Chapter-7

Phrase

7.1. Noun phrase

Noun phrase in Zeme consists of a head noun which may be preceded or followed by one or more modifiers. The modifiers may be demonstrative, adjectival, numerals, quantifiers etc. the head noun in Zeme language is not strictly in the right of the noun phrase as can be seen in the following examples:

7.2. Noun phrase with adjectival

In Zeme, noun phrase consisting of head nouns and adjectival are found very commonly. As earlier mentioned that the adjectival may follow or precedes the head noun and the structure of such noun phrase constructions are schematized in the following ways: [NOUN + ADJECTIVAL] NP or [ADJECTIVAL + NOUN] NP

(233) [[*p^{h}ai*]N [*gi-be*]ADJV]NP

cloth be red-NMZ

'Red cloth' (lit. cloth red)

(234) [[*gi-be*]ADJV [*p^{h}ai*]N]NP

be red-NMZ cloth

'Red cloth'

(235) [[*imp^{h}ui*]N [*ti-be*]ADJV]NP

road be long-NMZ

'Long road' (lit. road long)

(236) [[*ti*]ADJV [*imp^{h}ui*]N]NP

be long road

'Long road'

(237) [[*pəlui-i-be*]ADJV [*hələiyume*]N]NP

be beauty-NMZ girl

'Beautiful girl'

(238) [[*hələiyume*]N [*pəlui-i-be*]ADJV]NP

girl be beauty-NMZ

'Beautiful girl' (lit. girl beautiful)

(239) [[*həriya*]N [*ti-be*]ADJV]NP

rope be long-NMZ

'Long rope' (lit. rope long)

(240) [[*həki*]N [*di-be*]ADJV]NP

house be big-NMZ

'Big house' (lit. house big)

(241) [[*hətəi*]N [*poine*]ADJV]NP

dog small

'Small dog' (lit. dog small)

7.3. Noun phrase with double adjectival

A noun phrase in Zeme may have more than one adjective as modifier. In this case, both the adjectives may precede or follow the head noun. On the other hand the head noun can occur in between two modifiers are also possible in the language. Structure of such noun phrase construction is [NOUN + ADJECTIVAL + ADJECTIVAL] as in (242) and (243) or [ADJECTIVAL + ADJECTIVAL + NOUN] as in (244) or [ADJECTIVAL + NOUN + ADJECTIVAL] as in (245)-(247).

(242) [[*hiŋbaŋ*]N [*hu-be*]ADJV [*pəlui-i-be*]ADJV]NP

tree be tall-NMZ be beauty-NMZ

'Beautiful tall tree' (lit. tree tall beautiful)

(243) [[*iŋgəiyuki*]N [*di*]ADJV [*ti-be*]ADJV]NP

river be big be long-NMZ

'Long big river' (lit. river big long)

(244) [[*pərənči*]ADJV [*di-be*]ADJV [*pəiyu*]N]NP

be strong fat-NMZ man

'Strong fat man'

(245) [[*kənčiyəp-be*]ADJV [*dəiniya*]N [*tik-be*]ADJV]NP

be soft-NMZ mud be black-NMZ

'Soft black mud' (lit. soft mud black)

(246) [[*pədit-di*]ADJV [*həzai*]N [*di-be*]ADJV]NP

be wide lake be big-NMZ

'Wide big lake' (lit. wide lake big)

(247) [[*pəlui-i-be*]ADJV [*hiŋbaŋ*]N [*hu-be*]ADJV]NP

be beauty-NMZ tree be tall-NMZ

'Beautiful tall tree' (lit. beautiful tree tall)

7.4. Noun phrase with demonstrative:

In Zeme noun phrase may consist of head noun plus demonstrative in which demonstrative root always precedes the head noun and the structure of such construction are [DEMONSTRATIVE + NOUN]. It is worth mentioning here that both proximal and distal demonstratives may be used as modifiers as can be seen in the following examples.

(248) [[*aipəu*] [*ləisi*]N]NP

DEM book

'This book'

(249) [[*aipəu*] [*hətəi*]N]NP

DEM dog

'This dog'

(250) [[*čipao*] [*kar*]N]NP

DEM car

'That car'

(251) [[*čipao*] [*həkiyun*]N]NP

DEM horse

'That horse'

(252) [[*ai*] [*imbači*]N-[*rəme*]PL]NP

DEM mango-PL

'These mangoes'

(253) [[*ai*] [*hənapoine*]N-[*rəme*]PL]NP

DEM child-PL

'These children'

7.5. Noun phrase with demonstrative plus adjectival:

In Zeme, the noun phrase may consist of head noun plus demonstrative and adjectival. The demonstrative always precedes the head noun whereas the adjectival may precede or follows the head noun and the structure of such noun phrase construction is [DEMONSTRATIVE + ADJECTIVAL + NOUN] or [DEMONSTRATIVE + NOUN +ADJECTIVAL] as can be seen in the following examples:

(254) [[*aize*]DEM [*hekiyun*]N [*ha-be*]ADJV]NP

DEM horse be white-NMZ

'This white horse' (lit. this horse white)

(255) [[*aize*]DEM [*ha-be*]ADJV [*hekiyun*]N]NP

DEM be white-NMZ horse

'This white horse'

(256) [[*čize*] [*miyaone*]N [*tik-be*]ADJV]NP

DEM cat be black-NMZ

'That black cat' (lit. that cat black)

(257) [[*čize*] [*tik-be*]ADJV [*miyaone*]N]NP

DEM be black-NMZ cat

'That black cat'

(258) [[*ai-rəme*] [*mənəiyu*]N [*kəndiyak-be*]ADJV]NP

DEM-PL leaf be green-NMZ

'Those green leaves' (lit. those leaves green)

(259) [[*ai-rəme*] [*kəndiyak-be*]ADJV [*mənəiyu*]N]NP

DEM-PL be green-NMZ leaf

'Those green leaves'

(260) [[*aize*] [*hətəi*]N [*niŋčiŋ-be*]ADJV]NP

DEM dog be clever-NMZ

'This clever dog' (lit. this dog clever)

(261) [[*aize*] [*niŋčiŋ-be*]ADJV [*hətəi*]N]NP

DEM be clever-NMZ dog

'This clever dog'

7.6. Noun phrase with quantifiers:

In Zeme, the noun phrase may consist of head noun and quantifier in which the quantifier usually follows the head noun, and the structure of such construction is [NOUN + QUANTIFIER] as can be illustrated in the following examples:

(262) [[*məči*]N [*kəsa*]QUNT]NP

fruit some

'Some fruits'

(263) [[*hətak*]N [*kəsa*]QUNT]NP

rice some

'Some rice'

(264) [[*hərapa*]N [*misuwaŋgabe*]QUNT]NP

flower many

'Many flowers'

(265) [[*kəbui*]N [*duŋ*]QUNT]NP

cow group

'Group of cow'

(266) [[*həui*]N [*kəsa*]QUNT]NP

water few

'Few water'

(267) [[*hərapa*]N [[*k^{h}it*]QUNT-*rəme*]PL]NP

flower bunch-PL

'Bunch of flowers'

7.7. Noun phrase with numerals:

The noun phrase in Zeme may also consist of head noun plus numerals in which the numeral always follows the head noun and the structure of such construction is [NOUN + NUMERAL]. It is interesting to note that the order of [NOUN + NUMERAL] in noun phrase construction is very common in most of the Tibeto-Burman languages of South Asia as can be illustrated in the following examples:

(268) [[*zudagəi*]N [*kəčum*]NUM]NP

mirror three

'Three mirror'

(269) [[*hetui*]N [*ket*]NUM]NP

stick one

'One stick'

(270) [[*tiŋkum*]N [*məŋəiyu*]NUM]NP

year five

'Five years'

(271) [[*pəkəiyu*]N [*səkui*]NUM]NP

month nine

'Nine months'

(272) [[*mikaŋme*]N [*kena*]NUM]NP

friend two

'Two friends'

7.8. Noun phrase with adjectival and specifiers:

In Zeme, noun phrase consisting of head noun plus adjectival and specifier where both adjectival and specifier may precede or follow the head noun. The structure of such noun phrase construction is [ADJECTIVAL+ SPECIFIER + NOUN] or [NOUN+ADJECTIVAL+SPECIFIER] as can be seen in the following examples:

(273) [[*i*]ADJV [[*səŋ*]SPEC-*be*] [*pičop*]N]NP

be nice very-NMZ shoe

'Very nice shoe' (lit. nice very shoe)

(274) [[*pičop*]N [*i*]ADJV [[*səŋ*]SPEC-*be*]NP

shoe be nice very-NMZ

'Very nice shoe' (lit. shoe very nice)

(275) [[*rit*]ADJV [[*səŋ*]SPEC-*be*] [*intukaŋ*]N]NP

be heavy very-NMZ stone

'Very heavy stone' (lit. heavy very stone)

(276) [[*intukaŋ*]N [*rit*]ADJV [[*səŋ*]SPEC-*be*]NP

stone be heavy very-NMZ

'Very heavy stone' (lit. stone very heavy)

(277) [[*di*]ADJV [[*səŋ*]SPEC-*be*] [kəre/məre]N]NP

be large very-NMZ garden

'Very large garden' (lit.large very garden)

(278) [[*kəre/məre*]N [*di*]ADJV [[*səŋ*]SPEC-*be*]NP

garden be large very-NMZ

'Very large garden' (lit. garden very large)

(279) [[*hə̀lum*]ADJV [[*səŋ*]SPEC-be] [*mai*]N]NP

be hot very-NMZ day

'Very hot day'

(280) [[*heŋa*]ADJV [[*səŋ*]SPEC-*be*] [*pəiyu*]N]NP

be lazy very-NMZ man

'Very lazy man'

7.9. Noun phrase with postpositions:

In Zeme Noun phrase with postpositions are very commonly found as many other Tibeto-Burman languages of South Asia. The structure of such construction is: [NOUN + POSTPOSITION + LOCATIVE] as can be illustrated in the following examples:

(281) [[*tiŋgim*]N [*pəirəi*]POST-[*ge*]LOC]NP

sky above-LOC

'Above the sky'

(282) [[*həki*] N [*luŋ*]POST-[*ge*]LOC]NP

house inside-LOC

'Inside the house'

(283) [[*ləisikaira*]N [*kaŋ*]POST-[*ge*]LOC]NP

table below-LOC

'Below the table'

(284) [[*həčaiki*]N [*tai*]POST-[*ge*]LOC]NP

market near-LOC

'Near the market'

7.10. Co-ordinate noun phrase:

Coordinate noun phrases are formed by joining two or more noun phrase. In other words, two or more noun phrases are joined by a coordinator, which may either conjunctive *nai* or the disjunctive *nune~məčai* as can be seen in the following examples:

7.10.1. Conjunctive:

(285) [[*tiŋkai*]NP [*nai*]CONJ [*hədui*]NP]NP

air and water

'Air and water'

(286) [[*ləisikaira*]NP [*nai*]CONJ [*bəmkaira*]NP]NP

table and chair

'Table and chair'

(287) [[*tak*]NP [*nai*]CONJ [*inruibum*]NP]NP

rice and egg

'Rice and egg'

(288) [[*həgəu*]NP [*nai*]CONJ [*hənəi*]NP]NP

frog and snake

'Frog and snake'

(289) [[[*ə*]1-[*pəiyu*]N]NP [*nai*]CONJ [[*ə*]1-[*pui*]N]NP]NP

my father and my mother

'My father and my mother'

7.10.2. Disjunctive:

(300) [[*əsa/ča*]NP [*nune*]DISJ [*kop^{h}i*]NP]NP

tea or coffee

'Tea or coffee'

(301) [[*əsa/ča*]NP [*məkčai*]DISJ [*kop^{h}i*]NP]NP

tea or coffee

'Tea or coffee'

(302) [[*hə̄lum-be*]NP [*məkčai*]DISJ [*həigəi-be*]NP]NP

be.hot-NMZ or be.cold-NMZ

'Hot or cold'

(303) [[*hə̄lum-be*]NP [*məkčai*]DISJ [*həigəi-be*]NP]NP

be.hot-NMZ or be.cold-NMZ

'Hot or cold'

(304) [[*hətəi*]NP [*məkčai*] [*keba*]NP]NP

dog or pig

'Dog or pig'

(305) [[*hətəi*]NP [*nune*] [*keba*]NP]NP

dog or pig

'Dog or pig'

7.11. Verb phrase

Verb phrase in Zeme must consist of a verb and some other optional elements (NPs or Adverbs) which generally precede the verb. Like many other languages in the world, Zeme verb phrase must have a verb, whereas NPs or adverbs are optionally present in the phrase. There are simple sentences in Zeme in which the VP consists of only V as illustrated in the following examples:

(306) *Menja* [[*duŋ*]V]VP-*ləi*

menja be sit-DECL

'Menja sits'

(307) *aring* [[*lim*]V]VP-*ləi*

Aring be dance-DECL

'Aring danced'

(308) *nəŋ* [[*zəi*]V]VP-*ləi*

you be sleep-DECL

'You slept'

(309) *pənui* [[*tet*]V-[*gu*]IRS]VP-*ləi*

3PL be go-IRS-DECL

'They will go'

(310) *hənapoine* [[*hap*]V]VP-*ləi*

child be cry-DECL

'The child is crying'

When the VP takes two NPs, the first NP is the indirect object and the second NP is the direct object and the structure of such verb phrase construction is: [(NOUN PHRASE) + (NOUN PHRASE) + VERB] VP as can be seen in the following examples:

(311) *pa-ne* [[*ə*]N-[*həŋ*]DAT]NP [[*ləisi*]N[*ket*]NUM]NP

he-NOM 1-DAT book one

[[*pəi*]V]VP-*ləi*

be give-DECL

'He gave me a book'

(312) *sita-ne* [[*hesaŋne*]-[*həŋ*]NP [[*ketəiyugesak*]N]NP

sita-NOM guest-DAT food

[[*kəi*]V]VP-*ləi*

be serve-DECL

'Sita served the food to the guest.'

(313) *i-ne* [[*pa*]N-[*həŋ*]DAT]NP [[*imbači*]N

I-NOM he-DAT mango

[*əket*]NUM]NP [*inzimai*]ADV [[*pəi*]V]VP-*ləi*

one yesterday be give-DECL

'I gave him a mango yesterday.'

In Zeme, the verb phrase may consist of verb and adverb in which time, place and manner adverbs always precede the verb and the structure of such verb phrase construction is: [ADVERB + VERB] as many other SOV languages of the world do. It is also worth mentioning here that if the time and place adverbials occur together in a verb phrase in Zeme, the place adverbials usually precede the time adverbials as seen in the following examples:

(314) *rəhaŋpəiyu* [[*khoine*]ADV [*tet*]V]VP-*ləi*

boy slowly be go-DECL

'The boy goes slowly'

(315) *abel* [[*səmti-ze*]ADV [*kak*]V]VP-*ləi*

Abel lengthy-ADVLZ be answer-DECL

'Abel answer lengthily'

(316) *Saran* [*inčomai*]ADV [[*waŋ*]V-[*gu*]IRS]VP-*ləi*

Saran tomorrow be come-IRS-DECL

'Saran will come tomorrow'

(317) *i* [*inzimai*]ADV [[*həčaiki*]N]NP [[*tet*]V]VP-*ləi*

I yesterday market be go-DECL

'I went to market yesterday'

(318) *i* [*čige*]ADV [*inzimai*]ADV [[*inčet*]N

I there yesterday hour

[*kena*]NUM-[*hi*]TIME-[*ge*]LOC]NP [[*ŋəu*]V]VP-*ləi*

2 o'clock-LOC be see-DECL

'I saw her there yesterday at 2 o'clock'