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Two Complementizers? Analysis of Amis *u* and *a*

Amis complementation has been studied by several scholars, such as Wu (1995) and Liu (2003). *a*, which often appears in Amis complement clauses, is often ignored (e.g. Wu, 1995) or analyzed as the infinitive complementizer, grammaticalized from the conjunctive “and” (Liu, 2003; Tsai, 2007). However, example (1) clearly contradicts the hypothesis of Liu (2003) and Tsai (2007), which relates *a* to infiniteness. In addition, another element, *u*, which often appears in positions similar to those of *a*, is neglected in previous literature. This abstract discusses the distribution of *u* and *a*.

I suggest that *a* and *u* interact with temporal, aspectual, and mood (TAM) information of embedded clauses, which have rarely (if ever) been considered in previous literature. Examples (1) and (3) show that *a* cannot introduce a complement clause whose event is measured as either a past or past perfective, whereas *u* can.

I find that *u* is complementarily distributed with *a*. (4) shows that *u* can occur in the sentence-initial position. This observation is not found in *a*, which seems to introduce complement clauses only. (5) also shows that *a* can introduce infinite complement clauses, whereas *u* is incapable of doing so. Although *u* seems to appear in sentences whose TAM information is opposite to *a*, some exceptions do exist. Interestingly, even though *a* and *u* mark the same TAM information (see examples (6) & (7)), their occurrences are still complementarily distributed and conditioned by certain restrictions about which I am uncertain.

Where *u* and *a* can occur puts them into the paradoxical situation of being complementizers. *a* can occur in the direct perception construction where CP and IP are reduced (e.g. Felser, 1998; van Gelderen, 2004). In addition, *u* and *a* can complementarily appear in the ECM construction in which CP is reduced so that one argument of the embedded clause can receive the case from the matrix verb. The ECM (3) and direct perception (8) examples suggest *u* and *a* are probably not complementizers.

In this study, I open another door to look at Amis *a*, from perspectives of its interaction with TAM in complement clauses. I also compare *a* with *u*, showing that these two elements are often distributed complementarily and suggesting that their complementizer status is still questionable.

Appendix:

- (1) Ma-fana' kaku a/*u ta-tayni ϕ -ci aki anudafak
 Neut-know 1sg.Nom Red-come Nom-Pm Aki tomorrow
 "I know that Aki will come tomorrow."
- (2) pa-suwal ϕ -ci maluta ci liting-an u pa-ka-so'elin*(-ay tu) ci yis-an
 Cau-say Nom-Pm Maluta Pm Liting-Dat Cau-KA-real-Fac Asp Pm Jesus-Dat
 "Maluta persuaded Liting to believe in God." (ps. Liting believes in God now.)
- (3) Pa-ka-soe'lin kami cingraan u/*a ma-luwud-ay k-u cacikayen
 Cau-KA-real 1pl.Nom 3sg.Dat UV-win-Fac Nom-Cm contest
 "We believe him to have won the contest."
- (4) u/*a ma-mi-pa-hanhan ϕ -ci aki a mi-tilid
 Red-AV-Cau-rest Nom-Pm Aki AV-study
 "Aki is going to drop off school."
- (5) Mi-lalang kaku ci aki-an *u/a mi-palu ci kacaw-an
 AV-dissuade 1sg.Nom Pm Aki-Dat AV-beat Pm Kacaw-Dat
 "I dissuaded Aki from beating Panay"
- (6) Ma-fana' kaku u/*a ma-mi-palu ϕ -ci aki ci panay-an
 Neut-know 1sg.Nom Red-AV-beat Nom-Pm Aki Pm Panay-Dat
 "I know that Aki is going to beat Panay."
- (7) Ma-fana' kaku a/*u ma-ma-palu n-i aki ϕ -ci panay
 Neut-know 1sg.Nom Red-UV-beat Gen-Pm Aki Nom-Pm Panay
 "I know that Aki will be beaten by Panay."
- (8) Ma-araw aku ϕ -ci aki a mi-cemud i la-luma
 UV-see 1sg.Gen Nom-Pm Aki AV-in Prep inside-room
 "I saw Aki walking inside the room."

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