

The polyfunctionality of the particle *dī* in Dara-ang Palaung

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Dara-ang / Dara-ang reng / DP “Red Dara-ang”

- the Eastern Palaungic group
- the Palaungic branch of Northern Mon-Khmer subfamily
- the Austroasiatic Language Family
- spoken by Dara-ang people of Noe Lae Village, Fang District, Chiang Mai Province in the North of Thailand.
- It has no writing system.

Previous treatments of *di* in the Palaung language (s)

- Milne (1921)
 - *Di* = a prefix preceding a verb,
 - It is used to express immediate future and distant future.
- Pandora (2012)
 - *di* ‘will’
 - aspect auxiliary verb
 - intention auxiliary verb
 - *di* precedes a verb.

Previous treatments of *di* in the Palaung language (s)

- Janzen & Janzen(1972)
 - Relator of the locative, directive, and causal subtypes of prepositional phrases
 - a phrase connective word
 - *di* ‘definite future’
 - Its position in a verbal phrase is before a verb.
- Deepadung and Patpong (2010)
 - *di*= an auxiliary verb
 - a preposition in a locative prepositional phrase

‘di’

- Syntactic constructions
- Semantic properties

1. Syntactic construction

- 1.1 in a verb phrase
 - Before action verb and stative verb
 - After a verb of saying, talking, telling
 - After a verb of possession
 - After auxiliaries of capacity or process
 - Before a recipient
- 1.2 in a prepositional phrase
 - Before location words

- Before action verb

mε di haw dop ʔase

2S PART go with who

‘With whom will go?’

-Between 2 verbs

ʔo bǎt dǐ hom

1S pick.up PART eat

'I gather (it) in order to eat.'

- After a verb of telling

ge veŋ kalaŋ di chawban tən

3P return tell PART villagers this

‘They returned to tell those villagers.’

-After a verb of possession

lɛ ʔǎn tu mǎh dɨ ɲauh

but 3S NEG have PART kill

‘...but he doesn’t have anything to kill.’

- After auxiliaries of capacity

ʔǎn hɛ pən dɨ ŋauh maravaj

3S AUX AUX PART kill tiger

‘He was able to kill the tiger.’

-Before a recipient

?o taih khamun di ?alot

1S give sweet PART proper.name

‘I gave some sweet to A-lot.’

1.2 in a prepositional phrase - Before location words

gʊŋvɪŋ tən hɛ vɛŋ gəj dɪ kaŋ ʔǎn tən
proper.name that AUX return stay PART house 3S that

‘Father Wung has already returned and stayed at his home.’

ge maṅ toc di ?o dop teṅ

3D ask.for all PART 1S along way

‘Along the way, they asked me for all (of the meal).’

*after the verb *haw* ‘to go’

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haw diplɔ

to go-PART-foot

= ‘to walk’

2. Semantic properties

- Modal marker
 - *dî* ‘will’
 - Probability, possibility, condition, intention etc.
- Locative marker
 - Spatial or terminal location of action
 - Location = place or person (recipient)
 - ‘where’ = *dî + m̊o* ‘which’

Concluding remarks

- the polyfunctionality of *di*
- three narrative texts
- Syntactically, *di* occurs in verb phrase and prepositional phrases.
- Semantically, in a verb phrase, it seems to point to the future action: modal marker of probability, possibility, intention, or purpose.
- In a prepositional phrase, it is a location marker of either a spatial or terminal locations.

Thank you.

