Comparative Study of Adverbial Clauses in Lai, Mizo and Mara: A Syntactic Analysis

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Abstract

Subordinate clauses that alter their super-ordinate clauses are known as adverbial clauses (Sæbø, 2011). In this study we will examine on the intricate construction of adverbial clause in three Tibeto-Burman languages spoken in and around the state of Mizoram, India namely Lai, Mizo and Mara. Adverbial clauses are identified by adverbial subordinators, which indicate a specific semantic connection between the main and adverbial clauses (Diessel 2001). Likewise in these languages, adverbial clauses are constructed with the help of the lexical adverbial subordinators. These adverbial particles help in labelling and categorizing the adverbial clause with respect to the semantic roles they play.

As mentioned, the semantic content of the constituent to which the participle is linked typically determines the type of adverbial sentence that is generated, including conditional, temporal, causal, manner, purpose, substitutive, and additive clauses. These adverbial clauses are examined in detailed in this study. In several languages, the position of adverbial subordinate clauses is one of its characteristics (Thompson, Longacre, & Hwang, 1985). Lai, Mizo and Mara are also classified as a non-rigid ADV-S/SVP language according to Diessel's (2001) classification as its adverbial clauses usually come before the main clause or predicate, however they can also commonly appear at the end of a sentence. However, this does not affect the grammaticality of the sentence. Furthermore, the embedded predicates are in Stem II form

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Language in India www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 Vol. 25:4 April 2025**
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in Lai and Mizo but not in Mara for adverbial clause while this is not the case for its relative clause where the embedded predicates are always in the form of Stem I.

Keyword: Mizo, Mara, Lai, Adverbial Clause, Subordinate Clause, Tibeto-Burman

1. Introduction

Lai, Mizo and Mara are Tibeto-Burman languages spoken in neighbouring (and overlapping) areas of Chin State, Myanmar and Mizoram State, India. These three language speakers contribute to the majority of the population in Mizoram, with Mizo being the official language along with English, and Lai and Mara having their own autonomous administration in the south. As a Tibeto-Burman language they are tonal, meaning that variations in pitch can change the meaning of a word. Nominalization is a prominent feature, where verbs are converted into noun-like forms, often used to create complex clauses even for adverbial clause. However, in these languages they required the presence of an adverbial subordinator and cannot be constructed without additional conjunctions. While flexibility exists, many Lai, Mizo and Mara tend to follow a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order. They share lexical similarities on a core set of vocabulary, especially in basic domains like kinship terms, numbers, and nature. Highlighting the fundamental linguistic properties of these languages shows how these features unify these three Tibeto-Burman languages, however each language also possesses unique traits that reflect its cultural and geographical heritage. A syntactic comparation in an adverbial clause is used here to compare two actions or events, typically marked by conjunctions, temporal connectors, etc. which allow for a nuanced comparison of events within a sentence, highlighting differences in manner, degree, or time. Data were collected from two native speakers of each language, ranging in age from 25 to 65. Informants come from a variety of backgrounds, including master's students and teacher pensioners.

2. Characteristics of Adverbial Clause

According to Thompson, Longacre and Hwang (1985), adverbial clauses are adjuncts that serve as adverbial or ad-sentential modifiers. Adverbial clauses can always be eliminated because adjuncts are optional. Additionally, adverbial subordinators, which denote a particular semantic link between the main and adverbial clauses, mark adverbial clauses (Diessel 2001). Likewise, in these languages, adverbial clauses are constructed with the help of the lexical

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adverbial subordinators. As a Tibeto-Burman language, Lai, Mizo and Mara has an SOV word order and they are head-final languages where the modifiers follow the modified. Therefore, they are also classified as a non-rigid ADV-S/SVP language according to Diessel's (2001) classification because its adverbial clauses usually come before the main clause or predicate (example 1), however they can also commonly appear at the end of a sentence, hence non-rigid. The lexical adverbial subordinators follow the adverbial clause even when it comes after the main clause. This does not affect the grammaticality of the sentence or bring changes in the gender, tense or number. In several languages, the position of adverbial subordinate clauses is one of its characteristics.

1. a) *ka ʃeʔ tʰeiʔ tsun ka   lo   sim   diŋ (Lai)*

     1Sg go can COND 1Sg hither tell MOD

     'If I can go, I will let you know'

   b) *ka   kal tʰeiʔ tʃuan ka   lo   hrilh aŋ   tʃe (Mizo)*

     1Sg go   can COND 1Sg hither tell MOD 2ACC

     'If I can go, I will let you know'

   c) *eɪ   vɔ   tʰei kʰia-ta-la eɪ   tɕa   vɔ   tɕʰo kʰɔ (Mara)*

     1Sg go can   COND 1Sg 2Sg hither tell MOD

     'If I can go, I will let you know'

Adverbial clause can be either finite or non-finite. Example (2) shows a finite main clause that comes with a finite subordinate clause. We can also have adverbial construction which consist of both the finite and non-finite either as a main clause or subordinate clause. In example (3) the subordinate clause contains a non-finite verb that does not indicate tense and functions as a present participle, while the main clause has finite-verb which shows that the structure of the sentence is in the past tense and agrees with the subject.

2. a) *ka   fatetlai kʰan ka   tʰiamtʰei (Lai)*

     1Sg child   when 1Sg studious

     'I was studious when I was small'

   b) *ka   tetlai kʰan ka   tʰiamtʰei (Mizo)*

     1Sg child when 1Sg studious

     'I was studious when I was small'

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c) eɪ   tatɔno kʰɔ   ei   tʰai tʰei (Mara)

1Sg child when 1Sg studious

'I was studious when I was small'

3. *a) a   ron ziʔ ruaŋaʔ ka   rak   tluŋ (Lai)*

3Sg hither come since   1Sg go home NEG

'Since he/she is coming, I did not go home yet'

b) a   lo   kal dɔn avaŋin ka   la   hɔ   lo (Mizo)

3Sg hither come MOD   since   1Sg OPT go home NEG

'Since he/she is coming, I did not go home yet'

c) avø   ɔpa ʰnaita   a-di   maʔ va-na (Mara)

come MOD   since 1Sg-to go go home NEG-2Sg

'Since (s/he) is coming, I did not go home yet'

Some languages have the same morpheme that can be used for both coordination and subordination. These three languages also show the same. The adverbial subordinator *tsun/tʃuan* can be used not only for subordination but also for coordination. When it is used in coordinate clauses it usually has a fixed place in reference to the other conjunct, however the position in adverbial clauses can vary. Example (4) shows the adverbial clause in the initial position accentuating on the main clause, while example (5) shows it following the main clause which puts emphasis on the subordinate clause. Example (6) shows that when the adverbial subordinators precede the adverbial clause it leads to ungrammaticality of the construction.

4. *a) a   in-tʰɔn ʰlanaʔ tsun   saza   a   si   tʰeu (Lai)*

3Sg RCP- move before COND teacher 3Sg COP HAB

'Before he/she moved, he/she used to be a teacher'

b) a   in-sɔn   ʰma tʃuan zirtirtu a   ni   trʰin (Mizo)

3Sg RCP-move before COND teacher 3Sg COP HAB

'Before he/she moved, he/she used to be a teacher'

c) *a pasie ʰlata   tɛa   patɛutuʔ a   tɛa   tyʔ (Mara)*

3Sg move before COND teacher   3Sg COP HAB

'Before he/she moved, he/she used to be a teacher'

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5. a) *saza   a   si   tʰeu   tsun   a   intʰɔn (Lai)*

   teacher 3Sg COP HAB COND 3Sg move

   'He/she was a teacher before and then he/she moved'

   b) *zirtirtu   a   ni   trʰin   tʃuan   a   insɔn (Mizo)*

   teacher 3Sg COP HAB COND 3Sg move

   'He/she was a teacher before and then he/she moved'

   c) *patɛutuʔ tɛa tyʔta tɛa-hra-sa-la a   pasie   hɔ (Mara)*

   teacher COP HAB   COND   3Sg move MOD

   'He/she was a teacher before and then he/she moved'

6. a) **tsun   a   intʰɔn saza   a   si   tʰeu (Lai)*

   COND 3Sg move teacher 3Sg COP HAB

   'And he/she moved he/she used to be a teacher'

   b)**tʃuan   a   insɔn zirtirtu   a   ni   trʰin (Mizo)*

   COND 3Sg move teacher 3Sg COP HAB

   'And he/she moved he/she used to be a teacher'

   c)**tɛa-hra-sa-la a   pasie   hɔ   patɛutuʔ tɛa tyʔta (Mara)*

   COND   3Sg move MOD teacher COP HAB

   'And he/she moved he/she used to be a teacher'

Lai, Mizo and Mara have two types of subordinating morphemes- grammatical morphemes with no lexical meaning such as the suffix *-la* and grammatical morphemes with lexical content. They will be further explained with examples in the following section.

The embedded predicates are in Stem II form in Mizo and Lai for adverbial clause while this is not the case for its relative clause where the embedded predicates are always in the form of Stem I. Mara uses Stem I form of the verb even for adverbial clause (example 7-c and 8-c). More than one adverbial subordinator can be utilised in one sentence structure (example 7).

7. a) *a   rɔn   tʰeiʔ lauʔ natsantsu a   buai tuk   a   si (Lai)*

   3Sg come can NEG   because 3Sg busy INT 3Sg COP

   'He/she could not come because he/she was busy'

   b) *a   lo   kal   tʰeiʔ loʔ natʃʰantʃu a   buai lutuk avaŋin (Mizo)*

   3Sg hither come can NEG   because   3Sg busy INT   since

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'He/she could not come because he/she was busy'

c)   *a vø   tʰei-lei   na-tɕʰa-la a bua tu ʰnai ta (Mara)*

        3Sg come can-NEG   because 3Sg busy INT   since

        'He/she could not come because he/she was busy'

8. a) *ʰna kan   tʰeʔ vur vau tʰeiʔ naʔaʔ ka feʔ tuan (Lai)*

      job 1Pl finish   early   so that   1Pl go early

      'We went early so that we can finish the job/work early'

    b) *ʰna kan zɔʔ   ʰma tʰeiʔnan kan kal ʰma (Mizo)*

      job 1Pl finish early so that 1Pl go early

      'We went early so that we can finish the job/work early'

    c) *rai eima patlo pato   tʰei-nɔpa-ta eima vɔ pato (Mara)*

       job 1Pl finish early   so that   1Pl go early

      'We went early so that we can finish the job/work early'

3. Types of Adverbial Clause

The kind of adverbial clause – condition, temporal, causal, manner, purpose, substitutive and additive - that is created usually depends on the semantic content of the constituent to which the participle is linked.

a. Conditional Adverbial Clauses

Conditional adverbial clauses specify a prerequisite for the occurrence of the event indicated in the main clause (Diessel, 2001). Conditionals with a present tense can utilise the conditional *tsun*, *ʧuan*, *kʰia-ta-la* and *pa-tɕa*. They can also be seen in clause that reflect the likelihood of an event happening in the future. However, phrases having an event that has already occurred and have a counterfactual meaning are employed with the other conditional subordinates.

9. a) *na   in   na zuar tsun taŋka ka peʔ a   ʈul   lo   diŋ (Lai)*

      2Sg house 2Sg sold COND money 1Sg give 3Sg need NEG MOD

      'If you sold your house, I will not have to give you money'

    b) *i   in   i   hralʔ ʧuan pɔisa ka pek ʧe   a   ŋai   lo   aŋ (Mizo)*

      2Sg house 2Sg sold COND money 1Sg give 2ACC 3Sg need NEG MOD

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'If you sold your house, I will not have to give you money'

c) *na   o   na   zua kʰia-ta-la pʰusa ei   tɕa piepa   a-byuʔ-vei (Mara)*

2Sg house 2Sg sold   COND money 1Sg 2Sg   give   3Sg-need-NEG

'If you sold your house, I will not have to give you money'

d) *na paʔno pa-tɕa   rei   te (Mara) (Lorrain, 2016, p-240)*

2Sg know COND say MOD

'If you know say so'

The subordinator *kʰa-se-la/maʔ-se* is 'concessive conditional' which is used to refer to clauses analogous to 'even if' clauses in English, which code the relation 'frustrated implication' (Thompson, Longacre, & Hwang 1985). It is also used as coordinator where it is used as counter-expectational adversative. While Lai and Mizo have only one concessive conditional subordinator, Mara has a number of concessive of it namely- *hra-sa-la, pa-tɕʰao-ta, ply-ly, ta-rɔ-pa-ta*, and *tlô* – which are equivalent to although, yet, still or even if.

10. a) *ruaʔpi sur kʰa-se-la ka   tʰau   diŋ (Lai)*

rain   fall   COND 1Sg going home MOD

'Even if it rains, I will go back home'

b) *ruaʔ sur maʔ-se ka   hɔ   tʰo   aŋ (Mizo)*

rain fall   COND 1Sg going home still MOD

'Even if it rains, I will still go back home'

c) *vasua   hra-sa-la ei   tʰyu   o (Mara)*

 rain   COND 1Sg going home MOD

'Although it rains, I will still go back home'

d) *ei   si   ta   tlô   tɕi, kʰazia na   si   vei ? (Mara) (Lorrain, 2016 p-361)*

1Sg to go say although 2Sg   Q   2Sg to go NEG

'Although you said I will go, you haven't gone, why not?'

In Mizo, the subordinate adverbial conjunctions besides *tʃuan* and *maʔse,* we have *nise* and the modified form of *ni-se* such as *ta-se* (If), *i-la* (for first person), *ni-la* (for second person), *u-la* (for third person), *ni-se-la* (for finite verb) and *se-la* (for non-finite verb). These subordinate adverbial conjunctions can also be used by joining them together *ni-maʔ-se-la, maʔ-i-la, maʔ-la, maʔ-u-la, ni-ta-se, ni-ta-se-la, ni-ta-i-la, ni-ta-la, ni-ta-u-la, ni-ta-se,* and *ni-*

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ta-se-la. When *tʃuan* (determiner) is added behind the other subordinate adverbials, the event does not turn into that of a present but remain as a past, thereby meaning that the addition of *tʃuan* does not affect the semantic content of the sentence.

11. a) lo   ti ni-se kan buai lo aŋ

    hither do COND 1Pl worried NEG MOD

    'If it was done by him/her, we won't have to worry so much'

   b) naŋ   ni-i-la   ka hɔ miaʔ-lo aŋ

    2Sg   COND 1Sg go home   INT-NEG   MOD

    'If I were you, I would not have gone home'

   c) naŋ   ni-la   i   hɔ miaʔ-lo aŋ

    2Sg   COND 2Sg go home INT-NEG MOD

    'If it was you, you would not have gone home'

   d) ka   tʰu   ɔiʔ   u-la tʃuan in kal tur

    1Sg word follow COND DET 2PL go MOD

    'If you had followed my words, you could have gone'

   e) infiam ni-se-la   i   ʰmu aŋ

    play   COND 1Pl see MOD

    'You would have seen him/her, if he/she had played'

   f) retʰei ni-ta-se-la tʃuan   tʰil trʰa a nei lo aŋ

    poor   COND   DET   things good 3Sg have NEG MOD

    'If he/she was poor, he/she would not have nice things'

In Lai the suffix *-la* is added after the conditional adverbial subordinator – *se-la, si-ɔ-la* (for second person)*, lau-leʔ-la* (for third person)*,* and *si-seʔ-la* (for finite verb). There is one subordinator that does not use the *-la* suffix, i.e. *si-niŋ-na* (example 13). The reason for this can be because of assimilation where the preceding phoneme */ŋ/* assimilate the */l/* sound to */n/* sound. From the following examples we can also see the presence of a determiner *tsu* after the conditional adverbial subordinator. This is optional as we can see the absence in example (9-a) above. This determiner can also be inserted in Mizo (*tʃu* or *tʃuan)* as well; however, their absence does not lead to the ungrammaticality of the sentence.

12. a) rak   ti se-la   tsu kan buai lau diŋ

    hither do COND DET 1Pl worried NEG MOD

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'If it was done by him/her, we won't have to worry so much'

b) *naŋ si-ɔ-la tsu na hɔ miaʔ lau diŋ*

   2Sg COND DET 2Sg go home NEG MOD

   'If it was you, you would not have gone home'

c) *ka tʰusim el lau-leʔ-la tsu nan feʔ diŋ*

   1Sg word follow COND DET 2PL go MOD

   'If you had followed my words, you could have gone'

d) *lehɔ se-la tsu nan ʰmu diŋ*

   play COND DET 1Pl see MOD

   'You would have seen him/her, if he/she had played'

e) *harsa si-seʔ-la tsu tʰilri trʰa a nei lau diŋ*

   poor COND DET things good 3Sg have NEG MOD

   'If he/she was poor, he/she would not have nice things'

13. *naŋ si-niŋ-na tsu ka hua lau diŋ*

   2Sg COND DET 1Sg go home NEG MOD

   'If I were you, I would not have gone home'

Mara also has the suffix *-la* added after the conditional adverbial subordinator – *sa-la, tɕa-sa-la, tɕa-la* (for first person), *tɕa-u-la* (for third person)*, tɕa-ei-sa-la* (for finite verb), *vei-kʰia-ta-la* (unless) and *vei-kʰia-la*. Determiner *tɕa* is also used after the conditional adverbial subordinator and it also optional like in the other two language.

14. a) *vɔ tao sa-la tɕa bua ma-pi*

   hither do COND DET worried NEG

   'If it was done by him/her, we won't have to worry so much'

   b) *na tɕa-sa-la di rai va-na*

   2Sg COND go home MOD NEG-2Sg

   'If I were you, I would not have gone home'

   c) *nama tɕa-la adi rai va-tɕi*

   2Sg COND to go MOD NEG-2Sg

   'If it was you, you would not have gone home'

   d) *ei rei aʑyʔpa tɕa-u-la vɔ rai vei ei tɕi*

   1Sg speech follow COND hither MOD NEG 1Sg 2Sg

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'If (you) had followed my words, you could have gone'

e) *atɕatoʔpa tɕa-ei-sa-la tɕa nama hmô ɔ*

    play   COND   DET 1Pl to see MOD

    'You would have seen him/her, if he/she had played'

f) *rietʰeipa tɕa-sa-la tɕa   hmo pʰapa nʰei ɔ vei*

    poor   COND DET things good have MOD NEG

    'If he/she was poor, he/she would not have nice things'

g) *na   zu vei-kʰia-la ei   ty   tɕa   pi   va-na (Lorrain, 2016 p-374)*

    2Sg go   unless   1Sg money hither give NEG-2Sg

    'Unless you go, I will not give you the money'

b. Temporal Adverbial Clauses

According to Diessel (2001) temporal clauses indicate a specific temporal relationship between main and adverbial clause. For marking temporal adverbial clause that provides information about when an action happens that links to the main clause in a sentence, these languages use adverbial subordinators *hunaʔ* (when) by both Lais and Mizos and *tɔʔ-ta* and *pa-tɔ-na-ta (when)* by Maras. As seen in the following temporal adverbial clause 'When s/he come' tells us when 'we will start eating'. This temporal conjunction is used when the matrix sentence carries a future reference. The adverbial clause-final position is where the subordinating conjunction appears. It can also be seen that Mara often drops the person marker in the subordinate clause which is not seen in the other two language.

15. a) *a   rɔn hunaʔ kan ei tran diŋ (Lai)*

      3Sg come when 1Pl eat start MOD

      'When s/he come, we will start eating'

   b) *a   lo   kal hunaʔ kan ei tran aŋ (Mizo)*

      3Sg hither come when 1Pl eat start MOD

      'When s/he come, we will start eating'

   c) *avø   tɔʔ-ta eima nie patʰao ɔ (Mara)*

      come when 1Pl   eat start MOD

      'When (s/he) come, we will start eating'

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Other temporal adverbial subordinators are *vialaʔ /velaʔ* (as soon as) and *hlan/ʰma/ hlaleitala/tai/hlaviala/hlahleila/hlahlei* (until/before, specifies time limit for an action). In temporal adverbial clauses, the subordinating conjunction *hlan/ʰma/ hlalei/tai/hlaviala/hlahleila/hlahlei* are also used when the matrix sentence carries a future reference, while *vialaʔ /velaʔ* can be used for both future (16) and past (17) reference in Lai and Mizo. Mara has more conjunction particles compared to the other two languages. They have *tɔʔ-ta* for future temporal marker (16-c) and *pa-ta-na-ta* for past marker (17-c) despite the lack of the equivalent for *as soon as*. Example (18-d) also shows another type of temporal subordinator used for the equivalent of *until* where the clause 'until I come' is a temporal adverbial clause that specifies the time limit for the action (stopping). It indicates that the action of stopping should continue up to the point when the speaker arrives. Mara also shows different realization of temporal adverbial subordinators such as *hla-lei-ta-la* (for second person), *hla-lei-ta* (for third person), *hla-via-la, hla-hlei-la, hla-hlei* which all refers to *until,* like the ones we have seen in the previous adverbial clause, however this is absent in the other two language for temporal adverbial subordinators.

16. a) a   rɔn   vialaʔ kan ei tran diŋ *(Lai)*

　　　3Sg come as soon as 1Pl eat start MOD

　　　'As soon as s/he come, we will start eating'

　　b) a   lo   kal   velaʔ kan ei tran aŋ *(Mizo)*

　　　3Sg hither come as soon as 1Pl eat start MOD

　　　'As soon as s/he come, we will start eating'

　　c) avø tɔʔ-ta eima nie patʰao ɔ *(Mizo)*

　　　come when   1Pl eat start MOD

　　　'When (s/he) come, we will start eating'

17. a) ka tʰlen   vialaʔ   ka ti   ŋʰal *(Lai)*

　　　1Sg arrive as soon as 1Sg do immediately

　　　'I start doing it as soon as I arrive'

　　b) ka tʰlen   velaʔ   ka ti   ŋʰal *(Mizo)*

　　　1Sg arrive as soon as 1Sg do immediately

　　　'I start doing it as soon as I arrive'

　　c) ei-tlo   pa-ta-na-ta ei taopa-ha *(Mara)*

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1Sg-arrive   when   1Sg to do immediately

'I start doing it as soon as I arrive'

18. a) *bus rɔn hlan tsu ka lau lɔhpi diŋ (Lai)*

bus come until DET 1Sg hither wait MOD

'I will wait with you until/before the bus come'

b) *bus lo kal ʰma tʃu ka lo hŋaʔpui aŋ tʃe (Mizo)*

bus hither come until DET 1Sg hither wait MOD 2ACC

'I will wait with you until/before the bus come'

c) *bus avø hla-lei-ta-la ei tɛa vɔ hakʰei ɔ (Mara)*

bus come until 1Sg 2Sg hither wait MOD

'I will wait with you until/before the bus come'

d) *kkei kʰyna tai y (Mara) (Lorrain, 2016, p- 327)*

1Sg come until to stop

'Stop until I come'

The conjunctive particle *-in* is also used as a temporal adverbial subordinator and it comes with other temporal conjunctions or other morphemes. The conjunctive particle *-in* is used for present as well as past reference. When the conjunctive suffix is used with *ʰma* (Mizo), it turns the future reference to that of past (19). The events in the main clause take place before the subordinate clause in (19), while subordinate and main clauses take place concurrently in (20) (according to the participle with the progressive marker). In Mizo, the conjunctive adverbial particle *-in* is used only with *ʰma* and *lai* and nothing else while in Lai it is used only with *lai* (20-a) progressive marker which indicate simultaneous action. Mara lacks the *-in* conjunctive particle, nevertheless it has a separate subordinator for actions that take place subsequently, i.e. *no-ta* (20-c). We can also see that the main clause precedes the subordinate clause, however this is a matter of emphasis for all the three languages. Starting with the temporal clause emphasizes the time frame or the context of the action and placing it later in the sentence emphasizes the main action.

19. a) *bus rɔn hlan tsu ka lau lɔhpi (Lai)*

bus come until DET 1Sg hither wait

'I wait with him/her until the bus came'

b) *bus lo kal ʰma-in ka lo ʰŋaʔpui (Mizo)*

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bus hither come until-CPT 1Sg hither   wait

'I wait with him/her until the bus came'

c) *bus avø hla-lei-ta ei tɕa vɔ hakʰei ɔ (Mara)*

   bus come   until   1Sg 2Sg hither   wait MOD

   'I wait with him/her until the bus came'

20. a) *a rot lai-in rɔl kan ei (Lai)*

   3Sg go PROG-CPT food 1Pl eat

   'We were eating while s/he came'

b) *a lo kal lai-in tʃɔ kan lo ei (Mizo)*

   3Sg hither go PROG-CPT food 1Pl hither eat

   'We were eating while s/he came'

c) *avø no-ta pati ei nie (Mara)*

   come while food 1Pl to eat

   'We were eating while (s/he) came'

c. Causal Adverbial Clauses

Causal clauses give an explanation or justification for the related proposition (Diessel, 2001). Lai has only one causal subordinator namely *ruaŋaʔ*, while in Mizo and Mara there are two causal subordinators namely *vaŋin* and *tʃʰantʃu,* and *vata* and *tɕʰapa* respectively. While *tʃʰantʃu* and *tɕʰapa* are a clause-initial subordinator and comes after the main clause, subordinator *ruaŋa, vaŋin* and *vata* are a clause-final subordinator that can both precede and follow the main clause.

21. a) *a rɔn thlen har ruaŋaʔ kan tlai (Lai)*

   3Sg come arrive late CONJ 1Pl late

   'We were late because he/she came late'

b) *a lo kal har vaŋin kan tlai (Mizo)*

   3Sg hither come late CONJ 1Pl late

   'We were late because he/she came late'

c) *avø hɔʔpa vata eima hɔ (Mara)*

   come late CONJ 1Pl late

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'We were late because he/she came late'

22. a) *kan tlai tʃʰantʃu a   lo   kal har vaŋ (Mizo)*

    1Pl late CONJ 3Sg hither come late reason

    'The reason why we were late was because he/she came late'

  b) *ima hɔna tɕʰapa   tɕa   avø hɔʔpa va (Mara)*

    1Pl   late   CONJ   hither come late reason

    'The reason why we were late was because he/she came late'

d. Manner Adverbial Clauses

An adverbial clause of manner explains the manner in which the action mentioned in the main clause of the sentence is occurring or has already occurred. In Lai and Mizo, when a lexical item defines manner in its meaning, the adverbial clause expressing that manner is expressed by appending the conjunctive participle *-in* to it. The conjunctive participle must be employed in order to build adverbial clauses since the lexical components cannot be used alone. It occurs in the final place of the subordinate clause, which occurs either at medial or initial part of the clause. However, we can see that in (23-a) the *ruaŋaʔ* is used for manner adverbial subordinator which was also used in the previous causal adverbial clause. Mara does not use the conjunctive particle rather it has two manner subordinators namely *hmo-lei-pa* and *hɔta.*

21. a) *rami tsun   min   ʰmu lauʔ ruaŋaʔ in   feʔ-san (Lai)*

    rami DEF   1ACC see NEG   CONJ 3Sg go-RELQ

    'Rami left me as though/like she didn't see me'

  b) *rami   tʃuan   min   ʰmu lo   aŋ   mai-in   min   kal-san (Mizo)*

    rami   DEF   1ACC   see NEG like   just-CONJ 1ACC go-RELQ

    'Rami left me as though/like she didn't see me'

  c) *ram tatɕa   na hmo-lei-pa hɔ   tlaita eina sie   pa-kʰo (Mara)*

    ram to leave 1Sg as though   MOD   self   1Sg go RELQ-to get out of sight

    'Ram left me as though/like she didn't see me'

22. a) *mina   veʔ-in   a   tɔŋ (Lai)*

    sick   like-CONJ 3Sg talk

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'He/she talked as though/like he/she is sick'

b) damlo aŋ-in   a   trɔŋ *(Mizo)*

   sick   like-CONJ 3Sg talk

'He/she talked as though/like he/she is sick'

c) tlaleipa   hɔta   bie arei *(Mara)*

   sick   as though 3Sg talk

'He/she talked as though/like he/she is sick'

e.   Purposive Adverbial Clauses

According to Diessel (2001) purpose clauses specify the purpose or objective of the action mentioned in the main clause. The purposive adverbial subordinators are *diŋin, turin* and *ɔ-pa-ta* which occurs at the subordinate clause's final position, and might be either at the beginning or the final part of the sentence. Lai and Mara use *diŋaʔ* and *nɔ-pa-ta* respectively depending on the specificity of the subject, and the focus of the purpose.

23. a) ti   in   diŋin   tsuak *(Lai)*

    water drink PURP   went out

    '(S/he) went out to drink water'

b) tui   in   turin   a   tʃʰuak *(Mizo)*

    water drink PURP 3Sg went out

    'S/he went out to drink water'

c)   ti   doʔ ɔ-pa-ta   a   pua *(Mara)*

    water drink PURP 3Sg went out

    'S/he went out to drink water'

24. a) mɔi   in   ʰna-tuan-nak   diŋaʔ mɔtɔ a   lei *(Lai)*

    mawi ERG work-place-NMZR   PURP motor 3Sg buy

   'Mawia bought a motor/car to use for work'

b) mɔia-n   ʰna-tʰɔh-na   turin motor tʰar   a   lei *(Mizo)*

    mawia-ERG work-work-NMZR   PURP motor new 3Sg buy

   'Mawia bought a new motor/car to use for work'

c) mɔi   ta   rai hria nɔ-pa-ta motor tʰiepa a   tɕalei *(Mara)*

    mawi ERG work-place PURP   motor   new 3Sg   buy

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'Mawia bought a new motor/car to use for work'

f. Substitutive Adverbial Clauses

According to Thompson (1985), substitutive clause is used for signalling the replacing of an expected event by an unexpected one. In Lai and Mizo, substitutive subordinate marker is *ai* (instead of, rather, in place of) and the verb must be non-finite. It can come along with the suffix *-in,* conditional subordinate *tʃuan,* or the suffix *-aʔ* and occur at the final position of the subordinate clause before the main clause. Mara has three substitutive subordinate markers, i.e. *ei-ta, vyuʔ-ta* and *rai.* These subordinators can also come with other subordinators where in Lai and Mizo they are followed and in Mara they are preceded (27). The implication of the substituted clause's time reference is dependent on the main clause.

25. a) *keimaʔ min pek ai ka nau an pek sɔn (Lai)*
   1Sg   1ACC give instead 1Sg young sibling 3Pl give COMP
   'Instead of giving it to me, they gave it to my younger sibling'

   b) *keimaʔ min pek ai ka nau an pe (Mizo)*
   1Sg   1ACC give instead 1Sg young sibling 3Pl give
   'Instead of giving it to me, they gave it to my younger sibling'

   c) *kei eina pie vøuʔ ei-ta ei naɔʔtapa ama pie (Mara)*
   1Sg 1Sg give one's share instead 1Sg young sibling 3Pl give
   'Instead of giving it to me, they gave it to my younger sibling'

26. a) *tʰasun i feʔ ŋak-kin tusuan-aʔ ka feʔ (Mizo)*
   tomorrow 3Sg go instead today-LOC 1Sg go
   'Instead of going tomorrow, I went today'

   b) *naktuk a kal aiin vɔiin-aʔ ka kal (Mizo)*
   tomorrow 3Sg go instead today-LOC 1Sg go
   'Instead of going tomorrow, I went today'

   c) *myla a vɔ ɔpa vyuʔ-ta tan-oʔ a vɔʔ (Mara)*
   tomorrow 3Sg go then instead today-LOC 1Sg go
   'Instead of going tomorrow, I went today'

27. a) *tsa zir ŋakai tsun ŋa tuan paiʔ sɔn (Mizo)*

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paper   study rather COND work work want COMP

'He/she wants to works rather than study'

b) *leʔkʰa   zir   ai   tʃuan   ʰna   a   tʰɔk   duʔ   zɔk (Mizo)*

paper   study rather COND work 3Sg work want COMP

'He/she wants to works rather than study'

c) *tɕa   atɛu   ɔpa hla-ta-la   rai   rʰia   a   kʰo   via (Mara)*

paper   study   then   COND   instead of   work 3Sg want COMP

'He/she wants to works rather than study'

g.   Additive Adverbial Clauses

Additive adverbial clause are those clauses that convey two states of affairs at once (Thompson, 1985). In Lai and Mizo, the additive adverbial subordinator is the morpheme *bakaʔ* (in addition to/besides). It comes with only participial form of verb and also occurs at the final position of the subordinate clause. Besides *bakaʔ* Lai also use *tʰɔn,* while Mara has only one additive subordinator namely *hleikʰo-ta.*

28. a)   *saza   a   siʔ   bakaʔ tsabu   a   ziak   tʰeu (Lai)*

teacher 3Sg COP besides book   3Sg write   HAB

'In addition to being a teacher, he/she also writes book'

b) *zirtirtu   a   niʔ   bakaʔ   a   leʔkʰabu   a   ziak   trʰin (Mizo)*

teacher 3Sg COP besides 3Sg time spare-LOC   book   3Sg write   HAB

'In addition to being a teacher, he/she also writes book'

c) *Patɛutuʔpa   a   tɕa hleikʰo-ta tɕabu   a   ro   tyʔ (Mara)*

teacher   3Sg COP   besides   book 3Sg write HAB

'In addition to being a teacher, he/she also writes book'

29. a) *tsa   zir   tʰɔn   ʰna   tʰɔʔ   a   trul (Lai)*

paper study besides work work 3Sg need

'Besides studying, I need to work'

b) *leʔkʰa   zir   bakaʔ   ʰna   tʰɔʔ   a   ŋai (Mizo)*

paper   study besides work work 3Sg need

'Besides studying, I need to work'

c) *tɕa   atɛupa hleiko-ta hria   ɔpa   a-byuʔ (Mara)*

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paper study besides   work   then 3Sg-need

'Besides studying, I need to work'

4. Conclusion

It can be seen that adverbial clauses play a vital role in Lai, Mizo and Mara in enhancing sentence complexity and clarity. By providing information about time, cause, purpose, condition, or manner, these clauses offer nuanced relationships between ideas. These three languages demonstrate fascinating structural and functional diversity, shaped by numbers of converbs, and intricate syntactic patterns. The cross-examination shows close similarities especially when it comes to Lai and Mizo who shares a number of similar subordinators, and differences with Mara who shows more complexity and diversity in morphological as well as structural patterns. By understanding these unique constructions, we gain deeper insight into the expressive potential of Tibeto-Burman languages and their contribution to the study of linguistic typology.

Language	Conditional	Temporal	Causal	Manner	Purposive	Substitutive	Additive
Lai	*tsun, kʰa-se-la, se-la, si-ɔ-la, lau-leʔ-la, si-seʔ-la, si-niŋ-na*	*hunaʔ, vialaʔ, hlan*	*ruaŋaʔ*	*-in, ruaŋaʔ*	*diŋin, diŋaʔ*	*ai, aiaʔ*	*bakaʔ, tʰɔn*
Mizo	*ʧuan, maʔ-se, nise, ta-se, i-la, ni-la, u-la, ni-se-la, se-la, ni-maʔ-se-la, maʔ-i-la, maʔ-la,*	*hunaʔ, velaʔ, ʰma*	*vaŋin, ʧʰantʃu*	*-in*	*turin*	*ai, aiin, aiaʔ*	*bakaʔ*

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	maʔ-u-la, ni-ta-se, ni-ta-se-la, ni-ta-i-la, ni-ta-la, ni-ta-u-la, ni-ta-se, ni-ta-se-la.						
Mara	*kʰia-ta-la, pa-tɛa, hra-sa-la, pa-tɛʰao-ta, ply-ly, ta-rɔ-pa-ta, tlô, sa-la, tɛa-sa-la, tɛa-la, tɛa-u-la, tɛa-ei-sa-la, vei-kʰia-ta-la, vei-kʰia-la*	*tɔʔ-ta, pa-tɔ-na-ta, tɔʔ-ta, pa-ta-na-ta, hla-lei-ta-la, tai,hla-via-la, hlah-lei-la, hlah-lei, hla-lei-ta*	*vata, tɛʰapa*	*hmo-lei-pa, hɔta*	*ɔ-pa-ta, nɔ-pa-ta*	*ei-ta, vyuʔ-ta, rai*	*hleikʰo-ta.*

Table.1. List of Adverbial subordinators in Lai, Mizo and Mara

Abbreviations

1	first person	BEN	benefective
2	second person	CAUS	causative
3	third person	COM	comitative
ACC	accusative	COMP	comparative

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COND conditional	MAL malefactive
COP copula	MOD mode
DEM demonstrative	NEG negation
DET determiner	NMZR nominalizer
ERG ergative	Pl plural
F female	PROG progressive
HAB habitual	RCP reciprocal
INST instrumental	REF reflexive
LOC locative	RELQ relinquitive
M male	Sg singular

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