

# A CHRAU NOUN PHRASE BATTERY

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In my Chrau Grammar (1971:105-126) I presented Chrau clause paradigms and batteries in some detail. The same technique of transforming clause roots (deep structures) into various surface structures at various ranks (levels) can also be used with profit on noun phrase roots (see Thomas 1974). This transformational technique shows the capability of a language to express a noun phrase concept in various surface ways according to the grammatical needs of the context.

Viewing the phrase rank as the rank whose main function is identification and description, I take as phrase roots (in contrast with clause roots) those concepts which are essentially descriptive or identificational (in contrast with predications of activity). These phrase roots may appear in surface form as phrases, non-sentential clauses, or simple sentences.

An example is the following battery of transforms on the root /Item - sirãq 'book'; Quality - ken 'small'; Possessor - ãnh 'I'; Demonstrative - heq 'this' /:

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|---|--|
| 1. sirãq ken ãnh je heq<br>book small I pos. this | 'this small book of mine'<br>(neutral)                         |
| 2. sirãq ken ãnh heq                              | 'this small book of mine'<br>(slight emphasis on small)        |
| 3. sirãq cõ ken ãnh je heq<br>which               | 'this book of mine which is<br>small' (apposition of small)    |
| 4. sirãq ãnh je heq cõ ken                        | 'this book of mine which is<br>small' (much emphasis on small) |

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 5. sirăq ken heq cò ãnh je         | 'this small book which is mine'<br>(emphasis on mine), or 'this small book is mine' |
| 6. sirăq heq cò sirăq ken ãnh je   | 'this book which is my small book'<br>(apposition of my small)                      |
| 7. Sirăq ken heq ãnh je.           | 'This small book is mine.'<br>(neutral)   |
| 8. Sirăq ãnh je heq ken.           | 'This book of mine is small.'<br>(neutral)  |
| 9. Anh je sirăq ken heq.           | 'This small book is mine.'<br>(emphasis on mine)                                    |
| 10. Anh je cò sirăq ken heq.       | 'This small book is mine.'<br>(emphasis on mine)                                    |
| 11. Heq cò sirăq ken ãnh je.       | 'This is my small book.'<br>(emphasis on this)                                      |
| 12. Nhâng ken cò sirăq ãnh je heq. | 'This book of mine is small.'<br>(emphasis on small)                                |

The surface transformational formulas for this battery are:

1. Item, Qual, Poss, je, Dem
2. Item, Qual, Poss, Dem
3. Item, cò, Qual, Poss, je, Dem
4. Item, Poss, je, Dem, cò, Qual
5. Item, Qual, Dem, cò, Poss, je
6. Item, Dem, cò, Item, Qual, Poss, je
7. Item, Qual, Dem, Poss, je
8. Item, Poss, je, Dem, Qual
9. Poss, je, Item, Qual, Dem
10. Poss, je, cò, Item, Qual, Dem
11. Dem, cò, Item, Qual, Poss, je
12. nhâng, Qual, cò, Item, Poss, je, Dem

The functors are:

je - je ~ de 'possessive marker'. je follows ãnh, de follows all other pronouns and nouns.

cò - cò 'that, that which, which is'

nhâng - nhâng 'indeed, truly'

This battery of formulas may be applied to an indefinitely large number of noun phrase roots, e.g., /Item - nhi la 'houses'; Quality - yãh rom 'good-looking'; Possessor - vap po Tuôt 'Tuôt's father-in-law'; Demonstrative - tĩq 'there':

1. *nhi la mǎq mi vap po Tuôt de tĩq* 'those big houses of Tuôt's father-in-law'
2. *nhi la mǎq mi vap po Tuôt tĩq* 'those big houses' of Tuôt's father-in-law' (a slightly awkward construction because of its length)
3. etc.

This can be paralleled in English with noun phrase batteries like:

Root: /Item - hammer; Possessor - John, Quality - heavy;  
Specificity - the/

1. Spec, Qual, Item, of, Poss-s 'the heavy hammer of John's'
2. Poss-s, Qual, Item ( $\emptyset$  Spec) 'John's heavy hammer'
3. Poss-s, Item, which, is, Qual ( $\emptyset$  Spec) 'John's hammer which is heavy'
4. Spec, Item, of, Poss-s, which, is, Qual 'the hammer of John's which is heavy'
5. Spec, Qual, Item, which, is, Poss-s 'the heavy hammer which is John's'
6. Spec, Qual, Item, which, Poss, has 'the heavy hammer which John has'
7. Spec, Qual, Item, is, Poss-s. 'The heavy hammer is John's.'
8. Poss-s, Item, is, Qual ( $\emptyset$  Spec). 'John's hammer is heavy.'
9. Poss, has, Spec, Qual, Item. 'John has the heavy hammer.'

Phrase batteries differ from clause batteries in that the Item (Noun Head) in a phrase root does not have a specific case frame such as the verb in a clause battery has. Instead, the various NP "cases" (Number, Quality, Possessor, Specificity, Deixis, etc.) may theoretically be combined with any Item. And smaller specific batteries may be drawn up for each set of relations -- Item-Number, Item-Possessor, Item-Quality, etc., each with its own formulas. (For more detailed discussion of these smaller specific batteries see Thomas 1974.) The above Chrau and English batteries, then, are composites of several smaller batteries.

The Chrau and English batteries are similar in many respects. Both have Item, Quality, and Possessor in their roots, and both have a possession marker and a relative marker as functors. But their roots differ in that the Chrau Demonstrative combines the functions of English Specificity and Deixis. The functors differ, of course, in form, and the *je* is optional (cf. nos. 1,2) while *-s* is obligatory in the absence of *has*; *cô* can function as either a relative or a copula, combining the functions of *which* and *is*; *nhâng* has no clear English equivalent, though sometimes glossed as 'truly'. And the batteries differ in the standard or neutral order of the constituents.

Setting out the transformation potential of the intra-phrasal elements and relations in clear batteries can lead to more accurate analysis and clearer comparisons between languages.

### REFERENCES

- Thomas, David. 1971. Chrau Grammar. Honolulu: U. Hawaii.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1974. Batteries at other ranks. *Workpapers of SIL North Dakota* 18:15-18.