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TITLE : “Defining the Satellite as a functional category: the contribution of Burmese and Arakanese multi-verbal constructions.”

There have been new theoretical and methodological advances in descriptive, typological and areal linguistics in the last ten years, and one issue is how this affects our understanding of linguistic phenomena in the Southeast Asian area. Another issue could be how the growing knowledge of SEA languages may change or refine these theoretical and methodological advances, or new frameworks.

I will illustrate this point of view by presenting the Trajectoire group’s work (Fortis & al 2011), whose aim is to analyze path within a working-typology framework (see Grinevald 2011). For instance, multi-verbal constructions in Burmese and other Asian languages (Japanese) lead us to adapt and review the framework as they question the issue of head verb in complex predicates (see also Lambert-Bretière 2009, Chen & Guo 2009). Looking at the Satellite category, defined as a grammatical Category but also as a Construction by Talmy (1985, 2000, 2009), we will see how Burmese and Arakanese serial verb constructions challenge the functional Satellite category as defined by Imbert & al (2011).

Standard Burmese and Arakanese are regarded as two dialects of the same language as they are (nearly) mutually intelligible. However, path expressions differ to a certain extent as shown by examples 1 & 2 (use of a different form for the verb ‘to go’ in the two dialects, use of different forms and patterns for the spatio-temporal marker KHA) and examples 3 & 4 (extended usage of the serial verb construction in Burmese compared to Arakanese).

- (1) **RKH** ဖားက ပုလင်းထဲက ဒိုဗြီးမက ထွက်လာခဲ့ရေ ။ [KKZ, 05_frog19]
 pha³ Ka¹ pəlin³ the³-Ka¹ ni² Pri³.Ke² twa² la³ kha¹ re²
 frog S. jar interior-S. be, stay SUB.seq go out AUX:GO KHA PVF.R
After being in the jar, the frog went out from it.

- (2) **BIR** ခွေရဲလုက အိပ်ပျော်တဲ့အချိန်မှာ ဖားလေးက အပြင်ကို ထွက်သွားတယ် ။ [MoMo, 05_frog2]
 khwe² ne¹ lu² Ka¹ ?ei².pya² Te¹ ?ə.cheiN²-mə² pha³-le³ Ka¹
 dogwith man TOP sleep REL.R moment-LOC frog-little S.
 ?əpin²-Ko² twe² θwa³ Te²
 outside-DIR go out AUX:GO PVF.R
As the dog and the man [boy] were sleeping, the little frog ‘went-out’ outside.

- (3) **RKH** a. ပြန်လို့ပေါ်လာရေ ။ [Nibu/05-Frog,14]
 praN² lo¹ pa² la² re²
 AUX/return SUB appear, become visible AUX:COME PVF.R
[After falling in the water,] (he) appears again.

- (4) **BIR** a. *ပြန်လို့ပေါ်လာတယ် ။
 pyaN² lo¹ pa² la² Te²
 AUX/return SUB appear, become visible AUX:COME PVF.R

- b. ပြန်ပေါ်လာတယ် ။
 pyaN² Ø pa² la² Te²
 AUX/return Ø appear, become visible AUX:COME PVF.R
(He) appears again.

Our data on these two dialects will question the satellisation status of the verbs in these multi-verbal constructions: Have verbs undergone a satellisation process yet? Have the verbs already lost their verbal status? Have they already become particles or affixes? The issue of defining this Satellite category confronts the issue of defining head verb in serial verb constructions.

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