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 ləpʰ oy 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 pʰ ubə 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.
In the above two examples, there is a clear indication that one ‘him’ is the doer or subject [ma-na (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. mapa na ma bu phubə əy uy
father-NOM he-ACC beat-NZR I see
I saw his father beating him.

5. mapa na 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 راءysa du tombə də pi woman DET 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 tʰəŋ ə hoatpə du yamburger nəŋə-ye te elephant knife-INST kill-NZR DET QTQ happy-NEG

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

13. manipuri lon ŋəbə yamburger luy Manipuri language speak-NZR QTQ difficult

Speaking Manipuri language is very difficult.
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 əŋbə ‘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 tʰəbek yamnə təwbə way
    I work QTF do-NZR tired
    Doing too much work makes me tired.

15. b. əy tʰəbek 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 tʰakpə cət-kəni
he wine drink-NZR go-ASP
He will go for drinking.

18. b. məhak yu tʰakpə 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 əŋəŋbə məcu pambə] **precedes the matrix clause** [əy khəŋŋi] as in

21. [raninə əŋəŋbə məcu pambə] əy khəŋŋi
Rani-NOM red color want-NZR I know
I know that Rani likes red color.

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

22. əy khəŋŋi [rani əŋəŋbə 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 əŋaŋbə məcu pambə] can be embedded into the matrix clause [əy khəŋŋi] as shown below

23. əy [rani 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 ‘haybә’ 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 ə mәpʰәm ədu pʰәjәy haybә әranbә-ni
he-NOM place DET nice QTV wrong-COP
His saying that the place is nice is wrong.

28. ma ə deli də tәm-mi haybә tәwәsәnәbә-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 ə mәpʰәm ədu pʰәjәy haybә әcumbә-ni
he-NOM place DET nice QTV true-COP
His saying that the place is nice is true.

30. ma ə deli də tәm-mi haybә әseŋbә-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 ‘nәtte’ to the negative words as in the following examples.

31. ma ə deli də tәmmi haybә әranbә nәtte
he-NOM Delhi-LOC study-ASP QTV false-LNTR
His saying that he studies in Delhi is a truth.

32. ma ə mәpa doktәr ni haybә mәcin tʰibә nәtte
he-NOM father doctor-COP QTV lips lie-LNTR
His saying that his father is a doctor is not a lie.
The quotative complimentizer ‘haybә’ is used for showing off one’s ability when used with the emphatic marker ‘di’ as in the following examples.

33. əy di sari kəɾəmnə set-kənɪ haybә kʰəŋŋi
I- EMP saree how wear-ASP QTV know
I know how to wear a saree.

34. əy di yen kəɾəmnə tʰəŋ-gənɪ haybә kʰəŋŋi
I EMP hen how cook-ASP QTV know
I know how to cook chicken.

(II) Use of the Quotative Complimentizer ‘haynә’:

The use of the quotative complimentizer ‘haynә’ refer to a statement as shown in the following examples.

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

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

37. mə yen kəɾəmnə tʰəŋ-gənɪ kʰəŋŋi haynә hay
he chicken how cook-ASP know QTV say
He says he knows how to make chicken.

(III) Alternate Use of Quotative Complimentizer ‘haybә’ and ‘haynә’:

38. əy na cabə pam-mi haynә məkʰoy də kʰəŋŋən-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 əy 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 Ḻʰurit 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 cət-pə yawni haynə haybə ni
he go-NZR join QTV QTV COP
He says that he would be going along.
45. ma ca-gənɨ 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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