
LANGUAGE IN INDIA

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Volume 13:12 December 2013

ISSN 1930-2940

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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.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:12 December 2013

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Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

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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'

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:12 December 2013

S. Indrakumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar

Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

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 haibə 'say+NZR', the predicate contains verbs such as oit^hok 'possible', man 'appear', kau 'forget', cum 'be true', niŋsiŋ 'remember, nuŋŋai 'be happy', ŋək 'wonder', k^həŋ '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', pən 'mention', ŋaŋ 'advise', tək 'persuade', jet 'argue', cəi 'scold', niŋ 'wish', lep 'decide', k^hən 'think', ləu '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 haibəsi 'that', hainə 'that', haibə 'that', and haibədu '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 haibəsi:

The quotative haibəsi 'that' is used when the speaker is certain about the truth of the proposition as in the examples illustrated below.

1. məhak parik^ha ŋəmle haibəsi əi k^həŋŋi
məhak parik^ha ŋəm-le hai-bə-si əi k^həŋ-i
he exam pass-PERF say-NZR-DEM I know-ASP
'I knew that he has passed the exam'.

Again the quotative, haibəsi ‘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 haibəsi əik^hoi k^həŋgi
 Ibobi-nə c.m. oi-gəni hai-bə-si əi-k^hoi k^həŋ-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 haibəsi can be opposed to hainə ‘that’, which is used when a speaker is not sure about the truth of a proposition.

3. wakkiŋ saŋnə cətpəsi p^həi hainə tomnə jarəmmi
 wakkiŋ saŋ-nə cət-pə-si p^hə-i hai-nə tom-nə ja-
 walking be long-ADV go-NZR-DEM be good-ASP say-ADV Tom-ERG agree-
 rəm-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 t^hokkəni hainə əinə t^həjəi
 ikəŋ t^hok-kəni hai-nə əi-nə t^həjə-i
 drought occur-FUT say-ADV I-ERG believe-ASP
 ‘I believe that drought will occur’.

- (b). mək^hoinə t^hoik^higədrə hainə əik^hoi ki
 mə-k^hoi-nə t^hoi-k^hi-gə-drə hai-nə əi-k^hoi ki-i
 he-PL-ERG win-PERF-POT-INT say-ADV I -PL fear-ASP
 ‘We are afraid that they might win (the match)’.

hainə ‘that’ is the quotative-complementizer that is used with verbs of saying where the speaker reports the words of someone else but cannot be sure of their truth value, as in (5) below.

- 5(a). sitanə ram cət^hre hainə hairəm̄mi
 sita-nə ram cət-k^hə-re hai-nə hai-rəm-i
 Sita-ERG Ram go-DEF-PERF say-ADV say-EVD-ASP
 ‘Sita said (to me, the speaker) that Ram has gone’.

- (b). mənibu p^hagəni hainə hai
 məni-bu p^ha-gəni hai-nə hai-i
 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 k^həŋŋi ‘know+ASP’ and ui ‘see+ASP’.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:12 December 2013

S. Indrakumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar

Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

Examples:

6(a). nəŋ soidəŋə lakkəni haibə əi k^həŋi

nəŋ soi-də-nə lak-kəni hai-bə əi k^həŋ-i
you be fault-NEG-ADV come-FUT say-NZR I know-ASP
'I know that you will come surely'.

(b). məni dilidə lotli haibə əik^hoi k^həŋi

məni dili-də lot-li hai-bə əi-k^hoi k^həŋ-i
Mani Delhi-LOC hide-PROG say-NZR I-PL know-ASP
'We know that Mani is hiding in Delhi'.

Quotative haibədu:

The quotative complementizer haibədu '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). pulisnə tombə p^hak^hi haibədu əik^hoinə ui

pulis-nə tombə p^ha-k^hi hai-bə-du əi-k^hoi-nə ui-i
police-ERG Tomba arrest-PERF say-NZR-DEM I -PL-ERG see-ASP
'We saw Tomba being arrested by the police'.

(b). nupidunə məpuroibəbu int^hui haibədu əi ui

nupi-du-nə məpuroibə-bu in-t^hu-i hai-bə-du əi ui-i
woman-DEM-ERG husband -ACC push-down-ASP say-NZR-DEM I see -ASP
'I saw the woman pushing down her husband'.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:12 December 2013

S. Indrakumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar

Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

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 cət^hre hainə hairəm̩mi
 sita-nə ram cət-k^hə-re hai-nə hai-rəm-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 haibə ‘say+NZR’ determines the clausal relationship between the embedded clauses caubi cen^hre haibə ‘that Chaobi has eloped’ in 9(a), məhaknə cumni 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 k^hənde ‘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 cen^hre haibə əi tai

caubi cen-k^hə-re hai-bə əi tai-i
 Chaobi run-DEF-PERF say-NZR I hear-ASP
 ‘I heard that Chaobi has eloped (with someone)’.

(b). caubi cenk^hre hainə əi tai

caubi cen-k^hə-re hai-nə əi tai-i
 Chaobi run-DEF-PERF say-ADV I hear-ASP
 ‘I heard that Chaobi has eloped (with someone)’.

10(a). məhaknə cumni haibə əi k^hənde

məhak-nə cum-ni hai-bə əi k^hən-de-i
 he-ERG be right-COP say-NZR I think-NEG-ASP
 ‘I don’t think that he will be right’.

(b). məhaknə cumni hainə əi k^hənde

məhak-nə cum-ni hai-nə əi k^hən-de-i
 he-ERG be right-COP say-ADV I think-NEG-ASP
 ‘I don’t think that he will be right’.

11(a). nəṅ cətlure haibə haide

nəṅ 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). nəṅ cətlure hainə haide

nəṅ cət-lu-re hai-nə hai-de-i
 you go-COMD-PERF say-ADV say-NEG-ASP
 ‘You did not say that you have gone there’.

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 haibə 'say+NZR' enables the speaker to be certain about the truth of the proposition. The use of hainə '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 haibə 'say+NZR' and hainə 'say+ADV' in Manipuri are haibənə 'say+NZR+ADV', haibəgi 'say+NZR+GEN', haibədə 'say+NZR+DAT', haibədəgi 'say+NZR+ABL', haibədu/si 'say+NZR+DEM', haibəninə 'say+NZR+COP+ADV', haibəbu 'say+NZR+ACC', and haidunə '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.

The matrix sentence containing at least a quotative clause usually ends in a verb such as k^həŋŋi 'know+ASP', tai 'hear+ASP', ui 'see+ASP', t^hajəi 'believe+ASP', k^həlli 'think+ASP', niŋŋi 'wish+ASP', hai 'say+ASP', ləui 'take+ASP', təmmi 'inform+ASP' and həŋŋi 'ask+ASP'. Frequently the quotative clause in Lahu ends simply in a verb, or V+Pv (Matisoff, 1973).

Some examples are given below.

12(a). məhak sigəni haibənə əik^hoi kire

məhak	si-gəni	hai-bə-nə	əi-k ^h oi	ki-re
he	die-FUT	say-NZR-ADV	I-PL	fear-PERF

'We feel fear of his saying to die'.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:12 December 2013

S. Indrakumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar

Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

(b). nəŋnə lak-kəni haibəgi əi t^hajəbəni

nəŋ-nə lak-kəni hai-bə-gi əi t^hajə-bə-ni
you-ERG come-FUT say-NZR-GEN I believe-NZR-COP
'I keep belief in the saying of your coming'.

(c). tom cət-k^hə-re haibəsi əi tai

tom cət-k^hə-re hai-bə-si əi tai-i
Tom go-DEF-PERF say-NZR-DEM I hear-ASP
'I heard the saying of Tom's going'.

The quotative haibəsi 'say+NZR+DEM' in sentence 12(c) of the quotative clause tom cət-k^hə-re haibəsi 'that the saying of Tom's going' makes the speaker certain about the truth of the proposition as in 12(c). When the quotative haibəsi '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 haibəsi 'say+NZR+DEM' can be opposed to the quotative hainə 'say+ADV'. The quotative hainə 'say+ADV' is used when the truth of a proposition is not sure as in the sentence (14) below.

13. məhak pulisnə p^hagəni haibəsi əi k^həŋi

məhak pulis-nə p^ha-gəni hai-bə-si əi k^həŋ-i
he police-ERG arrest-FUT say-NZR-DEM I know-ASP
'I know that he is certain to be arrested by the police'.

14. səŋgə jamnə təubəsi əp^həbə wak^həl-ni hainə tomnə jarəm-mi

səŋgə jam-nə təu-bə-si ə-p^hə-bə wak^həl-ni
company very-ADV do -NZR-DEM ATT-be good-NZR thought-COP
say ADV Tom-ERG accept-INCT-ASP

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:12 December 2013

S. Indrakumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar

Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

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 məraŋ kainə tagəni hainə ekspartsiqnə t^hajəi

kumsi-di noŋ məraŋ kainə ta-gəni hai-nə ekspart-siq-nə
this year-DEM rain plenty fall-FUT say-ADV expert-PL-ERG
t^hajə-i
believe-ASP

‘Experts believe that there will be plenty of rain this year’.

(b). garisi huk^higədrə hainə əi ciŋnəi

gari-si hu-k^hi-gə-drə hai-nə əi ciŋnə-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 məraŋ kainə tagəni ‘there will be plenty of rain this year’ in 15(a) and garisi huk^higədrə ‘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 t^həkləkkəni haibə əi k^həŋi

məni ju t^hək-lək-kəni hai-bə əi k^həŋ-i
Mani wine drink-INCT-FUT say-NZR I know-ASP

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:12 December 2013

S. Indrakumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar

Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

'I know that Mani will be drinking wine'.

(b). rani jum mənunɔ-də lotli haibə əi k^həŋi

rani jum mənunɔ-də lot-li ha-ibə əi k^həŋ-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, mənɔ ju t^həkləkkəni '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). pulisnə tombə p^hak^hi haibədu əi ui

pulis-nə tombə p^ha-k^hi hai-bə-du əi 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 pulisnə tombə p^hak^hi haibədu 'that the police has arrested Tomba', and with this the hearer

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S. Indrakumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar

Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

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 Manipuri. 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.

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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

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:12 December 2013

S. Indrakumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar

Quotative Clause Structures in Manipuri

PL	plural
POT	potential
PROG	progressive

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