

# **Structure of Complex VP in Meiteilon: A Morpho-Syntax Interface**

*Thesis submitted to Jawaharlal Nehru University for the award of the Degree of*

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

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## CERTIFICATE

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***Dedicated***

***To***

*My father, who had left us for the heavenly abode and who had taught us how to face the world without his physical presence. Thank you, baba, for always being our source of inspiration.*

*And*

*My mother, who always encourages me in every step I do. Thanks, ema for your kind support and love.*

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## Abbreviation

1	First Person
2	Second Person
3	Third Person
O	Object
S	Subject
V	Verb
ABL	Ablative
ACC	Accusative
ASRT	Assertive
ASP	Aspect
BEN	Benefactive
CAUS	Causative
CP	Complex Predicate
COM	Command
COMP	Complement
COP	Copula
CV	Compound Verb
DAT	Dative

DEI	Deictic
DEF	Definite
DEM	Demonstrative
DET	Determiner
EMPH	Emphatic
EVID	Evidential
FUT	Future
GEN	Genitive
HAB	Habitual
HON	Honorific
INCH	Inchoative
IND	Indicative mood
INF	Infinitive
INST	Instrument
INT	Interrogation
IMP	Imperative
LOC	Locative
MO	Modal Verb
MV	Main Verb

NEG	Negative
NMZ	Nominalizer
PL	Plural
PNG	Person, Gender, Number
PROG	Progressive
PROH	Prohibitive
PRF	Perfect
PRSP	Prospective
PRST	Present
PST	past
NES	Necessary
NOM	Nominative
SG	Singular
SIM	Simultaneity marker
SOL	Solicitive
V1	Main/Polar verb
V2	Vector Verb
VP	Verb Phrase

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Manipur

Manipur is a state of India located in the North-Eastern part of India, and the capital of the state is Imphal. The state is surrounded by Nagaland to the north, Assam to the west, Mizoram to the south-west, and Myanmar (Burma) to the east. The area of Manipur is 22,347 square kilometres. Latitude and longitude of the state are 23°83'N – 25°68'N and 93°03'E – 94°78'E respectively. The people of Manipur include the major ethnic communities such as Meitei, Meitei-Pangal (Meitei Muslim), Bamon (Brahmin), Naga, and Kuki. The mother tongue of Meitei, Meitei-Pangal and Bamon are same. Whereas Naga and Kuki speak different languages and different dialects in Manipur.

The Meitei forms the primary ethnic group, i.e. 60% of the total population. The Kuki, Naga, and other groups of peoples in Manipur covers the remaining 40% of the total population. The Manipuri language is known as Meiteilon. Meiteilon is the lingua franca in Manipur. It was officially included under 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule of Indian Constitution in 1992 to recognize that Meiteilon is one of the national languages of India. There are at least 29 different languages spoken in Manipur. Some main tribal languages spoken in Manipur are Tangkhul, Thadou, Paite, Kabui, Mao, Hmar, Lushai, etc.

The hills are mainly inhabited by the Naga, Kuki especially. However, other migrants population like Nepalese are also settled on the edge of the hilly areas. There are some other smaller tribal communities are also inhabited in the hill. The valley is mainly settled by the Meitei, Meitei-Pangal and Bamon. Many tribals communities who dwell in the hills are also migrated to the valley areas of Manipur. Earlier, Manipur has nine districts. Among nine districts, four districts are from the valley region, such as Bishnupur, Imphal East, Imphal West, and Thoubal districts. Whereas five districts Churachandpur, Chandel, Senapati, Tamenglong, and Ukhrul are in the hill region. Now, Manipur has sixteen districts. Tengenoupal district is bifurcated from Chandel District, Kamjong from Ukhrul, Pherzawl from Churachandpur, Noney from Tamenglong,

Kakching from Thoubal, Kangpokpi from Senapati and Jiribam from Imphal East districts. At present, there are six districts in the valley and ten districts in the hill.

### 1.1.1 The Language

Manipur is divided into hill and valley. Hills are inhabited by tribes of Manipur and valley is predominately resided by the Meiteis. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the valley was subdivided into small dynasties ruled by distinct groups of people particularly the celebrated seven clan dynasties known as *Salai-Taret*. They are i) Khaba-nganba, ii) Chenglei, iii) Luwang, iv) Khuman, v) Moirang, vi) Angom and vii) Mangang or Ningthouja speaking different dialects. There are various surnames coming under each of the clans. Among them, Mangang or Ningthouja was the most powerful and ruled at the heart of the valley. The king of Ningthouja, Nongda Leiren Pakhangba, consolidated this various groups of dynasties into one community, that is, the Meitei. This combination of different dialects formed the present Meiteilon. Due to this combination of different dialects, it is found the use of “Semantic reduplication” such as *ucek-səwa* ‘bird’, *t<sup>h</sup>oudu nuη* ‘stone’, *laijə-isiη* ‘water’, *ciηu-lai* ‘God’, *loybi ciη*, ‘hill,’ *pambə-kəi* ‘tiger,’ *taybəη mi*, ‘man,’ etc. Of each phrase, one form belongs to one clan, another form to another clan. *Ucek* belongs to Meitei clan, while *sewa* to Moirang clan (Singh, 2000: 2).

New dialects are formed in Meiteilon after the conversion of Hinduism. During this time, two groups of the Meitei population were exiled from the main Meitei speaking areas in the valley to the surrounding hill areas. The first group is known as *Loi* who refused to convert Hinduism and the second is *Yaithibi* who did not strictly follow the rituals of Hinduism. Their dialects are not influenced by Sanskrit nor Hindi nor Bengali. These dialects are found in Sekmai, Kwatha, Andro and Phayeng. These people maintained some of old archaic Meiteilon. It is difficult to assess the existence of an exact number of Meitei dialects. According to Chelliah (1997), the inhabitants of Phayeng and Sekmai are Loies. There are other Meiteilon dialects at Kakching, Thanga, Nongmaikhong, Ngaikhong, Moirang, Langathel and Palel (Thoudam, 1980). Whereas in the heart of the valley, the language contact between Meiteilon and other languages such as Indo-Aryan languages (Assamese, Bangla, Hindi, etc.) and English is very significant.

Meiteilon is a Tibeto-Burman language belonging to the Kuki-Chin subgroup (Bhat and Ningomba, 1995: 1). Meiteilon geographically falls under the Kamarupan group, which is further subdivided into Kuki-Chin-Naga, Abor-Miri-Dalfa and Bodo-Garo. Traditionally, Meiteilon is put under the Kuki-Chin-Naga subgroup, but within the group, it is classified as a distinct group on its own (Grierson, 1903: 28). Although the native speakers of Meiteilon mostly reside in the state of Manipur, smaller populations of the speakers of Manipur are also there in the neighbouring states and countries like Assam (Sibsagar and Silchar), Tripura, Myanmar and Bangladesh (Sylhet, Dacca and Mymensingh).

Meiteilon is the mother tongue of the Meitei, Meitei Pangal and Bamon. The name itself is a compound word of the combination of ‘*Meitei*’ and ‘*lon*’. ‘*Meitei*’ is the name of the people and ‘*lon*’ means ‘language,’ i.e. ‘the language of the Meitei people.’ Since August 20, 1992, Meiteilon has been one of India’s national languages and was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India by the 71<sup>st</sup> amendment. It is the first Tibeto-Burman languages of India to have been included in Eighth Schedule (Singh, 2000). Before, this very date, Meiteilon was adopted as the medium of instruction and examination in Manipur. Above all, Manipur University has Manipuri Department at the postgraduate level and many researches in Manipuri literature including folklore and old Meiteilon are going on.

There are 1.5 million native speakers of Meiteilon (Census of India, 2001). Meiteilon is a tonal language. As a lingua franca of the state of Manipur, the language is spoken by almost all the people of Manipur. Apart from Meiteilon, English is also another common language of communication. Hindi is also spoken by non-Manipuris who are migrated from other parts of India.

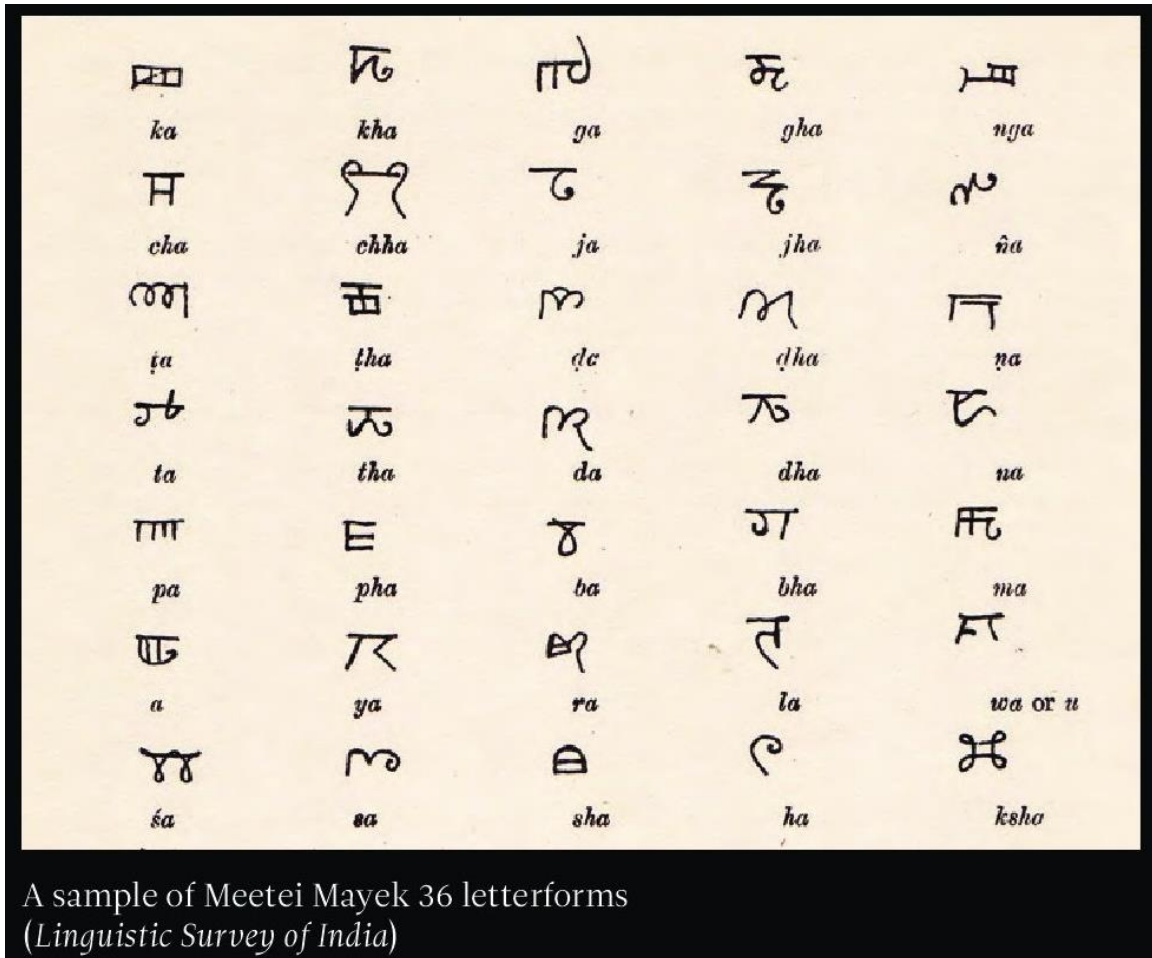
### **1.1.2 The Script**

Meiteilon had its own script, dating back to 11<sup>th</sup> century A.D. till the 18<sup>th</sup> century; Meitei-Mayek script was used to write Meiteilon. During the reign of the king, Pamheiba at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century embraced Vaishnavism and he changed his Meitei personal



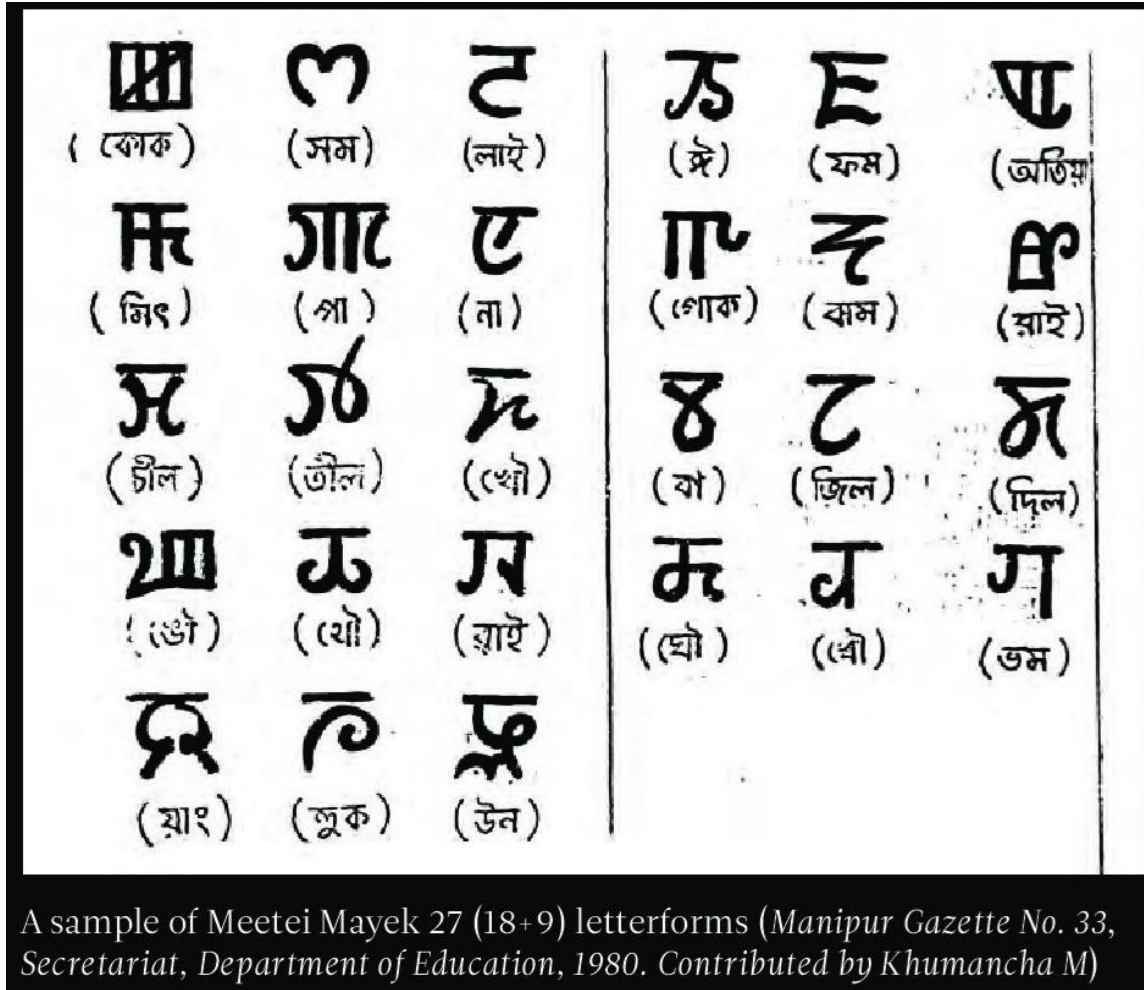
name to a Hindu name as Garibaniwaz. He also made Vaishnavism as the state religion and changed the name of the kingdom from *Kangleipak* to Manipur. The script nearly became extinct as many historical documents were destroyed during the reign of King Pamheiba (Garibaniwaz) and subsequently, Bengali script was adopted to write the language. So, since 1709, the Meitei Mayek was replaced by the Bengali alphabet. The renaissance of this original script has two scripts based on two different numbers of basic alphabets (main consonants) in writing the script. One group followed 27 main alphabets and another 36 main alphabets. Recent researchers have resurrected the Meitei-Mayek script. Now, 27 main alphabets Meitei Mayek has approved as official script in Manipur, and the script has been replaced by Meitei Mayek in all the schools and colleges in Manipur. One of the unique features of this script is that every letter is named after a human body part. For example, the first letter 'kok' means 'head', the second letter 'sam' means 'hair', the third letter 'lai' means 'forehead', and so on. Meitei Mayek has now been included in the Unicode Standard with the release of Version 5.2 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. Now, the number of people who can read and write the script has increased enormously after the reintroduction of Meitei Mayek in the school curriculum in Manipur since 2007.

Diagram 1.1: Meitei Mayek 36 Alphabets






Source: Kshetrimayum, Neelakash (2011), A comparative study of Meitei Mayek, accessed on 12 March 2017 from [http://www.typoday.in/2011/papers/Neelakash\\_Meitei-Mayek.pdf](http://www.typoday.in/2011/papers/Neelakash_Meitei-Mayek.pdf)

Diagram 1.2: Meitei Mayek 27 Alphabets



Source: Kshetrimayum, Neelakash (2011), A comparative study of Meitei Mayek, accessed on 12 March 2017 from [http://www.typoday.in/2011/papers/Neelakash\\_Meitei-Mayek.pdf](http://www.typoday.in/2011/papers/Neelakash_Meitei-Mayek.pdf)

Diagram 1.3: Meitei Mayek and Human Parts

	ꯀꯪ K ꯀ ꯁ		ꯂꯃ S ꯂ ꯃ		ꯂꯃ ꯂ ꯃ
	ꯀꯪ꯫ M ꯀ ꯁ		ꯂꯃ꯫ P ꯂ ꯃ		ꯂꯃ꯫ N ꯂ ꯃ
	ꯀꯪ꯬ CH ꯀ ꯁ		ꯀꯪ꯬ T ꯀ ꯁ		ꯀꯪ꯬ KH ꯀ ꯁ
	ꯀꯪ꯭ NG ꯀ ꯁ		ꯀꯪ꯭ TH ꯀ ꯁ		ꯀꯪ꯭ W ꯀ ꯁ
	ꯀꯪ꯮ Y ꯀ ꯁ		ꯀꯪ꯮ H ꯀ ꯁ		ꯀꯪ꯮ U ꯀ ꯁ
	ꯀꯪ꯯ EE ꯀ ꯁ		ꯀꯪ꯯ PH ꯀ ꯁ		ꯀꯪ꯯ A ꯀ ꯁ

Source: Kshetrimayum, Neelakash (2011), A comparative study of Meitei Mayek, accessed on 12 March 2017 from [http://www.typoday.in/2011/papers/Neelakash\\_Meitei-Mayek.pdf](http://www.typoday.in/2011/papers/Neelakash_Meitei-Mayek.pdf)

## 1.2 A Brief Grammatical Sketch of Meiteilon

The following is the brief grammatical sketch of Meiteilon. It will discuss the sound system of the language, word formation processes, and the syntactic structure of the language.

### 1.2.1 Phonological System

The phonological system of Meiteilon consists of three major systems of sounds namely consonants, vowels and tone, as well as a minor system of sound, also exist, i.e., juncture. The sound system of Meiteilon consists of twenty four (24) consonants and six (6) vowels (Singh, 2000).

#### 1.2.1.1 Consonants

A consonant is a speech sound with fully or partially closure of the vocal tract. There are twenty four (24) of such consonant sounds in Meiteilon. Consonants occur in five positions: bilabial, alveolar, palatal, velar and glottal. Fifteen (15) stop phonemes occur in four positions: bilabial, alveolar, palatal and velar. Three (3) nasal phonemes occur in three positions: bilabial, alveolar and velar. The two (2) fricative phonemes occur in the alveolar and glottal position. One (1) trill and one (1) lateral in alveolar position. The two (2) semi-vowels occur in two positions: bilabial and palatal. There is no retroflex sound in Meiteilon. The aspiration of both voiced and voiceless stops are found in Meiteilon. The Meiteilon consonant is given in Table 1.1 below:

**Table 1.1: The Consonant Phonemes of Meiteilon**

<b>Places</b>	<b>Bilabial</b>	<b>Alveolar</b>	<b>Palatal</b>	<b>Velar</b>	<b>Glottal</b>
<b>Manner</b>	vl vd	vl vd	vl vd	vl vd	vl
<b>Plosive</b>	p b p <sup>h</sup> b <sup>h</sup>	t d t <sup>h</sup> d <sup>h</sup>	c j j <sup>h</sup>	k g k <sup>h</sup> g <sup>h</sup>	
<b>Nasal</b>	m	n		ŋ	

<b>Fricative</b>		s			h
<b>Lateral</b>		l			
<b>Trills</b>		r			
<b>Semivowels</b>	w		y		

The consonant can occur in the initial, medial and the final position of a word.

<b>Consonants</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
/p/	<i>pambi</i> ‘plant’ initial
/m/	<i>t<sup>h</sup>amoy</i> ‘heart’ medial
/ŋ/	<i>t<sup>h</sup>oŋ</i> ‘door’ final

Meiteilon has only initial and medial consonant clusters in a word but no final consonant cluster. The few examples with consonant clusters in the initial position having semi-vowels as the next member are as follows:

<b>Consonant Clusters</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
<i>kw - kwa</i>	‘betel nut’
<i>k<sup>h</sup>w - k<sup>h</sup>waŋ</i>	‘waist’
<i>sw - swaydə</i>	‘here’

The consonant clusters which occur in the medial position of a word are:

<b>Consonant Clusters</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
<i>gr - məŋgra</i>	‘sweet potato’
<i>dr - udre</i>	‘see-NEG’
<i>br - tumbra</i>	‘sleep-INT’
<i>kc - həkcaŋ</i>	‘body’

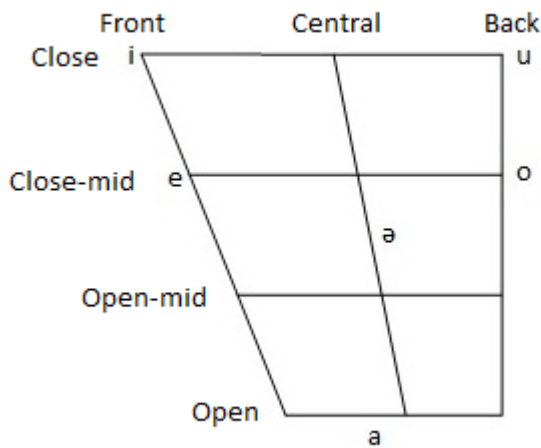
The double consonant clusters or geminates in medial position is also very common in Meiteilon.

Consonant Clusters	Gloss
<i>-kk- cakkə</i>	‘with rice’
<i>-ŋŋ- cəŋŋu</i>	‘go in’
<i>-mm- pammi</i>	‘like’

### 1.2.1.2 Vowels

In phonetics, a vowel is a speech sound with an open vocal tract. There are six (6) vowel sounds in Meiteilon. Vowels occur at three (3) levels: close, close-mid and open. There is a three way contrast: front, central and back. There is one central vowel at the mid level. The six (6) vowels of Meiteilon are /i, e, ə, a, o, u/.

**Table 1.2: The Vowel Phonemes of Meiteilon**



The vowel length is conditioned by tone, which accompanies them. All the six vowels can occur in initial, medial and final position of a word.

Vowels	Gloss	Position
<i>/i/- ima</i>	‘mother’	initial
<i>/u/ - puk</i>	‘stomach’	medial
<i>/e/ - ice</i>	‘sister’	final

Meiteilon provides vowel clusters and can be distinguished easily. Meiteilon has initial, medial and final position of vowel clusters.

Vowel Clusters	Gloss	Position
<i>əy- əygi</i>	‘mine’	initial
<i>əu- səun</i>	‘leather’	medial
<i>oy- soy</i>	‘signature’	final

### 1.2.1.3 Tone

In phonology, a tone refers to the distinctive pitch level of a syllable. Meiteilon has two tones, i.e. level and falling tones. The level tone is unmarked while the falling tone is marked as /˥/, above the vowel sound. The level tone always remains in the same pitch whereas, in falling tone, the pitch falls down.

<i>ì</i>	‘blood’
<i>i</i>	‘thatch’
<i>ùn</i>	‘skin’
<i>un</i>	‘snow’
<i>k<sup>h</sup>òy</i>	‘navel’
<i>k<sup>h</sup>oy</i>	‘bee’
<i>sìŋ</i>	‘firewood’
<i>siŋ</i>	‘ginger’

### 1.2.2 Morphological System

Meiteilon is an agglutinating language; most of the words are formed by joining the morphemes in a linear order. Meiteilon is highly affixal, and the derivations of various word classes such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs can be achieved by prefixes or by sequences of suffixes. The roots are all bound morphemes. The following examples show how the suffixes can make a root of various word classes such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs.



The root *i* ‘write’ can be derived as a noun by adding the suffix *-bə*, i.e. *i-bə* ‘to write’, *ə-i-bə* ‘writer’ (noun).

The root *i* ‘write’ becomes a verb by adding the suffix *-ri*, i.e. *i-ri* ‘writing’ (write+PROG) (verb).

Another root *siŋ* ‘clever’ becomes an adjective by adding the prefix *ə-* and the suffix *-bə*, i.e. *ə-siŋ-bə* ‘clever’ (adjective).

The same root *siŋ* ‘clever’ becomes an adverb by adding the suffix *-nə*, i.e. *siŋ -nə* ‘cleverly’ (adverb).

### 1.2.2.1 Nouns and Nominal Morphology

A noun in Meiteilon is of two types: simple and compound nouns. Again the simple nouns can be further sub-divided into dependent and non dependent. It can be formed by means of prefixing and suffixing. The roots which do not show the class-form to which they belong are the dependent nouns whereas the free nominal forms which can show the class-form are the non-dependent nouns. For example, the root *t<sup>h</sup>ow-* ‘drive’, *yeŋ-* ‘look’, *p<sup>h</sup>əm-* ‘sit’, etc. become noun when the suffix *-bə /-pə* is added to them and can take one or more of the set of noun affixes. The free nominal forms like *la* ‘banana leaf’, *ŋa* ‘fish’, *sa* ‘animal’, etc. are noun by themselves and can also take one or more of the set of noun affixes. The set of noun affixes includes: *ə-/i-* (first person pronominal), *nə-* (second person pronominal), *mə-* (third person pronominal), *mə-/k<sup>h</sup>ut-* (manner/mode), *-nə* (agent/instrument), *pu-/bu-* (patient/receiver), *-tə/-də* (location), *-kə/-gə* (associative), *-la/-ra* (interrogation), plural markers like *-siŋ/-k<sup>h</sup>oi* as well as determiners *əsi* and *ədu*, etc. But there are some restrictions in the occurrence of these suffixes. For example, some forms, like the name of a person cannot take the plural marker by *-siŋ* but it has to use *-k<sup>h</sup>oi* in place of *-siŋ*. It should be *Priya-k<sup>h</sup>oi* (Priya and others) but not \**Priya-siŋ*.

### 1.2.2.2 Gender

In Meiteilon, human and animate nouns are referred to as masculine and feminine on the basis of natural sex. Semantic gender may be indicated for human beings and birds by *-i* ‘female’ and *-a* ‘male’ (Singh, 2000).

<i>nupi</i> ‘female’	<i>nupa</i> ‘male’
<i>hanubi</i> ‘old woman’	<i>hanuba</i> ‘old man’
<i>p<sup>h</sup>isubi</i> ‘washer woman’	<i>p<sup>h</sup>isuba</i> ‘washerman’
<i>yenbi</i> ‘hen’	<i>yenba</i> ‘cock’

While for animals, the gender is marked for male by ‘*laba*’ and female by ‘*əmom*’.

<i>houdoŋ laba</i> ‘male cat’	<i>houdoŋ əmom</i> ‘female cat’
<i>sən laba</i> ‘ox’	<i>sən əmom</i> ‘cow’

In Meiteilon, there is no grammatical gender.

1. *tombə lak-le* (Male)  
tomba come-PST  
‘Tomba came’.
2. *priya lak-le* (Female)  
Priya come-PST  
‘Priya came’.

### 1.2.2.3 Number

In Meiteilon, number can be divided into three, namely, singular, plural and dual. Singular nouns can be indicated by the numeral *əmə* ‘one’ as in the following example:

3. *nupə əmə lak-le*  
*man* one come-PRF

‘A man has come’/ ‘One man has come’.

Plurality is indicated with the numerals higher than one or by the plural marker -*siŋ* or -*k<sup>h</sup>oi*. Example: *əŋaŋ-siŋ* ‘children’, *ucek-siŋ* ‘birds’, etc. Human names such as Tomba, Chaoba, etc. can not go with plural marker -*siŋ*, however, they can take the suffix -*k<sup>h</sup>oi* which indicates additive plural in case of noun substitutes. Example: *tombə-k<sup>h</sup>oi* ‘Tomba and others’. The personal pronoun can be plural and dual. The plural of the pronouns (first, second and the third) are signalled with -*k<sup>h</sup>oi*. Example: *əi-k<sup>h</sup>oi* ‘we’, *nə-k<sup>h</sup>oi* ‘you all’, *mə-k<sup>h</sup>oi* ‘they’. The dual is signalled by -*bani*, which is a frozen form composed of *ni* the root of two and -*bə*, the nominalizer -*pə* (Chelliah, 1997: 79). For example, *i-bani* ‘we two’, *nə-bani* ‘you two’, *mə-bani* ‘they two’. Besides these markers, there are other lexical units that can attach to the noun or the noun phrase to make collective nouns. They are as follows:

<i>məyam</i>	‘many’
<i>pumnəmak</i>	‘all’
<i>səŋgu</i>	‘flock’
<i>kaŋlup</i>	‘group’
<i>məpun</i>	‘bundle’
<i>məpəi</i>	‘heap’
<i>kaŋbu</i>	‘party’
<i>cəbun</i>	‘heap’ or ‘group’

4. *ucek suŋgu əma pai-ri*  
*bird* flock one fly-PROG  
‘A flock of birds are flying’.

#### 1.2.2.4 Pronoun

In Meiteilon, the personal pronouns are *əi* ‘I’, *nəŋ* ‘you’ and *mə* ‘he/she’. The inalienable or the kinships terms are formed by prefixing the pronominal prefixes like *i-*, *nə-*, *mə-* of the first, second and the third persons respectively.

*i-k<sup>h</sup>ut* ‘my hand’  
*nə-k<sup>h</sup>ut* ‘your hand’  
*mə-k<sup>h</sup>ut* ‘his hand’  
*i-mə* ‘my mother’

### 1.2.2.5 Adjective

In Meiteilon, adjective is formed by the prefixing the attributive derivational prefix to the verbal noun. It does not agree with the noun.

<i>əmotpə nupi</i>	‘dirty woman’
<i>əmotpə nupə</i>	‘dirty man’
<i>əmotpə nupi-siŋ</i>	‘dirty women’
<i>əmotpə nupə-siŋ</i>	‘dirty men’

Adjectives can occur before or after the noun.

5. *ə-pik-pə nupi-du lak-le*  
ATT-small-NOM woman-DET come-PRF  
‘The small woman has come’.
  
6. *nupi ə-pik-pə-du lak-le*  
woman ATT-small-NOM- DET come- PRF  
‘The small woman has come’.

### 1.2.2.6 Case

Case is a value reflects the grammatical function performed by a noun, pronoun, adjective, participle or numeral with respect to the verb in a phrase, clause, or sentence. There are seven (7) case markers in Meiteilon which are suffixed to various arguments. They are shown in the following table below:

**Table 1.3: The Case Markers of Meiteilon**

<b>Nominative</b>	<i>-nə</i>
<b>Accusative</b>	<i>-bu, -pu</i>
<b>Instrumental</b>	<i>-nə</i>
<b>Locative</b>	<i>-də</i>
<b>Genitive</b>	<i>-gi, -ki</i>
<b>Ablative</b>	<i>-dəgi, -təgi</i>
<b>Associative</b>	<i>-gə, -kə</i>

According to Singh (2000), Meiteilon does not have the ergative case since nominative marker *-nə* is optional with transitive as well as with intransitive verbs.

7. *əy (-nə) cət-li*

1SG (NOM) go-PRST

‘I go’.

8. *əy (-nə) gəri thow-wi*

1SG (NOM) vehicle drive- PRST

‘I drive vehicle’.

### 1.2.2.7 Verb Morphology

Meiteilon exhibits an elaborate verbal morphology. In Meiteilon, verb roots are all bound. Verbs in this language have been formed through a set of suffixes. Meiteilon being an agglutinating language can take the following verbal suffixes such as aspect, mood, benefaction, negative suffixes, imperative suffixes, deictic suffixes, intensive suffix, suggestive, adverbial, nominalizing, copula, directional, towards the goal, suffixes that change the state, reciprocal, causative, honorific, etc.

The verbal suffixes indicate aspect and modality only by way of affixation and compounding. Tense has not been shown by the suffixes, although time has been indicated by aspect markers or by independent forms. Aspect markers like *-i*

(habitual/present), *-li* (progressive), *-le* (perfective), etc. and various independent forms like *ηasi* (today), *ηaran* (yesterday), *həyeη* (tomorrow) are used to indicate time. But there are some restrictions in the occurrence of the verbal suffixes. Some of them can not directly occur after the root, while some can happen in the medial or in the final positions. The verbs are all dependent unlike the nouns, which can be either dependent or non-dependent. All the verb forms are composed of a root and one or more suffixes. For example, *yeη-li* (look-prog) ‘looking’, *ca-hən-li* (eat-CAUS-PRST) ‘cause to eat’, etc.

### 1.2.3 Syntax

Meiteilon like most of the other Tibeto-Burman languages has the word order of SOV, i.e. S for subject, O for object and V for verb. It is a verb final language.

9. *sita-nə cak cai*  
*sita-NOM rice eat*  
‘Sita eats rice’.

Meiteilon is a nominative-accusative language. It has a nominative case marker *-nə* (Devi and Subbarao, 2002). The adjective can precede as well as follow the head noun in a phrase; though in a sentence the adjective can only follow and not precede the head noun (Subbarao, 1999). There is a lack of grammatical relationship between the object and the subject. Meiteilon is an aspect prominent language.

### 1.3 Complex Verbs

A Verb Phrase (VP) is a phrasal verb functioning as a constituent of the sentence with a head lexical verb, i.e., a finite verb. A VP can be either a simple or a complex one. The complex structure of a VP is not determined by the number of items in the VP. For example, there can be VP with one or two auxiliaries (helping) verb(s) and a main verb. So, the number of the verb is not the qualifying feature of a VP to be complex. Therefore, a complex VP is a syntactic unit which has a verb and some other linguistic elements that do not just contribute as the aspectual reading of the main verb but makes the VP a

complex unit, where the complexity is beyond the morphology of the VP. It can be semantics or the pragmatics that mark the VP as a complex unit.

### 1.3.1 Complex Verb Phrase (VP) in Meiteilon

The verbal roots that are used to form complex VPs in Meiteilon are: ‘*ja*’-‘agree’, ‘*kʰət*’-‘dribble’, ‘*tʰə*’-‘down’, ‘*sin*’-‘change’, ‘*tʰok*’-‘exit’, ‘*khai*’-‘cut’, etc. Structurally, complex verbs may be classified into two complex verbs such as i) disyllabic complex verbs and ii) polysyllabic complex verbs (Premabati, 2008).

#### 1.3.1.1 Disyllabic Complex Verbs

One type of complex VP is formed by two verbal elements. The verbal roots which can form disyllabic complex verbs are as follows:

- *ja* ‘agree’

The verbal root ‘*ja*’-‘agree’ is used only with verbs of sleeping. The number of verbs that can take the verbal root ‘*ja*’ is limited, and they are given below:

*ja-həu* ‘agree-rise’- ‘rise, awake (from sleep)’

10. *pabuŋ ja-həu-də-ri*  
father      arise-NEG-PROG  
‘Father has not awoken.’

- *tʰok* ‘exit’

The verbal root ‘*tʰok*’-‘exit’ is generally attached to another verbal root to denote outward directional and completeness of an action. But here it does not give the directional meaning.

*həu-dok* ‘introduce’      (*tʰ* changes to *d* due to phonetic rule in Meiteilon)

11. *səgol kaŋjəi        hai-bə məsannə-si mənipur-dəgi həudok-kʰi*  
 horse stick say-NMZ play-DET Manipur-ABL introduce-DEF  
 'The game of polo was introduced from Manipur.'

The verbs 'kət-tʰok'-'sacrifice', 'cau-tʰok'-'expand', 'həu-dok'- 'introduce' do not give any directional meaning at all. However, the other verbs like 'nan-tʰok'-'escape', 'pu-tʰok'-'introduce', 'jəy-tʰok'-'hit and repair' give a derived meaning of 'tʰok' in the sense that they have a directional meaning in the underlying structure. 'nan-tʰok' means to come out from the hand of police. 'pu-tʰok' means to find a place for the first time and let it know to others and lastly, 'jəy-tʰok' derives the meaning from 'hit and repair' a dent utensil. It means to hit from inside to outward direction.

### 1.3.1.2 Polysyllabic Complex Verbs

Another type of complex VP is Polysyllabic complex verbs and it is formed by affixation of 'cə'-, 'tə'- and '-nə', etc. to the verbal roots which have a polysyllabic word.

- cə- 'used as an affix'

The affixation of 'cə'- to certain verbs gives the meaning of greater intensity. It can be attached to verbs like 'kuŋ'-'dense', 'nən'-'press, put something firmly on surface', 'nəi'- 'stir, not clear', 'məm'- 'be dark', 'ləŋ'-'be noisy', 'jet'-'entangle', 'mot'- 'be dirty', 'pet'- 'be soft', 'lam'- 'be hungry', 'kən'- 'be hard', etc.

- cə-guŋ-nə 'be dense'

12. *ləikon-si-də        ləi        tʰa-ri-bə-si        cə-guŋ-nə-re*  
 garden-DET-LOC flower grow-PROG-NMZ-DET dense-PRF  
 'Plantation of flowers in this garden is dense.'

- -nə 'used for reciprocal and sometimes as a formative particle'

The suffix '-nə' takes the role of a formative suffix in the construction. It may, sometimes, mean reciprocal and sometimes as a formative particle. In the case where it



cannot mean reciprocal, it may be explained as simply an extended use of the suffix. In such situations, the suffix has become more grammaticalized and as a result, it started functioning as a formative particle.

*təusin-nə-* ‘pretend’

13. *nəŋ*            *na-de- hai-bə əy kʰəŋ-ŋi,*    *təusinnə-gənu*  
 2    ill-NEG say-NMZ        1 know            pretend-PROH  
 ‘I know that you are not ill, so don’t pretend.’

In Meiteilon, the V1 is always in root form as in the case of Hindi. The name ‘polar’ is perhaps given to V1 because it contains the core meaning of the complex verb-form. The second component of the compound is the "light verb" (Butt, 1995) often termed as "vector" (Hook, 1974) or ‘explicator’ (Masica, 1976) which is semantically delexicalized and bears all grammatical inflections such as tense, mood, or aspect of the sentence. The vector verb mostly does not retain its lexical meaning and functions as an auxiliary verb attached to the main verb. It, however, plays a significant role in explicating the meaning of the polar or the main verb. Hence, the compound verb is also called an ‘explicator compound verb’ (Masica, 1976).

In Meiteilon, the first component of the verb, sometimes, carries the core meaning of the complex predicate and the second component get semantically bleached. Though the meaning of V2 is lost in the resultant compound, it acts as an explicator in the compound verb. These Meiteilon vector verbs go through a process of grammaticalization becoming semantically weak and do not show up its meaning in the resultant compound verb. For an in-depth study of the complex verb phrase, it is necessary to understand the process of grammaticalization in Meiteilon.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Literature Review and Methodology**

#### **2.1 Literature Review**

This chapter discusses the existing literature of the research available in this area and it explains what methodology is used to the study. In order to build knowledge and identify what works have already been done in the field of complex verb phrase and grammaticalization in Meiteilon and to ensure not to replicate existing knowledge, the literature is reviewed. It is also helpful to find out the distinctive contribution in the field of complex predicates in Meiteilon. It tries to relate with the prior research and provides its originality and also its significance of the study. It highlights how far the knowledge about the complex verb phrase, especially in Meiteilon. The reviews consist of the paper published in journals, articles, books, theses, etc. To begin with, I summarize a few selected studies in the area.

Elizabeth Traugott Closs and Bernd Heine (eds.) (1991) in their edited book, "Approaches to Grammaticalization, Vol. I, Amsterdam: John Benjamins, pp. xi+360; xi+ 556, focus on Theoretical and Methodological Issues" studies different methodological and theoretical issues of grammaticalization. It is a collection on the study with diverse areas of Grammaticalization. It analyzes the emergence of grammatical categories in linguistics. It also explains the general concept of grammaticalization and the grammaticalization of different languages. This book also discusses some fundamental theoretical issues. It analyses main fields of linguistics such as Morphology Pragmatics Syntax Theoretical linguistics and Typology. The first chapter introduces the book, and the remaining parts of the book are subdivided into two as General Method and Directionality. In General Method, it covers the principles of grammaticalization, gradualness of grammaticalization, serial verbs and retextualization, etc. In directionality, it discusses the case study of the different languages.

Miriam Jessica Butt (1993), "The Structure of Complex Predicates in Urdu", CSLI Publications, Stanford, CA. Doctoral thesis at Stanford University studies an in-

depth examination of the structure of complex predicate and properties of two differing Urdu complex predicates that is, the permissive and the aspectual complex predicates. It is a doctoral thesis submitted at Stanford University in December 1993. The author shows that the Urdu language had a large number of complex predicates and divided two complex predicates in Urdu languages as Permissive and Aspectual. It intensely examines the two difference of the permissive complex predicate and aspectual complex predicate. She also designs a theory of complex predicate formation in Urdu.

Tara Mohanan (1994), "Argument Structure in Hindi", Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications, pp. 26, studies the uniformity in the interpretation of the arguments of predicates. It is also dissertation submitted at Stanford University in 1994. The author developed the concept of the organization of grammar in Hindi. She argues for a conception of the linguistic organization into four dimensions of the structure. They are a) semantic, b) argument, c) grammatical function, and d) grammatical constituent structures. The first chapter is the introductory part of the study. The second chapter illustrates the patterns of Hindi syntax and the third chapter is the theoretical framework of the study. The fourth chapter analyzed the case study in Hindi. The last chapter studies on complex predicates. Her work is based on empirical observations of structure in Hindi. It is crucial information for morphological relationships of case and argument in Hindi.

Riaz Ahmed Mangrio (2011), "Light Verbs in Urdu", Kashmir Journal of Language Research, Vol. 14 Issue 2, studies that light verbs are an essential point of linguistic discourse on Indo-Aryan languages. The function is to coordinate main verbs and form V1-V2 (main verb to light verb) complex verbal constructions. In the complex verbal constructions, light verbs do not reveal their lexical meaning but change the semantics of a sentence as a whole. The author also argues that there are controversies over the functions of light verbs. In this paper, he explains that V is, in fact, a dummy verb in such formations. The author throws light on the point of argumentation in the distinction between a light verb and a dummy verb. Secondly, most researchers claim that a light verb appears final position of a sentence and takes tense morphology. Another researcher, Bukhari (2009) reveals a different opinion, that main verb may appear in the final position of a sentence and take tense morphology. In support of his claim, the paper

argues that a light verb may allow the main verb to form tense morphology, though, it, however, functions as a semantic additive to the sentence.

Ilse Wischer and Gabriele Diewald (2002) in their edited book entitled, "New Reflections on Grammaticalization", *Typological Studies in Language* 49, Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, studies broader issues on methodological as well as theoretical studies. The study focuses on two fields of studies, i.e. Historical Linguistics and Typology. It has divided into twenty five chapters. It raises some new questions that indicate the future direction of grammaticalization studies. The book focuses on issues such as grammaticalization and lexicalization; the hypothesis of unidirectionality; the relevance of contexts for grammaticalization; grammaticalization paths. It also concentrates on discourse markers, honorifics or classifiers, etc. Chapter 1 is the introductory part of the edited book. In Chapter 2, it analyses the new reflection in grammaticalization and lexicalization. Chapter 3 focuses on degrammaticalization. In such a way, it illustrates the study on the historical linguistics and linguistic typology. It is an exclusive study on empirical investigation and theoretical studies.

Bernd Heine and Tania Kuteva (2002), "World Lexicon of Grammaticalization," Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, demonstrates the various form of studies of grammaticalization. The book tries to show the evolution of grammaticalization and its evolution is universal. It is a wealth of data published on the origin and development of grammatical forms. The book is presented in alphabetical order, i.e., A-Z format. It shows that the evolution of grammatical forms and it is an addition to the field of linguistics. The book clear compiles the most salient features of the unidirectional nature of grammaticalization. It also explains that this change is regular. It covers about 500 languages across the world. It shows the scope of the grammaticalization theory and states that grammaticalization is unidirectional processes.

Tania Kuteva (2004), "Auxiliation: An Enquiry into the Nature of Grammaticalization," Oxford: Oxford University Press, investigates the grammatical language change and linguistic communication. It brings out the explanatory potential of recent grammaticalization theory. She also analyses the process of auxiliation. It is also

studied on the psychology of language use. Auxiliation is a sub-branch of the study of the process of grammaticalization. Most theories of both grammaticalization and Auxiliation uses the same theoretical notions. The only difference between them is Auxiliation focuses on complex lexical verb structures and grammaticalization deals with nonverbal lexical structures as well as verbal lexical structures. The book tries to find out a cross-linguistic study of the phenomenon. She explores the cognitive forces underlying auxiliation and presents on how auxiliation relates to discourse and pragmatic considerations. She also illustrates the relationship between the conceptual-semantic and discourse-pragmatic factors. The book attempts to combine the recent grammaticalization theory with insights from the psychology of language use. It is a new perspective on how grammaticalization occurs in everyday linguistic communication. It is one of the best contributions on an explanatory theory of auxiliation, language change, and linguistic communication.

Marius Doornenbal (2009), "A Grammar of Bantawa Grammar, paradigm tables, glossary and texts of a Rai language of Eastern Nepal," illustrates clearly the compound verb in the Kiranti language. It compares the Bantawa and Kiranti languages. The compound verbs of Bantawa languages are not at all unusual in Kiranti language. The author identifies the compound verbs of the Kiranti language as the typological feature. Compound verbs in Kiranti can be meaningfully compared as a syntactic phenomenon, concerning their morphology and function and the degree of grammaticalization. All Kiranti compounds are contiguous and real compounds. In short, there is no other constituent intervenes, and there is no linkage syntactically. It also analyzes the function of Kiranti compound verbs. Compound verbs are lacking symmetry in Kiranti. Vector verbs have a semantic contribution.

Pradeep Kumar Das (2009), "The form and function of Conjunct verb construction in Hindi", discusses the conjunct verb constructions in Hindi as well as its forms and functions. The author shows that the function of the conjunct verb is descriptively and theoretically puzzling. He also tried to link with theories of Chomsky and Panini to give a solution of such puzzling. In the paper, the case of complete grammaticalization surfaces from the instances of 'rehna'-'to stay'. In Hindi, 'rehna'-'to

stay' can be used for marking the progressive aspect. Both as the main verb and the auxiliary verb marks the progressive aspect. A large number of auxiliary verbs that proved that there are no verbs that cannot take the progressive auxiliary in Hindi. Some example of the auxiliary verbs includes 'bet<sup>h</sup> gaya'-'sat', 'k<sup>h</sup>a gaya'-'ate', 'so gaya'-'slept', etc. The auxiliary verbs are completely grammaticalized. One means as sit and another means to eat and the last means as sleep.

Miriam Butt (2003), "The Light Verb Jungle: Still Hacking Away", examines that the complex predicate is the predicate formed by two or more predicational elements. The predicational elements include nouns, verbs and adjectives. It aims at the overall task of identifying the core characteristics of light verbs. It also provides a solid syntactic and semantic analysis of the study. The author also attempts to stretch the distinction between auxiliaries and light verbs. The author tries to presents typical characteristics of light verbs. Within a complex predicate, light verbs establishe it as a part of a syntactically monoclausal predication, and it further argues that light verbs found a separate syntactic class. It studies the difference between the complex predicates and light verbs through different languages.

There are some works done on Meiteilon verbs by some researchers as their Ph.D. works such as *The Syntax of Manipuri Verbs* (Premabati, 2008), *Manipuri Verbs* (Bidyarani, 2002), *The Semantic Structure of Manipuri Verbs*, (Dolen, 2002) and *A Meitei Grammar of Roots and Affixes* (Nonigopal, 1986). However, the present study would be a different one as it discusses the structure of complex verb phrase (VP) in Meiteilon and their morpho-syntactic interface. It also analyzes the form and function of verbs and other linguistic units in complex VP. The study observes on the case of lexical items that seems to have a degree of grammaticalization in the formation of complex VP in Meiteilon. It also tries and examines whether these lexical items can be used independently with their meaning elsewhere.

## **2.2 Scope and Objectives of the Study**

The study seeks to find out the structure of complex Verb Phrase (VP) in Meiteilon and its morpho-syntax interface. The study of complex VP covers simple VP, complex VP, conjunct verb construction, compound verb construction, etc. The VP is found in different forms such as verb-verb, noun-verb/adjective-verb, verb-adjective, verb-noun and verb-verb which are often referred as compound verb, conjunct verb and serial verb in various languages. In Meiteilon, while constructing a complex predicate (CP) a set of Verb + Verb compound (V1+V2), Noun + Verb (N+V) or Adjective + Verb (Adj+V) are found. In the construction of Verb + Verb Compound, the first component of the verb 'V1' is a polar while the second component of the verb 'V2' is a vector or light verb. The semantic and morphological function of V2 is quite important to construct compound verb in Meiteilon. This second component of the compound is semantically delexicalized and bears all grammatical inflections such as tense, mood or aspect of the sentence.

## **2.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- i) To identify the structure of complex VP in Meiteilon.
- ii) To study the form and function of verbs and other linguistic units in complex VP.

## **2.4 Research Questions**

Verbs like 't<sup>h</sup>ok', 'k<sup>h</sup>ət', 'sin' etc. seem to be highly grammaticalized and used as the directional markers. However, they can also be used as an independent lexical item. The present work wants to establish this aspect by studying their form and function in details. The following are the research questions of the study:

Is Vector Verb (V2) semantically delexicalized in Meiteilon in every instance?

If not, can the vector verb (V2) in Meiteilon also occur independently with their some remnant lexical meaning when they are not fully grammaticalized?

## **2.5 Methodology**

The study employs interdisciplinary approaches based on descriptive as well as analytical methods for the study of the structure of complex VP and its morpho-syntax interface in Meiteilon. It is supported by primary sources through observation schedules as well as secondary sources of data. The data is primarily based on the first-hand data collected through interaction with Meiteilon speaking people. Above all, being the native speaker of the language, I have guided by my competence in the language to collect the suitable data for the study. Secondary sources include collecting data from published materials such as books, novels, folktales, folk songs and short stories, etc. in Meiteilon as well as articles of relevance from various newspapers, journals, magazines, and websites, etc.

## **2.6 The Informants and Mode of Data Collection**

As said earlier, the researcher is the native speaker of the language which ruled out the possibility of extensive fieldwork. But, the researcher spoke to some native speakers of Meiteilon to take help from them while deciding which words should be taken into consideration. Apart from the interaction with the native speakers, by reading short stories and novels, the complex verbs in Meiteilon are collected. Also before collecting the data, the researcher had gone through the secondary sources available. The researcher first collected all the verbs form of Meiteilon and then categorized the complex verbs from the collected data which are grammaticalized. The researcher made a comparison between their earlier lexical meanings and their new meanings after going through the process of grammaticalization. The Leipzig glossing rule has been used for transcribing the data.

## **2.7 Division of Chapters**

The thesis is divided into six chapters. The brief content of the chapters are given below:



## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

The first chapter is the introductory part of the study. The introduction of Manipur, i.e. its geographical location, environments, people, languages, the script are discussed. A brief grammatical sketch of the language is also mention in this chapter such as the phonological system including consonants, vowels, tones, morphological system such as nouns and the nominal morphology, gender, number, pronoun, adjectives, cases, verb morphology as well as syntax. Secondly, the chapter deals with the introduction of complex verbs and the theoretical framework of the study. It also shows some examples of the formation of the complex verbs form in the case of Meiteilon.

## **Chapter 2: Literature Review and Methodology**

This chapter discusses some of the existing literature on the research available in this area of study, and it explains how the methodology is applied to the investigation. It also shows the division of the chapters in the thesis.

## **Chapter 3: Comparison of Simple Verb Phrase and Complex Verb Phrase**

This chapter deals with the comparison between the Simple Verb Phrase and the Complex Verb Phrase in Meiteilon. It shows how the Simple VP and the Complex VP are formed and classifies in the language. It further studies the occurrence of explicator verb (V2) in Complex verb phrase, and its possibility and impossibility in the agreement patterns of  $\pm$ transitivity as well as the number of valency of a clause in Complex Verb Phrase.

## **Chapter 4: Grammaticalization of Lexical Items in Complex VP**

This chapter starts with a brief introduction of the grammaticalization process. It explains its various stages and mechanisms of grammaticalization. The chapter further examines the case of lexical items that seems to have a degree of grammaticalization in the formation of complex VP in Meiteilon. The lexical items are discussed individually with

their grammaticalized meanings. It also tries and explores whether this lexical item can be used independently with their meaning elsewhere.

### **Chapter 5: Forms and Functions of Complex VP (such as Compound or Conjunct Verb) in Meiteilon**

This chapter deals with the constructions of the compound and conjunct verbs in Meiteilon. It shows its forms and functions of the Complex VP in Meiteilon. The chapter subcategorizes into the given sub-headings such as - the definition of the compound verb, the features for identifying compound verbs, the compound verb constructions in Meiteilon, the grammaticalized forms of the different vector verbs, and it also examines the aspectual information they encode when they occur in different predicates such as stative, dynamic, and predicates of other eventualities. It shows the multifunctional qualities of the vector verbs carrying multiple meanings when they occur in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions. And, lastly, for the compound verbs, it talks about the semantics and the morphology of the Compound Verb constructions in Meiteilon. The chapter again reproduces a brief introduction about the conjunct verb constructions. It is followed by the section discussing the features for identifying conjunct verbs constructions. It further shows the conjunct verb constructions in Meiteilon as well as the grammaticalized form of the two conjunct particles. There are two major categories in conjunct verb such as co-occurrence of noun and verb conjunct or adjective and verb conjunct. The Noun + Verb sequences are divided further into two from the functional point of view i.e. as Noun Independent + Verb, and Noun Dependent + Verb sequences. In Noun Independent + Verb sequence, the noun that stands alone as an independent element co-occurrence with a verb whereas in the Noun Dependent + Verb sequence, the noun that cannot stand alone elsewhere in the sentence co-occurrence with a verb in the construction of Meiteilon conjunct verb. In the co-occurrence of adjective and verb conjunct constructions, functionally, it shows how the light verb takes a host, which is an adjective. This chapter reveals the sequences like Noun + Verb conjunct are quite productive in Meiteilon than Adjective + Verb conjunct. Lastly, it discusses the semantics and the morphology of the Conjunct Verb in Meiteilon.

## **Chapter 6: Conclusion**

This chapter is the final chapter of the study. It shows the overall analysis of the research and checks whether the hypothesis is proved or not. The chapter is followed by a detailed bibliography.

## Chapter 3

### Comparison of Simple Verb Phrase and Complex Verb Phrase

#### 3.1 Verb Phrase

A verb phrase (VP) is a phrase in which a verb functions as the head of the phrase plus any auxiliaries. It may be modals, operators, perfects, progressives, passives, modifiers, etc. A VP is a syntactic unit functioning as a constituent of the sentence with a lexical head verb, i.e., a finite verb. A VP is a syntactic unit which is either composed of one verb or with its dependents; objects, complements and other modifiers. A verb phrase can be either a simple or a complex one. The complex structure of a VP is not determined by the number of items in the VP. For example, there can be VP with one or two auxiliaries (helping) verb(s) and the main verb. So, the number of verbs is not the qualifying feature of a VP to be complex. Therefore, a complex VP is a syntactic unit which has a verb and some other linguistic elements that do not just contribute as the aspectual reading of the main verb but makes the VP a complex unit, where the complexity is beyond the morphology of the VP. It can be semantics or the pragmatics that mark the VP as a complex unit. There are two types of verb phrase: simple verb phrase and complex verb phrase.

##### 3.1.1 Simple and Complex Verb Phrase: An Overview

A simple verb phrase consists of a single main verb. In a simple verb phrase, the verb shows the type of clause such as declarative, imperative, etc.

- i. Your phone **looks** fantastic.
- ii. **Dress** smartly. **Arrive** on time.

Sentence (i) is a simple verb phrase that represents a present simple and a declarative clause whereas sentence (ii) shows a simple imperative clause.

A complex verb phrase may consist of one modal verb and one or more auxiliary verbs before the main verb. A modal verb always comes before any auxiliary verbs:

iii. House prices **could fall** during the next six months.

MO + MV

iv. You **may have played** this game before.

MO + AUX + MV

Sentences (iii) is a combination of modal verb + main verb whereas sentence (iv) is a combination of a modal verb + one auxiliary verb + a main verb.

In general, a simple predicate is defined as the part of the sentence that contains the main verb, and the meaning or the sense of the sentence finds its 'predication' on it. But what about the complex predicate? As it is stated that the predicate must contain the verb of the sentence, in case of complex predicate, the form, function and even the nature of the predicate is complex because it contains more than one verbal element in the verb phrase. The second co-existing element in the verb phrase could be a verb, noun or an adjective which first co-exists with the verb in the predicate position and later helps the predication of the sentence possible.

v. *ram-ne mohān-ko ək kitab diya*

ram-ERG mohan-ACC one book give

'Ram gave a book to Mohan'

vi. *ram-ne us bat pār jor-diya*

ram-ERG that topic on force give

'Ram put an emphasis on that topic'

The sentence (v), shows a simple predicate sentence with '*diya*' 'give' as main verb whereas in (vi), the sentence is a complex predicate with a combination of two verbs of '*jor*' 'force' and '*diya*' 'give' to mean 'emphasis'. Both these verbs are combined together to form a complex form. Without the help of one another, the desired meaning of the verb cannot be acquired. Thus, both of them plays a crucial role in the constructions.

To differentiate complex predicate from a simple predicate, it contains the following parameters, i.e. a simple predicate consists of only one verbal element,

whereas, a complex predicate comprises more than one verbal element in the verb phrase. In other words, the verbal element can co-exist either with a verb, noun, adjective or other grammatical elements in the verb phrase. Hence, the form, function and the nature of complex predicate is more complex than a simple predicate. The term complex predicate has a wide range of usage. It includes compound verb, serial verb and conjunct verb constructions.

This section discusses about the simple as well as the complex verb forms in Meiteilon. According to Premabati (2008), the structure of Manipuri verbs can be divided into five groups namely: i) Simple verbs ii) Complex verbs iii) Compound verbs iv) Conjunct verbs and v) Reduplicated Verbs. But, this chapter discusses only the simple and the complex verb forms. Simple verbs on the basis of their syllables can be divided into two groups such as i) Monosyllabic and ii) Polysyllabic. As well as complex verbs too can be divided into two groups namely i) Disyllabic and ii) Polysyllabic.

### **3.2 Simple Verbs in Meiteilon**

In Meiteilon, if a sentence has only one verb form and the verbal root has only a single morpheme, then it is termed as simple verb. They cannot be further sub-divided as meaningful units and are always mono-morphemic in nature. The simple verbs in Meiteilon can be divided into two on the basis of syllable such as monosyllabic and polysyllabic.

#### **3.2.1 Monosyllabic Roots**

Simple monosyllabic roots are the verbal roots that have only one syllable. In Meiteilon, the verbal roots are always bound, and they become a free form by affixation of various affixes. These are the roots used in the analysis of Manipuri verbs.

i. *p<sup>h</sup>əm* ‘sit’

1. *əy p<sup>h</sup>əm-i*

1 sit-ASP

‘I am sitting’

ii. *kʰəŋ* ‘know’

2. *əy mə-bu kʰəŋ-i*

1 3-ACC know-ASP

‘I know him’

iii. *lak* ‘come’

3. *bina lak-te*

bina come-NEG

‘Bina did not come’

iv. *sat* ‘bloom’

4. *ləi sat-le*

flower bloom-PRF

‘Flower has bloomed’

v. *ca* ‘eat’

5. *əy həinou-du ca-re*

1 mango-DET eat-PRF

‘I have eaten the mango’

vi. *cət* ‘go’

6. *jum cət-lu*

house go-COM

‘Go home’

vii. *sək* ‘sing’

7. *isəy-du sək-nu*

song-DET sing-PROH  
'Don't sing the song'

viii. *tʰək* 'drink'

8. *mohan əjuk kʰudɪŋ isɪŋ tʰək-i*  
mohan morning every water drink-HAB  
'Mohan drinks water every morning'

ix. *laŋ* 'noise'

9. *əŋaŋ-sa nə-khoi laŋ-nu*  
child-PL 2-PL make noise-PROH  
'(You) children don't make noise'

x. *pa* 'read'

10. *əy lairik pa-ri*  
1 book read-PROG  
'I am reading book'

xi. *cen* 'run'

11. *əy ləmbi-də cen-li*  
1 road-LOC run-PROG  
'I am running in the road'

xii. *pai* 'fly'

12. *atija-də ucek pai-ri*  
sky-LOC bird fly-PROG  
'Bird is flying in the sky'



The above examples are the verbal roots that are monosyllabic, and they constitute a single morpheme. It is the minimal meaningful unit of the word, and they cannot be further broken down into smaller units.

### 3.2.2 Polysyllabic Roots

Polysyllabic roots are the roots that have more than one syllable but has only one morpheme. Sometimes, a root may have more than one syllable, i.e. two or three syllables but it represents a single morpheme, and it is minimal meaningful unit and cannot be further broken down into a smaller unit. Meiteilon also has this kind of verbal roots. The following examples show the polysyllabic verbal roots of Meiteilon:

i. *noluk* ‘respect’

13. *əhən ləmən-də noluk-u*  
 elders-LOC respect-COM  
 ‘Respect the elders’

ii. *həŋgoi* ‘hate’

14. *əy-nə ma-bu həŋgoi*  
 1-NOM 3-ACC hate  
 ‘I hate him’

iii. *əuray* ‘read, rehearse’

15. *əŋaŋ-siŋ lairik əuray-ri*  
 child-PL book read-PROG  
 ‘Children are reading book’

iv. *sijinnə* ‘use’

16. *sunil-nə əy-gi gari sijinnə-ri*  
 sunil-NOM 1-GEN vehicle use-PROG

‘Sunil is using my vehicle’

v. *iroi* ‘swim’

17. *jon puk<sup>h</sup>ri-də iroi-ri*

john pond-LOC swim-PROG

‘John is swimming in the pond’

vi. *t<sup>h</sup>əjə* ‘trust’

18. *əy-gi oja-nə əy-bu t<sup>h</sup>əjə-i*

1-GEN teacher-NOM 1-ACC trust-ASP

‘My teacher trusts me’

The above given examples of the verbal roots have more than one syllable, i.e., two or three syllables. Within the syllables, they cannot be divided into morpheme as it represents a single morpheme. The verbal root *sijinnə* ‘use’ has three syllables. But, the morpheme cutting cannot be done here like *si-jin-nə*. Such types of verbal roots are semantically mono-morphemic, but structurally it is polysyllabic. That is why they come under simple mono-morphemic verbal roots.

### 3.3 Complex Verbs in Meiteilon

Based on the number of their syllables, Meiteilon complex verbs can be categorized into two types such as monosyllabic and disyllabic. In Meiteilon, the monosyllabic verbal roots are simple roots, which are themselves based on their elementary roots. Most of the Meiteilon verbal roots are monosyllabic in nature. Whereas, the Meiteilon disyllabic verbal roots are derived from their bases, and their stems have a different meaning from the bases. According to Premabati (2008), the study of verbal structure of Meiteilon has many derived verb forms. The derived verb forms are considered as complex verbs that are derived from the verbal roots. It means that these complex verbs cannot provide a complete verbal meaning until and unless the derivational elements are attached to them. In other cases of disyllabic complex verbs, the complex verbs are formed by adding

affixes to a simple root which is monosyllabic in nature. The linguistic elements which are used as derivation are *kʰət*, *tʰə*, *sin*, *tʰok*, *kʰai*, *tʰek*, *tʰət*, etc. can also be used as the verbal elements (in the form of light verb) to form complex verbs in Meiteilon.

Monosyllabic roots like *pan-* ‘bear fruit’, ‘hit’, ‘rule’, ‘married’, *san-* ‘far away’, *hən-* ‘repeat’, ‘changing things’ ‘older in age’, ‘move back’, *pu-* ‘carry’, *tʰa-* ‘grow’, ‘appear in examination’, *oi-* ‘be’ are simple roots whereas the derived verbal roots like *pannə-* ‘supervise’, ‘control’, *sannə-* ‘play’, *həntʰə-* ‘less in quality or number’, *həndok-* ‘vomit’, ‘translate’, *putʰok-* ‘invent’, ‘discover’, *tʰagət-* ‘appreciate’, ‘praise’, *tʰadok-* ‘rinse’, ‘release’, *oisin-* ‘heal’, ‘cooked properly’ are complex roots which are morphologically derived from the bases like *pan-*, *san-*, *hən-*, *pu-*, *tʰa-*, *oi-*, etc. The derived or complex verbal stems have a different meaning from the bases. This means that they cannot get the desired meaning until and unless the derivational elements are attached to them. These derived verbal stems have the same status as a verb as simple verbs in a sentence. Although the morpheme can be further broken down, they will be treated as a single unit and there will be no morpheme cutting within the syllables. These complex verbs also undergo the morphological process like derivation and inflection as simple verbs do. Let us compare the following examples and see the difference between the simple verbal roots from the derived verbal forms in their meaning even though their verbal roots are same.

i. *pan-* ‘hit’

19. *tombə cəy-nə pan-le*

tomba stick-INST hit-PRF

‘Stick has hit Tomba’

ii. *pannə-* ‘supervise/control’

20. *oja-nə əy-kʰoi-bu pannə-ri*

teacher-NOM 1-PL-ACC supervise-PROG

‘Teacher is supervising us’

iii. *san-* ‘far away’

21. *sərət-nə nuŋ-du san-nə ləŋ-i*  
sarat-NOM stone-DET far away-ADV throw-ASP  
‘Sarat throws the stone far away’

iv. *sannə-* ‘play’

22. *əŋəŋ-siŋ bol sannə-ri*  
child-PL ball play-PROG  
‘Children are playing ball’

v. *pa-* ‘read’

23. *hemabəti lairik pa-ri*  
hemabati book read-PROG  
‘Hemabati is reading book’

vi. *patʰə-* ‘spill down’

24. *səŋgom-du patʰə-re*  
milk-DET spill down-PRF  
‘The milk has spilled down’

A complex verb stem is formed when the verbal root is preceded or followed by a derivational affix. The derivation involved here is class-maintaining derivation which produces a derived form of the same class. The class-maintaining derivation is the derivation that does not change the word class. For example, *kʰən-* ‘think’ is a verbal root and when *-nə* ‘reciprocal’ is added to form *kʰənnə-* ‘discuss’, it is again a verbal form. But when *-pə/bə* ‘nominalizer’ is added to a verbal form like *ca-* ‘eat’, it becomes a nominal form like *ca-bə* ‘to eat/eating’. The derivation involved in the formation of nominal, adverbials and adjectives are class-changing derivations, which produce a derived form of another class.

The affixes involved in the formation of complex verbs, lose their actual functions as they have gone through the process of grammaticalization. *-nə* is a reciprocal suffix which involves two or more arguments while carrying out an action as in *kʰətnə-* ‘quarrel’, *loinə-* ‘accompany with’ as in the following sentences:

vii. *kʰətnə-* ‘quarrel’

25. *nupa əni-du kʰətnə-ri*  
 man two-DET quarrel-PROG

‘The two men are quarrelling with each other’

viii. *loinə-* ‘accompany’

26. *mə-gə loinə-nə cət-lu*  
 2-PREP accompany-ADV go-COM

‘Accompanied with him while going’

The verb *kʰətnə-* involves two persons as actors. The verb in sentence (26) *loinə-* carries two arguments as the meaning demands. It involves more than one person, i.e. ‘with whom to accompany with’. The use of this reciprocal *-nə* has become more grammaticalized and may be extended to other uses where the arguments carried by the verbs may not be persons. The following examples will support this argument.

ix. *kannə-* ‘useful’

27. *lairik əsi əi-ŋon-də kannə-i*  
 book DEM 1-DIR-DAT useful-ASP

‘This book is useful to me’

x. *hotnə-* ‘make an effort’

28. *əy tʰəbək loisinnə-bə hotnə-ri*  
 1 work finish-REC-NMZ make an effort-PROG

‘I am making an effort to finish work’

The verb in sentence (27) *kannə-* does not necessarily involve two persons as its arguments. Instead, it carries two arguments: one, a person and another, a thing. However, the object *lairik* ‘book’ may be replaced by a person and in such situations, the verb *kannə-* carries two persons as its arguments. The verb of sentence (28), *hotnə-* ‘make an effort’ carries a person as an actor and a goal. The affixes have undergone the process of grammaticalization when they combined with another verb. Their original meanings have bleached and started providing certain extended meanings.

Structurally, the complex verbs in Meiteilon may be classified into two based on their syllables such as (i) Disyllabic Complex Verbs and (ii) Polysyllabic Complex Verbs.

### 3.3.1 Disyllabic Complex Verbs

The complex verbs are formed by adding affixes to a simple verbal root which are monosyllabic in nature. The affixes that are used to form disyllabic complex verbs are *ja-*, *-nə*, *-kʰət*, *-tʰə*, *-sin*, *-tʰok*, *-kʰai*, *-tʰek*, *-tʰət*, etc. These affixes are class-maintaining affixes. That means they remain into the same word class even after their combination.

#### 3.3.1.1 Disyllabic Verbs formed with prefix *ja-*

This prefix is used only with verbs of sleeping. The number of verbs that can take prefix *ja-* is limited and they are given below:

*jakai-* ‘wake up’

*jarek-* ‘stay, rest at night (at somebody’s place)’

*jahəu-* ‘rise, awake (from sleep)’

*jata-* ‘sleep’

*jaon-* ‘turning and tossing’

They may be used in sentences as follows:

- *jahəu-* ‘awake’

29. *imə jahou-re*

mother awake-PRF

‘Mother has awoken’

- *jaon-* ‘toss and turn’

30. *jaon-bə-də p<sup>h</sup>əmuŋ-də-gi ta-i*

toss and turn-NMZ-ADV bed-ABL fall-ASP

‘Fall from the bed while tossing and turning around’

These verbs *jakai-*, *jarek-* and *jata-* are commonly used in literary work, and they are not used in day-to-day life. However, All India Radio, Imphal coined the word *jakairol* ‘morning prayer’. It is an opening programme of the day with songs in prayer to God.

### 3.3.1.2 Disyllabic Verbs formed with suffix *-nə*

Generally, the suffix *-nə* serves as a reciprocal marker when attached to verbal roots. By reciprocal, it does not necessarily mean two persons being involved in an action as in *k<sup>h</sup>ətnə-* ‘quarrel’, *k<sup>h</sup>ənnə-* ‘discuss’, *ləknə-* ‘mock at,’ etc. Sometimes, it may involve things rather than persons as found in *hotnə-* ‘make an effort’, *kannə-* ‘be useful’, *laknə-* ‘try hard’, torture’. As a result of *-nə* ‘reciprocal’ become grammaticalized and the use of this suffix has been extended.

- *k<sup>h</sup>ənnə-* ‘different’

31. *laidi əsi k<sup>h</sup>ənnə-i*

doll-DET different-ASP

‘This doll is different (from others)’

- *mannə-* ‘similar, resemble, identical, share something’

32. *mə-khoi əni məsək mannə-i*

3-PL two face share-ASP

‘They are similar in looks’

- *taynə-* ‘blame’

33. *məmə-nə məcanupə-də pot maŋ-bə-gi taynə-i*

mother-NOM son-LOC thing loss-NMZ-ADV blame-ASP

‘Mother blame his son for the lost thing’

- *konnə-* ‘enough’

34. *rita-gi tolop nə jum cəlaybə konnə-de*

rita-GEN salary-INST house expenditure enough-NEG

‘Rita’s salary is not enough for the expenditure of the house’

- *cennə-* ‘differ in a calculation, have some mistake’

35. *dukən-gi hisab-tə pəisa cennə-bə lai-re*

shop-GEN account-LOC money miscalculate-NMZ have-PRF

‘There are mistakes in calculation of money in the shop’

- *təmnə-* ‘be haunted’

36. *əsi jum-si təmnə-i*

DET house-DET haunt-ASP

‘That house is haunted’

Some more examples of such type of complex verbs are given below:

*ciŋnə-* ‘hesitate’, *nəinə-* ‘discuss’, *pəknə-* ‘congenial, suitable’, *oinə-* ‘have a tiff’, *həinə-* ‘be accustomed to’, *cennə-* ‘be involved with’, *lennə-* ‘flaunt, vaunt’, *jeknə-* ‘have enmity’

- *jeknə-* ‘have enmity’

37. *ram-gi jeknə-bə jam-mi*



ram-GEN enemy-NMZ many-ASP  
'Ram has so many enemy'

- *cennə*- 'be involved with'

38. *məhak huran-bə-də cennə-i*  
3.HON thief-INF-DAT involve-ASP  
'He is involved in the robbery'

- *nəinə*- 'discuss'

39. *pot-tu-gi mərəm-də k<sup>h</sup>ənnə nəinə-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
thing-DET-GEN about-DAT think discuss-PRF  
'Discussion has been made about the thing'

In the above examples, the reciprocal markers have extended its usage, and it does not necessarily mean only two persons being involved in the action. In the words like *k<sup>h</sup>ənnə* 'different', *mənnə* 'similar', *təynə* 'blame', internally it shows that two things or the person is involved.

### 3.3.1.3 Disyllabic Verbs formed with -k<sup>h</sup>ət

The disyllabic complex verbs formed with the combination of the verb *k<sup>h</sup>ət* with a verbal root denotes the upward direction of the main verb, an aspectual meaning of 'starting of an action' or 'an intensifier' etc. It encodes different meanings with the verbs; they are attached to.

- *pak<sup>h</sup>ət* - 'be nervous'

40. *məpə lak-pə-də əŋaŋ-du pak<sup>h</sup>ət-li*  
3.father come-NMZ-LOC child-DET nervous-ASP  
'The child got nervous when his father come'

- *tʰagət-* ‘praise’

41. *nupi-du-nə isor-bu tʰagət-li*

woman-DET-NOM god-ACC praise-ASP

‘The woman praises the God’

- *onkʰət-* ‘give a counter statement (especially against elders)’

42. *ice-nə imə-də onkhət-li*

sister-NOM mother-DAT counter statement-ASP

‘Sister give counter statement against mother’

- *tʰaugət-* ‘encourage’

43. *imə-nə ai-gi tʰəbək-tə tʰougət-pi*

1-mother-nom 1-gen work-det encourage-give

‘My mother encourages in my work’

- *caukʰət-* ‘be developed, civilized’

44. *dili caokʰət-pə ləm-ni*

delhi develop-NMZ place-COP

‘Delhi is a developed place’

45. *jon caokʰət-pə mi-ni*

john civilize-NMZ person-COP

‘John is a civilized person’

Some more examples of complex verbs with *-kʰət* as the V2 are listed below:

*səugət-* ‘help, support’, *sugət-* ‘grimace’, *ləukʰət-* ‘take up a project or programme’, *tʰukkət-* ‘become nervous’, *liŋkʰət-* ‘establish, set up’, *kopkʰət-* ‘recoup’, *həugət-* ‘help somebody to get up’, *tʰaŋgət-* ‘raise (hands)’, *tʰagət-* ‘support a candidate in election’, etc.

In the above given examples, some verbs do not necessarily carry the meaning of direction, e.g. *liŋkʰət-* ‘set up’, *kopkʰət-* ‘recoup’, *ləukʰət-* ‘take up a programme or project’, *tʰagət-* ‘support a candidate in election’ etc. They do not mean any direction rather they give totally different meanings. Thus, it may be concluded that the complex verbs with *-kʰət* do not necessarily mean directional only.

### 3.3.1.4 Disyllabic Verbs formed with *-tʰə*

Generally, the suffixation of *-tʰə* to a verbal root gives the meaning of downward direction of the main verbs or aspectual meanings of continuation of an action. In case of complex verbs with *-tʰə*, they have undergone the process of grammaticalization, so it encodes other meanings diverted from directional as well as continuation of an action.

- *wantʰə-* ‘faint’

46. *nupi-du cak lam-bəgi wantʰə-kʰi*

woman-DET rice hungry-INF-GEN faint-DEF

‘The woman fainted due to hunger’

- *kintʰə-* ‘fall down, crumble, collapse’

47. *jum-du kintʰə-re*

house-DET collapse-PRF

‘The house has collapsed’

- *həntʰə-* ‘reduce’

48. *isiŋ caŋ həntʰə-re*

water level reduce-PRF

‘Water level has reduced’

- *puttʰə-* ‘sink, lag behind’

49. *əi-gi kʰoŋ ləikʰom-də puttʰə-re*

1-GEN leg mud-LOC sink-PRF  
'My leg has sunk into the mud'

50. *na-ru-bə-dəgi əi para jam-nə puttʰə-re*  
ill-DEIC-NMZ-ABL 1 lesson much-ADV lag behind-PRF  
'I have lagged behind many lessons due to illness'

In the examples given above, *həntʰə-*, *puttʰə-*, do not give the directional meaning but they somehow internally carries some meanings of fall down of something. *kintʰə* and *wantʰə-*, on the other hand, indicates directionality to some extent, as to collapse and fall down on the ground as well as to become unconscious means to fall down, lie down, etc. Some other examples are *centʰə-* 'cause infamy', *lektʰə-* 'faint', *cittʰə-* 'be left out', *tʰintʰə-* 'be late', *coktʰə-* 'be tired', *patʰə-* 'over flow, spill down', *nontʰə-* 'bow down', *hatʰə-* 'gush out', *nantʰə-* 'slip, slide down', *pəŋtʰə-* 'be paralyzed, be hypnotized', *təttʰə-* 'become weak', *littʰə-* 'escape, fall down from a hole'.

In the above examples, *cittʰə-* 'be left out', *tʰintʰə-* 'be late', *coktʰə-* 'be tired', *pəŋtʰə-* 'be hypnotized', *təttʰə-* 'become weak' do not indicate directional meaning but encode different meanings.

### 3.3.1.5 Disyllabic Verbs formed with -sin

The general function of *-sin* is to give the inward direction of the main verbs. But in the case of complex verbs, when it combines other elements *-sin*, the meaning varies depending on the types of verbs, they are attached to.

- *laksin-* 'recognize'

51. *əy məhak-si laksin-bə ŋəm-de*  
1 3-HON-DET recognize-INF can-NEG  
'I cannot recognize him'

- *ceksin-* ‘careful’

52. *ləmbi cət-pə-də ceksin-lu*

road walk-ADV-DAT careful-COM

‘Be careful while walking in road’

- *tuŋsin-* ‘save (money)’

53. *tuŋ-gi dəmək pəisa khərə tuŋsil-lu*

future-GEN for money some save-COM

‘Save some money for the future’

- *oisin-* ‘healing up, (of curry) properly cooked’

54. *mə-gi mək<sup>h</sup>ut-ki əsokpə-tu oisin-le*

3-GEN hand-GEN wound-DET heal-PRF

‘The wound in his hand has healed up’

55. *ensaŋ-si oisin-də-ri*

curry-DET properly cook-NEG-PRST

‘The curry is not yet properly cooked’

In the above examples, *ceksin-*, *oisin-* do not show any directional meaning but it means ‘careful’ and ‘cooked properly or healed up’. Consider some more examples which do not mean the inward directions are *loisin-* ‘make clean (of an area), keep things in proper place’, *tusin-* ‘fall, stumble’, *tasin-* ‘make clean of an area, place’, *ləisin-* ‘become darker (of colour or complexion)’, *insin-* ‘instigate’, *səŋjin-* ‘shift something to make empty’, *p<sup>h</sup>əkcin-* ‘become dull’, etc.

### 3.3.1.6 Disyllabic Verbs formed with -<sup>h</sup>ok

The suffix *-<sup>h</sup>ok* is generally attached to verbal roots to denote outward directions and completeness of an action. But, it has undergone the grammaticalization process and lost

its original meaning and started encoding different new meanings when it combines with different verb forms.

- *kətt<sup>h</sup>ok* - ‘sacrifice’

56. *pulis-nə mə-rəibak-ki dəmək mə-t<sup>h</sup>əwai kətt<sup>h</sup>ok-i*  
police-NOM 3-land-GEN for 3-soul sacrifice-ASP  
‘Police sacrifices his life for the sake of his motherland’

- *caut<sup>h</sup>ok* - ‘proud’

57. *məhək jam caut<sup>h</sup>ok-i*  
3-HON very proud-ASP  
‘He is very proud’

- *həudok*- ‘introduce’

58. *səgol kanjəi hai-bə məsannə-si mənipur-dəgi həudok-k<sup>h</sup>i*  
polo say-NMZ play-DET Manipur-ABL introduce-DEF  
‘The game of polo was introduced from Manipur’

- *paut<sup>h</sup>ok*- ‘spread bad news’

59. *nupi ədu mijam-nə paut<sup>h</sup>ok-pi-re*  
woman that public-NOM spread bad news-BEN-PRF  
‘People has spread bad news about the woman’

- *nant<sup>h</sup>ok* - ‘escape’

60. *huranbə-du pulis-ki k<sup>h</sup>ut-təgi nant<sup>h</sup>ok-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
thief-DET police-GEN hand-ABL escape-PRF  
‘The thief has escaped from police custody’

- *put<sup>h</sup>ok-* ‘discover, invent’

61. *kəməl-nə mecin əmə put<sup>h</sup>ok-k<sup>h</sup>i*

kamal-NOM machine one invent-DEF

‘Kamal invented a machine’

- *jəit<sup>h</sup>ok-* ‘postpone’

62. *pərik<sup>h</sup>ja-du jəithok-le*

examination-DET postpone-PRF

‘The examination has been postponed’

The verbs *kətt<sup>h</sup>ok-*, *caut<sup>h</sup>ok-*, *həudok-*, *paut<sup>h</sup>ok-* do not give any directional meaning at all. But the other verbs *nant<sup>h</sup>ok-*, *put<sup>h</sup>ok-*, *jəit<sup>h</sup>ok-* give a derived meaning of –*t<sup>h</sup>ok* in the sense that they have a directional meaning in the underlying structure. *nant<sup>h</sup>ok* means to come out from the hand of the police. *put<sup>h</sup>ok-* means to find a place for the first time and let it know to others and lastly, *jəit<sup>h</sup>ok-* derives the meaning from *jəit<sup>h</sup>ok-* ‘hit and repair a dent utensil. It means to hit from inside to outward direction. Some more examples of complex verbs with *-t<sup>h</sup>ok* are *paŋt<sup>h</sup>ok-* ‘celebrate, perform’, *həndok-* ‘retreat, go backward, translate, vomit’, *t<sup>h</sup>adok-* ‘rinse’, *laut<sup>h</sup>ok-* ‘announce’, *ləit<sup>h</sup>ok-* ‘evade from work, duty’, *səndok-* ‘broadcast, telecast’, *hundok-* ‘cast off, forsake, reject’, *səudok-* ‘melt’, *t<sup>h</sup>adok-* ‘release’, *ləut<sup>h</sup>ok-* ‘remove’, etc.

### 3.3.2 Polysyllabic Complex Verbs

The Complex verbs in Meiteilon, apart from the disyllabic forms, there are many polysyllabic forms too. Polysyllabic is the one which has more than two syllables. They are formed with the use of these affixes such as *cə-*, *tə-* and *-nə*.

#### 3.3.2.1 Polysyllabic Verbs formed with prefix *cə-*

The affix *cə-* is added to the complex verbal roots to form polysyllabic complex verbs. The affixation of *cə-* to certain verbs gives the meaning of a greater intensity. It can be attached to verbs like *kuŋ-* ‘dense’, *nən-* ‘press’, *nəi-* ‘stir, not clear’, *məm-* ‘be dark’, *laŋ-*

‘noisy’, *jet-* ‘entangle’, *mot-* ‘dirty’, *pet-* ‘soft’, *lam-* ‘hungry’, *kən-* ‘hard’, etc. Consider the following examples below:

- *cəguɣnə-* ‘dense’

63. *məp<sup>h</sup>əm-si mi cəguɣnə tay*  
place-DET people dense fall  
‘This place is densely populated’

- *cəraɣnə-* ‘noisy’

64. *əɣaɣ-siɣ clas-tə cəraɣnə-i*  
child-PL class-LOC noisy-ASP  
‘Children make noise in the class’

- *cəməmnə-* ‘confused’

65. *əy t<sup>h</sup>əbək-tu cəməmnə-ri*  
1 work-DET confuse-PRST  
‘My work is in confused state’

- *cəjetnə-* ‘controversial’

66. *nəɣ-gi ləm-du cəjetnə-ri*  
2-GEN matter-DET controversial-PROG  
‘Your land is still controversial’

- *cənənnə-* ‘overlap, disorder’

67. *pambi-siɣ-si cənənnə-nə hou-re*  
plant-PL-DET disorder-ADV grow-PRF  
‘The plants have grown disorderly’



- *cəmotnə*- ‘filthy, soiled, dirty’

68. *məsi cəmotnə-bə əŋaŋ-ni*

this dirty-NMZ child-COP

‘This is a dirty child’

- *cəbetnə*- ‘soft, tender’

69. *cak-si loynə cəbətə-re*

rice-DET all soft-PRF

‘The rice has become all soft’

### 3.3.2.2 Polysyllabic Verbs formed with suffix *-tə*

Another type of polysyllabic complex verbs is formed with the use of the suffix *-tə*. The suffix *-də* is an allomorph for *-tə*. It denotes the negative meaning when attached with the verbal roots. These negative verbs do not have positive counterparts. They always occur in negative environment. Verbs of this type are limited in number. Few examples are discussed below:

- *usittə*- ‘rude’

70. *məhak mi usitte-bə mi-ni*

3-HON person rude-NMZ person-COP

‘He is a rude person’

- *thəoidə*- ‘careless’

71. *tony məma məpə-nə hay-bə wa t<sup>h</sup>aoidə-bə mi-ni*

tony mother father-NOM say-INF word careless-INF person-COP

‘Tony is a person who is careless to the words of his parents’

- *nacuŋdə*- ‘careless’

72. *haibə indəbə əŋaŋ-siŋ-nə məθəu-də nacuŋde*  
 disobedient child-PL-NOM duty-LOC careless  
 ‘Disobedient children are careless in their duties’

- *thəusadə*- ‘neglect, ignore’

73. *əhən-nə hay-bə wa t<sup>h</sup>ousadə-bə tou-gənu*  
 elder-NOM say-INF word ignore-INF do-PROH  
 ‘Don’t ignore the words of elders’

The sentences (70 to 73) are all negative verbs and they do not have positive counterparts. They all occur in the negative environment.

### 3.3.2.3 Polysyllabic Verbs formed with suffix *-nə*

The suffix *-nə* takes the role of formative suffix in the construction. It may, sometimes, mean reciprocal and sometimes as a formative particle. In case, where it cannot mean reciprocal, it may be explained as simply an extended use of the suffix. In such situations, the suffix has become more grammaticalized and as a result, it started functioning as a formative particle.

- *kəremnə*- ‘mock, jest, make fun’

74. *nə-thək-ki əhən-də kəremnə-gənu*  
 2-up-GEN elder-DAT mock-PROH  
 ‘Don’t mock at your elders’

- *sijinnə*- ‘use’

75. *əi-gi lairik-tu kəna-nə sijinnə-ri*  
 1-GEN book-DET who-NOM use-PROG  
 ‘Who is using my book?’

- *təusinnə*- ‘pretend’

76. *ca-re həy-nə, təusinnə-gənu*

eat-PRF say-NOM, pretend-PROH

‘Don’t pretend to be eaten’

- *əkəkənə* - ‘special’

77. *dinə-gi tʰəbək-tu əkəkənə-bə mi kʰəktəŋ kou-wi*

dina-GEN work-DET special-INF people only invite-ASP

‘Only special people are invited for Dina’s work’

- *ləŋtəkənə*- ‘be anxious’

78. *jila mə-gi pərikʰja-gi ləŋtəkənə-i*

jila 3-GEN exam-GEN anxious-ASP

‘Jila is anxious about his exam’

The suffix *-sinnə* can be attached to verbal roots to mean ‘pretend’ like *səujinnə*- ‘pretend to be angry’ *kəpsinnə*- ‘pretend to be crying’, *haijinnə*- ‘pretend to be true’, *tasinnə*- ‘pretend to be listening,’ etc.

- *kəpsinnə*- ‘pretend to be crying’

79. *əŋəŋ əsi kəp-sinnə-ri*

child-DEM cry-pretend-PROG

‘This child is pretending to cry’

- *səujinnə*- ‘pretend to be angry’

80. *homen məmə-də səujinnə-ri*

homen 3.mother-DAT angry-pretend-PROG

‘Homen is pretending to be angry to his mother’

### 3.4 The Syntactic Condition of Complex Verbs

This section tries to produce the syntactic features of verbal, nominal and adjectival elements in the construction of complex predicates in Meiteilon. Each of these verbal elements has different semantic and syntactic function. The verbal host that is the ‘polar verb’ or ‘V1’ has different semantic and syntactic functions compared to the semantic and syntactic functions of ‘vector verb’ or ‘V2’ or ‘explicator’ in constructing single lexical unit. It shows that these verbal, nominal and adjectival elements have multi-layered functions in the constructions. The conditions of such multi-layered functional constructions of complex predicates are the products of the combinations of a ‘Verb+Verb’, ‘Noun+Verb’ and Adjective+Verb’ respectively. In other words, it means that the occurrences of nominal, adjectival and verbal elements alone cannot directly function like a host or explicator of the single lexical unit, and they cannot also bear all semantic and syntactic properties of their combined form. Therefore, the properties of these verbal, nominal and adjectival elements are specific and it will not be right to generalize such category as it is having the properties of multiple functions in the constructions. It is essential to see how these two different grammatical categories such as noun + verb or adjective + verb share their properties in order to be together to form a new category known as complex predicate. While coming together to form a new category, the noun or an adjective cannot be combined directly with verb until and unless they give up some of their semantic and syntactic features. The verbal, nominal or the adjectival entity are force to be the part of the verb phrase to fill the gap of the language. This means until and unless, they are combined, the desired expression in a language cannot be made. For example, in Meiteilon, for expressing the word, *cao-t<sup>h</sup>ok-pə* ‘to extend/pride’, *cao-k<sup>h</sup>ət -pə* ‘to develop’, *cao-sin-bə* ‘advance’, *cao-t<sup>h</sup>ə-bə* ‘downfall/loss’, it is necessary to bring the adjectival element plus the verb to occur together. And form a predicate that fulfils the requirement of making a predicate equivalent to form the words like ‘extend/pride’, ‘develop’, ‘advance’ and ‘downfall/loss’ in English.

The main concern of the syntactic structure is the notion of forming  $\pm$ transitivity of V2 in complex predicate. This explicator (V2) decides the  $\pm$ transitivity and number of valency of the whole complex predicate. The  $\pm$ transitivity of the vector verb plays a

crucial role in licensing the ergative case with the subject noun phrase (Das, 2013). Consider the Hindi examples below:

81. *ram-ne roti khaya*  
 ram-ERG bread eat-PST  
 ‘Ram ate bread’.

82. *ram roti k<sup>h</sup>a-gāya*  
 ram bread eat GO  
 ‘Ram had eaten bread’.

In sentence (82), the intransitivity of the verb *go* still persists, so it does not take the ergative marker ‘*ne*’ (Abbi, 1999).

If the V1 is intransitive and the V2 is transitive, then the whole compound is transitive.

83. *sita-nə əy-gi t<sup>h</sup>əbək-tu cət-pi-ri*  
 sita-NOM I-GEN work-DET go-GIVE-PROG  
 ‘Sita is going for my work’

In the above sentence (83), V1, i.e., *cət* ‘go’ is an intransitive verb while the V2 *pi* ‘give’ is a ditransitive verb, thus the whole compound verb becomes a transitive verb and has three arguments in the clause such as an agent ‘*sita*’, a beneficiary ‘*əy*’ and an action ‘*t<sup>h</sup>əbək*’.

Meiteilon does not have the case agreement structure with Person, Number and Gender (PNG) as well as it also has no ‘ergative-absolutive’ case structure in the language while forming the Complex Predicate. But, it explains how the second component of the verb syntactically functions as an ‘explicator’ to form a CP. The reason why the explicator is said to play a crucial role in the clause is that with the occurrence of explicator verb (V2) in complex verb phrase, it decides the agreement patterns of  $\pm$ transitivity as well as the number of valency of a clause in Complex VP.

*hən* ‘causative marker’ in Meiteilon, its distribution is not restricted across verbs, i.e. it can go with both transitive and the intransitive verbs. When it occurs with the transitive verb, the whole compound becomes a transitive as in (84) whereas when it occurs with an intransitive, the whole compound becomes an intransitive as in (85).

84. *pot əsi tom-də pì-hən-lu*  
 thing-DET tom-ACC give-CAUS-IMP  
 ‘(You) Give the thing to Tom.’

85. *riya nok-hən-si*  
 riya smile-CAUS-HOR  
 ‘(Let us) make Riya to smile.’

86. *tom-nə isij cao-bə-gi pao lao-t<sup>h</sup>ok-le*  
 tom-NOM water big-INF-GEN news spread-out-PRF  
 ‘Tom has announced the news for flood’

In the above sentence (86), *lao* is a transitive verb, and thus, it takes three arguments that is an agent 'Tom', an indirect object 'flood' and a direct object 'pao' -'news' in the clause. Consider the following example to see the increase in the number of participants with the noun and the verb occur together as a single unit in Meiteilon.

- *ləm-t<sup>h</sup>ok-pə*  
 Land-exit-INF  
 Going out of the (God) especially during the ritual performance.
- *k<sup>h</sup>ut-sin-bə*  
 hand-change-INF  
 Exchange

In the above two examples, *ləm* ‘land’ and *t<sup>h</sup>ok* ‘exit’ as well as *k<sup>h</sup>ut* ‘hand’ and *sin* ‘change’ are grammaticalized. After the agreement between N+V, the whole conjunct verb has been grammaticalized. The light verbs show the agreement with its host

nominal. The verb has functioned more like a lexical verb than an auxiliary, and the noun, having fulfilled the semantic need to be part of the verb phrase to make the prediction possible, also has to regain some of its nominal quality as it has to function as one of the arguments of the predicate and show agreement with the verb.

87. *tombə-nə ram-də lairik ədu pi-rəm-mi*

tomba-NOM ram-LOC book DET give- EVID-PRST

Tomba delivers the book to Ram.

88. *tombə-nə ram-də lairik ədu k<sup>h</sup>ut-sin-nə-rəm-mi*

tomba-NOM ram-LOC book DET HAND-CHANGE-EVID-PRST

Tomba delivers the book to Ram

The number of participations is still same in the above two sentences. Thus, the nominal host along with the light verbs doesn't help to increase the number of participants in the construction. So, there is no strengthening of the light verb in the conjunct verb construction. But in Hindi, after using *yad karna*, there is a new participant in the sentence 'yad' 'remembrance' besides subject and direct object. In Meiteilon, besides subject and direct object, the 'k<sup>h</sup>ut' 'hand' is not a new participation in the above sentence. Tomba delivers the book, but Tomba does not deliver k<sup>h</sup>ut 'hand' to Ram rather as a whole word it means to deliver.

### 3.5 Summary

The whole chapter shows the distribution of simple and the complex verb phrases in Meiteilon. It's classification based on their syllables. Simple verbal roots can be divided into monosyllabic and polysyllabic roots. Whereas, Complex verbal roots can be further grouped as disyllabic and polysyllabic. While discussing the syntactic condition of complex verbs, it is found out that the V2 play a very important role in deciding the ±transitivity and number of valency of the whole complex predicate. Meiteilon does not have the case agreement structure in the language while forming the Complex Predicate (CP). But, it explains how the second component of the verb syntactically functions as an 'explicator' to form a CP.

## Chapter 4

### Grammaticalization of Lexical Items in Complex VP

#### 4.1 Introduction

Grammaticalization is the linguistic process in which a lexeme turns into a grammatical formative and makes grammatical formative still more grammatical. According to Heine and Reh (1984:15), grammaticalization is an evolution whereby linguistic units lose in semantic complexity, pragmatic significance, syntactic freedom and phonetic substance. In simple words, it can be defined as the process in which linguistic elements: phonetics, morphemic, syntactic and semantics become constituents of grammar. The approach of Grammaticalization is related to the study of genesis and development of grammatical forms. Though the process of grammaticalization has been used since the time immemorial, the term “grammaticalization” was coined by Meillet in 1912 (Ilse Wischer and Gabriele Diewald, 2002: ix). He also defined that it is the evolution of grammatical forms (function words, affixes, etc.) out of the earlier lexical forms. It is a diachronic and a very gradual process. It occurs over a period of time.

It is a kind of language change, subject to specific general process and mechanisms of change and it is also characterized by certain consequences such as change in grammar.

For Example:

“Have” changed from indicator of possession to auxiliary marker of past perfect in English.

- a) I have a book. (Possession)
- b) I had done the work. (Past perfect)

The various stages of grammaticalization are

**Lexical unit → functional unit → affix → clitic →  $\emptyset$  (null morpheme)**

Example in English:



- i) *She is going to the police.*  
 S     V     O/LOC
- ii) *She is going to ask the police.*  
 S             FUT. AUX     V     COMP.

In the above example (i), the verb “go” is used as the main verb in the first sentence while in the second sentence (ii) it is used as a future auxiliary. In this way, grammaticalization takes place: the verb “go” is a lexical unit, and now it is grammaticalized to mean the functional unit, i.e. future auxiliary. Likewise, postpositions are derived from nouns, deictic categories from body parts etc.

#### **4.1.1 Mechanisms of Grammaticalization**

According to Heine and Kuteva (2002:2), there are four interrelated mechanisms of grammaticalization namely:

- a) Desemanticization (or “semantic bleaching”) – Desemanticization or semantic bleaching is the loss of the meaning content.
- b) Extension (or context generalization) – Extension is the use in new contexts,
- c) Decategorialization – It is the loss in morphosyntactic properties characteristic of lexical or other less grammaticalized forms, and
- d) Erosion (or “phonetic reduction”) – Erosion as the name itself suggested is the loss in phonetic substance.

#### **4.2 Grammaticalization of Lexical Items**

With the above brief introduction, the chapter shows the grammaticalization of the lexical items used in the formation of the Complex Verb phrase in Meiteilon. It also shows that the lexical items can be used independently with their lexical meaning elsewhere in any sentence. The following table shows the verbs with their lexical meanings and their grammaticalized meanings.

	Verbs	Lexical Meanings	Grammaticalized Meanings
1.	<i>pi</i>	'give'	'benefaction to the recipient of the action', 'loss of generosity', 'act of humility', 'contempt', 'respect'
2.	<i>həw</i>	'start', 'grow'	'inchoative meaning', 'already become', 'start or begin', 'beginning of an inner event before ending of another event', 'limited opportunity', 'an event which has already been started but it is not yet completed at the time of the utterance'
3.	<i>hət<sup>l</sup></i>	'violation'	'violation', 'forceful', 'destruction' 'an action that makes contextual changes to the object'
4.	<i>t<sup>h</sup>ek</i>	'break'	'shows the manner of destruction', 'forceful', 'an action that disturbs the integrity of an action'
5.	<i>t<sup>h</sup>ət</i>	'pluck', 'block', 'obstruct', 'stop', 'disconnect', 'break', 'separate'	'destruction', 'separation', 'forceful', 'an action that makes forcefully changes the consequences'
6.	<i>k<sup>h</sup>ai</i>	'separate', 'divide', 'flirt', 'cut', 'subtract,	'destructive action', 'violation', separation', 'forceful action', 'an action that completely changes the integrity of an object'
7.	<i>t<sup>h</sup>ok</i>	'exit', 'out'	'outward', 'finished', 'inchoative meaning', 'regret or undesirable situation', 'suddenness', 'carelessness', 'sudden process', 'unnatural process', 'encodes the meaning of the one which is connected with an evil spirit', 'doing something openly or publicly'
8.	<i>sin</i>	'copy', 'change', 'replace', 'arrange'	'inward', 'meaning of completion', 'inchoative meaning', 'surprise', 'volitional meaning', 'emphatic' or 'definiteness', 'intrusion' or 'joining some other persons or objects that are already involved in the event'
9.	<i>k<sup>h</sup>ət</i>	'dribble', 'lascivious', 'fight', 'wave'	'upward', 'begin', 'denotes a natural process', 'gradual process'

<sup>1</sup> chelliah (1997) argued that 'hət' is derived from the verb 'hat' 'kill', 'slay'

10.	<i>tʰə²</i>	‘downward’	‘downward’, ‘continue’, ‘inchoative meaning’, ‘has the effect of adding intensity to the meaning of the verb to which they are attached to’
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There are certain specific contribution of the light and the vector verbs in the formation of the complex verb phrase. Gopalakrishnan and Abbi (1992:28) observed that light verb "systematically contributes specific shades of meaning to the main verb that it would not indicate outside." The lexical semantic specifications of many of the light verbs can be used in a multitude of contexts, that is, they fit in many constellations. Light verbs in Meiteilon generally regulate the situation or event encoded by the main verb by providing information related to the beneficiary of the action, inception and inchoation, extension and duration, posture and location, and other semantic nuances. They are described below individually:

i) *pi*

1. *rita-nə tombə-də lairik pi*  
 rita-NOM Tomba-LOC book GIVE  
 ‘Rita gives the book to Tomba’

In sentence (1), *pi* ‘give’ is used as the main verb with its original semantic meaning. However, the verb *pi* ‘give’ when used as the vector verb in the V2 position with the main verbs indicates that an action is performed for the sake of others as in sentence (2). The resulting action may be beneficial to the recipient of the action. The verb *pi* ‘give’ undergo the grammaticalization process to form a benefactive marker when attached to an action verb.

2. *əy nəŋ-gi ləi-du hap-pi-ge*  
 1SG 2SG-GEN flower-DET put-GIVE-FUT  
 ‘Let me put your flower.’

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<sup>2</sup> *tʰə* ‘downward’ in Meiteilon is assumed to be derived from the verb /*tʰa*/ ‘plant’, ‘slap’ and there is no meaning of *tʰə* alone in Meiteilon until and unless it is used in the V2 position.

The verb *pi* ‘give’ cannot be self-benefactive if the action is to be done by oneself as in (3). In case of self-benefaction, the action of benefiting is always inward, i.e. the subject does something for himself. It goes against the semantic necessity/mandate that benefaction will always happen to the recipient of the action. Thus, in Meiteilon, the following construction is ungrammatical.

3. \**əy-nə əy-gi-də-mək tʰəbək tou-bɪ-ri*  
 1SG-NOM 1sg-GEN-LOC-FOR work do- GIVE-PROG  
 ‘Doing work for myself.’

Due to the phonological conditioning of the language, the *pi* sound occurs after un-aspirated voiceless stop sounds, whereas *bi* occurs after voiced sounds, but the meanings of both the sounds are same. However, *pi* can stand-alone and can be used in the initial position of a verbal stem, but *bi* cannot stand-alone and is used as suffix or in a grammaticalized form. In other instances, the meaning of generosity is lost when it occurred with certain action verbs such as in (4) and (5).

4. *oja-nə satra-du cəi-bɪ-re*  
 teacher-NOM student-DET scold-GIVE-PRF  
 ‘Teacher has scolded the student’
5. *lambi-də-gi huranbə-nə ima-gi pəisa mət-pɪ -kʰre*  
 Road-ABL thief-INST mother-GEN money loot-GIVE-PRF  
 ‘Thief looted my mother's money from the road’
6. *əi tʰəbək-si tou-hən-bɪ-yu*  
 1SG work-DET do-CAUS-GIVE-IMP  
 ‘Please let me do this work’

In the above two sentences (4) and (5), *pi* and *bi* occurs as a second verb of the component. However, in (6) when the causative marker ‘*hən*’ breaks the bondedness of the sequences of verbs, the integrity of the compound has lost, so, it unable to stand as explicator in the constructions.

ii) *həw*

'*həw*' is a verbal root which means 'start', 'grow'. Sentences (7) and (8) shows that '*həw*' can occur independently in a sentence.

7. *mina tʰəbək-tu həw-re*

Meena work-DET start-PRF

'Meena has started the work'

8. *pambi-du həw-re*

plant-DET grow-PRF

'The plant has grown'

'*həw*' can be treated as an inchoative aspect marker when occurs in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions as in (9). It marks the beginning of an inner event before the ending of another event.

9. *lairik ədu pa-dri-ŋəy-də segai-həw-ro*

book DET read-NEG-SIM-LOC tear- INCH-SOL

'Tear the book before reading it.'

'*həw*' can take the dimensional verbs which are measurable as well as non-measurable to provide the aspectual meaning of 'already become'. It can also take all verbs indicating five senses of perceptions, external shape verbs, the emission verbs, colour verbs as well as location verbs to provide the aspectual meaning of 'already become', 'almost' (Bhat and Ningomba, 1995).

10. *ma-gi məca cao-həw-re*

3-GEN child big-START-PRF

'Her child has grown up'

It can also occur with modal and epistemic verbs to give the aspectual meaning of 'start' or 'begin'.

11. *ma-nə ma-gi nupi də ciŋnə-həw-re*

3-NOM 3-GEN wife-LOC doubtful-START-PRF

‘He has started doubting his wife’

The desired meaning of the whole word cannot get until and unless the inchoative aspect marker is used.

*həw* is used when there is a limited opportunity and the recipient gets an opportunity at the last moment. It is used when an action is successfully carried out within the limited opportunity as in (12). It is also used when the speaker was not able to begin the action in the required time but managed somehow.

12. əy cak ca-*həw*-re

1SG rice eat-START-PRF

‘I have managed to eat rice.’

13. mahak-nə homwərk-tu mətəm cənə tou-*həw*-rəbə-ni

3SG.HON-NOM homework-DET time exactly do-START having-COP

‘He somehow completed the homework in time.’

It can also indicate an event which has already been started but it is not yet completed at the time of the utterance.

14. məhak cak ca-*həw*-rə-bə-ni

3SG.HON rice eat-START-PRF-INF-COP

‘He has started eating rice.’ (But not yet finished eating i.e. still eating)

Thus, the above examples are the different usages of the verb *həw* when it occurs in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions.

### iii) *hət*

*‘hat’* means ‘kill’, ‘slay’ is a verbal root. Sentence (15) shows that *hat* can occur independently like any other verb form.

15. *innə-nə tin hət-li*

Inna-NOM insect kill-PRST

'Inna kills insect'

According to Chelliah (1997), *hət* is used to make a killing at V and it signifies an action that is accomplished through exerting undue or intense physical or psychological influence over someone. She also argued that '*hət*' is derived from '*hat*' 'kill'. It is used as a destructive verbal element that also used to convey the meaning of violation, superiority, forceful and an action that make destructive changes to other action when undergone the process of grammaticalization. When it co-occurs with other verbal roots in verb-verb sequences, it semantically shared the meaning of the destruction, forceful, etc. to the verbal roots and make changes to the meaning of the main verb. This verbal element carries big semantic baggage which can transform its meanings itself according to the context that demanded by the verbal roots. It has multiple grammaticalized forms carrying multiple meanings in various occurrences.

16. *oja-nə satrə-du law-hət-li*

teacher-INST student-DET shout-DES-PRST

'Teacher shouts at the student'

17. *məhək-ki k<sup>h</sup>onjen-nə əy-bu sum-hət-le*

3-hon-gen voice-INST 1-ACC enchant-DES-PRF

'Her voice has enchanted me'

18. *əy həkcaŋ-si ŋuŋsa-nə ka-hət-le*

1 body-DET sun-INST burn-DES-PRF

'The sun has burnt my body'

19. *polis-nə əy-k<sup>h</sup>oi-bu nəi-hət-le*

Police-NOM 1-PL-ACC stir-DES-PRF

'Police has harrassed us'

The previous researchers claim that the use of the verb *hət* changes the argument structure of the main verb (Nganthoibi, 2011). The sentences (16), (17) and (18) are all transitive verbs after the affixation of the verb '*hət*' to the main verbs. Otherwise, without '*hət*', '*law*' 'shout' and '*ka*' 'burn' are intransitive verbs except '*sum-hət*' 'enchant' is a frozen form.

**iv)     *t<sup>h</sup>ek***

*t<sup>h</sup>ek* means 'break' is a verbal root. This verb comes under the category of destructive verbal element that used to convey the meaning of destruction, obstruction, forceful and an action that make destructive changes to the consequences of another action. *dek* and *tek* are the two allophones of *t<sup>h</sup>ek*. *tek* occurs with the verbal root that begins with an aspirated sound and ends with a voiceless sound, *dek* occurs with the verbal root that begins with an aspirated sound and ends with a voice sound and *t<sup>h</sup>ek* occurs with the verbal root that begins with any consonantal sounds and ends with both voice and voiceless sounds. Functionally, when it co-occurs with a root it partially produces verbal meanings contributing to the main verb. Due to the contribution of such partial meaning the entire constructions of the compound has been affected, particularly to the object or patient of the construction and construct a bondedness grammatical form in the language. '*t<sup>h</sup>ek*' as any other verbs has its own lexical meaning of 'to bend and break'. *t<sup>h</sup>ek* can occur independently in a sentence as in (20).

20. *tom-nə*            *usa-du*            *t<sup>h</sup>ek-i*  
       tom-NOM        branch-DET        break-PRST  
       'Tom breaks the branch'

According to Chelliah (1997), '*t<sup>h</sup>ek*' in the vector position signifies an action that disturbs the integrity of an object. It is considered as the manner of destruction that is being done by exerting pressure on the object or the thing associated with it. '*t<sup>h</sup>ek*' when attached to second component of the compound verbs signifies the manner of action and gives the meaning of destruction to the object concern.



21. *aŋaŋ-nə c<sup>h</sup>əy-du t<sup>h</sup>u-dek-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
 Child-INST stick-DET break-DES-PRF  
 'The child has broken the stick'

22. *dukan-du məy-nə cak-t<sup>h</sup>ek-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
 Shop-DET fire-INST burn-DES-PRF  
 'The shop was burnt by fire'

23. *aŋaŋ-du-nə laydi mə-ŋək ləy-t<sup>h</sup>ek-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
 child-DET-NOM doll 3-neck twist-DES-PRF  
 'The child has twisted the doll's neck'

24. *upak-tu-nə pambi-du nən-t<sup>h</sup>ek-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
 Plank-DET-NOM plant-DET press-DES-PRF  
 'The plank has pressed hard the plant'

Verbs that go with *-t<sup>h</sup>ek* are very few in number compared to other destructive verbs. The verb *t<sup>h</sup>u-dek* in sentence (21) indicates to twist hard to break the stick with the hand. It does not need a weapon. Similarly, all the verbs which go with *-t<sup>h</sup>ek* do not involve a weapon. In sentence (22), the verb *cak-t<sup>h</sup>ek* means to burn the shop by fire.

v) *t<sup>h</sup>ət*

*t<sup>h</sup>ət* which means 'pluck', 'block', 'obstruct', 'break', 'disconnect' or 'separation' is a verbal root. *dət* and *tət* are the allophones of *t<sup>h</sup>ət*. When this verb is used in the V2 position of the compound verbs, and when undergone grammaticalization process, it is used to mean 'to give more force to an action', 'to cut by a huge force', 'to separate by giving an extra force'. This also comes under the categories of destructive verbal element that used to convey the meaning of destruction, forceful, separation and an action that make destructive changes to the object concerned. *t<sup>h</sup>ət* occur as an independent verb as in (25).

25. *police-nə ləmbi tʰət-li*  
 police-NOM road block-PRST  
 ‘Police blocks the road’

Verbs that occur with *-tʰət* are as follows:

26. *məhes-nə mə-may-du kʰot-tət-li*  
 Mahesh-NOM 3-face-DET scratch-PRST  
 ‘Mahesh scratches his face’

27. *rani-nə mə-fi-du cəp-tʰət-li*  
 Rani-NOM 3-cloth-DET cut-DEST-PRST  
 ‘Rani cuts her cloth into pieces’

28. *məhak-nə ləŋ-du məjai-də tʰət-dət-li*  
 3-HON-NOM thread-DET centre-LOC tear- DEST-PRST  
 ‘He tears the thread in the centre’

29. *suməŋ-də həu-ri-bə napi-siŋ-si pʰuk-tət-lu*  
 lawn-LOC grow-PROG-NMZ grass-PL-DET uproot-DEST-COM  
 ‘Uproot all the grasses that are grown in the lawn’

The verb *kʰot-tət* in the sentence (26) means to scratch the face with nails. *tʰə-dət* in the sentence (28) indicates to tear the thread by pulling hard while *pʰuk-tət* in the sentence (29) refers to uproot or destroy a plant completely. *tʰət*, *dət* and *tət* acts as the explicator in the above words. It partially shared its meaning while compounding by constructing destructive actions in order to forcefully convert the host with more destructive cause. The agent carried out all kinds of destructive actions separating the two different entities i.e. the plant uprooted from the ground.

vi) *kʰay*

*kʰay* as an independent verb can be seen in the sentences (30 and 31). It means ‘separate’, ‘divide’, ‘flirt’, ‘cut’, ‘subtract’, ‘break’.

30. *həy-du kʰay-u*

fruit-DET cut-IMP

Cut the fruit’.

31. *cheŋ-du kʰay-u*

rice-DET cut-IMP

‘Divide the rice’.

In grammaticalized form, *kʰay* is a destructive action verb that conveys the meaning of an action done with the force or pressure. When it uses as vector verbs in the compound verb construction, it provides multiple functions as ‘destruction’, ‘violation’, ‘separation’, ‘forceful’, ‘an action that makes contextual changes’. It changes the state of the object completely or partially. When it co-occurs with a verbal root, the main meaning of the verb has completely changed. The verbal root transforms its meaning partially in order to construct destructive form of meaning. This destructive verb expresses forceful action or intention most of the time and the action intends with agent. It can’t occur with all the verb forms but frequently occurred with action verb to change the state of the verb. When it attaches to other verbs, the meaning of the verbal roots will be destructive, violated, violent action, become forceful, etc. Therefore, this can also be termed as a frozen form of verb in Meiteilon. ‘*kay*’ and ‘*gay*’ are the two allophones of ‘*kʰay*’. This verb behaves like an explicator in most of the occurrences. It shared all semantic baggage with the host after it has gone through a complete grammaticalization. Without this destructive form of verb, the verbal root itself cannot produce the desired meaning of the compound verb while compounding. For justifying such nature of this verbal element, let us see the following examples.

32. *mə-nə kwa maru-siŋ-du cəp-kʰay*  
3-NOM betel seed-PL-DET crush-cut  
'He crushes the betel nuts'

33. *mə-nə pot-siŋ ləŋ-kʰay*  
3-NOM thing-PL throw-cut  
'He throws the things violently'

34. *mə-nə glass-tu su-gay-re*  
3-NOM glass-DET grind-cut-PRF  
'He has ground the glass forcefully'

35. *ria nə alu-du loina nəm-kʰay-re*  
Ria-NOM potato-DET all press-cut-PRF  
'Ria has smashed all the potatoes'

In the above examples (32), (33), (34) and (35), the verbal element '*kʰay*' conveys different meanings in each construction. It changes the states of the actions of the agents. And, it shows an action that completely changes the integrity of an object. The verbal roots alone cannot produce the desired meanings of these compound verbs. When we separate the verbal element '*kʰay*' from the main verbs, the desired meaning is not conveyed in the constructions.

**vii) *tʰok***

*tʰok* has the meaning of 'exit', 'out'. When occurs as an independent verb in a sentence, it goes like in sentence (36).

36. *məpan tʰok-u*  
out exit-COM  
'Go Out!'

But, when it occurs in the V2 position of the complex verbs in several different contexts. ‘*tʰok*’ gives the meaning of outward direction as in (37).

37. *əy-nə bol-du in-tʰok-i* (Outward Direction)  
 1-NOM ball-DET push-OUT-PRST  
 ‘I push away the ball’

It also gives the temporal sense of ‘doing something completely or exhaustively’ when used with non-directional verbs as in (38).

38. *ram-nə cak ca-tʰok-le*  
 ram-NOM rice eat-FINISH-PRF  
 ‘Ram has eaten rice’ (Finished)

*tʰok* too gives the meaning of ‘regret or undesirable situation of the event’ as in sentences (39) and (40). *tʰok* changes to *dok* due to the phonetic rule in the language.

39. *əy-nə kəi hai-dok-kʰre*  
 1SG-NOM what say-OUT-PRF  
 ‘What have I said?’ (Regret)

40. *əŋaŋ-du-nə əy-gi cak ca-tʰok-kʰre*  
 child-DET-NOM 1SG-GEN rice take- OUT-PRF  
 ‘The child has eaten my rice’ (Undesirable)

The verb *tʰok* carries the meaning of ‘carelessness’ when attached with the some verbs as in (41).

41. *tombə-nə tum-tʰok-i*  
 tomba-NOM sleep-OUT-PRST  
 ‘Tomba sleeps carelessly’

The verb *tʰok* further carries the meaning of ‘suddenness’ when it uses with the action verbs.

42. *məhak cətnə cətnə lep-tʰok-kʰi*

3SG.HON walk-INST walk-INST stop- OUT-PST

‘He stopped suddenly while walking’

In case of dimensional state verbs that are non-measurable and other state verbs of emission, *tʰok* generally denotes an unnatural or unexpected process and sudden process respectively.

43. *tombə noi-tʰok-i*

tomba fat-OUT-PRF

‘Tomba has suddenly become fat’

44. *tomba-gi ənaba tʰunə pʰə-dok-kʰre*

Tomba-GEN sickness soon good- OUT-PRF

‘Tomba has recovered suddenly’

The verb *tʰok* encodes a large number of meanings when they are attached to different forms of verbs. It also provides the meaning of ‘doing something openly or publicly’ when used with dynamic verbs as in (45).

45. *priya-nə ləmbi-də kəp-tʰok-i*

priya-NOM road-LOC cry- OUT-PRST

‘Priya cries in the road’ (Cry openly in front of people)

In examples (35) to (45), the verbal element '*tʰok*' conveys different meanings in each construction. It changes the states of the actions of the main verbs and gives different meanings to which it attached. These complex meanings cannot be produced by the main verb alone. When we separate the verbal element '*tʰok*' from the co-occurrences with other main verbs, the desired meanings of the whole word will be loss in the constructions.

viii) *sin*

*sin* has the meaning of ‘copy’ and ‘change’, and it occurs as an independent main verb goes like the sentence (46).

46. *əŋəŋ-gi furit sil-lu*  
baby-GEN dress change-COM  
‘Change the baby’s dress!’

However, when it is used in the V2 position of the compound verb, it is different and is used to encode the meaning of the inward direction of the main verb.

47. *əy-nə upu-du in-sin-li* (Inward Direction)  
1SG-NOM cupboard-DET push- COPY-PRST  
‘I push the cupboard inward.’

*sin* when attached with some state verbs, provides the meaning of completion (Bhat and Ningomba, 1995: 274).

48. *sima-nə ləy-du isij cai-də-dunə kəŋ-sin-le*  
seema-NOM flower-DET water sprinkle-NEG-because dry-COPY-PRF  
‘The flower has completely become dry as Seema did not water it.’

49. *ləybak-si kən-sin-le*  
soil-DET hard-COPY-PRF  
‘The soil has completely become hard’

It thus can give the meaning of ‘surprise’ in some situation.

50. *sila tombə-gi yum-da cəŋ-sin-k<sup>hi</sup>*  
Seela Tomba-GEN house-LOC enter- COPY-PRF  
‘Seela has entered into Tomba’s house unexpectedly.’

Lastly, it provides ‘volitional meaning’ when they are attached to static verbs.

51. əy-nə mək<sup>h</sup>oi-gi mərək-tə p<sup>h</sup>əm-jil-li  
 1SG-NOM 3PL-GEN middle-LOC sit- COPY-PRST  
 ‘I sit in between them.’

*sin* when attached with the process verbs somewhat gives the meaning of ‘emphatic’ or ‘definiteness’.

52. məhak-nə məmə-də pəysə pì-sin-k<sup>h</sup>i  
 3SG.HON-NOM mother-LOC money give- COPY-PST  
 ‘He gave money to his mother.’ (Definite)

53. məhak-nə məmə-də pəysə pì-k<sup>h</sup>i  
 3SG.HON-NOM mother-LOC money give- PST  
 ‘He gave money to his mother.’

In the above sentence (52), with the use of the verb *sin*, the sentence expressed the definiteness that the money has been given by the boy to his mother. But in sentence (53), it expressed the simple statement that the boy has given money to his mother. It is not sure if he has definitely given to his mother or not. It has the extended meaning of ‘intrusion’ or ‘joining some other persons or objects that are already involved in the event’. In other words, it gives the meaning of ‘plurality’ of the participants or ‘face-to-face’ situation.

54. nupə-du mamaŋ-də lep-sin-k<sup>h</sup>re  
 man-DET front-LOC stand-COPY-PRF  
 ‘The man has stood in the front’

55. henjaŋ-siŋ-du p<sup>h</sup>ut-cin-lu  
 vegetable-PL-DET boil-COPY-COM  
 ‘Boil the vegetables together’

56. soma oja-nə pəra tak-iŋəi-də ŋaŋ-sin-li  
 soma teacher-NOM lesson teach-SIM-LOC speak-COPY-PRST



‘Soma is speaking while the teacher is teaching the lesson.’

Lastly, *sin* when used with state verbs indicates a change in state after a long period or an inchoative meaning.

57. *ləybak-si kən-sil-le*  
soil-DET hard-COPY-PRF  
‘The soil has become hard completely.’

The above sentence (57) indicates that the soil has changed its state or appearance after a long period. With the used of the verb *sin*, a sense of inchoation thus involved in the construction.

**ix) *kʰət***

*kʰət* which means ‘fight’, ‘wave’, ‘lewd’, ‘lascivious’, too can occur independently in a sentence.

58. *rina jam kʰət-pə nupi-ni*  
rina very lascivious-INF girl-COP  
‘Reena is a very lascivious girl.’

59. *məhes-nə sorok waŋma-dəgi kʰut kʰət-lək-i*  
mahesh-NOM road across-ABL hand wave-DEIC-PRST  
‘Mahesh waves hand from across the road.’

*kʰət*, when is used after a dynamic verb, it carries the upward movement of the main verb.

60. *tomba-nə houdoŋ-du iŋ-kʰət-li*  
tomba-NOM cat-DET push-DRIBBLE-PRST  
‘Tomba pushes the cat up.’

When used after a non-directional verb, it gives the temporal meaning of ‘begin to’ or ‘to start’.

61. *ma-nə tʰəbək tou-kʰət-li*  
3-NOM work do-DRIBBLE-PRF  
‘He started to do the work’

In case of dimensional state verbs that are non-measurable, *kʰət* denotes a natural process like growth.

62. *tombə noi-kʰət-le*  
tomba fat-DRIBBLE-PRF  
‘Tomba has gradually become fat’

In case of other state verbs of emission also, it shows the gradual process while *tʰok* is used as sudden process.

63. *tomba-gi ənaba tʰunə pʰə-dok-kʰre*  
tomba-GEN sickness soon good-OUT-PRF  
‘Tomba has recovered suddenly’

64. *tomba-gi ənaba pʰə-gət-lək-li*  
tomba-GEN sickness good- OUT-FRM-PROG  
‘Tomba is recovering gradually’

Thus, without the use of these vector verbs in the construction of the compound verbs the desirable meaning cannot be conveyed.

x) *tʰə*

*tʰə* ‘down’, ‘continue’ is assume to have come from the verb *tʰa* ‘slap’, ‘plant’ due to the grammaticalization process. When it occurs as an independent verb, this is how it looks like as in sentence (65).

65. *dina u t<sup>h</sup>a-ri*

deena tree plant-PROG

‘Deena is planting tree.’

66. *mə kum-t<sup>h</sup>ə-i* (Downward Direction)

3SG come-DOWN-PRST

‘He comes down.’

Similarly, ‘*t<sup>h</sup>ə*’ ‘plant’, ‘slap’, when used with the dynamic verbs carries the downward movement of the main verb. *t<sup>h</sup>ə* gave the temporal sense of continuing an action when used with the non-directional verbs in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions.

67. *məhak əy lak-pa ŋai-t<sup>h</sup>ə-i*

3SG HON 1 come- INF wait-CONTINUE-PRST

‘He continues to wait for me to come.’

68. *rima tuŋ-gi t<sup>h</sup>əbək-ki k<sup>h</sup>ən-t<sup>h</sup>ə-ri*

reema future-GEN work-GEN think-CONTINUE-PROG

‘Reema is continuously thinking about the future work’.

It is also used to encode the inchoative meaning with some state verbs. Inchoative denotes an aspect of a verb expressing the beginning of an action.

69. *furit-tu saŋ-t<sup>h</sup>ə-re*

shirt-DET long-DOWN-PRF

‘The shirt has become long’.

70. *ənabə-du məsa son-t<sup>h</sup>ə-re*

sick person-DET health weak-DOWN-PRF

‘The sick person has become weak.’

Thus, the above sentences (69) and (70), shows the different use of the verb *tʰə* when it occurs in the V2 position with the state verbs as the main verbs. It gives the inchoative meaning to the main verbs.

71. *ram tʰeŋ-tʰə-nə tum-i*

ram late-DOWN-ADV sleep-PRST

‘Ram sleeps late.’ (intensity to late)

Lastly, it has the effect of adding intensity to the meaning of the word to which they are attached. In sentence (71), the use of the verb *tʰə* gives the intensity to word ‘late’ showing that Ram sleeps more lately than others do.

## 4.2 Summary

The whole chapter discusses the grammaticalization of the lexical items in the formation of the complex and compound verb constructions. The vector verbs in the V2 position are grammaticalized, and their semantic meaning is completely or partially bleached. This chapter also examines the case of lexical items that seems to have a degree of grammaticalization in the formation of complex VP in Meiteilon. As well as these verbs can occur independently with their lexical meaning intact elsewhere in the sentence. The verbs are individually discussed with their original as well as their grammaticalized meanings.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Forms and Functions of Complex VP (Compound and Conjunct Verb) in Meiteilon**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

Languages use different devices to encode information about different human expressions. The device to express ideas and concept may vary from language to language. Compound verb construction is one such phenomenon common in the South-East Asian languages. This phenomenon is widely accepted as one of the major areal features of the languages spoken in the area. It is also known as modified verbal expression, explicator compound verbs, and compound verb constructions. The term “complex predicate” serves as a cover term for the different constructions like Compound verbs constructions (Verb + Verb), Conjunct verb constructions (Noun/Adjective+Verb) and serial verb constructions in the literature of South Asian languages.

For many years, Compound verbs have been the subject of interest to many linguists. As a phenomenon, it has been studied extensively in many of the languages especially those that belong to the Indo Aryan and Dravidian families. As noted by Abbi and Gopalakrishnan (1991), there is no serious attempt made, to study the construction in the languages of the Tibeto Burman family. However, researchers now have slowly started exploring in this area of the Tibeto Burman families. In this chapter, the nature of the forms and functions of the compound and the conjunct verb constructions in Meiteilon are discussed.

The chapter is organized as follows. In Section 5.2, the definition of the compound verb is shown. In Section 5.3, the features for identifying compound verbs has been discussed. Section 5.4 describes the compound verb constructions in Meiteilon. In section 5.5 discusses the grammaticalized forms of the different vector verbs, and examines the aspectual information they encode when they occur in different predicates such as static, dynamic, and predicates of other eventualities. Section 5.6 talks about the semantics and the morphology of the Compound Verb of Meiteilon. Section 5.7 talks

about the syntactic condition of the Compound Verb. The section 5.8 again give a brief introduction about the conjunct verb constructions. It is followed by the section 5.9, discussing the features for identifying conjunct verbs constructions. Section 5.10 shows the conjunct verb constructions in Meiteilon and the section 5.11 shows the grammaticalized form of the two conjunct particles. Section 5.12 examines the semantics and the morphology of the Conjunct Verb in Meiteilon. And, lastly section 5.13 discuss about the syntactic condition of the Conjunct Verb.

## **5.2 Compound Verbs**

A compound verb is a multi-verb form that gives the meaning of a single verb. The second component of the compound is called the light verb or the vector verb, which carries inflections, tense, aspect and mood but provides only fine shades of meaning. Compound verbs in Meiteilon are of two types: (i) Verb + Verb constructions and (ii) Noun + Verb Constructions. The first type of compounding is called compound verbs, and the latter is called conjunct verbs. Compounding is one major feature of word formation process whereby a new single word is formed with the combination of two or more units. The two bases are combined to each other to become a new form. A Compound verb (CV) is one of the complex predicates where two verbs combine to form a new verb consisting of V1 and V2. V1 being called the polar verb while V2 is known as vector or light verb respectively. CV refers to the combination of two or more verbs whose sequence constitutes one semantic and one functional unit. A compound verb is single whole verb where all the kinds of grammatical affixes are attached after the verbs are compounded. The V2 or the vector verb plays an important role in explicating the meaning of the polar or the main verbs. Thus, for this reason, compound verbs are also known as explicator compound verbs.

“By explicator compound verb, we mean a sequence of at least two verbs V1 and V2 where the first member is the main or predicating verb and the second member, although homophonous with an independent verb in the language, does not appear with its primary lexical meaning; V2 only occurs in the sequence to mark the main verb V1 for certain ‘grammatical’ features.” (Abbi and Gopalakrishnan, 1991:687)

The compound verb is defined as a poly-verbal sequence. It is composed of a main or 'lexical' verb and one or more auxiliary verb such that: (1) they are homophonous with main verbs and (2) they alternate with their absence (Hook, 1991).

In Compound verb, the first component of the compound is the 'primary' or 'main verb' which is also known as 'polar verb' (Polar, 1974, Dasgupta, 1977). In Meiteilon CV, the V1 is always in root form like Hindi. This polar verb occurs in root/stem form in many languages. The name 'polar' perhaps has given to it because it contains the core meaning of the complex verb form (Das, 2006). The second component of the compound is the "light verb" (Butt, 1995, Mohanan, 1994) is often termed as "vector" (Hook, 1974) or 'explicator' (Masica, 1976, Abbi, 1992) which is semantically delexicalized and bears all grammatical inflections such as tense, aspect and mood of the sentence. The vector verb mostly does not retain its lexical complete meaning and functions like an auxiliary verb, which is attached to the main verb.

Meiteilon complex verbs cannot give the complete verbal meaning until and unless the derivational elements are attached with them. The structures of the complex verbs in Meiteilon are formed by the derivational element attached to another existing form of the verb. The functions of the simple verbs are always complex when they occurred together (Yashawanta 2000, Premabati, 2008). The complex verbs are formed by adding affixes to a simple verbal root that is monosyllabic. The linguistic elements which are used in derivation can also be used as the verbal elements in the vector position to form complex verbs in Meiteilon.

### **5.3 Features for Identifying Compound Verbs**

It is seen that compound verbs have at least two verbs in sequence; the first verb V1 contributes the primary semantic meaning while the second verb, V2 is partially bleached of its semantic content – provides the grammatical features and other extended connotations such as inception, completion, direction, volitional, force, benefaction, sudden, etc. Of the two constituents, the first verb, which is known as the main verb,

polar verb, or head verb, is selected from an open class, while the second verb is called by names such as light verb, vector verb, or explicator.

Not every construction that has two or more verbs in sequence qualifies as a compound verb construction or has the properties of the compound verbs. There are constructions where one of the verbs is the main verb, and the other is an auxiliary verb. There are serial verb constructions where both the verbs enjoy the privilege of governing complements of their own or provide semantically autonomous elements. Though it may not be possible to state where the cut off points between the different constructions lies as Gopalakrishnan and Abbi (1992) said, each construction has properties specific to the construction.

The following features are given to differentiate compound verbs from other similar constructions:

- Morphologically, Compound verbs contain one and only one major or polar verb, V1 and a second verb, V2.
- The second constituent or the V2, although homophonous with an independent verb, does not appear with its primary lexical meaning i.e., their semantic meaning is bleached.
- It is often the second constituent, in compound verb that can take inflection.
- The verbs in sequence cannot be separated by a coordinating conjunction.
- The second constituent is related in some way with its corresponding full verb.
- Phonologically, a compound verb is usually recognized as having the main primary stress on the second element.
- Another important point to prove that the verb sequences are compound verbs is by the negation test. Since compound verbs are conceptualized as a single event; the verbs do not allow double negation.

In identification and classification of compound verbs, if any composed verb of two and more verbs denote a new concept or depicts a wider meaning than that of the constituents, it will be considered as compound verb. If composing of verbs leads simply



to change of external form, or to change of grammatical function only, it will not be considered as a compound verb. By this criterion, some analytic verbal forms with auxiliary verbs cannot be considered as compound verbs. This is because the auxiliary verb jointly with main verb cannot give the new lexical unit, it is used only to indicate tense, aspect and modality of the main verb. The difference between the compound verbs and the serial verbs constructions should be check in the second verb whether it is a full verb or the light verb, since compound verbs should have the light verb in the V2 position. If the second verb does not function as functional element or if it is not reduced, then we consider it as a serial verb and not compound verbs.

#### **5.4 Compound Verbs Construction in Meiteilon**

Like many other languages, in Meiteilon Compound Verb, the V1 or the polar verb occurs in root/stem form. The name ‘polar’ has given to it because it contains the core meaning of the compound verb form. Meiteilon compound verbs cannot give the complete verbal meaning until and unless the derivational elements are attached to them. The structures of the compound verbs in Meiteilon are formed by the derivational element attached to other existing form of verb. The functions of these simple verbs are always complex in nature when they occurred together. The linguistic elements which are used in derivation can also be used as the verbal elements in the vector position to form complex verbs in Meiteilon.

In Meiteilon, the first component of the verb carries the core meaning of the verb and the second component get semantically bleached. Though the meaning of V2 or vector verb is lost in the resultant compound, it acts as an explicator in the compound verb. These vector verbs go through a process of grammaticalization and become semantically weak and do not show up its lexical meaning in the resultant compound verb.

There are a lot of such compound verb constructions in Meiteilon like in many other South Asian languages. Using the following as examples, it shows that the language has compound verb construction.

1. *rita-nə dona-gi tʰəbək-tu cət-pɪ-ri*  
 Rita-NOM dona-ACC work-DET go-GIVE-PROG  
 ‘Rita is going for Dona’s work’
2. *əy-nə ima-gi cak tʰoŋ-bɪ-ri*  
 1-NOM 1-mother-GEN rice cook- GIVE-PROG  
 ‘I am cooking rice for my mother’

The verb *pɪ* ‘give’ when attached to the main verbs indicates that an action is performed for the sake of others. The resulting action may be beneficial to the recipient of the action. The verb *pɪ* ‘give’ undergoes the grammaticalization process to form a benefactive marker when attached to an action verb.

The verb *pɪ* ‘give’ cannot be self-benefactive if the action is to be done by oneself. In case of self- benefaction, the action of benefiting is always inward, i.e. the subject does something for himself. This goes against the semantic necessity/mandate that benefaction will always happen to the recipient of the action. Thus, the following sentence will be ungrammatical.

In Bangla,

3. *\*basu bari kore diyechē*  
 Basu house make GIVE-PST.3P

The correct sentence will be:

4. *basu bari kore niyechē*  
 Basu house make TAKE- PST.3  
 ‘Basu built a house.’ (Abbi, Gopalkrishnan, 1991:171)

Similarly, in Meiteilon, the following construction is ungrammatical.

5. *\*əy-nə əy-gi-də-mək jum seŋ-bɪ-ri*  
 1SG-NOM 1SG-GEN-LOC-for house clean-GIVE-PROG  
 ‘Cleaning house for myself.’

The *pi* sound occurs after un-aspirated voiceless stop sounds, whereas *bi* occurs after voiced sounds, but the meanings of both the sounds are same. It is due to the phonetic rule in the language. However, *pi* can stand alone and can be used in the initial position of a verbal stem but *bi* cannot stand alone and is used as suffix or in a grammaticalized form.

The action verb *pi* 'give' in Meiteilon shows disrespect in some cases like in sentence (6).

6. *əy jəgoi-du ut-pi-ge*  
 1SG dance-DET show-GIVE-FUT  
 'I will show the dance' (Disrespectful manner)

In other instances, the meaning of generosity is lost when it occurred with certain action verbs such as (7) and (8).

7. *məce-nə mə-nao-pa-du p<sup>h</sup>u-bi-re*  
 sister-NOM 3-small-M-DET beat-GIVE-PRF  
 'Sister has beaten the brother bitterly'
8. *jeknəbə-nə əy-k<sup>h</sup>oi-gi ləm mun-bi-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
 enemy-NOM 1-PL-GEN land snatch-GIVE-PRF  
 'Enemy has snatched our land'

The verb *pi* 'give' can also be used to mean the act of humility as shown in the sentence (9).

9. *jems-nə əhən-nupa-du jeŋsin-bi-rəm-mi*  
 james-NOM old man-DET look after-GIVE-EVID-PRST  
 'James looks after the old man'

In the sentences (1) - (9), the main verb or V1 provides the main element. While the second verb *pi* or *bi* 'give' adds a sense of benefaction to the recipient, disrespect, loss of generosity, the act of humility to the sentences. The second verb or the vector verb

does not retain its primary lexical meaning when they combined with another verb. The vector verb have undergone the grammaticalization process and their semantic meaning is bleached or fade away.

10. *əy-nə mə-bu in-kʰət-li* (Upward Direction)  
 1-NOM 3-ACC push-UP-PRST  
 ‘I push him up’

The verb sequence *in-kʰət* ‘push-UP’ in (10) also exhibits all the features of a compound verb construction. The verb *kʰət* ‘dribble’ here indicates the upward direction of the main verb. As an independent verb, *kʰət* describes as an act of making signal using hand, eyes or eyebrows, dribble and lewd but as a vector verb in a compound verb constructions, it cannot be separated by any coordinating conjunct as shown in (11).

11. \**əy-nə mə-bu in-əmasuŋ-kʰət-li*  
 1-NOM 3-ACC push-and-UP-PRST

The verb *kʰət* when used after a non-directional verb, it gives the temporal meaning of ‘begin to’ or ‘to start’.

12. *ma-nə tʰəbək tou-kʰət-li*  
 3-NOM work do-BEGIN-PRF  
 ‘He started to do the work’

The verb sequence *tou-kʰət* ‘do begin’ in (13) also exhibits all the features of a compound verb construction. The verb *tʰok* here indicates the sudden change of the situation while *kʰət* indicates the inception of the situation described by the main verb.

13. *tombə noi-tʰok-i*  
 tomba fat-OUT-PRF  
 ‘Tomba has suddenly become fat’

14. *tombə noi-kʰət-li*

tomba fat-UP-PRF

‘Tomba has gradually become fat’

With the change in the use of the vector verbs as '*tʰok*' and '*kʰət*', the same main verb '*noi*' show the corresponding distinction between sudden and gradual processes respectively.

Another proof which shows that the verb sequences in the above sentences (1-15) are compound verbs, comes from the negation test. Since compound verbs describe what are conceptualized as a single event, they do not allow double negation. This can be illustrated as below:

15. \* *rita-nə dona-gi tʰəbək cət-te-pi-de*  
 Rita-NOM dona-ACC work go-NEG GIVE-NEG

16. \**əy-nə mə-bu in-de-kʰət-te*  
 1-NOM 3-ACC push-NEG-UP-NEG

17. \* *tombə noi-de-tʰok-te*  
 tomba fat-NEG-OUT-NEG

Rather it should be consider as a single event and marked with a single negative marker as in (19).

18. *rita-nə dona-gi tʰəbək-tu cət-pi-de*  
 Rita-NOM dona-ACC work-DET go-GIVE-NEG  
 ‘Rita did not go for Dona’s work’

From the above examples one can say that none of the verb sequences – *tou-bi* 'do give', *in-kʰət* 'push dribble', *tou-kʰət* 'do dribble', *noi-tʰok* 'fat exit' – express two separate events. They all function as ‘one functional-semantic unit’ describing a single unified

concept, where the lexical meaning of the first verb forms the semantic core and the second verb adds a semantic nuance to the construction.

The compound verbs in Meiteilon is very common, and there are numerous verbs, which appear in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions. The following are some of the verbs, which appear as V2 in Meiteilon:

<i>pi</i>	'give'
<i>həw</i>	'start', 'grow'
<i>hət</i>	'kill', 'slay'
<i>tʰek</i>	'break'
<i>tʰət</i>	'pluck', 'block', 'obstruct', 'disconnect', 'break', 'separate'
<i>kʰay</i>	'separate', 'divide', 'divorce', 'classify', 'flirt', 'cut', 'subtract', 'break'
<i>tʰok</i>	'exit'
<i>sin</i>	'copy', 'change'
<i>kʰət</i>	'fight', 'wave', 'lewd', 'lascivious'
<i>tʰə</i>	'plant', 'slap'

There are a large number of light verbs in most of the languages, which implies that they are more than functional words. The following section discussed the functions and the grammaticalized form of the V2.

### **5.5 The Grammaticalized Form of V2 and Their Functions**

This section 5.5 describes the grammaticalized forms of the different vector verbs and examines the aspectual information they encode when they occur in different predicates such as stative predicates, progressive predicates, and predicates of other eventualities. They give different meanings when they occur in the V2 position attached to the main verb. They have gone through the process of grammaticalization, and their original meaning is somewhat bleached or deviated from their actual lexical meaning. The grammaticalized form of the V2 and their functions when attached to the different form of verbs are discussed below under different headings:

### 5.5.1 Directional 't<sup>h</sup>ok, sin, t<sup>h</sup>ə, k<sup>h</sup>ət'

The verbs have multifunctional qualities carrying multiple meanings when they occur in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions. They can change the state of the verbal roots. When these verbs do not serve any directional verbs and co-occur with any action and state verbs, they can occur independently and behave like independent lexical items bearing different semantic and syntactic functions as verbal roots. The semantic meaning of these verbs still exists in Meiteilon making easier for us to spot the process of grammaticalization. These verbs can exist independently as lexical items. As grammaticalization is a gradual and a diachronic process and has gone through different pathway/process, it shows how these verbs are grammaticalized through different stages, i.e. from simple verb form to directional markers and then to mark the aspectual meaning, and lastly to give certain extended usages. These verbs when attached to different verbs, give different meanings and different expressions.

There are certain lexical items in Meiteilon that are specifically used to code deictic information. These verbs, when do not carry any deictic or directional meaning occur as an independent item having their own semantic baggage. They behave like all other independent lexemes of the language.

### 5.5.2 Horizontal and Vertical Direction

These items often encode deictic information when grammaticalized and when they are in the second component of the compound verbs. Information like movement of upward, downward, outward and inward are often indicated via the use of these lexemes when they are attached with the dynamic verbs, which are unmarked for directionality for correctly specifying the direction of the main verb.

i) *k<sup>h</sup>ət* 'dribble'

19. *əy-nə mə-bu ciŋ-k<sup>h</sup>ət-li*  
1-NOM 3-ACC pull-DRIBBLE-PRST  
'I pull him up'

20. *rina-nə əy-bu in-kʰət-li*  
reena-NOM 1-ACC push- DRIBBLE-PRST  
'Reena push me up'

ii) *tʰə* 'down'

21. *əy-nə mə-bu ciŋ-tʰə-i*  
1-NOM 3-ACC pull-DOWN-PRST  
'I pull him down'

22. *rina-nə əy-bu in-tʰə-i*  
reena-NOM 1-ACC push- DOWN-PRST  
'Reena push me down'

Similarly, *tʰə* 'down', when used with the dynamic verbs carries the downward movement of the main verb.

iii) *tʰok* 'out'

23. *əy-nə mə-bu ciŋ-tʰok-i*  
1-NOM 3-ACC pull-OUT-PRST  
'I pull him out'

24. *rina-nə əy-bu in-tʰok-i*  
reena-NOM 1-ACC push- OUT-PRST  
'Reena push me out'

Likewise, 'tʰok' which literally means 'exit', 'out', when attached with another dynamic verb gives the meaning of outward direction.

iv) *sin* 'copy'

25. *əy-nə mə-bu ciŋ-sin-li*  
1-NOM 3-ACC pull-COPY-PRST



‘I pull him inside’

26. *rina-nə əy-bu in-sin-i*

reena-NOM 1-ACC push- COPY-PRST

‘Reena push me in’

Although ‘*sin*’ has the meaning of ‘copy’ and ‘change’, here it is entirely different and is used to encode the meaning of the inward direction of the main verb. That means these lexemes are employed as adverbs of location. These come in pairs of opposite. The verbs namely ‘*sin*’ ‘in’, ‘copy’, ‘*tʰok*’ ‘out’, ‘exit’, ‘*tʰə*’ ‘down’, ‘plant’, ‘slap’ and ‘*kʰət*’ ‘up’, ‘dribble’ when attached with dynamic verbs provide the horizontal and the vertical directions of the main verb.

### 5.5.3 Aspectual Meaning

The verbs which were used to mark the directions namely ‘*kʰət*’, ‘*tʰə*’, and ‘*tʰok*’ are further grammaticalized to give the aspectual meaning of ‘begin’, ‘continue’ and ‘finished’ respectively when attached to the non-directional dynamic verbs rather than simply indicating independent verbs or the directions of the main verbs. But, ‘*sin*’ is used with verbs to indicate a change in state after a long period of time or gives the inchoative meaning.

i) *kʰət*

The verb *kʰət* when used after a non-directional verb, it gives the temporal meaning of ‘begin to’ or ‘to start’.

27. *ma-nə cak ca-kʰət-li*

3-NOM rice eat-BEGIN-PRST

‘He starts to eat rice’

28. *sina-nə tʰəbək tou kʰət-li*

seema-NOM work do- BEGIN-PRST

‘Seema starts to do work’

Unlike from sentences (20 and 21), *kʰət* here conveys the meaning of ‘begin’ or ‘start’ of the main verb.

ii) *tʰə*

The verb *tʰə* has the temporal sense of continuing an action when used with the non-directional verbs.

29. *ma-nə cak ca-tʰə-i*  
3-NOM rice eat-CONTINUE-PRST  
‘He continues to eat rice’

30. *sina-nə tʰəbək tou tʰə-i*  
seema-NOM work do- CONTINUE-PRST  
‘Seema continues to do work’

With the use of the verb *tʰə*, the whole event gives another meaning that is, ‘he continues to eat rice’ or ‘Seema continues to eat rice’ rather than ‘he starts to eat rice’ or ‘Seema continues to do work’. Even though the main verb is same, with the difference in the V2, the whole meaning of the event is changed.

iii) *tʰok*

The verb *tʰok* gives the temporal sense of ‘doing something completely or exhaustively’ when used with non-directional dynamic verbs.

31. *ma-nə cak ca-tʰok-le*  
3-NOM rice eat-FINISH-PRF  
‘He has eaten rice’ (Finished)

32. *sina-nə tʰəbək tou tʰok-le*  
seema-NOM work do-FINISH-PRF

‘Seema has done the work’ (Finished)

With the use of the verb *tʰok* in the V2 position, the meaning of the whole event is changed. It shows the meaning of ‘completion of the event of eating’ and ‘completion of the event of doing work’ is conveyed.

iv) *sin*

The verb *sin* when attached with some state verbs, provides the meaning of completion.

33. *ləy-du*                      *kəŋ-sil-le*  
Flower-DET                      dry-COMplete-PRF  
‘The flower has completely become dry’

34. *ləybak-tu* *kən-sin-le*  
soil-DET    hard-COMplete-PRF  
‘The soil has completely become hard’

When the verb *sin* is attached to the V2 position of some state verbs, it gives the meaning of ‘completion of the whole event’. In the above sentences (34 and 35), ‘the event of completely drying up of the flower’ and ‘the event of the soil becoming hard’ is conveyed.

#### 5.5.4 Attitudinal

Meiteilon also has explicator, which contributes the attitudinal meaning. The following examples fall under the ‘attitudinal category’ as discussed in the paper by Abbi and Gopalakrishnan (1991). The attitudinal category marks the attitudes of the speaker or narrator towards the action such as contempt, surprise at unexpectedness, regret/undesirability, anger, humility and respect.

i) Contempt

The verb *pi* ‘give’ can sometimes show the meaning of contempt with some verb forms.

35. *əy jon-gi mə-jum cət-pi-de*  
1 john-GEN 3-house go-GIVE-NEG  
‘I didn’t go to John’s house’ (contempt)

The above sentence expressed a sense of disrespect or dislike for John by me.

ii) Surprise at unexpectedness

The verb *sin* ‘copy’, ‘change’ can give the meaning of ‘surprise at unexpectedness’

36. *silə tombə-gi yum-da cəŋ-sin-kʰi*  
Seela Tomba-GEN house-LOC enter-COPY-PRF  
‘Seela has entered into Tomba’s house unexpectedly’

The above sentence explains that ‘Seela entered into Tomba’s house unexpectedly without informing him’. With the use of this *sin* in the vector position, the desired meaning of unexpected or surprise is involved.

iii) Regret/Undesirability

*tʰok* ‘out’, ‘exit’ can also give the meaning of ‘regret or undesirable situation of the event’ when use as a V2.

37. *əy-nə kəy hai-dok-kʰre*  
1SG-NOM what say-out-PRF  
‘What have I said?’ (Regret)

38. *əŋaŋ-du-nə əy-gi cak ca-t<sup>h</sup>ok-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
 child-DET-NOM 1SG-GEN rice take-OUT-PRF  
 ‘The child has eaten my rice’ (Undesirable)

Likewise, with the use of the verb *t<sup>h</sup>ok*, the desirable meaning of the event is acquired.

iv) Anger

The verb *t<sup>h</sup>ok* too is used for expressing anger as in sentence (39).

39. *sonija-nə miyam məmaŋ-də sao-dok-rək-i*  
 sonia-NOM people front-LOC anger-OUT-DEI-PRST  
 ‘Sonia shows anger in front of the people.’

v) Humility

The verb *pi* ‘give’ is use to convey the meaning of the act of humility.

40. *hui-du mə-nə mə-jum-də pu-bi-k<sup>h</sup>i*  
 dog-DET 3-NOM 3-house-LOC carry-GIVE-PST  
 ‘He carried the dog to his house’

vi) Respect

The verb *pi* ‘give’ can also denotes the meaning of respect in some cases as below:

41. *tamo si-də cət-pi-u*  
 brother this-loc go-give-com  
 ‘Brother please go this side.’ (Respect)

#### 5.5.4 Adverbial (Manner)

The following are the examples of the explicators that can be used in the category of adverbial (manner) as listed in Abbi and Gopalakrishnan (1991). The adverbial category marks the adverbial manner towards the action of the verb such as follows:

i) Done casually/carelessly

The verb *tʰok* ‘out’ carries the meaning of ‘carelessness’ when attached with the following verbs:

42. *tombə-nə tum-tʰok-i*  
tomba-NOM sleep-OUT-PRST  
‘Tomba sleeps carelessly’

43. *caobə-nə bulb tʰan-dok-i*  
chaoba-NOM bulb light-OUT-PRST  
‘Chaoba lights the bulb unnecessarily’

ii) Sudden/Abrupt

*tʰok* ‘out’ too carries the meaning of ‘suddenness’ when use with the action verbs.

44. *məhak cət-nə cət-nə lep-tʰok-kʰi*  
3SG.HON walk-ADV walk-ADV stop-OUT-PST  
‘He stopped suddenly while walking’

In case of dimensional state verbs, which are non-measurable, *tʰok* generally denotes an unnatural or unexpected process whereas *kʰət* denotes a natural process like growth.

45. *tombə noi-tʰok-i*  
tomba fat-OUT-PRF  
‘Tomba has suddenly become fat’

46. *tombə noi-kʰət-li*  
 tomba fat-DRIBBLE-PRF  
 ‘Tomba has gradually become fat’

In case of other state verbs of emission also, these two verbs show the corresponding distinction between sudden and gradual processes respectively.

47. *tomba-gi ənaba tʰunə pʰə-dok-kʰre*  
 Tomba-GEN sickness soon good- OUT-PRF  
 ‘Tomba has recovered suddenly’

48. *tomba-gi ənaba pʰə-gət-lək-li*  
 Tomba-GEN sickness good-out-FRM-PROG  
 ‘Tomba is recovering gradually’

### iii) Deliberate

The verb *sin* ‘copy’, ‘change’ provides ‘volitional meaning’ when they are attached to static verbs.

49. *əy-nə məkʰoi-gi mərək-tə kuinə pʰəm-jil-ləm-i*  
 1SG-NOM 3PL-GEN middle-LOC long sit-COPY-EVID-PRST  
 ‘I sit for a long time in between them’.

The above sentence (49), indicates that ‘I deliberately or intentionally sitting in between them for listening to their conversation or may be something else.’

### 5.5.5 Adverbial (Non-Manner)

The following are the examples of the explicators that can be used in the category of adverbial (non-manner) as listed in Abbi and Gopalakrishnan (1991). They are as follows:

i) Benefaction (self and others)

50. *rita-nə dona-gi tʰəbək-tu cət-pɪ-ri*  
Rita-NOM dona-ACC work-DET go-GIVE-PROG  
'Rita is going for Dona's work'

51. *əy-nə ima-gi cak tʰoŋ-bɪ-ri*  
1-NOM 1-mother-GEN rice cook- GIVE-PROG  
'I am cooking rice for my mother'

The verb *pɪ* 'give' when attached to the main verbs indicates that an action is performed for the sake of others. The resulting action may be beneficial to the recipient of the action. The verb *pɪ* 'give' undergo the grammaticalization process to form a benefactive marker when attached to an action verb.

The verb *pɪ* 'give' cannot be self-benefactive if the action is to be done by oneself. In case of self- benefaction, the action of benefiting is always inward i.e. the subject does something for himself. This goes against the semantic necessity/mandate that benefaction will always happen to the recipient of the action. Thus, the following sentence will be ungrammatical.

52. \**əy-nə əy-gi-də-mək jum seŋ-bɪ-ri*  
1SG-NOM 1SG-GEN-LOC-for house clean-GIVE-PROG  
'Cleaning house for myself.'

ii) Emphatic/Definite

*sin* 'copy', 'change' when attached with the process verbs somewhat gives the meaning of 'emphatic' or 'definiteness'.

53. *məhak-nə məmə-də pəysə pɪ-sin-kʰi*  
3SG.HON-NOM mother-LOC money give-COPY-PST  
'He gave money to his mother' (Definite)



54. *māhak-nə māmā-də pəysə pɪ-kʰi*  
 3SG.HON-NOM mother-LOC money give- PST  
 ‘He gave money to his mother’

In the sentence (53), with the use of the verb *sin*, the sentence expressed that the money has been definitely given by the boy to his mother. However, in sentence (54), it expressed the simple statement that the boy has given money to his mother. It is not sure that he has definitely given to his mother or not.

### 5.5.6 Additional Function of *tʰok*, *sin* and *tʰə*

The verb *tʰok* ‘out’ also provides the meaning of ‘doing something openly or publicly’ when used with dynamic verbs.

55. *priya-nə lāmbi-də kəp-tʰok-i*  
 priya-NOM road-LOC cry-OUT-PRST  
 ‘Priya cries in the road’ (Cry openly in front of people)

The verb *sin* ‘copy’ has the extended meaning of ‘intrusion’ or ‘joining some other persons or objects that are already involved in the event’.

56. *soma oja-nə pəra tak-iŋəy-də ŋaŋ-sin-li*  
 soma teacher-NOM lesson teach-SIM-LOC speak-COPY-PRST  
 ‘Soma is speaking while the teacher is teaching the lesson’

In contrast with the verb *tʰok* ‘out’, *sin* ‘copy’ provide the meaning of ‘doing something privately or in a particular place’.

57. *māhak-nə cəy-du upu-də ŋa-sin-li*  
 3SG.HON-NOM stick-ACC cupboard-LOC lean-COPY-PROG  
 ‘He is leaning the stick towards the cupboard’

The verb *tʰə* ‘down, has the effect of adding intensity to their meaning when attached with some state verbs.

58. *məhak tʰeŋ-tʰə-nə tum-mi*  
 3sg-HON late-DOWN-ADV sleep-PRST  
 ‘He sleeps late’ (Giving intensity to late)

The above sentence explains that with the use of the word *tʰə*, the desire meaning of giving intensity to late is achieved. The next section discusses about the four destructive verbs found in Meiteilon.

### 5.5.7 Destructive verbs *ʼkʰay, tʰət, tʰek, hətʼ*

These four verbs acts as destructive verbs when they are attached to the main verbs. The explanation of these are given below:

#### 5.5.7.1 Destruction *ʼkʰayʼ*

The verb *kʰay* 'cut', 'divide' when use in the V2 position of the compound verbs gives the meaning of an action done with the force or pressure. It provide multiple functions when use as vector verbs in the compound verb construction as ‘destruction’, ‘violation’, ‘separation’, ‘forceful’, ‘an action that make contextual changes’. They change the state of the object completely or partially. The allomorphs of *ʼkʰayʼ* are *kay* and *gay*. These can be illustrated from the following examples.

*ʼkʰayʼ* as an independent verb has the semantic meaning of the following:

59. *pot-tu kʰay-ro*  
 thing-DET divide-COM  
 ‘Divide the thing’

60. *həy-du kʰay-ro*  
 Fruit-DET cut-COM  
 ‘Cut the fruit’

But when 'k<sup>h</sup>ay' is used in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions, its semantic meaning has bleached due to the grammaticalization process. This time it gives the meaning of complete destruction of the object concerned. This is shown below:

61. *dozər nə ləybək tem-k<sup>h</sup>ay-ri*

Dozar-INST soil level-CUT-PROG

'Dozar is leveling the soil'

62. *ŋa-nə esiŋ loina nəy-k<sup>h</sup>ay-re*

Fish-NOM water all stir-CUT-PRF

'Fish has muddled all the water'

63. *huranbə-nə t<sup>h</sup>oŋ-du phek-kay-re*

thief-NOM door-DET pull-CUT-PRF

'The thief has pulled out the door'

*gay* and *kay* are the two allomorphs of the verb 'k<sup>h</sup>ay'. Other constructions formed with the verb 'k<sup>h</sup>ay' as V2 are

'*t<sup>h</sup>in-gay*' 'pierce forcefully', '*len-k<sup>h</sup>ay*' 'cut forcefully', '*cik-k<sup>h</sup>ay*' 'bite with pressure', '*t<sup>h</sup>eŋ-gay*' 'collide', '*cəp-k<sup>h</sup>ay*' 'crush', '*net-k<sup>h</sup>ay*' 'trample', '*ləy-k<sup>h</sup>ay*' 'twist forcefully', '*muk-k<sup>h</sup>ay*' 'bend forcefully', '*sai-gay*' 'crush vigorously with teeth', '*sat-kay-bə*' 'to bloom'

'k<sup>h</sup>ay' 'cut', 'divide' when grammaticalized means "violent action" which signifies an action that completely changes the integrity of an object. During the previous research, the author realized that the term 'total affect' used by Chelliah (1997: 205) doesn't cover all the concepts of a 'violent action'. Hence, the phrase 'violent action' has been used in place of 'total affect'. 'k<sup>h</sup>ay' when attached with another verb root loses its original meaning and affiliates a complete change in the state of the object concerned. When the action is performed willfully, the use of this marker signifies malicious or deadly intent on the part of the actor or agent.

64. *pulis-nə huranba-du p<sup>h</sup>u-gay-bə həw-rəm-me*  
 police-NOM thief-ACC beat-CUT-INF start-EVID-PRF  
 ‘The police have started to beat the thief badly.’

65. *nupa-du-nə emuŋ-gi pot-siŋ ləŋ-k<sup>h</sup>ay-rəm-i*  
 man-DET-NOM home-GEN thing-PL throw-CUT-EVID-PRST  
 ‘The man is throwing away the things of the house.’

Likewise, '*k<sup>h</sup>ay*' does not attach with the verbs of motion or emission verbs. It is somewhat like a frozen form. It cannot be attached to all the verbs unlike most of the verbs. It is attached to the state verbs'. The change of state verbs include externally caused change of state verbs and internally caused change of state verbs, such as 'destroy' and 'crack' respectively.

66. *p<sup>h</sup>əklaŋ-si soidənə ce-k<sup>h</sup>ay-rə-ni*  
 wall-DET certainly crack-CUT-PRF-COP  
 ‘The wall will certainly crack’ (someday).

67. *yum ədu t<sup>h</sup>u-gay-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
 house DET fast-CUT-PRF  
 ‘The house has been destroyed.’

With the use of '*k<sup>h</sup>ay*' in the V2 position shows an action that completely changes the integrity of an object. The verbal roots alone cannot produce the desired meanings of these compound verbs. When we separate the verbal element '*k<sup>h</sup>ay*' from the main verbs, the desired meaning is not conveyed in the constructions.

### 5.5.7.2 Destruction and Manner *t<sup>h</sup>ət*

*t<sup>h</sup>ət*' when use in the vector position of the compound verb construction, it has the meaning of the destruction of the object concerned as well as the manner of the destruction. *tət*, *dət* are the two allomorphs of *t<sup>h</sup>ət*. According to Chelliah (1997), *t<sup>h</sup>ət* is

considered as first level derivational suffixes with the meaning of partially effect to the verb attached to it.

68. *məhak-nə pambi-siŋ-du kək-tʰət-li*  
 3-HON-NOM plant-PL-DET cut-DISCONNECT-PRST  
 'He cuts the plants' (forcefully)

69. *əŋəŋ-nə ləy-du hek-tət-le*  
 child-NOM flower pluck-DISCONNECT-PRF  
 Child has plucked the flower.

70. *ləŋ-si tʰət-dət-lu*  
 thread-DEM break by pulling-DISCONNECT-COM  
 'Break this thread!'

*tʰət* denotes the destruction as well as the manner of destruction to the object associated with it. In the above sentences, it shows that 'he cuts the plants with extra force,' 'the child has plucked the flower with the unwillingness of the owner', 'to break the thread with extra pulling'. It partially shared its meaning while compounding by constructing destructive actions in order to forcefully convert the host with more destructive cause.

### 5.5.7.3 Manner of Destruction *tʰek'*

*tʰek'* as any other verbs has its own lexical meaning of 'to bend and break'. According to Chelliah (1997), *tʰek'* in the vector position signifies an action that disturbs the integrity of an object. It is consider as the manner of destruction that is being done by exerting pressure on the object or the thing associated with it.

*tʰek'* as an independent verb is shown below:

71. *wa-siŋ-du əmə məm tʰek u*  
 bamboo-PL-DET one by one break IMP

'Break the bamboos one by one'

'*tʰek*' when attached to second component of the compound verbs signifies the manner of action and gives the meaning of destruction to the object concern.

72. *tombi-nə pencil-du tʰu-dek-kʰre*  
tombi-NOM pencil-DET break-DES-PRF  
'Tombi has broken the pencil'

73. *rina-gi məkʰoŋ ləy-tʰek-kʰre*  
reena-GEN 3-leg twist-DES-PRF  
'Reena has twisted her leg'

Thus, with the use of the verb *tʰek*, the above sentences denotes an action that destroy the integrity of an object or thing that is 'the pencil loss its shape due to breaking it by Tombi' and 'Reena loss the normal condition of her leg as it gets twisted'. Therefore, it is consider as the manner of destruction that is being done by exerting pressure on the object or the thing associated with it.

#### 5.5.7.4 Destruction 'hət'

'*hət*' according Chelliah (1997), is use to make a killing at V and it signifies an action that is accomplished through exerting undue or intense physical or psychological influence over someone. She also argued that '*hət*' is derived from '*hat*' 'kill'. Consider the following examples:

74. *məpa-nə əŋaŋ-du law-hət-li*  
father-INST child-DET shout-DES-PRST  
'Father shout at the child'

75. *ləynəm-nə əy-bu sum-hət-le*  
flower smell-INST 1-ACC enchant-DES-PRF  
'Flower smell has enchanted me'

76. *əy həkcaŋ-si      ŋuŋsa-nə      ka-hət-le*  
 1 body-DET sun-INST burn-DES-PRF  
 'The sun has burnt my body'

77. *joni-nə      hui-du      nəy-hət-le*  
 johny-NOM dog-DET stir-DES-PRF  
 'Johnny has tortured the dog'

The previous researchers claims that the use of the verb *hət* changes the argument structure of the main verb (Nganthoibi, 2011). The above three sentences are all transitive verbs after the affixation of the verb '*hət*' to the main verbs. Otherwise, without '*hət*', '*law*' 'shout' and '*ka*' 'burn' are intransitive verbs except '*sum-hət*' 'echant' is a frozen form.

### 5.5.8 Inchoative '*həw*'

The verb '*həw*' 'start', 'grow' can be treated as an inchoative aspect marker when use in V2 position of the compound verb constructions. This marks the beginning of an inner event before the ending of another event.

78. *dolan-du      ka-dri-ŋəy-də      jeŋ-həw-ro*  
 building DET climb-NEG-SIM-LOC look-INCH-SOL  
 'Look the building before climbing it.'

79. *noŋ      ta-dri-ŋəy-də      cət-həw-ro*  
 rain fall-NEG-SIM-LOC go-INCH-SOL  
 'Go before raining'

'*həw*' can take the dimensional verbs which are measurable as well as non-measurable to provide the aspectual meaning of 'already become'. It can also take all verbs indicating five senses of perceptions, external shape verbs, the emission verbs, colour verbs as well as location verbs to provide the aspectual meaning of 'already become', 'almost'.

- *səŋ-həw-re*

long-START-PRF

‘Already become long’

80. *əŋaŋ-du məsəm yam səŋ-həw-re*

Child-DET 3-hair very long-START-PRF

‘The child’s hair has already become very long.’

- *noi-həw-re*

fat-START-PRF

‘Already become fat’

81. *əŋaŋ-du yam noi-həw-re*

Child-DET very fat-START-PRF

‘The child has already become very fat.’

- *k<sup>h</sup>a-həw-re*

bitter- START-PRF

‘Already become bitter’

82. *heŋaŋ-du loina k<sup>h</sup>a-həw-rə-bə-ni*

curry-DET all bitter-START-EPST-NOM-COP

‘The curry is already bitter’

- *laŋ-həw-re*

noise- START-PRF

‘Already become noisy’

83. *satra siŋ-du laŋ-həw-rə-bə-ni*

student-PL-DET noise START-EPST-NOM-COP

‘The students have already become very noisy’



- *cak-həw-re*

burn- START-PRF

‘Already started burning’

84. *jum-du məy cak-həw-re*

house- DET fire burn-START-PRF

‘The house has already started burning’

- *lap-həw-re*

far-START-PRF

‘Almost gone far’

85. *mə-hak yam lap-həw-re*

3SG.HON very far- START-PRF

‘He has almost gone so far’

- *sa-həw-re*

hot-START-PRF

‘Already become hot’

86. *dili yam sa-həw-re*

delhi very hot-START-PRF

‘Delhi has already become very hot’

Lastly, it can occur with modal and epistemic verbs to give the aspectual meaning of ‘start’ or ‘begin’.

- *ciŋnə-həw-bə*

doubtful- START-INF

‘To start doubting’

87. *nupi-du-nə nupə-du ciŋnə-həw-re*

woman-DET-NOM man-DET      doubtful- START-PRF

‘The woman has started doubting the man’

- *tʰəjə-həw-bə*

believe- START-INF

‘To start believing’

88. *əŋəŋ ədu priya-də tʰəjə-həw-rə-bə-ni*

child DET priya-LOC      believe- START-EPST-NOM-cop

‘The child has started believing to Priya.’

Thus, the above examples are the different verbs with which the verb ‘*həw*’ can occur it. It gives the ‘inchoative meaning’ as well as the aspectual meaning of ‘already become’ or ‘begin’. More examples of compound verbs constructions are discussed below:

- *ləy-ta-bə*

stay-fall-inf

‘to get settled’

89. *keni punsi ləy-ta-nə hiŋ-ŋi*

Keny life stay-fall-INST live-PRST

‘Keny is living a settled life’

- *maŋ-tak-pə*

loss-teach-INF

‘to devastate’, ‘to ruin’

90. *icaŋ-də tom-gi jum maŋ-tak-le*

flood-LOC tom-GEN house loss-teach-PRF

‘Flood has ruined Tom’s house’

- *p<sup>h</sup>a-pun-bə*

catch-bind-INF

'to arrest'

91. *polis-nə huranbə-du p<sup>h</sup>a-pun-ləm-i*

police-NOM thief-DET catch-bind- EVID-PRST

'Police arrest the thief'

- *warək-watem-bə*

control-judge-INF

'to advice', 'to guide'

92. *əhən-sij-nə əŋaŋ-sij-bu warək-watem-i*

elder-PL-NOM child-PL-ACC control-judge-PRST

'Elders advice the children'

The next section tells about the semantics and the morphology of the compound verb constructions how they are formed and what are the status of the verbs when they are formed.

## 5.6 Semantics and Morphology of the Compound Verb

There is almost a uniformity in every languages of the complex verbs where the formation of the V1 and V2 are possible. The two linguistic items come together to construct a single grammatical function in a language. The semantic and syntactic properties of these two linguistic items are grammatically shared with the natures of their functions in order to co-occur in a single linguistic environment. The V1 ie, the main verb or the polar verb semantically dominates the meaning of the whole complex verb form. In a compound verb, the V1 or the polar verb mostly occur in root form. It generally doesn't bear any inflectional morphology. The name 'polar' is given to it because it contains the core meaning of the complex verb form. In other word, the semantics of the compound verb is derived from the main verb or the polar verb. The

vector verb (V2) is semantically bleached as it has undergone the process of grammaticalization. It may also be said that the meaning of the second verb is de-lexicalized or bleached or fade away. That means its original meaning is not retained anymore after the combination of the two verbs. After the V2 loses its core meaning and attached to the polar verbs, the desired meaning of the compound can be produced in the clause. The semantic function of ‘explicator verb’ or V2 is quite important to construct compound verb in any language. In Meiteilon, both the polar and the explicator verbs are in bound form. Only the polar has lexical meaning that forms the semantic core or nucleus of the explicator, and the explicator loses partially or fully its core verbal meaning while constructing CV in a clause. As a whole, the meaning of explicator may be grouped into aspectual, adverbial and attitudinal types in most of the South Asian Languages. This is the reason why the explicator is said to play a crucial role in the clause.

According to Das (2006), the meaning of the compound verb is explained by telling that the V1 occurs in three different forms in the languages. A) It can be in the bare stem form, B) It can be with some uniform inflectional markers, C) It can be with a participle marker. While there is a morphological uniformity in the formation of V2. The V2 takes all the inflectional markers of the sentences. It can be tense, aspect, agreement, etc. But one important point is that the verbs sequences is a compound verbs is test by the negation test. As it is conceptualized as a single event, the verbs do not allow double negation of the two verbs.

There is a definite and distinct change of meaning of the compound verbs when the vector verb is changed even though the polar verb is same. The following examples illustrated the statement.

- *cao-t<sup>h</sup>ok-pə*  
big-EXIT-INF  
Pride/expand

93. *tina jam cao-t<sup>h</sup>ok-pə mi-ni*

teena      very big-EXIT-INF      person-COP  
'Teena is a very proud person'

94. *məhak-ki kərbar      cao-tʰok-le*  
3-HON-GEN business      big-EXIT-PRF  
'He has expanded his business'

- *cao-kʰət-pə*  
big-DRIBBLE-INF  
Develop

95. *dilli      cao-kʰət-pə      ləm-ni*  
delhi      big-DRIBBLE-INF place-COP  
'Delhi is a developed place'

- *cao-sin-bə*  
big-CHANGE-INF  
Advance

96. *pərikʰja      mətam      cao-sin-nə      tou-re*  
exam      time      big-CHANGE-INF      do-PRF  
'Exam has done in advance'

- *cao-tʰə-bə*  
big-DOWN-INF  
Lose

97. *məhak-ki kərbar      cao-tʰə-re*  
3-HON-GEN business      big-DOWN-PRF  
'He has lost in his business'

The semantic change in the meaning of this compound verbs is the fact that lends support to the core hypothesis of different degree of grammaticalization in different linguistic constructs where two or more linguistic elements gets combined to outsource all together a different pragmatic meaning.

### 5.7 Syntactic Conditions of Compound Verb

The study of syntactic conditions of compound verb is more applicable with the languages of ‘ergative-absolutive’ types or ‘ergative languages’. The study of syntactic conditions of CV may further realize the importance of showing grammatical agreement in a clause or CP by using ‘PNG’ as the structural devices. The major concern of the syntactic structure of a CV is the notion of forming  $\pm$ transitivity of V2 in CP. The V2 decides the  $\pm$ transitivity, theta role and number of valency of the whole complex predicate. Based on this, this explicator licenses the occurrence of ‘ergative case marker’ with the subject noun phrase or the external argument in most of the Indo-Aryan languages like Hindi and Urdu. For instance, if the explicator is transitive, the whole complex predicate becomes transitive, again, if the explicator is an intransitive, the whole complex predicate becomes intransitive. However, Meiteilon has no agreement system thus, the case of person, number and gender devices are hardly mattered. Meiteilon also has no ‘ergative-absolutive’ case in the structure of language while forming CP. Therefore, the conditions of  $\pm$ transitivity cannot be the only final issue. But the more important issue regarding the Meiteilon compound verbs may be to check how the second component of the verb functions as an ‘explicator’ to form a CP.

98. *ram dili-də ləy-ta-re*

ram delhi-LOC live-fall-PRF

‘Ram has settled in Delhi’

In sentence (98), there is an agent ‘ram’ and the location ‘Delhi’ that the action is occurring. The verb ‘*ləy*’ ‘live’ is a transitive verb that has two arguments and functions as a polar or main verb in the clause, while ‘*ta*’ ‘fall’ is also a transitive verb which need two arguments and functions as an explicator verb in the clause. When both verbs are

transitive in this case, there is no overt case mark with subject argument. However, for the case of internal argument both V1 and V2 take locative case marker ‘*də*’ in the clause. It means that this construction is the co-occurrences of two transitive verbs. Therefore, it is confirmed that there is possibility of occurring ‘transitive + transitive verbs’ in Meiteilon. But, since Meiteilon has no agreement system, there is no gender and other agreement feature is found in the occurrence.

### **5.8 Conjunct Verbs**

A conjunct verb is the construction in which one of the lexical items can be either a noun or an adjective and a light verb, which hosts the noun or adjective to form the Complex Predicate. The nouns in the conjunct verb constructions contribute to the event semantics and the light verb supplies additional meaning e.g. agentivity, completeness, or permission. In most of the languages, the light verbs are productive and are also known by the terms as ‘support verb’ or ‘conjunct verb’ constructions.

### **5.9 Features for Identifying Conjunct Verbs**

The following are the features for identifying whether the N+V construction are conjunct verb constructions:

- Morphologically, conjunct verbs contain a noun or an adjective, a host and a second verb, light verb.
- The noun is always attached to a verb serving the meaning of the main verb in the sentence. Hence, the verb alone cannot produce the desired meaning without the help of noun in the combination so as to retain its meaning as main verb.
- It is the second constituent of the conjunct verb that can take inflection.
- The nouns and the verbs in sequence cannot be separated by a coordinating conjunction. The nouns of conjunct verb don't allow coordination. However the conjoin of the entire N+V combination is possible.
- The first constituent i.e, the noun or an adjective mostly indicates the meaning of the whole conjunct verb.

- The internal nouns of the conjunct verb can not be questioned. Only N+V combination can be questioned.
- Likewise as compound verb constructions, the noun and verb sequences is checked by the negation test. Since, conjunct verbs are conceptualized as a single event, the nouns and verbs do not allow double negation.

## 5.10 Conjunct Verb Constructions in Meiteilon

Conjunct verbs serves as the combined syntactic function of both elements, and it is the compounding of a noun stem and a verb to yield a complex form that serves as the predicate of a clause. It contributes a large number of lexicon in Meiteilon. In conjunct verb constructions, the combination of noun+verb is more productive than the combination of adjective+verb. In the previous research done by scholar like (Premabati, 2008), the noun+verb constructions in Meiteilon can be classified as two groups from the functional point of view. They are (a) Noun dependent and (b) Noun independent.

### a) Noun Dependent + Verb

In the conjunct verb formed with this form, the noun is always dependent on the verb. The noun cannot occur as a free form elsewhere in a sentence. Hence, it is always attached to a verb, and they together serves as a main verb in a sentence. On the other hand, the verb itself cannot give the desired meaning without the combination of the noun. Consider the examples below:

#### i. ‘*tu*’ ‘fall’ (tu as independent verb)

99. *noŋ nuŋsit-nə u jam-nə tu-re*  
 rain wind-INST tree many-ADV fall-PRF  
 ‘Many trees fell in the storm’

#### ii. ‘*tora-tu*’ ‘devastate, fall in a mass.’ (tu as light verb)

100. *laycət əmə-də imuŋ-si tora-tu-re*  
 epidemic one-PREP family-DET mass-fall-PRF  
 ‘All the family members fell ill due to an epidemic’



The verb ‘*tu*’ ‘fall’ alone cannot give the desired meaning of ‘*tora-tu*’ which means ‘devastate or fall in a mass’. In this case, the meaning is not totally changed but the meaning is expanded, i.e., from ‘fall’ to ‘fall in a mass’ or ‘destroy or devastate.’

b) Noun Independent + Verb

In this type of construction, an independent noun form is attached to a verbal form to derive a new verb with different meaning. The noun and the verb before combining with each other can stand alone elsewhere in other sentences. It gives a different meaning when occur alone but when combines together, it gives a meaning that may be quite different, derived meaning or slightly changed or retained. In such construction, the noun is always attached to a verb serving the meaning of the main verb in the sentence. Hence, the verb alone cannot produce the desired meaning without the help of noun in the combination so as to retain its meaning as main verb. Consider the following examples for details.

iii. ‘*ja*’ ‘agree’ (*ja* as independent verb)

101. *əy nəŋ-nə hai-bə-du ja-re*  
 1 2-NOM say-INF-DET agree-PRF

I agree with you.

iv. *səruk-ja*

share-agree

‘participate, join, take part’

102. *bina program-də səruk-ja-gəni* (*ja* as light verb)

*bina program-LOC share-agree-NREAL*

‘Bina shall participate in the program’

Here, the noun ‘*səruk*’ ‘share’ when combined with the verb ‘*ja*’ ‘agree’, a new verb ‘*səruk-ja*’ is formed, where the meaning of ‘agree’ is not seen but altogether it means ‘participate’.

### 5.10.1 Noun + Verb Construction

The following are the lists of conjunct verb constructions form with a combination of noun+verb in Meiteilon. In the Noun + Verb construction, the noun is always attached to a verb serving the meaning of the main verb in the sentence. Hence, the verb alone cannot produce the desire meaning without the help of noun in the combination to retain its meaning as main verb.

- *k<sup>h</sup>oi-ray-bə*  
navel-noise-INF  
'to be excited'

103. *əy ηəsi jam k<sup>h</sup>oi-ray-ηi*  
1 today very navel-noise-PRST  
'I am very excited today'

In the above sentence, the noun '*k<sup>h</sup>oi*' 'navel' combine together with the verb *ray* 'noise' to give a totally different meaning ie, 'to be excited'. Both have gone through the process of grammaticalization that their original meaning is fade away.

- *səruk-t<sup>h</sup>uη-bə*  
share-get-INF  
'to get one's share'

104. *məmə-nə ləy-rək-pə heira-du mə-gi-su səruk-t<sup>h</sup>uη-ηe*  
mother-NOM buy-DEIC-INF fruits-DET 3-GEN-also share-get-PST  
'He also got the share of the fruits that his mother bought'

In this sentence, both the noun and verb does not loss their semantic meaning. Even when they both occur together, their semantic meaning is still intact.

- *cat<sup>h</sup>ok-ləy-bə*  
product-have-INF  
'to be productive'

105. *kumsi cəhi cat<sup>h</sup>ok-ləy*  
this year product-have  
'This year is productive'

In this word *cat<sup>h</sup>ok-ləy*, both the noun and the verb plays equal role in conveying the meaning of the conjunct verb.

- *cin-put<sup>h</sup>ə-bə*  
mouth-fell-INF  
'unable to keep one's word'

106. *məhak cin-put<sup>h</sup>ə-bə mi-ni*  
3-HON mouth-fell-INF person-COP  
'He is the person who cannot keep his word'

Here too, in *cin-put<sup>h</sup>ə-bə*, the noun *cin* 'mouth' carries the main meaning of the word even though the verb *put<sup>h</sup>ə* 'fell' is equally important in acquiring the desire expression of 'the one who is unable to keep his word'.

- *hu-cen-bə*  
poison-consist-INF  
'ill things'

107. *hu-cen-bə*                      *wa*      *ŋaŋ-nu*  
poison-consist-INF      word      speak-NEG  
'Don't speak ill words'

In this word *hu-cen-bə*, the word *hu* ‘poison’ and *cen* ‘consist’, it is known that poison is a bad thing and here in this construction it is use together literally to mean the ill or bad things. *hu-cen-bə* altogether means ‘bad/ill things’.

- *ik<sup>h</sup>ou-laŋ-bə*

throat-noise-INF

'be thirsty', 'anxious'

108.    *əy-gi ik<sup>h</sup>ou-laŋ-bə*            *kok-hən-lu*  
           1-GEN throat-noise-INF        clear-CAUS-IMP  
           'Quence my thirst'

- *it<sup>h</sup>il-p<sup>h</sup>ao-bə*

instigation-feel-INF

'to feel instigation'

109.    *məŋon-də k<sup>h</sup>aŋ-ŋiŋ-bə-gi*        *it<sup>h</sup>il-p<sup>h</sup>ao-i*  
           3-DEIC-LOC know-wish-INF-GEN instigation-feel-PRST  
           'He feels the instigation of knowing the things'

- *it<sup>h</sup>il-pi-bə*

instigation-give-INF

'to influence'

110.    *əy-gi t<sup>h</sup>əbək-tə*        *əy-gi ima-nə*        *it<sup>h</sup>il-pi*  
           1-GEN work-LOC        1-GEN mother-INST instigation-give  
           'My work is influenced by my mother'

- *t<sup>h</sup>awai-maŋ-bə*

life-loss-INF

'to lose one's life'

111. *toni polis ki k<sup>h</sup>ut-tə t<sup>h</sup>əwai-maŋ-le*  
 toni police-GEN hand-LOC life-loss-PRF  
 'Toni has lost his life in the hands of police'

- *t<sup>h</sup>əwai-t<sup>h</sup>a-bə*  
 life-let go-INF  
 'to sacrifice one's life'

112. *məhak-nə ləybək-ki-dəmak t<sup>h</sup>əwai-t<sup>h</sup>a-i*  
 3-HON-NOM soil-GEN-for life-let go-PRST  
 'He sacrifices his life for the country'

- *wa-kət-pə*  
 word-offer-INF  
 'complain'

113. *nupi-du-nə t<sup>h</sup>oudok-tu-gi mətaŋ ləykai-də wa-kət-pə cət-li*  
 woman-DET-NOM incident-DET-GEN about locality-LOC word-offer-INF go-PST  
 'The woman went to the locality to complain about the incident'

- *wa-rou-pə*  
 word-take- INF  
 'to mind or to get angry'

114. *tombə əy-gi wahəy əmə-də wa-rou-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
 tomba 1-GEN word 1-LOC word-take-PRF  
 'Tomba has got angry with my single word'

- *wa-ŋak-pə*

word-guard-INF

'to keep one's word'

115. *dina wa-nak-pə mi-ni*

Dina word-guard-INF person-COP

'Dina is a person who keeps one's word'

- *wa-rep-pə*

word-stand-INF

'to decide'

116. *rita luhoy-bə-gi wa-lep-pe*

rita marry-INF-GEN word-stand-PRF

'Rita's marriage has decided'

- *wa-tem-bə*

word-level-INF

'to settle a dispute'

117. *polis-nə imuŋ əni-gi k<sup>h</sup>ətnə-bə-du wa-tem-nəy*

Police-NOM family two-GEN fight-INF-DET word-level-ASP

'Police has settled the fight between the two families'

- *was<sup>h</sup>ək-ŋak-bə*

promise-guard-INF

'to keep promise'

118. *məhak-nə əy-gi was<sup>h</sup>ək-ŋak-i*

3-HON-NOM 1-GEN promise-guard-PRST

'He keeps my promise'

- *wa-jen-bə*  
word-distribute-INF  
'to judge'

119. *tombə-gi kes cort-nə wa-jen-kʰre*  
tomba-GEN case court-INST word-distribute-PRF  
'The court has judged Tomba's case'

In most of the examples discussed above, the noun serves the meaning of the main verb. Even though it serves the main meaning, the desire meaning of the word cannot be fulfilled without the help of the light verbs. Thus, both of them plays important role in the constructions. The proof, which shows that the noun and the verb sequences in the above sentences are conjunct verbs, comes from the negation test. Since, conjunct verbs are conceptualized as a single event, they do not allow double negation. This can be illustrated as below:

120. *\*əy ηəsi jam kʰoi-de-raŋ-de-ŋi*  
1 today very navel-NEG-noise-NEG-PRST

121. *\*kumsi cəhi catʰok-te-ləy-de*  
this year product-NEG-have-NEG

The above two sentences does not allow double negation since they marked a single event. As well as noun cannot take a negative marker like the verb. Thus, the above two sentences are ungrammatical as well as they are not conjunct verbs.

### 5.10.2 Adjective + Verb Constructions

Like the noun and the verb combinations, there are conjunct verbs in Meiteilon form with the combination of an adjective and a verb. The adjective too serves the main meaning of the whole conjunct verbs. Consider the examples below:

- *mipai-həw-bə*  
scare-start-INF  
'feeling scared'

122. *imə pao-du tabə-də mipai-həw-re*  
1-mother news-DET scare-start-PRF  
'The news has scared my mother'

- *p<sup>h</sup>əjə-t<sup>h</sup>ok-pə*  
beautiful-out-INF  
'to glow'

123. *məhak kucu jam p<sup>h</sup>əjə-t<sup>h</sup>ok-le*  
3-HON skin very beautiful-out-PRF  
'Her skin has glow up'

- *wakai-ŋaŋ-bə*  
broken word-speak-INF  
'Speaking ill word'

124. *nəhak wakai-ŋaŋ-nu*  
2-HON broken word-speak-COM  
'You don't speak ill word'

- *wat<sup>h</sup>i-ŋaŋ-bə*  
ugly word-speak-INF  
'talking useless words'

125. *wat<sup>h</sup>i-ŋaŋ-bə fətəbə t<sup>h</sup>əbək-ni*  
ugly word-speak-INF bad thing-COP  
'Talking useless word is a bad thing'



- *wajao-ŋaŋ-bə*  
big word-speak-INF  
'to brag'

126. *məhak wajao-ŋaŋ-bə mi-ni*  
3-HON big word-speak-INF person-COP  
'He is a bragger'

- *caŋ-ta-bə*  
quantity-fall-INF  
'shame'

127. *toni mijam maŋ-də caŋ-ta-k<sup>hi</sup>*  
tony people front-LOC quantity-fall-PST  
'Tony fell ashamed in front of the people'

- *caŋ-jeŋ-bə*  
quantity-look-INF  
'to test'

128. *məpa-nə məcanupi-du caŋ-jeŋ tou-k<sup>hi</sup>*  
3-father-NOM 3-daughter quantity-look do-PST  
'Father tested his daughter'

- *ləyton-seŋ-bə*  
tongue-clear-INF  
'to speak fluently'

129. *əŋaŋ-si wa ŋaŋbə-də ləyton-seŋ-ŋi*  
child-DEM word speak-ADV tongue clear-PRST

‘This child is fluent in speaking’

In the above examples, both the adjectives and the verbs lose their original meaning and started conveying a new meaning when they both combine together. Thus, this is due to the process of grammaticalization that the two elements have gone through. Their individual meaning fades away or bleaches and a new meaning is formed.

### **5.11 The Grammaticalized Form of Noun or Adjective and Verb and Their Functions**

The nominal host mostly carries the integral part of the conjunct verb constructions. A light verb can take a host that could be a noun or an adjective in conjunct verb constructions. In Meiteilon, the sequences of Noun + Verb and Adjective + Verb conjuncts are quite productive. The Noun + Verb sequences may be further divided into two types from the functional point of view i.e. as Independent Noun + Verb and Dependent Noun + Verb sequences. The functions of dependent noun + verb conjuncts are more complex than the independent noun + verb conjuncts. It cannot occur independently or freely elsewhere in any sentences. The noun is always attached to a verb serving the meaning of the main or light verb. Hence, the verb itself cannot produce the desired meaning without the help of a noun in the construction to retain its meaning as a main verb.

After the agreement between the noun and the verb (N+V), the whole conjunct verb has been partially grammaticalized. The light verbs show the agreement with its nominal host. The light verb has a function more like a lexical verb than an auxiliary, and the noun, having fulfilled the semantic need to be part of the verb phrase to make the prediction possible. It also has to regain some of its nominal quality as it has to function as one of the arguments of the predicate and show agreement with the verb.

### **5.12 Semantics and Morphology of the Conjunct Verb**

It is said that a conjunct verb is a combination of a noun and a verb, but not all the combinations of noun and verb can be considered as conjunct verb constructions. In

other words, there are instances where the co-occurrence of a noun and a verb in a sequence of N+V cannot be called a ‘conjunct verb construction’ (Das, 2009). Consider the following instances:

130. *sima bazar cət-pə ja-re*  
 Seema market go-NMZ agree-PST  
 'Seema agreed to go to market'

The above sentence (130) may also be considered as a conjunct verb constructions as it has the sequence of N+V. However, this example cannot consider as the part of either complex predicate or conjunct verb construction because, the predicate contains just a simple verb of 'agree' as the argument-structure entails the verb *ja-bə* 'to agree' is well satisfied. So, it should not be considered as the complex predicate.

In South Asian Languages, there are many expressions, which cannot be expressed using only a simple verb form. There are also such words in Meiteilon, which cannot express the desire meaning until and unless both noun and the verb combined together. Examples are *k<sup>h</sup>oi-raŋ-bə* 'to be excited', *səruk-ja-bə* 'to participate', *səruk-t<sup>h</sup>uŋ-bə* 'to get one's share', *cat<sup>h</sup>ok-ləy-bə* 'productive', *k<sup>h</sup>ou-raŋ-bə* 'to be thirsty', etc. Das (2009) explains that these nouns and verbs came together to fulfilled the pattern-gap of human communication by employing a unique strategy of grammaticalization. The strategy goes in the way the noun or the verb when combined together to form a new word, one or the other elements gets semantically bleached. That means their original meaning is completely or partially lose. After this process, they are able to fill the gap of expressing the desire expressions which human communication wants.

131. *əy ŋəsi jam k<sup>h</sup>oi-raŋ-i*  
 1 today very navel-noise-PRST  
 'I am very excited today'
132. *məhak compititon-də səruk-ja-i*  
 3-HON competition-LOC share-agree-PRST

'He participates in the competition'

Thus, in the above two examples, both the noun and the verb do not show their original meaning after they combine together. Rather, it gives a new meaning to express the desire expressions of 'excited' and 'participate'. If one of this noun or the verb is missing, the desired expression cannot be fulfilled or achieved.

### **5.13 Syntactic Conditions of Conjunct Verb**

In the conjunct verb construction, there is a syntactic and semantic bonding between the two elements. The verb with a noun or an adjective are combine for fulfilling requirement of the co-occurrence with other categories of word such as 'light verb' to form conjunct verb. Thus, in the agreement pattern of conjunct verbs with a noun i.e. as 'host' and a 'verb' i.e. as 'light verb' is an interesting area of study in CP. The 'nominal element', that is functioned as a 'host' has two different functions in conjunct verb (Das, 2006). The function of 'host' is gone through the complete process of grammaticalization and behaves like an integral part of the complex predicate in the first case. In this case, it also determines theta role, the number of valency and postposition associated with other clause. However, it does not measure the agreement to the verb (Das, 2006). Whereas in other case, the nominal 'host' is functioned like an independent lexeme in the clause and controls the agreement of the clause in the absence of any unmarked nominals. In this case, the light verb shows agreement with this independent nominal, where only other arguments are overtly case marked (Das, 2006). The light verbs in CP may have four possibilities of  $\pm$  transitivity, according to this light verb  $\pm$  transitivity the number arguments of the CP is determined. In case of ditransitive, the ditransitive verb may have syntactic load of a nominative/ergative, accusative and dative case to discharge the sentence. The dative case may enable to replace by a locative case as the verb has got into a semantic bound in close association with a nominal host (Das, 2006). Das further discusses that most of the nominals in conjunct verb are assigned or parsed with a nominative or ergative case. Hence, the accusative and absolutive case relations are enabling only to occur with the nominal hosts and become an eligible candidate to for the verb to agree with in the clause. In Meiteilon, as the language does not have agreement with

the syntactic conditions of conjunct verb in Meiteilon can be studied in the areas of argument, case systems and other grammatical features. In Meiteilon, the syntactic condition of noun and verb co-occurrence can be examined through the following example.

133. *diya-nə vote-ki cak-k<sup>h</sup>aŋ-i*  
diya-NOM election-GEN rice-offer-ASP  
'Diya offers feast for election'

In sentence (133), it has an agent 'diya', another nominal 'vote'-'election' and its accomplished action 'cak'-'rice' in the clause. The light verb '*k<sup>h</sup>aŋ*'-'offer' is a ditransitive verb which has two internal arguments and one external argument with the subject in the clause. In this co-occurrences of an adjectival element and verbal element, the first component of the co-occurrence 'cak' 'rice' functions as a 'nominal host' and second component of the co-occurrence '*k<sup>h</sup>aŋ*' 'offer' functions as a 'light verb' in CP. The verb '*k<sup>h</sup>aŋ*'-'offer' alone can't license another third nominal 'vote'-'election', unless the light verb becomes an element of single linguistic unit with the nominal 'cak'-'rice' in the clause. It is because the nominal host controls the integral part of the argument in CP, while the light verb just grammatically functions as verbal phrase.

#### 5.14 Summary

The whole chapter gives the detailed analysis of how the compound and the conjunct verbs are formed in Meiteilon. It discusses the vector verb or the light verb of the compound and conjunct verbs evolved out of their earlier lexical forms. This language uses the same lexemes for representing the simple verb forms, directional and the aspectual meaning as well as the other extended usages. The vector verbs in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions give the horizontal and the vertical movement of the main verb, aspectual meaning, benefaction, causation, adverbial, attitudinal, etc. The verbs are completely grammaticalized as there is no lexical meaning left in them in most of the compound verb constructions. These vector verbs can occur with most of the verbs in Meiteilon, but it changes its meaning and expression with the verbs they are attach to. The chapter also discuss the features for identifying both compound and the conjunct verb constructions. In conjunct verb constructions, the light

verb and the noun or the adjectives are combined together. The noun or an adjective mostly conveys the main meaning of the conjunct verbs. Without the noun or the verb, the desire expression is not fulfill. These kinds of construction came together to fill the gap of human communication by employing the grammaticalization process. The noun or the verb when combined together to form a new word, one or the other elements gets semantically bleached. That means their original meaning is completely or partially lose. After this process, they are able to fill the gap of expressing the desire expressions which human communication wants.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Conclusion**

The study carried out through the thesis is to find out the structure of Complex Verb Phrase (VP) in Meiteilon and its morpho-syntax interface. It shows the process of grammaticalization that the vector verb, the nominal host or the adjectival host have undergone while coming together to form complex verb constructions in Meiteilon. It also discusses how the grammatical forms evolved out of their earlier lexical forms. The items are presented individually with their multi-functional meanings. These types of constructions are formed to fill the gap for expressing certain human expressions. The vector verb, the nominal host, or the adjectival host alone cannot convey the desired meaning or word until and unless they are combined with one another.

The introductory chapter discusses the introduction of Manipur, i.e. its geographical location, environments, people, languages and the script. A brief grammatical sketch of the language is also mention in this chapter such as a phonological system including consonants, vowels, tones, a morphological system such as nouns and the nominal morphology, gender, number, pronoun, adjectives, cases, verb morphology as well as syntax. Secondly, the chapter deals with the brief introduction of complex verbs. Examples of the formation of the complex verbs form in the case of Meiteilon are also discussed.

The second chapter has some of the existing literature on the research available in this area of study, and it explains how the methodology is applied to the investigation. It also shows the division of the chapters in the thesis. The third chapter deals with the comparison between the Simple VP and the Complex VP in Meiteilon. It shows how the Simple VP and the Complex VP are formed and classifies in the language. It further studies the occurrence of the vector verb (V2) in the Complex verb phrase, and its possibility and impossibility in the agreement patterns of  $\pm$ transitivity as well as the number of valency of a clause.

The fourth chapter starts with a brief introduction of the grammaticalization process. It explains its various stages and mechanisms. It further examines the case of

lexical items that seems to have a degree of grammaticalization in the formation of Complex VP in Meiteilon. The lexical items are discussed individually with their grammaticalized meanings. It also tries and explores whether this lexical item can be used independently with their lexical meaning elsewhere.

The fifth chapter deals with the study of the compound and conjunct verbs in Meiteilon. It shows its forms and functions of the Complex VP in Meiteilon. The chapter is sub-categorized into the given sub-headings such as - the definition of the compound verb, the features for identifying compound verbs, the compound verb (CV) constructions in Meiteilon, the grammaticalized forms of the different vector verbs. It also examines the aspectual information they encode when they occur in different predicates such as static, dynamic, and predicates of other eventualities. It shows the multifunctional qualities of the vector verbs carrying multiple meanings when they occur in the V2 position of the compound verb constructions. And, lastly, it talks about the semantics, the syntactic and the morphology of the compound verb constructions in Meiteilon. The chapter again reproduces a brief introduction about the conjunct verb constructions. It is followed by the section discussing the features for identifying conjunct verbs constructions. It further shows the conjunct verb constructions in Meiteilon as well as the grammaticalized form of the two conjunct particles. There are two major categories in conjunct verb such as co-occurrence of noun and verb conjunct or adjective and verb conjunct. The Noun + Verb sequences are further divided into two from the functional point of view, i.e. as Noun Independent + Verb, and Noun Dependent + Verb sequences. In Noun Independent + Verb sequence, the noun that stands alone as an independent element co-occurrence with a verb whereas in the Noun Dependent + Verb sequence, the noun that cannot stand alone elsewhere in the sentence co-occurrence with a verb in the construction of conjunct verb. In the co-occurrence of adjective and verb conjunct constructions, functionally, it shows how the light verb takes a host, which is an adjective. This chapter reveals the sequences like Noun + Verb conjunct are quite productive in Meiteilon than Adjective + Verb conjunct. Lastly, it discusses the semantics, the syntactic and the morphology conditions of the Conjunct Verb in Meiteilon.



The sixth chapter is the concluding part of the study. It shows the overall analysis of the research. A detailed bibliography follows the chapter. The study of Complex VP covers Simple VP, Complex VP, Conjunct Verb Construction, Compound Verb Construction, etc. The VP is found in different forms such as verb-verb, noun-verb/adjective-verb, verb-adjective, verb-noun and verb-verb which are often referred to as the compound verb, conjunct verb and serial verb in various languages. In Meiteilon, while constructing a complex predicate (CP) a set of Verb + Verb compound (V1+V2), Noun + Verb (N+V) or Adjective + Verb (Adj+V) are found. In the construction of Verb + Verb Compound, the first component of the verb 'V1' is polar while the second component of the verb 'V2' is a vector or light verb. The semantic and morphological function of V2 is quite important to construct the compound verb in Meiteilon. This second component of the compound is semantically delexicalized and bears all grammatical inflections such as tense, mood or aspect of the sentence. The main concern of the syntactic structure is the notion of forming  $\pm$ transitivity of V2 in complex predicate. This explicator (V2) decides the  $\pm$ transitivity and number of valency of the whole complex predicate. The  $\pm$ transitivity of the vector verb plays a crucial role in licensing the ergative case with the subject noun phrase. Meiteilon does not have the case agreement structure while forming the CP. But, it explains how the second component of the verb syntactically functions as an 'explicator' to form a CP. The verbs when they are combined with another elements their semantic meanings are grammaticalized as there is no original meaning left in them in most of the constructions. These vector verbs can occur with most of the verbs in Meiteilon, but it changes its meaning and expression with the verbs they are attached to.

The V1, i.e., the main verb or the polar verb semantically dominate the meaning of the whole complex verb form. In a compound verb, the V1 or the polar verb mostly occur in root form. It generally doesn't bear any inflectional morphology. The name 'polar' is given to it because it contains the core meaning of the complex verb form. In another word, the semantics of the compound verb is derived from the main verb or the polar verb. The vector verb (V2) is semantically bleached as it has undergone the process of grammaticalization. It may also be said that the meaning of the second verb is delexicalized or bleached or fade away. That means its original meaning is not retained

anymore after the combination of the two verbs. After the V2, loses its core meaning and attached to the polar verbs, the desired meaning of the compound can be achieved in the clause. The semantic function of ‘explicator verb’ or V2 is quite important to construct a compound verb in any language. In Meiteilon, both the polar and the explicator verbs are in bound form. Only the polar has lexical meaning that forms the semantic core or nucleus of the explicator, and the explicator loses partially or fully its core verbal meaning while constructing a CV in a clause. As a whole, the meaning of explicator may be grouped into aspectual, adverbial and attitudinal types in most of the South Asian Languages. That is why the explicator is said to play a crucial role in the clause.

In the conjunct verb constructions, the light verb and the noun or the adjectives are combined. The ‘nominal ‘host’ has two different functions in conjunct verb constructions. The function of ‘host’ gone through the complete grammaticalization process and behaves like an integral part of the complex predicate. In this case, it also determines the theta role, the number of valency and postposition associated with another clause. The noun or an adjective mostly conveys the core meaning of the whole construction. Without the noun or the verb, the desire expression is not achieved. These kinds of construction came up to fill the gap in human communication by employing the grammaticalization process. The noun or the verb when combined to form a new word, one or the other elements gets semantically bleached. That means their original meaning is completely or partially lost. After this process, they will altogether give different pragmatic meanings that can fill the gap of expressing the desire expressions which human communication wants.

Not every construction that has two or more verbs in sequence qualifies as a compound verb construction or has the properties of the compound verbs. There are certain features to differentiate compound verbs from other similar constructions. Compound verbs contain one and only one major or polar verb, V1 and a second verb, V2. The second constituent or the V2, although homophonous with an independent verb, does not appear with its primary lexical meaning, i.e., their semantic meaning is bleached. It is often the second constituent, in a compound verb that can take inflection. The verbs in sequence cannot be separated by a coordinating conjunction. The second constituent is related in some way with its corresponding full verb. Phonologically, a compound verb is usually

recognized as having the main primary stress on the second element. Another important point to prove that the verb sequences are compound verbs is by the negation test. Since compound verbs are conceptualized as a single event; the verbs do not allow double negation.

Like compound verb constructions, there are features for identifying whether the N+V construction is conjunct verb constructions: Morphologically, conjunct verbs contain a noun or an adjective, a host and a second verb, light verb. The noun is always attached to a verb serving the meaning of the main verb in the sentence. Hence, the verb alone cannot produce the desired meaning without the help of a noun in the combination to retain its meaning as the main verb. It is the second constituent of the conjunct verb that can take inflection. A coordinating conjunction can not separate the nouns and the verbs in sequence. The nouns of the conjunct verb don't allow coordination. However, the conjoining of the entire N+V combination is possible. The first constituent, i.e., the noun or an adjective mostly indicates the meaning of the whole conjunct verb. The internal nouns of the conjunct verb cannot be questioned. Only N+V combination can be questioned. Likewise, as compound verb constructions, the noun and verb sequences are checked by the negation test. Since conjunct verbs are conceptualized as a single event, the nouns and verbs do not allow double negation.

The objectives of the present study to identify the structure of Complex VP in Meiteilon is clearly shown. In the analysis, it has been observed that there are two types of simple verb based on their syllables namely, monosyllabic and polysyllabic. Polysyllabic verbal roots are the roots that display more than one syllable but have only one morpheme in the sense that they cannot be further divided into smaller units. *noluk* 'respect', *həŋgoi* 'hate', *əuray* 'read', *sijinnə* 'use', *iroi* 'swim', *t<sup>h</sup>əjə* 'trust', etc. are some examples of simple polysyllabic verbal roots. The derived verbal roots which are termed as complex verbs in the analysis are also found in abundance in the language. The chapter has analysed these complex verbs which are formed by suffixation of reciprocal *-nə*, directional suffixes *-sin*, *-thok*, *-khət*, *-thə*, etc. Verbs like *sannə-* 'play', *kannə-* 'be useful', *oisin-* 'healing up, be properly cooked', *ceksin-* 'be careful', *həudok-* 'introduce', *pak<sup>h</sup>ət* - 'be nervous', *want<sup>h</sup>ə-* 'faint' etc. are some examples of Complex verbs found in the language.

The second objectives to study the form and function of verbs and other linguistic units in Complex VP is also discussed thoroughly. The VP is found in different forms such as verb-verb, noun-verb/adjective-verb, verb-adjective, verb-noun and verb-verb which are often referred as a compound verb, conjunct verb and serial verb in various languages. In Meiteilon, a set of Verb + Verb (V1+V2), Noun + Verb (N+V) or Adjective + Verb (Adj+V) for constructing a complex predicate (CP) are found. The first component of the verb 'V1' is a polar verb that semantically dominates the meaning of the whole complex verb form. It mostly occurs in root form. It generally doesn't bear any inflectional morphology. It is called 'polar' because it contains the core meaning of the complex verb form. In another word, the semantics of the compound verb is derived from the main verb or the polar verb while the second component of the verb 'V2' is a vector or light verb. The semantic and morphological function of V2 is quite important to construct the compound verb in Meiteilon. This second component of the compound is semantically delexicalized and bears all grammatical inflections such as tense, mood or aspect of the sentence. The main concern of the syntactic structure of V2 is that it decides the  $\pm$ transitivity and number of valency of the whole complex predicate. The  $\pm$ transitivity of the vector verb plays a crucial role in licensing the ergative case with the subject noun phrase.

The vector verb (V2) is semantically bleached as it has undergone the process of grammaticalization. It may also be said that the meaning of the second verb is delexicalized or bleached or fade away. That means its original meaning is not retained anymore after the combination of the two verbs. After the V2, loses its core meaning and attached to the polar verbs, the desired meaning of the compound can be produced in the clause. The semantic function of 'explicator verb' or V2 is quite important to construct a compound verb in any language. In Meiteilon, both the polar and the explicator verbs are in bound form. Only the polar has lexical meaning that forms the semantic core or nucleus of the explicator, and the explicator loses partially or fully its core verbal meaning while constructing a CV in a clause.

### Is Vector Verb (V2) semantically delexicalized in Meiteilon in every instance?

Yes, the vector verb (V2) is semantically delexicalized in every instance of the data I have taken. Verbs like ‘t<sup>h</sup>ok’, ‘k<sup>h</sup>ət’, ‘t<sup>h</sup>ə’, ‘sin’ etc. seem to be highly grammaticalized and used as the directional markers, aspectual meanings, attitudinal, adverbial etc. when they co-occur with another verb in the V2 position of the compound verbs. These vector verbs give different grammaticalized meanings according to the verb they are attached. Consider the following examples to prove the argument.

In the following sentences (1), (2), (3), (4), (7), (11) and (12), the lexical meaning of *t<sup>h</sup>ok* no longer exists after the combination. Rather, it encoded the different sense of ‘suddenness’, ‘carelessness’, ‘regret or undesirable situation of the event’, ‘doing something completely or exhaustively’, ‘outward direction of the V1’ and ‘sudden change of the situation’ respectively when it is grammaticalized and occurred in the V2 position of the compound verbs.

The verb *t<sup>h</sup>ok* ‘out’ carries the meaning of ‘suddenness’ when co-occurred with the action verbs.

1. *minə cətnə cətnə lep-t<sup>h</sup>ok-k<sup>h</sup>i*  
meena walk-ADV walk-ADV stop-OUT-PST  
‘Meena stopped suddenly while walking.’

The verb *t<sup>h</sup>ok* ‘out’ carries the meaning of ‘carelessness’.

2. *tombə-nə tum-t<sup>h</sup>ok-i*  
tomba-NOM sleep-OUT-PRST  
‘Tomba sleeps carelessly.’

*t<sup>h</sup>ok* can also give the meaning of ‘regret or undesirable situation of the event’ when using as V2.

3. *əy-nə kəy hai-dok-k<sup>h</sup>re*  
1SG-NOM what say-out-PRF

‘What have I said?’ (Regret)

It gives the temporal sense of ‘doing something completely or exhaustively’ when used with non-directional dynamic verbs.

4. *ma-nə cak ca-tʰok-le*  
3-NOM rice eat-FINISH-PRF  
‘He has eaten rice’

Similarly, with the verbs *sin*, *kʰət* and *tʰə*, they provide the sense of completion, ‘inward direction’, ‘begin to’ or ‘to start’, ‘upward direction’, ‘downward direction’ respectively, etc.

The verb *sin* when attached to some state verbs, provides the meaning of ‘completion’.

5. *ləy-du kəŋ-sil-le*  
Flower-DET dry-COMplete-PRF  
‘The flower has completely become dry’

The verb *kʰət* when used after a non-directional verb, it gives the temporal meaning of ‘begin to’ or ‘to start’.

6. *ma-nə cak ca-kʰət-li*  
3-NOM rice eat-BEGIN-PRST  
‘He starts to eat rice’

The verb *tʰok* here indicates the sudden change of the situation while *kʰət* indicates the inception of the situation described by the main verb.

7. *tombə noi-tʰok-i*  
tomba fat-OUT-PRF  
‘Tomba has suddenly become fat’

8. *tombə noi-kʰət-li*  
 tomba fat-UP-PRF  
 ‘Tomba has gradually become fat’

These items, *kʰət*, *tʰə*, *tʰok*, *sin* often encode deictic information when grammaticalized and when they are in the second component of the compound verbs. Information like movement of upward, downward, outward and inward are often indicated via the use of these lexemes when they are attached with the dynamic verbs, which are unmarked for directionality for correctly specifying the direction of the main verb.

9. *əy-nə mə-bu ciŋ-kʰət-li*  
 1-NOM 3-ACC pull-DRIBBLE-PRST  
 ‘I pull him up’

10. *rina-nə əy-bu in-kʰət-li*  
 reena-NOM 1-ACC push- DRIBBLE-PRST  
 ‘Reena push me up’

11. *əy-nə mə-bu ciŋ-tʰok-i*  
 1-NOM 3-ACC pull-OUT-PRST  
 ‘I pull him out’

12. *rina-nə əy-bu in-tʰok-i*  
 reena-NOM 1-ACC push- OUT-PRST  
 ‘Reena push me out’

13. *əy-nə mə-bu ciŋ-tʰə-i*  
 1-NOM 3-ACC pull-DOWN-PRST  
 ‘I pull him down’

14. *rina-nə əy-bu in-tʰə-i*

reena-NOM 1-ACC push- DOWN-PRST  
'Reena push me down'

15. əy-nə mə-bu ciŋ-*sin*-li  
1-NOM 3-ACC pull-COPY-PRST  
'I pull him inside'

16. rina-nə əy-bu in-*sin*-i  
reena-NOM 1-ACC push- COPY-PRST  
'Reena push me in'

Although '*sin*' has the meaning of 'copy' and 'change', here it is entirely different and is used to encode the meaning of the inward direction of the main verb. That means these lexemes are employed as adverbs of location. These come in pairs of opposite. The verbs namely '*sin*', '*tʰok*', '*tʰə*' and '*kʰət*', when attached with dynamic verbs, provide the horizontal and the vertical directions of the main verb.

Thus, from the above, it can be confirmed that the verbs when they occur as the Vector Verb (V2) in the compound verb constructions, they are semantically delexicalized that means its original meaning is not retained anymore after the combination of the two verbs. It is bleached or faded away. After the V2 lost its core meaning and attached to the polar verbs, the desired meaning of the compound can be produced in the clause.

**If not, can the vector verb (V2) in Meiteilon also occur independently with their some remnant lexical meaning when they are not fully grammaticalized?**

Even though the vector verb (V2) in Meiteilon are delexicalized when they are grammaticalized, they can occur independently with their original lexical meanings in a sentence. Layering is a process involved here in which new layers are added to old layers to broaden the functional domain. When this process happens, the older layers are not necessarily discarded but may remain to coexist with and interact with the newer layers.



In Hindi,

ke upər > pər > pe [both *pər* and *pe* coexist together in Hindi to mean *up/on top of*]

Consider the following examples for proving the above statement.

The verb *tʰok* when occurs as an independent verb in a sentence; it goes like this.

17. *məpən tʰok-u*

out exit-COM

‘Go Out!’

The verb *sin* has the meaning of ‘copy’ and ‘change’, and it occurs as an independent main verb goes like the sentence (18).

18. *əŋəŋ-gi furit sil-lu*

baby-GEN dress change-COM

‘Change the baby’s dress!’

19. *əy pəra sil-li*

1 note copy-PROG

‘I am copying the note’

The verb *kʰət* which means ‘fight’, ‘wave’, ‘lewd’, ‘lascivious’, too can occur independently in a sentence.

20. *rina jam kʰət-pə nupi-ni*

rina very lascivious-INF girl-COP

‘Reena is a very lascivious girl.’

21. *məhes-nə sorok waŋma-dəgi kʰut kʰət-lək-i*

mahesh-NOM road across-ABL hand wave-DEIC-PRST

‘Mahesh waves hand from across the road.’

Thus, the above sentences from (17 to 21) show that the verbs can occur independently like any other grammatical categories in a sentence. Even though, these verbs encode different meanings when they are grammaticalized. When they are main verb, they occur independently. However, in V2 position, they are semantically delexicalized in Meiteilon in every instance.

The study of Complex VP in Meiteilon is very significant since in-depth research has not been done in the language so far. It is a fascinating study, which explores some features of Meiteilon Compound Verbs and Conjunct Verbs along with their semantic, syntactic and morphological properties of the lexical items. Researchers have studied many on Manipur Verbs and the Manipuri Grammars, but for this topic, there are no detail studies taken up. However, the present research focuses on the different structures of the construction of Complex Predicate emphasizing on the Compound Verb and the Conjunct Verb constructions. Many area in the study of Complex Predicates are still to be explored. It highlights the need for further research in this area in Meiteilon.

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