

## *Original Paper*

# A Comparative Study of Adverbial Types and Markers in Zhuang-Thai Language

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Received: October 7, 2023    Accepted: November 1, 2023    Online Published: November 25, 2023  
doi:10.22158/sll.v7n4p232    URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22158/sll.v7n4p232>

### **Abstract**

*Zhuang language and Thai language belong to the Sino Tibetan language family, and both belong to the Dong Dai language family. There are many similarities in the types of adverbs and markers between the two languages. Analyze and compare the types of adverbs in Zhuang and Thai languages, as well as the usage of marker words in the two languages, to identify the similarities and differences between the two.*

### **Keywords**

*Zhuang language, Thai, Adverbial clause, Marker word*

Zhuang language and Thai language belong to the Sino Tibetan language family, and both belong to the Dong Dai language family. Therefore, there are many similarities in grammar structure, word order, and other aspects between these two languages. The basic word order of the two languages is similar, and they are both SVO type languages, which arrange sentences in the order of “subject predicate object”. But these two languages are located in different countries, and there are certain differences in their grammar structure, specific word order, and word classification. The adverbials in Zhuang Tai language are no exception, as they have both similarities and differences. This article compares and studies the types of adverbials and markers in the two languages.

## **1. The Adverbial Types of Zhuang Tai Language**

### *1.1 Adverbial types of Zhuang Language*

The classification of adverbial types in Zhuang language is similar to that in Chinese, where

“adverbials are components attached to the predicate head. The nature of the head also determines the nature of the adverbial. Therefore, adverbials can be divided into modifying and restrictive adverbials.

### 1.1.1 Modificability Adverbial Clause

The Modificability adverbial clause is mainly to modify the general situation of the action, or to modify the modality of the action of the author, including the gesture, expression, mood and so on. Often used descriptive words to act as.

For example: (1) Zhuang Language: Daeggo [laeglemx] deuz lo. (Attention: This sentence is in Zhuang language)

The brother left [quietly]. (Embellishment action)

brother quietly left

(2) De [siengsim dwk] daej. He cried [sadly]. (Modify and describe the actor’s modality)

he Sadly crying

### 1.1.2 Restricted Adverbial Clause

Restrictive adverbials mainly clause restrict the central language from aspects such as scope, place, time, object, quantity, degree, purpose, means etc., and are composed of adverbs, prepositional phrases, time words, place words, and other components.

For example: (1) Gyoengq lingjdauj [cungj] bae haihoih lo. The leaders have all gone to the meeting. (Table Scope)

leaders leader all gone to the meeting

(2) De [daj Nanzningz] daeuj. He comes from Nanning. (Table space)

he come Nanning from

(3) Dahyingz [ngoenzlwenz] bae baekging lo. Ying went to Beijing yesterday. (Table time)

Ying yesterday went to Beijing

(4) Siujmingz [gaenq] daeuj gvaq. Xiao Ming was here [once]. (Table time)

Xiao Ming once came

(5) De baeg raixcaix. She [special] tired. (Excisibility)

she tired special

(6) [Vih aen gya neix] daxboh vut bae haujlai doxgaiq. Father [for this home] sacrificed. (Table)

for oneself home this father throw away many thing

## 1.2 The Types of Adverbials in Thai

Adverbials in Thai can be divided into modifying (or limiting) adverbials and Commentary adverbial.

### 1.2.1 Modifying or Qualifying Adverbs

Adverbials in Thai often refer to components that limit or modify verbs, adjectives, or subject predicate structures, indicating objects, goals, degrees, states, results, time, places etc. The commonly used adverbs are of this type.

For example: (1) Thai: น้องชาย [กับ พ่อ] ไปเที่ยว แล้ว .Brother went to play [with father]. (Table

object)

brother with father play

(2) ดอกไม้ [สวยงาม มาก]. The flowers are [very beautiful]. (Table level)

the flowers beautiful very

(3) เขา อ่าน หนังสือ [อย่าง จริงจัง]. She reads [carefully]. (Table status)

She reads carefully

(4) เขา [อ่าน] หนังสือ เล่มนี้ [หมด]. He [finished] reading this book. (Table results)

he reading this book finished

(5) [ตอนเช้า] ฉัน ตื่นนอน [ตอน 7 โมง]. I get up [at seven in the morning]. (Table time)

in the morning I get up at seven

By the example of 2 “สวยงาม มาก (beauty)”, 3 cases of “อย่าง จริงจัง (seriously)” can be seen that modifier after the central word. The most obvious difference between Zhuang and Thai is that the word order of the modifier is different from that of the central language. Thai, on the other hand, puts the modifier after the central word.

### 1.2.2 Commentary Adverbial

Commentary adverbial is a comprehensive evaluation of a sentence, and its position is flexible and can be placed at the beginning of the sentence; It can also be in the middle or at the end of a sentence.

For example: (1) Thai: [ปกติ] เช้าตรู่ เขา ก็ ตื่นนอน แล้ว .She [usually] gets up early in the morning.

usually early in the morning she gets up

(2) [ปกติ] คน ที่นี่ ไม่ชอบ กิน อาหารหวาน .People here [generally] don't like sweet food.

generally people here don't like eat sweet food

(3) คน ที่ โน่น [สวนใหญ่] ไม่ ชอบ ร้องเพลง. People there [generally] don't like singing.

people there generally don't like singing

(4) คนจีน เป็น คนที่มีน้ำใจ [ปกติ]. Generally speaking, Chinese people are very friendly.

Chinese people are very friendly Generally speaking

The basic meaning of Thai commentary adverbs remains unchanged, whether at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence. But there are differences in the degree to which adverbials are emphasized in sentences. Adverbials emphasize the most at the beginning of a sentence, take second place in the middle of the sentence, and take second place at the end of the sentence.

### 1.2 Differences and Similarities in the Types of Adverbials in Zhuang and Thai Languages

The division of Zhuang language is similar to that of Chinese, where adverbials are divided into modifying and restrictive adverbials based on their semantic relationship with the central language. Modifier adverbials are used to modify and describe the modality of the actor, or to describe the modality of the actor's actions. Restrictive adverbials restrict the central language from aspects such as scope, location, time, object, quantity, degree, purpose, and means.

Adverbials in Thai are divided into modifying or limiting adverbials and commenting adverbials. A modifier or qualifier adverbial is a modification or qualification of a verb, adjective, or subject predicate structure, which is fixed in position with the central word. Commentary adverbial refers to commenting on the entire sentence in a flexible position, equivalent to a parenthesis, which can be at the beginning, middle, or end of the sentence.

It can be seen that adverbials in Zhuang language are divided into modifying adverbials and restrictive adverbials. In Thai, modifying and limiting adverbials are merged into modifying or limiting adverbials, and based on the flexibility of the position of adverbials, they are classified into the category of commenting adverbials. In short, the classification of adverbs in Zhuang and Thai languages intersects with each other.

For example: (1) Zhuang language: De [nyinhcaen] doegsaw. She reads [seriously].

she seriously reads

Thai: เขา อ่าน หนังสือ [อย่างจริงจัง]. She reads [seriously].

she reads seriously

(2) Zhuang language: Gou [gyanghaet caet diemj]hwnj. I wake up [at seven in the morning].

I in the morning at seven wake up

Thai: [ตอนเช้า] ฉัน ตื่นนอน [ตอน 7 โมง]. I wake up [at seven in the morning].

in the morning I wake up at seven

(3) Zhuang language: Vunz gizneix [ciengzbaez] mbouj haengj gwn doxgaiqvan. People here [generally] don't like sweet food.

people here generally don't like eat sweet food

Thai: [ปกติ] คน ที่นี้ ไม่ชอบ กิน อาหารหวาน. People here [generally] don't like sweet food.

generally people here don't like eat sweet food

It can be seen that the adverbial in Example 1 is “seriously”, and the Zhuang language is “nyinhcaen”, It is a modifier adverbial; Thai อย่าง จริงจัง it is a modifier or restrictive adverbial. Example 2 “7:00 am” is an adverbial in Zhuang language “gyanghaet caet diemj” it is a restrictive adverbial; Thai ตอนเช้า (morning) ตอน 7 โมง (7:00). It is a modifier or restrictive adverbial. In Example 3 “general” is an adverbial, while in Zhuang it is expressed as ciengzbaez; In the Thai language, the words of ปกติ are divided into commentaries.

Although the classification of adverbial in Zhuang and Thai is different, the functions of adverbial in the two languages are similar, both of which modify or restrict the central language from the aspects of scope, place, time, object, quantity, degree, purpose and means.

## 2. The Markers of Adverbials in Zhuang Language and Tai

### 2.1 The Markers of Zhuang language Adverbials

In Chinese, the structural auxiliary word “to” serves as a marker for the adverbial. In Zhuang language, there is also an adverbial marker “dwk (to)”, which is placed after words such as nouns, noun phrases, adjectives, or adjective phrases. Unlike the Chinese word “to”, when an adjective adverbial modifies the central language, if the adverbial modifies the author’s expression, emotion, and indicates a psychological state, it is generally necessary to use “dwk (to)” to connect the adjective with the central language; In other cases, adjectives are generally directly combined with the central language.

For example: (1) Zhuang language: De [daekeiq dwk] naeuz. He said [proudly]. (Indicates a psychological state of the actor)

he proudly said

(2) de [angq dwk] riu. He smiled [happily]. (Indicating a psychological state of the actor)

bhe happily smiled

(3) Gou [nyinhcaen] guh saeh. I work [seriously].

I seriously work

(4) Gyoengqde [laeglemx] byaijhaeuj ndaw rueg. They entered the bedroom [quietly].

they quietly entered inside bedroom

(5) De [bingzan] ma daengz ranz lo. He returned home [safely].

he safely returned home

### 2.2 The Markers of Thai Adverbials

There are also adverbial markers in Thai language that are similar to the structural auxiliary word “to” in Zhuang language, such as “ด้วย”, “โดย”, and “อย่าง”. They are in front of the adverbial and are the markers of the adverbial. According to the nature of the words that serve as adverbials, these three marker words can guide different adverbial components.

2.2.1 “อย่าง” is mainly Used as Adverbial Adjective, Adjective Phrase or Verb Phrase, which is a Relatively Obvious Sign of Adverbial

For example: (1) Thai: เขา พูด [อย่าง เสียใจ]. He said [sadly].

he said to sadly

(2) ฉัน เดินเข้า ห้อง [อย่าง ค่อยๆ]. I entered the room [quietly].

I entered the room to quietly

(3) ฉัน พูด [อย่าง ไม่พอใจ]. I said [dissatisfied].

I said to dissatisfied

(4) เธอ จากกัน [อย่าง เสียหาย มาก]. She left [with great regret].

she left with great regret

2.2.2 When Used “ด้วย” Adverbial, It is generally Placed before a Noun or Noun Phrase to Indicate a State of Mind.

For example: (1) เธอ ปรบมือ [ ด้วย ความ มสุข]. She clapped [happily].

She clapped to happily

(2) เขา ยิ้ม [ ด้วย ความ มพอใจ]. He smiled [with satisfaction].

he smiled with satisfaction

(3) คน ถาม เธอ [ ด้วย ความ มแปลกใจ]. People ask her [strangely].

people ask her to strangely

ด้วย is followed by the noun, so the adjective should be added before ด้วย to make the adjective become a noun, and then combined with ด้วย.

2.2.3 When a Noun, Adjective, or Adjective Phrase is Used as an Adverbial before “โดย”, It Indicates the State or Manner of an Action.

For example: (1) เขา กลับ บ้าน [ โดย ปลอดภัย ] แล้ว. He returned home [safely].

he returned home to safely

(2) เธอ วิ่งออกไป จากบ้าน [ โดย เร็ว]. She ran out of the house [quickly].

she ran out the house of quickly

(3) เขา เขียน [ โดย ไม่ตั้งใจ]. He wrote [without seriously].

he wrote without seriously

The above three adverbial markers in Thai can be used interchangeably. They can be replaced in some sentences without changing their meaning, while others cannot be replaced.

### 2.3 Differences and Similarities of Adverbial Markers in Zhuang Thai Language

#### 2.3.1 Pronouns as Adverbials

The pronoun used as adverbial in Zhuang language and Thai language does not use marker word.

For example: (1) Zhuang Language: Raeuz [baenzlawz] bae? [How] shall we go?

we how shall go

Thai: คุณ ทำ [อย่างนี้] ไม่ถูก. You're not doing [this] right.

you do this wrong

#### 2.3.2 Adverbs as Adverbials

In Zhuang language and Thai language, adverbial signs are not used as adverbial signs.

For example: (1) Zhuang Language: De [gaenq] bae Yeznamz gvaq. She has been to Vietnam.

she has been Vietnam to

Thai: เขา [ เคยไป ] เวียดนาม. She has been to Vietnam.

she has been to Vietnam

(2) Zhuang Language: De [ngamq] deuz. He left [just].

he just left

Thai: เขา [ เพิ่ง ] ไป. He left [just].

he just left

### 2.3.3 Time Words as Adverbials

Time nouns or expressions of time do not use signs in Zhuang and Thai as adverbials.

For example: (1) Zhuang Language: [Bimoq] de yaek bae Daigoz guhhongh. She's going to work in Thailand [next year].

next year she is going to in Thailand work

Thai: [ปีหน้า] เขา ต้อง ไป ทำงาน ที่ประเทศไทย. She's going to work in Thailand [next year].

next year she is going to work in Thailand

(2) Zhuang Language: [Ndwenneix satlaeng] raeuz yaek bae henz haij guhcaemz. We're going to the beach [at the end of this month].

at the end of this month we re going to the beach play

Thai: [สิ้นเดือนนี้] พวกเขา ต้องไป ที่ชายหาด. We're going to the beach [at the end of this month].

at the end of this month we re going to the beach play

### 2.3.4 Prepositional Phrases as Adverbials

In both Zhuang and Thai languages, prepositional phrases used as adverbs do not require markers.

For example: (1) Zhuang Language: Gou [youq ndaw gyausiz] yawj saw. I read books [in the classroom].

I in the classroom read books

Thai: ฉัน อ่านหนังสือ [อยู่ที่ ห้องเรียน]. I read books [in the classroom].

I read books in the classroom

(2) Zhuang Language: Gou moixngoenz [riengz daxmeh] bae diuqfoux. I go dancing [with my mother] every day.

I every day with my mother go dancing

Thai: ฉัน ไป เต้นรำ [กับ แม่] ทุกวัน. I go dancing [with my mother] every day.

I go dancing with my mother every day

### 2.3.5 Quantitative Phrases Serve as Adverbials

In Zhuang language and Thai language, quantitative phrases are used as adverbials without signs.

For example: (1) Zhuang Language: Boux vunz neix [baez daih'it] daeuj nanzningz. This man came to Nanning [for the first time].

This man for the first time came to Nanning

Thai: คนนี้ มา หนานหนิง [เป็นครั้งแรก]. This man came to Nanning [for the first time].

this man came to Nanning for the first time

(2) Zhuang Language: Sou [sam boux sam boux] haeujdaej. You come in [three by three].

you three by three come in

Thai: คุณ เข้าไป [ทีละสามคน]. You come in [three by three].

you come in every three

(3) Zhuang Language: Gou doeg [baez youh baez]. I [read it over and over again].

I read it over and over

Thai: ถัด อ่าน [ มา ครั้งแล้วครั้งเล่า]. I [read it over and over again].

I read it over and over

### 2.3.6 An Adjective or Adjective Phrase Acts as an Adverbial

(1) In Zhuang language, the adjective or adjective phrase is used as adverbial. If it is to express the mental state of the author, the sign word “dwk (to)” should be added to the end of the adjective or adjective phrase. In Thai, adjectives or adjective phrases are used as adverbials, and usually a sign word is used in front of the adverbial.

For example: 1) Zhuang Language: Gyoengqde cingq [angq dwk] guhcaemz. They are playing [happily].

they happily are playing

De gikdoengh dwk daej. She was crying [excitedly].

she excitedly was crying

2) Thai: เขา กำลัง เล่น [อย่าง สนุกสนาน]. They are playing [happily].

they are playing happily

เรา นั่ง อยู่ บน สนามหญ้า [อย่าง เงียบและสบายใจ]. We sat [quietly and comfortably] on the lawn.

We sat on the lawn to quietly and comfortably

(2) Zhuang and Thai adjectives or adjective phrases are used as adverbials in another case. In Zhuang language, when the adjective or adjective phrase is used as adverbial, in addition to the description of the author’s mental state, in other cases, generally do not use the sign word “dwk (to)”; in Thai, individual adjectives such as *ขงน*, *รีบ*, *ตั้งใจ* can be placed directly in front of the main language as adverbial, which does not need a sign word.

For example: 1)Zhuang Language: Mwngez wnggai [roengzrengz] bae yozsiz. You should study [hard].

you should hard study

Mwngez [vaiq] bae Bangunghciz. You [hurry] to the office.

you hurry to the office

Seiz hwnjdangz, lauxsae [nyinhcaen] son. The teacher teaches [carefully] in class.

in class teacher carefully teaches

2) Thai:คุณ ควร [ ขงน ] เรียน. You should study [hard].

you should hard study

คุณ [ เร็ว ] ไป ห้องทำงาน. The teacher teaches [carefully] in class.

in class the teacher carefully teaches

The above words *ตั้งใจ* and *ขงน* can actually be placed as adverbials after the central word, but must be marked.

### 2.3.7 Verbs or vVerb Phrases as Adverbials

(1) verb as adverbial



In Zhuang and Thai languages, modal verbs are used as adverbs without markers.

For example: 1) Zhuang Language: Mwngez [itdingh] aeu nyinhcaen doegsaw. You [must] study hard.  
you must hard study

Thai: เธอ [ ต้อง ] ตั้งใจ เรียน. You [must] study hard.  
you must hard study

2) Zhuang Language: De [gojnaengz] bae Yeznamz lienhguh. He [may] go to Vietnam for an internship.

he may go to Vietnam for an internship

Thai: เขา [ อาจจะ ] ไปฝึกงานที่ประเทศเวียดนาม. He [may] go to Vietnam for an internship.  
he may for an internship go to Vietnam

(2) phrasal verbs as adverbials

When phrasal verbs are used as adverbials, if the adverbial in Zhuang language is to express a mental state of the author, it is necessary to use “dwk (to)”, and other cases do not use marker words; Thai phrasal verbs as adverbial, to use adverbial signs.

For example: 1) Zhuang Language: De [gig miz yinxdaeuz dwk] cam. He asked [with interest].

he with interest asked

Thai: เขาถาม [สนใจอย่างมาก]. He asked [with interest].  
he asked with interest

2) Zhuang Language: De ndwn youq gizhaenx [di hix mbouj doengh]. She stands there [motionless].

she stands there motionless

Thai: เขาขึ้นอยู่ตรงนั้น [อย่างไม่มีขยับ]. She stands there [motionless].  
she stands there to motionless

From the above comparative analysis, it can be seen that there are similarities and differences in the use of adverbial markers between Zhuang and Thai languages.

In Zhuang and Thai, pronouns, adverbs, time words, prepositional phrases, quantitative phrases, and modal verbs are not used as adverbial markers. This is the similarity of adverbial markers in Zhuang Tai language.

There are two differences in the adverbial markers between Zhuang and Thai languages: Firstly, when adjectives or adjective phrases in Zhuang are used as adverbials, if they indicate the psychological state of the actor, they are used as adverbial markers; otherwise, they are not used; In Thai, when adjectives or adjective phrases are used as adverbials, except for individual adjectives that can be directly placed before the central word, all other adjectives should be marked with adverbials. Secondly, when using verb phrases as adverbials in Zhuang language, markers should be used to indicate the author's psychological state, and generally no adverbial markers are used; if a verb phrase in Thai is used as an adverbial, a marker word should be used.

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Supported by: Guangxi National Culture Protection and Inheritance Research Center

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