

Chapter 4

Temporal Relations

The purpose of this chapter is to investigate the temporal relations denoted by the two subsidiary verbs pay1 'go' and maa1 'come'. First of all, some of the previous studies related to these two verbs with respect to temporal relations are reviewed. Then, some theoretical concepts concerning temporal relations are proposed. Finally, the semantic properties of pay1 and maa1 with respect to temporal relations are analyzed.

Temporal relations refer to relations between situations¹ and time. Just as in spatial relations in which an object is related to its spatial environment, in temporal relations an event is related to its temporal context.

¹Situation is a general term for a state, an event, or a process (see more detail in the section of theoretical concepts used in the analysis).

Previous studies

Many previous studies have shown that the equivalents of 'go' and 'come' in many languages are used to express temporal relations (see Chapter 2, Review of Literature). In this section I will give an overview of the investigation of the temporal relations denoted by the subsidiary verbs pay1 'go' and maa1 'come'.

Although there are not any past studies dealing directly with these two subsidiary verbs, those of Supanwanit (1972) and Thepkanjana (1984) provide relevant insights.

1. Supanwanit (1972)

1.1 Pay1 as a Past Tense Marker

Supanwanit (1972) has analyzed pay1 as a past tense marker in the following example.

- (1) din1sɔɔ5 chan5 haay5 pay1
 ดินสอ ฉัน หาย ไป
 pencil I lose go
 'My pencil was lost.'

1.2 Maa1 as a Past Tense Marker and a Present

Continuous Tense Marker

In the next example she analyzes maa1 as a past tense marker.

- (2) deɛŋ1 pay1 chiang1mai2 maa1 mia3 ʔaa1thit4 kɔɔn2
 แดง ไป เชียงใหม่ มา เมื่อ อาทิตย์ ก่อน
 Daeng go Chiangmai come when week before
 'Daeng went to Chiangmai last week.'

Then in example (3) maa1 is analyzed as a present continuous tense marker:

- (3) dɛɛŋ1 yuu2 thii3nii3 maa1 taŋ3tee2 pii1 koon2
 แดง อยู่ ที่นี่ มา ตั้งแต่ ปี ก่อน
 Daeng live here come since year before
 'Daeng has lived here since last year.'

It is noteworthy that maa1 in (3) is considered as representing present tense because at the time of speaking 'Daeng' is still living 'here'. However, the state of 'living', in fact, started at some time in the past and continues until the time of speaking.

However, Supanwanit (1972) does not provide any conditions on the temporal usage of pay1 and maa1 which would predict when to use pay1 or maa1. Thus one does not know in what kind of context maa1 will denote past tense or present continuous tense.

2. Thepkanjana (1986)

Pay1 and maa1 are analyzed by Thepkanjana (1986) as indicating aspectual value according to Comrie's classification of aspects. Pay1 is said to denote both imperfective and perfective aspect, though in different contexts. Maa1 is seen as problematic in that it denotes perfect, which concerns two categories--tense and aspect.

2.1 Pay1 as a Perfective and Imperfective Marker

As a perfective marker, pay1 is used to indicate one's view of an action or event as a complete whole (thus phases in such actions or events are not separated). Verbs which can co-occur with perfective pay1 are destruction verbs as in (4) and

disappearance verbs as in (5).

- (4) kɛɛw3 tɛɛk2 pay1
 แก้ว แตก ไป
 glass break go
 'The glass broke.'

- (5) nam4man1 mot2 pay1
 น้ำมัน หมด ไป
 oil be gone go
 'The oil is all gone.'

The compatibility of destruction and disappearance verbs occurring with pay1 is explained in terms of spatial implication. That is, such verbs imply changes in condition and pay1 implies departure (Thepkanjana 1984: 171-172).

As an imperfective marker, pay1 indicates one's viewing the internal structure of a situation as in (6).

- (6) suʔ2rii1, tham1 kaan1baan3 pay1
 สุริย, ทำ การบ้าน ไป
 Suri, do, make homework go
 'Surii, keep doing your homework.'

The sequence of a verb followed by pay1 in (6) implies that Suri is ordered to keep doing her homework, while time passes by or while someone else is doing something else (i.e. playing, working, etc.) (Thepkanjana 1984:175).

2.2 Maa1 as a Perfect Marker

Thepkanjana (1986) has analyzed maa1 as a perfect marker. Maa1 is used to suggest the temporal relationship of one state to a preceding situation (Thepkanjana 1984: 166). Sentence

(7) illustrates this analysis.

(7) suʔ2rii1 tat2 phom5 maa1

 สุริย ตัด ผม มา

Suri cut hair come

'Suri has just cut her hair.'

The reason why maa1 can be used in this kind of sequence is explained in terms of not only temporal but also directional implication. That is, a direction between the place of the prior action and the speaker's place at the time of speaking is recognized by the speaker.

To summarize, subsidiary verbs pay1 and maa1 were analyzed in previous studies as:

maa1:

- 1) a present continuous tense marker (Supanwanit 1972)
- 2) a past tense marker (Supanwanit 1972)
- 3) a perfect marker (Thepkanjana 1984)

pay1:

- 1) a past tense marker (Supanwanit 1972)
- 2) a perfective aspect - with destruction and disappearance verbs (Thepkanjana 1986)
- 3) an imperfective aspect marker (Thepkanjana 1984)

This shows the range of disagreement in which one lexical item is claimed to be opposite tense-aspect markers. Therefore, the following analysis is aimed at distinguishing further what temporal information these two subsidiary verbs denote. However, it is necessary to provide an overview of some temporal concepts which will be used as a basis for the analysis.

Theoretical Concepts Used in the Analysis

The purpose of this section is to review some theoretical concepts concerning temporal relations. As mentioned earlier, temporal relations refer to relations between time and situations.

1. Time

In Chapter 2, some basic concepts concerning time were reviewed. In this section a particular temporal concept is introduced, namely, the notion of temporal reference.

Temporal reference means time referred to by linguistic elements which can be of two types: deictic and non-deictic elements. Temporal reference expressed by deictic elements is called deictic temporal reference whereas that expressed by non-deictic elements is called non-deictic temporal reference.

1.1 Deictic Temporal Reference

Deictic temporal reference is concerned with the relationship between the time of the situation denoted by the verb and the time of utterance. One linguistic category expressing deictic temporal reference is deictic temporal adverbial. These adverbials, such as 'yesterday', 'now', 'today' and 'tomorrow', must be semantically interpreted with respect to the time of utterance. Now refers to the time of utterance; yesterday refers to the day before the day of utterance; tomorrow refers to the day after the day of utterance. We need to be able to identify the actual time when the utterance is made in order to interpret these deictic adverbials. Grammatical tense in many languages including English is a kind of deictic temporal reference in that

it grammaticalizes the relationship which holds between the time of the situation that is being described and the temporal zero-point of the deictic context (Lyons 1976: 678). The use of past tense in such a sentence as He worked hard locates the situation at a time earlier than the time of utterance. Other languages which do not have tense still have mechanisms to express deictic temporal reference (i.e. time phrases such as last year and next month).

1.2 Non-deictic Temporal Reference

Non-deictic temporal reference is the time referred to by linguistic elements whose the interpretation is independent of the time of utterance. Some examples of non-deictic temporal adverbials which are used to express non-deictic temporal reference are, 'at three o'clock', 'in March', 'in summer', etc. The interpretation of these expressions is not concerned with the time of utterance since it is independently referenced as the clock time, calendrical time and seasonal time respectively.

Aspect also expresses non-deictic temporal reference. According to Comrie (1976), aspects are different ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency of a situation (Comrie 1976: 3). In other words, in talking about one event, one can view it from different aspects of temporal structure. Those aspects are based on the temporal notions of completion, duration, instantaneity, initiation, boundedness, etc. To illustrate, the difference between he was singing and he sang, both of which are located in the past, is the aspectual difference of progressive and non-progressive.

One of the aspectual distinctions is boundedness.

Boundaries of the situation can be viewed as a beginning and an ending point. In addition to these two boundaries of a situation, we may refer to another point, i.e., an intermediate point of the situation.

2. Situation

The interpretation of expressions which denote aspectual meaning which is one kind of temporal reference also depends on the aspectual character of the verb. Aspectual character of the verb can be explained in terms of types of situations.

"Situation" is often used as a general term for an event, state, process, or action. Situation can be divided into two classes--static situation and dynamic situation (Lyons 1977: 483).

2.1 Static Situation

A static situation or state is one that is viewed as already existing (not happening) and as being homogeneous, continuous and unchanging throughout its duration (Lyons 1977: 483).

Verbs within this group² are, for example, สูง suuŋ5 'tall', เตี้ย tia3 'short', รู้ ruu4 'know', เข้าใจ khaw3cay1 'understand', มี mii1 'have', เป็น pen1 'be', ได้ยิน day3yin1 'hear', เจ็บ cep2 'hurt', หิว hiw5 'hungry', etc.

2.2 Dynamic Situation

A dynamic situation is viewed as happening. When the dynamic situation is momentary, it is called an event. When it is enduring through time (or durative) it is called a process (Lyons 1976: 483).

Examples of event verbs are ถึง thiŋ5 'reach', สะดุด saʔ2dut2 'trip over', เคาะ khɔʔ4 'tap', etc.

Examples of process verbs are วิ่ง wiŋ3 'run', กิน kin1 'eat', ทำ tham1 'do', etc.

Temporal Relations Denoted by Pay1 and Maa1

In the following section we will investigate in more detail what kinds of temporal relations subsidiary verbs pay1 and maa1 denote.

It is found that pay1 and maa1 are used to denote a certain type of temporal relations. In this section we will explore them through situations modified by pay1 and maa1. Those types of situations are process and state.

1. Process

1.1 Pay1 with Verbs of Process

Consider the following examples:

- (8) khuy1 kan1 pay1 kɔɔn2 naʔ4
 คุย กัน ไป ก่อน นะ
 talk together go before prt.
 'Go on talking.'

²Examples in Thai given here are cited from Boonyapatipark (1983) which classifies Thai verbs through the classification of situations by Lyons (1977) and Vendler (1967).

(9) thee1 khoy tham1 pay1 daay3 may3 taʔ2lɔɔt2

เธอ คง ทำ ไป ได้ ไม่ ตลอด

she may do go able neg. all

'She may not be able to do so until it finishes.'

(10) ruŋ4ruʔ2caa1 thaan1 ʔaa1haan5 pay1 riay3riay3

รุ่งรุจ่า ทาน อาหาร ไป เรื่อย

Rungrucaa eat food go continually

'Rungrucaa went on eating food.'

Sentences (8) can be interpreted to mean that the addressees are invited to continue talking to each other (or not to end a talk at the present time). Sentence (9) can be interpreted to mean that the agent 'she' is thought not to be able to continue 'doing so' through the whole course of some event, i.e., could not get to the end of the process. Sentence (10) can be interpreted to mean that the agent continued eating.

All the above sentences show that the time that the speakers refer to is concerned with the speaker focussing his point of reference at the intermediate point of the action. Thus, the ending point of the action cannot be seen. The way in which the speaker focuses his point of reference on the course of action can be illustrated by Figure 20.

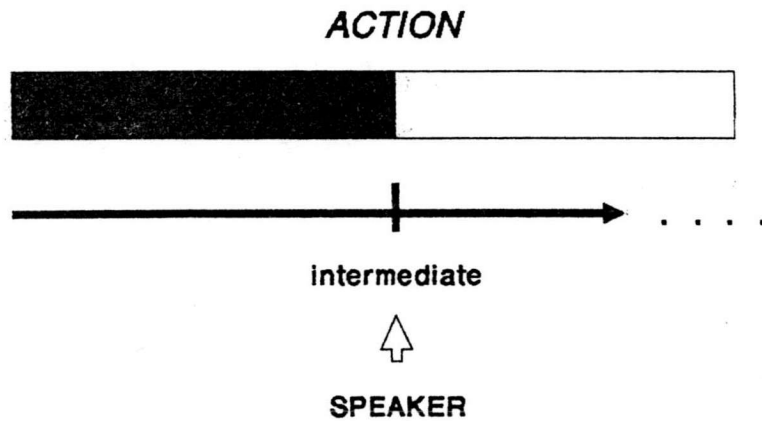


Figure 20

Pay1 with verbs of process

The black part in the figure above represents the part of action which has already been done; the white part represents the part of action which is not done yet. The speaker focuses his view of the situation on the intermediate point (or a non-terminal point) of the action so he uses pay1 to denote this temporal relationship. The action proceeds through time in such a way of moving away from the speaker's point of reference.

1.2 Maa1 with Verbs of Process

Consider the following sentence:

- (11) khau5 liaŋ4 kɛɛ1 maa1 tɛɛ2 khloɔt3 thuk4 khon1
 เขา เลี้ยง แก มา แต่ ตลอด ทุก คน
 he take care him come since born every people
 'She has taken care of all of you since you were born.'

In sentence (11) the subsidiary verb maa1 is used to modify the main verb liaŋ4 'take care of'. It can be interpreted to mean that from the reference time 'since all of you were born' until the utterance time the subject 'she' has been taking care of 'you'. Thus, we can represent sentence (11) as in Figure 21.

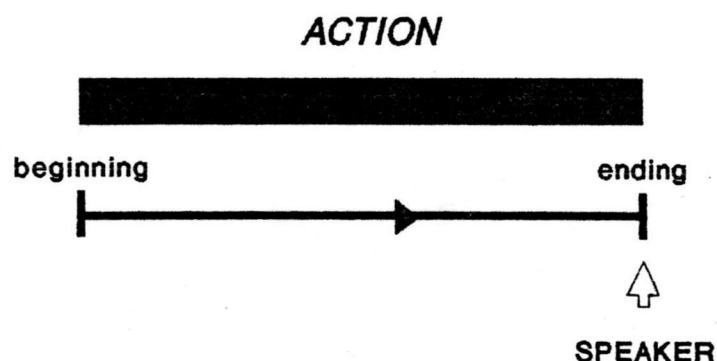


Figure 21

Maa1 with verbs of process

In Figure 21 the rectangular box in black represents that the whole course of action has already been done. The speaker's point of reference is located at the ending point of the action. It shows that the speaker focuses his view on the action at the ending point. The action proceeds from the reference time in the past up to the present time at which the speaker focuses his point of reference.

In short, pay1 is used to denote temporal relations in such a way that the speaker focuses his view of the situation on the intermediate point; the situation proceeds onward in time from the speaker's reference point without the ending point in view. Maa1 is used to denote temporal relations in such a way that the speaker focuses his view of the situation on the utterance time; the situation may either end at the utterance time or proceed further after the utterance time.

2. States

As reviewed in Section 2, a state exists through time. In this section we will examine the semantic property of pay1 and maa1 in sentences expressing static situations.

2.1 Pay1 with Stative Verbs

Consider the following sentences:

- (12) raay1daay3 thii3 khøey1 mii1 caʔ2 khaat2 pay1
 รายได้ ที่ เคย มี จะ ขาด ไป
 earning that used to have fut. be in short go
 'Those earnings which (they) used to have will become in short in supply.'

- (13) \มากกว่าสามสิบคำ ข้าเถียงสามสิบ 'She scolded me with ten words. I argued at her with thirty words.\
- kes1 løy1 niap2 pay1
 แก เคย เงิบ ไป
 she then be silent go
 'She, then, became silent.'

(14) pen1 thii3 phii3 hay3 mia3waan1

เงิน ที่ พี่ ให้ เมื่อวาน

money that brother(you) give yesterday

man1 haay5 pay1 leɛw4

มัน หาย ไป แล้ว

it lost go already

'The money which you gave me disappeared.'

(15) ʔaaw3 pen1 ʔalay1 pay1

อ้าว เป็น อะไร ไป

excl. be what go

'My goodness! What's the matter?'

Sentence (12) to (15) can be interpreted as follows:

In sentence (12) the speaker refers to two states.

One state is the present state which is expressed by the main verb 'be in short in supply'; the other state is the prior state of 'having a lot of earnings'. The speaker focuses his view of the situation on the prior state so that the present state is viewed as departing from his focused state.

In sentence (13) the preceding context lets us know that the speaker emphasizes the prior state of 'loud, long argumentation'. That is to say, the speaker focused his view of the situation on the state which is prior to the state he is referring to. Thus the later state (being silent) is a departure from the prior state (arguing).

In sentence (14) the speaker is talking about the situation in which yesterday the money still existed (the prior state) and now it is gone (the present state). The present state of 'being

gone' is viewed as a departure from his focused state.

In sentence (15) there is an exclamation expressing the speaker's surprise. To the speaker's knowledge, the omitted subject was in a prior state of 'not having anything wrong' and now there is something that happens at the time of speaking (present state). Thus the present state (of something wrong) is a departure from the prior state (of nothing wrong).

In short, with stative verbs pay1 is used to denote a change from one state to another state in such a way that the speaker focuses his view of the situation on the prior state. This can be illustrated by Figure 22.

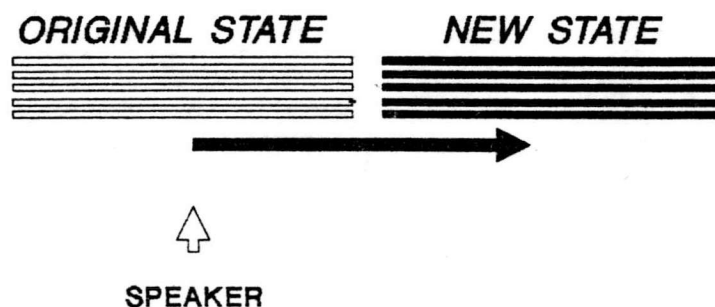


Figure 22

Pay1 with stative verbs

In Figure 22 the band represents the state. An arrow represents a departure from a prior state to a later state. It shows that the speaker focuses his view on the prior state.

2.2 Maa1 with Stative Verbs

Consider these sentences with the subsidiary verb

maa1.

- (16) cum5 thon1 kee1 daay3 maa1 taŋ3tɛɛ2 reɛk3
 คุม ทุน แก ได้ มา ตั้งแต่ แรก
 Cum (I) bear you able come since beginning

'I have been able to bear her from the beginning.'

- (17) naay1 pen1 phian3 chan5 maa1 naan1
 นาย เป็น เพื่อน ฉัน มา นาน
 you be friend I come long time

'You have been my friend for a long time.'

- (18) khaw5 yiin1 maa1 naan1 dooy1may3phuut3may3caa1
 เขา ยืน มา นาน โดยไม่พูดไม่ว่า
 he stand come long time without saying anything

'He has stood for a long time without saying anything.'

Sentences (16) to (18) can be interpreted to mean that the state of 'bearing' (16), 'being friends' (17) and 'standing' (18) began in the past. They imply that until the time of speaking those states still exist.

These sentences show that speaker's view is focused on a point of the state which is the same as the utterance time. It is possible that the state may proceed or end at the utterance time. The way in which the speaker focuses his view on the course of this state can be illustrated by Figure 23.

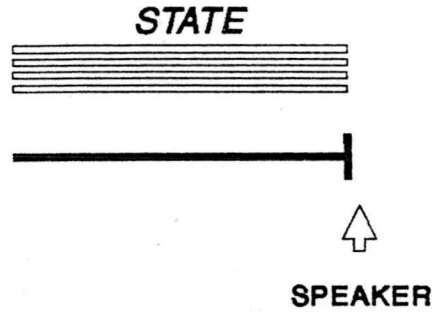


Figure 23

Maa1 with stative verbs

In Figure 23 the band above represents the whole course of the state. The bar below represents the ending point of state. The speaker focuses his point of reference on the ending point of the state so he uses maa1 to denote this temporal relationship.

As mentioned above, these sentences also imply that those states extend from the past up to the present (the time of speaking). Thus, we can map the whole course of the state onto a time line as in Figure 24.

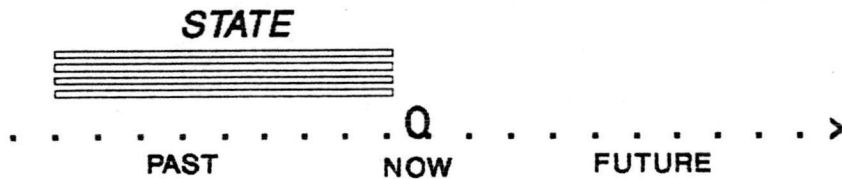


Figure 24

Stative situation (modified by maa1) located on the time line

In Figure 24 the band representing the whole course of the state is mapped on the time line to show the relation between the ending point of the state and the time of speaking. It shows that the speaker is at the "now" point and that the state continues from the past to "now".

3. Maa1 with Event Verb "Pay1"

It is also found that maa1 as in the following example can be used to modify the main verb pay1. Consider the following sentence:

- (19) pay1 thiŋ5 paa2chaa4chaaŋ4 maa1 laʔ2 siʔ
ไป ถึง ป่าช้าช้าง มา ละ ลี
go reach elephant graveyard come prt. prt.

'You must have gone to the elephant graveyard.'

In sentence (19) maa1 is used to modify the main verb 'go' which is an event verb. It can be interpreted that the event of 'going' happened in the past. It implies that the situation of 'going' is already completed in the past and the person who has already been to some place comes to appear in the presence of the addressee. This can be seen as an extension of a situation that has happened in the past. We can represent sentence (19) as in Figure 25.

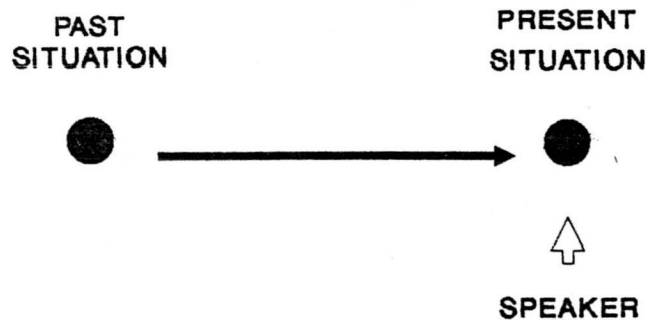


Figure 25

Maa1 modifying the situation of 'going'

In Figure 25 the circle represents an event. The arrow represents the extension of an event happening in the past to the present (or the time of speaking). The speaker focuses his view of the situation on the present situation so he uses maa1.

When using pay1 as a main verb, the speaker views that the subject moves in the direction away from him. When using maa1, the speaker views that the subject moves in the direction toward him. The use of pay1 as a main verb and maa1 as a subsidiary verb as in the example (19) has shown that the speaker specifies his location as a point of reference, i.e., the subject went away from him and then came toward him.

To summarize, maa1 is used to modify the main verb pay1 to denote both spatial and temporal relations.

The temporal use of pay1 and maa1 as such has led many linguists to define them as tense and aspect markers as reviewed in the beginning of this chapter. Thus there is disagreement between some of these analyses.

In a process, pay1 is analyzed by Thepkanjana 1984) as an imperfective marker. According to Comrie (1976), imperfectivity is a reference to the internal temporal structure of a situation, viewing a situation from within (Comrie 1976: 24). In fact, the speaker focuses his view of the situation on the intermediate point (or non-terminal point) of the whole situation.

Thus, when pay1 is used with a stative situation, it is also analyzed by Thepkanjana (1984) as a perfective marker because it denotes the inception (the beginning) of the situation (not a completion). According to Comrie (1976), the perfective forms of some verbs, in particular of some stative verbs, can in fact be used to indicate the beginning of a situation (Comrie 1976: 19). Thus, pay1 modifying some stative verbs can be treated as a perfective marker since the speaker focuses on the non-terminal point of the situation which in this case is the beginning point per se. That is to say, the speaker views only the inception of of the state.

In a process, maa1 is analyzed by Supanwanit (1972) as a present continuous tense marker and a past tense marker. In a durative situation including a process and a state, maa1 is used to denote a continuity of the situation from the past to the speaking time (or utterance time). In a construction where pay1 is a main verb with maa1 as a subsidiary verb, the situation of 'going' happened in the past but the speaker extends it to the present.

Conclusion

We conclude that pay1 and maa1 can denote temporal relations as follows:

1) Pay1

When using pay1 as a subsidiary verb to denote the temporal relations of the situation, the speaker focuses his point of reference on any points of the situation other than the ending point.

Thus in a process situation, the speaker views the situation proceeding away from his temporal point of reference.

In a stative situation, the speaker views that it is a change from a prior state into another state which is far away from his point of reference (which is at the prior state).

2) Maa1

When using maa1 as a subsidiary verb to denote the temporal relations of the situation, the speaker focuses his point of reference on the utterance time which tends to be the ending point.

Thus, in a process, the speaker views that the situation as has proceeded toward his temporal point of reference, and in a state the speaker views that the state has existed through time toward his temporal point of reference.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

This study is aimed at investigating the meaning of the subsidiary verbs pay1 'go' and maa1 'come' in Thai.

It is found that pay1 and maa1 denote two kinds of relations: spatial relations and temporal relations.

Spatial Relations

The subsidiary verbs pay1 and maa1 are found to express the dynamic relations between a moving thing and a path. The dynamic relations indicated by these two verbs are dependent on the choice of verbs. Pay1 is used when the speaker is not at the goal of the path; maa1 is used when the speaker is at the goal of the path. Thus, pay1 denotes a motion away from the speaker's point of reference; maa1 denotes a motion toward the speaker's point of reference. The point of reference can be either the place where the speaker is currently located at or some other place at which the speaker fixes his point of reference.

It is also found that pay1 and maa1 can be used to modify various classes of verbs to denote spatial relations. Those verbs can be classified into two main groups--motion verbs and evaluation

verbs. Motion verbs can be classified as follows:

1. Verbs of translation
 - 1.1 Verbs of displacement
 - 1.1.1 Causative verbs
 - 1.1.1.1 Verbs indicating agent initiating motion
 - 1.1.1.2 Verbs indicating agent participating motion
 - 1.1.2 Non-causative verbs
 - 1.2 Verbs of possession
 - 1.3 Verbs of communication
2. Verbs of rotation
 - 2.1 Verbs of direct bodily action
 - 2.2 Verbs of vision

A third class of verbs, evaluation verbs, can be modified only by pay1. With this group of verbs, pay1 denotes a point of excessive degree, which is considered to be far away from the speaker's "appropriate (non-excessive)" point.

Temporal Relations

In addition to spatial relations, subsidiary verbs pay1 and maa1 denote temporal relations. Pay1 is used to denote that the speaker focuses his view on a point other than the ending point of a situation. Maa1 is used to denote that the speaker focuses his view on the ending point of a situation.

In a situation of the process kind which endures through time, the speaker uses pay1 to denote that the process began and continued but does not end yet. As for maa1, it is used to denote

that the process began, continued and ended at the time of speaking.

Maa1 which modifies a verb indicating a stative situation express a similar meaning as maa1 which modifies a verb indicating a process, that is, it denotes that the state began and proceeds until the time of speaking (it does not change into another state).

Pay1 which modifies a stative verb implies that there are two different states which occur consecutively. The speaker focuses his view on the original state and the new state reflects a change away from the speaker's point of reference.

In short, pay1 is used to denote that the speaker focuses his view of space and time on a point different from the endpoint of a situation; maa1 is used to denote that the speaker focuses his view of space and time on the ending point of a situation. Thus, pay1 denotes a motion away from the speaker's point of reference; maa1 denotes a motion toward the speaker's point of reference.

Further Studies

It is found that in many sentences pay1 and maa1 are used to modify other directional verbs than the main verb. For example,

- (1) ʔun1 piin1 khin3 pay1
 ᳵ᳚᳚ ᳵ᳚᳚ ᳵ᳚᳚ ᳵ᳚᳚
 Uan climb ascend go
 'Uan climbed upward.'

(2) khaw5 sut4 loŋ1 pay1 thii3 phiin4
 เขา ตก ลง ไป ที่ พื้น
 he sink descend go at floor

'He sank down to the floor.'

(3) khaw5 khaay1 kha1nom5 ʔɔɔk2 maa1
 เขา คาย ขนม ออก มา
 he emit dessert exit come

'He let the dessert out of (his mouth).'

(4) khaw5 kliin1 met4 som3 khaw3 pay1
 เขา กลืน เม็ด ส้ม เข้า ไป
 he swallow seed orange enter go

'He swallowed an orange seed inside.'

We can see that these directional verbs, khin3 'ascend', loŋ1 'descend', khaw3 'enter' and ʔɔɔk2 'exit', are also used to describe the reference path in that khin3 and loŋ1 involve the vertical dimension of the reference object and khaw3 and ʔɔɔk2 involve the containment or enclosure of the reference object.

It is interesting whether pay1 and maa1 in these sentences modify the main verb or the preceding directional verbs. Also, it is possible that these directional verbs denote spatial relations between a moving thing and a reference place in such a way that the reference place must have semantic properties of vertical dimension (for khin3 and loŋ1) and enclosure (for khaw3 and ʔɔɔk2). Thus, we may use these verbs to classify things according to our perception of their dimension and boundary.