VERB PHRASE IN THADOU

ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

The present study is a descriptive study of Verb Phrase in Thadou and does not follow any framework. The study describes the types of verbs in Thadou and also provides the two forms of verb. Thadou verbs have two forms referred to as stem I and stem II. The two forms generally differ in their tone and final segment. Stem II form of the verb is derived from stem I form of verb. Earlier works on stem I and stem II fails to show the occurrence and selection of verb stem however, this study explains in detail the occurrence and selection of verb stem with examples from Thadou. Stem I form of verb occurs in declarative and imperative sentences (both command and negative imperative) and Stem II form of verb occurs in Interrogative sentences.

Intransitive, transitive and di-transitive verbs are discussed here with examples from Thadou. Intransitive verbs take only one argument i.e. the subject and the subject of the Intransitive verb is not assigned ergative case. Stem I form of the verb is used as the head of the VP. Transitive verbs take two arguments. In Transitive verb construction the VP consist of two NPs. Both NPs precede the VP in Thadou since Thadou is a verb final language. The first NP is a subject of the transitive verb which is assigned an ergative case or requires an ergative case marking. The second NP which follows the first NP is a direct object. Ditransitive verbs take three arguments: two complements and one subject. VP which contains ditransitive verbs consist of the subject which is assigned an ergative case and the direct and indirect object which precede the verb. In Thadou, the indirect object (IO) precedes the direct object (DO) and the position of the IO and DO cannot be interchanged.
Adverbs in Thadou act as verb modifier. The different type of adverbs which act as verb modifier is presented in this study. Adverb of manner occurs in onomatopoeic form. They can precede as well as follow the head verb. Time adverbial in Thadou can be categorized into (i) specific time adverbials and (ii) adverbials expressing relative time. Specific time adverbials are used to relate with day, time of the day and year. Relative time expressions relate to the time of speaking-now and not to the concept of days or years. Place adverbial follows the noun and precedes the verb. Since Thadou is a verb final language the verb follows the noun and the locative marker. Adverb of frequency in Thadou is marked with *jen*. Verbs are usually reduplicated and the reduplicated verb form is followed by *jen* immediately. It is to be noted that *jen* is also used to mark the iterative habitual marker.

An interesting fact about Thadou that can be drawn from the present analyses is that this variety does not show any tense distinction. Present and Past time references have no overt morphological markers. Thadou shows the absence of any kind of tense distinction, whereas, distinction of the different forms of aspect is found to be more predominant. The concept of time distinction in Thadou is understood through the use of Aspectual markers. Thadou aspectual categories can be classified as follows:

1. **Perfective:** Thadou has two types of perfectives – perfective indicated by *tai* and perfective of remoteness indicated by *–na*. The presence of *tai* expresses completeness and definiteness.

2. **Imperfective:** The Progressive aspects, Habitual aspects and future Imperfective.
**Progressive aspect:** The Progressive aspects is marked with *pet* which indicates that some someone is in the middle of doing something or indicate middle of an event and requires Stem II form of the verb.

**Habitual aspect** is divided into Habitual past and Iterative.

**Habitual past:** the habitual past is used to indicate some event which used to occur habitually in the past but that does no longer take place in the present. In Thadou *ji* is a habitual past marker used to indicate the habitual past. It occurs with the remote perfective aspect marker –na to indicate such events.

**Iterative:** in Thadou *jen* is used when an event is repeated for more than once. To indicate habitual action, verbs are usually reduplicated and then the reduplicated verb structure is followed by the habitual marker *jen* immediately.

**Future imperfective** is marked with *diŋ* or *di* and used to indicate the action that will take in the future or certain event will be carried out. In such construction the Stem II form of the verb is required.

Modality in Thadou is expressed with *maːtʰei* which is used to mark any uncertainty or possibilities. *tʰei* is used for asking and granting permission. For asking permission the question particle *ham* occur at the final position. For both asking and granting permission it always occurs after the verb.

In Thadou, verb shows agreement with the subject and object. Subject and object agreement marker are fused together and placed before the head verb.

This can be accounted by the following phonological rule of fusion:

(i) The underlying subject agreement marker that marks the subject *kei* is *ka* ‘1sg’

(ii) The underlying object agreement marker that marks the object is *a* ‘3sg’
Both these are fused together in pronunciation, that the fused morpheme carrying 
the agreement features of both subject and object becomes \textit{ka}

**Rule: ka + a = ka**

The phonological rule of fusion for second person:

(i) Underlying subject agreement marker that marks the second person \textit{naŋ} is \textit{na} ‘2sg’

(ii) The underlying object agreement marker that marks the object food is \textit{a} ‘3sg’

Both these are fused together in pronunciation, that the fused morpheme carrying 
the agreement features of both subject and object becomes \textit{na}

**Rule: na + a = na**

The phonological rule of fusion is for third person:

(i) Underlying subject agreement marker that marks the third person \textit{ama} is \textit{a} ‘3sg’

(ii) The underlying object agreement marker that marks the object is \textit{a} ‘3sg’

Both these are fused together in pronunciation, that the fused morpheme carrying 
the agreement features of both subject and object becomes \textit{a}

**Rule: a + a = a**

In Thadou, Number is marked for dual subject as \textit{lʰoŋ} and \textit{u} for plural subject 

explanation is given in this study with examples.

Thadou has two Causative markers \textit{saʔ} and \textit{su-}. \textit{saʔ} is a periphrastic 
causative marker which occur after the verb. It is the most common causative 
marker. \textit{su-} is a causative prefix and can change its form to \textit{suʔ} when it combines
with the *saį*. The valence increasing category in Thadou is found in the causative construction. In valence increasing construction, the causative adds a new agent, the causer, and the old subject becomes the causee, the agent of the caused event.

In passive verb construction in Thadou, the subject of the active sentence is demoted and the object of the active sentence is promoted to the subject position. However the subject of the passive sentence is not assigned ergative case.