CHAPTER - 5

SYNTAX
5.1.1 Word order:

The word order is a term used in grammatical analysis to refer to the sequential arrangement of words in larger linguistic units. On other words, the word order refers to the linear sequence in which words occur in a sentence. The normal word order of Liangmai is SOV. In other words, the normal word order of Liangmai language is Subject (S), Object (O) and Verb (V) or we can say that in Liangmai

Subject (S) occurs in the sentence initial position

Object (O) followed the subject and predicates the verb

Verb (O) occurs in the sentence before aspect markers

The word order of Liangmai, like other Tibeto-Burman language is a subject (S), object (O) and verb (V) type of language. This is supported by the following examples show the order of words in Liangmai:

1. /pa čalui thu ye/ ‘He sings a song’
   he song sing Asp

   S  O  V
In the above cited illustrative sentences 1 to 5, we can confidently state that the SOV is the common type of word order in Liangmai. But alternative order (OSV) and (SVO) are also possible in Liangmai language. However, the SOV order which is the most popular one, we can have the following sentences that exhibit to some extent, the flexibility of orders in Liangmai.

6. /i tek tiu ye/ (SOV)
   i food eat asp
   ‘I eat food’

7. /tek i tiu ye/ (OSV)
   food i eat asp
   ‘I eat food’
8. /i tiu ye tek/ (SVO)
i eat asp food
‘I eat food’
9. /matom piurian tiu ye/ (SOV)
cow grass eat asp
‘Cow eats grass’
10. /piurian matom tiu ye/ (OSV)
grass cow eat asp
‘Cow eats grass’
11. /matom tiu ye piurian/ (SVO)
cow eat asp grass
‘Cow eats grass’
12. /pa senki tat le/ (SOV)
he market go asp
‘He goes to market’
13. /senki pa tat ye/ (OSV)
market he go asp
‘He goes to market’
14. /pa tat ye senki/ (SVO)
‘He go asp market’
15. /l siŋban hui ye/ (SOV)
i tree cut asp
‘I cut the tree’
In the above mentioned examples, the same sentence is given with a considerable amount of word order variation. In the word order (SVO) 8, 11, 14, and 17, the aspect markers always occur between the verb and object. But these variable word orders like OSV and SVO are rarely used. The Subject-Object-Verb (SOV), above the sentences- 6, 9, 12 and 15 are the normal and most commonly used word order by Liangmai. Liangmai has a very rigid word order and no other order is allowed in normal circumstances.

However, some sentences can occur without the subject in Liangmai. For example, the subject is optional in imperative sentences. Consider the following examples:

18. /tek pilo/
   (S) O V
   (you) Give rice

19. /ariak palo/
   (S) O V
   (You) Read the book
From above the cited illustration, some sentences can occur without the subject, the subject is optional in imperative sentences in Liangmai language.

Even a verb can make an imperative sentence in Liangmai where the used of subject and object is not necessary.

22. /taolo/ ‘Sit down’
    V

23. /caplo/ ‘Stand up’
    V

24. /tiulo/ ‘Eat’
    V

25. /palo/ ‘Read’
    V

It is to be noted here that in the case of imperative sentences, the /-lo/ which is used as the future tense marker in Liangmai, is always present and it is suffixed to the verb.
The interrogation pronouns precede the subject if the subject is present because the use of the subject is optional in some interrogation sentences in Liangmai. In other words, the interrogation sentences are formed in Liangmai with interrogation pronoun placed before subject.

26. /deŋ luŋ lo/  
   / Int.Pro V/  
   where live  
   ‘Where do you live?’

27. /de lunilo/  
   Into.Pro V  
   What want  
   ‘What do you want?’

Few examples are to be found regarding the above mentioned statement. Some interrogation sentences are available in Liangmai where the subject precedes the interrogation pronoun.

28. /aliu dedao tiuralo/  
   S  Int.Pro V  
   We when eat fut  
   ‘When shall we eat?’

29. paliu dedao tat ralo/  
   S  Int.Pro V  
   they when go fut  
   ‘When are they going?’
30. /nəŋ déləm tat ralə/  
   S    Int. Pro    V  
   You where go fut  
   ‘Where are you going?’  
31. /nəŋ dəsăi déləm tat lo/  
   S    O    Int. Pro    V  
   You last year where go  
   ‘Where did you go last year?’  
32. /nəŋ dəktəmziu patu lek lo/  
   S    Into. Pro    O    V  
   You which him beat past  
   ‘Why did you beat him?’

5. 1. 2 Constituents:  

A simple sentence in Liangmai consists of a noun phrase (NP), determiner and a verb phrase (VP). Though the Liangmai NP consists of a determiner, its use is optional. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP</th>
<th>det</th>
<th>VP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33. /cə̞ki hai məsan ye/</td>
<td>house (N)</td>
<td>det. clean-asp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>‘The house is clean’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/cə̞ki məsan ye/</td>
<td>house (N)</td>
<td>clean-asp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>‘The house is clean’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
34. ṇena hai kəpbəmmə ‘The baby is crying’
   baby (N) det crying cont.
35. tiaŋ hai tənia ye ‘The shirt is dirty’
   shirt (N) det. dirty asp
36. puimainə hai ṇəowi ye ‘The girl is beautiful’
   girl (N) det beautiful asp
37. puimainə hai tət mide ‘The boy went’
   boy (N) det go past
38. čakха hai inkai ye ‘The fish fell’
   fish (N) det. fell asp

From the above examples from 33 to 38, we can say that noun can occur without any case marker. The use of determiner is optional as we pointed out above.

5.1.3 Noun Phrase:

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 post position, classifier, numeral etc. These optional elements modify the head noun in Liangmai.
39. /kawibo mai/  ‘A good man’
   Adj. Nzr + N  
good  man

40. /kadibo čaki/  ‘A big house’
   Adj. Nzr + N  
big  house

41. /kakubo čaki/  ‘A tall house’
   Adj. Nzr + N  
tall  house

42. /ćunsabo məri  ‘A sad story’
   Adj. Nzr + N  
sat  story

43. /khiaŋbo rasi/  ‘A sour fruit’
   Adj. Nzr + N  
Sour  fruit

44. /kawibo čamai kkuga/  ‘To the good man
   Adj. Nzr + N + Abl.  
good  man

45. /kadibo čaki ga/  ‘In the big house’
   Adj Nzr + N case  
big  house

46. /ćamai khoŋ khot/  ‘One man’
   N + class. numeral  
one  man
When the head noun is modified by an adjective with nominalizer /bo/ and a case marker, the order is that the adjective always precedes the noun and the case marker follows the noun as exemplified above. In the case of numeral, the head noun precedes the numeral.

In Liangmai when the head noun is modified by a demonstrative and adjective, the order is that the head noun follows these two as in the following sentences.

49. /haise kadibo siŋbəŋ ye/  ‘This is a big house’
    Dem. + Adj + N pre
    this big tree

50. /uise kəwibo rapen ye/  ‘That is a good flower’
    Dem + Adj + N pre
    that good flower
When demonstrative, adjective and noun along with numeral all occur together in a single sentence in Liangmai; the order is that the head noun is preceded by the demonstrative, by adjective and numeral as exemplified below:

51. /haise kəwibo mai khatle/ ‘This is a good man’

Dem + Adj + N + Numeral

this good man one asp

52. /uise kəkhianbo rasi khatle/ ‘That is a sour fruit’

Dem + Adj + N + numeral

that sour fruit one asp

53. /uise ṭəowibo ɛki khatle/ ‘That is a beautiful house’

Dem + Adj + N + numeral

that beautiful house one asp

When the numeral higher than one is present in the noun phrase, then the plural marker cannot be used in Liangmai. It means Liangmai does not allow double plural markers. For example,

54. /čəmai kəwibo dun/ ‘Good men’

Noun +adj+ plural

good men

55. */čəmai kəwibo nia dun/ ‘Two good men’

N+ Adj + Nu + Pl
56. */cəmai kəwibo khǎŋ nia/ ‘Two good men’
   N+ Adj + class. + Nu
   Man good two

57. */cəmai kəwibo khǎŋ nia duŋ/ ‘Two good men’
   Noun + Adj + Class + Nu + Pl

58. /kəsembo cəki duŋ/ ‘Small houses’
   Adj + Noun + plural
   Small houses

59. */cəki kəsembo nia duŋ/ ‘Two small houses’
   Noun + Adj + Nu + Pl
   Small two houses

It is to be noted here that Liangmai does not allow double plural markers from the above given examples-(55, 57 and 59). The order of noun + adjective + numeral + plural is not a rigid one in Liangmai. A different order where the adjective is followed by the noun and the noun precedes the numeral is also found in Liangmai as in the following constructions:

60. /kəwibo cəmai khǎŋ nia/ ‘Two good men’
   Adj + N + class. Nu
   Beautiful man two

61. /ŋəwibo puimaina khəŋ mədaɪ/ ‘Four beautiful men’
   Adj + N + Class + Nu
   Beautiful girl four
It is worth mentioning here that this order is not that much favored by the Liangmai speakers.

On the basis of the above mentioned examples- 51 to 53, we can state the structure of a noun phrase of Liangmai as

\[ NP \rightarrow + \text{Dem} \pm \text{Adj} + \text{N} + \text{Nu asp} \]

5.1.4 Verb Phrase:

According to David Crystal (1985), the term verb phrase is used in two senses. Traditionally, it refers to a group of verbs which together have the same syntactic function as a single verb, e.g. is coming, may be coming, get up to. In such phrases (verbal groups, verbal clusters), one verb is the main verb (the lexical verb). A verb is followed by non verbal particle (similar in the form to a preposition or adverb) is generally referred to as phrasal verb. In general transformational grammar, the verb phrase (VP) has a much broader definition, being equivalent to the whole of predicate of a sentence, as is clear from the expansion of sentence as \( \text{NP} \ (\text{NP}) + \text{VP} \ (\text{Verb Phrase}) \) in the phrase structure Grammar. For example:

Joseph gave a watch, to his son.

\[ \text{NP} \quad \text{VP} \]

There is no pronominal marker in Liangmai. A verb is always added by aspect markers. In Liangmai different aspect markers are used for different sentences. It can be demonstrated as in the following diagram.
Here above examples, /tiu/, /tat/ (62 and 63) is the verb root and /ye/ is the aspect marker. Thus, /tiu/, /and tat/ are the verb phrases. In above examples (64) /pa/ ‘he’ is the third person singular and (65) /sliu/ ‘we’ is the first personal plural but there is no pronominal marker in the verb.

The verb phrase (VP) in Liangmai 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 phrase etc. are also be found in the VP which may follow or precede the main verb. However, there are some instances of simple sentence in Liangmai in which the VP consists of only the verb. For example:
The noun generally precedes the verb in a simple sentence in Liangmai as in the following examples:

69. /Pa tiumide/ ‘She ate’
   NP VP
   she eat past

70. /Cakha inkai mide/ ‘The fish fell’
   NP VP
   Fish fall- past

71. /gla:s par) mide/ ‘The glass broke’
   NP VP
   Glass break-past

When an adverb occurs in a sentence, the adverb precedes the verb in Liangmai as exemplified in the following sentences.

72. /pa koina tek tiu ye/ ‘She ate rice slowly’
   NP Adv. N V PT
   VP
   He slowly rice eat past
On the basis of the above illustrative sentences from 72 and 74, the structure of Liangmai verb phrase can be stated schematically as

\[
\text{VP} \rightarrow ± \text{Adj} ± \text{NP} + \text{V asp}
\]

### 6.1.5 Types of Verb Phrase:

From the grammatical point of view, the verb can be divided into two Viz,

(i) Transitive verb and (ii) Intransitive verb

A transitive verb takes an object. Transitive verb are “action” verb, it tell us what their subject do. And intransitive verbs are those that do not have an object. Examine the following:

**Transitive Verb:**

75. /pa tek tlu ye/ ‘He ate rice’

he food eat past

76. /i niu patu ku ye/ ‘I call him’

I nom. he. acc call asp
77. /aripou niu abon tu dap be/ ‘Aripou beats Abon’
aripou Nom. abon acc. beat pre

In the above examples, 75 to 77, /pa/ ‘he’, /i/ ‘I’ and aripou are the subject. /tek/ ‘rice’ /patu/ ‘him’ and abon are the object. Here sentences, having object are called transitive. The sentence structure is Subject Object and verb (SOV).

(ii) **Intransitive:**

78. /ačunliu tiu mide/ ‘Achunliu ate’
ačunliu eat past

79. /wironlunliu tat kinne/ ‘Wironlugliu is going’
Wironlunliu go cont.

80. /thirjna lem bəmme/ ‘The bird is flying’
bird fly cont.

In the above examples, 78 - 80 shows that, /ačunliu/, /wironlunliu/ and /thirjna/ are the subject. But /tatkinne/ ‘going’ /lembəmme/ ‘flying’ are the verb of the sentence. Thus the sentence structure is subject Verb (SV). There is no object in these sentences. Such verbs are termed as intransitive verb.

5.1.6 **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 Liangmai:
81. /kəməŋbo mai/ 'Mad man'  
   mad man

82. /sinbözse di ye/ 'The tree is big'  
   N Adj.
   tree big asp

83. /çompра hai khiaŋbo rasi ye/ 'Lemon is a sour fruit'  
   N det Adj N
   lemon sour fruit asp

84. /çamai poins makhem ga wəŋ ye/ 'Few men came to the meeting'  
   N Adj N Loc V
   Man few meeting case come past

85. /nomai khaŋia mathen bomme/ 'Some children are playing'  
   N Adj V
   child some play cont.

86. /ariakə hina pakı lam tat mide/ 'Every student has gone to their home'  
   N Adj N loc V
   Student every house go perf.

The structure of the adjective phrase in Liangmai may be formalized as follows:

Adj. Phrase  + N + Adj + N + V
5.1.7 Adverb Phrase:

The adverb in an adverb phrase modifies the verb. An adverb always occurs before the verb in Liangmai. Hence, it can be called 'sentential adverb'. Consider the following examples:

87. /naimaŋ tat le/ ‘Goes everyday’
   Adv V
everyday go asp

88. /koina tat de/ ‘went slowly’
   Adv V
   slowly go past

89. /tuhoi waŋ ne/ ‘Will come now’
   Adv V
   now come fut

90. /kapziu tat kinne/ ‘Goes cryingly’
   Adv V
cry go cont.

91. /uiga çanam kam lo/ ‘Work there’
   Adv V
   there work com
The adverb of place always carries a particle (a case marker) along with it. In fact, the particle is suffixed to the adverb of place.

92. /pəlunŋa bəmme/ ‘Is inside’
   Adv partl. V
   inside is

93. /pəriŋa bəmme/ ‘Is above’
   Adv partl V
   above is

On the basis of the above examples, we can establish the structure of an adverb phrase in Liangmai as

\[
\text{Adv. Phrase} \quad \rightarrow \quad + \text{Adverb} + \text{Particle} + V \text{asp}
\]

5.1.8 Clause:

There are two types of clauses can be identified in Liangmai. They are main clause and subordinate clause. The main or principal clause is independent and can occur on its own in a sentence. In fact, the main clause in Liangmai 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.

5.1.9 Main Clause:

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

94. /i tiu ne/ ‘I will eat’
   i eat Fut
5.1.0 Subordinate Clause:

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

100. /pa tiu ne sai i alan ne/  
Sub. Clause M. clause  
she eat-partl I cook Fut  
‘If she eats, I will cook’

101. /pa wan sai i tat ne/  
Sub. Clause M. clause  
he come if i go Fut  
‘If he comes, I will go’

102. /pa dap sai i kap ne/  
Sub. clause M.clause  
He beat if i cry Fut
'If he beats, I will cry'

103. /pa təlui thiu sai i nui ne/

Sub.clause M.clause
she song sing if I laugh Fut

‘If she sings a song, I will laugh’

5.2 **Coordinate Clause:**

Coordinate clause in Liangmai 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:

(i) /nai/ or /khətdi/ ‘and’

104. /wipibou nai james tət pat mide/

Wipibou and James go out past
‘Wipibou and James went out’

105. /sita nai ros kəhuki tət ye/

sita and rose church go sp
‘Sita and Rose go to church’

106. /mərtha nai meri əriak ken čəm me/

mərtha and meri book read together asp
‘Martha and Mary read together’
If there are more than two objects, then the conjunctive particle is changes in liangmai as /khəldi/ just between the object as the following example

107. /Joseph, peter  khəldi john paliu tət mide/

Joseph  peter  and john they go past

‘Joseph, Peter and John went’

(ii) /ciudi/ ‘but’

108. /I patu ku ye ciudi pa wəŋ mək ge/

i her call asp but she come not past

‘I called her but she did not come’

109. /I patu luŋsa ye ciudi pa atu məsen mək ge

I her love asp but she me like not past

‘I love her but she did not like me’

(iii) /ma/ ‘or’

It is used for disjunctive construction only which is formed by placing /ma/ between the two propositions and in between the verb of the sentence as they are in an “either, or” relationship.

110. /aben ma Jesse ma kʰəŋkʰətra wəŋ ne/  ‘Either Aben or Jesse will come’

Aben or Jesse or class. either come Fut.

111. /pa čəkha ma čəmi ma kʰətra tu ne/  ‘He will eat either fish or
meat'
He fish or meat or either eat fut.

112. /pa kophi ma ća ma khaṭwa tiu ne/ ‘She will drinks either coffee or tea’
He coffee or tea or either tiu Fut.

In the above given examples- 110 and 112 /ma/ ‘or’ always reduplicate between the object. Otherwise, it does not give the complete meaning in Liangmai language.

5.2.1 Conditional Clause:

Conditional clause in Liangmai is introduced by placing the conditional particle /sai/ “if” in the final position of subordinate clause and the noun in the main clause takes /di/ “also”. In the conditional statement of a sentence, the conditional clause always precedes the conclusion without any known exception in Liangmai. The following sentences will explicate this:

113. /i niu kəm əm sai ən di kəm əm lune/

i Nom do can if(condl)you also do can Fut

‘If I can do it, you can also do’

114. /nəŋ tət sai aripou di wəŋ ne/

You go if(condl) aripou com Fut

‘If you go, Aripou will also come’

115. /paniu pi sai əliu tiu ne/
She nom give if(condl) we eat Fut

‘If she gives we will eat’

5.2.2 Complement Clause:

The complement clause in Liangmai is introduced by complementizer /uiibo/ “that” and the complement clause always follows the main clause. For examples:

116. /I niu si ye uibo thi tu pa niu kamsat mibo ye/

I nom know past comp dog acc he nom kill past

‘I knew that he killed the dog’

117. /haise mazi boye uibo puise sai mibo ye/

this truth past comp. she die past

‘This is truth that she died’

5.2.3 Relative Clause:

Relative clause in Liangmai is introduced by the participle in which the relative clause always precedes the head noun of the main clause. In other words Liangmai exhibits externally headed relative clauses where the relativized nouns occur to the right of the clause. Relativization in Liangmai differs from that of Liangmai where the relative clause is introduced by a relative pronoun. Consider the examples. The participle forms have been typed in bold face.

118. /naŋ niu dehəi ałəŋ əriak pibo xe paman kəŋ ye/
You Nom yesterday Dat book give cost past
‘The book you gave me yesterday is expensive’

119. /nəŋ niu dinthonbo piuse agu mire ye/
You Nom praise guy my enemy past
‘The man you praise (lit. said) a lot is my enemy’

120. /nəŋ niu dənai adəaobo se apiunabo ye/
You Nom yesterday meet my uncle past
‘The man you met (lit. found) yesterday is my uncle’

5.2.4 Sentences:

The sentences in Liangmai can be classified into three types Viz. (1) Simple, (2) Complex and (3) Compound. These three types of classification are made at the surface level structure of the sentences.

![Sentence Structure Diagram](image)

Fig.5.1.

(i) Simple Sentence:

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

121. /nagu ŋaona di ye/ ‘Your cat is big’
your cat big Pre

122. /nəŋ kətipao ye/ ‘You (are) a teacher’
you teacher Past

123. /I əriak ken ye/ ‘I read book’
i book read Pre

124. /nəŋ daktar ye/ ‘You (are) a doctor’
you doctor past

125. /pa tek tiu ye/ ‘He eats rice’
he rice eat pre

126. /aliu əriakna ye/ ‘we are students’
we student pre

127. /wibuibou niu čithi rao ye/ ‘Wibuibou wrote a letter’
wibuibou nom letter write past

128. /pa pak kin ne/ ‘He is running’
he run cont.pre

129. /I dañai patu nao ye/ ‘Yesterday I saw here’
i yesterday she Acc see past

130. /paliu ginpui mathen ne/ ‘They will play footfall’
they footfall play Fut.

(ii) **Complex sentence:**
A complex sentence in Liangmai consists of one main clause and one or more subordinate or dependent clause(s), is called a complex sentence. The different between a main clause and a sub-ordinate clause in Liangmai is introduced by subordinators which may be covert sometimes, usually preceding or following the predicate of the dependent clause, i.e. sub-ordinate clause. The subordinators like /de/ ‘What’, /dedao/ ‘When’, /delam/ ‘Where’ etc. precede the predicate of the sub-ordinate clause, while the subordinators like /sai/ ‘if’, /makthen/ ‘until’, /ziu/ ‘while’ etc follow it. Consider the following examples:

131. /pa niu maniu ye nəŋ de gu lunilo/ ‘He asked what do you want’

132. /paliu wəŋ makthen I khon ne/ ‘I will wait until they come’

133. /l si ye pa dedao wəŋ rəbo/ ‘I know when he will come’

134. /oliu si mək ge pa dedao tərəbo wəŋ/ ‘We don’t know when she will go’

135. /nəŋ si mək ge pa delam ləŋbo/ ‘You don’t know where she lives’

136. /pa tat ziu kəp ye/ ‘While walking she wept’

137. /pa tat saira i wəŋ ne/ ‘If he does, I will come’

138. /i niu kəm nəm sai nəŋ di kəm nəm lune/ ‘If I can do it, you can’
also do’

i nom do can if partl. he also do can Fut

139. /tinsa sai ra Solomon waŋ lak ge/ ‘If it rains, Solomon will not come’

rain if partl. solomon come not Fut

It should be mentioned here that a sub-ordinate clause in Liangmai may be introduced without any sub-ordinator as exemplified below:

140. /pa niu din ye pa mariu ye/ ‘He say (that) he was hungry’

he nom din past he hungry past

141. /haise mazi ye pa akhaŋ mai ye/ ‘It is true (that) he is bachelor’

It is true past he bachelor pre

142. /l si ye pa daktar ye/ ‘I know (that) she is doctor’

i know past she doctor pre

(iii) Compound sentence:

It consists of two or more main clauses or simple sentences and these are conjoined co-ordinately either by the conjunctive particle /nai-keydown/ “and” or by the disjunctive coordinator /ma-maksai/ “or”

143. /meri nai Martha tot pat mide/ ‘Mary and Martha went out’

meri and martha go out past

144. /lili nai rita ariak ken čam me/ ‘Lili and Rita read together’

lili and rita book read together past

145. /abel nai ken aŋi ye/ ‘Abel and Cain fight each other’

abel and cain fight past
146. /haise wi ma sa lo/ 'It is good or bad'
   It is good or bad

147. /pa wi ma sa lo/ 'He is good or bad'
   he good or bad

148. /pa daktor maksai inzinner tu luŋ ne/
   she doctor or either engineer Acc marry Fut
   'She will marry either (a) doctor or (an) engineer‘

149. /siwəŋ dilhi maksai pune lam ñriak ken ne/
   siwang delhi or pune loc study Fut.
   ‘Siwang will study in Delhi or Pune’

The simple sentences are conjoined by the conjunctive particle /khatdi/
‘and’ when it gives the different locations.

150. /mani dilhi lam tot ye khatdi tuntan nagalen lam tot ne/
   mani delhi loc. go past and tuntan nagalen loc go Fut
   ‘Mani went to Delhi and Tuntan will go to Nagaland’

151. /mani maŋobou khatdi awŋbou paliu wəŋ ne/
   mani, maŋobou and awŋbou they come Fut
   ‘Mani, Magaibou and Awangbou will come’

152. /nəŋ apiu ye khatdi pa apui ye/ ‘You (are) my father and she
   is my mother’
   you my father Pre and she my mother Pre
Two or more main clauses or simple sentences are conjoined either by the disjunctive coordinator /maksai/ “or”

153. /I silonj tat ne maksai I silchar ga bam ne/
i shilong go Fut or I silchar loc stay Fut
‘I will go to Shilong or I will stay at Silchar’

154. /nampiliu tamei ga calui thiu ne maksai pa senapati ga calem lem ne/
nampiliu tamei loc sing song Fut or she senapati loc dance Fut.
‘Nampiliu will sing at Tamei or she will dance at Senapati’

155. /paniu naleq rarjkar) kariu pine maksai I niu pi ne/
he nom you Dat rupee ten give Fut or I nom pi Fut.
‘He will give you ten rupee or I will

5.2.5 Negation:

Liangmai has some different kinds of negative markers. The following are the negative markers found in Liangmai:

1) /-mak/ negative marker is used in realized aspect and it is non-future.

2) Negative marker /-lak/ is used in unrealized aspect and it is associated with future marker.

3) /-takhe/ ~ /-tukhe/ are used as ‘let’ negative.

4) /-mane/ ~ /-du/ are used in prohibitive sentence.

5) /mak/ ~ /hai/ are used as lexical negation.

1. /mak/
This negative morpheme is used in equational constructions to negate a positive verb of a statement. Therefore, when an equative sentence in Liangmai has “be” as the main verb, it becomes /məkge/ -Neg. + V in the negation.

156. /pə agu kətipao məkge/ ‘He is not my teacher’
    he I gen. teacher Neg.

157. / pa čəlui thiubo mai məkge/ ‘He is not a singer’
    he song sing man Neg.

158. /ester aliuwi məkge/ ‘Esther is not beautiful girl’
    esther beautiful Neg.

159. /I daktər məkge/ ‘I am not (a) doctor’
    I doctor Neg.

160. /haise ariak wibo məkge/ ‘This is not (a) good book’
    This is book good Neg.

2. /lək/

When the sentence is in future or unrealized aspect /lək/ is used and it is prefixed to the main verb. This negative marker carries the meaning of futurity and is used generally in the unrealized aspect. Some of the examples are given below:

161. /piter skul təd-ləkge ‘Peter will not go to school.’
    peter school go-Neg.Fut

162. /i tek tiu ləkge/ ‘I will not eat rice.’
    i rice eat Neg.Fut

163. /i sinema phui ləkge/ ‘I will not watch cinema.’
    i cinema watch Neg Fut
164. /pa mathen gə nam lakge/ ‘He will not win the match’
       he match Loc win Neg Fut
165. /I insonnai wəŋ lakge/ ‘I will not come tomorrow’
       i tomorrow com Neg. Fut
166. /pa nəki gə wəŋ lək ge/ ‘She will not come to your house’
       she your house loc come Neg.Fut

In the above examples— from 161 to 166 shows that /lək/ is negative
markers use only in futurity and is used generally in the unrealized aspect.

3. /-takhe/ ~ /-tukhe/

In Liangmai if /-takhe/ and /-tukhe/ are added to a negative sentence, it
gives ‘Let’ sense. Both are used for making a request or suggestion. But the former
is more polite and formal than /-tukhe/. Some of the examples of ‘Let’ negative
marker in Liangmai are shown below:

(A)                                 (B)
167. /oliu skul tad-mak takhe/      168. /oliu skul tad tukhe/
    we school go Neg.sug.            we school go Neg.sug.
    ‘Let us not go to school.’
169. /oliu tek tiu mak takhe/      170. /oliu tek tiu-tukhe/
    we rice eat Neg.sug.             we rice eat Neg.sug.
    ‘Let us not eat rice.’
171. /oliu ća sak mak takhe/      172. /oliu ća sak-tukhe/
    we tea drink Neg.sug.            we tea drink Neg.sug.
    ‘Let us not drink.’
In the above examples, (A) group is more formal and polite form of making a request or suggestion than (B) in Liangmai.

4. /-mane/ ~ /-du/

Command or prohibitive negative sentence is formed by adding a command negative marker to the main verb. While /-mane/ is used in more polite manner, /-du/ is used to make a command where there is not much need for politeness.

175. /uibo sriak se ken mane/ ‘Do not read that book.’
that book det read Neg Com.

176. /kəp mane/ ‘Do not cry’
cry Neg Com.

177. /uiga tad mane/ ‘Do not go to that place.’
that go Neg Com.

178. /uibo ŋamsi kam mane/ ‘Do not do that work.’
that work do Neg Com.

179. /ałuĩ thiudulo/ ‘Do not sing a song.’
song sing Neg Com.

180. /tek tiu du lo/ ‘Do not eat rice.’
rice eat Neg Com.
5. **Lexicalized negator /mək/ ~ /hai/**

As in various languages of the world, Liangmai also has negative verb functioning as higher verb. The lexicalized negator occurs in the final position of the sentence. Some of the examples are given below:

181. /pa dainel məkge/ ‘He is not Daniel.’
   he daniel not past

182. /pa papiu məkge/ ‘He is not a father.’
   he father not past

183. /adin katipao məkge/ ‘Adin is not a teacher.’
   adin teacher not past

As **No** in English is free negative, /mək/ and /hai/ are also free negation in Liangmai. /hai/ is used only in informal conversation and not permits to use in written form. Consider the following interrogative sentence and its answer:

Int. sentence:

184. /nənjui məsenbo intiəŋ uisi ma/
   you Nom like shirt that Int.
   ‘Is that the shirt you like?’

Answer to this interrogative sentence is given by either of the lexical negators i.e. /mək-ge/ or /hai/.

5.2.6 **Negative Strengthening and Negative Polarity:**
According to Jespersen (1914), negative is strengthened through some additional words. In Liangmai, negation is strengthened by the addition of a prefix /wadaodi/ or /paq/ to the main verb. The negative strengthener /wadaodi/ is restricted to occur only in the negative environment therefore it is known as Negative Polarity Item (NPI). But /paq/ can occur even in positive environment. Some of the examples are given below:

185. /i zau wadaodi sak lak lē/ ‘I will never drink liquor.

i liquor Neg.streng drink Neg.mk

186. /i wadaodi tad lak lē/ ‘I will never go.’

i Neg.streng go Neg.mk.

187. /pa čalat paq din din mak lē/ ‘He does not speak always.’

he word streng.speak speak Neg.mk.

188. /pa čalat paq din dinne/ ‘He always speaks.’

he word streng.speak speak-asp.mk.

189. /paq tad tāt mane/ ‘Do not go always.’

streng.go go Neg.mk.

From the above examples, 185 and 186, it is clear that /wadaodi/ can occur only in the negative environment. Therefore it is a Negative Polarity Item (NPI). There is no reduplication of verb when /wadaodi/ occurs. /paq/ is used to indicate the meaning of ‘always’ and whenever /paq/ occurs the reduplication of the verb takes place as shown in 187 and 189, it is also clear that /paq/ can occur both in negative as well as in positive environment.
5.2.7 Double negation:

In mathematics, there is a formula that two negatives become a positive. But language is not like mathematics which holds the formula that two negatives become a positive. Whenever two negatives really refer to the same idea or word the result is invariably positive. Double negative is preferably used in literary expression. However, the negatives do not exactly cancel each other. Double negation is also found in this language. An example is given below:

190. /i ačunwi məkbo məkge/
   i happy Neg.mk.-Neg.asp
   ‘I am not unhappy.’

191. /abel tek tiu məkziu skul tət məkge/
   abel food eat Neg school go Neg asp
   ‘Abel does not go to school without having meal’

192. /i cəlui thiu ləkge cıudi I mənιnludaə ləkge/
   i sing song Neg past but i thinked Neg asp
   ‘I decided not to sing anymore but I cannot do so’

5.2.8 Morphological negation:

Morphological negation occurs whenever the negative morpheme must be considered to form a part of the derivational morphology of the verb. In Liangmai, morphological negation occurs in verb, noun, adjective, and adverb. Some of the examples are given below:
Root + NZR | Root + Neg.mk.+NZR
---|---
193. tiubo ‘to eat’ | tiu mākbo ‘not eat’
194. tədbo ‘to go’ | tad mākbo ‘not go’
195. sakbo ‘to drink’ | sak mākbo ‘not drink’

5.2.9 Formation of opposite words:

In English, opposite words are formed by using prefixes such as un-, in-, dis-, etc. In Liangmai, opposite words are formed by suffixation of negative morpheme /-mak/. Some of the examples are given in the following page:

196. masənbo ‘holy’ | masənməkbo ‘ unholy’
197. čaliŋbo ‘proud’ | čaliŋ məkbo ‘not proud’
198. lukhaibo ‘accept’ | lukhai məkbo ‘not accept’
199. kūbo ‘tall’ | kū məkbo ‘short’
200. kabo ‘white’ | ka məkbo ‘not white’
201. mazətbo ‘fast’ | mazət məkbo ‘not fast’
202. dibo ‘wide’ | di məkbo ‘narrow’

There are also some instances in Liangmai where /hayə/ is used as a negative copula to express negative sense in existential construction, locative predicates as well as in possessive constructions. Consider the following examples:

203. /tiŋpok ga thɨŋnə hayə/ ‘There is no bird in the sky’
    sky  loc bird Neg. Cop.
204. /siŋgiu ri gə kəpha haye/ ‘There is no bridge on the river’
river above Loc bridge Neg. Cop

205. /pa rəŋkaŋ haye/ ‘He has no money’
he money Neg.Cop

206. /pa uiga haye/ ‘She is not there’
she there Neg. Cop.

207. /baribou gu khungup haye/ ‘Baribou has no shoes’
Baribou Gen shoes Neg. Cop.

208. /pa sinima phiu rəbo wan haye/ ‘She has no time to watch cinema’
she cinema see dt time Neg. Cop

209. /puiki gə čakui haye/ ‘There is no tiger in the road’
road Loc tiger Neg. Cop

On the basis of the above illustrative examples, we can state that Liangmai has basically five negative markers /mak/, /lak/, /tukhe/, /mane/ and /hai/ which occur in mutually exclusive environments. As mentioned above, the negative marker /haye/ is used as a negative copula. Thus there are two ways of expressing negation in Liangmai.

1. By using markers which are most frequently used in Liangmai and
2. By using negative copula.

5.2.10 Interrogative:

The interrogative sentences in Liangmai are formed by employing one of the interrogative pronouns or particles or by using just the rising intonation. The formation of the interrogative sentences in Liangmai does not involve any inversion of the word order. The interrogative sentences in Liangmai can be
classified into four types. They are Yes/no questions, Wh- questions, Alternative questions and Tag questions.

5.3.0 Yes/No questions:

This question in Liangmai is formed by adding the question markers /ma/ and /ge/ to the verb. Consider the following examples:

210. /paliu khoipiu tup ma/ ‘Do they smoke?’
    they smoke suck Int.
211. /naŋ čarapen masen ma/ ‘Do you like flower’
    you flower like Int.
212. /paliu haibo ariak pami ma/ ‘Have they read this book’
    they this book read Int.
213. /naŋ tek tiu lāk ge ma/ ‘You will not eat food’
    you food eat Neg Int.
214. /l sinima phiu lāk ge/ ‘I will not watch cinema’
    I cinema see Neg Int.

There is alternative question of Yes/No is also possible in Liangmai language. Here No interrogative particle is used in Liangmai to form yes/No type of question. An affirmative statement can be converted into interrogative sentence without the question markers but by means of rising intonation.

215. /haise māzi ye/ (Statement)
    this true pre
‘This is true?’
216. /haise mazi ye/ † (rising intonation)
   Is this true?

217. /pa sai mine/ (Statement)
   he die past
   ‘He is die’

218. /pa sai mine/ † (rising intonation)

219. /pa alicu saisui waŋ ne/ † (rising intonation)
   he we Soc. come pre
   ‘Is he coming with us?’

220. /naŋ tju ne/ † (rising intonation)
   you eat pre
   ‘Will you eat?’

221. /naŋ insonnai waŋ ne/ † (rising intonation)
   you tomorrow come Fut
   ‘Will you come tomorrow?’

222. /naŋ ginpu maseŋ ye/ † (rising intonation)
   You ball like
   ‘Do you like ball?’

5.3.1 Wh-question:

Wh-questions are formed by placing the interrogative pronoun either before or after the subject. The interrogative pronouns in Liangmai are /sao/ ‘who’, /de/ ‘what, /dedao/ ‘when’, /dekam/ ‘why’, /dega – delam/ ‘where’, /inde/ ‘which’, /dekum/ ‘how’ etc. consider the following examples:
223. /nəŋ sao lo/  ‘Who are you?’
    you who pre

224. /napiu sao lo/  ‘Who is your father?’
    your father who pre

225. /nəzən de lo/  ‘What is your name?’
    your name what Q

226. /haise de lo?  ‘what is this?’
    this is what pre

227. /aliu dedao tiu ralo/  ‘When shall we eat?’
    We when eat Fut

228. /dedao napiu wəŋ ralo/  ‘When is your father coming?’
    when your father come Q

229. /pa dekəm kap bəmlo/  ‘Why is she crying?’
    she why cry pre. Cont

230. /dekəm nətu kəsan lo/  ‘Why is he scolding to you?’
    why you Acc scold pre

231. /ginpui dega bəmlo/  ‘Where is the ball?’
    ball where pre

232. /nəŋ deləm tat ralo/  ‘Where are you going?’
    you where go Q

N.B. (In Liangmai language there are two types of where /deləm/ one indicating place and other / dega / indicating position)
233. /na gu čogəmise inde lo/  ‘which is your gun?’
   you gen gun which Q

234. /na čise inde lo/  ‘Which is your brother’
   your brother which Q

235. /nəŋ dekum bam lo/  ‘How are you?’
   you how pre Q

236. /pa dekumziu sai mi lo/  ‘How did he die?’
   he how die past

237. /nəŋ patu deziu láŋsa lo/  ‘How much do you love her?’
   you she Acc how much love

238. /nəŋ dekenə lánilo/  ‘How much do you want?’

239. /nəŋu klas gə aɾiakna deziu bam lo/  ‘How many students are there in your class’
   you gen class loc student how many Q

240. /takəm láŋsa basi deziu bam lo/  ‘How many mangoes are there in the basket’
   basket inside mongo how many Q

5.3.2 Alternative question:

It consists of two alternatives in Liangmai and the question particle / ma/ is placed after the first alternative. Consider the following examples:

241. /haise məruireŋ ma məruipui/  ‘Is it a cock or hen?’
   It is coock Q Partl. hen

242. /haise Sonia ma kajol/  ‘Is she Sonia or kajol?’
   it is  Sonia Q Partl. kajol
243. /nəŋ čəkha tiu ma tiu mək/ ‘Do you eat fish or not?’
you fish eat Q Partl. eat Neg Q

244. /paliu TV phui ma phui mək/ ‘Are they watching T.V or not?’
they tv see Q Partl see Neg

245. /nəŋ zou sək ni ma sək ni mək/ ‘Do you want to drink wine or not?’
you wine drink want Q Partl. drink Neg

246. /nəŋ skul tat ma tat lək/ ‘Are you going to school or not?’
you school go Q Partl. go Neg

247. /haise məzi ma məzimək/ ‘Is it true or false’
It is true Q Partl. lie

5.3.3 Tag question:

Usually yes/no types of questions are known as tag question. Liangmai has two types of tag questions are found to be used

i) Reversed tag question

ii) Constant tag question

(i) Reversed:

In reversed tag question, if the proposal is positive then the tag part is negative. It the proposal is negative then the tag part is positive. The negative marker / mək/ is followed by interrogative pronoun /ma/ is place at the end of the sentence to make it tag question in Liangmai.

248. /paliu uiga tat mək ma/ ‘They are going there, is n’t it?’
they there go Neg Int. Pro
249. /pa ektres nak ma/ ‘She is an actress, is n’t she?’
    she actress Neg Int. Pro.
250. /naļ bible luni nak ma/ ‘You want bible, is n’t it?’
    you bible want pre is Neg Int. Pro.
251. /pa katipao nak čiu ma/ ‘He is not a teacher, is it?’
    he teacher Neg. pre Int. Pro.
252. /pa kap nak čiu ma/ ‘She is not crying, is it?’
    she cry Neg. is Int. Pro.

(ii) Constant:

In constant tag question when the proposal part is positive the tag part is also positive and when the proposal part is negative the tag part is also negative.

Consider the following examples:

253. /haibo rapense naowi čiu ma/ ‘This flower is beautiful, is it?’
    this flower beautiful is Int.Pro.
254. /paliu uiga tat čiu ma/ ‘They are going there, is it?’
    they there go is Int. Pro.
255. /pa ałiuwi čiu ma/ ‘She is beautiful, is it?’
    she beauty is Int. pro.
256. /pa kap mak čiu mak ma/ ‘She is not crying, is n’t it?’
    she cry Neg is Neg Int. Pro.
257. /haibo čo i tlu se čiu mak ma/ ‘This meat is not tasty, is n’t it?’
    this meat eat Neg. is Neg. Int. Pro.
258. /pa čo i tlu mak čiu mak ma/ ‘He don’t eats meat, is n’t it?’
    he meat eat Neg is Neg. Int. Pro.

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5.3.4 Imperative:

Imperative is a term, which expresses a command, a request or a wish. As usually the imperative sentence has three features: (a) underlying of subject (b) second person being underlying subject and (c) futurity. An imperative is broadly divided into two types namely command and request. Pragmatically in Liangmai, they are found significantly different. Command is generally used to junior while the request is used to senior and stranger.

i) Command:

In Liangmai command is formed by the suffixation of command marker /lo/ to the verbal root. Consider the following examples:

259. /pa tu kamsat lo/ ‘Kill him’

he Acc kill Com

260. /pa tu dap lo/ ‘Beat him’

he Acc beat Com

261. /nəŋ tət lo/ ‘You go’

ii) Request:

In Liangmai, the use of honorific specially for making request is quite prevalent. Similarly, rank, blood-relation and stranger are the main parameter for making request form. The use of honorific shows the maturity of the language and also regarded as a formal speech. The suffix /khai/ is added to the verbal root for honorific. In this language request can be formed in the following ways:
262. /ča sak khailo/  ‘Please have the tea’

tea drink Hon-Com

263. /čarapen hiak khai lo/  ‘Please pluck a flower’

flower pluck Hon.Com

264. /hai gɔ tou khai lo/  ‘Please sit here’

here Loc sit Hon. Com

iii) Prohibitive suffix:

In Liangmai, prohibitive is formed through the suffixation of /mane/ ~ /dulo/ to the verbal root. The examples are given below:

265. /čalui thiu mane/  ‘Don’t sing a song’
266. /čanam se kɔm mane/  ‘Don’t do the work’
267. /pa tu kamsak du lo/  ‘Don’t kill him’
268. /nəŋ čap dulo/  ‘(you) don’t stand’

From the above examples, we can see that /mane/ occurs after the verb that ends in a voiced sound whereas /dulo/ occurs after voiceless sounds.

5.3.5 Kinds of imperative:

In Liangmai, there are different kinds of imperatives are constructed through the suffixation of command markers to the verbal roots or stem which are generally regarded as imperative sentences. There are four kinds of imperatives:
i) **Let imperative**

a) Permission

b) Conditional imperative

c) Wish imperative

(ii) **Let imperative:**

Let imperative is formed by adding the suffix /khe/ to the verbal root, as in the following examples:

269. /\aliu tat khe/  ‘(we) let’s go’

270. /\aliu a\riak ken khe/  ‘Let’s read song’

271. /\aliu \c\alui thiu khe/  ‘Let’s us sing a song’

(ii) **Permission imperative:**

Permission imperative is formed by the suffixing-/lulo/ to the verbal root as shown in the following examples:

272. /\n\aj niu m\asenbo \h\ina khoi lulo/  ‘Take whatever you want’

273. /\n\aj niu m\asenbo \h\ina k\en lulo/  ‘Do whatever you want’

274. /\n\aj niu m\asenbo \h\ina hiak lulo/  ‘Pluck whatever you like’

(iii) **Conditional imperative:**

The conditional imperative suggests that the same has happened with condition and that at least in some cases there has been two parts of a sentence, ‘if clause’ and the main clause. In the sentence “if it rains I shall go by car”. “If it rains” is the ‘if clause’ and ‘I shall go by car’ is the main clause as in the following examples:
275. /tiŋso sɔirɔ i kar gɔ tɔt ne/  ‘If it rains I shall go by car’
276. /nɔŋ wŋ sɔirɔ I tɔt ne/  ‘If you come I will go’
277. /nɔŋ niu haibo tədon ken sɔirɔ I nalen laptop liu khai ne/  ‘If you learn this lesson, I will buy a toy for you’

(iv) wish imperative:

Wish mean desire or blessing. Wish imperative is form by suffixing −/misu/ to the verbal root. The following examples are illustrated below:

278. /pa akɔm pas thiu misu lo/  ‘May he pass the exam’
179. /pa gu ċəŋomse təthuibo thiu misu lo/  ‘May his work be succeed’
280. /pa sai misu lo/  ‘May he died’

5.3.6. Passivization:

Passive sentence is not found in Liangmai. When the passive and active versions of sentence in English, the only one response in Liangmai for both the active and the passive constructions. Consider the following examples:

281. /ram tathi tu kəmsat mide/  ‘Ram killed the dog’
    ram  dog Acc kill past
282. /tathi tu ram niu kəmsat mide/  ‘The dog was killed by Ram’
    dog Acc ram Nom kill past

In the above given example- 281, only /tu/ ‘Accusative’ marker use to occur in active sentence. Whereas, 282, shows that /tu/ ‘Accusative’ and /niu/
‘nominative’ markers have to occur in passive sentence. Consider the following another example:

283. /məri haibo ariakkhuŋ raɔ ye/  ‘Mary wrote this book’
    məri this  book write past

284. /haibo ariakkhuŋ məri niu raɔ ye/  ‘This book was written by Mary’
    This  book  məri Nom write past

In the basis of above given examples, we can state that passivization is not grammatical process in Liangmai. However, some kind of semi-passive sentences are available in Liangmai as exemplified below:

285. /çałui inčiu lubuiye/
    song hear Fut.
    ‘The song will be heard’

286. /çaŋam kəm lu buiye/
    work do finish Fut
    ‘The work will be done’

287. /maruipui tu kəm sat mide/
    hen  Acc do kill past
    ‘The hen was killed’

288. /çaħiu pu tə mide/
    moon out past
    ‘The moon was out’

289. /tınpick məsən mide/
    shy clean past
    ‘The sky was clear’
5.3.7 Exclamatory sentences:

Exclamatory sentences in liangmai is formed by Wh- words like as /deziu/ ‘how’, /de/ ‘what’ ‘how many many’, ‘how much’ in sense of what and how. Only these two wh- words appear to occur in exclamatory sentences in this language. Examples are illustrated below:

290. /dänai tihn deziu ga samatän gulo/

‘how heavily it rained yesterday!’

291. /dekuumbo piulo/

‘what a man!’

292. /deziu ga wiralo/

‘how nice it will be!’