Sentential Complementation in Manipuri

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Abstract

This paper discusses the behaviour of sentential complementation in Manipuri within the structural analysis framework.

It can be inferred from the present study that sentential complement is a major constituent of a sentence or clause structure and is associated with completing the action of the verb. Sentential complements can also be discussed as verb modifying phrases.

Introduction

Complementation is a grammatical process by which sentences are made to function as the arguments of higher (matrix sentence); the use of nominalized clauses in constructions where they function as noun-phrase complements of a matrix verb.

The only nominalizing strategy in Manipuri is the pə ~ bə suffix.

- 'pə' occurs after voiceless consonants.
- 'bə' occurs after vowels and voiced consonants.

All the action, process and stative roots are bound and known as verbal roots. They can be nominalized by suffixation of the NZR - pə~bə, as in the following two ways (i) addition to the direct verbal roots and (ii) after other suffix.

Different Structures of Sentential Complementation Are Discussed as Follows:

(a) The way in which complement-taking predicates select nominalized complements and the argument role of the complement can be drawn. There are instances in which the nominalized clause functions completely as a complement, with all of the arguments, being realized as in:

1. nupa məca   ədu   ləpʰoy   cabə   pam-mi

     man- small   DET   banana   eat-NZR   want-ASP

     The boy likes to eat banana.

(b) **A Nominalized Complement Clause Functions as the Argument of the Transitive Verb:** Here, both of the arguments of the nominalized complement clause retain the case marking that they would have in an independent finite clause. Thus, the complement clause is being placed directly into the NP slot without any adjustments to its structure outside of the nominalizing suffix.

Complementation of Transitive Verb uy 'see'/tay 'hear':

2. ma nə   ma bu   pʰubə   əy   uy

     he-NOM   he-ACC   beat-NZR   I   see

     I saw him beating him.

3. ma nə   ma bu   cəybə   əy   tay

     he-NOM   he-ACC   scold-NZR   I   hear

     I heard him scolding him.

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In the above two examples, there is a clear indication that one 'him' is the doer or subject [ma-nə (he-NOM)] and the other 'him' as in [ma-bu (he-ACC)] is the object or recipient of the action.

The structure can be more clearly seen as from the following two examples-

4. məpa nə   ma bu   phubə   əy   uy
      father-NOM   he-ACC   beat-NZR   I   see
      I saw his father beating him.

5. məpa nə   ma bu   caybə   əy   tay
      father-NOM   he-ACC   scold-NZR I   hear
      I heard his father scolding him.

(c)   **Complement Clause Constructions Involving Desiderative Predicate:** Some complement clauses necessarily have adjustments to their internal syntactic structure when they are embedded as arguments of a matrix verb. This occurs when there is co-reference between the matrix subject and the complement subject.

In the complement construction involving desiderative predicate the subject of the matrix verb and the subject of the complement verb are necessarily co-referential, and the subject of the complement verb is obligatorily unexpressed.

6. əy   yensa   cabə   pam-mi
      I   chicken   eat-NZR   want-ASP
      I want to eat chicken.

7. əy   isəy   səkpə   pam-jəy
      I   song   sing-NZR   want-ASP
      I like singing.

(d)   **The Evidence for Indication of More General Nominalizing Strategy in Embedding Sentential Complements** - A grammatical process which involves the

objectification of a complete sentential proposition such that it may occupy the functional slot of a noun phrase within a larger sentence.

8.   nupa ləpʰoy   cabə   du   əy gi   imanəbə ni

    man banana   eat-NZR DET   I-GEN   friend-COP

    The boy who ate banana is my friend.

9.   nupi du   kibə dəgi   pəysa du   tombə də   pi

    womanDET afraid-NZR-CAUS   money DET TombaEMP give

    The woman gave the money to Tomba out of fear.

    (Someone) Gave the money to Tomba for fear of the woman.

(e) In **Complementation by Nominalization**, the nominalizer pə~bə is suffixed to the predicate of the sub-ordinate clause as shown below –

10.   nupa məca   ədu   ləpʰoy   cabə   pam-mi

    man small   DET   banana   eat-NZR   want-ASP

    The boy likes to eat banana.

11.   nupi məca   ədu   koybə   cətpə   pam-mi

    woman small DET   roam   go-NZR   want-ASP

    The girl likes roaming.

(f) **Sentential Complements** are also embedded by means of the attributive subordinator–compare (1) and (2) below:

12.   samu   tʰaŋ nə   hatpə du   yamnə   nuŋŋay-te

    elephant   knife-INST kill-NZR DET   QTF   happy-NEG

    The killing of the elephant with a knife is very saddening.

13.   manipuri lon   ŋaŋbə   yamnə   luy

    Manipuri language   speak-NZR   QTF   difficult

    Speaking Manipuri language is very difficult.

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In examples (*12*) and (*13*), the nominalized sentential complement functions as grammatical subject of the matrix clause. There is no tense/aspect marking in the matrix clause. A distinction between realized and unrealized sentential complements can be drawn as below:

- The only indicator that the situation described in the embedding in (12) is realized in past time i.e. (kənagumbə əmənə) samu hatpə du 'someone killing the elephant' is the presence of the determiner 'du'.

- The embedding in (13) is generic, it is unrealized in any specific instance i.e. (kənagumbə əmənə) manipuri ŋaŋbə 'somebody speaking Manipuri'

(g) The Difference Between Realized and Unrealized Sentential Complements can be seen in the following pairs:

The unrealized sentential complements assert a statement in each of the first pair (as in a).

The realized sentential complements (as in b) are distinguished formally from unrealized sentential complement by the presence of the case markers after the nominalized verb. The presence of the case marker indicates that the embedding is a realized one and shows the direct connection of the subordinate clause with the matrix clause.

It is obvious that the matrix clause is a result of the embedded clause. The notion of realized situations is specifiable in that they are temporally bounded, one-time occurrences.

14. a. cak   yamnə cabə   noy

rice   QTF   eat-NZR fat

Eating too much rice makes one fat.

14. b. əy   cak   yamnə cabə dəgi   noy-re

I   rice   QTF   eat-NZR-CAUS   fat-ASP

I am fat because of eating too much rice.

15. a. əy   tʰəbək   yamnə   təwbə   way

I   work   QTF   do-NZR   tired

Doing too much work makes me tired.

15. b. əy   tʰəbək   yamnə   təwbə dəgi   wa-re

I   work   QTF   do-NZR-CAUS   tired-ASP

I am tired of doing too much work.

(h)   Purpose and Result Embeddings in Sentential Complements:

(1)   The purpose embeddings are instance of an unrealized event, an action that is not completed as yet. It is indicated by the future aspect marker kəni~gəni as shown in each of the first pair (as in *a*).

(2)   The result embeddings are instance of a realized event, that is, the action is completed from an aspectual view. It is indicated by the presence of the causative markers 'dəgi' which is added to the nominalized verbal root as shown in each of the second pair (as in b). The notion of realized situations are specifiable in that they are temporarily bounded, one time occurrence.

16. a. məhak   yen   cabə   lak-kəni

he   chicken   eat-NZR   come-ASP

He will come to eat chicken.

16. b. məhak   yen   cabə dəgi   na-re

he   chicken   eat-NZR-CAUS sick-ASP

He has fallen sick from eating chicken.

17. a. məhak   layrik   pabə   lak-kəni

he   book   read-NZR   come-ASP

He will come to study.

17. b. məhak   layrik   yamnə   pabə dəgi   wa-re

he   book   QTF   read-NZR-CAUS   tired-ASP

Reading too much made him tired.

18. a. məhak   yu   tʰəkpə   cət-kəni

       he   wine   drink-NZR   go-ASP

       He will go for drinking.

18. b. məhak   yu   tʰəkpə dəgi   ŋaw-re

       he   wine   drink-NZR-CAUS   mad-ASP

       He is high from drinking.

The causative markers 'də' and 'gi' can also be added to the nominalized verbal root in each of the second pair (b) above as shown below

19.   məhak   yen   cabə də   na-re

       he   chicken   eat-NZR-CAUS   sick-ASP

       He fell sick from eating chicken.

20.   məhak   yen   cabə gi   na-re

       he   chicken   eat-NZR-CAUS   sick-ASP

       He fell sick because of eating chicken.

(i)   The Sentential Complement Can Precede, Follow or Be Embedded into the matrix clause:

i)   The sentential complement [raninə əŋaŋbə   məcu pambə] **precedes the matrix clause [**əy khəŋŋi] as in

21.   [raninə   əŋaŋbə   məcu   pambə]   əy   khəŋŋi

       Rani-NOM   red   color   want-NZR   I   know

       I know that Rani likes red color.

ii)   The sentential complement [rani nə əŋaŋbə məcu pambə] **can follow the matrix clause** [əy khəŋŋi] **as shown below**

22.   əy   khəŋŋi   [rani nə   əŋaŋbə   məcu   pambə]

       I   know   Rani-NOM   red   color   want-NZR

       I know that Rani likes red color.

       The use of this kind of sentential complement is less frequent.

iii) **The sentential complement** [rani nə əŋaŋbə məcu pambə] **can be embedded into the matrix clause [** əy khəŋŋi] as shown below

23. əy   [rani nə   əŋaŋbə   məcu   pambə]   khəŋŋi
      I   Rani-NOM   red   color   want-NZR   know
      I know that Rani likes red color.

(j) **There are two main types of quotative complementizers, namely 'haybə' and 'haynə';** these two complementizers have been derived from the verb hay 'say' through the addition of the adverbial suffix '-nə' and the infinitive suffix '-bə' respectively.

Complements ending in 'haybə' refer to a fact (a state, process or action) whereas the ones ending in 'haynə' refer to a statement. The use of these complementizers involves certain pre-suppositional differences.

(I) **Complementation by the Use of the Quotative Complementizer 'haybə':**

The more general nominalizer which corresponds more closely to the relative clause nominalization is a fully inflected finite clause nominalization by the quotative complementizer 'haybə'. The quotative turns the entire clause into an attribute, which then can be used to make reference to either the subject or the object (depending on which argument is made the head of the noun phrase).

24. cawbə nə   cawbi   pamjəy haybə əy   kʰəŋŋi
      Chaoba-NOM Chaobi   like   QTV   I   know
      I know that Chaoba likes Chaobi.

25. əy   ca   kərəmnə sem-gəni   haybə   kʰəŋŋi
      I   tea   how   make-ASP QTV   know
      I know how to make tea.

26. məhak   kərəmnə tusəl-li   haybə   əy   kʰəŋŋi
      he   how   to fall -ASP   QTV   I   know
      I know how he fell down.

The Quotative 'haybə' is Used to Infer an Assertion:

(i)   When speaker disagrees or wants to intentionally challenge an earlier statement made by someone else as in the following *examples*.

27.   ma nə   məpʰəm ədu   pʰəjəy   haybə   əranbə-ni
       he-NOM   place   DET   nice   QTV   wrong-COP
       His saying that the place is nice is wrong.

28.   ma nə   deli də   təm-mi   haybə   təwsinnəbə-ni
       he-NOM   Delhi-LOC   study-ASP   QTV   deceit-COP
       His saying that he studies in Delhi is a deceit.

(ii)   When speaker wants to show agreement to an earlier statement made by someone else as in the following *examples.*

29.   ma nə   məpʰəm   ədu   pʰəjəy   haybə   əcumbə-ni
       he-NOM   place   DET   nice   QTV   true-COP
       His saying that the place is nice is true.

30.   ma nə   deli də   təm-mi   haybə   əseŋbə-ni
       he-NOM   Delhi-LOC   study-ASP   QTV   truth-COP
       His saying that he studies in Delhi is a truth.

(iii) The agreement to a statement can be indicated by the addition of the lexical negator 'nətte' to the negative words as in the following *examples*.

31.   ma nə   deli də   təmmi   haybə   əranbə nətte
       he-NOM   Delhi-LOC study-ASP   QTV   false-LNTR
       His saying that he studies in Delhi is a truth.

32.   ma nə   məpa   doktər ni   haybə   məcin   tʰibə nətte
       he-NOM   father   doctor-COP QTV   lips   lie-LNTR
       His saying that his father is a doctor is not a lie.

The quotative complimentizer 'haybə' is used for showing off one's ability when used with the emphatic marker 'di' as in the following *examples.*

33. əy di   sari   kərəmnə   set-kəni   haybə   kʰəŋŋi
      I- EMP   saree   how   wear-ASP   QTV   know
      I know how to wear a saree.

34. əy di   yen   kərəmnə   tʰoŋ-gəni   haybə   kʰəŋŋi
      I EMP   hen   how   cook-ASP   QTV   know
      I know how to cook chicken.

(II)   Use of the Quotative Complimentizer 'haynə':

The use of the quotative complimentizer 'haynə' refer to a statement as shown in the following *examples*.

35. əy   cət-kəni   haynə   wasək-kʰi
      I   go-ASP   QTV   promise-ASP
      I promised that I would be going.

36. cawbə nə   cawbi   pamjəy   haynə   hay
      Chaoba-NOM Chaobi   like   QTV   say
      Chaoba says that he likes Chaobi.

37. mə   yen   kərəmnə   tʰoŋ-gəni   kʰaŋŋi haynə   hay
      he   chicken   how   cook-ASP   know   QTV   say
      He says he knows how to make chicken.

(III)   Alternate Use of Quotative Complimentizer 'haybə' and 'haynə':

38. əy   ŋa   cabə   pam-mi   haynə   məkʰoy də   kʰəŋhən-kʰi
      I   fish   eat-NZR   want-ASP QTV   they-EMP   let know -ASP
      I made them know that I want to eat fish.

39. əy   ŋa   cabə   pam-mi   haybə   məkʰoy də   kʰəŋhən-kʰi
     I   fish   eat-NZR   want-ASP QTV   they-EMP   let know-ASP
     I made them know that I want to eat fish.

(IV)   Use of Quotative Complimentizer 'haybə' and 'haynə' in a Single Statement:

The two complementizers can be used in a single embedding when asserting a statement on behalf of someone else absence. In such a case, it is obligatory that the quotative complementizer'haynə' can only precede the quotative complementizer 'haybə' as shown below.

40.   ma   pʰurit   ədu   pam-mi   haynə   haybə   əy   kʰəŋŋi
         he   shirt   DET   want-ASP QTV   QTV   I   know
         I know that he says that he likes the shirt.

41.   ma   deli də   cət-kəni   haynə   haybə   əy   kʰəŋŋi
         he   delhi-LOC   go-ASP   QTV   QTV   I   know
         I know that he says that he would go to Delhi.

42.   ma   ca   tʰək-kəni   haynə   haybə ni
         he   tea   drink-ASP   QTV   QTV-COP
         He says that he would drink tea.

43.   ma   lak-kəni   haynə   haybə ni
         he   come-ASP   QTV   QTV-COP
         He says that he would come.

44.   ma   cətpə   yawni   haynə   haybə ni
         he   go-NZR   join   QTV   QTV   COP
         He says that he would be going along.

45.　　ma　　ca-gəni　　haynə　haybə ni

　　　　he　　eat-ASP　　QTV　　QTV-COP

　　　　He says that he would eat.

Conclusion

This paper is essentially an exploratory analysis of Sentential Complementation in Manipuri. These preliminary findings will hopefully serve as a basis for advancement of further studies.

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Abbreviations

ACC : Accusative

ASP : Aspect

COP : Copula

CAUS: Causative

DET : Determiner

EMP : Emphatic

GEN : Genitive

INST : Instrumental

LOC : Locative

LNTR : Lexical Negator

NEG : Negative

NOM : Nominative

NZR : Nominalizer

QTF : Quantifier

QTV : Quotative

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