CHAPTER-V

SYNTAX
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5.1. Word order

Word order refers to the linear sequence in which words occur in a sentence. The normal word order of Tiwa is SOV. In other words, the normal order of words in an unmarked sentence in Tiwa is S (subject), O (object) and V (verb) or we can say that in Tiwa,

Subject (S) occurs in the sentence initial position.

Object (O) follows the subject and precedes the verbs.

Verb (V) occurs in the sentence final position.

The following sentences show the order of the words in Tiwa language.

(i) /aŋ maï čaido/ ‘I eat rice’
   I rice eat
   S O V

(ii) /aŋ sa nuŋdo/ ‘I drink tea’
    I tea drink
    S O V

However, some sentence can occur without the subject in Tiwa. For example, subject is optional in imperative sentence. Consider the following sentence.

(i) /lai-go lekøe/ book-Acc. read
    (S) O V
    ‘(You) Read the book’
Even a verb can make an imperative sentence in Tiwa where the use of subject and object is not necessary. The imperative is obtained by dropping 'na' and keeping the stem, that is the stem itself is the imperative. Consider the following examples,

/k'ezoŋ/ ‘sit down’
/ri/ ‘do’
/k'ol/ ‘pick up’

But it is to be noted here that often /bo/ or /bo/ is added for the sake of stress or emphasise. Eg,

/čabo/ ‘eat’
/honbo/ ‘say’
/k'onabo/ ‘listen’
/leket'bo/ ‘read’

The interrogative pronoun precedes the subject if the subject is present because the use of the subject is optional in the interrogative sentence in Tiwa. In other words, the interrogative sentences are formed in Tiwa with interrogative pronoun placed before the subject.
Few exceptions are to be found regarding the above mentioned statement. Some interrogative sentences are available in Tiwa where the subject precedes the interrogative pronoun.

(i) /čiŋ pakʰala ča-w/
   S   Int.Pro.   V
   We when eat.-Fut.
   ‘When shall we eat?’

(ii) /na mokʰali pazǐŋ li-dom/
   you last year where go-Past
   S   O   Int. Pro.   V
   ‘Where did you go last year?’

(iii) /na indana pego pʰodal-dom/
   You why him beat-Past.
   S   Int.Pro.   O   V
   ‘Why did you beat him?’

5.2. Constituents

A simple sentence in Tiwa consists of a noun phrase (NP) and a verb phrase (VP). For example,
The noun phrase (NP) consists obligatory of a noun which is called the head noun and that may be followed or preceded by one or more modifiers. The modifiers which are basically optional elements may be an adjective, a case marker, a postposition, a numeral etc. These optional elements modify the head noun in Tiwa.

(i) /k'orla/ li-ga/ ‘The girl has gone’
  Girl  go- Pre. Perf.
  NP   VP

(ii) /lai/ koga/ ‘The leaf has fallen’
  leaf  fall-Pre.Perf.
  NP   VP

(iii) /libin/ p'iga/ ‘The man has come’
  man  come-Pre.Perf.
  NP   VP

5.2.1. Noun phrase

(i) /krowa/ libin/ ‘A good man’
  Adj. N
  Good  man

(ii) /p'ar)  baro/ ‘A big tree’
  N  Adj.
  Tree  big

(iii) /mak'a  čuwa/ ‘A high mountain’
  N  Adj.
  Mountain  high

(iv) /saza/ libin/ ‘one man’
  Clasf. N
  One  man
In Tiwa, when the head noun is modified by a demonstrative and an adjective, the order is that the head noun follows these two as in the following sentences.

(i) /hebe dem. tora k'äm/

Dem. Adj. N.

This big festival ‘This is a big festival’

(ii) /hebe dem. krowa libij/

Dem. Adj. N

This good man ‘This is a good man’

When demonstrative, numeral and adjective along with a noun, all occur together in a single sentence in Tiwa; the order is that the head noun is preceded by the demonstrative, followed by the numeral and adjective as exemplified below.

(i) /hebe dem. saza krowa libij/

Dem. Clasf. Adj. N

This one good man ‘This is a good man’

(ii) /hebe dem. talfa nit'awa p'ang/

Dem. Clasf. Adj. N

This one beautiful tree ‘This is a beautiful tree’

(iii) /sanij num. krowa libij/

Num. Adj. N

Two good man ‘Two good men’

On the basis of the above mentioned examples, we can state the structure of a noun phrase in Tiwa as

NP + Dem + Nu + Adj. + N
5.2.2. Verb Phrase

The verb phrase (VP) in Tiwa may consist of a lexical verb or a 'be' verb which is obligatory in the verb phrase. Apart from the obligatory verb in the verb phrase, some other optional elements like Noun Phrase, Adverb etc. are also to be found in the VP which may follow or precede the main verb. However, there are some instances of simple sentences in Tiwa in which the VP consists of only one verb. For example,

(i) /k'ezon/  
V  
'sit down'

(ii) /ćikal/  
V  
'get up'

(iii) /ća/  
V  
'eat'

The noun generally precedes the verb in a simple sentence in Tiwa as in the following examples.

(i) /pe  ča-ga/  
NP VP  
She eat-Pre. Perf. 'She has eaten'

(ii) /ŋa  ko-ga/  
NP VP  
Fish fall- Pre. Perf ‘The fish has fallen’

When the verb phrase (VP) has two noun phrases (NPs), NP1 is the direct object and NP2 is indirect object. The two NPs can interchange their place of occurrence, but the NPs must be followed by the main verb.

(i) /nirmal  anja  lai-go  osd-om/  
NP1 NP2  
nirmal  I- Dat book- Acc.  give- Past  
‘Nirmal gave me (a) book’
When an adverb occurs in a sentence, the adverb precedes the verb in Tiwa as exemplified in the following sentence.

(i) /ram tinpʰudi sikula liw/
   NP  Adv.   N   V
   ram  everyday  school  go- Pre.
   ‘Ram goes to school everyday’

(ii) /na kʰonana pʰiwiw/
    NP  Adv.   V
    You  tomorrow  come- Fut
    ‘You will come tomorrow’

On the basis of the above illustrative sentences, the structure of the Tiwa verb phrase can be stated schematically as-

   VP = +Adv + NP1 + NP2 + V

5.2.3. Adjective Phrase

The adjective is the nucleus in an adjectival phrase. The adjective phrase consists of at least one adjective and it may or may not be accompanied by an intensifier. The adjective of the adjectival phrase either precedes or follows the noun in Tiwa.

(i) /krowa korkʰia/
   Adj.   N
   good  child
   ‘good child’
The structure of the adjective phrase in Tiwa may be formalised as follows:

\[
\text{Adj. Phrase} = + \text{Adj.} \ + \text{N} \ + \text{Adj.}
\]

5.2.4. Adverb Phrase

The adverb in an adverb phrase modifies the verb. An adverb occurs before the verb in Tiwa. Consider the following sentence.

(i) /tinp'udilo liw/

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Adv.} & \text{V.} \\
\text{everyday} & \text{go} & \text{\textquotesingle\textquotesingle Goes everyday\textquotesingle\textquotesingle}
\end{array}
\]

(ii) /et'alo p'iw/

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Adv.} & \text{V.} \\
\text{now} & \text{come} & \text{\textquotesingle\textquotesingle will come now\textquotesingle\textquotesingle}
\end{array}
\]

The adverb of place always carries a particle along with it. In fact, the particle is suffixed to the adverb of place.
On the basis of the above examples, we can establish the structure of an adverb phrase in Tiwa as

Adv. Phrase = + adverb + particle + V

5.3. Clause

Two types of clauses can be identified in Tiwa. They are main clause and subordinate clause. The main or principal clause is independent and can occur on its own in sentence. In fact, the main clause in Tiwa is always identical with a simple sentence. In contrast, the subordinate clause can never occur on its own and is always dependent on the main clause.

5.3.1 Main clause

The following are the examples of main clause in Tiwa. They are basically simple sentences.

(i) /nino t'aido/
   Adv. Partl.    V
   inside       is  ‘Is inside’

(ii) /fao t'aido/
   Adv. Partl.    V
   above       is  ‘Is above’

(iii) /ar) caw/
      I eat- Fut.
      ‘I will eat’

(iv) /pe caw/
     s/he eat- Pre.
     ‘S/he eats’
5.3.2. Subordinate clause

The subordinate clause in Tiwa is marked by either conjunction or particle and always precedes the main clause as exemplified below.

(i) /nok’a kogaido aŋ liya/
   Sub. Clause          M. clause
   ‘ If it rains I will not go’

(ii) /na rozagaido aŋ misaw/
   Sub. Clause          M. clause
   ‘If you sing I will dance’

5.3.3. Coordinative clause

Coordinative clause in Tiwa is marked by the presence of conjunctive particles. The primary function of conjunction is to connect words, phrases, clauses and sentences. Consider the following examples.

(a) /re/, /aro/ ‘and’

(i) /ma re paba pʰidom/
   mother and father come-Past
   ‘Mother and father came’

(ii) /ram aro rahim lidom/
   ram and rahim go-Past.
   ‘Ram and Rahim went’
(iii) /sita re gita payarziŋ lidom/
sita and gita out go-Past
‘Sita and Gita went out’

(b) /tebo/ ‘but’

(i) /aŋ pego jandom tebo pe pįiyam/
 I s/he-Acc. call-Past but s/he come-Neg.
‘I called her but she did not come’

(ii) /pe sa nuŋo tebo kopį nuŋ-ya/
s/he tea drink but coffee drink-Neg.
‘She drinks tea but not coffee’

(c) /ba/ ‘or’ or ‘either’

It is used for disjunctive construction only which is formed by placing /ba/ between
the two proposition so that they are in an ‘either…..or’ relationship.

(i) /paba -ba ma/
father P.P. mother
‘Father or mother’

(ii) /Gopal -ba hari pįį-w/
Gopal P.P. hari come-Fut.
‘Gopal or Hari will come’

5.3.4. Conditional Clause

Conditional clause in Tiwa is introduced by placing the conditional particles /ćiidi/
‘if’ in the initial position of the subordinate clause and the noun in the main clause
takes /bo/ ‘also’. In the conditional statement of the sentence, the conditional clause
always precedes the conclusion without any exception in Tiwa. The following is the
example.
5.3.5. Complement Clause

The complement clause in Tiwa is expressed without any particles. But, sometimes the complementizer /ze/ is introduced which is borrowed from Assamese and the complement clause in Tiwa always follows the main clause. For example,

(i) /pe hon-dom pe k'ona p'^i-dom/
    s/he say- Past. s/he yesterday come-Past
    ’S/he said that s/he came yesterday’

(ii) /pe hon-dom ze pe kona p'^i-dom/
     s/he say-Past. Comp. s/he yesterday come-Past.
     ’S/he said that s/he came yesterday’

5.3.6. Relative Clause

Relative clause in Tiwa is introduced by the participle in which the relative clause always precedes the head noun of the main clause.

(i) /ne k'ub muktiwa libinj ai sudur/
    you Intsf. praise-Partl. man my enemy/
    ‘The man you praise a lot is my enemy’
5.4. Sentences

The sentences in Tiwa can be classified into three types, viz. (i) simple, (ii) complex and (iii) compound. These three types of classification are made at surface level structure of sentences.

5.4.1. Simple sentence

A sentence is simple where there is only one S at the surface phrase structure. It means that it is a construction which has only one clause, i.e., the main clause and it has at least a subject and a predicate except in imperative sentences in which the use of subject is optional. Consider the following examples,

(i) /pe mai čaw/
S/he rice eat-Pre
‘S/he eats rice’

(ii) /ńi sigaisaraw/
we student-Pl.
‘We are students’

Imperative sentence

(iii) /mai ča/ ‘eat rice’
rice eat

(iv) /ti nun/ ‘drink water’
water drink
5.4.2. Complex sentence

A complex sentence in Tiwa consists of one main clause and one more subordinate clauses. In the complex sentence, the subordinate clause is introduced by subordinators (particles) which usually precede the main clause. For example,

(i) /pe li-gaido an pʰi-w/
   S/he go-Cond. I come-Fut.
   ‘If he goes I will come’

(ii) /an rina pʰon-gaido na-bo ri-na pʰono/
    I do-Partl. can-Cond. You also do-Partl. can
    ‘If I can do it you also can do’

(iii) /nokʰa ko-gaido ram pʰiya/
      rain fall.Cond. ram come.Neg.
      ‘If it rains Ram will not come’

5.4.3. Compound Sentence

It consists of two or more main clauses or simple sentences and these are conjoined either by the conjunctive particle /aro/ ‘and’ or by the disjunctive coordinator /ba/ ‘or’. Both are borrowed from Assamese.

(i) /ram aro hari payarzir) li-ga/
   Ram and Hari out go-Pre.Perf.
   ‘Ram and Hari has gone out’

This sentence is made up of two simple sentences.

(i) /ram payarzir) li-ga/
   ram out go-Pre.Perf.
   ‘Ram has gone out’
5.5. Negation:

In Tiwa, there are two ways of expressing negation, one is by using the negative particles and the other is with the help of negative copula.

5.5.1. Negative particles:

There are three negative particles /hiya/, /-ya/ and /la-/ in Tiwa. The /hiya/ and /-ya/ are the most frequently used form which occur in the post verbal position and used in equational constructions and nominal predicates. The other marker /la-/ is used to express negation in imperative sentences and occupies a pre-verbal post position. Consider the following examples:

(i) /pe sigaisa hiya/

he student Neg.

‘He is not (a) student’
(ii) /pe nit^awa hiya/
   s/he beautiful Neg.
   ‘S/he is not (a) beautiful’

(iii) /aŋ pawla hiya/
   I mad Neg.
   ‘I am not (a) mad’

(iv) /aŋ ča-ya/
   I eat-Neg.
   ‘I do not eat’

(v) /pe mini-ya/
   s/he laugh-Neg.
   ‘s/he does not laugh’

(vi) /na nun-ya/
   you drink-Neg.
   ‘You don’t drink’

(vii) /aŋ pe-go la-ya/
   I it-Acc. take-Neg.
   ‘I do not take it’

(viii) /ta-za/
   Neg.-eat
   ‘Do not eat’

(ix) /ta-ri/
   Neg.-do
   ‘Do not do’

(x) /ta-nun/
   Neg.-drink
   ‘Do not come’
(xi) /puzir ta-li/  
that side Neg.- go  
‘Do not go that side’

(xii) /hew ta-k'ezon/  
Here Neg. sit  
‘Do not sit here’

It is to be noted that /p/, /t/ and /k/ phonemes become /b/, /d/ and /z/ respectively if the negative marker /ta-/ is prefixed with the words. Eg

(i) /tan/   ‘cut’  
/tan/ ‘don’t cut’  
Neg. cut

(ii) /pase/   ‘say’  
/pase/ ‘don’t say’  
Neg. say

(iii) /ca/   ‘eat’  
/ca/ ‘don’t eat’  
Neg. eat

5.5.2 Negative copula:

The negative copula /ca/ is used to express negation in existential construction, locative predicates and possessive sentences. Consider the following examples-

(i) /krai-ao libij ca/  
village-Loc. man Neg.Cop.  
‘There is no man at the village’
5.6. Interrogatives:

Interrogatives in Tiwa can be classified into two types—‘yes-no’ question which asks for the confirmation or negation of the statement, and Wh- questions.

5.6.1 Yes-No question:

Yes-No question in Tiwa is formed by adding the question marker /na/ to the verb. An affirmative statement can be converted into an interrogative sentence without the question marker /na/ by means of rising intonation. The marker /na/ may be optionally used when the interrogative is expressed by the rising intonation. Examples are given below:

(i) /mai tojo/  
   rice exist  
   ‘There is (a) rice’
(ii) /mai ton na/
  rice exist Int.
  'Is there rice?'

(iii) /mai ton/ (rising intonation)
  rice exist
  'Is there rice?'

(iv) /na ca-w na/
  you eat-Fut Int.
  'Will you eat?'

(v) /na ca-w/ (rising intonation)
  you eat- Fut.
  'Will you eat?'

(vi) /na li-ya na/
  you go-Neg. Int.
  'Do not you go?'

(vii) /na p'ii-ya/ (rising intonation)
  you come-Neg.
  'Do not you come?'

(viii) /koi toño na/
  nut exist Int.
  'Is there nut?'

(ix) /koi toño/ (rising intonation)
  nut exist
  'Is there nut?'

(x) /na mai ča-ga na/
  you rice eat-Perf. Int.
  'Have you eaten rice?'
5.6.2. Wh- questions-

Wh- questions in Tiwa are formed by substituting the constituent that is being questioned by the appropriate interrogative pronouns. Consider the following examples-

(i) /aŋ-e muŋ-ə ram/
   I-Gen. name-Nom. ram
   ‘My name is Ram’

(ii) /ne muŋ-ə inda/
    your name-Nom. what?
    ‘What is your name?’

(iii) /pe gopal/
     he gopal
     ‘He is Gopal’

(iv) /pe əfar/
    s/he who
    ‘Who is s/he?’

(v) /aŋ hato liw/
    I market go-Fut.
    ‘I will go to the market’

(vi) /na pat'o liw/
    you where go-Fut.
    ‘Where will you go?’
5.6.3. Alternative questions

It consists of two alternatives only and the question particle /na/ is placed after the first alternative. This type of sentence in Tiwa does not have ‘be’ verb form and like any other interrogative sentence, it is accompanied by a rising intonation.

(i) /kumun na kiriya/
   Good Q.Prtl. bad/
   ‘Is it good or bad?’

(ii) /nujo na nuinya/
     drink Q.Prtl. drink-Neg.
     ‘Do you drink or not?’

(iii) /coria tiwo na k'riwo/
      orange sweet Q.Prtl. sour
      ‘Is the orange sweet or sour?’

(iv) /pe ram na hari/
     he ram Q.Prtl. hari
     ‘Is he Ram or Hari?’

Passivization

Passivization is not a grammatical process in Tiwa. However, some kind of semi-passive sentences are available in Tiwa as exemplified below.

(i) /añ mijago maredom/ Active
    I tiger-Acc. kill-Past
    ‘I killed the tiger’

(ii) /mijago añ maredom/
    tiger-Acc. I kill-Past
    ‘Tiger was killed by me’ Passive
(iii) /nitù hebe laigo čidaidom/ Active
   nitù this book-Acc. write-Past.
   ‘Nitù wrote this book’

(iv)/hebe laigo nitù čidaidom/ Passive
   this book-Acc. nitù write-Past
   ‘This book was written by Nitù’