

## HALĀNG VERB PHRASE

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## 0. Introduction

## 1. Preverb

## 1.1 Stative

## 1.2 Negative

## 1.3 Dependent

## 2. Main Verb

## 2.1 Reduplicative

## 2.2 Close Knit

## 2.3 Directional

## 2.4 Coordinate

## 2.5 Objective

0. Introduction. We will consider the Halāng<sup>1</sup> verb phrase (for the purposes of this paper) to consist of the main verb and elements occurring adjacent to the main verb which cannot be separated from the main verb by clause-level elements such as subject, locative or instrumental. The verb phrase under consideration is specifically that found in independent declarative clauses, which accounts for a large majority of the verb phrases in text.<sup>2</sup>

1. Preverb. Preverbs are not obligatory to the verb phrase but serve to modify the main verb. For convenience of description we have divided the preverbs into stative, negative and dependent preverbs. The stative preverbs can function as main verbs but negative and dependent preverbs cannot.

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<sup>1</sup>Halāng is a Mon-Khmer language spoken in Kontum Province of the Republic of Viet Nam. Koyong, a nearby dialect, is mutually intelligible with Halāng. There are an estimated 10,000 Halāng people. The language data for this paper was gathered over a period of two years, beginning in March 1963. Six months were spent living in the village of Plei Khôk Hônar, a 'new life' hamlet 15 kilometers west of Kontum City.

<sup>2</sup>During the analysis of this paper there was extensive use of a concordance of 57,000 words of text in Halāng made on the IBM 1410 computer at the University of Oklahoma by the Linguistic Information Retrieval Project of the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Oklahoma Research Institute, and sponsored by Grant GS-270 of the National Science Foundation. I am indebted to David D. Thomas for help in analysis and writing of this paper and to Din, my Halāng language teacher, who has been the source of much of the text material used in this paper.

1.1 Stative Preverbs. The set of words which function as stative preverbs occur frequently in Halǎng, because the same set of words can function as preverbs, as main verbs, or to introduce dependent clauses. The usual order for the stative preverb is: jiang<sup>3</sup> 'become, complete', ay 'continue, be', ?lo? 'know, be, experience', e 'have, be', wa? 'going to, about to', jah 'acquire, result'. ?lo? can precede ay and can both precede and follow e.

1.11 jiang 'become, complete' can not be preceded by any of the other stative preverbs. It has been found in combinations with ay, ?lo?, and jah.

jiang ay Aw jiang ay waaw. 'I become continue understand'  
'I have come to understand.'

jiang ?lo? Koan jiang ?lo? hateh. 'child become know talk'  
'The child has come to be able to talk.'

jiang jah Ger jiang jah dak. 'he become result come-up'  
'He has come to the point of having come up.'

1.12 ay appears frequently in text material because it can function as a main verb, both stative and active, with the meaning of 'to live', or as a preverb with the meaning of 'to continue, to be'. ay has been found with other stative preverbs in the following combinations:

jiang ay see 1.11

ay ?lo? Bò? klia ay ?lo? cha. 'grandfather tiger continue know eat'  
'The tiger still eats (people).'

ay wa? ?loang ay wa? taklih. 'tree continue about-to fall'  
'The tree is still about to fall.'

?lo? ay jah Gawi ?lo? ay jah mut. 'they know still complete enter'  
'They have still been able to enter.'

1.13 ?lo? is the only preverb which can occur twice in one verb phrase, coming before and after e or the negative ?be. It may also come before or after ay. As an active verb it has the meaning 'to know', as a stative verb the meaning of 'be', and as a preverb the meaning of 'be, experience'. It has been found in the following combinations.

jiang ?lo? see 1.11

ay ?lo? see 1.12

?lo? ay jah see 1.12

?lo? e or e ?lo?

Bloy ?lo? e ?nha? un. or Bloy e ?lo? ?nha? un.

'Bloy know have bring fire' 'Bloy have know bring fire'

'Bloy has brought fire.'

?lo? e ?lo? wa?

Bloy ?lo? e ?lo? wa? blah yoon.

'Bloy be result be about-to fight we-exclusive'

'Bloy is always about to fight us.'

<sup>3</sup>For a description of the Halǎng sound system see James & Nancy Cooper "Halǎng Phonemes" in Mon-Khmer Studies II (Saigon 1965). Non-conventional orthography used in this paper is ˊ for breathy voice quality, double vowel for long vowel, a following a vowel for neutral off-glide, nh for ñ.

Ger khom blah ?ni. 'he continue-to-try fight you'  
'He will continue to try to fight you.'

Aw khom ay wa? tek. or Aw ay khom wa? tek.  
'I try continue going sell' 'I continue try going sell'  
'I am still going to try to sell.'

1.33 huung 'to want' immediately precedes the main verb and can not be separated from the main verb by other words except in cases where strong emphasis is indicated.

Chaw huung cha mok. 'grandchild want eat parched-rice'  
'Grandchild wants to eat parched rice.'

Kay ?lo? huung chiw koh ?loang. 'he be want go cut wood'  
'He is wanting to go cut wood.'

huung can occur following other preverbs ?be, ?lo?, and ay.

2. Main Verb. Main verbs include words such as kuuy 'to sleep', cha 'to eat', liam 'to be good, beautiful', haklang 'to be heavy', chiw 'to go', and braay? 'to be tired'.

All of the verbs in a sentence usually occur together. Subjects, objects, and indirect objects which may occur between verbs are omitted if the context is able to supply the meaning. Within the main verb there is a complex of verbs which can best be described by showing the relationships within the complex. The relationship may be reduplicative, close knit, directional, coordinate, or objective. There may be more than one relationship in the main verb complex.

2.1 Reduplicative Relationship. In a reduplicative relationship the second verb can not occur alone. The second verb has no meaning of itself but serves only to modify the meaning of the first verb.

2.11 The most common type of reduplication consists of replacing the vowel and final consonant (if one occurs) with ay?. Reduplication of this type conveys the meaning of 'to do reluctantly'.

Aw cha chay? rò? 'I eat meat.' (Someone else doesn't want it or it may be rotten.)

Aw kuuy kay? 'I sleep.' (on the ground, because there is no place else to sleep.)

Aw si? say? 'I go home.' (by myself because no one would go with me.)

Aw hum hay. 'I take a bath.' (The water is not very clean.)

2.12 Another type of reduplication consists of replacing the vowel with the vowel âa. Reduplication of this type indicates a reluctance and someone's insistence upon an action.

Cha chà kâ âih. 'eat referring-to you' 'Eat it!' (There is not very much and you keep insisting.)

Kuuy kâay kâ âih. 'sleep referring-to you' 'Go sleep by yourself.'  
(I don't want to.)

Aw si? sâa? dòh. 'I return final-particle' 'I go home reluctantly  
(because you insist).'

Aw hum hâam dòh. 'I bathe reluctantly.' (Someone insists).

**2.2 Close Knit Relationship.** Verbs in a close knit relationship can occur independently as a main verb but when used together they cannot be reversed in order or separated by other words. They are stereotyped phrases where the two near synonyms together have just one meaning and indicate just one action.

Aw chong cha pang ìh. 'I eat with you.' (chong 'to eat rice', cha 'to eat other than rice')

Aw cha kap. 'I eat.' (cha 'to eat other than rice', kap 'to bite')

Aw rak ke àih. 'I take care of you.' (rak 'care for', ke 'watch')

A number of verbs occur only in the second position, knit to a variety of verbs in the first position. These include words such as dèh 'to throw away', ngòoy 'to play', am 'to give', and chu? 'to put'.

Aw koh dèh àih. 'I destroy you.' (koh 'to cut', dèh 'to throw away')

Aw peng dèh àih. 'I kill you.' (peng 'to shoot', dèh 'to throw away')

**2.3 Directional Relationship.** With few exceptions, verbs of direction or motion precede other main verbs. Nothing can come between the directional verb and the verb which follows. Directional verbs include words such as: chiw 'go', lah 'come', loh 'go out', dang 'go look for', dàk 'ascend', jur 'descend', lay 'go after', wal 'return', weh 'turn aside', si? 'return'.

Hèey chiw hium. 'We go bathe.'

Aw lah chong pang ìh. 'I come eat with you.'

Two or more directional verbs can precede another verb.

?ni chiw dàk cha. 'You go ascend eat.'

Aw lah chiw tan ìh. 'I arrive go tie you.'

**2.4 Coordinate Relationship.** Coordinate verbs show separate actions or separate aspects of the same action. Verbs in this relationship share the same subject and object.

Ger büh oak cha ka. 'He roasted cleaned ate the fish.'

Pataw ruup büh ?maang pahaang giaw? àih. 'Rich-man (will) capture pound beat roast cook-on-a-stick you.'

Kataam yok cha ger. 'Crab got ate her.'

**2.5 Objective Relationship.** In an objective relationship one verb is the object of another verb. This construction may be considered as going beyond the verb phrase because the verbs can be expanded into separate clauses having their own subjects and objects, but the expansion often includes information which does not need to be said or which the speaker does not want to say. In effect, the expansion changes the intent of the clause.

Verbs which take other verbs as objects fall into the general categories of emotion, perception, saying or doing. Of emotion: maat 'to want', wil 'to worry', ?yu? 'to be afraid'. Of perception: saw 'to see', nhàng 'to hear, feel', hapo 'to dream'. Of saying: roay 'to tell', patho 'to teach', chun 'to command', takeey 'to tell'. Of doing: chu? 'to put', che 'to do, pretend', ?nha? 'to bring', dagum 'to help', kaw 'to wait',

pakra 'to repair', yok 'to get', lòoy 'to stop'.

Bò patho tiam màk. 'grandfather teach make knife' 'Grandfather teaches making knives.'

Aw hapo jaal. 'I dream fish-with-a-net.' 'I dreamed someone was fishing with a net.'

Aw nhàng waar chiw. 'I hear say go'  
I heard (someone) say that (he) went.'

Ger che patho pakra hanaat. 'he pretend teach repair gun'  
'He pretends to teach how to repair guns.'

The subjects of the verbs may be the same or different, but the second subject seldom occurs in the clause.

Aw ?yu? ?be teal chiw. 'I afraid not able go'  
'I am afraid that (I, you, or he) is not able to go.'

Aw ?nha? hùum. 'I bring (you) and (we) bathe.'

Aw yok ay kà aw. 'I get live referring-to me'  
'I get (you or someone) and (you or someone) lives with me.'