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Jilin Daxue Xuebao (Gongxueban)/Journal of Jilin University
(Engineering and Technology Edition)

Scopus coverage years: from 2005 to 2022

Publisher: Jilin University

ISSN: 1671-5497

Subject area: Multidisciplinary

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PUBLICATION TYPE Journals	ISSN 16715497	COVERAGE 2005-2021	INFORMATION Homepage How to publish in this journal xbgxb@jlu.edu.cn

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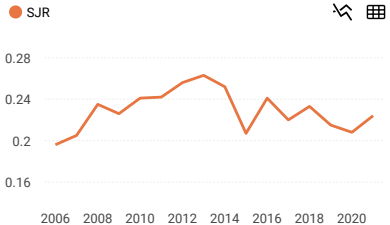
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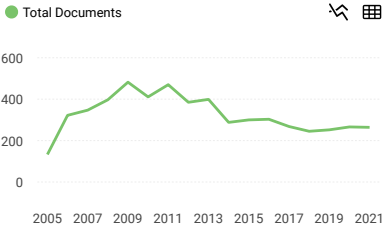
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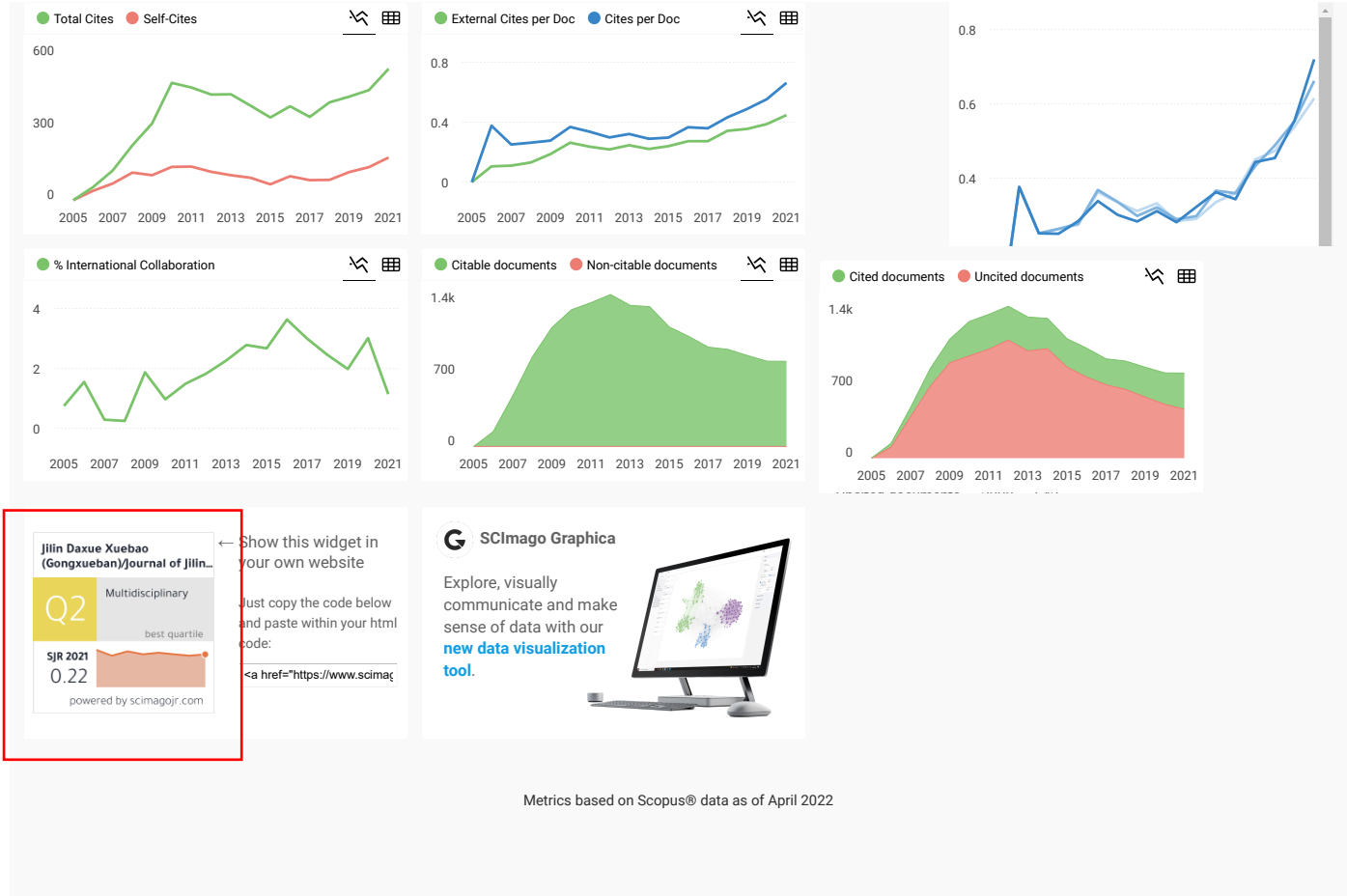
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SYNTAX OF CHAOBON LANGUAGE (NYAH-KUR) SPOKEN IN THAILAND

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to study syntax of Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) in terms of words, phrases, phrasal verbs, and sentence structures. The data were collected by interviewing the four Chaobon language speakers (*Nyah-Kur*). All of them were over fifty-year-old in order to study the original Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) without any other language influences. The research revealed that Chaobon language (*Nyah-kur*) was a language where most words were monosyllabic and two-syllable of polysyllabic words were very few. Polysyllabic words were often borrowed from standard Thai dialects and languages even from the elders of Chaobon language (*Nyah-kur*). The Chaobon language has been influenced by the standard Thai and local dialects that are used as the borrowing words to form sentences in communication words. Language can be divided into two main categories that were words of one syllable, words of two or more syllables. The word forms can be subdivided into three types: compound words, reduplication, and iterative words. Syntax of Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) can be divided into two levels: phrasal and sentence levels. For phrasal levels, they can be divided into five classes: noun phrases, verb phrases, adverb phrases, and prepositional phrases.

Keywords: dialects; Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*); monosyllabic; syntax

1. INTRODUCTION

Phetchabun has beautiful scenery, rich in cereal crops. There have been so many people from many ethnic groups migrated to settle in so much diversity of languages and cultures. The language and culture of diverse ethnic groups, which is unique to more than ten groups from linguistic maps of various ethnic groups in Thailand (Premsrirat et al., 2004). Which is regarded as a crucial social capital, wisdom, and information about humans in Southeast Asia (Bradley, (2007). The standard Thai language is the only official language. In each degree of contact and in mass correspondence different language gatherings, in Phetchabun territory. There are no less than three dialects that are in a basic and clear emergency. There is a chance to rot in this really long period, to be specific Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*), *Lao Ngaew* and *Lao Khrang*, these dialects are in elevated degrees of emergency (David & Kramer, 2001).

From the set of experiences and the significance of such issues, the analyst is keen on concentrating on the linguistic structure of Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) spoken (Ungsitipoonporn & Kumaree, 2019). These are also used to synthesize, compile, and manage the language into systematic categories in order to protect the social community and make the community proud of their own language, preserve the proud identity, and make the community aware of their history, existence, and importance of the language used to communicate ((Diffloth, 1984; Wantip & Nesusin, 2019). The

dialects are valuable and must be preserved and glorified in order for the community's identity to not decline, as well as to relevant organizations or others interested in bringing this knowledge of language syntax to study languages or other dialects of the local region (Ungsitipoonporn, 2011).

The *Nyah-Kur* language is currently on the verge of extinction. Some *Nyah-Kur* people have dispersed to various locations, causing the *Nyah-Kur* language and local wisdom to dwindle (Prasansaktavee et al., 2017). Young people began to utilize Thai as the primary spoken language rather than their mother languages (Grenoble & Whaley, 2006). In the same way, this research may study to compare different languages that are different in order to protect and preserve it for their society. For the reasons mentioned above, the researcher found that there should be a study of the use of words and word combinations in Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) spoken. As such conducting research in this language to create categories, sort words, phrases, and systematic sentences will make a group of people aware of their identity, a conservative language wisdom, raise awareness for the community, and turn to study their own language that has been systematically organized in the order form, and this research will also preserve the ancestors' local dialect. The objective of this study was to explore the syntax of Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) in terms of words, phrases, phrasal verbs, and sentence structures. And here are the definitions of some key terms:

Chaobon language (Nyah-Kur) refers to Nam Lao Village, Ban Kok Sub-district, Muang District of Phetchabun province, Thailand.

Nyah Kur refers to a member of the Monic branch of the Austroasiatic language family. It is spoken in, Phetchabun. *Nyah Kur* is also known as *Chao Dong*, *Chaodon*, *Lawa*, *Niakuol*, *Niakuoll*, *Nyakur*, *Chao-bon* or *Chaobon*. Each province where *Nyah kur* is spoken has its own dialect. The dialect spoken in Phetchabun province is classified as the northern dialect of Thailand.

Dialect belongs to the *Nyah-Kur* people's language and culture through constructing a writing system, generating local literature, and teaching *Nyah-Kur* language in schools.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The *Nyah Kur* people were descendants of Mon people who fled to what was now Thailand when the Mon kingdom was conquered by the Khmer in the 9th and 11th centuries. The word *Nyah Kur* means "mountain people." *Nyah Kur* can always be rendered that used a 2005 variant of the Thai alphabet. There were numerous publications in the language, such as a dictionary, grammar, and Bible translations. The majority of *Nyah Kur* adults and children were literate in Thai, but few were literate in *Nyah Kur*. The relatives of the Mon who didn't relocate west when the Khmer overran their realm in the ninth and eleventh hundred of years were the advanced speakers of *Nyah Kur*. As a result, contemporary Mon and *Nyah Kur* have evolved separately from Old Mon for about a century (Huffman, 1990). Linguists found *Nyah Kur* early in the

twentieth century, yet, the language was not perceived as connected with Mon for around 70 years.

Nyah Kur belongs to the Austroasiatic language family's Monic branch. *Chao Dong*, *Chaodon*, *Lawa*, *Niakuol*, *Niakuoll*, *Nyakur*, *Chao-bon*, or *Chaobon* were other names for *Nyah Kur*. Each province that speaks *Nyah kur* has its own dialect (Jamnongchob et al., 2016). The dialect spoken in the province is recognized as that of the northerly dialect. A few thousand individuals in the central and northeastern regions speak *Nyah Kur* (ng̃h kur) (Sidwell 2009:113-114). Premsrirat (2002) estimated that there were 4,000 to 6,000 speakers. Northern dialects were critically endangered.

Because of ingestion into Thai society, the amount of speakers of *Nyah Kur* as a first language was speedy dropping, and some measure the language could go ended inside the next hundred years with the exception of in the event that the most recent thing was exchanged (Krajaejun, 2016; Prasert et al., 2009). Thai was also influencing language change, since new generations pronounce some phonemes differently than older generations. Last -r/and -l/, for instance, which don't show up as finals in Thai, have become much of the time articulated as - [n] by more youthful ages (Premsrirat 2002). In any case, in light of the fact that fresher ages ordinarily have great mentalities toward their language and embrace the idea of *Nyah Kur* having an orthography, the language might be safeguarded (Premsrirat 2002; Prasansaktavee et al., 2017; Thubthun, 2014).

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Research procedures

3.1.1 Data collection and review of connected literature by studying relevant research and varied theses to get the fundamental knowledge and serve as a guide for research activities. 1.2) Research historical data and the history of the Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*), which was spoken. 1.3) considering the selection of Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) speakers who use this language in daily life. In this case, the four Chaobon languages (*Nyah-Kur*) speakers were over 50 years old, in order to obtain the original language, they must not be influenced by any other languages, and they must be healthy people in order to be accurate, and 1.4) In this context, the four Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) speakers were above 50 years old, based on the selection of Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) speakers who use this language in everyday life. In order to obtain the original language, they must not be influenced by any other languages, and they must be a healthy person in order accurately pronounce and tell the language's words and sentences.

3.1.2 Interview the speaker to gather field data

The following were the field data collected by interviewing the speaker: 2.1) Interviews four Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) speakers in words, phrases, and sentences utilizing ordinary terms such as individuals, kinship, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, words, numbers, time words, specialized words, and so on. 2.2) Converses with language

speakers while allowing them to tell stories about history, livelihoods, occupations, traditions, culture, and religious beliefs, as well as various rituals based on actual experiences that the language speakers have had, and 2.3) Using a voice recorder, conduct an interview to transmit the transferred information, and transcribes the words in various categories as phonetic characters.

3.2 Data Analysis

Analyzed the data produced by synthesizing the Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) and eliminating language as a phonetic alphabet from the audio recorded in the interview and analyzed the word category, word formation and word usage at various sentences. Examined the findings and discuss the analytical results with individuals who knew Chaobon (*Nyah-Kur*) and made conclusions and recommendations.

4. RESULTS

From the study of the syntax of Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) spoken, the results can be summarized as follows:

Word system

The word system in Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*). If considering the word system based on the number of syllables can be classified according to the characteristics of the structure into two types as follows:

1) Words with single syllables

Example

/ ru: / : Elder sister	/pO:N / : Elder brother
/Σo:m: / :Snake	/ k ^h 0:w / : Cow

2) Words with two or more syllables

Example Noun + noun = compound noun

/N{ / :Luk	/dZi/ : Nong	/N{ :dZi: / : Luknong
/da:k / :Nam	/mçt/ :Ta	da:kmçt / : Namta

In Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*), if considering words with two or more syllables can be divided into three types as follows

1) Compound words

Example Noun + noun = compound noun

/da:k/ : Nam	/mçt/ Ta	/da:kmçt/:Namta (tear)
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2) Reduplication words

Example	/dZa :/ :Cha	=	/ dZa// :dZa:/ : ChaCha (slow)
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3) Iterative words

Example1 st word 2nd word = Iterative words
 / N{:: :/Luk /kO:n : /Tao = /N{::kO : /Luktao) Children
 /p^hE / :Fon /mOk :/fa = /p^hE :mOk : / Fonfa) raining

In Chaobon language)*Nyah-Kur*(, if considering the word for research, it can be divided into 21 categories as follows:

1) Nouns

Example

<u>/k^ha/ma:n /</u>	/pa/mɔN/	//ua:j/	/t ^h u:n h3:j/
<u>Lukkhoei</u>	Pha	Fuen	Laew

2) Pronouns

Example

<u>//3:j/</u>	/wOk/	/h3:j/
<u>Chan (I)</u>	Phut (spoke)	Laew (already)

3) Kinship terms

Example	/ta:m/ : Pu	to call grandfather
	/ja:/ : Ya	to call grandmother
	/pEn/ : Ta	to call father of mother
	/jO:N/ : Yai	to Call Mother of mother etc.

4) Verbs

Example

<u>//3:j/</u>	<u>/wOk/</u>	/h3:j/
Chan (I)	<u>Phut</u> (spoke)	Laew (already)

5) Adjectives category

Example

/dZ:m/ : Kaw (old)	/ta:mi:/ : Mai (new)
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6) Classifiers

Example

/dZiam/	<u>/tY//</u>	/khO: :/	/	pa: l/	/h3:j/
Nok (bird)	<u>Tua (classifier)</u>	Nan (that)	bin (fly)	Laew (already)	

7) Demonstrators

Example

/hi:/ /lɕN/ /kʰO: :/ /p{N:/
 Ban (house) Lang (classifier) Nan (that) Paeng (expensive)

8) Numerals

Example

//3:j/ /bOk/ /hra:n/ /ΣE:/ /pi:/ /pl{:N/ Chan yak
 sue na sam plaeng

9) Ordinal Numbers

Example

//3:j/ /ta/k3t/ /ΣOk/ /nMj/ /r{k:/
 Chan (I) tat (cut) phom (hair) Khon (classifier) raek (first)

10) Approximate words, Type 1

/pO:N/ /dZa:/ /po:N/ //3t/ /bra:l/ /dZa:n/
 Phi(brother) kin(eat) khao(rice) kueap(about) song(two) chan(dishes)

11) Approximate words, Type 2

//3:j/ /mɕN/ /pE:/ /bla:/:/ /Σuamo:N/ /pa:k/ /h3:j/
 Chan (I) ro (wait) thoe (you) song (two) chuamong (hours) krueng (half) laew
 (already)

12) Adverbs

Example

/m{:kru:a / /pa:/ /mYIO:k/ /dZa:/
 Maekrua (Cook) tham (to cook) ahan (food) cha (slowly)

13) Auxiliaries

Example

/kru:/ /kɕmlɕN/ /ΣO:n/ /nɕkΣM:/ /lu:kΣIt/
 Kru (Teacher) kamlung (being) son nungsue (to teach) luksit (student)

14) Independent Adverbs

Example

/o:N/ /koN/ /klɕp/ /da:l:Nu:n/

(mae) mother (khong)may (klap)be back (tonchao)morning

15. Final particle

Example

/p3:j/ /dZI/ /hr{N/ /tO/

Fon (rain) tok (pour) nak (heavy) na (final particle)

16. Question words

Example

/kop/ /kɕp/ //MN:/ /kɕmlɕN/ /ja:m/

(Kop) frog (kap) with (ueng) bullfrog (kamlang) being (rong) to cry

17. Disclaimer Section

Example

Subject + (auxiliary verb) + not + verb

/pla:t/ /k^hoNku:: / /u:j/

Guey(Banana) kongmai(May not be) suk(ripe)

18. Preposition

Example

/o:N/ / kɕmlɕN/ /pa/ /:mu:rOkda:lblu/ /:nM::/ /kru:a/

Mae(Mom) kamlang (being) (tam(cook) khawyen(dinner) nai(in) kua (kitchen)

19. Conjunctions

Examples of nouns + conjunctions + nouns

/kop/ /kɕp/ //MN:/ /kɕmlɕN/ /ja:m/

Kop(Frog) kub(and) ing /Bullfrog/ kamlang (being) jam (roaring)

20. Subordinators

Example

/rMaN/ /m3:wOk/ /k3t tMn hEj:/

Rueng (what) mophut (Doctor said)

Kirt khuen laew (happened)

21. Intensifiers

Example

/3:j/ /O:l ju:m:/ /bl3:N/ /kaw{ :kaw{/ :

Chan (I) dejai (be glade) mak (very) ching ching intensifier

In Chaobon language (Nyah-Kur) when considering the syntax conducted, the relation of words can be divided into two levels as follows:

1. Phrasal Level
2. Sentence Level

Phrasal Level

In Chaobon language (Nyah-Kur), the function of word in the sentence can be divided into

Five main categories, according to Dr. Wijintanupong's linguistic analysis, as follows

1. Noun phrases: The noun phrase is a noun or group of nouns that act as part of one of the four types of sentences, which can be explained as follows

Example: Noun function as subject

/Σa:N / /t^h□N / / n∞:: / /kYg/
(Kai) chicken (yu:)lives nai (in) lao (the coop)

2. Verb Phrases

Phrases with prefixes are divided into 3 types: transitive, intransitive and ditransitive verbs

Example: as intransitive verbs

/ΣEtto:k/ /dZ∞j/ /□□/ /hε:j:/
(Mamuang)Mango (lon)fallen (nan) long time (laew) already

3. Adverb phrases

Adverb Phrase is a word or phrase that acts as an extension unit, in Chaobon language (Nyah-Kur) is divided into 2 types.

1. Adverb Phrase

Example: an extension unit of verb expansion as follows

/p^ha ::/ / k^hcp/ /rotjon/ /dZa:/ /dZa:/
(Pho)father (khap) to drive(rotyon)a car (cha cha)slowly

2. Adverb Phrase

Example: an extension unit of adverb expansion as follows

/p^ha :/ / k^hɕp/ /rotjɔn/ /dZa/ /:/ɕplɛ:N/
 (Pho) father (khap)to drive (rotyon)a car (cha)slowly (mak)very

4. Prepositional phrase

The phrase is a noun, a phrase that is preceded by a single preposition, such as on the stove on the street at home

Example :

/pla:/ /kɕmpθN/
 (Khang)beside(kampaeng)the wall

5 Adverb phrase)Adverb of Time(

An adverb of time is a word that indicates when events occurred

Example :

/p^ha :/ / k^hɕp/ /rotjɔn/ /tɕmnO / :
 (Pho)father (khap)to drive (rotyon)a car (klangkuen)at night

In Chaobon language (Nyah-Ku), according to the sentence structure, it can be classified by form and function as follows:

1. Declarative sentences

Example :

Subject +transitive verbs +direct object
 / Σa:Nti:a/ /dZa / : / Σo/:
 Kaichae)Bantam (kin) to eat (khaopluek) paddy

2 .Imperative sentences (command)

Example :

Transitive verb +direct object + final particle
 //a:n / /nɕNΣM:a/ /m{/
 (an) read (nungsue) book (si) final particle

3. Imperative sentence (Request)

Example :

(Verb) + verb expansion +final particle

/tɕk/ //M:/ /k^h3:n/
 (Wang) put it long)down (konna)final particle

4. Interrogative sentences

Example :

Question word	+verb	+object	+expansion
<u>mu/</u> :	/dZa / :	/Σa:N/	/nMN/ /kYk/
(Arai)What	(kin) to eat	(kai) chicken	(nai) in(lao) the coop

5. DISCUSSION

The Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) spoken in Thailand was a monosyllabic and two-syllable language with relatively few polysyllabic terms. Polysyllabic terms were frequently taken from Thai dialects and languages. Even the elderly who spoke Chaobon (*Nyah-Kur*), utilized *Nyah-Kur* to communicate within the community. However, the speaker employed normal Thai to interact with new generations and outsiders. The Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) has been impacted by standard Thai and local dialects, which were employed as borrowing terms in communication.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommends as follows:

1. Ending consonants which are highly different, should be considered, as should consonants that are distinctive and differ in sound from other languages.
2. A study of the words and categories of words of Chaobon language (*Nyah-Kur*) speakers at different age levels and different locations should be conducted in order to investigate language changes and continually understand language evolution.

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