Reading notes of A Grammar of Japhug

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The theoretical orientation is already well-documented in my notes about English, Latin and Mandarin Chinese.

Chapter 1

Part of speech

1.1 Noun

1.2 Verb

Verbs can be regularly formed by denominal derivations Jacques (2021, Ch 20). Since an independent adjective class is absent, the only two kinds of denominal derivations are noun-to-adverb derivations and noun-to-verb derivations, the former being relative marginal Jacques (2021, p. 1011); thus the term *denominal* can be used specifically to refer to noun-to-verb derivations.

1.2.1 Grammatical categories

Japhug has 11 morphologically marked ("primary") TAME categories Jacques (2021, Table 21.1), as well as several periphrastic TAME categories that are realized by combining the marking of one of the above primary TAME categories and various forms of the copula *ŋu* (Jacques 2021, p. 1081); here a difference with English or Latin periphrastic conjugation is what are used in these periphrastic TAME categories are *finite* verb forms, possibly because the periphrastic TAME categories historically comes from finite complement clause constructions. TODO: is there any constraints on the distribution of participle or infinitive?

Decomposition of these TAME categories in the same way English *he [is playing] football* is analyzed as "present (imperfect) progressive" is not necessary: TODO: why

The morphological realization of these categories is remarkable Their main exponents are the alternation of the orientation prefix. some TAME categories insert a fixed prefix into the orientation prefix slot (TODO: regardless of the lexically determined orientation prefix or the semantically significant orientation prefix of a orientable prefix?); others choose one of the four prefixes that have the same directional meaning in Jacques (2021, Table 15.1).

1.2.2 Wordhood

Jacques (2021, Ch 11) gives the realization of the verbal system. Whether this complex is to be regarded as one *morphological* or *phonological* word is discussed in § 11.6. In (Jacques 2021, Table 11.3) four domains are defined using various criteria.

Domain A is defined according to both syntactic and morphological reasons. What's shown in Table 11.3 contains all formatives that are relevant to verb inflection, and they have non-adjacent dependencies, so strong dependencies exist between them: these formatives are realized in the same batch in clause building. Now syntactically, the formative *-ci* in slit +4 is selected by some modal prefixes in slot -6, so the two slots belong to the same system; on the other hand, outside the +4 and -6 slots we only have clitics which clearly belong to systems with higher positions (Jacques 2021, § 11.6.2), and thus all – and only – formatives in Table 11.3 constitute a syntactic word, with the same *syntactic* status of a verb-plus-auxiliary verbal complex or a "verb phrase" in Dixon's definition (i.e. without internal complements). Morphologically, no element is able to intervene between two slots in the template, so we say this batch is realized as a single morphological word instead of a verbal complex.

Domain B is about *obligatoriness*: thus the +4 slot is not included. Domain C is defined according to prosodic reasons.

1.3   Ideophones

The category of ideophone occupies mainly manner adverbial positions (Jacques 2021, § 10.1.7). Its main difference with the adverb class is its morphology (Jacques 2021, § 10.1.2) and phonology (Jacques 2021, § 10.1.5).

1.4   Analyzed examples

TODO:

- What's the sentence final *ŋu*? The dictionary says it's a stative verb. What's its argument structure? Complement clause construction?

The sentence final stative verb *ŋu* be.FACT is listed as a stative verb in the dictionary and seems to take the constituents before it as a finite complement clause (TODO: or report speech? see the condition on p. 1317), which is without any explicit complementizer. But also see pp. 1081,

Chapter 2

Noun phrase

One interesting feature of the Japhug comitative is it's also considered when deciding the number of an NP (Jacques 2021, p. 332); but it's still not prototypically a conjunction (Jacques 2021, p. 420): the NP following the comitative marker may be omitted, agreeing with the fact that the head noun of an NP can also be dropped (Jacques 2021, p. 425). (In English this is only possible for clauses: in informal writing and speech people may start with a sentence with *and*, i.e. a conjunction construction without the first branch, but they never do so to an NP.) The NP after the comitative marker can also be relativized. Thus the comitative suffix is still recognized as a type of modification.

Chapter 3

Clause structure

3.1 The overall structure

Japhug clauses are verb-final: core arguments and adverbials are before the verb, Jacques (2021) doesn't mention verb phrase coordination, but Prins (2011, p. 549) mentions coordination of two verb phrases sharing the same subject in a relative language Jiaomuzu, and therefore the verb phrase layer should be kept??

References

Guillaume Jacques. *A grammar of Japhug.* Language Science Press, 2021.

Maria Clazina Prins. *A web of relations: a grammar of rGyalrong Jiǎomùzú (Kyom-kyo) dialects.* PhD thesis, Leiden University, 2011.