10.00 THE SENTENCE TYPE IN KARBI

10.1 Sentence types: Sentences of Karbi language are divided into three classes according to their structure: simple, compound and complex. Any sentence has a main clause and optionally one main or subordinate clause.

10.1.2 Simple sentence: It is one that contains only one subject and one finite verb, expressed or understood. A simple sentence may be divided into four categories: declarative, interrogative, imperative and negative.

10.1.2.1 Declarative Sentence is a sentence which states some information about the subject and may be equationed, existential, possessive or description. The equational sentences identify the subject. e.g.

- lābārīchō ānān intui 'this hill is high'
- lahei neli kitāp 'these are my books'
- hālāke ne pō 'he is my father'

10.1.2.2 The existential sentences describe the location of a person, animal or thing. The existential verb is , which indicates state or live. e.g.

- lēdāk ak do 'fish is here'
lādāk ickul də 'school is here'
nechāmār ātum ickul chi də 'my children are in the school'
nāńpo nāńpei həm chi də 'your patents are in your house'

10.1.2.3 The possessive sentences indicate the possession of person, animal or thing. e.g.

netum ārań dan ińkai də 'there are twenty houses in our village'
lādak wə əcar də 'a pair of birds are here'
nāń həm i-hum də 'you have a house'

10.1.2.4 The descriptive sentences describe the quality, size, colour etc. e.g.

bachāpi ārze mepik 'Bachepi is very nice'
thārwe kemen wānthā 'bring ripe mango'
bancho ā hizāp heśnə 'this fan is bad'
hālā hādak ārzāp 'he stands there'

10.1.2.5 Interrogative sentence: An interrogative sentence is a sentence which is in the form of a question. There are two types of interrogative sentences: (i) yes-no type and (ii) wh-type questions. e.g.

The yes-no type interrogative is formed by adding the particle 'mā' to the verb. e.g.
neli wān tāme mā ? 'may I come ?'
nānīlitum dāmzi mā ? 'will you go ?'
kañburā ābān dō mā ? 'is there village headman ?'
lā nānīli kōrte mā ? 'is this your brother ?'
ne bāzār dāmtame mā ? 'may I go to the market ?'

The wh-type of interrogative is formed with the interrogative pronouns and adverbs. e.g.

nān kōmāt mā ? 'who are you ?'
nānīli men kōpu ? 'what is your name ?'
menit kaān dō ? 'how many men are there ?'
lā kōnāt pencī kewān ? 'where has he come from ?'

10.1.2.6 Imperative : The imperative sentences are formed by adding suffixes thā, tu, nōn to the verb root. e.g.

nān lūn lūnthā '(please) you sing a song'
nānīlī wān ik thā '(please) you come (here

inninōn 'sit down'
wān tu 'come'
hādāk dāmnōn 'go there'
wān thunōn 'come again'
10.1.2.7 Negative: The negative sentences are formed by using forms "awe and kāli. e.g.

hadak ak āwepo there will be no fish
lāke cāinon kāli 'this is not a cow'

The negative is also formed by adding -e and ri to the verb. e.g.

ne dāmdelō 'I did not go'
ne klemke 'I do not do'
hithi dām ik ri 'do not go to the market'
wānwer ri nān 'you should not come always'

10.1.3 The Compound sentence: A compound sentence is one that contains two or more main clauses or simple sentences joined together by ordinating conjunction. The co-ordinating conjunction 'aru' and 'lapen' mean 'and' are used to conjoin two sentences in Karbi. e.g.

lā dāmdlō lapen wāntuzuy 'he went and came back'
teke lapen ḫinār theklān lā mā? 'have you seen tiger and elephant?'

The past participle is formed by adding -chi, -pen, -ra to the verb root. e.g.

neli ān chōchi dāmpo 'after taking rice, I will go'
alaṅli ān pecharā pedām nān 'let him go after taking rice'
ne kedām pen lā wānī 'as soon as I went, he came'

The co-ordinate clauses are also joined by adding conjunction form 'bontā' means 'but'. e.g.

etum dāmnānzi āpatlo bontā dāmun ? edet.
'we had to go but did not go'

10.1.4 The Complex sentence: The complex sentence is one that contains one main clause and one subordinate clause. Examples of different types of complex sentences are given below -

Purposive : ne lān ciniluzi ēphān lānra y dām.
'I go to the river to wash'

Infinitive : ne wānzi ne ninhan 'I like to come'
ne hā Diphu dāmzi 'I shall go to Diphu'

Quotative : wānīnpu ne nān pul 'I told you to come'
ne dāmzi pul 'I said (I) will go'

Conditional : nān calote ne dāmp 'if you eat, I shall go'
kam kelur āchontelā unzi 'if he works, he will succeed'

Temporal : nelitum ledappo, ēlānli kethizi dok dok āhut
'we have almost reached, when he almost died'
ne kełāndām āhut lā amekzaŋlōt
'when I went to see him, he was still sleeping'
because I love you, I shall help you'

'because I am well, I came'