Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

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Abstract

This study is a descriptive account of the quotative clause structures in Manipuri. It attempts to describe the syntax and semantics of the quotatives in Manipuri revealing its derivations through the addition of suffixes. The quotative determines the exact clausal relationship between the embedded clause subordinated by the quotative and the main clause.
Only one quotative complementizer is possible to occur per sentence, except with the verbs of saying and reporting, where each complementizer indicates that the speaker is one additional step removed from the actual reporting of some event.

Then this work examines the verbal forms which can undergo with quotatives.

**Introduction**

A sentence containing a verb of utterance (saying) or cognition (thinking), which dominates a preceding embedded clause that specifies what is talked or thought about, is the quotative clause (Matisoff 1973). On the other hand, an important type of complex sentence consists of a matrix sentence containing a verb of utterance (saying) or cognition (thinking), which dominates a preceding embedded clause that specifies that which is talked or thought about. This latter may be called a ‘quotative clause’.

Quotatives in Manipuri are derived from the verb root hai ‘say’ through the addition of suffixes as -

- hai+nə ‘that’
- hai+bə ‘that’
- hai+də+nə ‘by saying so’
- hai+du+nə ‘having said so’
- hai+bə+gi ‘according that of saying’
- hai+bə+də ‘as for saying’
- hai+bə+du ‘that’
- hai+bə+dəgi ‘as a result of saying’
- hai+bə+si ‘that’
- hai+bə+nə ‘because of saying’
- hai+bə+ni+nə ‘because it is thus said’
- hai+bə+bu ‘although that is said’
- hai+bə+di ‘that’

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hai+rə+gə ‘after saying that’

These quotatives subordinate a clause determining the exact clausal relationship between the clause subordinated by the quotative and the main clause. In a sentence which is subordinated by a clause that ends with haiəo ‘say+NZR’, the predicate contains verbs such as oitbok ‘possible’, man ‘appear’, kau ‘forget’, cum ‘be true’, nĩsĩŋ ‘remember, nũŋai ‘be happy’, ƞak ‘wonder’, kʰəŋ ‘know’. However, for the clauses ending in hainə say+ADV’ which is subordinated to the embedded clause, the predicate of the matrix sentence contains həŋ ‘ask’, hai ‘say’, ni ‘request’, pəŋ ‘mention’, nəŋ ‘advise’, təŋ ‘persuade’, jet ‘argue’, cəi ‘scold’, nĩŋ ‘wish’, lep ‘decide’, kʰəŋ ‘think’, ləŋ ‘take’. Such clauses made by the verb of utterance (saying) are taken as sentential complement since they are generally made up of full-fledged sentences (Bhat & Ningomba, 1997).

The quotative complementizer such as haiəosi ‘that’, hainə ‘that’, haiəo ‘that’, and haiəodu ‘that’ can be determined by taking into consideration how much evidence the speaker has for the proposition expressed in the complement and the nature of the main clause.

**Quotative haiəosi:**

The quotative haiəosi ‘that’ is used when the speaker is certain about the truth of the proposition as in the examples illustrated below.

1. məhak parikʰa ɲəmlə haiəosi o kʰəŋi
   məhak parikʰa ɲəmlə hai-bə-si o kʰəŋ-i
   he exam pass-PERF say-NZR-DEM I know-ASP
   ‘I knew that he has passed the exam’.

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Again the quotative, haibɔsi ‘that’ indicates the proposition in the complement will certainly come into being when it is used in the unrealized aspect as in (2) below.

2. ibobinə c.m. oigəni haibɔsi əikʰoi kʰəŋŋi

Ibobi-ŋə c.m. oigəni hai-bə-si əi-kʰoi kʰəŋŋ-i

Ibobi-ERG C.M. be-FUT say-NZR-DEM I-PL know-ASP

‘We know that Ibobi will be the CM of Manipur’.

The marker haibɔsi can be opposed to hainə ‘that’, which is used when a speaker is not sure about the truth of a proposition.

3. wakki saŋə cətəsi pʰəi hainə tomnə jaŋəmmi

wakki saŋ-nə cət-pə-si pʰə-i hai-nə tom-nə ja-
walking be long-ADV go-NZR-DEM be good-ASP say-ADV Tom-ERG agree-
raŋ-i

INCT-ASP

‘Tom agrees that it is good to walk long’.

Quotative hainə:

The use of hainə ‘that’ denotes that the proposition in the complement might come into being in the future aspect, but the speaker has no evidence to show that it certainly will, as in the examples given in (4) below.

4(a). ikəŋ tʰokkəni hai-nə əiŋə tʰajəi

ikəŋ tʰok-kəni hai-nə əi-nə tʰajə-i

drought occur-FUT say-ADV I-ERG believe-ASP

‘I believe that drought will occur’.
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(5). sitanə ram cətkʰ-re hainə hairəmmi

Sita-ERG Ram go-DEF-PERF say-ADV say-EVD-ASP
‘Sita said (to me, the speaker) that Ram has gone’.

(b). məniBu pʰa-gəni hainə hai

Mani-ACC arrest-FUT say-ADV say-ASP
‘It is said that Mani will be arrested’.

As seen in 5(a), the quotative-complementizer hainə ‘that’ cannot be replaced by haibəsi ‘that’ since the proposition involves hearsay. In 5(b), the use of haibəsi ‘that’ in place of hainə ‘that’ is marginally acceptable if the event of arresting is indisputably going to take place. But the use of hainə ‘that’ in both the sentences of (5) is the most appropriate complementizer.

Quotative haibə:

The use of haibə ‘that’ indicates that the speaker has some evidence (not necessarily visual) about the truth of the proposition expressed in the complement. Its use is restricted to verbs such as kʰəŋ ‘know+ASP’ and ui ‘see+ASP’.
Examples:

6(a). nə ən ən soidənə lakkənə haiə əi kʰəŋi
nə ən soi-ənə lak-kənə hai-bə əi kʰəŋ-i
you be fault-NEG-ADV come-FUT say-NZR I know-ASP
‘I know that you will come surely’.

(b). ən soidə lotli haiə əi kʰəŋi
Mani Delhi-LOC hide-PROG say-NZR I-PL know-ASP
‘We know that Mani is hiding in Delhi’.

Quotative haiədu:

The quotative complementizer haiədu ‘that’ is used when the speaker has first-hand evidence of the truth of the subordinated proposition. When using it to refer to a past event, the speaker implies he/she is an eyewitness to that event. The following examples can be considered.

7(a). pulisə томба pʰakʰi haiədu əi kʰoiənə ui
pulis-ə томба pʰa-kʰi hai-bə-du əi-kʰoi-ənə ui-ə
police-ERG Tomba arrest-PERF say-NZR-DEM I-PL-ERG see-ASP
‘We saw Tomba being arrested by the police’.

(b). нупидуə мəруроиəббу intʰui haiədu əi ui
nupi-du-ə məruroibə-bu in-tʰu-i hai-bə-du əi ui-ə
woman-DEM-ERG husband -ACC push-down-ASP say-NZR-DEM I see -ASP
‘I saw the woman pushing down her husband’.
Here the hearer can assume that the speaker has facts to support the truth of the subordinated proposition. The speaker may use this expected interpretation to convince the hearer of a particular event for the future, by indicating that he/she has adequate facts to make such a forecast.

Only one quotative complementizer is possible per sentence, except with verbs of saying and reporting, where each complementizer indicates that the speaker is one additional step removed from the actual reporting of some event.

Example:

8. *sitanə ram cət₃re hainə haiроммι*
   
   sita-nə ram cət₃-re hai-nə hai-ram-i
   
   Sita-ERG Ram go-DEF-PERF say-ADV say-INCOM-ASP
   
   ‘Sita said that Ram has gone’.

Here Sita is reported as stating that Ram has gone. There is an implication that Sita has witnessed Ram’s departure.

The quotative takes part to subordinate a clause that represents statements made by someone other than the speaker (Chelliah 1997). The quotative determines the exact clausal relationship between the embedded clause subordinated by the quotative and the main clause. So far in the sentences below, the quotative hainə ‘say+NZR’ determines the clausal relationship between the embedded clauses caubi cenk₃re haibə ‘that Chaobi has eloped’ in 9(a), məhakə cəmni haibə ‘that he will be right’ in 10(a) and nəŋ cətlure haibə ‘that you have gone there’ in 11(a) and the main clauses əi tai ‘I hear’ in 9(a), əi kʰənde ‘I don’t think’ in 10(a) and (nəŋ) haide ‘you did not say’ in 11(a). Similar to this, the quotative hainə ‘say+NZR’ also determines the clausal relationship between the embedded clauses and the main clauses in sentence 9(b), 10(b) and 11(b).

9(a). *caubi cenk₃re haibə əi tai*
caubi cen-kʰ-e-re hai-bə øi tai-i
Chaobi run-DEF-PERF say-NZR I hear-ASP
‘I heard that Chaobi has eloped (with someone)’.

(b). caubi cen-kʰ-e-re hainø øi tai
caubi cen-kʰ-e-re hai-nø øi tai-i
Chaobi run-DEF-PERF say-ADV I hear-ASP
‘I heard that Chaobi has eloped (with someone)’.

10(a). məhakno cumni hai-bə øi kʰənde
məhak-ña cum-ni hai-bə øi kʰən-de-i
he-ERG be right-COP say-NZR I think-NEG-ASP
‘I don’t think that he will be right’.

(b). məhakno cumni hainø øi kʰənde
məhak-ña cum-ni hai-nø øi kʰən-de-i
he-ERG be right-COP say-ADV I think-NEG-ASP
‘I don’t think that he will be right’.

11(a). nəŋ cətlure hai-bə haide
nəŋ cət-lu-re hai-bə hai-de-i
you go-COMD-PERF say-NZR say-NEG-ASP
‘You did not say that you have gone there’.

(b). nəŋ cətlure hainø haide
nəŋ cət-lu-re hai-nø hai-de-i
you go-COMD-PERF say-ADV say-NEG-ASP
‘You did not say that you have gone there’.

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These pairs of sentences reveal slight difference in meaning. In 9(a) Chaobi’s elopement is known to me and the elopement is a fact. However, in 9(b), simply I heard Chaobi’s elopement, but, whether it is a fact or not is not clear. Such slight differences lie similarly in the pairs of sentences in (10) and (11). In short, the use of haib ‘say+NZR’ enables the speaker to be certain about the truth of the proposition. The use of hain ‘say+ADV’ indicates that the proposition might come into being, but the speaker has no evidence for it.

**Forms of Quotative**

The forms of the quotative other than haib ‘say+NZR’ and hain ‘say+ADV’ in Manipuri are haibə ‘say+NZR+ADV’, haibəgi ‘say+NZR+GEN’, haibədə ‘say+NZR+DAT’, haibədu ‘say+NZR+ABL’, haibədu/i ‘say+NZR+DEM’, haibənina ‘say+NZR+COP+ADV’, haibəbu ‘say+NZR+ACC’, and haiduŋa ‘say+DEM+ADV’. These quotatives subordinate the embedded clause that presents statements made by someone other than the speaker or statements relating to intentions, or wishes of someone other than the speaker.


Some examples are given below.

12(a). məhak si-gəni haibəŋə əikʰoi kīre
məhak si-gəni hai-bə-nə əi-kʰoi ki-re
he die-FUT say-NZR-ADV I-PL fear-PERF
‘We feel fear of his saying to die’.

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(b). नों-ना लाक-कनी हाई-बो-गि औ ता-जा-बो-नि

you-ERG come-FUT say-NZR-GEN I believe-NZR-COP

‘I keep belief in the saying of your coming’.

(c). तोम केट्के हाई-सि औ ताई

tom  cät-khá-re  hai-bó-si  ài  tāi-i

Tom go-DEF-PERF say-NZR-DEM I hear-ASP

‘I heard the saying of Tom’s going’.

The quotative हाईसि ‘say+NZR+DEM’ in sentence 12(c) of the quotative clause तोम केट्के हाईसि ‘that the saying of Tom’s going’ makes the speaker certain about the truth of the proposition as in 12(c). When the quotative हाईसि ‘say+NZR+DEM’ occurred in future time, it expresses that the proposition in the quotative clause will certainly occur. For instance, in sentence (13) below the speaker conveys his/her certainty about the outcome of the quotative clause, that is, the police will certainly arrest him or her. The use of the quotative हाईसि ‘say+NZR+DEM’ can be opposed to the quotative हाई ‘say+ADV’. The quotative हाई ‘say+ADV’ is used when the truth of a proposition is not sure as in the sentence (14) below.

13. मोहक पुलिस-ना प्हाग-सि हाई-बो-सि औ ता-जन-ि

mohak pulis-nə  pʰa-gəni  hai-bó-si  ài  tājə-ni

he police-ERG arrest-FUT say-NZR-DEM I know-ASP

‘I know that he is certain to be arrested by the police’.

14. सोंगसोंगा जम-ना ताब-बो-सि अ-प्हा-बा वाक्ल-नि

sōnga  jam-nə  təub-bö-si  ā-pʰə-bə  wakʰəl-ni

company very-ADV do -NZR-DEM ATT-be good-NZR thought-COP

say ADV Tom-ERG accept-INCT-ASP

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hai-nə tom-nə ja-rəm-i
‘Tomba accepts that it is good idea to mix in a large company’.

The proposition or statement in the quotative clause might occur with the use of the quotative hainə ‘say+ADV’ in the future event. But the speaker has no evidence to show the certainty of the occurrence of the quotative clause as in 15(a) and (b) below.

15(a). kumsidi noŋ məran kainə tagəni hainə ekspartsiŋə tʰajəi
kumsi-di noŋ məran kainə ta-gəni hai-nə ekspart-siŋ-nə
this year-DEM rain plenty fall-FUT say-ADV expert-PL-ERG
tʰajə-i
believe-ASP
‘Experts believe that there will be plenty of rain this year’.

(b). garisi hukʰiɡədrə hainə oi cᵢŋəi
gari-si hu-kʰi-gə-drə hai-nə oi cᵢŋə-i
vehicle-DEM steal-PERF-POT-INT say-ADV I suspect-ASP
‘I (feel) suspect that this vehicle might be stolen’.

The speaker has no evidence to show the certainty of the propositions kumsidi noŋ məran kainə tagəni ‘there will be plenty of rain this year’ in 15(a) and garisi hukʰiɡədrə ‘that this vehicle might be stolen’ in 15(b). Certainly, the use of haibə ‘say+NZR’ in quotative clauses enables the speaker to show some evidence (not necessarily visual) about the truth of the proposition expressed in the quotative clause.

16(a). məni ju tʰəkləkkəni hai-bə ai kʰəŋ-i
məni ju tʰək-lək-kəni hai-bə ai kʰəŋ-i
Mani wine drink-INCT-FUT say-NZR I know-ASP

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‘I know that Mani will be drinking wine’.

(b). rani jum mənutə lotli haibə öi kʰəŋi
   rani jum mənut-ə lot-li ha-ibə öi kʰəŋ-i
   Rani house inside-LOC hide-PROG say-NZR I know-ASP
   ‘I know that Rani is hiding inside the house’.

In sentence 16(a), the speaker is sure about the proposition, məni ju tʰəklokkəni ‘Mani will be drinking wine’ since Mani has the habit of drinking. It is not the question of seeing the act of Mani’s drinking but that very frequently Mani drinks is known to me. So, the speaker has some evidence (not necessarily visual) about the truth to the proposition expressed in the quotative clause. Similarly in 16(b), the speaker has the experience to know about the frequent hiding of Rani inside the house. Although Rani’s hiding inside the house is invisible, the speaker from his experience has some evidence about the truth of the statement expressed in the quotative clause.

The quotative haibədu ‘say+NZR+DEM’ occurs subordinating to the embedded clause and it enables the speaker to show the truth of the proposition expressed in the quotative clause. The speaker is an eyewitness to the event of the embedded clause when the quotative haibədu ‘say+NZR+DEM’ refers to a past event as in (17) below.

17(a). pulisə təmbə pʰakʰi haibədu öi ui
   pulis-ə təmbə pʰa-kʰi hai-bə-du öi u-i
   police-ERG Tomba arrest-PERF say-NZR-DEM I see-ASP
   ‘I saw the police arresting Tomba’.

In this example, the speaker has accurate facts to support the truth of the quotative clause pulisə təmbə pʰakʰi haibədu ‘that the police has arrested Tomba’, and with this the hearer
assumes that the speaker is very much sure about the fact of the event meant by the quotative clause.

Conclusion

This paper is a preliminary attempt to identify and present syntactic and semantic descriptions of quotative clauses in Manipri. With the syntactic and semantic analysis, it also contributes to a platform to investigate the aspects of the quotative clause structure in Manipuri. Future research can be made on the different categories of quotatives in Manipuri.

Abbreviations

ABL ablative
ACC accusative
ADV adverb
ASP aspect
ATT attributive
COMD command
COP copulative
DEF definitive
DEM demonstrative
ERG ergative
EVD evidential
FUT future
GEN genitive
INCT inceptive
INT interrogative
LOC locative
NZR nominalizer
NEG negative
PERF perfective
PL plural
POT potential
PROG progressive

References


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