

Title of paper: Agreement in Laizo

Subfield: Morphosyntax

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Laizo is a central Chin language spoken primarily in Falam township, Chin state, Myanmar. It is also known as Zahao. It has a system of particles which accompany verbs and show agreement with the subject and one object. This paper will describe this agreement system in comparison with those of the closely related Lai and Mizo languages.

In (i) we see both subject and object agreement.

- (i)            *ka lo hmu*  
               1s 2 see  
               'I see you'

The subject agreement particle (*ka*) precedes the object agreement marker (*lo*) which in turn precedes the verb (*hmu*). In (ii) we see only subject agreement.

- (ii)           *a hmu*  
                3s see  
                'he/she sees him/her'

In (ii) the subject agreement particle (*a*) precedes the verb, but the language has no third person object agreement particle. In (iii) we see only object agreement.

- (iii)          *i hmu*  
                1s see  
                'you/he/she sees me'

In (iii) the object agreement particle (*i*) precedes the verb; when this particle is present, subject agreement particles (like *a* in (ii) above) may not appear. This property of first person object agreement is shared with Mizo.

In Laizo the number of a second person object is not indicated; *lo* as in (i) agrees with both singular and plural second person objects. The number of a third person object may be indicated as in (iv).

- (iv)           *a hmu hai*  
                3 see pl  
                'he/she sees them'

But the particle *hai* is optional in (iv); (ii) may also be used in that meaning.

- (v)            *in hmu*  
                1p see  
                'you/he/she sees us'

Finally, the number of a first person object may be indicated as in (v); the number of the first person object is partially indicated: *i* is used only when the first person object is singular, but *in* may be used if either the subject or the first person object is plural. If the subject is plural and the first person object is singular, either *i* or *in* may appear. The paper will explore these and other properties of Laizo agreement.

## References

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