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- **Paper Title:** Nominalization, Relativization and Genitivization in Selected Palaungic Languages
- **Sub-field:** Comparative Grammar
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Abstract

The same marker of nominalization and relativization, sometimes including genitivization, has been noted across many Tibeto-Burman languages.¹ In mainland Southeast Asia, little has been known about the grammatical patterns of the Palaungic branch of the Mon-Khmer language family.² This branch appears to share similar grammaticalized functions of the nominalizing particle as many Tibeto-Burman languages.

This paper, as part of ongoing research, discusses the relationship of nominalization to other strategies of sentence information structuring (relativization and genitivization) among three Palaungic languages –Plang (Pang Pung dialect), Wa (Kengtung dialect), and Palaung (Ruching dialect).

A typology of the functions of nominalization within and between the three languages is discussed along with constructional restrictions. A proto-Palaungic grammatical typology is suggested by the constructional configuration of nominalization.

References

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¹ Matisoff's 1972 paper on Lahu initiated tracking this phenomenon in Asia. DeLancey 1986, 1989, followed that up with observations about Lhasa Tibetan, Newari and Tibeto-Burman in general. Noonan 1997 on Chantyal, a Bodic type language in the Tibeto-Burman family language of Nepal. Hopple 2003 mapped the underlying structures of nominalization in Burmese.

² Most of the scholarly research on Palaungic has been phonetics, phonology or historical reconstruction. Some of the research on aspects of Palaungic grammar has been done by Shorto 1960, 1963 for Palaung and Wa, by Milne 1921 for Rumai Palaung, by Janzen 1976 for Pale Palaung.

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