

1) **Paper title:**

The "aspect" of *jùu* and *kamləŋ* in Thai revisited

2) **Sub-field:** Syntax, Semantics, Cognitive Linguistics,  
Role and Reference Grammar

3) **Name:** Prang Thiengburanathum

4) **Affiliation:** Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand

5) **E-mail address:** [prangt@hotmail.com](mailto:prangt@hotmail.com), [prangt@gmail.com](mailto:prangt@gmail.com)

This paper presents the syntax and semantics of *kamlaŋ* and *jùu* in Standard Thai. Traditionally, *kamlaŋ* and *jùu* are considered to be aspect markers, which are referred to as progressive and continuous respectively (Kullavanijaya and Bisang (to appear)).

I suggest that *kamlaŋ* is an aspect marker, but *jùu* is not – not yet being fully grammaticalized to an aspect function. Rather, it is a locator pinpointing an event in space, time, or attribute. This effect is derived from its lexical verbal source meaning ‘to stay’, which semantically takes two arguments: locatum and location. Its "continuity" sense is a logical consequence of the experience of remaining at the same place through time. The notion of continuity can be understood as **non-changeability**. As for *kamlaŋ*, it has a **dynamatic/constant change** value deriving from its lexical noun source meaning ‘energy’. Due to their distinct lexical sources, *kamlaŋ* and *jùu* have different semantic structures which motivate their syntactic contrasts. For example, *jùu* can occur with adverbs of duration like as *t<sup>h</sup>áŋ k<sup>h</sup>ín* ‘all night’, and *táŋnaan* ‘for a long time’, but *kamlaŋ* cannot; whereas *kamlaŋ* can occur with *tçúŋ níi* ‘during’, but *jùu* cannot.

For Thai regarded as tenseless it has been suggested that temporal expressions are used to encode events in time. Is this sufficient? Temporal expressions situate the whole event (including all sub-events) in time with respect to the absolute locus. They modify the clause as a whole. Aspect markers encode the internal temporal contour of an event. My suggestion is that there is another layer where sub-events are connected. In addition to their aspectual functions, *kamlaŋ* and *jùu* are temporal linkers connecting sub-events where one event functions as a relative reference. *Kamlaŋ* encodes simultaneity between two events, while *jùu* encodes that one event moves toward the other. These alternate construals are motivated from their lexical sources.

In order to arrive at a more insightful explanation of their syntactic behaviors it is important to take semantics as well as pragmatics into consideration. Cognitive Linguistics (Langacker 1987; 1990, Lakoff and Johnson: 1980) provides an effective tool in explaining semantically motivated polysemic extensions to grammatical functions. Role and Reference Grammar theory of clause linkage (Van Valin: 2005) gives a device in illustrating the difference in clause structure between *kamlaŋ* and *jùu*.

## References

- Kullavanijaya, Pranee and Walter Bisang. To appear. Another Look at Aspect in Thai. Proceedings of The 14th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society, Bangkok. May 19-21, 2004.
- Lakoff, George, and Mark Johnson. 1980. *Metaphor We Live By*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Langacker, Ronald. 1987. *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar, vol 1: Toward Theoretical Prerequisites*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- \_\_\_\_\_.1991. *Concept, Image, and Symbol: The Cognitive Basis of Grammar*. Cognitive Research 1. Berlin: Mouton De Gruyter.
- Van Valin, Robert D. 2005. *Exploring the syntax-semantics interface*. Cambridge: Cambridge University.