

Adjoined "complement" clause in Seediq?

Oral/poster

Seediq is an Austronesian language spoken in Taiwan. Seediq has several types of complementation: verb serialization, VP embedding, clause-embedding, and clause-adjoining. Interestingly, a complement of predicate of knowledge cannot only be expressed by clause-embedding, as in (1), but also by clause-adjoining, as in (2).

- (1) me-kela=ku ka [m-usa sapah rubiq ka kumu].
AV-know=1s.NOM CMP AV-go house Rubiq NOM Kumu.
I know that Kumu went to Rubiq's house.
- (2) m-usa sapah rubiq ka kumu 'u, me-kela=ku ka yaku.
AV-go house Rubiq NOM Kumu CNJ AV-know=1s.NOM NOM 1s
I know that Kumu went to Rubiq's house.

Here I discuss only the above two types of clause combining.

Clause-embedding is used with predicates of knowledge and acquisition of knowledge, utterance predicates, and immediate perception predicates (see Noonan (2007: 120-145) for the classification of complement-taking predicates). The embedded clause subject is independent from the main clause subject. The predicate of the embedded clause may be Neutral, Perfect or Future. It is possible for the particle *ka* to appear before the embedded clause, as a complementizer.

Let us move on to clause-adjoining. Since Seediq is a verb-initial language, the preceding clause that is adjoined does not end in a verb. Between adjoined clauses, there is usually a sentence medial conjunction and a pause following it. Adjoining via juxtaposition with a non-final pause is also possible. There are four sentence medial conjunctions: *'u*, *de'u*, *ni* or *deni*. Their choice depends on the semantic context but it is not always clear-cut. Here I will focus on adjoining via *'u*. Clause-adjoining via *'u* is used in several contexts: contrast, overlap, conditionality, causation, concession, commentative, content of knowledge, and correlative. A complement of predicate of knowledge can also be expressed by clause-embedding, as we saw in the previous paragraph.

At least notionally, we can say that the preceding clause that is adjoined in example (2) is a 'complement' of the predicate verb of the following clause that is adjoined. It seems inadequate, however, to regard it as the syntactic 'complement' of *me-kela* "to know" in the following clause that is adjoined. Sentence (3) is another example of clauses adjoined by *'u*, which is used in a context of contrast.

- (3) t-em-egesa 'uyas kelemukan ka tiwaN 'u,
AV-teach song Taiwanese NOM Ciwang CNJ
t-em-egesa 'uyas niHuN ka daway 'uri.
AV-teach song Japanese NOM Daway also

Ciwang taught Taiwanese songs, and Daway taught Japanese songs.

As you can see from this example, adjoining via *'u* does not guarantee that the entity that precedes the conjunction *'u* be the 'complement' of something that comes after *'u*.

References

- Noonan, Michael. 2007. 'Complementation'. In Shopen (ed.). 52-150.
Shopen, Timothy (ed.). 2007. *Language Typology and Syntactic Description. Vol.II: Complex Constructions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.