

A Morphological Study of Burmese Words Used in Sagaing Division of Myanmar

Are The Ba¹, Narongchai Pintrymool² and Sakchai Posai³

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Abstract

The purposes of the study are: 1) to investigate the morphological system of Burmese in Sagaing Division of Myanmar; 2) to compare the morphological system with standard Burmese language. This thesis is concerned with documentary research and qualitative research. The data is gathered by in-depth interviews and an informal focus group, individual discussions and observations of the officers on-duty. The population of the study were totally 380 divided students and villagers who lived in Thaug Gyi village of Sagaing Division. The samples of the study included totally 191 students and villagers got by the purposive sampling method. Statistics for analysing data included Percentage, Mean and Standard Deviation (S.D.).

The findings of the study were found as follows: The researcher found that firstly, the finding of morphological words explored data in two categories such questionnaires were male and female information stated.

For the secondly, the researcher found that the result of test in the difficulty of word class compound used in both languages was at “very little” level of evaluation such “car-wheel”, “language school”. For the difficulties of Superordinate-Subordinate compound of Burmese list used at “very little” level of evaluation such “robber-man and teacher-house”. The compound of Burmese morphology list used at very little with the words such “working-place and monastery-ground”. The semantic compound Burmese morphology list used at “very little” level of evaluation such “happiness and mind reader”. The difficulties of rhyming compound forms of Burmese morphology list were at “very little” level of evaluation such “Poison pen letter and delusion way”. The difficulties of affixed

¹ M.A. Student, Master of Art in Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulanongkornrajavidyalaya University

^{2 3} Lecturer of the Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulanongkornrajavidyalaya University

Corresponding author, e-mail: asaba.bkk@gmail.com

compound nouns of Burmese morphology list were at “very little” level of evaluation such “drinking water and eating and drinking”. The difficulties of nominalization of Burmese morphology list were at “very little” level of evaluation such “development party and teaching method”. The difficulties of reduplication of Burmese morphology list used in each language was at very little level of evaluation such “think tank and liberation activities”.

Keywords: Morphology; Morphological Words; Burmese Language; Test Compound

Introduction

Language is a particular kind of system for encoding and decoding information. Language may refer either to the specifically human capacity acquiring and using complex systems of communication, or a specific instance to transfer the information from one to another that could be possibly complex kind of communication. The characteristics of language that exist in communication as a social phenomenon are systematic, symbolic, yet structurally compel. Language itself is a part of human being. It reflects people’s attitudes, beliefs, and overviews. Language both expresses and embodies cultural realities. On the other hand, it is a part of culture. It helps perpetuate and influence the culture to a certain extent. It is defined as systematic means that it is communicating ideas or feeling by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks. It also helps the brain function in producing responses to what people do. So that, whatever they think, there is a word produced and whatever they conceive, there will be a reason.

In Linguistics, morphology studies the formation of meaningful units and the relation among them in specific languages. (Hnin Thu Zar Aye, 2019) Myanmar language likes other Southeast Asia languages that do not place spaces between words. There are many unknown words in this process. Some of the unknown words occur due to the inflective nature of Myanmar Language. Languages may be divided into three broad categories: isolating, agglutinative and inflective languages. Isolating languages, such as Chinese, have little or no morphology and thus do not benefit from morphologically analysis. Agglutinative languages, also known as agglomerative or compounding languages, are those in which basic roots and words can be combined to make new words. These languages, such as Turkish or Finnish, tend to have many morphemes. Inflectional morphemes are used to modify a word to reflect information such as tense. Thet Thet Zin, Khin Mar Soe, Ni Lar Thein, 2011 stated that

Myanmar language may be agglutinative language and inflective language because Myanmar words can be combined to make new words. Therefore, translation model used some rules for syntactic structure and morphological analysis of Myanmar language to improve in translation direction and to reduce the number of unknown words in translation.

The Burmese Language is the official language of Burmese in Myanmar. It is also the native language of the Burmese and related sub-ethnic groups of the Myanmar, as well as that of some ethnic minorities in Myanmar like the Mon. Burmese Language is spoken by 32 million as a first language and as a second language by 10 million, particularly ethnic minorities in Myanmar and those in neighbouring countries. When we study the history of Burmese language, we come to know that Burmese plays a vital role in developing the status of a country. Burmese is spoken mainly as their first language. Therefore, more schools or universities around the Myanmar are designing their curriculum by using Burmese as a media of instruction to prepare and help students to be ready to live in Myanmar happily. For this confidence, individuals need to make sure that they are proficient in the Burmese language. Considering this situation, many factors have been identified as the cause of such issue to occur among the students and teachers.

Finally, researcher analyses the development of the linguistic form as: morphological variation words of Burmese language in Sagaing division of Myanmar, and interested in studying has several other topics to address. Words serve a number of functions other than ordinary communication of words. From the mention above, Burmese language in Myanmar call themselves "Bamar" /Bama /but, the other races and nation call Burma. In over all, the researcher will focus on a morphological variation words of Burmese language Sagaing Division of local people in Myanmar. Moreover, researcher tend it to overcome any difficulties pertaining to this issue for the betterment of research and analysing morphological words used Burmese language.

Research Objectives

1. To investigate the morphological system of Burmese in Sagaing Division of Myanmar;
2. To compare the morphological system with standard Burmese language.

Research Methodology

The research employed documentary and qualitative methods. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, informal focus groups, individual discussions, and observations. The study population consisted of 380 individuals from Thaung Gyi village, with a sample of 191 participants selected purposively. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics including percentage, mean, and standard deviation.

The researcher decided to use the morphology comprehension test to examine the participants. The participants who are living in Myanmar will be interviewed in 10 minutes on morphological skills test in order to show whether they understand the main idea. Questionnaires are used for testing local people of participants in Myanmar. All interviewees are local people who are currently living in Myanmar.

For the data analysis used the descriptive statistics including percentage, mean, and standard deviation provided on the participants' attitudes towards morphological variation in Burmese language. Therefore, research designed the morphological words into two main groups based on gender information from questionnaires. The findings were in various types of compounds and morphological forms in Burmese were evaluated as having "very little" difficulty of data collection.

Population and Samples

The study involved 380 participants (students and villagers) from Thaung Gyi village, with a sample of 191 selected purposively in Myanmar. The Sagaing Division where the researcher has lived at the times of this survey for data collection in this study using via purposive sampling. The local people who were participated in mandatory making to prepare for study. The data were conducted among the minority populations in local people; and the qualitative research focused on the intermediate process between reason and result.

Analyzing and Classifying to Categories

Compound noun used in Sagaing Division of Myanmar can be analysed according to their structure as the following types:

Burmese language of word classes

- 1) Word Class compound
- 2) Superordinate -Subordinate Compound
- 3) Class Term Compound

- 4) Semantic Compound
- 5) Rhyming compound forms
- 6) Affixed Compound noun
- 7) Nominalization
- 8) Reduplication

Tools of Research

There are three main research tools used for this study namely; questionnaire, and testing vocabulary.

Interview

Researcher aims to interview people that are directly related to this research study namely; 50 participants in local people.

Questionnaire

Questionnaire were used for this research study. It was divided into four parts: Part 1. General background information (age, gender, educational level, morphological experiences, the most wanted Burmese language skill, etc.). Part 2. Question design which includes morphology variation of attitude, word formation comprehension. Part 3. Opinions and suggestions on Burmese language and Burmese morphological skills. Part 4. Morphological variation uses in Burmese language.

Research Results

This part showed general background information of population namely ages, classes; Burmese morphology study experiences, the most wanted Burmese language skill, and the most used Burmese language skill, purposes of studying Burmese morphology, and previous knowledge of Burmese morphology as follow:

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	100	52.40%
Female	91	47.60%
Other	0	00.00%
Total	191	100.00%

Table 1 Gender of the Respondents (N=191)

According to table 1 mainly presented the information on gender, referring to the person those who stay at Thaung Gyi Primary School and Thaung Gyi village in Sagaing Division. About gender of students, there are all 191 students of primary

school and villagers in Myaung village: male 100 students and villagers with 52.40%, and female have 91 students and villagers with 47.60%. It can present in the table 1 respectively.

Age	Frequency	Percentage
5-7 years	11	5.80%
8-10 years	30	15.70%
11-13 years	50	26.20%
Villagers, more than 13 years	100	52.40%
Total	191	100

Table 2 Age of the Respondents (N=191)

According to table 2 mainly presented the information on age 5-7 years, there are all 11 students of Primary Thaug Gyi Village school and villagers with 5.80% in Thaug Gyi village. At the age 8-10 years have 30 students and villagers with 15.70% in Thaug Gyi Village. Most student are at the age 11-13 years have 50 students with 26.26%, age of more than 13 years there are 20 students and villagers with 52.40%.

Statements	Frequency of Percentage					Total	\bar{X}	S.D.
	Very Much	Much	Fairly	Little	Very Little			
	5	4	3	2	1			
Water-Pot ရေအိုး	48 25.10%	30 15.70%	23 12.00%	60 31.40%	30 15.70%	100%	3.314	1.454
Car-Wheel ကားဘီး	50 26.20%	33 17.30%	24 12.60%	16 8.40%	68 35.60%	100%	2.900	1.652
Man-Young လူငယ်	23 12.00%	67 35.10%	38 19.90%	12 6.30%	51 26.70%	100%	2.994	1.404
Computer+ Keyboard ကွန်ပျူတာ ကီး ဘုတ်	34 17.80%	12 6.30%	71 37.20%	23 12.00%	51 26.70%	100%	3.235	1.384
Language+ School သင်တန်းကျောင်း	44 23.00%	32 16.80%	9 4.70%	12 6.30%	94 49.20%	100%	3.418	1.720

Table 3 testing word class compound of Burmese morphology list

According to the table 3 presented the respondent's difficulties of word class compound list used in Burmese language. Most of the respondents indicated that as the seen in this table the word class compound words of "Water-Pot- ရေအိုး" is the highest score at "little" of 31.40% (SD. = 1.454) and followed by the second-place word class compound word "Car- Wheel = ကားအိုး" with a mean score at "very little" of 35.60% (SD=652). In addition, the third-place word class compound "Man- Young- လူငယ်" with a mean score at "much" of 35.10 % (SD 1.404). Computer+ Keyboard ကွန်ပျူတာအီးဘုတ် is the highest score of "Fairly" of 37.20 % (SD 1.384). Language+ school with the highest score of "Very Little" of 49.20% (SD 1.720).

This research has confined its study within the morphological system of the Burmese morphological system and use. The investigation included male 100 respondents with 52.40%, and female have 91 students and villagers with 47.60%. The age groups were divided three categories age of student, there are all 11 students and villagers with 5.80%. At the age 8-10 years have 30 students and villagers with 15.70%. The highest amount student of 50 are at the age 11-13 years with 26.26%, age of more than 13 years there are 20 students and villagers with 52.40%. The meaning of results was evaluated and interpreted for respondents' opinions on gender with interviewing carefully. Overall, the responses indicate a positive inclination towards the statements.

In this part, according to computer program to calculate an analysis the overall percentage of the testing of Burmese morphology compound forms in Burmese language. It was to find the resultant scales of the opinion of the respondents in statement. There were difficulties of word class compound list used in Burmese language.

Many students make the mistake of turning to the text too quickly. However, the point here is to study morphological skills so just stay focused in Burmese language for the time being. By this point, students should be able to understand almost everything quite well even without the visual aid of the text in Burmese language.

According to the qualitative study taken from Mr., U That Naing, Head of Basic Education High School of Thaug Gyi village of Sagaing Division, stated that "Burmese, like the other languages of the area, such as English prefixes, prefixes and suffixes. Examples of Burmese prefixes are "Ma-" of negative can attach to *verbs (un-do)*

adjectives (*un-kind*) and nouns (*un-belief*). The suffix “*Nae-*” attaches to verbs, and may also appear in nouns and adjective derived from such verbs), as in *negative words* such the sample suffixation occurring in the addition of the suffix – able to a verb for making adjectives, as in do-able and re-us-able.

To sum up, researcher showed a lot about the respondents how they used Burmese language morphological words in Thauung Gyi of Sagaing Division of Myanmar. It given us a good look at both the good things and the challenges.

Results

From the findings of the study, there were data obtained from the students and villagers through documentary and qualitative data and then the finding explored the words giving for identification of compound words in accordance with the morphological words by Agganyana (2016) mentioned based on the morphological study of words, how they are formed, and their relationship to other words in the same language in local area and the standard Burmese. It was found that the parts of speech of all the three parts are the same but they are different only in pronunciation.

The study discussed to provide a more detailed analysis of the study’s findings on how do the identified morphological issues impact the understanding and use of Burmese language compounds. The results were used to improve teaching practices or address identified challenges. For the theoretical framework of morphology, it lacks a detailed connection between the study’s findings and this theory. For instance, explain how the study’s results align with or challenge the theoretical understanding of free and bound morpheme to compare with Joyes Sheela A/P Subrayan Michael (2011) and Thet Thet Zin (2015) as in the similarities and differences between the studies and contributed to the current understanding of Burmese morphology reflected by the Burmese native speakers in local areas.

For the using of two kinds of morphemes; free morpheme and bound morpheme, which divided into two: simple forms in including two kinds: 1) Morpheme 2) Compound forms including four kinds of compound as stated in the contrast with the study of variable words are words that go into grammatical paradigm with varying fixed and affixed roots.

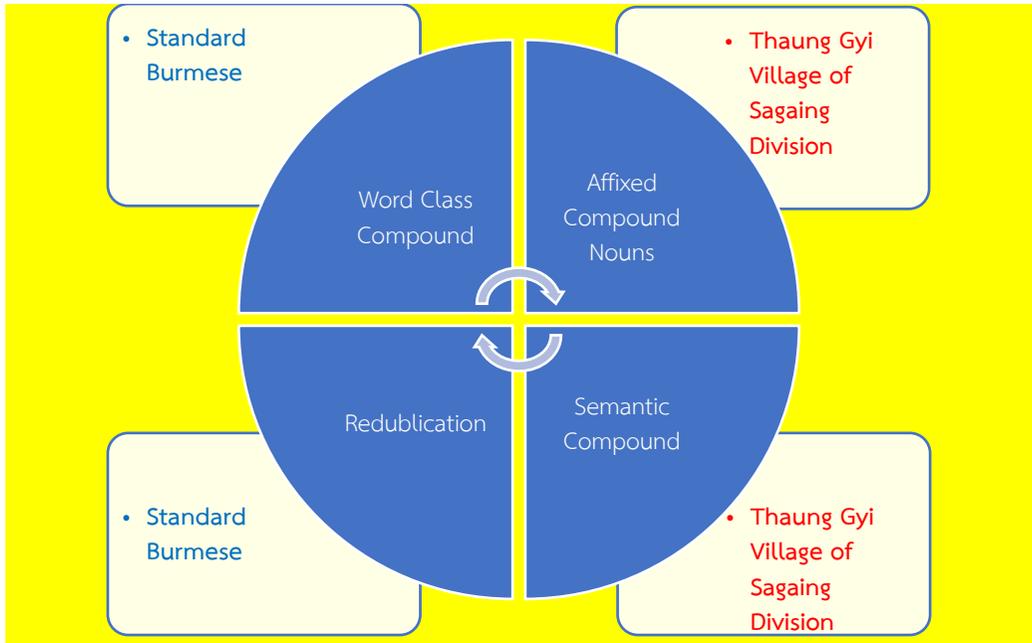
The study was to identify the Morphological Burmese as Verb Phrases and the roots of language verbs are almost always suffixed with at least one particle which

conveys such information as tense, intention, politeness, mood, etc. For this language, the verb suffixes make the Burmese speakers to find out the difficulty in translation of Myanmar to English because some suffixes have the same tense and the same meaning.

Therefore, Burmese language is spoken all over the morphological skills in Thaug Gyi village of Myaung province of Sagaing Division, there is no particular place for acknowledged different parts of the Myaung province of Sagaing Division. As stated, that a morphological language of Myaung province of Sagaing Division has more influence in the central of Sagaing Division. However, the researcher has leaned to use in practical way and asking questions, because a researcher has to note carefully the form of emotional voices and word describing between Burmese and English vocabulary use. It will be smooth and easier for Burmese people, because their intonation if more than other places and language such as Yaw, Saw, Rakhaing etc. In conclusion, Burmese ethnics could speak difference in Myanmar. The benefits of learning by doing this research, it is important of contribute a Burmese morphology as presented in detail of the body text.

Knowledge

From research titled “A morphological study of Burmese words used in Sagaing Division of Myanmar” obtained the knowledge about morphological words. Nowadays the young generations study more about language but some of the Burmese words have more similarity words and difference in words. So, this research can help for young generation to study more about Burmese morphological words. Burmese morphology in Myanmar, there is no particular a morphological study of the Burmese language has more influence in Sagaing Division. All the parts of the Sagai Division and Burmese language are influencing over the whole local people and other ethnic group. Therefore, morphological words used, the word formation and word class from all parts of the Burmese language found in the different morphological words shown in the picture as follow:



Picture 1 Burmese words used in Thaug Gyi Village of Sagaing Division of Myanmar shown in different type of classification

Conclusion and Suggestions

After conducting the research, it was found that there were 3 types of eight compound words occurred on students and villagers. The influence of mother tongue, lack of knowledge, carelessness, and etc. the students and villagers used morphology words since they applied Burmese language. In addition, the lack of knowledge of some Burmese rules such as how to deal with other words of Burmese language. Moreover, the focus and concentration also needed in producing words or sentences.

In accordance with research finding and the conclusion of the research, there are several suggestions that prevented. To begin, it is hope for the students to comprehend some Burmese language morphology words well and could compose good academic writing, since they were categorized as the high achiever students and villagers.

Important to realize, the students and villagers' candidates, they are necessitated to own good Burmese capability, particularly in forming a word spoken Burmese language. In term of that, students must do practice intensively both speaking and writing practice and also, they must be independent in speaking and

practicing their Burmese morphology skill writing by obtaining another additional material from other sources that provide some Burmese morphology skill practice.

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