

Morphology of adverbial clauses in nDrapa

SHIRAI Satoko

Reitaku University

Abstract

This presentation mainly examines morphology of the verbs in adverbial clauses such as conditionals and concessives in nDrapa (Daofu and Yajiang Counties, Kanzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture). One of the observable characteristics is negation: the prohibitive form is employed as the negation in a certain type of clauses. For example, in (1), *na-* ‘DWN.PROH’, the prohibitive form of the downward directional prefix (*a-* ‘DWN’), is used for negation.

- (1) *somuŋi3* *mʌkku3* *na-te = rʌ3*, *tʰe-a2* *rɛ3*.
tomorrow rain DWN.PROH-fall=COND pleasant-RT SFP
‘If rain does not fall tomorrow, it will be pleasant.’

Moreover, the point-of-view marking (Pattern A: egophoric/Pattern B: non-egophoric) is neutralized in the subordinate clauses, but the participation of the pivot (i: the speaker of a direct declarative sentence; ii: the hearer of an interrogative sentence; or iii: the original speaker of a reported sentence) may affect the acceptability of a certain type of adverbial clause. For example, (2) is less acceptable than (3): In (2), the natural condition is stated objectively, but in (3), the speaker states the event that involved him/herself. This phenomenon is observed in Levels IV and V of Tsunoda’s ‘five levels in clause linkage’ (Tsunoda 2012).

- (2) ? *satsa3* *fiɖziɖzi3* *rɛ = aɕɰ3*, *mʌkku3* *a-mə-tti3*.
ground wet COP₄=CONC₂ rain DWN-NEG-reach
‘Although the ground is wet, (I guess that) it did not shower.’

- (3) *ŋa1* *ʌpɛ1* *ma-tʰe = aɕɰ3*, *chanba3* *ni = tʃi3* *ma-jʌ3* *pa3*.
1SG a.little NEG-pleasant=CONC₂ cold sick=IPFV NEG-COP1 INF
‘Although I slightly feel bad, I don’t think I have a cold.’

I will describe the morphological characteristics of adverbial clauses in nDrapa and will discuss the contrast with other languages in the western Sichuan area.

References

Tsunoda, Mie. 2012. Five-level classification of clause linkage in Japanese. *Studies in Language* 36(2): 382-429.