THE PACŎH NOUN PHRASE

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0. Introduction. Syntactically, the noun phrase in Pacoh[1] is similar in structure to noun phrases of other Mon-Khmer languages. The normal ordering of the common noun phrase constituents in Pacoh is a central noun or noun head preceded by that which quantifies and followed by that which qualifies.

In spite of the formal expansion possibilities, the Pacoh noun phrase, from a performance point of view, tends to be rather short. A fully expanded noun phrase is not expected. Rather, the speaker tends to give the information in two or three short phrases or clauses. Noun phrases filling the subject slot of the clause are usually simple with little modification. The most fully expanded noun phrases are found in the object slot of the clause. This presumably reflects the discourse function of the subject as a referring expression linked to previously specified (old) information in which reduced (even pronominal) form is expected. The object slot, on the other hand, perhaps more often introduces new information with which a fuller explicit specification of reference is consistent.

Of particular interest in the study of the Pacoh noun phrase is the affixation which occurs in the fillers of some of the slots, e.g. reduplicative prefixes denoting plurality found in general quantifiers (1.1) and modifiers (5.2), and denoting singularity in classifiers (2).

Pacoh noun phrases have the following constituents: quantification, classification, noun head, qualification, possession and orientation (Gregerson, 1971). These constituents can be diagrammed as:

QN - CL - NH - QL - P - OR

1. Quantification. Quantification (QN) includes general quantification (GQN) and numerical quantification (NQN). Both GQN and NQN can occur together, in that order, in the same noun phrase.

Syntactically, some of the fillers of GQN and NQN also occur in quantifier phrases on the clause level, but consideration of these phrases will be reserved for future study.

1.1 General Quantifiers (GQN). A listing, not necessarily complete, of the fillers of GQN has been divided into seven subclasses, depending upon optional or obligatory relationship with NQN and noun head (NH), stated or understood from context, in the noun phrase.

Subclass 1 (GQN1)   GQN1 ± (NQN + CL) ± NH

In Subclass 1, the occurrence of NQN and a specified NH with GQN1 is optional. Note that NQN requires, as a surface constraint, the insertion of a classifier constituent (CL).

> ngéq   'all'
> ca   'all, the whole'
> ngéq ca   'all, the whole'
> méq (tôq) ngéq 'almost all'
> ĩnh ngéq   'almost all'
> tumãn ngéq 'nearly all'

Ngéq poan lám alíc 'all four pigs' GQN 1 + NQN + CL + NH
'all four CL pigs'

Méq ngéq alíc 'almost all pigs' GQN1 + NH 'almost all pigs'

Ca 'all, the whole' is apparently cognate with ca in Vietnamese.

The free form ca has a bound allomorph RV- (reduplicative con-
sonant + vowel) which occurs with cardinal numerals 'one' through
'five' and 'ten' following the normal patterning of Pacoh that only
one-syllable morphemes can take prefixes.

babar	'all two, both'
pape	'all three'
papoan	'all four'
xaxông	'all five'
cachít	'all ten'

Ca has another allomorph ca- which occurs with some verbs
and modifiers to give the meaning 'all, completely' (see Watson,
1967:98).

Subclass 2 (GQN 2)   GQN 2 + NQN + CL ± NH

In subclass 2, the occurrence of the numerical quantifier (and
classifier) is obligatory, but the noun head, specified, is optional.

núm	'only'
méq tôq	'almost'
clúi	'more than'
lâyq tôq	'less than'

Núm poan lám alíc GQN 2 + NQN + CL + NH
'only four CL pigs'

Clúi tupát náq   GQN 2 + NQN + CL
'more than six persons (CL)'

Subclass 3 (GQN 3)   GQN 3 ± NQN + CL ± NH

In Subclass 3, the general quantifier and classifier are obligatory,
and the numerical quantifier and noun head are optional.

          tál   'each'

Tál poan lám pêq GQN3 + NQN + CL + NH
'each four CL bananas'

Tál náq Yoan   GQN3 + CL + NH
'each CL (person) Vietnamese'

Tál náq pôc.   GQN3 + CL
'each CL (person) goes'

Subclass 4 (GQN4)   GQN4 + CL ± NH

Subclass 4 general quantifier cannot take a numerical quantifier, but does take an obligatory classifier with an optionally stated noun head.

cúp   'every'
toih   'every'

cúp llám alíc   GQN4 + CL + NH
'every CL pig'

toih nnáq   GQN4 + CL
'every CL (person)'

Subclass 5 (GQN5)   GQN + (± CL ± NH)

Subclass 5 general quantifier does not take a numerical quantifier, but does require the classifier and/or noun head.

ê (lư)   'many (very)'
beaq (lư)   'few (very)'
clứng (lư)   'many (very)'
nưm beaq (lư)   'only few (very)'

ê lư lám   GQN5 + CL
'many very CL (things)'

beaq lư achếq   GQN5 + NH
'few very birds'

Subclass 6 (GQN 6)   GQN6 + NH

An obligatory noun head occurs with general quantifier subclass 6.

âp (lư)   'many, in general (very)'
nưm   'only'

âp (lư) achếq   GQN6 + NH
'many (very) birds '

Nưm achếq   GQN6 + NH
'only birds'

Some of the general quantifiers in the above subsets, e. g. clứng 'many', âp 'many', nưm 'only', have identical forms which can occur following the NH. (See Watson, 1966:13.)

Ngai clứng lư pôc.   'Very many of them went'
'They many very went.'

Ngai pôc clứng lư.   'They went very many'
'They went many very.'

<u>Subclass 7</u> (GQN7)   GQN 7 $\pm$ CL $\pm$ NH

Subclass 7 expresses 'indefiniteness' either in statement or
question. Classifier and noun head are not necessarily expressed,
since they are understood from the context.

<div style="text-align:center">li <u>mmo</u> ê   'however many, how many?'</div>

<u>Li mmo ê</u> cốh ma hoi.   'However many is alright.'

<u>Li mmo ê</u> may ính?   'How many (do) you want?'

1.2 Numerical Quantifiers (NQN). Numerical quantifiers are the
<u>cardinal</u>[2] numbers.

mŏi/mâh	'one'
bar	'two'
pe	'three'
pŏan	'four'
xông	'five'
tupất	'six'
tupôl	'seven'
ticol	'eight'
tikeaih	'nine'
muchít/chít	'ten'
muchít mŏi	'eleven'
bar chít	'twenty'
bar chít pôan	'twenty-four'
mâh culấm môi	'one hundred and one'
pe culấm pe chít xông	'three hundred thirty-five'
mâh ngin	'one thousand'

Approximation is expressed with two consecutive numbers:

<div style="margin-left:2em">bar, pe náq ngai pôc
'two, three CL (persons) they go'</div>

2. Classification. Classifiers occur with certain nouns (and pro-
nouns) and are obligatory when such nouns are quantified. Class-
ifiers can be divided into two categories: (1) restricted and (2) non-
restricted. Restricted classifiers are those whose only function is
that of classifiers. Unrestricted classifiers are nouns which serve
as classifiers particularly in some term of measure, container or
amount.

<u>Bar plấh adean</u>   'two CL trays'
<u>Bar adean dŏi</u>   'two trays rice'

When CL + NH occur without quantification, 'singular' is us-
ually being expressed.

<u>Tôm along dửm tốq dửng he</u>.   'CL (a) tree fell on house ours.'

Along dứm tốq dứng he   'Tree(s) fell on house ours.'

    There is one general classifier in Pacoh, lấm, which occurs
with a large number of inanimate nouns and with non-human animates.
One can also use lấm in a familiar sense with acay 'child', if the
child being referred to is one's own.

    In counting one would say, mŏi lấm, bar lấm, pe lấm 'one thing,
two things, three things, etc.' However, when a NH is present, mŏi
'one' is changed to mâh, and lấm becomes llấm.

    mâh llấm alíc   'one CL pig'
    bar lấm alíc   'two CL pigs'

It is interesting to note that lấm also becomes llấm with quantifiers
cứp 'every' and toih 'every'. Also, náq 'CL person' becomes nnáq
with cứp and toih, but not with the numeral mâh 'one'.

    The specific classifiers in Pacoh group nouns together in cate-
gories of common features. A limited listing of such classifiers is
given below:

náq	'persons'
teah	'flat expanse'
plấh	'flat objects, garments'
lang	'leaf, sheet of paper'
callong	'round objects--grains, seeds, fruit, stones'
cantŏh	'group, flock, herd'
tôm	'tree'
nnŏm	'stalk'
mpât/nnât	'bunch'

3. Noun Head.   The noun head (NH) or central noun is the refer-
ential core of the noun phrase. The NH slot of the noun phrase may
be filled by a simple noun, a compound noun, a proper noun, a per-
sonal pronoun[3] *or*, on the discourse level, may be understood from
the context.

3.1 Simple Nouns.   Simple nouns in Pacoh are here defined as one-
word or two-word nouns which can theoretically take qualification in
all three slots to the right of the noun head--possession, modification
and orientation; and which can be divided on the basis of being class-
ifiable or non-classifiable.

3.1.1 Classifiable Nouns.   Classifiable nouns are those which re-
quire classifiers when quantified by numeration. Classifiable nouns
are further divided into those which take restricted classifiers (cf. 2.
Classification), morphemes which only function as classifiers; and
nouns which take unrestricted classifiers--that is, nouns which func-
tion as classifiers to denote measure, container, or amount.

Count nouns with restricted classifiers are a large category and
include: acho 'dog', adean 'tray', acay 'child', búl 'stone', ao
'shirt', parnêh 'broom', etc.

> bar lám acho 'two CL dogs'
> pe plâh ao 'three CL shirts'
> mâh callŏng tirial 'one CL egg'

Also included here are compound nouns which function as count nouns,
thus differing from the compound nouns discussed in 3.2 of this paper.
These compound count nouns can be either noun + noun along pêq
'banana tree' or noun + verb llóng ramŏt 'door going out-coming in'
('door, doorway'), mayq tampêh 'machine tap' ('typewriter').

Mass nouns with unrestricted classifiers take an obligatory
'measure-type' classifier when quantified by number:

daq 'water', cuteac 'dirt', xác 'grass', dŏi 'cooked rice', boi
'salt', práq 'money, silver', daq kiyial 'water bee' (honey).

> bar li daq   'two glasses water'
> mâh capoat boi   'one handful salt'
> bar culam dŏng práq   'two hundred 'piastre' money'

3.1.2 Non-classifiable Nouns. Non-classifiable nouns also include
count nouns and mass nouns.

Count nouns in this category do not take classifiers apparently
because they intrinsically denote some type of measure.

> cantúq   'time'
> ingay   'day'
> kixay   'month'
> cumo   'year'
> dŏng   'piastre'
> tida   'handspan'
> achâng   'armspan'

bar kixay   'two months'
xŏng cantúq   'five times'
pe tida   'three handspans'

Mass nouns include:

> bo   'rain'
> xeang   'wind'
> uíh   'fire'

3.2 Compound Nouns. Compound nouns are binomial, trinomial,
or quadrinomial (Watson, 1966:86-93). They signal generic reference
and occur unquantified and unqualified in the noun phrase. Certain of
these noun compounds, e.g. a-ám a-i 'parents, father mother',
can occur with other slots in the noun phrase, but as such, are

specific 'father and mother' rather than the more generic term
'parents'

3.2.1 Binomials. Binomials are of two types, semi-bound and free.
In the semi-bound binomials one member of the pair is considered to
be an empty morph with no meaning. Together the pair have a plural
feature.

búl nal	'rocks, stones'
daq dong	'water'
avǔ-aváng	'small boys'
axâq-axénh	'hulled rice'

Free binomials are a pair of nouns each with distinct meaning,
which together form a more generic term.

a-ám a-i	'parents'	(father + mother)
a-ám anhi	'elders'	(father + uncle)
a-ât achéq	'wildlife'	(animal + bird)
achat-acóq	'tools'	(axe + bushknife)
boi acóq	'purchased goods'	(salt + bushknife)

3.2.2 Trinomials. Trinomials are made up of one free member
followed by two bound members, or sometimes the first and third
are free members. "Meanings of the members of trinomials are
combined and amplified to give a single, idiomatic meaning"
(Watson, 1966:92).

cantuq cantép měap	'orphans'
carpéh yéh cardúng	'reputation'
aréh arŏng axóng	'thorns and thistles'
aruih rúng trúng	'wilderness'

3.2.3 Quadrinomials. Quadrinomials are made up of one free
member plus three bound members or binomial plus binomial. The
latter are considered quadrinomials when they are reduplicative and
are in fixed order of sequence (Watson, 1966:93).

khâp khúm úm múh	'luck, good fortune'
ˏa-iauq a-op acay 'acon	'old folks and children'
arau aráh atáh atúc	'vegetable greens'

3.3 Proper Nouns. Proper nouns are divided into personal
names, place names and ethnic names.

3.3.1 <u>Personal Names</u>.   Since they are specific and definite by
nature, are not usually quantified or qualified.   One possible ex-
ception of this is:

<u>mãh</u> <u>náq</u> <u>Cubuat</u>   'one person Cubuat' 'Cubuat, all by himself'

3.3.2 <u>Place Names</u>.   Place names are commonly preceded with a
generic noun such as <u>vĕl</u> 'village', <u>muang</u> 'region', <u>daq</u> 'water'

<u>Vĕl</u> <u>Tal-ay</u>   'Tal-ay village'

<u>Daq</u> <u>Clai</u>   'Clai river'

3.3.3 <u>Ethnic Names</u>.   Ethnic names are such as : <u>Yoan</u>
'Vietnamese', <u>Míq</u> ''American', <u>Yĩt</u> 'Japanese', <u>Cumên</u>
'Cambodian', <u>Pacŏh</u>.   These ethnic names can be preceded by
<u>ticuoi</u> 'person', people' or <u>muang</u> 'region'.   They can occur with
quantification in constructions like <u>bar náq ticuoi Yoan</u> 'two
Vietnamese persons'.

3.4 <u>Pronouns</u>.   When a pronoun fills the NH slot, the following is
true of the other slots in the noun phrase:

(a) The quantitative slots can be filled and the classifier
    <u>náq</u> used.

    <u>poan</u> <u>náq</u> <u>ngai</u>   'four CL they'

    <u>ngéq</u> <u>ngai</u>   'all they'

(b) The Possession slot cannot be filled.

(c) The Qualification slot can be filled, usually by a
    modifier phrase.

    <u>Do</u> <u>ân</u> <u>táq</u> <u>piday</u>   'he who works field'

(d) The Orientation slot can be filled.

    <u>Do</u> <u>cŏh</u> <u>achai</u> <u>cu</u>   'He there (is) brother my'
                                   'That is my brother'

The pronouns[4] of Pacoh are:

	Singular	Dual	Plural
1st Person	cu 'I'	nháng 'we two'	he 'we plural'
2nd Person	may 'you'	inha 'you two'	ipe 'you plural'
3rd Person	do 'he'	anha 'they two'	ape/ngai 'they plural'

4. <u>Possession</u>.   The Possession slot occurs immediately following
the NH or in close proximity and can be filled by a noun, and/or a
pronoun.

    <u>bar</u> <u>lám</u> <u>alíc</u> <u>cu</u>   'two CL pigs my'   'my two pigs'

    <u>bar</u> <u>lám</u> <u>alíc</u> <u>Cubuat</u>   'two CL pigs Cubuat' 'Cubuat's two pigs'

bar lấm alíc achai cư   'two CL pigs brother my'
                         'my brother's two pigs'

The pronoun forms ncư 'mine', mmay 'yours', nngai 'theirs'
etc., described in Watson, 1964 as "possessive pronouns" cannot
fill this possessive slot. These independent possessive pronouns
function in a complete clause of the topic-comment type in which the
possessor is the comment. The n- prefix can be thought of as the
syntactic clause marker for possessor as comment.

Ngếq alíc ncốh ncư.   'All pigs those are mine.'

Mmay pưt tilât ncư. 'Yours big more (than) mine'

5. Qualification. Qualification is of two types (1) nominal qualifica-
tion and (2) predicative qualification.

5.1 Nominal qualification occurs when a noun modifies the noun
head. The relator ân 'which, who', which is sometimes optional
but usually preferred with predicative qualification, does not occur
in nominal qualification.

      areaih vĕl   'chief village'   'the village chief'

      dứng along   'house wood'   'wooden house'

5. 2 Predicative qualifications are of a single-termed "adjectival"
type and of a multi-termed "relative clausal" type.

5.2.1 Single-termed ("adjectival") qualifications may or may not be
introduced by the relator ân 'which, who'.

      daq atốq   'water hot'   'hot water'

      daq ân atốq   'water which (is) hot'

      dung pưt   'house big'   'big house'

      dung ân pưt   'house which (is) big'

      carna ân êm o   'road which (is) peaceful'

      carna tinga tarlâng 'road clear transparent'
                              'clear course of action'

An interesting feature of single-termed predicative qualification
is that the surface signal for plurality of referent is marked in the
adjective, not in the noun, by means of reduplication. This is true
only of monosyllabic adjectives.

      acho cõm   'dog black'   'a black dog'

      acho cacõm   'dogs black'   'black dogs'

      a-õiq ân papứt 'chickens which (are) big'

acay cakét   'children small'   'small children'

ape ân cakét   'they which (are) small'

5.2.2 Multi-termed "relative clausal" qualification refers to the embedding of a clause whose main verb takes more than one noun. Multi-termed qualification is always introduced by the relator ân 'which, who'.

Parhanh ân ngai tông lâyq o.
'News which they told (is) not good.'

Ao ân do dyŏn acu dyê pít.
'Shirt which he gave me already lost.'

6. Orientation.   The Orientation slot can be filled by a demonstrative or a locative predicative. In a speech act the speaker makes clear by the demonstrative or deictic constituent where the referent is in relation to both the speaker and the addressee. The locative phrase is referent oriented.

(1) Demonstratives refer to that which is within eyesight or is inferred in the context. The following is believed to be a fairly complete listing of demonstratives.

cóh	'that one'
nnéh	'this/here'
ncóh	'that/there'
ntíh	'that/there-far ahead'
ntóh	'that/there--far behind'
ntih	'that/there--very far ahead'
ntoh	'that/there--very far behind'
ntrâh	'that/there--to the side'

Do cóh tamme chŏ.   'He that one just returned!'

Tôm along ân pút nnéh
'CL tree which big this/here'   'this big tree'

Acho cu nnéh....
'Dog my this/here'   'My dog here'

Demonstratives can stand in the place of the noun phrase.

Nnéh dúng cu   'this (is) house my'

(2) Locative predicatives.

Locative phrases, like the other predicative constituents, are introduced by ân 'which, who'. However, locative predicatives are restricted in content to directional and/or orientational information.

The following is a partial listing of prepositions which occur in locative predicatives.

te	'from'
tôq	'to'
dáng	'at'
callúng	'in'
iniang	'above'
idúp	'below'
aniang	'on top of'
axuai	'before'
tatun	'behind'

ngéq ngai te věl nnéh   'all they from village this'

acho ân cŏm án dáng tôm along ncóh
'dog which black which at CL tree that'
'the black dog which is by that tree'

Demonstratives and locative predicatives may occur together in the orientation slot, in which case the demonstrative would occur first.

Achai ncóh ân te věl Tallai....
'Brother there who from village Tallai...'
'That fellow there, the one from Tallai...'

FOOTNOTES:

1. Pacoh is a language of the Mon-Khmer family, spoken by approximately 10,000 people living on both sides of the border between South Vietnam and Laos in the mountainous region of Thừa Thiên Province west of Hue.

    This study is based upon data gathered under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics from 1961-65 and in 1972, when study was resumed.

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University of Oklahoma Research Institute, and sponsored by Grant GS-270 of the National Science Foundation.

2. Ordinal numbers amôi 'first' through achít 'tenth' occur following the noun head in the modifier position. They are most frequently used in reference to children or wives, but are also used, with different prefixes, for days and years--numbering back and numbering forward, e.g. ingay intra 'day before yesterday', ingay para 'day after tomorrow', camo ntrôan 'four years ago', camôan 'four years from now'.

3. Indefinite pronouns amâh and nnau 'what' and 'who' and demonstrative pronouns nneh, ncôh, etc. 'this', 'that', etc. may be substituted for the entire noun phrase.

4. For a more complete description of Pacoh pronouns see Watson, 1964.

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