Paper Title: On the Functions of "Marked Clausal Constructions" in Thai
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ABSTRACT
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The Thai language has been defined, in terms of basic clausal structure, as a subject prominent (subject-predicate) language where its word order is "typically" SVO. In spoken discourse especially, it is observable that, in addition to SVO, either OSV and VOS is also found along with some phonological or morphological markers or in special constructions. Clauses in such particular characteristics, thus, are called marked clausal constructions in this paper. They include marked-word-order constructions such as alternative word order, fronting/leftward movement, left-dislocation and right-dislocation and special focus constructions such as passives, 'existing' sentences and clefts. Such constructions involve pragmatic categories that can be used to describe the functions of syntactic operations and other phenomena found in different languages.

This paper aims to present the pragmatic/discourse functions of "marked clausal constructions" in the Thai language. Differently speaking, it attempts to reveal that the reasons for employing the marked constructions are pragmatic/discourse constraints, e.g., the management of given and new information, expression of topics, focus, contrast, and so forth. The study is conducted in the frame work of Construction Grammar, a new functional approach that makes use of the notion of construction as a principle and aims at full coverage of the facts of any language, including elements peripheral to the traditional grammars and allows the study of grammatical patterns to be as complex as necessary. The data is collected from the usage of the Thai language both spoken and written in the present, without any concern on other dimensions of usage styles such as formal-informal, academic-nonacademic and so forth.

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