

# A Brief Sketch of Cua Clause Structure

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1. Major Clause Type
2. Minor Clause Types
3. Clause Variants Caused by Emphasis

1. The major clause type in the Cua (Kol) language <sup>1</sup> is an independent clause consisting of two obligatory tagmemes, subject and predicate, such as *Dô hooy*. 'Dô goes'. This minimal clause may be expanded by additional tagmemes, usually one or two in any clause.

1.1 The tagmemes, in their normal order, are :

I - instrument, T - time, S - subject, P - predicate, O - object, D - destination. This may be symbolized as :

$$\pm I \pm T + S + P \pm O \pm D$$

The filler of the destination tagmeme is conditioned by the class of verb in the predicate slot. Most transitive verbs will take a destination tagmeme marked by either *ka-*, an affix of location, or *ma-*, an affix of movement. Some intransitive verbs will take a destination marked by either affix, but some intransitive verbs are restricted to one or the other of the affixes.

1.2 The instrument tagmeme is filled by words such as : *jôk* 'foot', *siah* 'knife', *dol* 'chopsticks', or noun phrases such as *siah yoot aneq* 'knife long this'.

1. Cua (or Kol) is a Mon-Khmer mountain language of Central Vietnam, spoken in the Trà Bồng area of Quảng Ngãi province. This analysis is based on about 6 months' fieldwork. The specific data analyzed was primarily tape-recorded narrative.

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*siah gô koh ot* 'knife I hit him'

*siah yoot aneq gô koh ot* 'knife long this I hit him'

**1.3** The time tagmeme is filled by time words such as : *janeq* 'now', *adrooy* 'before', *têq* 'after', or time phrases such as : *hngry tadurh* 'tomorrow', *dong mel* 'early', *siiq adrooy* 'a long time before.'

*janeq gô suq mahnur.* 'now I return home.'

*hngry tadurh gô suq mahnur.* 'tomorrow I return home.'

**1.4** The subject tagmeme is filled by nouns such as : *so* 'dog', *Madê* 'person's name', *kadri* 'woman' ; by pronouns such as : *go* 'I', *êp* 'you', *ni* 'he' ; by noun phrases such as : *oh kanau* 'young boy', *muy dro oh kadri* 'one classifier young girl.'

A noun or noun phrase is usually followed by a pronoun.

*Madê suq mahnur.* 'Madê goes home.'

*Madê may suq mahnur.* 'Madê you go home.'

*gô suq mahnur.* 'I go home.'

*oh kanau suq mahnur.* 'young boy goes home.'

*oh kanau ni suq mahnur.* 'young boy he goes home.'

**1.5** The predicate tagmeme is filled with transitive verbs such as : *sok* 'to get', *hmot* 'to fight', *dorp* 'to work', and intransitive verbs such as : *hooy* 'to go', *bik* 'to sleep', *ahra* 'to toss while sleeping'. All verbs may take auxiliaries such as : *sung* 'to want', *pago* 'together with'.

*gô sung sok daak.* 'I want to get water.'

*wot pago hooy tok.* 'We together go go-up.'

**1.6** The object tagmeme is filled by nouns such as : *daak* 'water', *pâng* 'rice', *kadri* 'woman', and by noun phrases such as : *oh kadri anurq* 'young girl there', *muy dro manih* 'one classifier person'.

*gô sa pâng.* 'I eat rice.'

*gô hloq oh kadri anurq.* 'I see young girl there.'

**1.7** The destination tageme is filled by nouns such as : *vaq* 'father', *vua* 'king', *daak* 'water' ; by personal pronouns such as : *gô* 'I', *ep* 'you', *ni* 'he' ; and by demonstrative pronouns such as : *ho* 'there (close by)', *lo* 'there (far away)', *ding* 'here'. Transitive verbs can take either the destination prefix *ka* - or the directional prefix *ma*-.

*gô adrâk daak mavaq.* 'I carry water dir. father.'  
*gô adrâk daak kavaq.* 'I carry water dest. father.'  
*gô adrâk daak mamaay.* 'I carry water dir. you.'  
*gô adrâk daak kamaay.* 'I carry water dest. you.'  
*gô adrâk daak malor.* 'I carry water dir. there.'  
*gô adrâk daak kalor.* 'I carry water dest. there.'

Intransitive verbs of motion such as *jarorok* 'run', *suq* 'return', *klêh* 'fall' can take either a *ka-* or *ma-* prefix.

*gô hooy magôk.* 'I go dir. forest'.  
*gô hooy kagôk.* 'I go dest. forest'.  
*gô hooy mamaay.* 'I go dir. you'.  
*gô hooy kamaay.* 'I go dest. you'.  
*gô hooy malor.* 'I go dir. there'.  
*gô hooy kalor.* 'I go dest. there'.

Intransitive verbs of emotion such as *yôq*, 'fear', *nhim* 'cry', *garon* 'angry', take only a *ka-* prefix.

*gô yôq kamanih.* 'I fear person.'  
*gô yôq kamaay.* 'I fear you.'  
*gô yôq kalor.* 'I fear there.'

Intransitive verbs such as *mut* 'enter', *hôôp* 'bathe' take only a *ma-* prefix, and will not take a personal pronoun.

*gô hôôp madaak.* 'I bathe water (river).'  
*gô hôôp malor.* 'I bathe there.'

**2.** The minor clause types are classified as equative, fused and question introduction.

**2.1** The equational clause is filled by *ni* 'he, she, it' plus *e* 'be' and a noun phrase.

*ni e jon.* 'there is a countryman.'  
*ni e jon anurq.* 'there is a countryman there.'

**2.2** The fused clause is identical to the transitive clause except that the object of the first predicate is simultaneously the subject of a second predicate.

S — P<sub>1</sub> — O/S — P<sub>2</sub>

*gô hloq Madê sa.* 'I see Madê is eating.'

If there is a destination tagmeme marked by the prefix *ka-* following the object of the main clause, it becomes the subject of the second predicate.

S — P<sub>1</sub> — O — D/S — P<sub>2</sub>  
*maay am ka kagô sa.* 'you give fish for me to eat'.

**2.3** The quotation introduction clause is a dependent clause consisting of an obligatory subject and predicate plus an optional *ji* with noun phrase.

S      P      (ji   NP)  
*ni sanoh.*      'he said.'  
*ni sanoh ji kadri.* 'he said to the woman.'  
*ni sanoh ji oh kadri anurq.* 'he said to the young woman there.'

**3.** The subject, object and destination tagmemes may be emphasized by repetition.

**3.1** The subject tagmeme normally consists of a single pronoun, or of a noun phrase followed by a pronoun. The pronoun may be emphasized by repeating it at the end of the clause. The noun phrase may be emphasized by adding a pronoun before as well as after it. The pronoun may be repeated a third time at the end of the clause.

Normal : *maay pah so.* 'you hit the dog.'

*Madê maay pah so.* 'Madê you hit the dog.'

Emphasized : *maay pah so maay.* 'you hit the dog you.'

*maay Madê maay pah so.* 'you Madê you hit the dog.'

*maay Madê maay pah so maay.* 'you Madê you hit the dog you.'

**3.2** The object may be emphasized by putting it before the subject as well as in its normal position after the predicate.

Normal : *ô klât am daak kamanih.* 'the snake gives water to the man.'

Emphasized : *daak ô klât am daak kamanih.* 'water the snake give water to the man.'

**3.3** The destination tagmeme may be emphasized by adding it again before the subject, without its affix.

Normal : *ô klât am daak kani.* 'The snake gives water to him.'

*gô hooy malor.* 'I go there.'

Emphasized : *ni ô klât am daak kani.* 'him the snake gives water to him  
*lor gô hooy malor.* 'there I go there.'

