Chapter-8

Clause and sentence structure

8.1. Zeme clause types

8.1.1. Declarative clause

Declarative clause in Zeme is expressed by the declarative suffix *-ləi.* Structurally declarative clause in the language can be classified into two types as (i) Declarative verbal clause and (ii) Declarative non-Verbal clause.

8.1.1.1. Declarative verbal clause

The declarative verbal clauses in Zeme is formed by the verb i.e., the verb is the verbal predicator of the verbal clause and it can be sub divided into (i) transitive and (ii) intransitive. The basic distinction between transitive and intransitive predicates is the former one is taking one argument and the latter two or more arguments as exemplified in the following examples:

(319)	*pa-ne*	*ə-ču*	*ŋəu-ləi*
	he-NOM	1-ACC	be see-DECL
	'He saw me'		

(320) *debid* *imbači* *təiyu-ləi*

david mango be eat-DECL

'David ate mango'

(321) *pənui* *ləisiki* *tet-ləi*

3PL school be go-DECL

'They went to school'

(322) *amol* *hegəi* *la-ləi*

amol quarrel EXIST-DECL

'Amol is quarelling'

(323) *pa* *hiŋbaŋ* *kaŋ-ge* *zəi-ləi*

he tree under-LOC be sleep-DECL

'He slept under the tree'

(324) *nəmrui* *liyam-ləi*

bird be fly-DECL

'Bird flies'

(325) *nəpoine* *zəi-ləi*

baby be sleep-DECL

'The baby sleeps'

(326) *čiŋdime* *k^{h}oine* *tet-ləi*

old man slowly be go-DECL

The old man walks slowly.

8.1.1.2. Declarative non-Verbal clause

The declarative non-verbal clause in Zeme includes the nominal, existential, locative and possessive constructions. These construction types tend to be similar to one another grammatically in that they all tend to lack a semantically rich lexical verb (Payne, 1997) or a copula. In Zeme, declarative non-verbal clauses lack main verb as discussed below:

8.1.1.2.1. Nominal construction

Zeme is a copula less language where no copula is employed to link the two NPs i.e., NP1 and NP2. In other words, the nominal construction in the language is formed by the juxtaposition of two noun phrases where one of the NPs is the predicator of the same as exemplified below.

(327) *pa-ze* *mipəiyumi* *ləi*

he-DET man DECL

'He is a man'

(328) *pa* *rəhəiyuiŋgo-pui* *ləi*

she nurse-F DECL

'She is a nurse'

(329) *aize* *miyaone* *ləi*

DEM cat DECL

'This is a cat'

(330) *pa* *kakətəipəiyu ləi*

he teacher DECL

'He is a teacher'

(331) *pə-zi-ne* *ragui-ləi*

3-name-NOM ragui-DECL

'His name is Ragui'

(332) *aize* *ə-gu* *ləisitaŋ-ləi*

DEM 1-GEN pen-DECL

'This is my pen'

8.1.1.2.2. Existential/locative/possessive clause

Existential/possessive/locative constructions in Zeme are expressed by using morpheme *la* meaning 'be, have, and stay' followed by the declarative markers as can be seen in the following examples:

Existential

(333) *ketum* *həlu-ge* *bəm* *la-ləi*

cow field-LOC live EXIST-DECL

'There is a cow in the field'

(334) *təkogi-ge* *hədui* *kəčəi-rinne* *la-ləi*

pond-LOC water little-SPEC EXIST-DECL

'There is little water in the pond.'

(335) *pentərači* *baŋ-rəme* *təmeŋloŋ-ge* *la-ləi*

orange tree-PL tamenglog-LOC EXIST-DECL

'There are orange trees in Tamenglong.'

(336) *kəri-ge* *nəmrui* *la-ləi*

garden-LOC bird EXIST-DECL

'There is a bird in the garden.'

(337) *taməi-ge* *hələiyu-təiyubekəu* *la-ləi*

Tamei-LOC song-singer EXIST-DECL

'There was a singer in Tamei.'

Locative

(338) *ə-napui* *kere-ge* *la-ləi*

1-daughter garden-LOC EXIST-DECL

'My daughter is in the garden.'

(339) *kʰəuriŋ-rəme* *hə̌lu-ge* *la-ləi*

animal-PL field-LOC EXIST-DECL

'The animals are in the field.'

(340) *pa* *tameŋloŋ-ge* *la-ləi*

she tamenglong-LOC EXIST-DECL

'She is at Tamenglong'

(341) *i* *silčər-ge* *la-ləi*

I silchar-ge EXIST-DECL

'I am at silchar'

Possessive

(342) *ə-gu* *həki-poine* *kena* *la-ləi*

1-GEN house-small two EXIST-DECL

'I have two small houses'

(343) *ə-gu* *ləisi* *mədai* *la-ləi*

1-GEN book four EXIST-DECL

'I have four books'

(344) *ə-gu* *hetəi* *tik-be* *kena* *la-ləi*

1-GEN dog be black-NMZ two EXIST-DECL

'I have two black dogs.'

8.1.2. Imperative clause

The imperative clause in Zeme is expressed by the suffix *-ləu* expressing particularly the command. It is also worth mentioning here that the imperative

suffix in the language is directly attached to the verb root as shown in following examples:

(345) *ə-gu* *timriyaŋ-ge* *tet-ləu*

1-GEN cart-LOC be go-IMP

'Go to my cart'

(346) *aige* *ə-gu* *ləisikuwak* *təiwaŋ-ləu*

DEM 1-GEN book be bring-IMP

'Bring my book back'

(347) *aige* *waŋ-ləu*

here be come-IMP

'Come here'

(348) *dəikaŋ-ge* *duŋ-ləu*

floor-LOC be sit-IMP

'Sit on the floor'

(349) *aize* *təiyupəŋ-ləu*

DEM break-IMP

'Break this'

8.1.3. Interrogative clause

The interrogative clause in Zeme is formed by using question word or question particle, sometimes both are used jointly to form the interrogative clause. Zeme being a TB language employs the question word or suffix to form the interrogative clauses. However, in Zeme, four strategies are employed to form interrogative clause viz. (i) by using question word (ii) by using question particle (iii) by using question word and particle (iv) by using rising intonation.

8.1.3.1. By using question word

In Zeme, the question words such *daikəu* 'what', *daikəuhi* 'when', daige 'where', *daitəiyuze* 'why' etc. are used to formed 'wh-question, as shown in the following examples:

(350) *čao-ləu* *pa-ze*

who-IMP he-DET

'Who is he?'

(351) *nəŋ* *daikəu* *sa-ləu*

you what be say-IMP

'What did you say?'

(352) *pa* *daikəuhi* *waŋ-ləu*

he when be come-IMP

'When did he come?'

(353) *daitəiyuze* *nəŋ* *tet-ləu*

why you be go-IMP

'Why are you going?'

(354) *nəŋ* *daige* *bəm-ləu*

you where place-IMP

Where do you live?'

8.1.3.2. By using question particle

In Zeme, the interrogative clause is also formed by the question particle *-məi* which is being attached to the verb as a clause final particle in the sentence/clause as can be seen in the following examples:

(355) *nəŋ* *ə-zi-ne* *ə-ču* *ku-ra-dui-məi*

you 1-name-NOM 1-ACC be call-IRS-CAP-INT

'Will you call me by my name?'

(356) *nəŋ* *ča* *piya* *ket* *sək-ra-məi*

you tea cup one be drink-IRS-INT

'Will you take a cup of tea?'

(357) *nəŋ* *ləisi* *kiya-gu-məi*

You book be read-IRS-INT

'Will you read book?'

(358) *nəŋ* *hiŋbaŋ* *kəiyu-dui-məi*

You tree be climb-CAP-INT

'Will you climb tree?'

(359) *nəŋ* *ləisiki* *tet-gu-məi*

You school be go-IRS-INT

'Will you go to school?'

8.1.3.3. By using question word and question particle

The wh-interrogative clause in Zeme is formed by question words such as *čao* 'who', *daikəu* 'what', *daikəuhi* 'when', *daige* 'where', *daitəiyuze* 'why'etc., along with the question particle *-ləu* which is being attached to the verb as clause final particle in the case of a clause/sentence as can be seen in the following examples:

(360) *nəŋ* *dai-ge* *tet-ra-ləu*

you what-LOC be go-IRS-Q

'Where will you go?'

(361) *nəŋ* *daikəuhine* *op^{h}is* *tet-ra-ləu*

you when office be go-IRS-Q

'When will you go to office?'

(362) *nəŋ* *čao-nai* *tet-ra-ləu*

you who-ASS be go-IRS-Q

'With whom you will go?'

(363) *nəŋ* *kəu* *təiyu-ra-ləu*

you what eat-IRS-Q

'What will you eat?'

(364) *nəŋ* *daigum* *duŋ-ra-ləu*

you how be sit-IRS-Q

'How will you sit?'

8.1.3.4. By using rising intonation

In Zeme, rising intonation with particle *-məi* is used to form yes-no interrogative clause as can be seen in the following examples:

Yes/No

(365) *nəŋ-gu* *hetəi* *tik-be* *kena* *la-ləi*

1-GEN dog be black-NMZ two EXIST-DECL

'You have two black dogs?'

(366) *nəŋ* *tet-ra-ləi*

you be go-IRS-DECL

'You are going?'

(367) *pa* *zəi* *bəm-ləi*

she be sleep place-DECL

'She is sleeping?'

(368) *pa-ze* *nəŋ* *sipui-ləi*

She-DET you sister-DECL

'She is your sister?'

8.1.4. Adverbial clause

In Zeme adverbial clause is expressed by using the subordinator *dai-liya, dai-gene, dai-ge* in which the subordinator clause may precedes or follows the main clause as can be seen in the following examples:

(369)	*i-ne*	*či-ləi*	*pa*	*dai-liya*	*tet-məi*
	i-NOM	be know-DECL	he	where	be go-QM

'I know where he goes'

(370)	*pa-dage*	*nəiyu-ləu*	*pa*	*dai-gene*	*aipəu*	*ləisi*
	him	be ask-IMP	he	what-ABL	DEM	book

ŋəu-məi

get-QM

'Ask him where he got this book'

(371)	*pa*	*či-mak-ləi*	*pa*	*dai-ge*	*luŋ-məi*
	he	know-NEG-DECL	he	what-LOC	live-QM

'He does not know where he lives?'

In other word, the adverbial clause in Zeme is also expressed by using a specific subordinator *'luwa',* which indicates time adverbial as can be seen in the following examples:

(372) *nəŋ* *waŋ-be* *luwa* *i* *zəi-ləi*

you be come-NMZADV I be sleep-DECL

'When you came I was sleeping'

(373) *i* *zəi-ləi* *nəŋ* *waŋ-be* *luwa*

I be sleep- DECL you be come-NMZADV

'When you came I was sleeping.'

(374) *pa* *məči* *təiwaŋ-ləi* *pa* *waŋ-be* *luwa*

he fruit bring-DECL he be.come-NMZADV

'He brings fruit when he comes.'

(375) *pa* *waŋ-be* *luwa* *pa* *məči* *təiwaŋ-ləi*

he be come-NMZ ADV he fruit be bring-DECL

'He brings fruit when he comes.'

(376) *i* *ləidi-be* *luwa* *i* *sao-ləi*

i be tire-NMZ ADV I be rest-DECL

'When I feel tired I take rest.'

(377) *i* *sao-ləi* *i* *ləidi-be* *luwa*

I be rest-DECL I be tire-NMZ ADV

'When I feel tired I take rest'

8.1.5. Temporal clause

Temporal clause in zeme is formed by the subordinating words such as *soge* 'before' and *cəŋgene* 'after' which is placed before the finite verb in a clause or sentence. In other words, the subordinating words are often placed after the noun or a nonfinite verb in a clause or sentence as can be seen in the following examples:

(378) *kəlas* *loi-be* *čəŋ-ne/cəŋgene* *tet-ləu*

class be finish-NMZ after be go-IMP

'Go after class finish'

(379) *tak* *təiyu* *loigene* *ləisi* *pa-ləu*

rice be eat after book be read-IMP

'Read after eating rice'

(380) *suti* *čəŋgene* *hedəukə-ləi*

holiday after meet-DECL

'Let us meet after holiday'

(381) *tomba* *lak-ra* *soge* *hap-ləi*

tomba be beat-IRS before be cry-DECL

'Tomba cries before beating'

(382) *gita* *tak* *təiyu-ra* *soge* *pak-ləi*

gita rice eat-IRS before be run-DECL

'Gita ran before eating'

8.1.6. Desiderative clause

The desiderative clause in Zeme is expressed by the morpheme *-nəi-* which is attached to the verb root and declarative suffix *-ləi* follows the desiderative morpheme as shown in the following examples:

(383) *i* *təmeŋloŋ* *tet-nəi-ləi*

i tamenglong be go-DES-DECL

'I wish to go to Tamenglong'

(384) *ariŋ* *pəpui-pəpəiyu* *taige* *bəm-nəi-ləi*

aring parents with stay-DES-DECL

'Aring wish to stay with her parents'

(385) *i* *kakətəipəiyu* *təiyu-nəi-ləi*

I teacher become-DES-DECL

'I wish to become a teacher'

(386) *tərai* *doktər* *təiyu-nəi-ləi*

tarai doctor become-DES-DECL

'Tarai wish to become a doctor'

(387) *raikiamle* *təusem-ge* *bəm-nəi-ləi*

raikiamle tousem-LOC stay-DES-DECL

'Raikiamle wish to stay at Tousem'

8.1.7. Conditional clause

Conditional clause in Zeme is formed by suffixing morpheme *-dina* ~ *-dizaine* to the verb root.

(388) *duptibe* *ri-dina* *ənui* *tui-gu-ləi*

train late-COND we be catch-IRS-DECL

'If the train is late, we may catch it.'

(389) *duptibe* *ri-dizaine* *ənui* *tui-gu-ləi*

train late-COND we be catch-IRS-DECL

‘If the train is late, we may catch it.’

(390) *tomba-ne* *imbači* *təiyu-dina* *nəŋ-du* *təiyu-ləu*

tomba-NOM mango be eat-COND you-DET be eat-IMP

‘If Tomba eat mango, you eat.’

(391) *tomba-ne* *imbači* *təiyu-dizaine* *nəŋ-du* *təiyu-ləu*

tomba-NOM mango be eat-COND you-ACC be eat-IMP

‘If Tomba eat mango, you eat.’

(392) *i-ne* *kiya-dina* *pa-du* *kiya-gu-ləi*

i-NOM be read-COND he-ACC be read-IRS-DECL

‘If I read, he will read.’

(393) *i-ne* *kiya-dizaine* *pa-du* *kiya-gu-ləi*

i-NOM be read-COND he-ACC be read-IRS-DECL

‘If I read, he will read.’

(394) *nəŋ-ne* *waŋ-dina* *i-du* *tet-gu-ləi*

you-NOM be come-COND i-ACC be go-IRS-DECL

'If you come, I will go.'

(395) *nəŋ-ne* *waŋ-dizaine* *i-du* *tet-gu-ləi*

you-NOM be come-COND i-ACC be go-IRS-DECL

'If you come, I will go.'

(396) *saran-ne* *təiyu-dina* *i-du* *təiyu-gu-ləi*

Saran-NOM be eat-COND I-ACC be eat-IRS-DECL

'If Saran eats, I will eat.'

(397) *saran-ne* *təiyu-dizaine* *i-du* *təiyu-gu-ləi*

Saran-NOM be eat-COND I-ACC be eat-IRS-DECL

'If Saran eats, I will eat.'

(398) *nəŋ-ne* *hap-dina* *i* *lak-gu-ləi*

you-NOM be cry-COND I be beat-IRS-DECL

'If you cry, I will beat.'

(399) *nəŋ-ne* *hap-dizaine* *i* *lak-gu-ləi*

you-NOM be cry-COND I be beat-IRS-DECL

'If you cry, I will beat.'

8.1.8. Relativisation

Zeme does not have relative pronoun. The relative clause in Zeme is formed by suffixing nominalizer -*be* to the verb of the nominalized clause. Zeme exhibits externally headed relative clause where the relativised noun occurs to the right of the clause i.e., a headed relative clause directly precedes the head nouns it modifies. The different types of relative clause construction in the language can be seen below:

8.1.8.1. Head relative clause

In headed relative clause, the relative clause is pronominal as can be seen in the following examples.

(400) *inzimai* *waŋ-be* *pəiyu-ze* *ə-kanapəiyu-ləi*

yesterday be come-REL man-DET 1-friend-DECL

'The man who came yesterday was my friend.'

(401) *ge-be* *kətum-ze* *nəŋ-gu-ləi*

be red-NMZ cow-DET you-GEN-DECL

'The cow which is red is yours.'

(402) *tik-be* *miyaone-ze* *ə-gu-ləi*

be black-NMZ cat-DET 1-GEN-DECL

'The cat which is black is mine.'

8.1.8.2. Headless relative clause

Zeme has a headless relative clause. In other words, the headless relative clause lacks an overt nominal head and it is interpretable as 'those who'. In this relative clause construction, a distinct form of relativizer i.e., *-me* is used to relativize the clause which is followed by the plural markers as can be seen in the following examples:

(402) *kirket* *kənt^{h}a-me-rəme* *pənui* *sui-i-ləi*

cricket play-REL-PL they be happy-DECL

'Those who played cricket were happy.'

(403) *həzəu* *sək-me-rəme* *kənrame-ləi*

wine be drink-REL-PL sick-DECL

'Those who drank wine are sick.'

(404) *aige* *waŋ-me-rəme* *pənui* *lui-i-ləi*

here be come-REL-PL they beautiful-DECL

'Those who came here are beautiful.'

(405) *həki* *təiyu-me-rəme* *pənui* *renči-ləi*

house be built-REL-PL they be strong-DECL

'Those who built houses were strong.'

8.1.8.2.1. Subject relative clause

In this construction the subject of transitive or intransitive clauses are relativised by the relativizer *-be* where the relative clause precedes the head noun as can be seen in the following examples:

(406) *hap-be* *pui*

be cry-NMZ F

'The girl who cries'

(407) *lim-be* *pui*

be dance-NMZ F

'The girl who dance'

(408) *iŋkaŋ lak-be pəiyu*

bell be ring-NMZ male

'The person who rings the bell'

(409) *iŋkʰəm kai-be pəiyu*

door be close-NMZ male

'The man who closed the door'

(410) *nəmrui liyam-be*

bird be fly-NMZ

'The bird which fly'

(412) *kəntʰa-be rəhaŋpəiyu*

be play-NMZ boy

'The boy who play'

(413) *nəmrui heləiyu-təiyu-be*

bird song-be sing-NMZ

'The bird which sing'

8.1.8.2.2. Object relative clause

In Zeme, the object is relativized by the the relativizer *-be* in which relative clause follows the head noun as can be seen in the following examples:

(414) *heginəiyu* *pa-ne* *zo-be*

vegetable she-NOM be sell-NMZ

'The vegetable that she sold'

(415) *čipəu* *ki* *ə-nui* *ŋəu-be*

DEM house 1-PL be see-NMZ

'The house that we saw'

(416) *hegi* *roda-ne* *laŋ-be*

curry roda-NOM be cook-NMZ

'The curry that Roda cooked'

(417) *məpa* *čipao* *pui-ne* *kayak-be*

flower DEM F-NOM be pluck-NMZ

'The flower that the girl plucked'

(418) *ə-pəiyu-ne* *rəŋkaŋ* *pəi-be*

1-father-NOM money be give-NMZ

'The money that my father gave'

(419) *pa-ne* *rəŋči* *lui-be*

he-NOM banana be buy-NMZ

'The banana that he bought'

8.2. Nominalization

Nominalization in Zeme is formed by means of suffixation. Nominalization is one of the productive morpho-syntactic features in Zeme. Like almost all the languages of the family, Zeme makes use of various nominalizers to form nouns from verbs or verb like categories.

8.2.1. Nominalizer –*be*

Verbal nouns are formed by suffixing nominalizer -*be* to the verbal root and adjectival nouns are also formed by suffixing same nominalizer -*be* to the adjectival as can be seen in the following examples:

Verb	**gloss**	**nominal**	**gloss**
zəi	'be sleep'	*zəi-be*	'sleep
hiya	'be sour'	*hiya-be*	'sourness'

čəŋ	'be dry'	*čəŋ-be*	'dryness'
čim	'be wet'	*čim-be*	'wetness'
zo	'be sell'	*zo-be-kəu*	'seller'
lim	'be dance'	*lim-be-kəu*	'dancer'
ka.halaŋ	'be cook'	*ka.halaŋ-be-kəu*	'cook'
ka.gatəi	'be learn'	*ka.getəi-be-kəu*	'learner'
int^{h}a/kent^{h}a	'be play'	*kakent^{h}a-be-kəu*	'player'

Adjectivival	**gloss**	**nominal**	**gloss**
kum	be sweet	*kum-be*	'sweetness'
k^{h}a	be bitter	*k^{h}a-be*	'bitterness'
həlum	be hot	*həlum-be*	'hotness'
həgəi	be cold	*həgəi-be*	'coldness'
mi	be mad	*mi-be*	'madness'

8.2.2. Nominalizer *-be*

The nominalizer *-be* is also used to derived nouns from verbs referring the action of verbs 'who does a lot' as can be seen in the following examples:

(420) *zəi* *ti-be*

be sleep do-NMZ

'One who sleeps a lot'

(421) *hap* *ti-be*

be cry do-NMZ

'One who cries a lot'

(422) *nui* *ti-be*

be laugh do-NMZ

'One who laugh a lot'

(423) *sək* *ti-be*

be drink do-NMZ

'One drinks a lot'

(424) *rəu* *ti-be*

be write do-NMZ

'One who writes a lot'

(425) *int^{h}a* *ti-be*

be play do-NMZ

'One plays a lot'

(426) *hegəi* *ti-be*

be quarrel do-NMZ

'One who quarrels a lot'

8.3. Pronominalization

Pronominalisation is one of the morphological features of Tibeto-Burman languages. Zeme, being a Tibeto-Burman language has the same morphological feature. In Zeme, pronominal prefixes are attached to the nominal root expressing sense of possession. Zeme has three pronominal prefix: *ə* 'first person', *nəŋ* 'second person' and *pə* 'third person'. It is also interesting to note that there is no phonological correspondence between the personal pronouns and its pronominal prefixes in Zeme

i	'I'	*ənui*	'we'
nəŋ	'you'	*nəŋnui*	'you(PL)'
pa	's/he'	*pənui*	'they'

Moreover, Pronominalization in Zeme can be made in the following semantic domains as such kinship terms, body parts, and some of animate or inanimate nouns as many other Tibeto-Burman languages of Northeast India do. The Pronominalization in Zeme can be summarized in the following examples:

8.3.1. Kinship terms:

ə-pui	'my mother'
ə-pəiyu	'my father'
nəŋ-pui	'your mother'
nəŋ-pəiyu	'your father'
pə-pui	'his/her mother'
pə-pəiyu	'his/her father'

8.3.2. Body parts

ə-ba	'my hand'
ə-pi	'my leg'
ə-zu	'my face'
nəŋ-ba	'your hand'
nəŋ-pi	'your leg'
nəŋ-zu	'your face'
pə-ba	'his/her hand'
pə-pi	'his/her leg'
pə-zu	'his/her face'

8.3.3. Objects

ə-ki	'my house'
nəŋ-ki	'your house'
pə-ki	'his/her house'

8.4. Causativisation

Causativisation in Zeme is formed by using the causative morpheme *təiyu* 'do' which may be preposed or postposed to the verb root as can be seen in the following examples:

(427) *i-ne* *zina-rəme-du* *təiyu* *nui-gai-ləi*
i-NOM people-PL-ACC CAUS laugh-EVD-DECL
'I made the people laugh'

(428) *nəŋ-ne* *hekiyun* *pak-ra* *təiyu-bəm-ləi*
you-NOM horse be run-IRS CAUS-EVD-DECL
'You are making the horse run'

(429) *i-ne* *kebaŋ-du* *helu-ge* *ta* *təiyu-ra* *təiyu-gai-ləi*
i-NOM servant-DET field-LOC work do-IRS CAUS-EVD-DECL
'I make the servant to work in the field'

(43́0) *həŋket-ne* *ə-ču* *hələiyu təiyu-ra* *təiyu-gai-ləi*

someone-NOM 1-ACC song sing-IRS CAUS-EVD -DECL

'I was made to sing by someone'

(431) *i –ne* *pə-ču* *pak-ra* *təiyu-gai-ləi*

I-NOM he-ACC run-IRS CAUS-EVD-DECL

'I made him ran'

(432) *pa-ne* *ə-ču* *təiyu* *nui-gai-ləi*

she-NOM 1-ACC CAUS laugh-EVD-DECL

'She makes me laugh'

(433) *linthoi-ne* *ə-ču* *təiyu* *hap-gai-ləi*

Linthoi-NOM 1-ACC CAUS be cry- -DECL

'Linthoi makes me cry'

8.5. Reflexivization

Reflexivization in Zeme is expressed by using reflexive morpheme *-rin* 'self' which is suffixed to the pronominal clitic rather than the noun regardless of gender or number distinctions as can be seen in the following examples:

(434) *pa* *pə-rin-ne* *malaŋ-ləi*

he 3-self-NOM be cook-DECL

'He cooks himself'

(435) *nəŋ* *nəŋ-rin-ne* *təiyu* *tap-ləi*

you 2-self-NOM do be cut-DECL

'You cut it yourself'

(436) *pa* *pə-rin-ne* *tet-gu-ləi*

he 3-self-NOM be go-IRS-DECL

'He will go himself'

(437) *i* *ə-rin-ne* *təiyu-ləi*

I 1-self-NOM be do-DECL

'I did it myself'

(438) *ənui* *ə-nui-rin-ne* *təiyu-ləi*

we 1-PL-self-NOM be make-DECL

'We made it ourselves'

8.6. Negation

Negation in most of the Tibeto-Burman languages is expressed by means of affixation either suffixation or prefixation; however infixation is hardly employed to express negation in the family of languages. Similarly, negation in Zeme is mainly expressed by means of affixation particularly by suffixation. Negation in Zeme can be formed at the clausal level but not at the constituent level. In other words, negative strategies in Zeme are those which are employed to negate the whole proposition or the clause. In Zeme, the negator *mak* is employed to negate both the declarative and interrogative clauses; however, a special negator is employed to negate imperative clauses as discussed in the following sections. Unlike English negative indefinite e.g., *no-body* or *nothing*, the negative indefinite pronoun is formed by negating the verb rather than the pronominal. Furthermore, the nominalised clause and negative interjection are also negated by the general negator *mak* in the langauge as discussed below:

8.6.1. Negation in declarative clause

In Zeme, the declarative clause is marked by the declarative suffix *-ləi*. Structurally, declarative clauses in Zeme may be divided into two types: (i) verbal and (ii) nominal predicates. However, the general negator *mak* is invariably used to negate both verbal and nominal predicates. The formation of negation in both nominal and verbal predicates as can be exemplified below.

8.6.1.1. Negation in verbal predicate

In Zeme, the negator *mak* is used to negate the verbal predicate as can be seen in the following examples:

(439) *i* *tak* *təiyu* *mak-ləi*

I rice be eat NEG-DECL

'I do not eat rice.'

(440) *i* *pa-ču* *ŋəu* *mak-ləi*

I he-ACC be see NEG-DECL

I do not see him.'

(441) *nəŋ* *ta* *təiyu* *mak-ləi*

you work do NEG-DECL

'You (Sg) do not work.'

(442) *pa* *ta* *təiyu* *mak-ləi*

he work do NEG-DECL

'He does not work.'

(443) *i* *ləisiki* *tet* *mak-gu-ləi*

I school be go NEG-IRS-DECL

'I am not going to school.'

(444) *i* *nəmai* *waŋ* *mak-gu-ləi*

I today be come NEG-IRS-DECL

'I am not coming today.'

8.6.1.2. Negation in nominal predicate

In Zeme, the general negator *mak* is used to negate nominal predicate as the verbal predicate do. In other word the negator *mak* is suffixed to the noun followed by the declarative marker -*ləi* as can be seen in the following examples:

(445) *pa* *hərapipəiyu-mak-ləi*

he doctor -NEG-DECL

'He is not a doctor.'

(446) *pa* *hərapipəiyu-mak-ləi*

he doctor -NEG-DECL

'He was not a doctor.'

(447) *pa* *hačaiki-ge* *bəm-mak-ləi*

he bazaar-LOC place-NEG-DECL

'He was not in the bazaar.

(448) *pa* *ə-sipəiyu-mak-ləi*

he 1-brother-NEG-DECL

'He is not my brother.'

(449) *aize* *ə-gu* *ləisi-mak-ləi*

DEM 1-GEN book-NEG-DECL

'This is not my book.'

8.6.2. Negation in existential/possessive/ locative construction

8.6.2.1. Existential

Like other Tibeto-Burman language, Zeme have existential morpheme *la* for constructing existential clause. To negate existential/possessive construction, the negative existential morpheme *ga* 'not exist' however in locative construction the negative existential morpheme *ga* and general negator *mak* are used to negate the clause as can be seen in the following examples:

(450) *pentərači* *baŋ-rəme* *tameŋlon-ge* *la-ləi*

orange tree-PL tamenglong-LOC EXIST-DECL

'There are orange trees in Tamenglong.'

(451) *pentərači-rəme* *tameŋlon-ge* *ga-ləi*

Orange-PL tamenglong-LOC NEG-DECL

'There are no orange trees in Tamenglong.'

(452) *Manipur-ge* *həguwaŋ* *ket* *bəm-gai-ləi*

Manipur-LOC king one live-EVD-DECL

'There was a king in Manipur.'

(453) *Manipur-ge* *həguwaŋ* *ga-ləi*

Manipur-LOC king NEG-DECL

'There was no king in Manipur'

(454) *taməi-ge* *hələiyu* *təiyu-me* *la-ləi*

Tamei-LOC song sing-man EXIST-DECL

'There was a singer in Tamei.'

(455) *taməi-ge* *hələiyu* *təiyu-me* *ga-ləi*

Tamei-LOC song sing-man NEG-DECL

'There was no singer in Tamei.'

8.6.2.2. Possessive

(456) *ə-gu* *ləisi* *ket* *la-ləi*

1-GEN book one EXIST-DECL

'I have a book.'

(457) *ə-gu* *ləisi* *ket* *ga-ləi*

1-GEN book one NEG-DECL

'I do not have a book.'

(458) *ə-gu* *kar* *la-ləi*

1-GEN car EXIST-DECL

'I have a car.'

(459) *ə-gu* *kar* *ga-ləi*

1-GEN car NEG-DECL

'I do not have a car.'

(460) *tomba* *pəpui-nai-pəpəiyu* *riŋ-la-ləi*

Tomba mother-ASS-father alive-EXIST-DECL

'Tomba's parents are alive.'

(461) *tomba* *pəpui-nai-pəpəiyu* *ga-ləi*

Tomba mother-ASS-father NEG-DECL

'Tomba's parents are not alive.'

(462) *ə-ki* *la-ləi*

1-house EXIST-DECL

'I have a house.'

(463) *ə-ki* *ga-ləi*

1-house NEG-DECL

'I have a house.'

8.6.2.3. Locative

(464) *cige* *ləisikaira* *pəi-ge* *ləisitaŋ* *la-ləi*

DEM table on-LOC pen EXIST-DECL

'There is a pen on the table.'

(465) *cige* *ləisikaira* *pəi-ge* *ləisitaŋ* *ga-ləi*

DEM table on-LOC pen NEG-DECL

'There is no pen on the table.'

(466) *pa* *Manipur-ge* *luŋ-ləi*

he Manipur-LOC live-DECL

'He lives in Manipur'

(467) *pa* *Manipur-ge* *luŋ-mak-ləi*

he Manipur-LOC live-NEG-DECL

'He does not live in Manipur'

(468) *ragui* *tameŋloŋ-ge* *la-ləi*

Ragui tamenglong-LOC EXIST-DECL

'Ragui is at Tamenglong.'

(469) *ragui* *tameŋloŋ-ge* *bəm-mak-ləi*

Ragui tamenglong-LOC live-NEG-DECL

'Ragui is not at Tamenglong.'

(470) *pənui* *həki* *luŋ-ge* *la-ləi*

3PL house inside-LOC EXIST-DECL

'They are inside the house.'

(471) *pənui* *həki* *luŋ-ge* *ga-ləi*

3PL house inside-LOC NEG-DECL

'They are not in the house.'

8.6.3. Negation in interrogative clause

In Zeme, the general negator *-mak* is used to negate the interrogative clause followed by the question particles either *məi* or *ləu*. It is noted that *məi* occurs with yes-no question however *ləu* occurs with *Wh*-question as can be seen in the following examples:

(472) *nəŋ* *čao-du* *iŋgiya mak* *ləu*

you who-ACC love NEG Q

'Whom do you not love?'

(473) *nəŋ* *ram* *mak* *məi*

you ram NEG Q

'Are you not Ram?'

(474) *nəŋ* *inčomai* *tet* *mak-ra* *məi*

you tomorrow go NEG-IRS Q

'Will you go tomorrow?'

(475) *čao* *i-nai* *tet* *insəm* *mak-ra* *ləu*

who i-ASS go together NEG-IRS Q

'Who will not go together with me?'

8.6.4. Negative Prohibitive (imperative)

Zeme has a special form of prohibitive which is used to negate imperative clause that does not occur in non-imperative clauses (declarative and interrogative). Prohibitive marker -*so* is attached to the verbal root followed by the command or imperative marker -*ləu* as can be seen in the following examples:

(476) *tiŋči-ge* *int^{h}a-ləu*

sun-LOC play-IMP

'Do play in the sun'

(477) *tiŋči-ge* *int^{h}a-so-ləu*

sun-LOC play-PROH-IMP

'Do not play in the sun'

(478) *aige waŋ-ləu*

here be come-IMP

'Come here'

(479) *aige waŋ-so-ləu*

here be come-PROH-IMP

'Do not come here'

(480) *tak təiyu-ləu*

rice be eat-IMP

'Eat rice'

(481) *tak təiyu-so-ləu*

rice be eat-PROH-IMP

'Do not eat rice'

8.6.5. Negative hortative

In Zeme, hortative negative is expressed by using the hortative marker *pəi-* which is prefixed to the verbal root and then followed by the prohibitive and imperative marker as can be seen in the following example:

(482) *pa* *pəi-tet-ləu*

he HOR-be go-IMP

'Let him go!'

(483) *pa* *pəi-tet-so-ləu*

he HOR- be go-PROH-IMP

'Let him not go!'

(484) *pa* *pəi-pak-ləu*

he HOR- be run-IMP

'Let them run!'

(485) *pa* *pəi-pak-so-ləu*

he HOR- be run-PROH-IMP

'Let them not run!'

(486) *pənui* *pəi-lim-ləu*

they HOR- be dance-IMP

'Let them dance!'

(487) *pənui* *pəi-lim-so-ləu*

they HOR- be dance-PROH-IMP

'Let them not dance!'

8.6.6. Negation in nominalised clause

In Zeme, the negation of nominalised or relative clause is made by using the general negator *mak* which is attached to the verb root followed by the nominalizer *-be*: [VERB + NEG + NMLZ]. The negation in nominalised clause in Zeme as can be illustrated in the following examples:

(488) *hətəi* *ha-mak-be-ze* *ə-təi-ləi*

dog be white-NEG-NMZ-DET 1-dog-DECL

'The dog which is not white is mine'

(489) *hələiyu* *təiyu-mak-be* *pui-ze* *i-ləi*

girl sing-NEG-NMZ F-DET be good-DECL

'The girl who does not sing the song is good.'

(490) *həka* *nim-mak-be* *pəiyu-ze* *ti-ləi*

fish be catch-NEG-NMZ man-DET be tall-DECL

'The man who does not catch fish is tall.'

(491) *haŋketpəiyu* *hemə̀i təiyu-mak-be* *pəiyu-ze* *əkaŋpəiyu-ləi*

man meat be eat-NEG-NMZ man-DET friend-DECL

'The man who does not eat meat is my friend'

8.6.7. Negative infinitive pronouns

Iwasaki and Ingkaphirom (2005) point out that most of the languages of East and Southeast Asia typically lack indefinite pronouns.Similarly, Zeme being a language of the family doesn't have negative indefinite pronouns. However, different strategies are used to express the negative indefinite pronouns in the language, i.e. the negative indefinite pronoun in Zeme is formed by negating the verb rather than the pronominal forms like 'someone' or 'something'. The general negator *-mak* is used to negate such type of construction as can be seen in the following examples:

(492) *midu* *ə-ki-ge* *waŋ-mak-ləi*

nobody 1-house-LOC be come-DECL

'Nobody come to my house'

(493) *tomba* *madu* *sa-mak-ləi*

tomba nothing be speak-NEG-DECL

'Tomba say nothing'

(494) *pənui madu* *təiyu* *gai-mak-ləi*

they nothing do EVD-NEG-DECL

'They did nothing.'

8.6.8. Negative interjection

In Zeme, negative interjection is expressed by using the general negator *mak* which is suffixed to the verbal root and followed by the declarative marker as can be seen in the following examples:

(495) *nəŋ* *waŋ-gu-ləi*

you be come-IRS-DECL

'Will you come?'

(496) *i* *waŋ-mak-gu-ləi*

I be come-NEG-IRS-DECL

'No, I will not come?'

(497) *nəŋ* *tet-gu-ləi*

you be go-IRS-DECL

'Will you go?'

(498) *i* *tet-mak-gu-ləi*

I be go-NEG-IRS-DECL

'No, I will not go?'

(491) *pa-ze* *nəŋ sipui* *məi*

she-DET you sister INT

'Is she is your sister?'

(492) *pa* *ə-sipui-mak-ləi*

she 1-sister-NEG-DECL

'No, she is not my sister?'

(493) *nəŋ* *rəŋkaŋ* *lu-məi*

you money be get-INT

'Did you get the money?'

(494) *i* *rəŋkaŋ* *lu-mak-ləi*

I money be get-NEG-DECL

'No, I did not get the money?'

8.6.9. Negative strengthening

In Zeme, negative statements are strengthened by using the suffix *-zet* which is directly attached to the verb root followed by the negative marker *mak*, and then followed by the declarative suffix *-ləi*. The suffix *-zet* occurs only in a negative environment expressing intensification as can be seen in the following examples:

(495) *i* *həzəu* *sək-zet* *mak-ləi*

I liquor be drink-INTS NEG-DECL

'I do not drink liquor at all'

(496) *i* *heməi* *təiyu-zet* *mak-ləi*

I meat be eat-INTS NEG-DECL

'I do not eat meat at all'

(497) *pa* *kəbuizi* *təiyu-zet* *mak-ləi*

he beef be eat-INTS NEG-DECL

'He does not eat beef at all'

(498) *i* *madu* *či-zet* *mak-ləi*

I thing be know-INTS NEG-DECL

'I do not know the thing at all'

(499) *sibam* *həka* *təiyu-zet* *mak-ləi*

sibam fish be eat-INTS NEG-DECL

'Sibam do not eat fish at all'

8.6.10. Negative conditional

Negative conditional in Zeme is formed by suffixing the general negator *mak* to the verbal root followed by the conditional marker *dina* ~ *dizaine* as can be seen in the following examples:

(500) *pa-ne* *təiyu-mak* *dina* *ənui-ne* *təiyu-gu-ləi*

he-NOM be eat-NEG COND we-NOM be eat-IRS-DECL

'If he does not eat, we will eat.'

(501) *pa-ne* *təiyu-mak* *dizaine* *ənui-ne* *təiyu-gu-ləi*

he-NOM be eat-NEG COND we-NOM be eat-IRS-DECL

'If he does not eat, we will eat.'

(502) *nəŋ* *həp-mak* *dina* *i-ne* *lak-gu-ləi*

you be cry-NEG COND i-NOM be beat-IRS-DECL

'If you do not cry, I will beat.'

(503) *nəŋ* *həp-mak* *dizaine* *i-ne* *lak-gu-ləi*

you be cry-NEG COND i-NOM be beat-IRS-DECL

'If you do not cry, I will beat.'

(504) *pa* *waŋ-mak* *dina* *i-ne* *tet-gu-ləi*

he come-NEG COND i-NOM be go-IRS-DECL

'If he does not come, I will go'

(505) *pa* *waŋ-mak* *dizaine* *i-ne* *tet-gu-ləi*

he come-NEG COND i-NOM be go-IRS-DECL

'If he does not come, I will go'

8.7. Interrogative

In Zeme, interrogatives may be classified into four categories viz., (i) yes-no questions, (ii) wh-questions, (iii) alternative questions and (iv) tag questions.

8.7.1. Yes/No question

Yes/No questions in Zeme are formed by using the question particle *məi* which is postposed to the verb or nouns or adjectives as can be seen in the following examples:

(506) *nəŋ* *kənra* *məi*

you be ill Q

'Are you ill?'

(507) *tiŋkaisəm-ze* *kəsəŋ* *məi*

news-DET true Q

'Is the news true?'

(508) *nəŋ* *tak* *təiyu* *məi*

you rice be eat Q

'Do you take rice?'

(509) *nəŋ* *kəlaksiya* *məi*

you be poor Q

'Are you poor?'

(510) *nəŋ* *kup^{h}eŋ* *inča* *məi*

You butterfly be like Q

'Do you like butterfly?'

8.7.2. *Wh* question

In Zeme, *wh*- question is formed by using *wh*- pronouns along with the question particle -*ləu* as can be seen in the following examples:

who

čao 'who' questions the subject of human referents for both transitive and intransitive verbs along with the question particle *ləu* as illustrated below.

(511) *čao ləu* *pa-ze*

who Q he-DET

'Who is he?'

(512) *čao-ne* *či-ra* *ləu*

who-NOM be know-IRS Q

'Who knows?'

(513) *čao* *waŋ* *ləu*

who be come Q

'Who came?'

(514) *i-nai* *čao* *waŋ-ra* *ləu*

I-ASS who be come-IRS Q

'Who will come with me?'

(515) *ki-luŋ-ge* *čao* *bəm-ləu*

house-inside-LOC who live-IMP

'Who is inside the house?'

(516) *čao-ne* *həčaiki* *tet-ra-ləu*

who-NOM market be go-IRS-IMP

'Who has gone to the market?'

Whom

(517) *nəŋ* *čao-du* *iŋgiya* *ləu*

You who-ACC be love Q

'Whom do you love?'

(518) *nəŋ* *čao-nai* *int^{h}a-nəi* *ləu*

you who-ASS be play-DES Q

'With whom do you want to play?'

Whose

(519) *čao-ki* *ləu*

who-house Q

'Whose house is that?'

(520) *čao-gu* *məčo* *ləu*

Who-GEN shirt Q

'Whose shirt is that?'

(521) *čao-gu* *səm* *i-ne* *kiŋ-ra* *ləu*

Who-GEN opinion i-NOM be listen-IRS Q

'Whose opinion should I listen?'

What

(522) *nəŋ* *daikəu* *sa* *ləu*

you what be speak Q

'What did you say?'

(523) *dai* *gum-be* *ta* *ləu* *čize*

What kind-NMZ work Q that

'What kind of work is that?'

(524) *həlu-ge* *kəu-kəu* *ču* *ləu*

field-LOC what-what be grow Q

'What is grown in the field?'

Why

(525) *daitəiyuze* *nəŋ* *tet* *ləu*

why you be go Q

'Why are you going?'

(526) *daitəiyuze* *I* *tet-ra* *ləu*

Why I be go-IRS Q

'Why should I go?'

(527) *nəŋ* *daitəiyuze* *ri* *ləu*

You why be late Q

'Why are you late?'

When

(528) *pa* *daikəuhi* *waŋ* *ləu*

he when be come Q

'When did he come?'

(529) *nəŋ* *daikəu-tiŋ-ne* *ku-məi-ra* *ləu*

you when-day-NOM marriage-INT-IRS Q

'When is your marriage?'

(530) *nəŋ* *dai-behi* *tet-ra* *ləu*

You what-time be go-IRS Q

'When you are going?'

How

(530) *tiŋkum* *daizəiyu* *ləu*

year how Q

'How many years?'

(531) *pa* *daizəiyu* *ke.ləiyu-gu* *ləu*

he how charge-IRS Q

'How much may he charge?'

(532) *nəŋ* *rəŋkaŋ* *daizəiyu* *lunəi* *ləu*

you money how want Q

'How much money do you want?'

which

(533) *daikəuze* *nəŋ-gu* *ləisiki* *ləu*

Which you-GEN school Q

'Which is your school?'

(534) *daikəu* *college-ge* *anil* *tet* *ləu*

Which college-LOC Anil be go Q

'Which college did Anil go to?'

(535) *dai* *pəiyu-ze-ne* *təri* *ŋəm-di* *ləu*

What boy-DET-NOM race win-EVD Q

'Which boy won the race?'

Where

(536) *Elizabeth* *dai-ge* *luŋ/bəm* *ləu*

Elizabeth what-LOC live Q

'Where does Elizabeth live?

(537) *dai-gene* *pa* *waŋ* *ləu*

What-ABL he be come Q

'Where has he come from?'

8.7.3. Alternative question

The alternative question in Zeme usually has two possible answers which may be either positive or negative. It is expressed by using disjunctive marker *bənai* that occurs after the main clause. It is important to note that the disjunctive marker *bənai* is used to form alternative question particularly in the case of clausal constructions as can be seen in the following examples:

(538) *nəŋ* *kiya* *bənai* *rəu-dui* *məi*

you read DISJ be write-CAP Q

'Will you read or write?'

(539) *nəŋ* *hətak* *bənai* *həgi* *təiyu-gu* *məi*

you rice DISJ curry be eat-IRS Q

'Will you take rice or curry?'

8.7.4. Tag question

Tag questions are formed by using the negative form of a positive verb or the positive form of a negative verb as functioning as tag question. In Zeme, tag question is formed by using the question particle *məi* as can be seen in the following examples:

(540) *pa* *ti-ləi* *həiyu* *mak* *se* *məi*

he be tall-DECL be real NEG EMP Q

'He is tall, isn't it?'

(541) *i* *duŋ-mak-ləi,* *i* *duŋ-se* *məi*

I sit-NEG-DECL I be sit-EMP Q

'I don't sit, do I?'

(542) *pa* *ləisi* *čilu* *pəiyu-ləi,* *həiyu-mak* *məi*

he book learn man-DECL be real-NEG Q

'He is a learned man, isn't he?'

(543) *nəŋ* *bengoli* *sa* *či-ləi,* *nəŋ* *sa*

you bengoli be.speak able-DECL you be speak

či-mak *məi*

be able-NEG Q

'You can speak Bengali, can't you?'

(544) *ram* *rehaŋme* *i-kəu-ləi,* *həiyu-mak-se* *məi*

Ram boy be good-DECL be real-NEG-EMP Q

'Ram is a good boy, isn't he?'

(545) *aipəu* *məčo* *pəlui-i-ləi* *həiyu-mak-se* *məi*

DEM shirt be beauty-DECL be real-NEG-EMP Q

'This shirt is beautiful, isn't this?'

8.8. Types of sentences

There are three types of sentence in Zeme namely simple sentence, complex sentence and compound sentence.

8.8.1. Simple sentence

In Zeme, a simple sentence consists of main clause which may be either verbal or non-predicate as illustrated in the following examples.

(546) *aipəu* *herasəm* *i-ləi*

DEM story be good-DECL

'This story is good.'

(547) *pa* *hərapipəiyu-ləi*

he doctor-DECL

'He is a doctor.'

(548) *hetəi-ne* *miyaone* *taŋ-ləi*

dog-NOM cat be bark-DECL

'The dog barks at the cat.'

(549) *hena* *poine-rəme* *ə-ču* *ŋəu-ləi*

child be small-PL 1-ACC be see-DECL

'The children see me'

(550) *ketum-pui-ne* *pə-tuŋdui* *pəi-ləi*

cow-F-NOM 3-milk be give-DECL

'The cows give milk'

8.8.2. Complex sentence

In Zeme, a complex sentence consists of a principal clause, with a finite verb, and one or more sub-ordinate clauses with a non-finite verb as exemplified below

(551) *nəŋ-ne* *pəhi-ge* *waŋ-dina* *ənui* *aize*

you-NOM time-LOC be come-COND we DEM

pi-gu-ləi

examine-IRS-DECL

'If you come in time we will examine this.'

(552) *i* *i-dina* *inčomai* *waŋ-gu-ləi*

I be good-COND tomorrow be come-FUT-DECL

'If I am well I will come tomorrow.'

(553) *hekiyun-rəme pəken bəm-ləi* *pənui* *liyam-ləiyu-gu-də-ləi*

horse-PL wing be-DECL they be fly-able-IRS-PERF-DECL

'If the horses had wings, they would have flown.'

(554) *i-ne* *daikəu* *sa-rəme-be* *či-mak-ləi*

i-NOM what be speak-PL-NMZ be know-NEG-DECL

'I don't understand what you are tring to says.'

(555) *i-ne* *duptibe* *tasaobəm* *waŋcəŋ-be* *luwa* duptibe

I-NOM train station be reach-NMZ ADV train

tasaobəm-gene *tet-ti* *la* *ləiyu-ləi.*

station-ABL be go-EVD EXIST PROB-DECL

'The train left the station when I reached the station.'

8.8.3. Compound sentence

In Zeme, compound sentence consists of two or more sentences conjoined either by conjunctive co-ordinator *zaine* 'and' or disjunctive co-ordinator *kəne* 'but' and *məkčai* 'or' as illustrated in the following examples.

(556) *mənəiyu-rəme* *indiyak-ləi* *kəne* *ha-be-mak-ləi*
leaf-PL be green-DECL but be white-NMZ-NEG-DECL
'The leaves are green but not bright'

(557) *nəŋ* *tet-ra-ləi* *kəne* *daitəiyuze* *nəŋ* *tet-mak-ləu*
you be go-IRS-DECL but why you be go-NEG-IMP
'You had to go but why did you not go?'

(558) *tiŋna* *ta* *təiyu* *zaine* *tiŋmui-ge* *zəi-ləi*
day work do and night-LOC be.sleep-DECL
'Work in the day and sleep at night'

(559) *heka* *kesa* *di-ləi* *zai* *kesa* *čəi-ləi*
fish some be.big-DECL and some be.small-DECL
'Some fish are big and some are small'

(560) *inčet* *təset-ge* *pəkuwa* *inra-ləi* *zai*

time 8-LOC siren blow-DECL and

ziyəmnə-rəme *ta* *təiyu* *cu-ləi*

people-PL work do be start-DECL

'The siren blew at 8 o'clock and people started working.'

(562) *nəŋnui* *həŋna* *məkčai* *həŋčum* *həroluze* *inrimbaŋ*

2PL two or three together banyan tree

kui-ləu

be cut-IMP

'You two or three together cut the banyan tree'