

Noun Phrases and Nominalization

Nouns and Verbs

Verbs have **arguments**

Nouns **are** arguments

Arguments

'run', 'sleep', 'die' 1 argument

'chase', 'eat', 'kill' 2 arguments

'give', 'teach', 'lend' 3 arguments

Adjectives in Boro

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nwng-bw sakri

you-also civil.servant

ang-bw sakri

I-also civil.servant

‘You’re a government worker, and so am I.’ (*Ungrateful Son*)

khanai gwlaol

hair long

‘[Her] hair is long.’ (*Mirror*)

Adjectives in Boro

ang sakri nong-a

I civil.servant be-NEG

‘I am not a government worker.’

khanai gwlaonong-a

hair long be-NEG

‘[Her] hair is not long.’

Adjectives in Boro

1) *malai-baidi* *nong-a* *mwzang-a-nw*
other-like be-NEG good-SUBJ-CONTRAST
'The good one is not like the others.' (*Hainamuli*)

2) *nwnng* *za* *mao-w*
you whatever do-GENERIC

mwzang-khou-nw *maomar-w* *gosai*
good-OBJ-CONTRAST do-GENERIC (name of a god)

'Lord Gosai, whatever you do, you do good!' (*Hainamuli*)

Adjectives in Boro

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Adjectives in Boro

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nwhamzwa raikhosi

nw-hamzw-a raikhosi

2-媳妇-SUBJ 巫女

‘Your daughter-in-law is a witch.’ (*Treasure*)

‘你的媳妇是巫女。（宝贝故事）’

Adjectives in Boro

Some are just like nouns:

sinemaya mwzan

sinema-ya mwzan

电影 -SUBJ 好

‘The film is good.’ ‘（那个）电影好看。’

Adjectives in Boro

othor ‘肤浅’,

mwzan ‘好’,

gazri ‘坏’,

khathi ‘近’

somaina ‘美丽’

bouthala ‘钝’

Adjectives in Boro

The other kind have a *gw-* prefix:

*gV-*开头的形容词

- *gwzam* 'old, ancient'
- *gwdan* 'new'
- *gwzwu* 'tall'
- *gwláu* 'long'
- *gwkhá* 'bitter'
- *gwkhwi* 'sour'
- *gwdúi* 'sweet'
- *gwswm* 'black, dark'
- *gwzá* 'red'

Adjectives in Boro

Without the prefix these are verbs:

be gotho-a gwswm

this boy-SUBJ dark

‘The boy is dark (in complexion).’

be gotho-a swm-bai

this boy-SUBJ darken-PERF

‘The boy got dark (as, sunburned).’

Adjectives in Boro

dér ‘成大’ *ge-der* ‘大’ *phe-der* ‘使变大’

sun ‘变小’ *go-sun* ‘矮’ *pho-sun* ‘使变矮’

zam ‘变老’ *gw-zam* ‘老’ *phw-zam* ‘wear
out (tr.)’

Adjectives in Boro

The *gw-* adjectives are old, and show the original Sino-Tibetan way of forming adjectives

Adjectives in Tibetan

བཙོག་པ་ gtsog-pa 'dirty'

གཙང་མ་ gtsang-ma 'clean'

ཞིམ་པོ་ zhim-po 'tasty'

སྐུར་མོ་ skyur-mo 'sour'

Adjectives in Tibetan

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Adjectives in Tibetan

ཁང་པ་མགོན་ཁང་ལས་གཙོང་གི་རེད་

khang.pa	mgron.khang-las	gtsong-gi-red
home	hotel-ABL	clean-IMP F

‘Home is cleaner than a hotel.’

Adjectives in Tibetan

ཁང་པ་མགོན་ཁང་ལས་གཙོང་གི་རེད་

khang.pa	mgron.khang-las	gtsong-gi-red
home	hotel-ABL	clean-IMPF

‘Home is cleaner than a hotel.’

Noun Phrases

名词短语

Noun Phrase structure in English

*Man is teacher.

Noun Phrase structure in English

*Man is teacher.

That man is a teacher.

Noun Phrase structure in English

*Man is teacher.

That man is a teacher.

That tall man is a teacher.

Noun Phrase structure in English

*Man is teacher.

That man is a teacher.

That tall man is a teacher.

That very tall man is a teacher.

Noun Phrase structure in English

*Man is teacher.

That man is a teacher.

That tall man is a teacher.

That very tall man is a teacher.

That very tall man who just came is a teacher.

Noun Phrase structure in English

the man

*man the

the tall man

*the man tall

the man who came

*the who came man

Noun Phrase structure in English

the man

*man the

the tall man

*the man tall

the man who came

*the who came man

The order of elements in the English Noun Phrase is fixed:

Noun Phrase structure in English

the man

*man the

the tall man

*the man tall

the man who came

*the who came man

The order of elements in the English Noun Phrase is fixed:

Determiner-AdjectivePhrase-Noun-RelativeClause

Noun Phrase structure in Boro

Noun Phrase structure in Boro

bwi aŋ-ni bwrma gidir ma-nwi

that I-GEN goat big CL.animal-two

那 我-的 山羊 大 只-两

‘those two big goats of mine’

我的那两只大的山羊

Noun Phrase structure in Boro

bwi aŋ-ni bwrma gidir ma-nwi

that I-GEN goat big CL.animal-two

‘those two big goats of mine’

Determiner-Possessive-Noun-Adjective-CL+Numeral

那 我-的 山羊 大 只-两

Noun Phrase structure in Boro

bi-ha *na ma-se-a-nw* *zekhai-ou*
s/he-POSS fish CL.animal-one-SUBJ-CONTRAST fishtrap-LOC
他 鱼 只 - 一 渔梁 一在
wthi-thar-a
climb-at.all-NEG
登 -都 -不

‘Not one fish came into her fishtrap.’

Noun Phrase structure in Boro

bi-ha *na ma-se-a-nw*

s/he-POSS fish CL.animal-one-SUBJ-CONTRAST

他 鱼 只 - 一

bi-ha *ma-se* *na-a-nw*

s/he-POSS CL.animal-one fish-SUBJ-CONTRAST

只 - 一 鱼

‘Not one fish came into her fishtrap.’

Noun Phrase structure in Boro

bi-ha *na-ya-nw* *ma-se-bw*
s/he-POSS fish-SUBJ-CONTRAST CL.animal-
ADDITIVE

gakhw-a *zekhai-ou*
登-NEG 渔梁-LOC

‘Not even one fish came into her fishtrap.’
‘连一条鱼都没有抓到她的渔梁里。’

Noun Phrase structure in Boro

bi-ha

na-ya-nw

ma-se-bw

s/he-POSS fish-SUBJ-CONTRAST CL.animal-ADDITIVE

gakhw-a zekhai-ou

登-NEG 渔梁-LOC

‘Not even one fish came into her fishtrap.’

‘连一条鱼都没有抓到她的渔梁里。’

Noun Phrase structure in Tibetan

You have to tell me about this

Nominalization

Nominalization

manswi-phwr mai ha-bai
person-PL paddy reap-PERF
'The people harvested rice'

Nominalization

mai ha-nai

paddy reap-NOMZ

‘rice harvesters’

OR

‘rice-harvesting’

Nominalization

mai ha-nai

paddy reap-NOMZ

‘rice harvesters’

OR

‘rice-harvesting’

Nominalization

mai ha-nai manswi-phwr

paddy reap-NOMZ person-PL

‘the people who were harvesting rice’

Nominalization

phipha thwidar-nai

father die-NOMZ

‘one whose father has died’

Nominalization

thán̄-nai-a mwzan̄

go-NOMZ-SUBJ good

'It would be good to go'

Nominalization

thán̄-nai-a mwzan̄

go-NOMZ-SUBJ good

‘It would be good to go’

Nominalization

aŋ bihuŋ tháŋ-nai-khw gaham mʷn-akhwi

I Bihung go-NOMZ-OBJ suitable get-
NEG.PERF

‘I didn’t like Bihung’s going.’

Nominalization

aŋ bihun thánai-khw gaham mwn-akhwi

I Bihung go-NOMZ-OBJ suitable get-
NEG.PERF

'I didn't like Bihung's going.'

Nominalization

dáosindáola **bír-nai**-a

birds fly-NOMZ-SUBJ

“uhhhh”-na bír-na hw-bai

“uhhhh” QUOT fly-NF give-PERF

‘The birds’ flying made a “uhhhh” sound.’ (*Mirror*)

Nominalization

be bakos-khw phwr bwr-khaŋ-nai-khw
that box-OBJ swiftly open-finish-NOMZ-OBJ

nu-yw

see-GENERIC

‘Then [she] saw [him] quickly open the box.’ (*Mirror*)

Nominalization

be bakos-khw phwr bwr-khan-nai-khw
that box-OBJ swiftly open-finish-NOM Z-OBJ

nu-yw

see-GENERIC

‘Then [she] saw [him] quickly open the box.’ (*Mirror*)

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses in Indo-European languages

the book which I read

Relative clauses in Indo-European languages

the book **which I read**

Relative clauses in Indo-European languages

the book **which I read**

a man **(who) she knows**

Relative clauses in Indo-European languages

the book **which I read**

a man **(who) she knows**

countries **that you have visited**

Relative Clauses

mai ha-nai manswi-phwr

paddy reap-NOMZ person-PL

‘the people who were harvesting rice’

Relative Clauses

phipha thwidar-nai

father die-NOMZ

'one whose father has died'

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་དབ་དེ་སློབ་པོ་ཡི་དུ་

‘I have read that book.’

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་དབ་དེ་སློབ་པ་ཡི་དུ་

‘I have read that book.’

ངས་དབ་དེ་སློབ་པ་ཡི་དུ་པ་

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ལྷོག་པ་

ངས་ལྷོག་པ་

དེབ་ལྷོག་པ་

ངས་དེབ་ལྷོག་པ་

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ལྷོག་པ་

ངས་ལྷོག་པ་

དེབ་ལྷོག་པ་

ངས་དེབ་ལྷོག་པ་

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་ལྷོག་པ་

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་ལྷོག་པ་

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་ལྷོག་པ་

དེ་ལྷོག་མཁན་

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་ལྟོག་པ་

དེ་ལྟོག་མཁན་

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་སློབ་པའི་དེབ་

the book which I read

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

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the book which I read

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་སློབ་པའི་དེབ་

the book which I read

དེབ་སློབ་མཁན་གྱི་སློབ་གྲྭ་བ་

the student who read the book

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

ངས་སློབ་པའི་དེབ་

the book which I read

དེབ་སློབ་མཁན་གྱི་སློབ་ལྷན་

the student who read the book

Nominalization and relative clauses in Tibetan

- བ་
- མཁམ་
- ས་
- ཡག་