CHAPTER THREE
MORPHOLOGY

This chapter describes in detail the morphological system of Tai-Ahom and compares its system with that of Standard-Thai.

**Morphology:** The branch of GRAMMAR which studies the STRUCTURE of FORMS or WORDS, primarily through the use of MORPHEME construct. (David Crystal, 1997)

It is well known fact that Tai group of languages are isolating in their morphological structure, and each element remains in its integral form. Each simple word is a monosyllabic, which never changes its shape, which gives the idea of one or more root-meanings depending on its placements. Word forms are not inflected but for certain grammatical categories their placement is important.

Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai are basically monosyllabic language. But Thai contains a large number of bi-syllabic or polysyllabic words due to the influence of borrowing. For the languages under study, the structure and formation of compounds and derivation is important.

### 3. Noun Morphology

Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai nouns are not inflected for number, gender, person, and case like many other languages for example, Hindi or English.

Noun in Tai-Ahom and Thai may be defined just like the traditional semantic definition, a name of a person, place or a thing. Nouns in Tai-Ahom and Thai are also
divided into various classes with the help of classifiers. Classifier system classifies the
nouns, depending on a number of factors, like human vs. non-human, animate vs.
inanimate etc. It will be discussed in detail later in this chapter.

3.1 Number

The category of number indicates that singular is opposed to dual or plural in
languages. But Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai do not have such a grammatical
category in nouns. These languages use some devices to either provide the exact
number of things by using a numeral like, one, two, three etc. or make use of
quantifier/ adjective words like ‘many’, ‘all’, ‘some’, ‘a group’ etc. Strictly speaking a
noun does not indicate the category of singular or plural as such.

For example in Tai-Ahom:

1. /kun laj kun/
   human being many clf.
   ‘many peoples’

Similarly, in Standard-Thai the structure is identical. For example:

2. /k^on la:tj k^on/
   human being many clf.
   ‘many peoples’
3.1.1 Tai-Ahom Plural Formations

Plural formation in Tai-Ahom as pointed out above, a numeral or quantifier may be used to indicate plurality. Number or quantifier follows the noun. As pointed out above, the use of a classifier with the noun is a must when nouns are numerated.

Examples: (Use of numerals and quantifiers to indicate plurality)

1. /kun luŋ kun/
   person one clf.
   ‘A person or one man’

2. /kun sam kun/
   person three clf.
   ‘Three persons/men’

3. /kun laŋ kun/
   person many clf.
   ‘many persons’

4. /kun baŋ kun/
   person some clf.
   ‘some persons’

5. /kun ku: kun/
   person all clf.
   ‘All persons.’
6. /maj  luŋ  tun/
   tree  one  clf.
   ‘one tree’

7. /maj  søŋ  tun/
   tree  two  clf.
   ‘Two trees’

8. /maj  laj  tun/
   tree  many  clf.
   ‘Many trees’

9. /pʰa:  luŋ  pʰun/
   cloth  one  clf.
   ‘A cloth.’

10. /pʰa:  laj  pʰun/
    cloth  many  clf.
    ‘Many clothes’

11. /sat  luŋ  tuː/
    animal  one  clf.
    ‘One animal’
Similarly, any count noun can be used to specify number or quantity in Tai-Ahom.

### 3.1.2 Number in Standard-Thai

In Standard Thai also we have a similar system of numeration or quantifying the things and persons etc. rather than a category of number. The use of classifiers is also important in Thai as well. The numeral or quantifier follows the noun. Some examples are provided below:

1. /kʰon/  **nuŋ**  kʰon/  
   person  one  person (clf.)
   ‘A person’
2. /kʰon sɔŋ-sɔm kʰon/
   person two-three clf.
   ‘A few person’

3. /kʰon lāj kʰon/
   person many clf.
   ‘Many persons’

4. /tôn-mâːj nụŋ tôn/
   tree one clf.
   ‘A tree’

5. /tôn-mâːj lāːj tôn/
   tree many clf.
   ‘Many trees’

6. /sàt lāːj tua/
   animal many clf.
   ‘Many animals’
3.1.3 Gender in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Basically just like number category there is no gender category in these languages under study. However, sex of a person or an animal may be indicated by a marker meaning ‘female’. Mostly the marker for male is not used, however it can be indicated if required by a given situation.

To distinguish the sex of a person, Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai may have different lexical forms for basic kinship terms, father, mother, uncle, etc.), but in order to make a distinction between ‘a male child’ and ‘a female child’ or ‘daughter’ and ‘son’ for example, the markers expressing ‘female’ or ‘male’ can be used when required.

Some of the Kinship terms in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai are given below:

**Tai-Ahom kinship term:**

/pə:/ ‘father’ /mɛt/ ‘mother’

/puː-tʰaw/ ‘grandfather’ /mɛt-tʰaw/ ‘grandmother’

/pə-saw/ ‘wife’s father’ /mɛt-saw/ ‘wife’s mother’

/saw/ indicates the female while expressing the relations ‘of female’

/pʰuː:/ ‘husband’ /miː/ ‘wife’

**Thai kinship terms:**

/pʰɔː:/ ‘father’ /mêː/ ‘mother’

/pùː:/ ‘grandfather’ /jâː/ ‘grandmother’

/pʰɔː-taː:/ ‘wife’s father’ /mêː-jatʃ/ ‘wife’s mother’

/pʰuːː/ ‘husband’ /miːː/ ‘wife’
3.1.4 Female Markers in Tai-Ahom

Morphemes indicating /met/ or /ñiŋ/ ‘female’ are attached to the word where the sex of the person is to be indicated. The ‘female’ marker is placed after the noun. Many terms are used without any marker. Mostly ‘male’ markers are not required but female marker may be indicated. Following examples will illustrate this point.

1. /luk/ ‘child’ (may be female, or male)

/luk + ñiŋ/

child + female ‘daughter’

2. /pi/ ‘elder sibling’

/pi: + ñiŋ/

elder sibling + female ‘elder sister’

3. /kun/ ‘person’

/kun + met/

person + female ‘woman’

Similarly, the marker /met/ ‘female’ or ‘mother’, can be used with all animals to indicate their sex, i.e., ‘female’. The female marker here always follows the noun. The terms given for male counterpart are actually do not indicate whether the animal is male or female. However, it is also possible to specify the ‘male’ as well when
required in a given situation. First the general terms are given in the examples and
then female or male markers can be used.

Examples for animals:

4. /ma:/ ‘horse’ (general)
   /ma: + met/
   horse + female ‘mare’

5. /ma:/ ‘dog’ (general)
   /ma: + met/
   dog + female ‘bitch’

6. /hu:/ ‘ox’ (general)
   /hu: + met/
   ox + female ‘cow’

7. /peŋa/ ‘goat’ (general)
   /peŋa + met/
   goat + female ‘female goat’

8. /tuŋi:/ ‘deer’ (general)
   /tuŋi: + met/
   deer + female ‘female deer’
9. /caŋ/ ‘elephant’ (general)

/caŋ + met/

elephant + female ‘female elephant’

3.1.5 Female Markers in Standard-Thai

There are three markers indicating, female sex of the person in Thai language. The marker /jûŋ/ ‘female’ in general sense for all females but /sârû/ ‘female’ in general and also for emphasizing ‘young females’.

Examples for human beings:

10. /kʰon/ ‘human being’

/kʰon + sârû/

human being + female ‘woman’ (young woman)

11. /lûk/ ‘child’

/lûk + jûŋ/

child + female ‘daughter’

12. /lûk/ ‘child’

/lûk + sârû/

child + female ‘daughter’ (young daughter)
13. \(/\text{p}\text{ŋ}/ \text{‘elder sibling’}\\ \text{p}\text{ŋ}/ + \text{sāːw}/\\ 
elder sibling + female \text{‘elder sister’}\\

14. \(/\text{dēk}/ \text{‘child’}\\ \text{dēk} + \text{sāːw}/\\ 
child + female \text{‘girl, female who is young’}\\

15. \(/\text{b}\text{ù}/ \text{‘person’}\\ \text{b}\text{ù}/ + \text{ţīŋ}/\\ 
person + female \text{‘woman’}\\

When we like to indicate the sex of an animal in Thai there are three markers used to indicate the sex of the animal. The marker \(/\text{p}\text{han}/ \text{occurs with female elephants only but the other two markers can be used with all other animals and may interchange even.}\\

Examples:

16. \(/\text{b}\text{áŋ}/ \text{‘elephant in general’}\\ \text{b}\text{áŋ} + \text{p}\text{han}/\\ 
elephant + female \text{‘female elephant’}\\
17. /kàj/ ‘chicken in general’

/kàj  +  sā:w/

chicken  +  female  ‘hen, (female chicken)’

18. /mā:/ ‘dog in general’

/mā:  +  tua-miai/

dog  +  female  ‘bitch’

3.1.6 Male Markers in Tai-Ahom

Male markers in Tai-Ahom are mostly not marked as just a given lexical unit represents male of human or animal. But if the male marker is required then the marker /pʰu:/ ‘male’ for human beings and /tʰu:k/ ‘male’ for animal can be added after the nouns. Anyhow, in general the use of male marker is less and it can be dropped.

For example in Tai-Ahom:

19. /kun/ ‘human being’

/kun  +  pʰu:/

human being  +  male  ‘male human being (man)’

20. /ma:/ ‘horse’

/ma:  +  tʰu:k/

horse  +  male  ‘male horse’
3.1.7 Male Markers in Standard-Thai

Likewise, in Standard-Thai, when male markers are required the word /cʰaːj/ ‘male’ in general sense for all human being males but /nùm/ ‘male’ for emphasizing ‘young male’ are used for human referents and animal as well. There are various
‘male’ markers for animals which are used depending on the specific kind of animal as in the following examples. The marker /tua:-pʰù:/ is added after nouns for the animal in general.

In Standard-Thai, the following makers are used to indicate ‘male’ to the general terms in order to specify the ‘male’ sex of ‘person or animal just like Tai-Ahom stated above.

Examples:

25. /kʰon/ ‘human being’

/kʰon + nûm/

human being + male (young)

‘young male human being, (young man)’

26. /sàt/ ‘animal’

/sàt + tua:-pʰù:/

animal + clf.-male ‘male animal’

27. /cʰáŋ/ ‘elephant’

/cʰáŋ + pʰlaːj/

elephant + male ‘male elephant’
28. /kàj/ ‘chicken’

/chicken + male ‘cock’

29. /kʰwaj/ ‘buffalo’

/buffalo + male ‘male buffalo’

30. /má:/ ‘horse’

/horse + male (young) ‘young male horse’

3.2 Cases in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Case is a category of Nouns where certain relations are marked on the noun.

David Crystal (1997) defines case as follow:

“A grammatical category used in the analysis of WORD classes to identify the syntactic relationship between WORDS in a sentence, through such contrasts as Nominative, Accusative, etc.”

In general, the case of a noun or pronoun expresses its grammatical function in a phrase or a clause, such as the role of subject or direct object.
In inflected languages, the nouns are inflected for showing the case relations but in isolating languages like Tai-Ahom and Thai, some case relations are indicated with the help of prepositions, e.g. in Tai-Ahom; /ti/ ‘to’ (dative), /luk/ ‘from’ (ablative), etc. First of all, we will discuss case system in Tai-Ahom with the limited data that we have analyzed.

Nominative and Accusative cases in Tai-Ahom and Thai are unmarked. Dative, Instrumental and Locative are marked with prepositions. Genitive is simply shown by the position of morphemes in the sentences. For example: Nominative, Accusative in Tai-Ahom are unmarked (Subject NP and Object NP, both are unmarked).

**Tai-Ahom**

1. /Larkhɔ̃n haj kʰaw ti: Khuntaj maŋa:/
   
   Larkhon give rice to Khuntai yesterday
   
   ‘Larkhon gave rice to Khuntai yesterday.’

**Standard-Thai**

2. /Sōmbun hâj kʰaw kɛ: Sōmcʰaj/
   
   Somboon give rice to Somchai
   
   ‘Somboon gives rice to Somchai’

3.2.1 **Dative Cases in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai**

   The noun in the dative case indicates the goal of the subject. Dative case in Tai-Ahom is marked with the help of preposition; /ti/ ‘to’ whereas in Thai it is
marked with various markers which required by different verbs e.g. /kè/, /kàp/, /tʰuŋ/ etc. ‘to’. Examples:

**Tai-Ahom**

3. /kaw haj ɲa: ti maw/
   
   I give sesame **dative** you
   
   ‘I give sesame to you.’

4. /man ba: ti: kaw/
   
   he speak **dative** me
   
   ‘He speaks to me.’

**Standard-Thai**

5. /cʰân dâj hâj ɲa: kè kʰun/
   
   I PST give sesame **dative** you
   
   ‘I gave sesame to you’

6. /kʰâw kʰuj kàp cʰān/
   
   he talk **dative** me
   
   ‘He talks to me.’

7. /cʰân dâj sœŋ còtmâ:j tʰuŋ kʰâw/
   
   I PST send letter **dative** him
   
   ‘I sent the letter to him.’
3.2.2 Ablative Cases in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

In Tai-Ahom, Ablative is expressed with the preposition /luk/ ‘from’ and in Thai /càːk/ ‘from’ marks the ablative case.

Examples:

**Tai-Ahom**

8. /man luk tiː-daj mat/
   he from place-which come
   ‘Where is he come from?’

9. /man luk Cehuŋ pəj juː Cemun/
   he from Cehung go stay Cemun
   ‘He (leaves) from Cehung (city) for staying in Cemun (city).’

**Standard-Thai**

10. /kʰaw maː càːk tʰiː-nǎj/
    he come from place-which
    ‘Where is he come from?’

11. /kʰaw maː càːk Cʰiaŋmaj/
    he come from Chiangmai (province)
    ‘He comes from Chiangmai.’
3.2.3 **Instrumental Cases in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai**

Instrumental case is expressed and in Tai-Ahom this relation is expressed with /kup/ ‘with’ and in Standard-Thai with the preposition /duâj/ ‘with’.

Examples:

**Tai-Ahom**

12. /kin kup mû/  
    eat INST hand  
    ‘Eat with hand’

**Thai**

13. /kin duâj mû:/  
    eat INST hand  
    ‘Eat with hand’

3.2.4 **Sociative Cases in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai**

In this case, the meaning of ‘association’, ‘along with’ is expressed in Tai-Ahom with a preposition /duj/ ‘with’ and in Standard-Thai the same case is expressed with /kàp/ ‘with’. Examples:

**Tai-Ahom**

14. /ju: duj caw-pʰa:/  
    stay SOC king  
    ‘Stay with the king’
Standard-Thai

15. /jù: kàp pʰtʰâːn/  
    stay SOC friend  
    ‘Stay with the friend’

3.2.5 Locative cases in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

The locative case expresses location with respect to the subject denoted by the noun. There are various forms of making location. The common locative forms are; /naj/ ‘in’, /kanɔːk/ ‘out’, /nɯw/ ‘on’, /taj/ ‘under’, etc. in Tai-Ahom and /naj/ ‘in’, /nɔːk/ ‘out’, /nɯwː/ ‘on’, /taj/ ‘under’, etc. in Thai. Examples are as follow:

Tai-Ahom

16. /kʰon juː naj rʊn/  
    human being stay in house  
    ‘A human being is in the house.’

17. /maː juː kanɔːk rʊn/  
    dog stay out house  
    ‘A dog is out side the house.’

18. /tɯːŋiː juː taj maj/  
    deer stay under tree  
    ‘A deer is under the tree.’
19. /kake: ju: nuw kʰa:luŋ/
pigeon stay on roof
‘A pigeon is on the roof.’

Standard-Thai

20. /kʰon ju: naj bâ:n/
human being stay in house
‘A human being is in the house.’

21. /mǎ: jù: nɔːk bâ:n/
dog stay out house
‘A dog is out side the house.’

22. /kwəŋ jù: tâːj tôn-máːj/
deer stay under tree
‘A deer is under the tree.’

23. /pʰirâːp jù: nuāː lāŋ-kʰaː/
pigeon stay on back-thatch
‘A pigeon is on the roof.’
### 3.2.6 Genitive or Possessive Cases in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Genitive or Possessive in Tai-Ahom and Thai is not marked on the noun or pronoun to show the relation of possession. It is expressed just by the position of the noun in a phrase, e.g. in Tai-Ahom /ru)n/ ‘house’, /kaw/ ‘I’ means ‘my house’. Here, the pronoun ‘I’ is placed after the noun to show the possession, ‘my’. Whereas, if the order is changed to /kaw ru)n/ literally means, *‘I house’ which is meaningless. Similarly, Thai is also expressed genitive by the order constituents, in case of intensify the marker /k^5:η/ ‘belong to’, ‘of’ is placed after noun possessed to indicate possession.

**Examples:**

**Tai-Ahom**

24. /ci: kaw/

    book I      ‘my book’

25. /ci: maw/

    book you    ‘your book’

26. /ci: man/

    book he      ‘his book’
27. /ci: rûŋkaː⁵n/
    book Rungkarn ‘Rungkarn’s book’

28. /ci: man sɔŋ⁵ pop/
    book he two clf. ‘his two books’

29. /ci: rûŋkaː⁵ sam pop/
    book Rungkarn three clf. ‘Rungkarn’s three books’

Standard-Thai

30. /nâŋstûː: kʰăn/
    book I ‘my book’

31. /nâŋstûː: kʰun/
    book you ‘your book’

32. /nâŋstûː: kʰâw/
    book he ‘his book’

33. /nâŋstûː: rûŋkaː⁵n/
    book Rungkarn ‘Rungkarn’s book’
3.3 Derivation of Nouns in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

The majority of nouns in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai are monosyllabic (mono-morphemic). But the polysyllabic words do occur when some new constructions are built and also when words are borrowed from other languages.

3.3.1 Derivation of Nouns in Tai-Ahom

In Tai-Ahom a bound morpheme /kʰwam/ is placed before adjective to derive a noun from adjective. Since our data were limited to a certain texts therefore, we are not very sure of the productivity of this process. However, the following process appears to be similar to that of Thai.

Examples:

1. /kʰwam/ (bound morpheme)

   /jak/  ‘difficult’

   /kʰwam + jak/  ‘difficulty’
2. /kʰwam/ (bound morpheme)

/di/ ‘good’

/kʰwam + di/ ‘goodness’

3.3.2 Derivation of Nouns in Standard-Thai

In Thai we can derive nouns from adjectives and verbs. Adjectives can be formed by placing a bound morpheme /kʰwaːm/ before adjective and a bound morpheme /kʰaːn/ can be placed before the verb to derive a noun. These two can be called as derivative suffixes. Alternatively we can also treat these as nominalizing suffixes from adjectives and verbs respectively. Examples:

Nouns from Adjectives

3. /kʰwam/ (bound morpheme)

/di/ ‘good’

/kʰwam + di/ ‘goodness’

4. /kʰwam/ (bound morpheme)

/rɔn/ ‘hot’

/kʰwam + rɔn/ ‘heat’
5. /kʰwam/ (bound morpheme)

/ŋəm/ ‘beautiful’

/kʰwam + ŋəm/ ‘beauty’

Nouns from Verb

6. /kən/ (bound morpheme)

/kin/ ‘to eat’

/kən + kin/ ‘eating’

7. /kən/ (bound morpheme)

/wɨŋ/ ‘to run’

/kən + wɨŋ/ ‘running’

8. /kən/ (bound morpheme)

/ʔən/ ‘to read’

/kən + ʔən/ ‘reading’

3.4 Compounds in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

In Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai new nouns can be formed by the process of compounding. The formations of compound nouns permit maximum conjoining of
several free morphemes. The occurrences of compounds are found in all grammatical categories both in Tai- Ahom and Thai. The following processes are very productive.

3.4.1 Compounds in Tai-Ahom

Sometimes the meanings of individual words and the compounds are transparent but at times they are opaque. Perhaps it speaks of the history of words when those things were in some way related but no more transparent at present.

Noun + Noun compounds in Tai-Ahom

9. /mɔː/ ‘skilled person’

/muŋ/ ‘city’

/mɔː + muŋ/ ‘scholarly person’

10. /mɔː/ ‘skilled person’

/pʰiː/ ‘ghost’

/mɔː + pʰiː/ ‘ritual person’

11. /mɔː/ ‘skilled person’

/jaː/ ‘medicine’

/mɔː + jaː/ ‘doctor’
12. /naŋ/ ‘person-female’

/dɔj/ ‘specific hill’

/naŋ + dɔj/ ‘second wife of king’

13. /naŋ/ ‘person-female’

/muŋ/ ‘city’

/naŋ + muŋ/ ‘wife of king’

14. /naŋ/ ‘person-female’

/kʰam/ ‘gold’

/naŋ + kʰam/ ‘woman of king’

15. /caŋ/ ‘expert’

/kɔŋ/ ‘bow’

/caŋ + kɔŋ/ ‘bow maker’

16. /caŋ/ ‘expert’

/kin/ ‘shield’

/caŋ + kin/ ‘shield maker’
17. /caŋ/ ‘expert’
   /lik/ ‘iron’

   /caŋ + lik/ ‘blacksmith’

18. /kʰaː/ ‘servant, slave’
   /tʰun/ ‘jungle’

   /kʰaː + tʰun/ ‘person who lives in the jungle’

3.4.2   Noun + Adjective Compounds in Tai-Ahom

19. /naŋ/ ‘person-female’
   /lik/ ‘small’

   /naŋ + lik/ ‘woman in the king’s palace’

20. /naŋ/ ‘person-female’
   /ʔɔn/ ‘young, soft’

   /naŋ + ʔɔn/ ‘young daughter’

21. /pʰuː/ ‘person, the person-male’
   /keː/ ‘aged’

   /pʰuː + keː/ ‘respected person’
3.4.3 Noun + Verb Compounds in Tai-Ahom

22. /pʰu:/ ‘person’
    /pak/ ‘to speak’
    /pʰu:/ + /pak/ ‘translator’

23. /pʰu:/ ‘person’
    /taŋ-mɔ:/ ‘to cook’
    /pʰu:/ + /taŋ-mɔ:/ ‘cook’

24. /pʰu:/ ‘person’
    /kin/ ‘to eat’
    /pʰu:/ + /kin/ ‘controller’

25. /pʰu:/ ‘person’
    /paj-muŋ/ ‘to go to city’
    /pʰu:/ + /paj-muŋ/ ‘messenger’

26. /caŋ/ ‘expert’
    /tʰa/ ‘to chop’
    /caŋ + tʰa/ ‘barber’
27. /kʰuŋ/ ‘stuff’

/nuŋ/ ‘to wear’

/kʰuŋ + nuŋ/ ‘dressing apparel’

28. /kʰɔŋ/ ‘thing’

/kin/ ‘to eat’

/kʰɔŋ + kin/ ‘eatable’

3.4.4 Compounds in Standard-Thai

Noun + Noun Compounds in Standard-Thai

29. /nák/ ‘person’

/kʰà:w/ ‘news’

/nák + kʰà:w/ ‘news reporter’

30. /cʰaːw/ ‘person’

/naː/ ‘paddy field’

/cʰaːw + naː/ ‘farmer’

31. /cʰaːw/ ‘person’

/suʔn/ ‘garden’

/cʰaːw + suʔn/ ‘gardener’
3.4.5 Noun + Adjective Compounds in Standard-Thai

32. /pʰûː/ ‘person’
   /ráːj/ ‘bad’
   /pʰûː + ráːj/ ‘bad person’

33. /náːm/ ‘water’
   /kʰêːŋ/ ‘hard’
   /náːm + kʰêːŋ/ ‘ice’

3.4.6 Noun + Verb Compounds in Standard-Thai

34. /náːk/ ‘person’
   /riaːn/ ‘to study’
   /náːk + riaːn/ ‘student’

35. /náːk/ ‘person’
   /róːŋ/ ‘to sing, to shout’
   /náːk + róːŋ/ ‘singer’

36. /náːk/ ‘person’
   /tên/ ‘to dance’
   /náːk + tên/ ‘dancer’
3.5 Classifiers in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Tai languages are highly rich and complex in the use of classifiers with nouns. Both the languages under study make use of both numeral/quantifier classifiers and sometimes classifiers may be left out when nouns are not counted. It is really difficult to pinpoint the meaning of a classifier but it is always a bound form and classifies nouns based on some semantic factors like, human vs. non-human, animate vs. inanimate and sometimes the size and shape of things is taken into account. The examples will show the various types of nouns which fall under each class. The order of nominal constituents in a construction with classifiers and numerals is as follows:

3.5.1 Classifiers in Tai-Ahom

There is a classifier in Tai-Ahom /pʰu:/ which is used for human nouns but only for single person to signify definiteness. Classifier /pʰu:/ occurs after nouns before a singular numeral as in the following examples:

1. /kun pʰu: lʊnŋ/  
   person clf. one ‘The person or the man’
2. /kun-me:  p^bu:  lwn/ 
   person-female  clf.  one  ‘The woman’

3. /kun-ke:  p^bu:  lwn/ 
   person-old  clf.  one  ‘The old person’

Noun + Numeral + Classifier in Tai-Ahom
The classifier /kun/ is used while counting human nouns as below:

4. /kun-me:  lwn  kun/ 
   person –female  one  clf.  ‘A woman’

5. /kun-me:  sam  kun/ 
   person –female  three  clf.  ‘Three women’

6. /kun-num  lwn  kun/ 
   person-young  one  clf.  ‘A young person’

7. /kun-num  swn  kun/ 
   person-young  two  clf.  ‘Two young persons’

8. /baw  lwn  kun/ 
   young (male)  one  clf.  ‘A young man’
9. /baw\ sɔŋ  kʊn/
   young (male)   two  clf.   ‘Two young men’

10. /naŋ-ɔn\ lʊŋ  kʊn/
    (female)- young  one  clf.   ‘A young woman’

11. /naŋ-ɔn\ sam  kʊn/
    (female)- young  three  clf.   ‘Three young women’

12. /kun-ke:\ lʊŋ  kʊn/
    man-old  one  clf.   ‘An old man’

13. /kun-ke:\ sam  kʊn/
    man-old  three  clf.   ‘Three old men’

14. /me-ke:\ lʊŋ  kʊn/
    female-old  one  clf.   ‘An old woman’

15. /me-ke:\ sam  kʊn/
    female-old  three  clf.   ‘Three old women’

16. /kun\ sɔŋ-sam  kʊn/
    person  two-three  clf.   ‘A few persons’
17. /kun/ taŋ-laj  kun/

person    many     clf.  ‘Many persons’

The classifier /kʰiŋ/ ‘body’ is used with slave persons only.

18. /kʰa:/ ruk  kʰiŋ/

slave     six       body (clf.)  ‘Six slaves’

The classifier /tun/ used with trees that are tall and long

19. /maj/ luŋ  tun/

tree      one       clf.  ‘A tree’

20. /maj/ sɔŋ-sam  tun/

tree      two-three clf.  ‘A few trees’

21. /maj/ laj  tun/

tree      many      clf.  ‘Many trees’

The classifier /tɔŋ/ is used with logs.

22. /can-kʰu:  luŋ  tɔŋ/

log    one        clf.  ‘One piece of log’
The classifier /luk/ is used with boat, pot, gun, and hat.

23. /ruw luŋ luk/  
    boat one clf. ‘One boat’

24. /mɔː sam luk/  
    pot three clf. ‘Three pots’

25. /kɔŋ ha: luk/  
    gun five clf. ‘Five guns’

26. /muk ciŋ luk/  
    hat seven clf. ‘Seven hats’

The classifier /phun/ is used with the cloth.

27. /phaː sɔŋ phun/  
    cloth two clf. ‘Two clothes’

The classifier /pap/ is used with the book which is in folded form.

28. /ciː sɔŋ pap/  
    book two clf. ‘two books’
29. /ci: laj pap/ book many clf. ‘many books’

The classifier /ram/ is used with the cloth which is in rolling form.

30. /pʰa: sɔŋ ram/ cloth two roll (clf.) ‘Two rolls of cloth’

The classifier /baj/ is used with sword.

31. /dap sam baj/ sword three clf. ‘Three swords’

The classifier /ku/ is used with glove.

32. /muŋ-muŋ si: ku/ glove four pair (clf.) ‘Four pairs of glove.’

The classifier /tuŋ/ is used with animals.

33. /ma: luŋ tuŋ/ horse one clf. ‘One horse’

34. /muŋ sɔŋ tuŋ/ pig two clf. ‘Two pigs’
There may be a large number of classifiers found in Tai-Ahom with so many nouns. But due the limitation of our data our list of classifiers is small. Similar classifier system is found in Standard Thai as well. Which can be illustrated as below:

### 3.5.2 Classifiers in Standard-Thai

The /kʰon/ is used with human beings in general with all types of people such as, a boy, a girl, a woman, a man, a doctor, a teacher, a student, etc.

**Noun + Numeral + Classifier**

35. /dèk nùŋ kʰon/

    child one clf. ‘One boy or one girl’

36. /dèk bɔŋ kʰon/

    child some clf. ‘Some boys or some girls’

37. /pʰùː-jìŋ nùŋ kʰon/

    person-female one clf. ‘One woman’

38. /pʰùː-caːj sɔŋ kʰon/

    person-male two clf. ‘Two men’

39. /mɔː sɔŋ-sǎm kʰon/

    doctor two-three clf. ‘A few doctors’
40. /kʰruː/ hâː kʰon/  
   teacher  five  clf.   ‘Five teachers’

41. /nák-riaːn/ lâːj kʰon/  
   student  many  clf.  ‘Many students’

The classifier /tʰâːn/, when one would like to pay respect to a person like, teacher, doctor or even elderly person one can use the classifier /tʰâːn/. Examples:

42. /kʰruː/ nùŋ tʰâːn/  
   teacher  one  clf.   ‘One teacher’

43. /mɔː/ sɔŋ tʰâːn/  
   doctor  two  clf.   ‘Two doctors’

44. /pʰɔː-mèː/ sɔŋ tʰâːn/  
   parents  two  clf.   ‘Two parents’

45. /pʰûː-tʰâw sɔŋ-sâːm tʰâːn/  
   person-elderly  two-three  clf.   ‘A few elderly persons’

46. /mɔː/ lâːj tʰâːn/  
   doctor  many  clf.   ‘Many doctors’
The classifier /rû:p/ is used with only for a monk.

47. /pʰrá nùŋ rû:p/
    monk one clf. ‘One monk’

48. /pʰrá bâŋ rû:p/
    monk some clf. ‘Some monks’

49. /pʰrá lâːj rû:p/
    monk many clf. ‘Many monks’

The classifier /naːj/ is used with the soldier and policeman.

50. /tʰś-hāːn nùŋ naːj/
    soldier one clf. ‘One soldier’

51. /tʰś-hāːn bâŋ naːj/
    soldier some clf. ‘Some soldiers’

52. /tam-ruː:t nùŋ naːj/
    policeman one clf. ‘One policeman’

53. /tam-ruː:t sōŋ-sǎːm naːj/
    policeman two-three clf. ‘A few policemen’
54. /tam-ruːt  lāːj  natː/  
policeman  many  clf.  ‘Many policemen’

The classifier /tua:/ is used with animals; a cow, a buffalo, a pig, a dog, a tiger, a wild elephant, a bird, etc.

55. /wuaː  nùŋ  tua:/  
cow  one  clf.  ‘One cow’

56. /kʰwaːj  sɔŋ  tua:/  
buffalo  two  clf.  ‘Two buffalos’

57. /mũː  sɔŋ-sãːm  tua:/  
pig  two-three  clf.  ‘Three pigs’

58. /mãː  sìː  tua:/  
dog  four  clf.  ‘Four dogs’

59. /suːː  hám  tua:/  
tiger  five  clf.  ‘Five tigers’

60. /cʰáŋ  nùŋ  tua:/  
elephant  one  clf.  ‘One wild elephant’
61. /nók nùŋ tua:/

bird    one    clf.  ‘One bird’

The classifier /t̥uå:k/ is used only with a domestic elephant.

62. /t̥áŋ nùŋ t̥uå:k/

elephant  one    clf.  ‘One elephant’

The classifier /p̥uŋn/ is used with a cloth.

63. /p̥á nùŋ p̥uŋn/

cloth    one    clf.  ‘One cloth’

The classifier /t̥enj/ is used with a pencil.

64. /din-s̥á nùŋ t̥enj/

pencil    one    clf.  ‘One pencil’

The classifier /dãm/ is used with a pen.

65. /pàk-ka nùŋ dãm/

pen    one    clf.  ‘One pen’
The classifier /lêm/ is used with a book.

66. /nâŋstuː / sɔŋ lêm/  
    book    two clf.  ‘two books’

67. /nâŋstuː / lâːj lêm/    
    book    three clf.  ‘many books’

Some classifiers depend on the shape and size of the container in which some sort of liquid like water or milk etc. is kept. The term used for a particular container can be used as a classifier while counting.

The classifier /kʰuːt/: is used with the liquid in a bottle. For instance

68. /nãːm/   nùŋ kʰuːt/:  
    water  one  (bottle) clf.  ‘One bottle of water’

69. /nom / sɔŋ kʰuːt/:    
    milk    two clf.  ‘Two bottles of milk’

The classifier /klɔŋ/ is used for a box containing rice, wheat, salt, grains etc.

70. /kʰɔːw-pʰɔt / nùŋ klɔŋ/  
    fried rice  one  (box)clf.  ‘One box of fried rice’
3.6 Adjectives

Adjectives in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai follow the nouns they modify or qualify the nouns; e.g. in Tai-Ahom /nam  saj/ ‘clear water’ and Standard-Thai /muatŋ jàj/ ‘big city’ etc. The noun /nam/ ‘water’ and /muatŋ/ ‘city’ are followed by adjectives /saj/ ‘clear’ and /jàj/ ‘big, huge’ in Ahom and Thai respectively. But in our Tai-Ahom text, it was found that the order is flexible and at times adjective may precede or follow the noun in some cases. Followings are other examples of adjective in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai. There is no agreement system between nouns and adjectives in Tai-Ahom and Thai. Some more examples are shown as below:

3.6.1 Adjective in Tai-Ahom

For examples in Tai-Ahom:

1. /run + nɔj/
   house + small ‘A small house’

2. /kun + dīj/
   person + good ‘A good person’

3. /ńiw + dīŋ/
   kite + red ‘A red kite’

4. /pak-tuː + luŋ/
   door + big ‘A big door’
It is interesting to note that in Tai-Ahom the following examples have been noted where an adjective can precede the noun. Examples:

5. /tʰu:k + canj/  
   male + elephant ‘A male elephant’

6. /pʰu:k + mə:/  
   white + horse ‘A white horse’

May be this change in Tai-Ahom is due to the contact with Assamese where the same order is found.

3.6.2 Adjective in Standard-Thai

As stated above in Standard-Thai also an adjective always follows the noun it qualifies. For examples:

Noun + Adjective

7. /pʰuːj̪-ːjǐŋ + suːj̪/  
   woman + beautiful ‘beautiful woman’

8. /kʰon + ruːj̪/  
   person + rich ‘rich person’

9. /rǒː + màːj̪/  
   car + new ‘new car’
10. /ná:m + jen/ 
    water + cool ‘cool water’

11. /ŋa: + dam/ 
    sesame + black ‘black sesame’

3.7 Degrees of Adjectives

Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai do not have the category of ‘degrees’ of adjectives as such. But when comparison is made between the two in terms of more or less or the maximum then it is possible to use the markers of degree /kʰun/ ‘arise’ and the marker /luk/ ‘than, more’ in Tai-Ahom. For expressing superlative degree, the marker /nam/ ‘many’ and /təŋ/ ‘all’ can be used.

3.7.1 Degrees of Adjective in Tai-Ahom

For examples: /di/ ‘good’

1. /kʰun + di: + luk/
   arise + good + than
   ‘better than’

2. /kʰun + di: + nam/
   arise + good + many
   ‘arise (than) many’ = ‘the best’
3. /kʰun + diː + nam-nam/
   arise + good + many-many
   ‘arise (than) many many’ = ‘the best’

4. /kʰun + diː + tæŋ-nam/
   arise + good + all-many
   ‘arise (than) all many’ = ‘the best’

3.7.2 Degrees of Adjective in Standard-Thai

Just like Tai-Ahom system of expressing comparative and superlative degrees of adjective, Thai also uses markers /kwâː/ ‘more’ or /jîŋ-kwâː/ ‘more than’ and /tʰîː-sût/ ‘supreme’ to express comparative and superlative functions.

Examples:

/diː/ ‘good’

/diː + kwâː/ ‘better’

/diː + jîŋ-kwâː/ ‘better than’

1. /raw + diː + kwâː + kʰāw/
   we + good + more + they
   ‘We are better than them.’
2. /raw +  d̪i: +  jìŋ-kwàː + kʰāw/
   we +  good +  more than +  they
   ‘We are better than them.’

/suǎːj/  ‘beautiful’
/tʰîː-sùt/  ‘supreme, extreme’

3. /Naree +  suǎːj +  tʰîː-sùt/
   Naree +  beautiful +  supreme
   ‘Naree is the most beautiful.’

3.8 Reduplication in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Reduplication is a repetition of a form twice to express a variety of meanings and is employed to add various meanings, such as softness, intensity, and plurality. Sometimes, reduplication is used just for the sake of rhythmic effect. Reduplication is a repetition of the nouns, adjective, and verbs as well.

For instances in Tai-Ahom:

/nam/ ‘many’  /nam-nam/ ‘a lot’
/ŋam/ ‘beautiful’  /ŋam-ŋam/ ‘beautiful’
/dìː/ ‘good’  /dìː-dìː/ ‘good’
In Standard-Thai:

/dëk/ ‘child’       /dëk-dëk/ ‘children’
/dii/ ‘good’         /dii-dii/ ‘very good’
/paj/ ‘go’           /paj-paj/ ‘to go’
/ma:/ ‘come’         /ma:-ma:/ ‘to come’
/chä:/ ‘slow’        /chä:-chä/ ‘slowly’
/rew/ ‘fast, quick’  /rew-rew/ ‘quickly’
/kët/ ‘old’          /kët-kët/ ‘very old’
/ŋam:/ ‘beautiful’   /ŋam-ŋam:/ ‘beautiful’
/baw/ ‘light’        /baw-baw/ ‘light’

3.9 Pronouns in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Pronouns are used in place nouns in subject, object and indirect object positions when the nouns are being replaced in discourse.

3.9.1 Tai-Ahom Personal Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Person</td>
<td>/kaw/</td>
<td>/raw/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Person</td>
<td>/maw/</td>
<td>/su:/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Person</td>
<td>/man/</td>
<td>/kʰaw/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tai-Ahom personal pronouns have different forms for singular and plural. These forms are mono-morphemics and no plural markers can be separated.

But Standard-Thai makes use of plural marker /pa³̄k/ ‘many or a group’ before the singular form to express plural forms in personal pronouns.

### 3.9.2 Standard-Thai Personal Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Person</td>
<td>/bān/</td>
<td>/raw/, /pa³̄k-raw/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Person</td>
<td>/bun/</td>
<td>/pa³̄k-bun/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Person</td>
<td>/bāw/</td>
<td>/pa³̄k-bāw/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.10 Demonstrative Pronouns

The demonstratives in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai make a distinction between ‘proximate’ and ‘remote’. In order to indicate plural, the particular morphemes are added to the singular demonstrative pronouns.

#### 3.10.1 Demonstrative Pronouns in Tai-Ahom

The morpheme /cum/ ‘group’ can be added to the singular demonstrative pronoun in Tai-Ahom to derive plural forms to indicate more than one things, persons etc. Demonstrative Pronouns in Tai-Ahom are:

- /naj/ ‘this’
- /cum-naj/ ‘group-this’ = ‘these’
- /han/ ‘that’
- /cum-han/ ‘group-that’ = ‘those’
Examples are:

1. /ban + naj/
   day + this ‘today’

2. /ti: + naj/
   place + this ‘this place’

3. /kun + cum-naj/
   person + group (pl.)-this ‘these persons’

4. /kʰam + han/
   word + that ‘that word’

5. /tun + han/
   tree + that ‘that tree’

6. /kun + cum-han/
   person + group (pl.)-that ‘those person’

3.10.2 Demonstrative Pronoun in Standard-Thai

The morpheme /pʰuā:k/ or /lāw/ can be added to the singular demonstrative pronoun in Standard-Thai to derive plural forms to indicate more than one things.
When we use these forms they can be used with any noun expressing plurality, however, this form can be used only with demonstrative pronouns. Examples:

/nî/, /nî/ (emphatic) ‘this’ /pʰuːk-nî/ or /lày-nî/ ‘these’

/nán/, /nân/ (emphatic) ‘that’ /pʰuːk-nán/ or /lày-nán/ ‘those’

For examples:

7. /wan + nî/
   day + this ‘this day or today’

8. /wan + làw -nî/
   day + pl.-this ‘these days’

9. /tʰiː + nî/
   place + this ‘this place’

10. /nāŋ-stūː + làw-nî/
    book + pl.-this ‘these books’

11. /kʰon + nân/
    person + that ‘that person’
3.11 Relative Pronouns

The use of relative pronouns are found in both Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai.

3.11.1 Relative pronouns in Tai-Ahom

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

1. /kʰaw pʰan ku mu: kin/
   rice which pig eat
   ‘The rice which the pig eat…’

2. /hu pʰan ku kaw kʰaj jaj/
   cow which I sale past
   ‘The cow which I sold…’
3. /lan-man phuː cuw Sinː/ 
   grandchild-he who name Sing
   ‘The grandson who is named Sing…’

4. /kʰaw phuː maː naj biŋ/ 
   they who come in city
   ‘They who come into the city…’

3.11.2 Relative pronouns in Standard-Thai

In Standard-Thai, relative pronouns are related to classifiers, which are used in a relative clause. Noun classifier in such constructions will function as relative pronoun. But when a noun is counted, it will function as classifier only. The examples are as follow:

5. /rôm kʰan sɪː deŋ/ 
   umbrella clf. colour red
   ‘The umbrella which is red…’

6. /cʰân miː rôm hâː kʰan/ 
   I have umbrella five clf.
   ‘I have five umbrellas.’
7. /chʰän miː rəm ʂɨː deŋ hâː kʰan/  
I have umbrella colour red five **clf.**  
‘I have five red umbrellas.’

8. /tʰà-nǒn ʂâj jaːw/  
road **clf.** long  
‘The road **which** is long…’

9. /tʰà-nǒn jaːw sâŋ ʂâj/  
road long two **clf.**  
‘Two long roads’

10. /dək kʰon toː/  
child **clf.** big  
‘The child **who** (is) big…’

11. /dək toː sâːm kʰon/  
child big three **clf.**  
‘Three big children’

12. /krâ-dât pʰəm lék/  
paper **clf.** small  
‘The paper **which** is small…’
3.12 Interrogative Pronouns

3.12.1 Interrogative Pronouns in Tai-Ahom

Some Interrogative Pronouns in Tai-Ahom are compound words composed of two morphemes having their meanings. But in case of /kasəŋ/ it is not possible to find the meaning of /ka/. It is also compound where its meaning became opaque in the history of this language. Other interrogative pronouns are compounds having some meanings that can be related to their interrogative sense.

They are given as follow:

/səŋ/ or /kasəŋ/ ‘what’
/muyw-daj/ ‘time-which’ = ‘when’
/ti-daj/ ‘place-which’ = ‘where’
/puw-saŋ/ ‘for-what’ = ‘why’
/pʰaj/ ‘who’
/kajaj/ ‘how’
/?an-daj/ ‘which’
Examples:

1. /maw cuw kasaj/
   you name what ‘What is your name?’

2. /man kin muw-daj/
   he eat time-which ‘When does he eat?’

3. /man paj ti-daj/
   he go place-which ‘Where does he go?’

4. /maw ma: puw-saŋ/
   you come for-what ‘Why do you come?’

5. /pʰaj cak hit/
   who will make ‘Who will do (something)?’

6. /maw ma: kajaj/
   you come how ‘How do you come?’
3.12.2 Interrogative pronouns in Standard-Thai

Interrogative pronoun in Thai also compound words having two morphemes each but there are no more analysable into their meanings. We can at least separate /-aj/ which is common in all the interrogative forms. At present, the whole forms given below are used as interrogative words.

/ʔaraŋ/ ‘what’

/muːræːŋ/ ‘when’

/tʰːn-ŋaj/ ‘place-which’ = ‘where’

/tʰammaj/ ‘why’

/kʰraj/ ‘who’

/jaːŋraj/ ‘how’

/ʔan-ŋaj/ ‘piece-which’ = ‘which’

Examples:

7. /kʰun cʰûː: ʔaraŋ/
   you name what ‘What is your name?’

8. /kʰaw kin muːræːŋ/
   he eat when ‘When does he eat?’

9. /kʰaw paj tʰːn-ŋaj/
   he go place-which ‘Where does he go?’
10. /\textsuperscript{h}un ma: t\textsuperscript{h}ammaj/

     you come why       ‘Why do you come?’

11. /\textsuperscript{h}raj c\textsuperscript{a} t\textsuperscript{h}am/

     who will make      ‘Who will do (something)?’

12. /\textsuperscript{h}un ma: j\textsuperscript{a}j\textsuperscript{a}raj/

     you come how      How do you come?

3.13 Reflexive Pronouns in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Tai-Ahom

The reflexive marker /nam/ ‘self’ in Tai-Ahom is added after the personal pronouns to form the reflexive pronouns.

Examples:

/kaw/    ‘I’           /kaw nam/    ‘myself’
/maw/    ‘you’          /maw nam/    ‘yourself’
/man/    ‘he, she, it’  /man nam/    ‘himself, herself, itself’
/raw/    ‘we’           /raw nam/    ‘ourselves’
/su:/    ‘you’ pl.      /su: sam/    ‘yourselves’
/k\textsuperscript{h}aw/ ‘they’       /k\textsuperscript{h}aw nam/ ‘themselves’
Standard-Thai

Standard-Thai the reflexive marker /?eŋ/ is added after the pronouns to form the reflexive pronouns.

For example:

/cʰȁn/ ‘I’ /cʰān ?eŋ/ ‘myself’
/kʰun/ ‘you’ /kʰun ?eŋ/ ‘yourself’
/kʰāw/ ‘he, she, it’ /kʰāw ?eŋ/ ‘himself, herself, itself’
/raw/ ‘we’ /raw ?eŋ/ ‘ourselves’
/pʰuːkː- kʰun/ ‘you’ pl. /pʰuːkː kʰun ?eŋ/ ‘yourselves’
/pʰuːkː-kʰāw/ ‘they’ /pʰuːkː kʰāw ?eŋ/ ‘themselves’

3.14 Possessive Pronouns

3.14.1 Possessive Pronouns in Tai-Ahom

Basically, there are no possessive pronouns in Tai-Ahom and Thai. But possession or genitive relation can be marked by placing the possessor after the noun possessed or related.

The possession of a noun or pronoun is indicated by the position of the possessor and thing possessed, e.g. /pɔː kaw/ ‘father I’ = ‘my father’. Here the possessor /kaw/ ‘I’ is placed after the noun /pɔː/ ‘father’. Similarly, /kaw han pɔː kaw/ ‘I see father I’ = ‘I see my father’. Here /kaw/ ‘I’ is in the subject position
and /kaw/ ‘I’ after /pɔ/ indicates the possessor ‘my’. It can be said that in Ahom language, there is no marker for possession. However, the placement of the possessor indicates the function of possession.

In case of genitive relation like ‘Rungkarn’s house’ or ‘house of Rungkarn’ can also be expressed by putting the possessor after the noun e.g., /run Rungkarn/ ‘Rungkarn’s house’.

Followings are other examples:

1. /muiŋ kaw/
   
city I ‘my city or city of me’

2. /muiŋ pɔ kaw/
   
city father I ‘my father’s city or city of my father’

3. /muiŋ man/
   
city he ‘his city or city of him’

4. /muiŋ Rungkarn/
   
city proper noun ‘Rungkarn’s city or city of Rungkarn’

5. /run Rungkarn/
   
house proper noun ‘Rungkarn’s house’
3.14.2 Possessive Pronouns in Standard-Thai

Similarly to Standard-Thai, the placement of possessor and thing possessed can indicate the function of possession. But in Standard-Thai there is also the possessive marker /kʰsìŋ/ ‘belongs to’ to indicate possession.

As examples below:

6. /bāːn kʰān/  
   house I  ‘my house’

7. /bāːn kʰun/  
   house you  ‘your house’

8. /bāːn kʰāw/  
   house he  ‘his house’

9. /bāːn pʰuːːːk-kʰāw/  
   house they  ‘their house’

10. /bāːn kʰsìŋ kʰān/  
    house belongs to I  ‘my house’

11. /bāːn kʰsìŋ kʰun/  
    house belongs to you  ‘your house’
12. /bâ:n/  
   \( k^h\ddot{s}i\eta \)  
   \( k^h\ddot{a}w/ \)
   house  
   belongs to  
   he  
   ‘his house’

13. /bâ:n/  
   \( k^h\ddot{s}i\eta \)  
   \( p^h\ddot{u}\ddot{a}:k-k^h\ddot{a}w/ \)
   house  
   belongs to  
   they  
   ‘their house’

14. /bâ:n/  
   \( k^h\ddot{s}i\eta \)  
   \( p^h\ddot{s}:k^h\ddot{s}i\eta \)  
   \( c^h\ddot{a}n/ \)
   house  
   belongs to  
   father  
   belongs to  
   I  
   ‘my father’s house or house of my father’

3.15 Prepositions in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Both Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai make use of preposition to indicate location, direction, and other placements with regard to nominals. The preposition is placed just before the nouns like many preposition languages like English.

Tai-Ahom examples:

1. /naj/  ‘in’

   / naj biŋ /
   in  city  ‘in the city’

2. /naj/  ‘in’

   /naj ruŋ/
   in  house  ‘in the house’
3. /nuw/ ‘on’

/nuw maj/

on tree ‘on the tree’

4. /nuw/ ‘on’

/nuw mon/

on pillow ‘on the pillow’

5. /taj/ ‘under’

/taj pʰaː:/

under sky ‘under the sky’

6. /taj/ ‘under’

/taj tin/

under foot ‘under the foot’

7. /nuw/ ‘above’

/nuw ruw/

above boat ‘above the boat’
8. /kanɔːk/ ‘out side’

/kənɔːk/ rʊn/

outside house ‘outside the house.’

9. /waŋ-kaŋ/ ‘between’

/waŋ-kaŋ daw sɔːŋ luk/

between star two clf. ‘between two stars’

10. /tam/ ‘from’

/tam tʰʊn/

from jungle ‘from the jungle’

11. /daj/ ‘with’

/daj maw/

with you ‘with you’

12. /kʰam/ ‘cross’

/kʰam nam/

cross river ‘cross the river’
Prepositions in Standard-Thai:

13. /naj/ ‘in’
   /naj muaŋ/  
in city ‘in the city’

14. /bon/ ‘on’
    /bon tōn-māːj/  
on tree ‘on the tree’

15. /tāːj/ ‘under’
    /tāːj tó/  
under table ‘under the table’

16. /nuǎː/ ‘above’
    /nuǎː lāŋ-kʰaː/  
above roof ‘above the roof’

17. /nāːk/ ‘out side’
    /nāːk bāːn/  
outside house ‘outside the house’
18. /rá-wâŋ:/ ‘between’

/rá-wâŋ/ kʰon sɔŋ kʰon/

between person two clf. ‘between two persons’

19. /càːk/ ‘from’

/càːk/ pàː/

from jungle ‘from the jungle’

20. /càːk/ ‘from’

/càːk/ ruːam/

from house ‘from the house’

21. /duâːj/ ‘with’

/duâːj/ cʰɔːn/

with spoon ‘with the spoon’

22. /kâːp/ ‘with’

/kâːp/ pʰuːɑːn/

with friend ‘with the friend’
23. /doːj/ ‘by’

/doːj/ ruːaj/  

by boat ‘by the boat’

3.16 Verbs in Tai-Ahom

Verbs in Tai-Ahom and Thai do not inflect for tense, aspect or mood. Present habitual can be expressed just by using the basic verb form, e.g., /kaw kin kʰaw/ ‘I eat rice’. Where /kin/ is the verb ‘to eat. It simply states the fact, without any reference to time of the event, i.e. ‘eat’.

The action in continuous aspect where the action is going on at the time of speech, Tai-Ahom uses a continuous maker, /juː/ ‘remain’, i.e., the action is taking place.

For example:

1. /kaw kin kʰaw juː/  
I eat rice remain  
‘I am eating rice’

Similarly, past in Tai-Ahom can be expressed with the help of markers or time adverbials to show the time of the event. The adverbial /jaj/ ‘already’ can be placed after the verb to indicate the action that has taken place already. Or one can use other time adverbials that tell the hearer that the action was located in the past. These adverbials are /maŋa/ ‘yesterday’, /duːn-paj/ ‘last month’, /piː-paj/ ‘last year’, etc.
In my data, I found in Tai-Ahom a prefix/suffix like element /ka-/ or /-ka/ ‘past’ along with the verb /paj/ ‘to go, to walk’ to give some meaning that could be termed as past. But on the basis of just one example it is difficult to make a statement that it is a past tense prefix/suffix or just the propose of reduplication in meaning since the word /ka/ itself also means ‘to go’. In related language like Thai we also have the word /paj/ ‘to go’ along with many verbs to give the sense as past e.g. /hāːj + paj/ ‘lost, disappeared’, /tèːk + paj/ ‘broke’, /pāːn + paj/ ‘passed’ etc. In many cases it has been found that Thai also follows very close system that is similar to Tai-Ahom. Many of times we have even cognates in these languages.

3.16.1 Present habitual in Tai-Ahom

Examples:

1. /kaw kin kʰaw/

   I   eat   rice  ‘I eat the rice.’

2. /man kuːn nam/

   he   drink   water  ‘He drinks water.’

3. /kaw paj biŋ kuː-ban/

   I   go   city   every-day  ‘I go to the city everyday.’
4. /raw maː ti-naj ku-duːn/
   we come place-this every-month
   ‘We come to this place every month.’

3.16.2 Present Progressive Aspect in Tai-Ahom

Examples:

5. /kaw kin kʰaw juː/
   I eat rice remain (cont.) ‘I am eating rice.’

6. /man kun nam juː/
   he drink water remain ‘He is drinking water.’

7. /kʰaw lap juː/
   they sleep remain ‘They are sleeping.’

8. /raw pak juː/
   we speak remain ‘We are speaking.’

3.16.3 Past in Tai-Ahom

Marker /jaj/ is attached directly to the verb to indicate the past event of both simple past and past perfective.

Examples:
9. /man ma-tʰun biŋ jaj/
   he arrive city already
   ‘He arrived the city.’ or ‘He has arrived the city.’
10. /kaw paj ti biŋ jaj/
    I go to city already
    ‘I went to the city.’ or ‘I have gone to the city.’
11. /maw kin ŋa maŋa jaj/
    you eat sesame yesterday already
    ‘You ate sesame yesterday.’
12. /kʰaw kʰun-ma biŋ dun-paj jaj/
    they return-come city month-go already
    ‘They came back to the city last month.’
13. /raw kʰam nam pi-paj jaj/
    we cross water year-go already
    ‘We crossed the river last year.’
3.16.4 Future tense in Tai-Ahom

In Tai Ahom language, the future is indicated by the marker /ti/ ‘auxiliary ‘will’ added before the verb. Thus, the Tai Ahom word /ti/ may be treated as particle or auxiliary indicating the future sense.

Example:

14. /kaw ti paj mapuuk/
   I will go tomorrow
   ‘I will go tomorrow.’

15. /kaw ti ma: ban-naj/
   they will come day-this
   ‘They will come today.’

3.17 Imperative/ Prohibitative mood in Tai Ahom

Imperative mood in Tai-Ahom can be expressed with a marker /si:/ added after the verb form. For example /maw paj-si:/ ‘you (sing.) go’. But prohibitative mood is expressed by putting prohibitative marker /ja/ ‘negation’ before the verb form. It is important to note that imperative marker /si:/ is not used when prohibitative marker is used and it is again followed by a simple verb form.
Imperative mood in Tai-Ahom

Examples:

16. /paj si:/
    go Imp. marker ‘Go!’

17. /maw kin si:/
    you eat Imp. marker ‘You eat!’

18. /raw lap si:/
    we sleep Imp. marker ‘We sleep!’

Prohibitive mood in Tai-Ahom

Examples:

19. /ja paj/
    NEG go ‘Don’t go.’

20. /raw ja kin/
    we NEG eat ‘We don’t eat.’

21. /maw ja ma:/
    you NEG come ‘You don’t come.’
3.18 Verbs in Standard-Thai

Similar to Tai-Ahom verbs in Standard-Thai has no inflexion in verbs for tense aspect and mood. Various markers may be used to indicate past or future time of the event in question.

3.18.1 Present habitual in Standard-Thai

Examples:

22. /Chân kin khâ:w/
   I eat rice ‘I eat the rice.’

23. /Khâ:w dù:m nâm/
   he drink water ‘He drinks water.’

24. /Khâ:w paj roŋ-ria:n tûk-wan/
   he go school every-day
   ‘He goes to school everyday.’

25. /Khâ:w tâm-ŋa:n naj ciaŋmaj/
   he do-work in Chiangmai
   ‘He works in Chiangmai’
3.18.2 Present Progressive Aspect in Standard-Thai

In Standard Thai, the present progressive aspect is indicated by placing marker /kamlaŋ/ ‘in process’ before the verb and the aspect marker /jù/ ‘remain’ after the object. The marker /kamlaŋ/ ‘in process’ is placed before verb to intensify the continuous of an action. It is also possible to that either continuous marker /jù/ or /kamlaŋ/ may be deleted and still the construction has the same aspect that is continuous.

Examples:

26. /chân kamlaŋ kin kʰâːw jù:/
   I in process eat rice remain (Cont.)
   ‘I am eating rice’

27. /chân kamlaŋ kin kʰâːw /
   I in process eat rice ‘I am eating rice’

28. /chân kin kʰâːw jù:/
   I eat rice remain (Cont.) ‘I am eating rice’

29. /raw kamlaŋ tʰam-ŋaːn jù:/
   we in process do-work remain (Cont.)
   ‘We are working.’
3.18.3 Past in Standard-Thai

Just like Tai-Ahom the past time in Standard-Thai is marked by the auxiliary verb /lé:w/ ‘already’. This marker is put after the verb or at the end of the sentence to indicate the past tense. Apart from this, an adverbial which indicates the past time such as /muâː-waːn/-yesterday, /duaan-thîn-lé:w/-last month, etc, can replace /lé:w/ ‘already’ or both may be used. Both simple past and past perfective can be marked by this device.

Examples:

32. /chân làn còt-mâːj lé:w/

I write letter already

‘I wrote a letter.’ or ‘I have written a letter.’
33. /kʰǎ w ðàː m nǎŋ-sūː/ léːw/
    he read book already

    ‘He read a book.’ or ‘He have read a book.’

Other than / léːw/, there is other auxiliary verb /dâj/ ‘get’, which must occur before the verb such as;

Examples:

34. /dâ j pàj muâː-waːn/ 
    get go yesterday ‘went yesterday’

35. /dâ j pàj muâː-waːn léːw/ 
    get go yesterday already ‘has gone yesterday’

36. /dâ j pàj léːw muâː-waːn/ 
    get go already yesterday ‘has gone yesterday’

3.18.4 Future in Standard-Thai

In Standard-Thai the /cà/ auxiliary ‘will’, shall’ can be used before the verb to indicate the future action of the verb.
Examples:

37. /cʰân cá paj pʰrūŋ-ní:/
   I will go tomorrow  ‘I will go tomorrow.’

38. /cʰân cá paj muang-tʰaj pǐ-nâː/
   I will go city-Thai year-next
   ‘I will go to Thailand next year.’

39. /pʰuâk-kʰaw cá kin-kʰâːw naj roŋ-rəːm màj/
   group-he will eat-rice in hall-night new
   ‘They will eat rice in the new hotel.’

3.19 Imperative/ Prohibitative mood in Standard-Thai

In order to express imperative mood in Thai we can use a marker /sì/ added after the verb form. Marker /sì/ in Standard-Thai is certainly cognate with Tai-Ahom /sî/. It may be noted that this is the same marker in Tai-Ahom except that in Thai vowel in /sâ/ is short and it has low tone. In order to express prohibitive mood Thai uses the marker /hāːm/ ‘prohibit’ and /jàː/ ‘don’t’ before the verb. Here again the Thai syllable /jàː/ has low tone and the imperative marker /sì/ is optional in Thai. Sometimes it can be deleted but sometimes it is used. But in Tai-Ahom it is always deleted when prohibitive marker is used.
Imperative mood

Examples:

40. /paj ̀sì/
    go  **Imp. par**  ‘Go!’

41. /kʰun ̀kin ̀sì/
    you eat  **Imp. par**  ‘You eat!’

42. /pʰuaːk-raw ̀lâp ̀sì/
    group-we sleep  **Imp. par**  ‘We sleep!’

Prohibitative mood in Thai

Examples:

43. /hâːm  paj/
    **PROHIB**  go  ‘Don’t go’

44. /jàː  paj/
    **NEG**  go  ‘Don’t go.’

45. /jàː  paj ̀sì/
    **NEG**  go  **Imp.par**  ‘Don’t go!’
46. /pʰuːk-raw hāːm kin/
   group-we PROHIB eat ‘We, don’t eat’

47. /pʰuːk-raw jàː kin/
   group-we NEG eat ‘We don’t eat.’

48. /pʰuːk-raw jàː kin sì/
   group-we NEG eat Imp. par ‘We don’t eat!’

49. /kʰun hāːm maː/
   you PROHIB come ‘You, don’t come.’

50. /kʰun jàː maː/
   you NEG come ‘You don’t come.’

51. /kʰun jàː maː sì/
   you NEG come Imp.par ‘You don’t come!’

3.20 Adverbs

Adverbs in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai modify verbs and usually occur after the verbs.
3.20.1 Adverbs of time in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Adverbs of time in Tai-Ahom

Adverbs of time in Tai-Ahom indicate the time of the action performed by the verbs. Adverb of time can freely occur before or after the verbs they modify. Some of the adverbs are given below show that they are composed of more than one morphemes. They appear to be compound formations. Some forms like, /ban-naj/ ‘day-this, today’, /duun-naj/ ‘month-this, this month’, /duun-paj/ ‘month-go, last month’ /duun-ma:/ ‘month-come, next month’ can be easily analyzed but other forms cannot be explained from their components. May be once they had their meanings but lost in the history of this language and now function as composite forms. Examples:

/ban-naj/ ‘day-this, today’
/map\uk/ ‘tomorrow’
/manGa:/ ‘yesterday’
/masun/ ‘day before yesterday’
/duun-naj/ ‘month-this, this month’
/duun-paj/ ‘month-go, last month’
/duun-ma:/ ‘month-come, next month’
/pi-\uj-pa:/ ‘year-go, last year’
/pi-\uj-ma:/ ‘year-come, next year’
/ti\uj-k\uj\un/ ‘actual-night, midnight’
Adverbs of time in Standard-Thai

Examples:

/wan-ní/ ‘day-this, today’
/muâ:wán/ ‘yesterday’
/pʰrúŋnít/ ‘tomorrow’
/muâ:wá:nswá:n/ ‘day before yesterday’
/duâ:n-ní/ ‘month-this, this month’
/duâ:n-tʰí-lé:w/ ‘month-finish, last month’
/duâ:n-nâr/ ‘month-next, next month’
/piː-tʰí-lé:w/ ‘year-which-finish, last year’
/piː-nâr/ ‘year-next, next year’
/tʰiâ:ŋ-kʰú:n/ ‘actual-night, midnight’

3.20.2 Adverbs of place in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

In Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai, place adverbials indicate the place of an action carried out by verbs in various constructions. For example, here, there, north, east, south, west, upside, downside, etc. Adverbs of place usually occur after verbs.
Adverbs of place in Tai-Ahom


52. /man ju: tī-na jerk/

he stay here ‘He is here.’ or ‘He stays here’

53. /man ju: tī-ha jerk/

he stay there ‘He is there.’ or ‘He stays there’

54. /man ju: ku-ti jerk/

he stay every-place ‘He is everywhere.’ or ‘He stays everywhere’

55. /hit biŋ tan ru-muŋ/

make city way north ‘To construct the city in the north’

56. /man ma: tam ka-laŋ/

he come from back ‘He comes from backside’
Adverb of place in Standard-Thai

Examples:

57. /kʰāw tʰaṃ-ŋa:n tʰā-nîː/  
    he work here ‘He works here.’

58. /raw jùː tʰaːŋ tʰît nuáː kʰáŋ tʰaj/  
    we stay way direction north of Thailand  
    ‘We live in the north of Thailand’

59. /pʰuā:k-kʰāw maː câk dān-kʰwāː/  
    they come from side-right  
    ‘They come from right side.’

3.20.3 Adverbs of manner in Tai-Ahom and Standard-Thai

Adverbs of manner show the way the particular action is carried out. For examples, ‘happily’, ‘fast’, ‘angrily’, ‘easily’, etc.

Adverb of manner in Tai-Ahom

Example:

60. /man lu ciw/  
    it break fast ‘It breaks fast.’

61. /man baː dut/  
    he speak angry ‘He speaks angrily.’
62. /kʰaw kʰɔ́t piw kan/
   they hug happy each other
   ‘They embrace each other happily.’

Adverb of manner in Standard-Thai

Examples:

63. /pʰu:]k-kʰaw dɔ̃n cʰâː /
   they walk slowly ‘They walk slowly.’

64. /raw wîŋ rew/
   we run fast ‘We run fast’

65. /cʰân tʰam-ŋaːn sêt ɲâːj/
   I work finish easy
   ‘I finish the work easily.’

3.21 Numeral system

Numeral system in both Tai-Ahom and Thai is decimal mixed with vigesimal system. From 11 to 19 decade both languages follow decimal system but from 20, onwards /saw/ ‘twenty’ becomes the base in Tai-Ahom, but Thai follows somewhat different system as it forms twenty by prefixing /jîː/ ‘second’ to the numeral /sîp/ ‘ten’ and then adding the next number to form higher numerals. For Thai also ‘twenty’
becomes the base to form higher numbers up to 29. Both Tai-Ahom and Thai follow the same system of ‘twenty’ base but in Thai it is compound formation that is, 2x10+1. But again from thirty and onwards decimal system is followed by both languages. For example, /sam-sip/ ‘thirty’ in Tai-Ahom and /sã:m-sip/ ‘thirty’ in Thai. Where it is 3x10=30, and so on, that is decimal system till hundred. Tai-Ahom may optionally use ‘twenty’ as the base to form higher numerals like, /sɔŋ-saw/ (2x20=40) ‘forty’, /sam-saw/ (3x20=60) ‘sixty’, /si-saw/ (4x20=80) ‘eighty’, etc. The numerals for hundred in Tai-Ahom and Thai are single morphemes, /pak/ and /rɔj/ in Tai-Ahom and Thai respectively. But we can add either before the numeral ‘hundred’ the numeral ‘one’ to specify ‘one hundred’ in both the languages.

<table>
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/sin-lun/ /nùñ-sɛ:n/ one hundred thousand
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/sè-sip-ruk/  /sè: sip -hòk/  forty-six
/sè-sip-cit/  /sè: sip -cèt/  forty-seven
/sè-sip-pit/  /sè: sip -pèt/  forty-eight
/sè-sip-kaw/  /sè: sip -kâ:w/  forty-nine
/ha:-sip/  /hâ:- sip/  fifty
/ha:-sip-?it/  /hâ:- sip -?èt/  fifty-one
/ha:-sip-ruk/  /hâ:- sip -hòk/  fifty-six
/ha:-sip-kaw/  /hâ:- sip -kâ:w/  fifty-nine
/ruk-sip/  /hòk- sip /  sixty
/ruk-sip-?it/  /hòk - sip -?èt/  sixty-one
/ruk-sip-ha:/  /hòk - sip - hâ:/  sixty-five
/ruk-sip-kaw/  /hòk - sip - kâ:w/  sixty-nine
/cit-sip/  /cèt- sip/  seventy
/cit-sip-?it/  /cèt - sip -?èt/  seventy-one
/cit-sip-ha:/  /cèt - sip -hâ:/  seventy-five
/cit-sip-kaw/  /cèt - sip - kâ:w/  seventy-nine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordinal Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Tai-Ahom, there are only 4 ordinals i.e. /ʔaj/ ‘first’, /ŋiː/ ‘second’, /saj/ ‘fourth’ and /ŋuː/ ‘fifth’. In Standard-Thai, prefix /tʰː-/ is added to cardinal number to form ordinals. Examples are as follow:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tai Ahom</th>
<th>Standard-Thai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/ʔaj/</td>
<td>/tʰːː-ɲuŋ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ŋiː/</td>
<td>/tʰːː-sɔŋ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/sam/</td>
<td>/tʰːː-sɔːm/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronunciation</td>
<td>IPA</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/saj/</td>
<td>/tʰiː:-ʃt:/</td>
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</tbody>
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fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth