

Complementation in Khamniungan*

Keneichanu Mepfhü-o**

Department of Linguistics, Nagaland University, Kohima Campus, Nagaland

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Abstract

This paper examines the complementation strategies in Khamniungan with an open ended conclusion for further research. The paper is divided into different sections. Section 1 is the introduction. In section 2, the different complement types are discussed. The five final complementizers and their distributions are discussed in section 3. Section 4 examines the different possible positions of the final complementizers in Khamniungan. Section 5 gives a brief description of the similarities and difference of Complementation in Khamniungan and Tenyidie. Section 6 concludes the report with a summary of its findings.

Keywords: Complementizers, finite clause, participial clause, infinitives, gerunds.

Introduction

“Complementation is a process of subordination by means of which two clauses are joined together by a linker called a complementizer” (Kevichüsa, 2007). The aim of this paper is to examine the complement types, different complementizers and their distributions and the possible position of the Final Complementizers in Khamniungan.

A list of abbreviations used is included at the end of the paper. IPA symbols are used for transcription. The data is presented in the following format:

Line 1: Standardized orthography

Line 2: Phonetic Transcription

Line 3: Glossing

Line 4: English Translation

An asterisk (*) at the beginning of a sentence indicates an ungrammatical sentence.

Complement Types

The literature on complementation discusses four complement types: Finite Embedded Clause, Participial Clause, Infinitive Clause and the Gerundal or Verbal Noun Clause. All these are

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* Email: neichanuo@gmail.com

possible in Khamniungan. The following examples are illustrative:

i) Finite Embedded Clause

1. Ngo [jü nyiu tsam ai noin tü] ngen
ŋɔ tsə niu tsam li noin tə ŋen
I my mother house LOC have COMP know
'I know that my mother is at home.'

ii) Participial Clause

2. Ngo soutsom tsam nai kho ao aiu-ji
ŋɔ sɔtsəm tsam nai kho ʌɔ a:u-ʃi
I cinema house LOC go COMP like
'I like going to the cinema.'

iii) Infinitives

3. Tongkhem shi ao aium
tɔŋkhem ʃi ʌɔ a:uɪm
Tongkhem come COMP wants
'Tongkhem wants to come.'

iv) Gerunds

4. Khampathe-tsün mein
khampət-tsən min
Swimming-COMP good
'Swimming is good.'

An interesting finding from the above sentences is that unlike Tenyidie², which is also a Tibeto-Burman language, Khamniungan does not exhibit clausal union with the “want” class predicate in the infinitives as is shown in sentence (3). Sentence (5) below shows clausal union in Tenyidie.

5. Kevi vor-nyü ba
kevi vɔr-nyə ba
kevi come-want PROG
'Kevi wants to come.'

Complementizers and their Distribution

Complementizers function as the linker that joins two clauses. A complementizer may occur to the right of the embedded clause or to the left of the embedded clause. The first is a case of Initial

² The analysis of Tenyidie complementation is found in Kevichüsa (2007).

Complementizer, and the latter, a case of Final Complementizer. “The complementizer is a functional category like tense and aspect, and is normally a 'grammaticalized form' that is devoid of any semantic content” (Subbarao 2012).

Khiamniungan has five Final Complementizers; *tü*, *ao*, *kü*, *tsün*, and *nai*, The language does not have an Initial Complementizer. They are distributed as follows:

1) *Tü*

Complementizer *tü* occurs with finite clause only.

- i) Ngo [jü nyiu tsam ai noin tü] ngen
 ŋɔ tsə jiu tsam ai noin tə ŋen
 I my mother house LOC have COMP know
 'I know that my mother is at home.'
- ii) Ngo Tsuham Bangkok ai eiuanji tü loun
 ŋɔ tsuham bæŋkək ai iwantʃi tə lun
 I Tsuham Bangkok LOC going COMP heard
 'I heard that Tsuham is going to Bangkok.'

2) *ao*

Complementizer *ao* occurs in participial clauses, the infinitives, and gerunds.

- iii) Atao nouko hesiu ao saisüle ashan
 atəo nukə heʃiu əɔ saisələ aʃan
 Time on eating COMP habit make
 'Make a habit of eating on time.'
- iv) Tongkhem tsam-ai shi ao aium
 tɔŋkhem tsam-ai ʃi əɔ a:iu:m
 Tongkhem house-LOC go COMP wants
 'Tongkhem wants to go home.'
- v) Lihoum ao tsüşio-e
 liuhum əɔ tsəʃio-e
 Hunting COMP prohibited
 'Hunting is prohibited.'

3) *kü*

Complementizer *kü* also occurs in participial clauses like the complementizer *ao*.

However, in the case of *kü*, the verb is always duplicated.

- vi) Atao nouko hesiu-hesiu kü saisüle ashan

ΛτΛο nukə heʃiu-heʃiu kə sΛisəle ΛʃΛn
Time PP eating COMP habit make
'Make a habit of eating on time.'

The complementizer *kü* can occur with an intransitive verb whereas the complementizer *ao* cannot, as illustrated below:

vii) Ngo [methso nou asou shap-shap kü] loun
ŋə meʃhə nu Λsə ʃΛp-ʃΛp kə lun
I baby DEF night crying COMP heard
'I heard the baby crying at night.'

viii)* ngo [methso nou asou shap ao] loun
ŋə meʃhə nu Λsə ʃΛp Λə lun
I baby DEF night crying COMP heard
'I heard the baby crying at night.'

4) *tsün*

Complementizer *tsün* occurs with gerunds.

ix) Neh tsökü he-tsün tsü-mei
neʔ tsəkə he-tsən tsə-me
meat too much eating-COMP NEG-good
'Eating too much meat is bad.'

x) Aliye -tsün tsü-mei
Λlije -tsən tsə-me
fighting -COMPNEG-good
'Fighting is bad.'

5) *nai* and *tsün*:

The distributions of complementizers *nai* and *tsün* have two sets. In the first set, the *nai* occurs with cleft sentences and *tsün* occurs with the gerunds, with or without objects.

In the second set, *nai* occurs in infinitives when there is an overt occurrence of an object and *tsün* occurs in infinitives in the absence of an overt object.

Set I

Nai

xi) Ashio nai tsü-mei

Λʃio nai tsə-me

drink COMPNEG -good

'It is bad to drink.'

xii) Theng-shio nai tsü-me

theŋ-ʃio nai tsə-me

alcohol-drink COMP NEG-good

'It is bad to drink alcohol.'

Tsün

xiii) Ashio tsün tsü-me

Λʃio tsən tsə-me

drink COMPNEG -good

'Drinking is bad.'

xiv) Theng-shio tsün tsü-me

theŋ-ʃio tsən tsə-me

alcohol-drink COMP NEG-good

'Drinking alcohol is bad.'

Set II

Nai

xv) Theng-shio nai tsü-me

theŋ-ʃio nai tsə-me

alcohol-drink COMPNEG -good

'To drink alcohol is bad.'

Tsün

xvi) Theng-shio tsün tsü-me

theŋ-ʃio tsən tsə-me

alcohol-drink COMP NEG-good

'To drink is bad.'

6) tsün and tü

Complementizers *tsün* and *tü* can co-occur in the embedded clause of a finite sentence. This phenomenon is also seen in Tenyidie (Kevichüsa, 2007)

xvii) [Haowon khokiang khong-tsün khiaunia ame tsak tü] ngo ngen

hΛwɔn khɔkiΛŋ khɔŋ-tən khuɔniΛ Λme tʃΛk tə ŋɔ ŋen

The above discussion can be summarised as follows in Table 1:

Table 1

| Complement Types | | Finite | Non-Finite | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|-------------|----------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Complementizer | | | Participial clause | Gerunds | 'to' Infinitives | Cleft sentence | |
| | | + | - | - | - | - | |
| ao | | - | + [+intransitive -intransitive] | + | + | - | |
| kü | | - | + [+intransitive +intransitive] | - | - | - | |
| nai and tsün | I | nai | - | - | - | + | |
| | | tsün | - | - | + [±object] | - | |
| | II | nai | - | - | - | + [+object] | - |
| | | tsün | - | - | - | + [±object] | - |
| tsün and nai | | + | - | - | - | - | |

Haowon guitar play-COMP person good one COMP I heard
'I know that Haowon is a good guitarist.'

Positions of the Final Complementizers

The literature discusses three possible positions of occurrence:

(I) in-situ position in the matrix clause

[--- [CP S₂ COMP] V₁]

S₁ S₁

(II) To the right of the verb of the matrix clause

[--- V₁ [CP S₂ COMP]]

S₁ S₁

(III) To the left of the subject of the matrix clause

[[CP S₂ COMP]--- V₁]

S₁

S₁

(Kevichüsa, 2007)

A. All these patterns are possible for the complementizer *tü*. The *Tü* complementizer has an allomorph *ta* and its distribution is syntactic in nature. *Tü* becomes *ta* in the

[--- V₁ [CP S₂ COMP]] position. i.e. to the right of the matrix clause.

S₁

S₁

In the other two positions, the *tü* form occurs.

I

5. Ngo [jü nyiu tsam ai noin tü] ngen
 ɲɔ tsə ɲiu tsam ʌi noin tə ɲen
 I my mother house LOC have COMP know
 'I know that my mother is at home.'

II

6. Ngo ngen [jü nyiu tsam ai noin ta]
 ɲɔ ɲen tsə ɲiu tsam ʌi noin tʌ
 I know my mother house LOC have COMP
 'I know that my mother is at home.'

III

7. [Jü nyiu tsam ai noin tü] ngo ngen
 tsə ɲiu tsam ʌi noin tə ɲɔ ɲen
 my mother house LOC EX COMP I know
 'I know that my mother is at home.'

B. For the complementizer *kü*, only two positions are possible. Embedded Clauses with the complementizer *kü* cannot occur to the right of the verb of the matrix clause as the ungrammaticality of sentence (27) illustrates. Sentences (26) and (28) illustrate the other two positions.

I

8. Ngo [methso nou asou shap-shap kü] loun
 ɲɔ meʃhɔ nu ʌsɔ ʃʌp-ʃʌp kə lun
 I baby DEF night crying COMP heard
 'I heard the baby crying at night.'

II

9. *Ngo loun [methso nou asou shap-shap kü]
ngo loun meʃhə nu ʌsə ʃʌp-ʃʌp kə
I heard baby DEF night crying COMP
'I heard the baby crying at night.'

III

10. [Methso nou asou shap-shap kü] ngo loun
meʃhə nu ʌsə ʃʌp-ʃʌp kə ŋə lun
baby DEF night crying COMP I heard
'I heard the baby crying at night.'

C. Complementizers *tsün* and *tü* can co-occur in all the three positions.

I

11. Ngo [Haowon khokiang khong-tsün khiaunia amei tsak tü] ngen
ŋə haowon khəkiaŋ khəŋ-tən khʌjiniʌ ʌme tʃʌk tə ŋen
I Haowon guitar play-COMP person good one COMP know
'I know that Haowon is a good guitarist.'

II

12. Ngo ngen [Haowon khokiang khong-tsün khiaunia amei tsak ta]
ŋə ŋen haowon khəkiaŋ khəŋ-tən khʌjiniʌ ʌme tʃʌk tʌ
I know Haowon guitar play-COMP person good one COMP
'I know that Haowon is a good guitarist.'

III

13. [Haowon khokiang khong-tsün khiaunia amei tsak tü] ngo ngen
haowon khəkiaŋ khəŋ-tən khʌjiniʌ ʌme tʃʌk tə ŋə ŋen
Haowon guitar play-COMP person good one COMP I know
'I know that Haowon is a good guitarist.'

D. Complementizer *ao* can occur only in one position i.e. the in-situ position. The following examples are illustrative:

14. Tongkhem [tsam-ai shi ao] aium
təŋkhem tsʌm-ʌi ʃi ʌo aum
Tongkhem house-LOC go COMP wants
'Tongkhem wants to go home.'

15. *Tongkhem aium [tsam-ai shi ao]
 tɔŋkhem a:um tsam-ai ʃi ʌɔ
 Tongkhem wants house-LOC go COMP
 'Tongkhem wants to go home.'
16. *[tsam-ai shi ao] Tongkhem aium
 Tsam-ai ʃi ʌɔ tɔŋkhem a:um
 house-LOC go COMP Tongkhem wants
 'Tongkhem wants to go home.'

Table 2: below gives a summary of the position of the four complementizers in Khamniungan:

| Complementizer | Position | | |
|--------------------|----------|----|-----|
| | I | II | III |
| tü | + | + | + |
| kü | + | - | + |
| tsün and tü | + | + | + |
| ao | + | - | - |

Complementation in Tenyidie and Khamniungan

All the four complement types discussed in literature occur in both the languages. However, as mentioned earlier, Khamniungan does not show clausal union with the “want” class predicate in the infinitives while Tenyidie does. Sentence 3 and 5 are illustrative. Khamniungan have 5 types of complementizers which all functions as final complementizers. Tenyidie, on the other hand, have 4 complementizers namely *i-kecə*, *i-kecə* and *i-di* where *kecə* function as an Initial Complementizer and the others functions as Final complementizers. The following examples are illustrative:

kecə

17. a si [kecə no tekhu puo ŋu]
 I nom heard comp you big-cat one saw
 'I heard that you saw a big-cat.'/'what I heard is that you saw a tiger.'

i-kecə

18. no tekhu puo ŋu i-kecə] a si
 nom big cat one saw quot/comp I nom heard
 'I heard that you saw a big-cat.'

i-di

19. puo-e [pro v3he would come.]

i

20. tsibu-e [pro dzəku nu vo-tyo **i** - ʃə]
Tsibu-erg Dzükou to go-fut quot/comp-asp
'Tsibu said that she would go to Dzükou.'

(Kevichüsa, 2007:42, 43)

As discussed in section 4, the position of occurrence of the 5 complementizers in Khamniungan is varied and contrasting. Further explanation is given in the conclusion in Section 6. In Tenyidie, all the three patterns are possible for all the final complementizers. The following g examples are illustrative:

I

21. khOtO-e [sodu chuti-tyo **i-kecə**] si-ba
khoto-erg tomorrow holiday-fut quot-comp know-asp
'Khoto knows that tomorrow will be a holiday.'

II

22. khOtO-e si-ba [sodu chuti-tyo **i-kecə**]
khoto-erg know-asp tomorrow holiday-fut quot-comp
'Khoto knows that tomorrow will be a holiday.'

III

23. [sodu chuti-tyo **i-kecə**] khOtO-e si-ba
tomorrow holiday-fut quot-comp khoto-erg know-asp
'Khoto knows that tomorrow will be a holiday.'

(Kevichüsa, 2007: 49)

Conclusion

Khamniungan has five complement types with no instance of clausal union with the “want” predicate in the infinitives. The distribution of the five final complementizers is very specific and well defined. Complementizers *ao*, *tsün* and *kü* all occur in the participial clause. *ao* occurs only with intransitive verbs. *Tsün* and *kü* occur in participial clauses with transitive verbs as well as intransitive verbs. But in the case of complementizer the verb is always reduplicated. Complementizers *ao* and *tsün* occur with gerunds. But the occurrence of *ao* is very specific. *ao* occurs with gerunds along with the verb 'prohibit' and *tsün* occurs when the gerund is used along with an adjective. All the three positions of occurrence of the Final Complementizer Clause are possible with the complementizer *tü*. Complementizers *tsün* and *tü* can co-occur in all the three positions. For complementizer *kü*, only two positions are possible; the in-situ position and to the

left of the verb of the matrix clause. The complementizer *kü* cannot occur to the right of the verb of the matrix clause.

This paper is an attempt to describe and give a preliminary understanding of the complementation strategies in Khamniungan. Although this study has been limited to a singular tribal dialect only, it is expected that further studies, especially in relation to other geographically adjacent spoken dialects will be considered. It is hoped that this study will assist such further research and explorations.

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| asp-aspect | PP-Postposition |
| COMP- Complementizers | PROG- Progressive |
| DEF-Definite | LOC- Locative |
| erg- ergative | NEG- Negative |
| EX- Existential | nom- nominative |
| Fut-future | quot-quotative |

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