CHAPTER FOUR
SYNTAX

This chapter accounts for the syntactic structure of Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai. The similarities and differences in their sequential arrangement of words (word order) and the relationship between words in the sentence will be seen and described.

Syntax: …the study of the RULES governing the way WORDS are combined to form SENTENCES in a language…(David Crystal, 1997)

4. Syntax

Syntax is the study of how words and phrases are combined to form sentences, what position a given constituent can occupy and what function it performs. Our analysis is based on a particular type of text i.e. chronicle (Buranji) and the structures of certain text usually has some types of constructions. It will be clear from our analysis that certain types of constructions are missing. This is due to the nature of text, such as narrative, discourse, or a type of story, etc.

4.1 Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai Word Order

The word order in both languages is SVO in which Subject is followed by Verb and Object is at the final position of a sentence. But Tai-Ahom also has SOV order as well. This is due to the influence of Indo-Aryan languages, like Assamese, with which Tai-Ahom was in contact a long time.
4.2 Simple Sentences in Tai-Ahom

In an SVO word order, we have a noun phrase (NP) that can occupy the initial subject position, followed by a verb phrase (VP) and an object (NP) if the verb is transitive. Example:

1. /kʰon kʰi: ma:/
   Person ride horse
   ‘The person rides the horse.’

2. /kʰaw hit-ti: raw/
   they do-hit we
   ‘They attack us.’

In case the sentence has an intransitive verb, the sentence structure will be: subject followed by verb, since it has only single obligatory subject argument.

3. /kʰon-raw lin /
   person-we run ‘We run’

4. /ma: lin/
   horse run ‘The horse runs’

If a sentence has both direct and indirect objects then the order is subject NP, followed by a VP, direct object and indirect object (indirect object requires a preposition ‘to’ being the recipient of the action).
Examples:

5. /kaw haj ma: ti: maw/
   I give horse (DO) to you (IO)
   ‘I give the horse to you.’

6. /maw haj pʰa: ti: kaw/
   you give cloth (DO) to I (IO)
   ‘You give the cloth to me.’

An NP may have a simple noun or pronoun as its head noun, where as it may be expanded with demonstratives and adjectives. The demonstrative follows the classifier which follows the noun. But if the NP is modified by an adjective, then the demonstrative can be placed before and after the adjective.

Examples:

Noun + Clf. + Dem.

7. /ma: tu: naj/
   dog clf. this  ‘This dog.’

8. /kun pʰu: han/
   person clf. that  ‘That person’
As pointed out above, Tai-Ahom also has SOV order due to the influence of Indo-Aryan languages.

Examples:

9. /man huŋ ɲin/
   he (S) sound (O) hear (V)/
   ‘He heard a sound.’

10. /caw-pʰa: sam-caw rik-ʔaj-maː/
    king (S) three leader (O) call-take-come (V)
    ‘The king calls the three leaders to come.’

**Note:** As discussed in morphology, there is a classifier in Tai-Ahom /pʰuː:/ which is used for human noun but only for single person to signify definiteness.

Noun + Number + Clf. + Dem.

11. /maː sɔŋ tuː naj/
    dog two clf. this
    ‘These two dogs’

12. /kun sam kun han/
    person three clf. that
    ‘Those three persons’

13. /ma: tu: naj dam/
    dog clf. this black
    ‘This dog is black’

14. /kun pʰu: naj di/
    person clf. this good
    ‘This person is good’


15. /ma: sɔŋ tu: naj dam/
    dog two clf. this black
    ‘These two dogs are black.’

16. /kun sam kun han di/
    person three clf. that good
    ‘Those three person are good’


17. /ma: dam tu: naj/
    dog black clf. this
    ‘This black dog’
18. /kun di: kun han/
    person good clf. that
    ‘That good person’

Noun + Adj. + Verb

19. /kun di: ma/
    person good come
    ‘The good person comes’

20. /kun ke: ma/
    person old come
    ‘The old person comes’

Adverbs can be used to expand the VP. which follows the verb.

Noun + Verb + Adverb

21. /ma: lin piw/
    horse run quick
    ‘A horse runs quickly.’

22. /ma: tu: naj lin piw/
    horse clf. this run quick
    ‘This horse runs quickly.’
4.3 Simple Sentences in Standard-Thai

Likewise in Tai-Ahom, Standard-Thai has SOV word order, where a noun phrase (NP) can occupy the initial subject position followed by a verb phrase (VP) and an object (NP) if the verb is transitive.

Example:
27. /cʰən tʰam ʔəhàn/  
    I do food  ‘I cook food.’

28. /kʰun kʰən còt-məːj/  
    you write note-mark  
    ‘You write the letter.’

29. /kʰəw tiː məː/  
    he hit dog  ‘He hits the dog.’

30. /pʰuːk-raw ʔən nəŋstʊː/  
    group-we read book  
    ‘We read the book.’

31. /pʰuːk-ʔun ləːn kɪlaː/  
    group-you play sport  
    ‘You play sport.’

32. /pʰuːk-kʰəw pəj rʊŋ-riːn/  
    group-he go hall-study  
    ‘They go to school.’
The sentence has an intransitive verb, the clause structure will be: subject followed by verb, since it has only single obligatory subject argument.

Examples:

33. /cʰæn wîŋ/
   I run ‘I run.’

34. /kʰun nɔ:n/
   you lay dawn ‘You lay dawn.’

35. /kʰɑw jîm/
   he smile ‘He smiles.’

36. /pʰuːk-raw lâp/
   group-we sleep ‘We sleep.’

37. /pʰuːk-kʰun huǎːr̥̊ʊ/
   group-you laugh ‘You laugh.’

38. /pʰuːk-kʰɑw dɤːn/
   group-he walk ‘They walk.’
An NP may have a simple noun or pronoun as its head noun, where as it may be expanded with demonstratives and adjectives. The demonstrative follows the classifier which follows the noun. But if the NP is modified by an adjective, then the demonstrative can be placed before and after the adjective.

Examples:

Noun + Clf. + Dem.

39. /mä: tua: ní:/
   
   dog clf. this

   ‘This dog’

40. /kʰon kʰon nán/
    
    person clf. that

    ‘That person’

Noun + Number + Clf. + Dem.

41. /mä: sǎŋ tua: ní:/
    
    dog two clf. this

    ‘These two dogs’

42. /kʰon sǎ:m kʰon nán/
    
    person three clf. that

    ‘Those three persons’

43. /màː tuaː níː dam/  
dog clf. this black  
‘This dog is black.’

44. /kʰon kʰon níː diː/  
person clf. this good  
‘This person is good.’


45. /màː sǎːŋ tuaː níː dam/  
dog two clf. this black  
‘These two dogs are black.’

46. /kʰon sāːm kʰon nán diː/  
person three clf. that good  
‘Those three persons are good.’


47. /màː dam tuaː níː/  
dog black clf. this  
‘This black dog’
48. /kʰon  dì: kʰon nán/

   person   good   clf.  that

   ‘That good person’

Noun + Adj. + Verb

49. /kʰon  dì: ma/  

   person   good   come

   ‘The good person comes.’

50. /kʰon  kè: ma/  

   person   old   come

   ‘The old person comes.’

Adverbs can be used to expand the VP. which follows the verb.

Noun + Verb + Adverb

51. /má: wîŋ rew/  

   horse   run   quick

   ‘A horse runs quickly.’

52. /má: tua: ní: wîŋ rew/  

   horse   clf.   this   run   quick

   ‘This horse runs quickly.’
53. /mά: lāj tua: wîŋ rew/
   horse many clf. run quick
   ‘Many horses run quickly.’

54. /kʰon dγn cʰá:/
   person walk slow
   ‘A person walks slowly.’

55. /kʰon kʰon nán dγn cʰá:/
   person clf. that walk slow
   ‘That person walks slowly.’

56. /kʰon láj kʰon dγn cʰá:/
   person many clf. walk slow
   ‘Many persons walk slowly.’

If a sentence has both direct and indirect objects then the order is subject NP,
followed by a VP, direct object and indirect object (indirect object requires a
preposition ‘to’ being the recipient of the action). In Standard-Thai the words /kɛː/
‘to’, /tʰuŋ/ ‘reach’, /hâj/ ‘give’, /kàp/ ‘with’ etc. are used together with the particular
verbs in the sense of ‘to’.

Examples:
57. /cʰân hâj kluâ:j kèː kʰun/

I give banana (DO) to you (IO)

‘I give the banana to you.’

58. /kʰun hâj pʰâː: kèː cʰǎn/

you give cloth (DO) to I (IO)

‘You give the cloth to me.’

59. /pʰuâk-raw sòŋ çòtmǎː:j tʰuŋ kʰaw/

group-we send letter (DO) reach he (IO)

‘We send the letter to him.’

60. /pʰuâk-kʰun kʰǎːj róːt hâj pʰuâk-kʰaw/

group-you sale car (DO) give group-he (IO)

‘You sale the car to them.’

61. /pʰuâk-kʰaw tʰâːm kʰam- tʰǎːm kàp kʰruː/

group-he ask word-ask (DO) with teacher (IO)

‘They pose the question to the teacher.’
4.4 Negative Sentences in Tai-Ahom

A negative sentence in Tai-Ahom may be formed with the help of negative marker /baw/ ‘not’. In a simple construction, the negative marker is placed just before verb or noun that it negates.

Examples:

62. /kaw kin/
    I eat           ‘I eat.’

63. /kaw baw kin/
    I not eat      ‘I do not eat.’

64. /man baw paj/
    he not go      ‘He does not go.’

65. /man baw ban/
    it not sweet   ‘It is not sweet.’

66. /man baw di/
    it not good    ‘It is not good.’

67. /kaw baw pin Narong/
    I not be Narong ‘I am not Narong.’
4.5 Negative Sentences in Standard-Thai

A negative sentence in Standard-Thai is formed with the help of negative marker /maː/ ‘no’ which is placed before the verb or the noun that is negated.

Examples:

68. /cʰən kin/
I eat ‘I eat.’

69. /cʰən mâj kin/
I NEG eat ‘I don’t eat.’

70. /cʰən mâj jàːk kin/
I NEG want eat ‘I don’t want to eat.’

71. /kʰun paj/
you go ‘You go.’

72. /kʰun mâj paj/
you NEG go ‘You don’t go.’

73. /kʰun mâj jàːk paj/
you NEG want go ‘You don’t want to go.’
74. /pʰuːk-kʰuŋ pen kʰru:/
group-you be teacher ‘You are teachers.’

75. /pʰuːk-kʰun mạj pen kʰru:/
group-you NEG be teacher
‘You are not teachers.’

76. /pʰuːk-kʰun mạj jà:k pen kʰru:/
group-you NEG want be teacher
‘You don’t want to be teachers.’

77. /cʰǎn nǎ:w/
I cold ‘I am cold.’

78. /cʰǎn mạj nǎ:w/
I NEG cold ‘I’m not cold.’

79. /kʰun nuâːj/
you tired ‘You are tired.’

80. /kʰun mạj nuâːj/
you NEG tired ‘You are not tired.’
4.6  Imperative Sentences in Tai-Ahom

As discussed in morphology, the imperative sentences in Tai-Ahom can be formed with a marker /si/ added after the verb form. Sometimes imperative marker may be left out.

Examples:

85. /kin si/

  eat  **Imp. marker**  ‘Eat!’

86. /kin/  ‘Eat!’
4.7 Imperative Sentences in Standard-Thai

To form the imperative sentences in Standard-Thai, the speakers may use the obvious appropriate intonation to convey a sense of order or request. The reduplication can also be used in the imperative sentence. The imperative marker /sì/ is used to intensify the command. The subject in the imperative sentence can be added to the sentence or omitted.
Examples:

92. /kin/  ‘Eat!’

93. /kin  sì/
    eat  Imp. particle  ‘Eat!’

94. /kin  rew-rew/
    eat  quick-quick  ‘Eat quickly!’

95. /kin  rew-rew  sì/
    eat  quick-quick  Imp. particle  ‘Eat quickly!’

96. /kʰun  kin  sì/
    you (sing.)  eat  Imp. particle  ‘You eat!’

97. /pʰuák-kʰun  kin  rew-rew/
    group-you  eat  quick-quick  ‘You (plu.) eat quickly!’

98. /pʰuák-kʰun  kin  rew-rew  sì/
    group-you  eat  quick-quick  Imp. particle
    ‘You (plu.) eat quickly!’
99. /pʰuâk-kʰun  kin  cʰáː-cʰáː/:  
group-you  eat  slow-slow  
‘You (plu.) eat slowly!’

100. /pʰuâk-kʰun  kin  cʰáː-cʰáː:  šì/:  
group-you  eat  slow-slow  Imp. particle  
‘You (plu.) eat slowly!’

101. /paj/  ‘Go!’

102. /paj  šì/  
go  Imp. particle  ‘Go!’

103. /paj  cʰáː-cʰáː/:  
go  slow-slow  ‘Go slowly!’

104. /paj  cʰáː-cʰáː:  šì/  
go  slow-slow  Imp. particle  ‘Go slowly!’

105. /kʰun  paj  šì/  
you (sing.)  go  Imp. particle  ‘You go!’
4.8 Negative imperative sentences in Tai-Ahom

/ja/ is a prohibitive marker used exclusively in the negative imperative sentences in Tai-Ahom.

Examples:

108. /ja/ hit/

   NEG make, do ‘Don’t do!’

109. /ja/ kin/

   NEG eat ‘Don’t eat!’

110. /ja/ paj/

   NEG go ‘Don’t go!’
111. /ja ma:/
    NEG come ‘Don’t come!’

112. /maw ja ma:/
    you NEG come
    ‘You don’t come!’

113. /raw ja kʰun-ma:/
    we NEG return-come
    ‘We don’t return back!’

4.9 Negative or Prohibitative Imperative Sentences in Standard-Thai

/jàː/ ‘NEG’ and /hâːm/ ‘prohibit’ are prohibitory markers used in the negative imperative sentence. The marker /hâːm/ ‘prohibit’ is stronger than /jàː/ ‘NEG’. The following sentences are examples of negative imperative sentences in Standard-Thai.

Examples of /jàː/ ‘NEG’:

114. /jàː nāŋ/
    NEG sit ‘Don’t sit!’

115. /jàː juːn/  
    NEG stand  ‘Don’t stand up!’
116. /jàː / pʰuːt/
    NEG speak ‘Don’t speak!’

117. /jàː / tʰäːm/
    NEG ask ‘Don’t ask!’

118. /jàː / sùːp/
    NEG smoke ‘Don’t smoke!’

119. /jàː / tʰam/
    NEG do ‘Don’t do!’

Examples of /hâːm/ ‘prohibit’:

120. /hâːm / nâŋ/
    PROHIB sit
    ‘Sitting is prohibited or not allowed!’

121. /hâːm / juːn/
    PROHIB stand
    ‘Standing up is prohibited or not allowed!’
122. /hâːm  pʰuːt/  
PROHIB speak  
‘Speaking is prohibited or not allowed!’

123. /hâːm  tʰâːm/  
PROHIB ask  
‘Asking is prohibited or not allowed!’

124. /hâːm  sʊːp/  
PROHIB smoke  
‘Smoking is prohibited or not allowed!’

125. /hâːm  tʰam/  
PROHIB do  
‘Doing is prohibited or not allowed!’

4.10 Interrogative Sentences in Tai-Ahom

Interrogative sentence can be constructed with the help of question words. The interrogative words, some of them can be used in the initial position, some can be used in the final position, but some can be used in initial and final position without marking a difference in meaning.

Examples:
126. /maw hit saŋ/
    you do what ‘What do you do?’

127. /maw paj ti-daj/
    you go place-which ‘Where do you go?’

128. /kaw ca hit ka-jaj/
    I will do how ‘How will I do?’

129. /su: ma: puw-saŋ/
    you (pl.) come for-what
    ‘Why do you come?’

130. /puw-saŋ su: ma/
    for-what you (pl.) come
    ‘Why do you come?’

131. /su: ma: muw-daj/
    you (pl.) come time-which
    ‘When do you come?’
132. /muw-daj/ suː maː/

  time-which you (pl.) come

  ‘When do you come?’

133. /pʰaj/ maː/

  who come ‘Who comes?’

4.11 Interrogative Sentences in Thai

In Standard-Thai the interrogative sentences are constructed firstly by using
the question words (wh-questions). Secondly, a speaker can use the intonation in an
utterance in order to question the simple proposition.

Some of interrogative words are normally placed in the initial position of a
sentence but some of them can be placed in final position of a sentence as well.

Examples:

134. /kʰaw tʰam ʔaraŋ/  

  he do what ‘What does he do?’

135. /kʰun maː muʔrəŋ/  

  you (sing.) come when ‘When do you come?’
136. /pʰuːːk-kʰāw tʰam-ħaːn tʰiː-nāj/  
group-he  do-work  place-which  
‘Where do they work?’

137. /pʰuːːk-kʰun rāxħâːj tʰammaj/  
group-you  cry  why  
‘Why do you (pl.) cry?’

138. /tʰammaj pʰuːːk-kʰun rāxħâːj/  
why  group-you  cry  
‘Why do you (pl.) cry?’

139. /kʰraj pʁːt prātuː/  
who  open  door  ‘Who opens the door?’

140. /kʰun pʁːt prātuː hâːj kʰraj/  
you  open  door  give  who  
‘You open the door for whom?’

141. /nāːʃuː kʰɔː地中海-kʰraj/  
142. /cʰān  pʰú:t  jàːɡræj/

I speak how ‘How do I speak?’

143. /sôm  raːkʰaː  tʰâwrəj/

orange price how much

‘How much does the orange cost?’

144. /kʰâw  miː  róːt  kîː  kʰan/

he have car how many clf.

‘How many cars does he have?’

4.12 Question Particle in Tai-Ahom

The negative marker /baw/ ‘NEG’ can be used as a negative question particle by placing between two verbs or two adjectives to convey negative question sense.

Examples:

145. /kîn  baw  kîn/

eat NEG eat ‘Eat or not (eat)?’

146. /paj  baw  paj/

go NEG go ‘Go or not (go)?’
147. /haj baw haj/  
give NEG give ‘Give or not (give)?’

148. /di: baw di:/  
good NEG good ‘Good or not (good)?’

149. /jan baw jan/  
afraid NEG afraid ‘Afraid or not (afraid)?’

4.13 Question Particle in Standard-Thai

In Standard-Thai, the particle /māj/ (informal) and /ruŋ-māj/ ‘or-not’ (formal) are placed at the end of a sentence or a clause to form a questions.

Examples:

150. /hīw māj/  
hungry Q. particle ‘Hungry?’

151. /kʰun hīw māj/  
you hungry Q. particle ‘Are you hungry?’

152. /hīw ruŋ-māj/  
hungry Q. particle ‘Hungry or not?’
153. /khun hīw ruũ:-mâj/

you hungry Q. particle

‘Are you hungry or not?’

154. /kin māj/

eat Q. particle ‘(will) eat?’

155. /khun kin māj/

you eat Q. particle ‘Will you eat?’

156. /kin ruũ:-māj/

eat Q. particle ‘Eat or not?’

157. /khun kin ruũ:-mâj/

you eat Q. particle ‘Will you eat or not?’

4.14 Passive Constructions in Tai-Ahom

Passivisation is the analysis of voice where the grammatical subject is typically the recipient or goal of the action denoted by the verb.

In Tai-Ahom passive are constructed with the help of /cam/ which is placed before the verb.

Examples:
158. Active: /man kin kʰaw/
       he eat rice
       ‘He eats rice.’

159. Passive: /kʰaw cam man kin/
       rice passive him eat
       ‘Rice is eaten (by) him.’

160. Active: /man siw/
       he arrest
       ‘He arrests (someone).’

161. Passive: /man cam siw/
       he passive arrest
       ‘He is arrested.’

162. Passive: /man cam raw siw/
       he passive us arrest
       ‘He is arrested (by) us.’

163. Passive: /kaw cam biŋ tuk caŋ/
       I passive swing fall elephant
       ‘I am swung (and) fell down (from) the elephant.’
164. Passive: /maw cam saŋ waj naj biŋ/
you passive demand put in city
‘You are demanded to be in the city.’

4.15 Passive Constructions in Standard-Thai

Passivisation is the analysis of voice where the grammatical subject is typically the recipient or goal of the action denoted by the verb.

Passives are constructed with the help of passive marker /tʰùːk/ and /doːj/ ‘by’.

/tʰùːk/ is commonly used for passive construction and /doːj/ is added when the action source is needed to be intensified.

Examples:

165. /cʰān tʰùːk kàt/
    I passive bite ‘I am bitten.’

166. /cʰān tʰùːk mèːw kàt/
    I passive cat bite ‘I am bitten by a cat.’

167. /cʰān tʰùːk kàt doːj mèːw/
    I passive bite by cat ‘I am bitten by a cat.’
168. /má: thù:k kʰɨ:/
   horse passive ride ‘The horse is ridden.’

169. /má: thù:k cʰăn kʰɨ:/
   horse passive I ride
   ‘The horse is ridden by me.’

170. /má: thù:k kʰː doj cʰăn/
   horse passive ride by I
   ‘The horse is rode by me.’

171. /pʰuâ:k-raw thù:k thʰã:m/
   group-we passive ask ‘We are asked.’

172. /pʰuâ:k-raw thù:k kʰru: thʰã:m/
   group-we passive teacher ask
   ‘We are asked by the teacher.’

173. /pʰuâ:k-raw thù:k thʰã:m doj kʰru:
   group-we passive ask by teacher
   ‘We are asked by the teacher.’
4.16 Relativisation in Tai-Ahom

Relativisation is a term used in grammatical description to characterize pronouns which may be used to introduce a post-modifying clause with a noun phrase, and by extension of the clause as a whole.

Relative pronouns in Ahom are /pʰu:/ ‘who’ and /panku/ ‘which’ and they are different from interrogative pronouns.

Examples:

174. /pʰak panku man kin/ …

vegetable which he eat

‘The vegetable which he eats …’

175. /kʰaj panku kaw kʰaj jaj/ …

buffalo which I sale past

‘The buffalo which I sold …’

176. /luk-man pʰu: paj ti: na/ …

child-he who go to paddy field

‘The child (son) who goes to the paddy field …’

177. /kʰon pʰu: ma: lun-lan/ …

person who come later-after

‘The person who come later …’
4.17 Relativisation in Standard-Thai

In Standard-Thai, the relative pronouns are formed by the help of classifiers which sometimes can be omitted and only the relative marker /tʰa/ ‘at’ is used alone.

Examples:

179. /dék kʰon-tʰiː rɔːŋ-pʰleːŋ kʰuːː nák-riːn kʰɔːŋ cʰan/

child clf.-at shout-song be person-study of I

‘The child who sings a song is my student.’

180. /dék tʰiː rɔːŋ-pʰleːŋ kʰuːː nák-riːn kʰɔːŋ cʰan/

child at shout-song be person-study of I

‘The child who sings a song is my student.’

181. /mǔ: tua-tʰiː kʰun hɛn pen mǔː pàː/

pig clf.-at you see be pig jungle

‘The pig that you see is the wild pig.’
182. /mûː/ tʰiː kʰun hĕn pen mûː pàː/  
    pig at you see be pig jungle  
    ‘The pig that you see is the wild pig.’

183. /rót kʰan-tʰiː sîː deːŋ kʰuː rót muː sɔːŋ/  
    car clf.-at color red be car hand two  
    ‘The car which is red is the second hand car.’

184. /rót tʰiː sîː deːŋ kʰuː rót muː sɔːŋ/  
    car at color red be car hand two  
    ‘The car which is red is the second hand car.’

185. /pàːk-kaː dâːm-tʰiː kʰun súː pʰeːŋ máːk/  
    pen clf.-at you buy expensive many  
    ‘The pen which you buy is very expensive.’

186. /pàːk-kaː tʰiː kʰun súː pʰeːŋ máːk/  
    pen at you buy expensive many  
    ‘The pen which you buy is very expensive.’
4.18 Compound Sentences in Tai-Ahom

A compound sentence consists of at least two main clauses with or without subordinate clauses. Compound sentences in Tai-Ahom occur without coordinating conjunction meaning ‘and’ and ‘but’. It appears strange that Tai-Ahom does not have such conjunctions. May be this is due to the nature of text that either the writer did not use the conjunction like ‘but’ and ‘and’, etc. they were not required.

Examples:

187. /kʰaw ba baw diː raw ba diː kəŋ/

they say NEG good we say good PAR

‘They say (it is) not good (but) we say (it is) good.’

188. /man paj ka kaw juː naj biŋ/

he go past I stay in city

‘He went (but) I am in the city.’

189. /kʰaw hit biŋ juː tam biŋ han/

they do city stay at city that

‘They build the city (and) stay in that city.’

190. /caw-pʰaː kʰiː caŋ kʰaw tiː tʰun saw tiː rim nam/

lord-sky ride elephant enter to jungle stop at bank water

‘The king rides the elephant to get into the jungle (and) stop at the bank of river.’
Perhaps the nature of text may have been as such that, the use of conjunctions like ‘and’ or ‘but’ is not required.

4.19 Compound Sentences in Standard-Thai

Compound Sentence is a sentence that consists of at least two main clauses with or without subordinate clauses. Standard-Thai uses the conjunctions i.e. /lé/ ‘and, /tè/ ‘but’, /ruũi/ ‘or’, /lé:w/ ‘then’, etc.’ to form the compound sentence.

Examples:

191. /cʰān dùːm kafeː lé kin kʰǎːw/
    I drink coffee and eat rice
    ‘I drink some coffee and eat some rice.’

192. /kʰun cʰǎːp sǐː kʰǎːw tèː kʰǎːw cʰǎːp sǐː dam/
    you like color white but he like color black
    ‘You like white color but he likes black color.’

193. /pʰuːk-raw cà paj-hǎː kʰǎːw ruũiː paj-hǎː pʰɔː kʰɔːŋ kʰǎːw/
    group-we Fut. go-to him or go-to father of him
    ‘We will go to (see) him or go to (see) his father?’
4.20 Complex Sentences in Tai-Ahom

As stated above, under compound sentences in Tai-Ahom that the conjunctions like ‘and’, ‘but’ are not used, however while constructing complex sentences we found the use of conjunctions like /caŋ/ ‘therefore’ and /kɔ/ ‘then’ can be used for joining clauses in complex sentences.

A complex sentence consists of one main clause, with one or more subordinate clauses. Normally, a main clause is followed by a subordinate clause, but sometimes a subordinate clause may also precede the main clause.

Some of the subordinators are as follow: ‘therefore’, ‘then’, ‘when’, ‘who’, ‘before’, ‘after’, etc. Examples:

195. /muŋ nəm-tʰum  raw caŋ  lɔŋ nəm maː taj/

   city water-immersed we  therefore downstream water come south

   ‘(Because) of floods in the city therefore we go downstream via the river southward.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause.

Main clause:   /muŋ nəm-tʰum/

   city water-immersed

   ‘(Because) of floods in the city,’
Subordinate clause: /raw  caŋ  bɔŋ  nam  ma:  taj/

we  therefore  downstream  water  come  south
‘therefore we go downstream via the river southward.’

196. /man  daj-ŋin  kʰam  naj  caŋ  kʰi:  ma:  ma:  ti:  raw/

he  get-hear  word  this  therefore  ride  horse  come  to  we
‘(Because) he heard the words therefore (he) rides the horse to come to us.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause.

Main clause:  /man  daj-ŋin  kʰam  naj/

he  get-hear  word  this
‘(Because) he heard the words’

Subordinate clause:  /caŋ  kʰi:  ma:  ma:  ti:  raw/

therefore  ride  horse  come  to  we
‘therefore (he) rides the horse to come to us.’


lord-sky  come  they  then  out-come  pay  respect  lord-sky
‘(Because) the king comes then they come out to show their respect to him.’
This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause.

Main clause: /caw-pʰa:/  ma:/

lord-sky    come

‘(Because) the king comes’

Subordinate clause: /kʰaw kɔ:  ?ɔ:k-ma:  baj  caw-pʰa:/

they then out-come    pay respect    lord-sky

‘then they come out to show their respect to him.’

198. /caw-pʰa:  haj  man  kin-ŋaj  kɔ:  haj  ka-muw/

lord-sky    give he    eat-morning then    give    go-return

‘(After) the king lets him has breakfast then lets (him) go back.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause.

Main clause: /caw-pʰa:  haj  man  kin-ŋaj/

lord-sky    give he    eat-morning

‘(After) the king lets him has breakfast’

Subordinate clause: /kɔ:  haj  ka-muw/

then    give    go-return

‘then lets (him) go back.’
199. /ban-han  pʰun tuk  muw caw-pʰa:  kʰun biŋ/
day-that rain fall  when lord-sky return city

‘That day it rained when the king returned to the city.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /muw/ ‘when’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. i.e.

Main clause: /ban-han  pʰun tuk/
day-that rain fall

‘That day (it) rained.’

Subordinate clause: /muw caw-pʰa:  kʰun biŋ/
when lord-sky return city

‘When the king return to the city’

200. /muw caw-pʰa:  kʰun biŋ ban-han  pʰun tuk /
when lord-sky return city day-that rain fall

‘When the king returned to the city, that day it rained.’

This sentence consists of a main clause preceded by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /muw/ ‘when’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. i.e.
When the king returned to the city.

That day it rained.

I do not know when I will go back home.

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /muw-daj/ ‘when’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. i.e.

Main clause: /kaw baw ru/

I NEG know

‘I do not know’

Subordinate clause: /muw-daj kaw ti k^hun ban/

when-which I will return home

‘When will I go back home’
202. /muw-daj kaw ti kʰun ban kaw baw ru:/

when-which I will return home I NEG know

‘When will I go back home, I don’t know.’

This sentence consists of a main clause preceded by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /muw-daj/ ‘when’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. i.e.

Subordinate clause: /muw-daj kaw ti kʰun ban/

when-which I will return home

‘When will I go back home’

Main clause: /kaw baw ru/

I NEG know

‘I don’t know.’

203. /kaw pak ti: luk-man pʰu: kʰaw na:/

I speak to child-he who enter paddy field

‘I talk to the child who goes into the paddy field’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /pʰu:/ ‘who’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. i.e.

Main clause: /kaw pak ti: luk-man/

I speak to child-he

‘I talk to the child.’
Subordinate clause: /pʰuː kʰaw na:/

who enter paddy field

‘who goes into the paddy field.’

204. /raw luk-tam mun kɔn kʰaw ma:/

we from-leave city before they come

‘We get out from the city before they come.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /kɔn/ ‘before’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. i.e.

Main clause: /raw luk-tam mun/

we from-leave city

‘We get out from the city.’

Subordinate clause: /kɔn kʰaw ma:/

before they come

‘before they come.’

205. /kʰaw ma: lun-lañ raw paj/

they come later-after we go

‘They come after we go.’
This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The
subordinator /lun-laŋ/ ‘after’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. i.e.

Main clause: /kʰaw ma:/
they come
‘they come.’

Subordinate clause: /lun-laŋ raw pai/
later-after we go
‘after we go.’

4.21 Complex Sentences in Standard-Thai
A complex Sentence consists of one main clause with one or more subordinate
clauses. Normally the main clause is followed by a subordinate clause, but sometimes
a subordinate clause may also precede the main clause. Some of the subordinators are
daŋ-nán /‘so that’, /pʰrɔː-wâː/ ‘because’, /tʰaː/ ‘if’, /tʰʔŋmɛː/ ‘although’, etc.

Examples:

206. /cʰän cà klâp bâːn muâː tʰam ŋaːn sèt/
I Fut. return home when do work finish
‘I will return home when I finish the work.’
This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /mûːː/ ‘when’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Main clause: /cʰɑn  că  klāp  bān/

I Fut. return home

‘I will return home’

Subordinate clause: /mûːː/ tʰam-ŋaːŋ  sėt/

when do-work finish

‘when finish work’

207. /kʰaw māj  rúː/  kʰraj  tē  kʰaw/

he NEG know who kick he

‘He does not know who kicks him.’

This sentences consist of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /kʰraj/ ‘who’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Main clause: /kʰaw māj  rúː/;

he NEG know ‘He does not know’

Subordinate clause: /kʰraj  tē  kʰaw/

who kick he ‘who kicks him.’
208. /cʰān dâj jin wàː kʰâw cà têŋ-ŋaːŋ/

I  PST  hear  that  he  Fut.  decorate-work

‘I heard that he will get married.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause, the subordinator /wàː/ ‘that’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Main clause:  /cʰān dâj jin/

I  PST  hear  ‘I heard’

Subordinate clause:  /wàː kʰâw cà têŋ-ŋaːŋ/

that  he  Fut.  decorate-work

‘that he will get married.’

209. /kʰun kʰuaːn ʔɔːk-paj kɔːn pʰuâːk-kʰâw cà kʰâw-maː/

you  should  out-go  before  group-he  Fut.  into-come

‘You should get out before they are coming inside.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /kɔːn/ ‘before’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Main clause:  /kʰun kʰuaːn ʔɔːk-paj/

you  should  out-go

‘You should get out’
Subordinate clause: /kɔn/ phuâ:k-hâw cà kʰâw-ma:

before group-he Fut. into-come

‘before they are coming inside.’

The following complex sentences consist of a main clause and a subordinate clause in which the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. The subordinator /kɔn/ ‘before’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. As in the following example:


before group-he Fut. into-come you should out-go

‘Before they are coming inside, you should get out.’

Subordinate clause: /kɔn/ phuâ:k-hâw cà kʰâw-ma:

before group-he Fut. into-come

‘before they are coming inside.’

Main clause: /kʰun/ kʰuâ:n ?ɔk-paj/

you should out-go

‘You should get out’
211. /pʰuːk-raw maː-tʰʊŋ  lāŋ  pʰuː:k-kʰʷaw  kin-kʰâ:w  sèt/
group-we  come-arrive  after  group-he  eat-rice  finish
‘We arrived after they have finished eating rice.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /lāŋ/ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Main clause: /pʰuːk-raw maː-tʰʊŋ/
group-we  come-arrive  ‘We arrived’

Subordinate clause: /lāŋ  pʰuː:k-kʰʷaw  kin-kʰâ:w  sèt/
after  group-he  eat-rice  finish
‘after they have finished eating rice.’

The following complex sentence consists of a main clause and a subordinate clause in which the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. The subordinator /lāŋ/ ‘after’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. As in the following example:

212. /lāŋ  pʰuː:k-kʰʷaw  kin-kʰâ:w  sèt  pʰuː:k-raw  maː-tʰʊŋ/
after  group-he  eat-rice  finish  group-we  come-arrive
‘After they have finished eating rice, we arrived.’
This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /daŋ-nán/ ‘so that’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Main clause: /kʰaŋ jà:k rú/  
he want know  
‘He wants to know’

Subordinate clause: /daŋ-nán cʰaŋ cuŋ bɔːk kʰaŋ/  
so that I then tell he  
‘s so that I tell him.’
214. /pʰuː:k-kʰāw māj kʰaːw pʰró-wâ: māj hîw/

group-he NEG eat rice because-that NEG hungry

‘They do not eat rice because (they) are not hungry.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /pʰró-wâ:/ ‘because’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Main clause: /pʰuː:k-kʰāw māj kʰaːw/

group-he NEG eat rice

‘They do not eat rice’

Subordinate clause: /pʰró-wâ: māj hîw/

because-that NEG hungry

‘because (they) are not hungry.’


group-we Asp. go watch film if father-mother permit

‘We will go to the cinema if (our) parents allow (us to go).’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The subordinator /tʰâ:/ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.
The following complex sentences consist of a main clause and a subordinate clause in which the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. The subordinator /tʰâ:/ ‘if’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. As in the following example:

216. /tʰâ:/ pʰɔː-mɛː ʔanújâ:t pʰuâ:k-ræo ɕà ɕaj duː nâŋ/ 
    if father-mother permit group-we Fut. go watch film 
    ‘If (our) parents allow (us), we will go to the cinema’

Subordinate clause: /tʰâ:/ pʰɔː-mɛː ʔanújâ:t/ 
if father-mother permit 
‘if (our) parents allow (us to go).’

Main clause: /pʰuâ:k-raw ɕà ɕaj duː nâŋ/ 
group-we Fut. go watch film 
‘we will go to the cinema’
217. /pʰuá:k-kʰun tɔ:n paj tʰam-ŋan tʰʊŋmɛ: ʃɔn tɔk/
group-you must go do-work although rain fall
‘You must go to work although it rains.’

This sentence consists of a main clause followed by a subordinate clause. The
subordinator /tʰʊŋmɛ:/ ‘although’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Main clause: /pʰuá:k-kʰun tɔ:n paj tʰam-ŋan/
group-you must go do-work
‘You must go to work…’

Subordinate clause: /tʰʊŋmɛ: ʃɔn tɔk/
although rain fall
‘…although it rains.’

The following complex sentences consist of a main clause and a subordinate
clause in which the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. The subordinator
/tʰʊŋmɛ:/ ‘although’ occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause. As in the
following example:

218. tʰʊŋmɛ: ʃɔn tɔk pʰuá:k-kʰun tɔ:n paj tʰam-ŋan
although rain fall group-you must go do-work
‘Although it rains, you must go to work.’
4.22 Comparison between Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai Syntax

Basically, both Tai-Ahom and Thai follow almost identical syntactic structure like word order being SVO, however with the Indo-Aryan influence, Tai-Ahom has developed SOV word order. Relative pronouns in Tai-Ahom are different than than of interrogative for examples ‘who’ and ‘which’. But Standard-Thai uses interrogative words ‘who’, ‘which’ as relative pronouns also. As pointed out above we have not found the use of conjunction ‘and’, ‘but’ to form compound sentences in Tai-Ahom, however, this may be due to the limited texts that we have analyzed. We can conclude that both languages are identical in their syntactic formations except the lexical differences.