

# Word Classes in Brôu

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This study is an attempt to establish the syntactically significant word classes in Brôu.<sup>1</sup> Class definitions have been stated in terms of several different criteria such as transformational battery function, tagmemic filler function, possibilities of other occurrence, etc., according as one or another criterion afforded an easier statement. In general an attempt was made to avoid negative definitions.

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<sup>1</sup>. Brôu is a language of the Mon-Khmer family. It is estimated that there are between thirty and fifty thousand Brôu speakers in the northwest corner of South Viet Nam and in the neighboring areas of Laos and North Viet Nam. Data for this paper were collected in Hương Hóa district of Quảng Tri province in South Viet Nam.

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Words in Brôu may be simple or complex. A simple word is considered to be the minimum meaningful unit which can be spoken in isolation. A complex word is a combination of two or more simple words, whose meaning is not the same as the sum of the meanings of its parts. For the purposes of this paper both simple and complex words will be referred to as 'words'.

## II. MAJOR CLASSES

**1. Nouns (N).** A noun is any word that can fill the Noun Head slot in a substantive phrase.<sup>2</sup> The tagmemic formula for the Brôu substantive phrase is:  $\pm (\pm \text{Nu} \pm \text{Cl}) \pm \text{NH} \pm \text{P} \pm \text{M} \pm \text{D} \pm \text{L}$ , in which Nu = Number, Cl = Classifier, NH = Noun Head, P = Possessive, M = Modifier, D = Demonstrative and L = Location.

This is a large open class comprising words such as *acho* 'dog', *aluang* 'tree', *ariaih* 'chief', *côai* 'person', *mpoaq* 'father', *achuaih* 'grandfather', *Khavi Rlu* 'a name', *Culirt* 'a name', *cîrq* 'I', *môi* 'you', *hěq* 'we (exclusive)', *dauq* 'water', *cumo* 'year', *casâi* 'month', *phéac* 'smoke', *achoang* 'measurement for outspread arms', *dôal* 'hill', *keing* 'side, edge', *ntrou* 'what', *aléq* 'which', *nau* 'who, they', etc.

This class has the following subclasses: Pronouns (Pr), Indefinite Pronouns (indPr), Non-classifiable Nouns (nclN), and Classifiable Nouns (clN).

<sup>2</sup>. Carolyn P. Miller, 'The Substantive Phrase in Brôu.' In this same volume.

**1. 1. Pr.** A pronoun is any general replacer noun which can substitute for or refer back to another noun, and which cannot be possessed by another pronoun.

This class is limited to the following words : *cừq* 'I', *mỏi* 'you', *anhia* 'you', *án* 'he, she, it', *alói* 'they (definite)', *nau* 'they (indefinite)', *hái* 'we (inclusive)', *hếq* 'we (exclusive)', *ca* 'that one, some', *cái* 'you (direct address)'. All members of Pr except *ca* 'that one, some' and *cái* 'you' are also members of cIN.

**1. 2. indPr.** An indefinite pronoun is any general replacer word that can substitute for a noun or substantive phrase and function like *ntrou* 'what, whatever, anything' in the following frames : *ntrou mỏi i boun* 'what you want have' 'What do you want?' *cừq taur eiq ntrou* 'I not want anything' 'I don't want anything'.

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data : *ntrou* 'what, whatever, anything', *nau* 'who whoever', *aléq* 'which, whichever', *maléq* 'how many', *máh léq* 'how many'.

**1. 3. ncIN.** A non-classifiable noun is any noun which cannot occur in immediate constituency with a preceding classifier.

This class comprises words such as *daurq* 'water', *cumo* 'year', *casái* 'month', *phéac* 'smoke', *lúq* 'mud', *créq* 'feces', *achoang* 'measurement for outspread arms', *dòal* 'hill', *keing* 'side, edge', etc. Words in this class tend to be items which are non-discrete or non-segmentable.

This class may be subdivided into countable (cnclN) and non-countable (ncnclN) nouns.

**1. 3. 1. cnclN.** A countable non-classifiable noun is any nclN which can be preceded directly by, and be in immediate constituency with, a number.

*This class comprises words such as cumo 'year', casai 'month', achoang 'measurement for outspread arms', dôal 'hill', keing 'side, edge', etc. Words in this class tend to be locations or units of measurement of time or space.*

**1.3.2. ncnclN.** A non-countable non-classifiable noun is any nclN which can never be preceded by a number.

*This class comprises words such as dauq 'water', phéac 'smoke', lúq 'mud', créq 'feces', etc. Words in this class tend to stand for items which are somewhat amorphous or unbounded.*

**1. 4. clN.** A classifiable noun is any noun which can be preceded by, and be in immediate constituency with, a classifier. This class may be subdivided on the basis of semantic criteria inherent in the classifiers with which they occur, but there appear to be no syntactic criteria for subdividing it.

*This class comprises words such as acho 'dog', aluang 'tree', ariaih 'chief', côai 'person', achuaih 'grandfather', Khauri Rlu 'a name', Culirt 'a name', cîrq 'I', mòi 'you', aho 'bamboo', tabong 'torch', bran 'rib', nghang 'bone', tapang 'bamboo flooring', tamáu 'stone', cucháh 'charcoal', poong 'potato', choâiq 'paper', sarâq 'book, word', palâi 'fruit', caneing 'tooth', au 'shirt', ayar 'blanket', sarlai 'loin-*

cloth', *parnǝh* 'a gong', *tangan* 'bowl', *cachei* 'lumber', *ratáng* 'woven bamboo wall', etc. Words in this class tend to be items which are somewhat discrete by nature.

**2. Verbs (V).** A verb is any word that can be preceded by *i* 'to want'.

This is a large open class comprising words such as *paurq* 'go', *lúh* 'run', *tacu* 'sit', *tayúng* 'to stand', *táq* 'do', *toán* 'hit', *cha* 'eat', *houm* 'see', *chéic* 'write', *óat* 'sing', *cacháng* 'laugh', *nhiam* 'to cry', etc. Words in this class tend to be actions rather than states.

*cúrq i cha* 'I want eat'     *I want to eat*

*cúrq i paurq* 'I want go'     *I want to go*

This class is divided into Intransitive Verbs (iV) and Transitive Verbs (tV).

**2. 1. iV.** An intransitive verb is any verb that can function like *paurq* 'go' in the following pair of transforms:  
*acho paurq* 'dog go' *The dog goes* <1,2> - simple statement.  
*paurq acho* 'go dog' *Go, dog!* <2,1> - command.

This class comprises words such as *paurq* 'go', *tacu* 'sit', *lúh* 'run', *tayúng* 'stand', *cacháng* 'laugh', *nhiam* 'cry', etc.

**2. 2. tV.** A transitive verb is any verb which can take an object. Clauses with transitive verbs cannot fit the <1,2>, <2,1> transformations of section 2.1 above. Transitive clauses which might appear to be transforms of the <1,2>, <2,1> type actually are simple statement forms, from two different batteries (similar to *John saw (Bill)* and *(Bill) saw John* in English).

This class comprises words such as *houm* 'see', *cha* 'eat', *tâq* 'do', *toân* 'hit', *chéic* 'write', *ôat* 'sing', etc.

*cîrq houm acho* 'I see dog' / *see the dog*

**3. Modifiers (Mod).** A modifier is any word that can fill the modifier slot in a substantive phrase, and is not a verb. I. e., a modifier can function as a word describing the noun head.<sup>2</sup>

This is a fairly large class comprising words such as *toâr* 'big', *côt* 'small', *dein* 'low', *saravîh* 'tall', *o* 'good', *sâuq* 'bad', *crâi* 'correct', *bein* 'accurate', *rêng* 'powerful', *lamên* 'pliable, soft', etc.

*acho toâr paîrq* 'dog big go' *The big dog goes*

*acho o paîrq* 'dog good go' *The good dog goes*

This class has one significant subclass, Adjectives (Adj).

**3. 1. Adj.** An adjective is any modifier that can function like *o* 'good' in the following set of transforms :

N — o — V. o describes N <1, 2, 3>

N — V — o. o describes V <1, 3, 2>

o — N — V. o describes V <3, 1, 2>

In other words adjectives can modify either nouns or verbs.

*acho o paîrq* 'dog good go' *The good dog goes*

*acho paîrq o* 'dog go good' *The dog goes well*

*o acho paîrq* 'good dog go' *The dog goes well*

The membership of this class is quite fluid, varying with individual speakers and situations. This class comprises perhaps

three-fourths of the modifiers and includes words such as *o* 'good', *sáuq* 'bad', *crái* 'correct', *bein* 'accurate', *rêng* 'powerful', *lamên* 'soft, pliable', etc.

### III. ADVERBIALS

**4. Adverbs (Adv).** An adverb is any word that can function like *sia* 'repeat' in the following set of transforms, in which 1 = actor, 2 = action, 3 = adverb.

<i>cítq pairq sia</i>	'I go repeat'	<i>I go again</i> <1, 2, 3>
<i>cítq sia pairq</i>	'I repeat go'	<i>I go again</i> <1, 3, 2>
<i>pairq cítq sia</i>	'go I repeat'	<i>I go again</i> <2, 1, 3>
<i>pairq sia cítq</i>	'go repeat I'	<i>I go again</i> <2, 3, 1>

In each of these forms 3 is always in immediate constituency with 2, the predicate.

This is a fairly large class comprising words such as *sia* 'repeat', *loah* 'again', *nic* 'continually', *ein* 'more, again', *hau* 'also', *tôh* 'definitely', *toáp* 'definitely', *theim* 'some more', *tourm* 'more', *sâng* 'without intent, empty-handed', *chíq* 'intensive', *boum* 'reflexive', *keng* 'able to do by oneself (of a child)', *chái* 'fast', *lakiai* 'tiredly', *ngcuai* 'slow', *sanua* 'now', *khoiq* 'completed action', *chor* 'already', *moám* 'finished', *ngkěq* 'soon', etc.

This class has one significant subclass, Temporal Adverbs (tAdv).

**4. 1. tAdv.** A temporal adverb is any adverb that can occur sentence initial. These are mostly words referring to time.



This class comprises words such as *sanua* 'now', *khoiq* 'completed action', *chor* 'already', *moâm* 'finished', *ngkếq* 'soon', *doun* 'a long time', *nhòang* 'before', *ntun* 'after', *lien* 'often', *mbauriq* 'just', *cláih* 'early', *saliq* 'late', *hoi léq* 'when', *tangái* 'daytime', *tarurp* 'morning', *parnar* 'tomorrow', *pra* 'two days from today', *mahái* 'yesterday', *ntria* 'two days ago', etc.

*sanua cirq pairq* 'now I go' *I'm going now* < 3, 1, 2 >

*sanua pairq cirq* 'now go I' *I'm going now* < 3, 2, 1 >

**5. Indefinite Adverb (indAdv).** An indefinite adverb can substitute for any adverbial phrase except a temporal adverb and can function like *nỏq* 'how, why' in the following frames :

*nỏq móri táq nái* 'how you do this' *How do you do this ?*

*cirq taur dáng táq nỏq* 'I not know do how' *I don't know how to do it.*

This class has only one member : *nỏq* 'how, why'.

**6. postverbs ( poV ).** A postverb is bound to a preceding verb and functions as a modifier of that verb. This class has two members : *tháng* 'uncertain duration', *loâng* 'uncertain duration'.

*cirq pairq thánq* 'I go uncertain' *I'm going (and not returning right away)*

*pairq thánq cirq* 'go uncertain I' *I'm going (and not returning right away)*

**7. Preverbs (preV).** A preverb is a word that can occur before a verb and be in immediate constituency with that verb. A preverb cannot be immediately preceded by *taur* 'not'.

This class is limited to the following members: *i* 'to want', *ót* 'continually' *phái* 'must', *choui* 'don't'. *i* 'to want' occurs only bound to a following verb. *choui* 'don't' can occur alone as a negative command.

<i>mói choui pairq</i>	'you don't go'	<i>Don't you go</i>
<i>choui mói pairq</i>	'don't you go'	<i>Don't you go</i>
<i>choui</i>	'don't'	<i>Don't !</i>

**8. Negativizers (Neg).** A negativizer is any word that can function like *taur boun* 'no' in the following set of transforms, in which 1=actor, 2=negativizer, 3=action.

<i>mói taur boun pairq</i>	'you no go'	<i>You aren't going</i>	<1, 2, 3>
<i>taur boun mói pairq</i>	'no you go'	<i>You aren't going</i>	<2, 1, 3>
<i>mói pairq taur boun</i>	'you go no'	<i>Are you going?</i>	<1, 3, 2>

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data: *taur* 'no', *taur boun* 'no', *ngcarn* 'no', *taur carn* 'no', *yóah* 'not yet', *taur yóah* 'not yet'.

**9. <tê>.** *tê* 'also' is a one-word class that can occur following the predicate. It can also occur as a final particle. In both instances it functions as a modifier of the predicate.

<i>círq pairq tê</i>	'I go also'	<i>I'm going too</i>
<i>pairq tê círq</i>	'go also I'	<i>I'm going too</i>

*círq boun đốq té* 'I have house also' / *also have a house*

**10. < đốq >.** The < đốq > class consists of words which function like đốq 'usually' in the following set of transforms, in which 1=actor, 2=action, and 3=đốq.

*círq pairq đốq* 'I go usually' / *usually go* < 1, 2, 3 >

*círq đốq pairq* 'I usually go' / *usually go* < 1, 3, 2 >

*đốq círq pairq* 'usually I go' / *usually go* < 3, 1, 2 >

*đốq pairq círq* 'usually go I' / *usually go* < 3, 2, 1 >

\* *pairq círq đốq* cannot occur

\* *pairq đốq círq* cannot occur

In each form that can occur đốq functions as a modifier of the verb.

This class has a limited membership: đốq 'usually', *lơq* 'seldom', *ngư máh kêi* 'sufficient', *ngư mahêi* 'sufficient'.

#### IV. NOMINAL SUBORDINATES

**11. Classifiers (Cl).** A classifier is any word which can fill the classifier slot in a substantive phrase.<sup>2</sup> Classifiers can occur only accompanied by one of the other tagmemes within the substantive phrase. I. e., a classifier cannot occur as a minimal manifestation of the substantive phrase.

*mới êit ntreh aluang* 'you get Cl tree' / *You get a tree*

*mới êit ntreh ki* 'you get Cl that' / *You get that tree*

*mới êit ntreh o* 'you get Cl good' / *You get a good tree*

\* *mới êit ntreh* cannot occur.

This is a fairly large class but one of limited membership. The following is complete for our data, though presumably not complete for the language. It should be noted that some classifiers can be used with only one or two nouns, but others can be used with a wide range of nouns. Also, there is often more than one classifier which would be appropriate with any given noun.

*acán* — classifies animals : *abráng* 'grasshopper', *alic* 'pig', *acho* 'dog', etc.

*being* — classifies bowls, pots, and bracelets : *laba* 'large metal pot', *lahai* 'small metal pot', *cổng* 'bracelet', *tangan* 'bowl', etc.

*cansái* — classifies string : *theip* 'wire', *luaih* 'rattan rope', *chúc* 'necklace', *samou* 'string', etc.

*cáp* / *cu* / *doui* — classify pairs of objects : *caltai* 'earrings', *carp* 'shoes', *tuáh* 'chopsticks', etc.

*choang* — classifies string-like objects : *casái* 'vein', *theip* 'wire', etc.

*churoq* — classifies *saráq* 'word, letter'.

*churoc* — classifies *sei* 'vehicle'.

*clổng* — classifies *sa-ỏh* 'a quiver'.

*clu* — classifies onion-like vegetable : *sakieu* 'onion',

*taveil* — 'an onion-like vegetable', etc.

*coál* — classifies living plants : *aluang* 'tree', *aho* 'bamboo', etc.

*couc* — classifies small stone-like objects or small sections of a whole: *tamáu* 'stone', *asai* 'ginger', *cucháh* 'charcoal', *poong* 'potato', *aluang* 'tree', etc.

*couiq* — classifies root-like vegetables: *abáng* 'bamboo sprouts', *bat* 'vegetable', etc.

*duong* — classifies *taméang* 'crossbow', and *kên* 'a musical instrument'.

*khleic* — classifies sheet-like objects: *choáiq* 'paper', *sarái* 'field', *sáiq* 'slice of meat', etc.

*lansor* — classifies long oblong objects: *mpírl* 'tamarind', *dan* 'bullet', *partic* 'pod of peas', *satong* 'string bean', *apún* 'a long thin fruit', etc.

*lau* — classifies *saniat* 'gun'.

*lám* — *lám* is a general classifier that can classify both animate and inanimate objects. Many of the nouns that can take *lám* as a classifier also occur with other more specific classifiers. When *lám* occurs it must always be preceded by a quantifier. *lám* can be used to classify words such as *acáp* 'a trap', *achoiq* 'large basket', *atêi* 'hand', *carvih* 'trigger', *acho* 'dog', *atia* 'duck', *ai* 'older brother', *ariaih* 'chief', etc.

*láng* — classifies *dǒng* 'house' and *sei* 'vehicle'.

*liang* — classifies leaves and rice fields: *howt* 'tobacco', *sala* 'leaf', *sapài* 'leafy vegetable', *sarái* 'rice field', etc.

*lot* — classifies balls or spools of *priai* 'thread'.

*naum* — classifies living plants: *aluang* 'tree', *brenq* 'an edible plant', *chor* 'a fetish made of leaves', etc.

*noaq* — classifies persons: *cóai* 'person', *carnein* 'child', *manseim* 'girl', *amiang* 'brother', etc. *noaq* must always be preceded by a quantifier.

*ntreh* — classifies stick-like and string-like objects: *aho* 'bamboo', *tanóul* 'house post', *coih* 'spear', *bran* 'ribs', *tapang* 'bamboo flooring', *crái* 'ratlan', *panôar* 'rope', etc.

*phein* — classifies broad flat objects: *pian* 'plank', *ratâng* 'wall', *akéng* 'windmill', etc.

*pla* — classifies cutting edges: *achôu* 'knife', *pria* 'bushhook', *sarêam* 'digging tool', *achât* 'axe', etc.

*plaw* — classifies *déiug* 'pipe'.

*ploah* — classifies certain broad flat objects and cloths: *au* 'shirt', *aliaiq* 'hunting net', *sên* 'skirt', *dóng* 'large flat basket', etc.

*pîrng* — classifies cakes of *děng dang* 'sugar' and *tarang* 'wax'.

*prôh* — classifies strands of string-like objects: *theip* 'wire', *samou* 'string', *ngcuac* 'necklace', etc.

*racong* — classifies stalks of fruit: *priat* 'banana', *saro* 'unhusked rice', etc.

*riang* — classifies long-handled tools: *achât* 'axe', *sarêam* 'digging tool', *pria* 'bushhook', etc.

*taláh* — classifies hands of *priat* ‘banana’.

*tâm* — classifies broad flat objects : *cachei* ‘lumber’, *sarâq* ‘book’, *choâiq* ‘paper’, *sarâi* ‘field’, etc.

*tóp* — classifies groups of animates : *còai* ‘people’, *tamór* ‘monkey’, *chôm* ‘bird’, etc.

*yac* — classifies coins : *proaq* ‘money’.

*ốc* — classifies small roundish objects : *caneing* ‘tooth’, *mantour* ‘star’, *rahâu* ‘pill’, *ahống* ‘papaya’, etc.

**12. Prepositions (Prep).** A preposition is any word that is bound to a following noun, demonstrative, or locative, and marks a subordinate construction within a clause.

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data : *cóp* ‘with’, *nừng* ‘with’, *youn* ‘for’, *tei* ‘from’, *toâq* ‘with, by means of’, *na* ‘with, by means of’, *ca* ‘with’, *rayur* ‘close to’, *nhơ* ‘because of’, *phân* ‘possessive’, *hân* ‘possessive’, *ân* ‘possessive’, *khong* ‘possessive’, *ntoun* ‘possessive’, *nhurp* ‘underneath’, *dêi ria* ‘midway’, *pa* ‘location marker’, *tâng* ‘location marker’.

*cừq paurq nừng mới* ‘I go with you’ *I’m going with you*

*cừq táq youn mới* ‘I work for you’ *I’m doing it for you*

**13. Locatives (Loc).** A locative is any word that functions like *paurng* ‘above’ in the following set of transforms :

*mới aurt paurng mpuol* ‘you stay above roof’ *You stay on the roof* <1, 2, 4, 5>.

*mời art tầng paurng mpuol* 'you stay at above roof' *You stay on the roof* <1, 2, 3, 4, 5>

*mời art tầng paurng* 'you stay at above' *You stay up there* <1, 2, 3, 4>

In the first sentence *paurng* 'above' functions as a preposition of location, with *mpuol* 'roof' as object of the preposition. In the second sentence *paurng* functions simultaneously as the object of the preposition *tầng* 'at' and as a preposition of location, with *mpuol* 'roof' as object. In the third sentence *paurng* functions only as object of the preposition *tầng*.

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data: *paurng* 'above', *purn* 'below', *clêi* 'behind', *mpững* 'between', *clống* 'inside', *tiah* 'outside'.

**14. Indefinite Locatives (indLoc).** An indefinite locative is a general replacer word that can substitute for a locative phrase and functions like *lég* 'where' in the following frames:

*mời paurq pa lég* 'you go loc. where' *Where are you going?*  
*cừq tax dáng pa lég mừi paurq* 'I not know loc. where you go' *I don't know where you are going*

This class is limited to two members: *lég* 'where, wherever' and *nlég* 'where, wherever'.

**15. Quantifiers (Q).** A quantifier is any word that can occur by itself in the numeral slot of the substantive



phrase.<sup>2</sup> I. e., it can occur in preposed attributive construction with classifiers.

This class has a limited membership, of which the following is a sampling. Complete lists will be given under the subclasses.

*muoi* 'one', *bar* 'two', *pái* 'three', *poun* 'four', *nheq* 'all', *dôu* 'every', *sa-oui* 'many (anything but people)', *béiq* 'few', *seiq* 'how many', *maléq* 'how much'.

This class is divided into the following subclasses: Counters (C), Numbers (Nu), and Quantitative Interrogatives (Qi).

**15.1. C.** A counter is any quantifier that can occur preceding another counter or a number, but cannot follow a number.

This class has the following membership, which is complete for our data: *nheq* 'all', *cu* 'every', *dôu* 'every', *sa-oui* 'many (anything but people)', *clúng* 'many (animates)', *biaq* 'few', *béiq* 'few', *khám* 'enough', *péq* 'sufficient', *núm* 'enough', *máh* 'all', *máh kèi* 'all', *mahèi* 'all', *calowi* 'excessive', *póq* 'excessive', *sarlauq* 'excessive', *máh* 'predominantly', *óh* 'many, crowded', *ca* 'some'.

*mòi èit dheq pái lám alic* 'you get all three Cl pig' *You get all three pigs*

**15.2. Nu.** A number is any quantifier that can precede another number but cannot precede a counter. When a number precedes another number without an intervening number multiplier

(see 16. below) both numbers are in coordinate construction with one another.

This is a closed class with the following membership: *muoi* 'one', *bar* 'two', *pái* 'three', *poun* 'four', *saurng* 'five', *tapoát* 'six', *tapul* 'seven', *tacual* 'eight', *takêh* 'nine', *tadêi* 'half'.

*mói êit bar pái lám alic* 'you get two three Cl. pig' *You get two or three pigs*

**15. 3. Qi.** A quantitative interrogative is any quantifier that cannot occur with any other quantifier. This class is composed of *sei* 'how many', *maléq* 'how much', *máh léq* 'how much'.

*mói êit seiq lám alic* 'you get how-many pigs' *How many pigs did you get?*

**16. Number Multipliers (Num).** A number multiplier is any word that occurs only as a bound adjunct to a quantifier.

This is a closed class with the following membership: *chít* 'ten', *culám* 'hundred', *ngin* 'thousand', *vian* 'ten thousand', *óc* 'hundred thousand', *veu* 'million', *poan* 'ten million', *moq* 'hundred million'.

*bar vian bar ngin bar culám bar chít la bar* 'two ten-thousand two thousand two hundred ten and two' *Twenty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-two.*

**17. < óng >.** *óng* 'only' is a one-word class that occurs only bound to a following noun.

*ổng mới pairq* 'only you go' *Only you go*

*pairq ổng mới* 'go only you' *Go alone !* (command)

**18. Demonstratives (Dem).** A demonstrative is any word that can fill the demonstrative slot in a substantive phrase.<sup>2</sup>

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data: *ki* 'that', *nái* 'this', *nái* 'here', *tih* 'there (relatively far)', *aki* 'there', *anái* 'this'.

*mới êit aluang ki* 'you get tree that' *You get that tree*

## V. CONNECTIVES

**19. Connectives (Con).** A connective is any word that occurs between two verbs (when functioning as modifiers), two nouns, or two modifiers, to form a coordinate construction within a clause; or any word that occurs between two clauses and functions as a relator of the second clause to the first.

This class has a limited membership. The following list is complete for our data: *cóp* 'and', *tóp* 'and', *máh* 'similar', *a-róng* 'similar', *patoat* 'similar', *samoât* 'similar', *samoât samauri* 'similar', *machóng* 'same', *mpha* 'different', *ratoi* 'same', *ma* 'or', *neq* 'like this'.

*mới táq máh cứq táq* 'you do similar I do' *You do like I do*

*mới êit acho cóp tariac cóp alic* 'you get dog and buffalo and pig' *You get a dog, a buffalo, and a pig.*

**20. Relators (Rel).** A relator is any word that occurs

sentence initial and relates that sentence to the previous one.

This class has a limited membership. The following list is complete for our data: *ngkíq* 'therefore', *ki* 'then', *nǝq* 'then' *toáq* 'then', *la* 'then', *ma* 'but'. *ki* 'then' can also occur in combination with *la*, *ma*, and *nǝq* to form complex relators.

*cíq sa-óh mǝi, ki hái rien.* 'I visit you, then we study'  
*I'll come to visit you. Then we will study*

**21. Introducers (Intro).** An introducer occurs only clause initial and introduces a subordinate clause in a conditional sentence. In this type of sentence the clause order may be reversed. This class has only two members: *khán* 'if', *riang* 'if'.

*khán cíq tau bǝwn miaq, cíq sa-óh mǝi* If I not have busy, I visit you'  
*If I'm not busy I'll come to visit you*  
*cíq sa-óh mǝi, khán cíq tau bǝwn miaq* 'I visit you, if I not have busy'  
*I'll come to visit you, if I'm not busy*

**22. <la>.** *la* is a one-word class that occurs between the number multiplier *chít* 'ten' and any one-syllable number in complex numeral constructions involving numbers eleven to fifteen. *la* also functions as a relator with the approximate meaning of 'then'. It also occurs as a final particle.

*muoi culám muoi chít la bar* 'one hundred one ten and two'  
*One hundred and twelve*

*cíq sa-óh mǝi, la hái rien* 'I visit you, then we study'  
*I'll come to visit you. Then we will study*

*cíq i sa-óh mǝi la* 'I want visit you *la*' *I want to visit you*

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS PARTICLES

**23. Final Particles (finPart).** A final particle occurs only sentence final. This class has a limited membership, the following list being complete for our data. All forms carry the meaning of 'emphasis'. *mo*, *móh*, *dái*, *dáih*, *déh*. *mo* and *móh* occur only in negated sentences.

*tat boun mo* 'not have emphasis' *No !*

**24. <lúq>.** *lúq* 'intensive' is a one-word class that can fill the modifier slot in a substantive phrase. It can also function as an interrogative, depending on the context in which it occurs. When functioning as an interrogative it may or may not be accompanied with interrogative intonation. It can also stand alone as an affirmative response to a question or as an indication of agreement with what has just been said.

*ánki ariaih lúq* 'he chief inten.' *He really is chief* or *Is he chief ?*

*lúq ánki ariaih* 'inten. he chief' *He really is chief* or *Is he chief ?*

*ánki lúq ariaih* 'he inten. chief' *He really is chief* or *Is he chief ?*

**25. <nɔ>.** The <nɔ> class is composed of words which can function like *nɔ* in the following set of transforms, in which 1=actor, 2=action, 3=<nɔ>. This class is limited to two members: *nɔ* 'huh?, okay?', *dɔ* 'huh?, okay?'.

*mói táq nɔ* 'you do okay' *You'll do it, okay?* <1,2,3>

*nơ mới táq* 'okay you do' *You'll do it, okay?* <3,1,2>

*mới nơ táq* 'you okay do' *You'll do it, okay?* <1,3,2>

*táq nơ mới* 'do okay you' *You'll do it, okay?* <2,3,1>

★ *nơ táq mới* cannot occur.

## VII. INTERJECTIONS

**26. Interjections (Inj).** An interjection is any word that must occur by itself without structural relationship to preceding or following forms.

This class comprises words such as *ư* 'exclamation', *ưi* 'exclamation', *áu* 'oh!, my', *ớq* 'indication of agreement', *ơ* 'yes, I hear you', *kih* 'call attention to', *ki* 'interest response', *ngkiq* 'interest response', etc.

**27. <thoui>** *thoui* is a one-word class that functions as an interjection in that it can occur alone without any structural relationship with preceding or following forms. It can also occur within the sentence as a final particle. It can occur with or without a preceding *la* 'then'. *thoui* carries approximately the meaning of 'resignation to the circumstances'.

*ntrou la thoui* 'what then *thoui*' *Whatever happens, okay!*