

## Adverbial Phrases in Thai: Manner, Resultative, and Depictive Interpretations

### Abstract

Thai employs adverb-forming prefixes such as *yàaŋ* ‘in a manner that’, *bèep* ‘in a style of’, and *dooy* ‘by means of’ to form an adverbial phrases by inserting these prefixes before adjectival phrases or verb phrases. In addition to these adverbial markers, other adverbial expressions which function as adverbs are also commonly observed in Thai. Bare verbs which semantically function as adjectives as well as bare nouns also play the role of adverb. Additionally, phrases with the copula verb *pen* can be utilized as adverbs.

- (1)      khǎw      kəət      maa      {ruay      / taa-bòot      / yàaŋ      plòotphay      /  
           (s)he      be born      come      rich      eye-blind      ADV-PRFX      safe  
           bèep      mây      pakati?      / dooy      mây      mii      phôo      /  
           ADV-PRFX      NEG      normal      ADV-PRFX      NEG      have      father  
           pen      lûuk-khrûŋ }  
           COPULA      child-half  
           ‘He was born {rich / blind / safe / normal / fatherless / to be a mixed child}.’

The underlined adverbials in the examples in (1) give a description of the state of the subject *khǎw* when the event denoted by the verb phrase *kəət maa* takes place. That is, all adverbials above function in a semantically similar manner to depictive predicates such as *drunk* in *He drove the car drunk*.

These kinds of adverbials are not employed exclusively to describe the state of the participant of the event. There are two separate types of adverbials, each of which can function as depictives. What distinguishes the two types is that it is possible for one type to render only a resultative reading and the other only a manner reading.

- (2)      khǎw      {phûut      suphâap      / chîik      phâaspòot      pen      chín-chín }  
           (s)he      speak      polite      / tear      passport      COPULA      piece-piece  
           ‘He {speaks politely / tore the passport into pieces}.’

The aim of this paper is to investigate the usages of these six types of Thai adverbial expressions exemplified above according to their semantics and to clarify relations between their semantics and morphology.