

(1) Paper title: Noun Phrase of Kuy Language

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Abstract

The paper discusses the noun phrase of Kuy(Suay) (< West Katuic < Mon-Khmer), the mother tongue of the author. Kuy is spoken around the Thai-Lao-Cambodian border. It has no script. The examined data is from the Kuy-Kuay dialect of Tamom Village, Sangkha District, Surin Province, Thailand, mostly based on the author, and other 5 family members who are in Thailand.

The author's main interest is about the Kuy grammar. The approach to the research is that apart from being one's own informant, one also goes on field work trips to collect the pragmatic conversations, and the Kuy tales. However, the approach to this paper is to create NPs, and point out if the specified word orders are possible or not.

The paper firstly describes an overview of the Kuy language including the phonology of Kuy, and discusses previous studies that concern NP of Kuy. It also gives the definition of noun and phrase in Kuy. It then examines the structure of NP in Kuy in details, including the complex NP and the co-occurrence relations between each constituent and their word orders. The considered modifiers are the quantifier, possessor, demonstrative, nominal modifier, and verbal modifier.

The paper shows that a modifier in Kuy normally follows a head noun. The order of the nominal modifier is the most fixed one, i.e. always precedes others. The demonstrative is the next fixed one, i.e. tends to be the last element in an NP. The position of the verbal modifier is more flexible when a relative pronoun or a relative clause appears. The existence of them may result in the distinct connotations.

The paper also points out that when a Thai-loaned classifier is used, the word order of the verbal modifier will be more flexible. This is one of the features that Kuy is similar to Thai. In contrast, one of Kuy and Khmer's common characteristics is that both languages have only a few classifiers compared to that of Thai. Besides, the classifier is not the necessary element in a NP both in Kuy and Khmer. The NP in Kuy has looser word order than that of Khmer, but more fixed than that of Thai.

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