

Mirative and Contrastive Focus in Bih

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Basic clause constructions

(1) Kâo dôk ha sang.
1 stay LOC home

'I am home.' (ND008/102)

(2) ǒng dlǎng aduân kâo ti sang.
2 look grandmother 1 LOC house

'You look at my grandmother at home.'(ND008/176)

(3) Gǒ ma-bǒng katǎr tle.
3 PRE-eat corn pound

'He ate mashed corn.'(PA012/020)

(4) Kâo brei agăr **leh** kơ ống.
 1 give drum PFV LOC 2
 'I gave the drum to you already.'(ND007/402)

(5) Truh ta djruah,
 Arrive LOC deer

dlăng djruah **dôk** pa-măm anak.
 watch deer PROG CAUS-nurse child

'At the deer's place, the deer is nursing her child.' (ND008/501)

Mirative *mơh*

DeLancey (1997): mirative-the grammatical marker for "new or unexpected information" (to the speaker)

(6) Mtao năn brei dôk mơh.
village.chief DIST give stay MIR

‘The village chief (to my surprise) agreed for them to get married’
(PA011/091)

(7) Arăng ba ajih mơh ta palei arăng
3 bring all MIR LOC wife 3
ta sang răng aốô.
LOC house 3 REFL

‘He took it all [the whole half of the roast buffalo] to his wife back at his own house.’(ND007/220)

Contrastive focus *mơh*

Lambrecht (1994): add information into a proposition contradicting what is presupposed or assumed

(8)Nei	aê		ñu	ngă	kĩn	ñu	čięng,
now	grandfather		3	make	NEG	3	want
miêt	wa		ñu	ngă	kĩn	ñu	čięng
uncle	uncle		3	make	NEG	3	want
ăt	hia	kĩn	ama	mơh	ngă	ana.	
still	cry	LOC	father	FOC	make	crossbow	

'Now when his grandfather or his uncle made a crossbow for him, he didn't want it. He wanted (to the speaker's surprise) his father to make one for him.'(PA011/052)

(9) Mǒ ǒng tilit ańuê ka, ka siem
 wife 2 roll mat not.yet not.yet beautiful
 ka siem ńu mǒh, siem arǎng mǒh.
 not.yet beautiful 3 FOC beautiful 3 FOC

('Your wife who rolls a mat is not as beautiful as her.')

Mǒ ǒng ti ńǎn lang ańuê, ńǎ abǎn, brei abǎn,
 wife 2 LOC DIST spread mat, make blanket give blanket
 ǎt siem arǎng mǒh.
 again beautiful 3 FOC

('Your wife who spreads a mat is not as beautiful as her.')

Mǒ phǔn ǒng, palei phǔn ǒng
 wife root 2 wife root 2
 ǎt siem arǎng mǒh.
 again beautiful 3 FOC

('Your head wife is not as beautiful as her.')

'It is her who is more beautiful than any of your wives.' (ND008/293)

The differences between Mirative and Contrastive Focus

Mirative

- Sentential operator
- Unexpected information
- Can be replaced by an anti-mirative particle *yo'h*.

Contrastive focus

- NP operator
- Unexpected information which is contradicted what's assumed/presupposed
- Can't be replaced by an anti-mirative particle *yo'h*.

(10) Mtao năn brei dôk yoh.
 village.chief DIST give stay PTCL
 ‘The village chief agreed for them to get married’

(11) *Nei aê ñu ngă kĭn ñu čĭăng,
 now grandfather 3 make NEG 3 want

miêt wa ñu ngă kĭn ñu čĭăng
 uncle uncle 3 make NEG 3 want

ăt hia kĭn ama yoh ngă ana.
 still cry LOC father FOC make crossbow

References

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THANK YOU!