,’ as in (30)=(13) and (31)=(11).

(29) ค่ำห้าน粑าค่ำห้าเด็ก
PRONOUN turn face enter to child
‘He turned his face to the child.’

(30) ผู้ค่ำค่ำ/ต้นต่อหูรอง/คอ/หูทรงสว่ยท้าว
look PRONOUN from head to
‘(She) looked at him from head to toe.’

(31) ค่ำด่น.payค่ำบานหูทรงร้องร้าน
PRONOUN walk go from house to school
‘He walked from his house to the school.’

In more abstract domains than the spatial domain, such as in the temporal domain, สุ้ย as well as other ARRIVAL verbs can be used as a preposition, as in (32) and (33) below, but further investigation into usages of ARRIVAL verbs in such abstract domains is beyond the scope of this study.

(32) สองต่อค่ำกรุนนุ้ยสุ้ยฏีก
send connect from generation one to another
รุนนุ้ย
generation one
‘(They) sent (something) from one generation to another.’

(33) ผู้นี่ห้าม
look the action of taking a step in path to future
‘(He) looked at making steps along the path to the future.’

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To summarize this section, my proposal is that whereas $\text{yan}$ has become an ALLATIVE preposition, $\text{su}u$ ‘arrive and share/stay’ and other ARRIVAL verbs largely function as a verb designating an ARRIVAL event. Specifically, $\text{yan}$ highlights an axial path toward an endpoint and $\text{su}u$ expresses an ARRIVAL event involving resultant stasis.

4. Conclusion
The Thai language has a number of lexical items used as both a content word (e.g. verb) and a function word (e.g. preposition). ARRIVAL verbs like $\text{thu}u$ ‘arrive’ and $\text{su}u$ ‘arrive and share/stay’ are also used as ALLATIVE markers. This study has shown, however, that in fact these ARRIVAL verbs mainly express quite a substantial event of ARRIVAL and they are allowed to function as an ALLATIVE marker in a limiting case. On the contrary, the lexical item $\text{yan}$ no longer expresses a verbal (or contentful) meaning in present-day Thai, but exclusively represents a grammatical (or non-contentful) meaning, more precisely, a temporally or spatially schematic meaning, i.e., either CONTINUOUS aspect or ALLATIVE case. It should be concluded, from what has been discussed in this paper, that there is only one ALLATIVE marker proper in Thai, that is, $\text{yan}$.

In passing, Thai speakers employ ‘Accomplishment Constructions’ consisting of CAUSE and EFFECT components to delineate temporally bounded events with the latter EFFECT part highlighted (cf. Takahashi, in press), as illustrated in (34) to (36) below. In (34) someone’s action of lifting a bag (CAUSE) leads to its upward movement (EFFECT). In (35) someone’s stretching his line of sight away (CAUSE) brings about his visual perception of mountains (EFFECT). In (36) something’s falling off (CAUSE) results in its broken state (EFFECT). The speakers uttering these sentences should regard the posterior EFFECT sub-event as a natural consequence of the prior CAUSE sub-event and concern themselves with the realization of the EFFECT sub-event.

(34)  $\text{yôk krâpâw}$ $\text{khuûn}$
      lift bag ascend
      [CAUSE] [EFFECT]
      ‘(He) lifted a bag and it moved upward.’

(35)  $\text{mûn pây}$ $\text{hên phûu khâw}$
      look go see mountain
      [CAUSE] [EFFECT]
      ‘(He) looked away and caught sight of mountains.’

(36)  $\text{tôk}$ $\text{têek}$
      go down be broken
      [CAUSE] [EFFECT]
      ‘(It) fell off and was broken.’

My basic view regarding ARRIVAL expressions, as in (37) and (38) below (as well as (14a), (15a), (16) to (26) and (28) above), is that they are a kind of Accomplishment Construction and that an ARRIVAL verb in the following EFFECT
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component of the construction (ทูน ‘arrive’ in (37) and สู ‘arrive and share/stay’ in (38)) denotes a substantial event of ARRIVAL that eventually arises from a prior locomotion event designated by PATH verb(s) in the preceding CAUSE component.

(37) [ดำเน ไป] [ทูน ร้าน] walk go arrive shop [CAUSE] [EFFECT] ‘(He) walked away and reached the shop.’

(38) [ขึ้น ไป] [สู ชั้นบน] ascend go arrive and share/stay upstairs [CAUSE] [EFFECT] ‘(He) went up and got to the upstairs and stayed.’

The speaker of (37), for instance, conceptualizes that the unexpressed mover’s arrival at the shop occurs as a natural result of his walking away previous to the arrival. Crucially, the speaker’s focus of attention is placed on the realization of the posterior EFFECT sub-event (his resultant arrival at the shop) rather than the prior CAUSE sub-event (his relocation toward the shop) which is a precondition for the realization.

In contrast, expressions for simplex locomotion event, as in (39) and (40) below (as well as (8) to (11), (14b), (15b), (27) and (31) above) which may or may not contain the ALLATIVE marker ยัน, make no clause-internal separation of CAUSE and EFFECT components.

(39) ดำเน ไป (ยัน) ร้าน walk go (to) shop ‘(He) walked to the shop.’

(40) ขึ้น ไป (ยัน) ชั้นบน ascend go (to) upstairs ‘(He) went up to the upstairs.’

Although the physical state of affairs described by (37) and (39) may be identical, the speaker’s conceptualization is different from each other. Unlike the speaker of (37), the speaker of (39) views the motion event in question as a simplex one: the unexpressed mover relocates on foot in the direction to or toward the shop and concurrently away from a certain reference point.

Note
I would like to thank Robert De Silva for helpful comments on the early version of this paper and stylistic suggestions. The remaining faults are all my own.

1. The data used for this study were collected mainly from a number of published literary works I randomly selected and partly from a computerized corpus of the Thai language that belong to the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC), National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Thailand.
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