CHAPTER IV

4.0 SYNTAX

4.1 The structure of a sentence consists of its syntactic form. The analysis of the structure of sentence in a language can roughly be described as those aspects of the syntax of the language. A sentence is not merely a random string of words. It is a construction. A construction is made up of smaller units known as constituents. A constituent in Meiteiron may be bound or free. A construction in Meiteiron may be endocentric or exocentric according to the type of constituents, which compose it. An endocentric construction is one in which the principal constituent is comparable to the complete construction, that is, the principal constituent in the construction is of the same category and it functions like the combined construction. Illustrations:

(1) tomba amachuŋ cawba
'Tomba and Chaoba'

(2) tomba amachuŋ cawba amachuŋ ay
'Tomba and Chaoba and I'

(3) tomba cawba amachuŋ ay
'Tomba Chaoba and I'

(4) phajebè ñap
'beautiful child'

In the above examples, the principal constituents tomba, cawba, ay, phajebè, and ñap are of the same category.
that is, nouns, and they can function like the combined construction. Hence, these are regarded as endocentric constructions.

An exocentric construction is one in which the constituents can not function like the combined constructions. Illustrations:

(5) kànnà ñèlli
    'fast running'
(6) tombe ñèlli
    'Tomba (is) running'
(7) thòp hàngù
    'door open'

In the above illustrations, the constituents can not function like the combined construction. Hence, they are regarded as exocentric constructions.

An endocentric construction may be either coordinating or subordinating. Illustrations:

(8) çàbà ñèmméchùñ thèkùñ
    'eating and drinking'
(9) tombægà cawbægà
    'Tomba with Chaoba with'
(10) èñàñ sêdù
    'child the'
(11) nîpà ñëchì
    'man this'
In the above illustrations, examples (8) and (9) are coordinating constructions, because the principal constituents are all heads or heads with coordinator(c). Examples (10) and (11) are subordinating constructions because the constituents are head (H) and modifier(Mod). This is shown below by taking examples (8) and (10).

Illustrations:

(8) cæba ømæchug thækøø  
    'eating and drinking'  
    (H) (c) (H)

(10) øgøø ødu  
    'child the'  
    (H) (Mod)

The number of constituents in a construction may vary; and a construction, if it can occur independently as a complete utterance, then, it becomes a sentence in Meiteiron. In other words, a sentence in Meiteiron may be said to be constructed by smaller units known as constituents because a single word can be a sentence in Meiteiron. Illustrations:

(12) øyni  
    'I am'

(13) øgygø ymund  
    'my house is' (This is my house)

Examples (12) and (13) are sentences. In (12) there is only one word but it has two morpheme constituents, that is -
But in (13) there are two words and it has four morpheme constituents, that is -

(16) aygi
    'my'

(17) yumni
    'house + is'

aygi and yumni can be further divided as (18) and (19), and (20) and (21) respectively.

(18) ey
    'I'

(19) gi
    'possessive (of)'

(20) yum
    'house'

(21) ni
    'is (copula)'

The constituents shown above are all morphemes. There are more complex constructions than (12) and (13) above, which can be analysed as consisting of constituents that are phrases rather than words or morphemes. The phrases themselves have constituents, depending on the complexity of the sentence.

Illustrations:
The above sentences, although they are more complex than sentence (12) and (13), can be cut into smaller constituents. Sentence (22) has two groups and it has four word constituents. Illustrations:

(22) nipa edu kìne cèlli
    'man the fast running'(The man is running fast)'

(23) ley edu yamne caumì
    'flower the very big(The flower is very big)'

(24) eykhoigì manìnì tìyìe nipa edu tìmmì
    'our west living person the sleeping'
    (The person living at our west is sleeping)'

(25) eykhoigì manìnì tìyìe nipa edu kìne tìmmì
    'our west living person the fast sleeping'
    (The person living at our west is fast sleeping)'

(26) nipa edu
    'man the'

(27) kìne cèlli
    'fast running'

(26) and (27) are phrases having two words each as constituents. (28) and (29) are constituents of (26), while (30) and (31) are constituents of (27).
The constituent structure of sentence (22) can be shown in a tree diagram as follows:

Fig. 11. Diagram showing constituent structure of sentence (22).

The constituent structure of sentence (22) is simple as compared to the structure of sentence (25). Sentence (25) has also two groups but it has seven word constituents.

The constituents of phrase (33) are the two words \textit{kà\'anna} and \textit{tummi}, while the situation is more complex in the case of phrase (32), but nevertheless, it is usually agreed that the constituents of phrase (32) are the phrase (34) and the sentence (35).
(34)  nipa  edu
      'man  the'

(35)  eykhoygi  menigde  laybè  (nipa)
      'our  west  living (man)'

(34) has the constituents (28) and (29), that is nipa and edu. (35) however, can be divided into (36) and (37).

(36)  eykhoygi  menigde
      'our  west'

(37)  laybè
      'living'

(36) again has two constituents (38) and (39).

(38)  eykhoygi
      'our'

(39)  menigde
      'west'

The constituents in the above are all words. There can be further divisions at the morphological level. Sentence (25) can be reproduced in a tree diagram showing the morpheme constituents as below:
Fig. - 12. Diagram showing morpheme constituents of sentence (25).
The constituents in the above sentences (22) and (25) can be labelled according to their classes. The basic constituents - words - have well known labels called form classes, which is traditionally known as parts of Speech. They are: nouns (N), verbs (V), pronouns or noun substitutes (Ns), modifiers (Mod), that is, adjectives and adverbs; determiners (Det); etc. By putting the labels to the constituents the classes of the constituents can be recognised as well as can show the identical structure of sentences. The constituent structure of sentences (22) and (25) using labels of the constituent types in place of words is shown in the diagram below:

![Diagram](image)

Fig. - 13. Diagram showing immediate constituents of sentence (22).

71 Det. is also modifier.
Fig. - 14. Diagram showing word constituents by labels of sentence (25)
Sentence (40) is a more complex construction than sentence (25). It is shown in an Immediate Constituent (IC) diagram:

(40) eykhoygi menindo hawba haynew-pambi mekhonde laybe nipa edu kenna nale 'our west growing mango tree foot living man the serious ill (The man living at the foot of the mango tree growing at our is seriously ill)'

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>eykhoygi menindo hawba haynew-pambi mekhonde laybe nipa edu kenna nale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eykhoygi menindo hawba haynew-pambi mekhonde laybe nipa edu kenna nale</td>
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<td>eykhoygi menindo hawba haynew-pambi mekhonde laybe nipa edu kenna nale</td>
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<td>eykhoygi menindo hawba haynew-pambi mekhonde laybe nipa edu kenna nelle</td>
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<td>eykhoygi menindo hawba haynew-pambi mekhonde laybe</td>
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<td>eykhoygi menindo haynew-pambi mekhonde laybe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eykhoygi menindo haynew-pambi mekhonde</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above constituents are words. There can be further cuts into into morphemes, but it is no shown. Again, further cuts in haynew-pambi is possible but it is also considered optional.
4.2 There are various definitions of sentence but in the present analysis, a sentence is interpreted as a complete utterance boundable by sentence boundary junctures ## --- ##, that contains at least one phrase. An utterance in Meiteiron can be classified as a sentence, if, it occurs as a complete utterance with a sequence of selected linguistic items combined into a unit in accordance with certain patterns of syntactic arrangement. Therefore, a sentence may consist of a single word or a phrase or a sequence of phrases or a complex form of sentence within a sentence.

(41) ibobini 'Ibob!(name of person) + is (It is Ibobi)'  
(42) ćak ćay 'rice eat (I/you/ he eat rice)'  
(43) tomba ćak ćay 'Tomba rice eat (Tomba eats rice)'  
(44) tombana ćak amechung ayne ɲa ćay 'Tomba+by rice and I+by fish eat (Tomba eats rice and I eat fish)'  
(45) tomba amechung ɲ ey channeli 'Tomba and I playing (Tomba and I are playing)'

An utterance here is a stretch of meaningful speech that conforms to the pattern or arrangement of Meiteiron and is bounded by a word or phrase boundary juncture. Illustration:

(46) ɲ 'I'  
(47) mi ɲi 'man two'
All the examples (41 to 47) above are utterances. Examples (41 to 45) are bounded by sentence boundary junctures; (46) is bounded by word boundary juncture, and (47) is bounded by phrase boundary juncture. However, it may be argued that examples (41) and (42) are not sentences in the ordinary way, as they seem incomplete; but they are bounded by the sentence boundary juncture \#\# - - - - \#\#, and can be used by standard speakers in answer to questions, such as -

(48) kənənə? 'Who are you/who is there?' whose answer can be example (41), that is, ibəbin\text{\textsuperscript{i}} 'I am Ibobi/It is Ibobi' and (49) nəŋ kəli\ cəy 'what do you eat/what are you eating' whose answer can be example (42), that is, cək\ cəy 'I eat rice/(I) live on rice'. Therefore, they are regarded as sentences while (46) and (47) can not be regarded as sentences.

A phrase is a string of morphemes or words that behaves as a grammatical unit, within which a phrase boundary juncture \#, may not intervene and whose head is a nominal or a verbal nucleus. A phrase in Meiteiron may contain only one word, such as \#m\text{\textsuperscript{i}}\ 'man' \#lak\text{\textsuperscript{e}}\ 'came', etc., or more than one word like \#m\text{\textsuperscript{i}}\ am\text{\textsuperscript{e}}\ 'one person/man', \#k\text{\textsuperscript{e}}\\text{\textsuperscript{n}}\ cə\text{\textsuperscript{t}}\text{\textsuperscript{l}}\ 'going fast', etc.

If the head of the phrase is nominal and can occupy the nominal position in the sentence and also can function as
subject or object of the sentence, then, it is a noun phrase (NP). Illustrations:

(50) #mi `ame# 
'man one/a (a/one man)'

(51) #phejba `anap ama# 
'beautulf child one(a/one beautiful child)'

(52) #awana`a u `edub# 
'tall tree the (the tall tree)'

(53) #awana`a u `edub# `tekle## 
'tall tree the fell down' 72
(The tall tree have fell down).

In the above examples, (50), (51) and (52) are phrases, the head in each of them is a nominal. In example (50), the head is mi 'man', and in (51) ana 'child', and in (52) u 'tree'. They are the nuclei in the phrases. Hence, the phrases are regarded as noun phrases. In example (53) there is a phrase boundary between `edub and `tekle. It contains more than one phrase. It is phrase (52) plus `tekle. The phrase (52) occupies the nominal position in the sentence, and it also functions as subject in the sentence. A subject in a sentence is always a noun and this phrase (that is, phrase (52)) can be substituted by a single noun such as u 'tree'. Thus, we have:

(54) #u# `tekle##
'tree# fell down##'(The tree fell down)'
Therefore, the phrases (50 to 52) above are regarded as noun phrases.

But, if, the head is verbal, and occupies the verbal position in a sentence, that is, the final position in a sentence, and also can function as predicate of the sentence, then, the phrase is a verb phrase (VP). Illustrations:

(55) #yæ̱na cèli#
    'fast running'

(56) #hawjik cèli#
    'now going'

(57) #mi øme# yæ̱na cèli##
    '#man the# fast running##'(A man is running fast)

In the above examples, (55) and (56) are phrases, in which the main verb is cèli 'running' and cèli 'going'. They are the nuclei in the phrases, hence they are regarded as verb phrases. In example (57) in the sentence #mi øme# yæ̱na cèli## 'a man is running fast', the phrase #yæ̱na cèli# 'running fast' occupies the verbal position, which is the predicate in the sentence.

The phrases in examples (53), (54) and (57) are shown in diagram below:

73 The verbs always occupy the final position in a sentence. Refer, 3.2.6.
(53) S
  /\  
 NP VP
 "swanbe u adu" "tekle"
 'tall tree the' 'fell down'

(54) S
  /\  
 NP VP
 "u" "tekle"
 'tree' 'fell down'

(57) S
  /\  
 NP VP
 "mi emo" "yanne celli"
 'man one/a' 'fast running'
4.1.2 Sentences in Meiteiron can be divided into two groups, major and minor. A major sentence is a sentence which does not delete the NP in speech, that is, the subject is actualised in speech. Generally, a major sentence always has a VP. If it does not have a VP, then, it will have a copula attached to the NP or the subject. As already mentioned in (3.9.1) above, a copula can be regarded as a main verb, because it functions as a main verb in sentences. The examples below will illustrate the major sentences in Meiteiron.

(58)  ay cak cale
      'I rice eat+completive(I have completed eating rice)'

(59)  tombana caubabu phuye
      'Tomba+by Chaoba+to beat(Tomba beats Chaoba)'

(60)  caubabu tombana phuye
      'Chaoba+to Tomba+by beat(Tomba beats Chaoba)'

(61)  ay lakle
      'I come+realization(I have come)'

(62)  ay caubani
      'I Chaoba+is (I am Chaoba)'

(63)  thani
      'moon+is (It is moon)'

In all the above illustrations, the subjects are actualised. In examples (58), (61) and (62) the subject is

74 'subject is actualised in speech' means the dropping/deletion of subject, a common phenomenon in standard Meiteiron is not there. In sentences like, cak cale 'Rice ate/taken meal' the subject can be any of the following : ay 'I', nan 'you', ma 'he', tomba 'Tomba', etc.

75 Change in the position of subject and object has no impact in Meiteiron. Refer, 3.2.4.
In (59) and (60) the subject is *tombe* 'Tomba', and in (63) the subject is *tha* 'moon'. They are present in the speech.

The pattern in example (63) is treated as similar to the pattern in example (61), thereby regarding the copula *ni* as a VP. The pattern in the major sentences, then, can be -

(a) Subject (S), object (O), and verb (V), as in examples (58) and (59); (b) object, subject, and verb, as in example (60); (c) subject and verb, as in example (61); (d) subject, object, and copula (v), as in example (62); and (e) subject and copula, as in example (63), above.

A minor sentence is one in which the NP is deleted, that is, the subject is not actualised in speech. Illustrations:

(64)  
tha ule
'moon see+completive (--- saw the moon)'

(65)  
cǎlēse lakke
'eat+realization+non-realization come+non-realization'  
( --- will come after eating)'

(66)  
cawbābu phule
'Chaoba+to beat+completive ( --- Chaoba beaten)'

(67)  
càle
'eat+completive ( -- have ate)'

In the above examples, the subject in all the sentences are not actualised. The --- in the gloss can be filled by an NP or a noun (N) or noun substitue (Ns), like -
*amubà tombane* 'The black Tomba', or *tomba* 'Tomba', or *ay* 'I' etc., because the subjects are deleted/dropped in speech.

The pattern in the examples (64) and (66) is purely OV; in example (65) it is VV; and in example (67) it is V'. There is another type of minor sentence which has the pattern OVv. Illustration:

(68) *gechi lakkeni*
*to-day will come* (--- will come to-day)*

The above example can be considered as OV pattern, since *ni* has also been considered as verb suffix (3.2.0), but it has been more accurately interpreted as OVv pattern, because copula here has a different meaning/function, that is, showing certainty in direct or reported speech.

Therefore, the pattern of arrangement for the major sentences are - sOV, Osv, sV, sOv, and sV; while in the case of minor sentences, the pattern of arrangement is OV, VV, V, and OVv.

4.1.3 A sentence in Meiteiron may be either simple, or compound, or complex, according to its structure.
4.1.3.1 **Simple sentence**: A simple sentence in Meiteiron is a sentence which has at least one VP in it and which does not have a complex or compound construction. A simple sentence may be major or minor. Illustrations:

(69)  
ay cak cay  
'I rice eat+infinitive (I eat rice)'

(70)  
tomba catli  
'Tomba go+infinitive (Tomba is going)'

(71)  
mahak aykhoyde lay  
'he our+at live+infinitive (He lives at our place)'

(72)  
manine tombabu phuy  
'Mani+by Tomba+to beat+infinitive (Mani beats Tomba)'

(73)  
mini  
'man+is (This is a man)'

(74)  
hippi  
'sleep+infinitive (--- is sleeping)'

The examples (69 to 74) above, are regarded as simple sentences, because they all include at least one VP and they all have one predicate each. In example (69) cay is the VP and cak cay is the predicate; in example (70) catli is the VP as well as the predicate;\(^{76}\) in example (71) and (72) lay and phuy are the VP and aykhoyde lay and tombabu phuy are the predicates, respectively; in example (73) mini is the predicate while ni is the VP; but in the case of (74) it has been considered that hippi is the VP as well as the predicate.\(^{77}\)

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76 In this example the NP in the predicate group is deleted. Noun deletion is a common phenomenon in this language.

77 The interpretation here is hippi tawli 'sleeping doing'. There are other interpretations also.
4.1.3.2 Compound sentence: A compound sentence is one which has more than one simple sentences conjoined together into one simple sentence by coordinate conjunctions. Compound sentences with co-referring nouns or verbs are also found. In such cases one of the verbs or nouns is deleted.

Illustrations:

(75) tomba amachug ay channeli
'Tomb and I play+reciprocate+infinitive (Tomba and I are playing)'

(76) ibetonna ga amachug tomanne cha cay
'Ibeton+by fish and Toman+by meat eat+infinitive' (Ibeton eats fish and Toman eats meat)'

(77) ibetonna nok,i, tomanne keppi, ibetonna lawwi, 'Ibeton+by laugh, Toman+by weep, Ibeton+by shout, amachug ayne yegni
and I+by look (Ibeton is laughing, Toman is weeping, Ibeton is shouting, and I am looking)'

In the above illustrations, example (75) has two sentences joined together by the coordinate conjunction amachug 'and'. The two sentences are -

(75a) tomba channeli 'Tomba is playing'
(75b) ay channeli 'I am playing'

In the same manner, example (76) has two sentences

(76a) ibetonna nga cay 'Ibeton is eating fish/Ibeton eats fish'
and (76b) tomanne cha cay 'Toman eat fish'/Toman is eating fish

Refer, 4.2.3.1.
They are conjoined by the conjunction amachung 'and'. In examples (75) and (76) the common verb is deleted.

In the case of example (77) more than two sentences are conjoined by one coordinate conjunction. It has got four different sentences joined together. They are -

(77a) ibotonna nok.i 'Iboton is laughing'
(77b) tomanna kèppi 'Toman is weeping'
(77c) ibetonna lawwi 'Ibeton is shouting'
(77d) øyna yêngi 'I am looking'

The sentences (77a), (77b), (77c) and (77d) above are all simple sentences. They are joined into one simple sentence by a coordinate conjunction, Since, they do not have a complex construction then, sentences like (77) above, are regarded as compound sentence.

4.1.3.3 Complex sentence: A complex sentence is one in which two or more sentences are joined together by a complex coordinate conjunction or a sentence that is included in another sentence, for example - øyna lakpæø mahak çatkhi 'I arrived he left (He left when I arrived)'. The following examples will illustrate complex sentences in Meiteiron.
(78) tomba según maní + ge catli
'Tomba with Mani go infinitive
(Tomba and Mani are going together)'

(79) tomba c'ak c'alavet makho yda lakkani
'Tomba rice eat after their come will copula
(After eating rice Tomba will come at their house)'

(80) eykho ygi mení + oylpa hawa hewn + pambi mekhondi
'our possessive west toward growing mango tree foot
laybè nipa adu nale
living man the ill (The man living at the foot of the
mango-tree growing towards our west is ill)'

In the illustrations above, example (78) has the complex conjunction /-ge-/-ge/, while (79) has only -ge-; but in the case of example (80) there is no complex conjunction. In example (80) there are three sentences embedded together. They are -

(80a) eykho ygi mení + oylpa hawa
'our + possessive west toward grow (It is growing towards our west)'

(80b) hewn + pambi mekhondi lay
'mango-tree foot + at live (It lives at the foot of the
mango-tree)'

(80c) nipa adu nale
'man the ill + realization (The man is ill)'

4.1.4 A sentence in Meiteiron can be declarative(statement), interrogative, or imperative. If a sentence indicates a statement of truth or state or condition or gives permission, then, the sentence is regarded as a declarative(statement).
Further, whether a sentence in Meiteiron is declarative or not is indicated by the suffixes which are attached to the verb or to the noun. If a sentence has interrogative markers attached to the NP and indicates a question, then, the sentence is an interrogative one; and if a sentence has imperative markers attached to the VP and indicates a command or order, then, it is an imperative one. Then, sentences in Meiteiron can be divided into three classes according to its formation. Diagrammatically, then, it can be shown as follows:

![Diagram showing types of sentences.](image)

4.1.4.1 Declarative sentence (statements): Declarative sentences or statements are the most common type of sentences found in Meiteiron. This kind of sentence may conveniently be termed the favourite sentence type. Declarative sentences are those sentences, in which no suffix indicating interrogation or imperative is attached to the NP or VP (as the case may be), nor any sense of these is indicated either by intonation or otherwise. Illustrations:
(81) ay c'ak c'ale (I have taken rice/meal) 'I rice eat+completive'
(82) mahak cawbani (He is Chaoba) 'he Chaoba+copula'
(83) nagn cetpe yale (you are allowed to go) 'you going allowed'
(84) ay c'ak c'ale hayne mana hay (He said"I have taken my 'I rice eat+completive say he say' meal")

Declarative sentences may be either direct or quoted. In the above examples, (81 to 83) are direct, while (84) is quoted. The difference between direct and quoted speech is indicated by the addition of the verb hay or hayna ... hay in the direct speech.

Declarative sentences also indicate permission. For the formation of permissive sentences the verb becomes a verbal noun (VN) and then yale/yay 'agree/allowed/permitted' is added to the sentence. yale/yay becomes the main verb in the sentence and it indicates permission as in example (83) above.

4.1.4.2 Interrogative sentence: Interrogative is generally marked at the morphological level by affixing the interrogative marker {-la -la} to the nominal form, for example: c'ateba-la 'eat+nominalizer+interrogative marker', tombaila 'Tomba+interrogative marker', i+la 'thatch+interrogative marker'.

79 Refer, 3.7.0.
But there are a few instances where interrogation is marked at the syntactic level. It is convenient to ascribe this function to intonation at the level of syntax. However, we will not attempt to examine this phenomenon here.

Generally, questions can be the NP in a sentence, or the VN, or the head of the NP, or the numerals, or some of the modifiers, or the noun substitutes. Illustrations:

(85) apikpē manila cātkhalibādu ? 'small Mani+interrogative go+definite+continuative+nominalizer+demonstrative (Isn’t Mani the person just gone?)'

(86) cāk cālabāla ? 'rice eat+realization+nominalizer+interrogative (Have --- taken meal?)'

(87) cālabāla ? 'eat+realization+nominalizer+interrogative (Have eaten)'

(88) cākla 'rice+interrogative (Is it rice)'

(89) machi laylik āmala ? 'this book one+interrogative (Is it a book)'

(90) hāwjikla ? 'now+interrogative (Is it now)'

(91) machila 'this/it+interrogative (Is it this)'

In the above illustrations, the interrogative marker {-la} is after mani in apikpē manila in example (85); while the same is or its variant -la is after the VN in examples (86) and (87); after the head of the NP, that is, noun (N) in example (88); after the modifier in example (90);
A verb or any other class of forms can not be questioned, except a few verb forms with command and non-realization (2.2.16). Coordinate as well as subordinate structures can be questioned either separately or in combination. The questioned element in the both the cases remain the same, even questiones can be on more than one thing in a sentence. Illustrations:

(92) cakké ngéga cabala?
    'rice+with fish+with eat+nominalizer+interrogative
    (Do you eat rice as well as fish)'

(93) yum aduga ahal adugadi kadayda cakhale?
    'house the+with oldman the+with+particular where+
    demonstrative go+definite+completive (Where the
    house with the old man gone)'

(94) agan aduga mambaga laylibala?
    'child the+with mother+with live+continuative+
    nominalizer+interrogative (The child together with
    the mother is there?)'

(95) aykhoygi maninda laybà yum aduda laybà nipa adu
    'our+possessive west+at living house the+at living
    man the
    cakhalabalà?
    go+definitive+realization+nominalizer+interrogative'
    (The man living at the west of our house has left?)'

The following interrogative sentences can be derived from sentence (95).
(95a) aykhoygi maninda layba nipa adu catkhalabala?
'Is it the man living at the west of our house gone?'

(95b) yum aduda layba nipa adu catkhalabala?
'Is it the man living at the house gone?'

(95c) nipa adu catkhalabala?
'Is it the man gone?'

This shows that all the parts in a sentence can be questioned. But in all the cases the question suffix remain the same.

Interrogative sentences in Meiteiron can be broadly divided into two main types - (i) hoy/may questions (yes/no), and (ii) ke- questions (wh- questions). 

hoy/may questions are those for which at least hoy 'yes' can be one of the answers in the positive (along with others) although the negative answer may not be may 'no'. hoy/may questions are indicated by the suffix [la -la]. The following are the examples of hoy/may questions.

(96) napa cak calebala?
'you rice eat+realization+nominalizer+interrogative (Have you finished eating/taking rice/meal)'

(97) caua ba gachi lakpala?
'Chaoba to-day come+nominalizer+interrogative (Did Chaoba come to-day)'

(98) adagichi tombala?
'yonder+possessive+this Tomba+interrogative (Is it the one over there Tomba)'

The names 'hoy/may' and 'ke-' questions have been coined because hoy means 'yes' and may means 'not yes'. For ke- like the English wh-, the interrogative part of the noun substitutes are indicated by ke-, which is present in all questions of this type.
(99) madu tombagi yumla?
'that Tomba+possessive house+interrogative
(Is that Tomba's house)'

(100) 'cak hapkhola?
'rice putmore+command+interrogative
(Shall put some more rice)'

(101) 'neg 'cak 'calaloy?
'you rice eat+realization+intentive negative
(Do you intend not to eat rice)'

(102) ma 'c'tlaloydela?
'he go+realization+negative(intentive)+negative+
interrogative (Will he not go)'

(103) 'neg 'cak 'cakhigela?
'you rice eat+definitive+non-realization+interrogative
(Will you eat rice)'

(104) ma 'c'aleko?
'he eat+realization+suggestive
(Do you know he ate)'

(105) aykhoy 'c'tlachila?
'we go+realization+let+interrogative
(Should let us go)'

(106) nakhoy 'c'tlalagela?
'you(plural) go+realization+non-realization+
interrogative (Would you intend to go)'

(107) ma 'c'tkhelabela?
'he go+definitive+realization+nominalizer+
interrogative(Did he go away)'

All the examples above have a common answer hoy
'yes', in the positive. There are other positive answers
also. Since these differences are minor, they do not deserve
to treat as separate entities. The most common positive
answer is-root or form to which the interrogative element is
affixed plus the suffix -li or -le as the case may be. In
the case of negative answers may or natta or root or form
plus te ω de or root/form plus de ω ta3 plus li/le.
Questions in Meiteiron - Sentence which asks for a lexical rather than a yes/no, that is, hoy/may response. The ke-word which occur in sentences are interrogatives, because they are interrogative noun substitutes. The answer to ke questions are conditioned by the noun substitute which occur in the sentence. For example: In the question nəŋ kalì calì 'What you are eating?' kalì refers to a thing and it can not refer either a man or place; the answer will be something which can be ate, may be 'meal/candy/fruit, etc.'. Likewise, in kena lay? 'Who is there?'. kena refers only to a person/man, it can not be anything other than sy 'I', or tombe 'Tomba' or someone else.

4.1.4.3 Imperative sentence: The imperative or command is indicated at the morphological level. Therefore, the imperative sentence in Meiteiron is marked by the suffixes which indicate command. The imperative markers in Meiteiron are {-u₂, -lo₂, -lu₂, -nu₂, and -kho}. Any of the above suffixes attached to the V or VP in a sentence indicates that it is an imperative sentence. Illustrations:

(108) nəŋ cətlo
'you go+command (You go)'

(109) nəŋ cəw
'you eat+command (You eat)'

(110) tombe nəŋ cəlu
'Tomba you eat+command (different place) (Tombe you go and eat)'
Imperatives are in the second person in both the numbers. Imperatives in Meiteirion may be normal, immediate, action to be performed at a different place, and an invitation to perform. Prohibition is also considered a command in Meiteirion because it is more an imperative than declarative. The normal imperatives are indicated by {-ul}; immediate by {-lo}; go and perform at a different place by {-lu}; an invitation to perform by {-lo}; command keep on by {-kho}; and prohibitive by {-nu}. Illustrations:

(111) nang cak caw
'you rice eat+command (You eat rice/take your meal)'

(112) nang cak calo
'you rice eat+immediate command (Take your meal now)'

(113) nang cak calu
'you rice eat+different place (You go and take meal)'

(114) nang cak calo
'you rice eat+invitation (You come for the meal)'

(115) nang cak cakhoh
'you rice eat+keep (you keep one eating rice/meal)'

(116) nang cak cagamu
'you rice eat+non-realization+prohibitive
(You do not eat rice/You are prohibited to take meal)'
4.2.0 Sentences in Meiteiron can be joined together with the help of connectors or conjuncts. The method of showing connections or relationships in Meiteiron are very wide. A conjunction is a word or word group that connects two or more sentence components. The various conjuncts which join sentences in Meiteiron are the following:

(1) emachuŋ 'and'
(2) -ga 'with'
(3) -ga .. -ga 'with .. with'
(4) -ga loynana 'together with'
(5) edudagi 'then'
(6) edugi matuqda 'thereafter'
(7) -chu/-chu .. -chu 'also'
(8) -ne .. -ne 'together...together'
(9) eduna 'as such/so'
(10) məlam aduna 'therefore'
(11) məlamdi 'because'
(12) adubu 'but'
(13) tawwigumbachuŋ 'but'
(14) adum oynamək 'however'
(15) aduməkpu 'even then'

Some of the conjuncts are nominal suffixes. Refer, 3.1.0.
apart from the above conjunctions which join sentences in maiteiron, there is a pause which also acts as a conjunct. This pause is the comma pause. the various sentences or constructions which are joined by the above conjunctions are illustrated below:

(1) tomba amachung ay channali 'tomba and i playing'
(2) tombana ga amachung ayne cha cay 'tomba fish and i meat eat'
(3) tombana ga amachung ayne cha amachung cawbana cak cay 'tomba fish and i meat and chaoba rice eat'
(4) tomba cawba mani yayma amachung ay channali 'tomba chaoba mani yaima and i playing'
(5) ey ibohalga channali 'i ibohal+with playing'
(6) imphal tulel nambul tulelga tinnale 'imphal river nambul river+with joined'
(7) imphal tulelga nambul tulelga tinnale 'imphal river+with nambul river+with joined'

because of model constraints, deletion, gapping, co-referring nouns and verbs and other transformations, although seen in the illustrations are not discussed.

the meanings of the connectors in the illustrations are approximate.
(8) ayge manige tomba ga cawbaga catli
'I with Mani+with Tomba+with Chaoba+with going'

(9) ay tomba loynana channali
'I Tomba+with together playing'

(10) ay tomba manige loynana channali
'I Tomba+with Mani+with together playing'

(11) makhoyda catluy adudagi ay lakpani
'Their's went then I am coming'

(12) tomba catkhaladuda ay lakle
'Tomba gone then I came'

(13) tomba catkhaladuda adugi matunda ay lakle
'Tomba gone then after that I came'

(14) aychu channali tombachu channali
'I+also playing Tomba+also playing'

(15) aychu catakani
'I+also will go'

(16) tombane ayne cak cay
'Tomba+together I+together rice eat'

(17) tombane ayne manige catli
'Tomba+together I+together Mani+together going'

(18) makhoy phatte aduna ay makhoygo tinneloy
'They bad as such I they+with will not mix'

(19) makhoy catta aduna ay cattale
'They not go so/as such I not gone'

(20) makhoy talli malem aduna (makhoy) laylay
'They idle therefore (they) poor'

(21) ay laklaloy malamdi ay nale
'I will not come because I am ill'

(22) tombadi cale adubu aydi cadali
'Tomba ate but I not (yet) eat'

84 This sentence has other versions, They are (11a) makhoyda catlubadagi (ay) lakpani, (11b) ay makhoyda catluy adudagi lakpani.

85 This sentence has also another version (12a) tomba catkhalabaduda ay lakle.
The conjunctions can occur in combinations also, that is, different conjunctions join various parts of sentences of a conjoined structure. Illustrations:

(32) ay amachun cawbe tombega cätli 'I and Chaoba Tomba+with going'

(33) ay amachun cawbe tombega loynene cätli 'I and Chaoba Tomba+with together going'

(34) aychu cawbachu tombega loynene cätli 'I+also Chaoba+also Tomba+with together going'

(35) ayge tombega cätlude edubu kanneloy 'I+with Tomba+with gone but no use'
Some of the conjunctions listed above and illustrated can join infinite number of sentences under one conjoined structure. According to the number of sentences which can be joined by a conjunction, the conjunctions can be broadly divided into two major classes. They are - (i) limited, and (ii) unlimited. The limited conjuncts are those which can join only two sentences and/or those after joining a sentence or parts in a construction no other conjunction can occur after them. Those conjunctions which can join infinite number of sentences are termed as unlimited conjuncts. The unlimited conjuncts are the following:

- amachuŋ 'and'
- -ga ... -ga 'with ... with'
- -chu/-chu ... -chu 'also/also ... also'
- -ne ... -ne 'together ... together'
All other conjunctions listed in (4.2.0) above, (except the four conjunctions mentioned above) are limited conjuncts.

4.2.1 Phonologically, each occurrence of the conjunctions is attached to the immediately preceding NP and there is possibility to pause after each occurrence. Illustrations:

(1)  
\[
\text{tombe emachup} / \text{ey channeli} \quad ^{86}
\]
'Tomba and I playing'

(5)  
\[
\text{ey ibohalge} / \text{channeli}
\]
'I Ibohal+with playing' etc.

4.2.2 The conjunctions listed above (4.2.0) can be divided into four groups according to the type of sentence components they connect:

4.2.2.1 Coordinating conjunction: Coordinating conjunctions connect grammatically equivalent constructions. The coordinating conjunctions are: emachup, eduby, tawwigumbechup, adum oynemak, and nettelege. Illustrations:

(41)  
\[
\text{cawbe emachup tombe}
\]
'Chaoba and Tomba'

(42)  
\[
\text{cawbe emachup tombe c\text{'}etli}
\]
'Chaoba and Tomba going'

86 This pause which is indicated by / (a bold slant line) is not equivalent to comma pause or any other kind of pause found in this language.
In the above illustrations, *cawba* in example (42) and *tombe* in example (46) seems non-equivalent to the other construction, that, *tombe c:\textit{t}\textit{a\texttildetilde{\textm{e}}}li* in (48) and *cawba c:\textit{\texttt{e}t\texttildetilde{\texttt{k}}}\texttt{\texttildetilde{\texttt{n}}}\texttt{\texttildetilde{\texttt{i}}}* in (46). But these are grammatically equivalent constructions. In these cases there is a case of co-referring VP, because of model constraints it is not shown in the present analysis.

4.2.2.2 *Correlative conjunction*: Like the coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions also connect grammatically equivalent constructions. The difference is that correlative conjunctions occur in pairs. The correlative conjunctions are -

-\textit{ch\texttildetilde{\textm{u}}} \ldots -\textit{ch\texttildetilde{\textm{u}}}, -\textit{ge} \ldots -\textit{ge}, -\textit{ch\texttildetilde{\textm{u}}} \ldots -\textit{ge}, -\textit{ne} \ldots -\textit{ne}.

Illustration

(47) \textit{tombe} cawba c:\textit{\texttt{e}t\texttildetilde{\texttt{k}}}\texttt{\texttildetilde{\texttt{n}}}\texttt{\texttildetilde{\texttt{i}}} 'Tomba with Chaoba with going'

(14) \textit{ey\texttildetilde{\textm{u}}} channeli tomba\textit{\texttt{h\texttildetilde{\textm{u}}}\texttildetilde{\textm{e}}}\texttt{\texttildetilde{\textm{u}}} channeli 'I as well as Tomba is playing'

(16) tombane \textit{\texttt{e}y\texttildetilde{\textm{u}}} c\textit{\texttt{\texttt{k}}} \texttt{\texttildetilde{\textm{e}}} 'Tomba and I together is having our meal'
4.2.2.3 Comparative conjunction: These are very similar to correlative conjunctions. The comparative conjunctions are - muk, -gum. Illustrations:

(29) tomba cawbamuk cawwi
'Tomba is as big as Chaoba'

(48) tomba cawbagum catli
'Tomba waliks as if Chaoba (walks)'

4.2.2.4 Consequential conjunction: A consequential conjunction connects two or more grammatically equal sentences but one of the sentence is resultant to the other. Consequential conjunctions are - adugi mētunga, eduna, malam eduna, malamdi and adumakpu. Illustrations:

(48) tomba cātkhēle adugi mētunga ay lakle
'Tomba went thereafter I came'

(50) mana cāykhi aduna ay cāloy
'He rebuked so I will not eat'

(51) ibeton panni malam aduna khatnay
'Ibeton is foolish therefore (he) quarrels)

(52) ibeton laklēloy malamdi mēhak nale
'Ibeton will not come because she is ill'

(53) ayna chembani adumakpu thajade
'I am repairing even then (I) have no confidence'

(54) nān tūmmukho aduge cāw
'you first go to sleep then (you) eat'
4.2.2.5 Subordinating conjunction: A subordinating conjunction connects two or more grammatically non-equivalent constructions. The subordinating conjunctions are the rest of the conjunctions listed in (4.2.0) above leaving those listed under coordinating, correlative, comparative and consequential conjunctions. Illustrations:

(55) tomba ca\wbaga ca\tl\i
'Tomba goes with Chaoba'

(56) tomba ca\wbaga lo\ynana ca\tl\i
'Tomba together with Chaoba are going' etc.
SUMMARY

To summarize, we have discussed above -

The constituent structure of sentences - endocentric and exocentric constructions and the immediate constituents of sentences have been discussed. The sentence, phrase, utterance, etc., have been defined and illustrated. Sentences have been divided into - Major, Minor; Simple, Compound and Complex; Declarative, Interrogative and Imperative. Permissive sentences come under declarative sentences, while prohibitive ones come under imperative sentences. The interrogative sentences have been classified into hoy/may 'yes/no' questions and ke-'wh-' questions.

The various coordinators or conjunctions which connect constructions have also been discussed. The comma pause conjunction has been illustrated. Conjunctions have been divided into Limited and Unlimited; Coordinating, Correlative, Comparative, Consequential, and Subordinating types. It has also been illustrated that different conjunctions can occur in one conjoined sentence or construction.