

Chapter 4

Linguistic Marking of Causality

4.1. Introduction

To ask the question *why* and to search for an answer is a universal human need. Every language has means to express and mark causality and, quite naturally, causality is an indispensable structural element of a narrative text. Readers do not only want to know "*What happens next?*" but also "*Why does it happen?*"¹

Causality refers to one of the many possible semantic aspects found in the relationship between two events, one being the cause and the other one being the result or the effect.² Causality is related to chronology since the cause takes place before the effect. In the case of Thai, it can therefore be assumed that the lack of morphological or otherwise obligatory time-marking has an impact on the linguistic representation of causality.

There are different means to represent causality linguistically. One of them is, for instance, the employment of a causative verb like the English *to cause* or *to make* as in the following examples:

¹ The concept of chronology underlies the first question while the concept of causality underlies the second. E.M. Forster calls "[...] a narrative of events arranged in their time-sequence" a *story* and "[...] a narrative of events [with] the emphasis falling on causality" a *plot* and concludes: "If it is in a story we say: 'And then?' If it is in a plot we ask: 'Why?' That is the fundamental difference between these two aspects of the novel." (FORSTER, 1976: 87)

² Other possible semantic aspects of the relationship between clauses are for instance *time, condition, concession or contrast*.

The rain caused the streets to flood. or

That story made me laugh.

Causative verbs present the cause-effect relationship in their chronological order. Additional linguistic marking of causality is not only unnecessary but ungrammatical:

**The rain caused the streets to flood because of the rain. or*

**The story made me laugh because of the story.*

Since the use of causative verbs does not allow any additional marking of causality and this chapter only deals with *specific* marking of causality, I will not analyse causative structures in Thai in detail. I will, however, briefly mention causative structures towards the end of this chapter and also include them in the appendix.

Western languages also have causal prepositions (for instance **out of** as in *He killed him out of jealousy.*) . Since I could not find any equivalent in Thai, I will not deal with this way of expressing causality.

The most common way to mark causality is by means of conjunctions and conjuncts. Conjunctions are words that coordinate clauses. In English, there are two types of conjunctions, *coordinating* conjunctions such as **and** or **but** and *subordinating* conjunctions such as **because**, **since** or **so that**. (GREENBAUM & QUIRK, 1993: 262-263, 288-290) Since the distinction between coordinating and subordinating clauses is of no relevance for my analysis, I will just use the term conjunction. Conjuncts are adverbials. According to their grammatical function, they are divided into four groups: *adjuncts*, *subjuncts*, *disjuncts* and *conjuncts*. (GREENBAUM & QUIRK, 1993: 162) Conjuncts are those adverbials that "serve to conjoin two utterances or parts of an utterance, and they do so by expressing at the same time the semantic relationship [...] obtaining between them." (GREENBAUM & QUIRK, 1993: 184) On a syntactic level, conjunctions and conjuncts serve as coordinators between parts of a

sentence or a text passage. On a semantic level, they indicate causality. They may do so by either marking the *cause*, the *result* or the *purpose*.

The most obviously causal conjunction in English is **because** as for instance in:

He didn't buy the ring because it was too expensive.

The conjunction **because** here stands at the beginning of the clause that contains a cause. It is therefore called a **causal clause**. But causality is also inherent in clauses that are connected by a conjunct like **so** or a conjunction like **in order to** as the following two examples clearly show:

1. It rained heavily **so** the streets flooded.
2. He left the house early **in order to** avoid the morning traffic jam.

In both cases, the causal character becomes obvious if one asks the question *why*. *Why were the streets flooded?* and *Why did he leave the house early?* In the first sentence, the conjunct **so** stands at the beginning of a result. Traditional Western grammars therefore call this kind of clause a **result clause**. In the second sentence, the conjunction **in order to** stands at the beginning of a *consciously intended* result. This kind of clause is therefore called a **purpose clause**.

The difference between causal clauses and result clauses is a difference of perspective or emphasis. **Because** marks the cause, **so** marks the result. The difference between result clauses and purpose clauses is of a semantic nature. The conjunction **in order to** marks the *explicitly intended result*. Causal, result and purpose clauses all represent causality but since they are marked by different sets of conjunctions or conjuncts, I will examine them separately.³

³ It is possible to make more specific distinctions, for instance between reason and cause, purpose and target, motive and purpose. (GREENBAUM & QUIRK, 1993: 198, 322) In my opinion, these are purely interpretative distinctions. The term "cause" for instance refers to

Marking of causality is not obligatory. Sometimes, especially in spoken language, clauses are put together without a conjunction. This kind of coordination of clauses is called **asyndetic**. The following sentence is an example of asyndetic causal coordination:

"Sorry, I can't come for dinner, I have a bad stomach."

It is obvious that the bad stomach is the cause for cancelling the dinner. There is no need to mark the second sentence as the cause. However, I will not examine unmarked causality systematically because, although the causal aspect will usually be understood correctly, the absence of linguistic marking can leave the semantic value of the relationship between two clauses open to interpretation as in the following example (from "Si Phaendin"):

แม่เอาผ้าเช็ดหน้าตาให้ (25)
mother / take / piece of cloth / wipe / tears / for someone

This sentence can be translated as a purpose clause:

*Mother took a piece of cloth **in order to** wipe [his] tears away.*

or simply as the chronological succession of two actions:

*Mother took a piece of cloth **and** wiped [his] tears.*

In order to examine the linguistic marking of causality, it was necessary to confine the area from which to choose the data. To take the whole novel would have been too much since there are thousands of cases where causality is marked one way or another. I therefore decided to limit my examination to just one chapter. I randomly

something involuntary (*The streets flooded because it was raining heavily.*), while "reason" refers to a conscious decision (*He saw "Evita" because he adores Madonna.*) Still, these are not different *categories* with different sets of conjuncts or conjunctions.

opted for the first chapter of the novel (pp: 13-61) - but it could have been any other chapter as well. A list of all the sentences or passages that contain a clear marking of cause, result or purpose in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin" can be found in the appendix. For the sake of completeness, I also added a list of all sentences or passages that contain causative auxiliary verbs.

In the following paragraphs, I will examine the linguistic marking of causality first in causal clauses, then in result clauses and finally in purpose clauses. Causal clauses and purpose clauses are marked by the conjunctions เพราะ (because) and เพื่อ (in order to) respectively. Result clauses are marked by resultive conjuncts, mostly ก็ (so) and จึง (so, consequently). They function as transitional words within the flow of discourse. If a clause is unmarked (asyndetic coordination) or if the marking is not clear as in the case of the resultive conjunct ก็ (so), I just give examples of their various occurrences. I don't, however, include a complete list of all cases of asyndetic coordination or semantically ambiguous coordination in the appendix. Finally, I will give examples for the expression of causality by means of causative auxiliary verbs. Since the expression of causality by means of causative auxiliary verbs does not require any specific marking of causality I have not analyzed them in detail.

4.2. Causal Clauses

4.2.1. The Conjunction เพราะ (because)

The only conjunction in Thai to mark a cause is เพราะ (because). All other conjunctions or conjuncts mark the result or the purpose. The only other ways of conveying causality would be by using the causative verb ทำให้ (to cause) which does not need specific marking of causality, or by leaving the cause - effect relationship completely unmarked. The analysis of the marking of causal clauses will, therefore, deal with the conjunction เพราะ (because) only.

4.2.1.1. General Characteristics of the Use of เพราะ (because)

The most obvious way for a native speaker of English to express a causal relationship, is through a subordinate clause introduced by a subordinating conjunction such as *because*. The Thai equivalent is เพราะ. Usually, the causal clause introduced by เพราะ (*because*) is placed in second position behind the main clause.⁴ On first sight, this conventional way of expressing a causal relationship would appear to conflict with the chronological order as the cause logically and temporally takes place before the effect while the conjunction *because* puts it behind the. In Western languages, such a reversal of the chronological order is usually no problem since differences in time or aspect will be expressed by the morphological devices of the main verb:

*The traffic **was** bad because it **had rained** heavily.*

1. position (main clause): *The traffic **was** bad*

2. position (subordinate clause): *because it **had rained** heavily.*

The use of the tenses in this example makes it clear that the rain has stopped but that the traffic is still bad because of the heavy rain. Since Thai does not express tense or aspect through different forms of the verb, this temporal differentiation cannot be kept in a translation of this sentence into Thai:

รถติด เพราะฝนตกหนัก

(*The traffic [was] bad because rain fall heavily*)

This Thai sentence can mean both:

a): *The traffic was bad because it had rained heavily.* or

b): *The traffic was bad because it was raining heavily.*

⁴ It is, however, not necessary to do so, as the following example shows:

เพราะอาการของเจ้าคุณพ่อดีขึ้นจนเห็นได้ชัด พloy ก็เริ่มคิดจะกลับบ้าน (623)

(*Because Chao Khun Father's state of health was obviously getting better, Ploi thought about returning home.*)

Because of the absence of obligatory time-marking, it is difficult to use the conjunction เพราะ in second position when exact temporal differentiation between cause and effect is required. But this is usually no real problem. Indeed, the exact location of events in the past seems to be irrelevant for categorizing them as causes for something happening in the present. In all the เพราะ-clauses I looked at, I found that เพราะ generally refers either to qualifications or to events immediately preceding the action of the main clause, taking place simultaneously with it or, rarely, being anticipated as happening in the future. (Events of the future cannot qualify as causes, but the anticipation of future events may be the cause of certain actions or decisions.) In all four instances, exact time-marking of the cause is not necessary in order to understand the sentences correctly. เพราะ-clauses do not cover actions and events that are on a time level not directly related to the narrator's point of reference. Thus, the problem of a possible violation of the chronological order is not a real one. It also means that the marking of causes by the conjunction เพราะ (*because*) may be awkward and unidiomatic where exact temporal marking of past events or actions is necessary. At least none of the เพราะ-clauses in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin" refers to an event in the distant past. In the few cases where the เพราะ-clauses refer to a previous event, the time of the event appears to be of accidental rather than essential nature. For all these reasons, เพราะ-clauses may not always be considered causal clauses in the strict sense of a cause-effect relationship.

Sentences 1 (a) to 4 (a) are examples of the four categories of เพราะ-clauses:

- 1 (a) qualification: ผมยกกระเป๋าไม่ไหว เพราะหนักเกินไป
(I can't lift the bag because it is too heavy.)

The adjective *heavy* qualifies the noun *bag*.

- 2 (a) simultaneous event: รถติด เพราะฝนตกหนัก
(The traffic was bad because it was raining heavily.)

Rain and bad traffic coincide.

- 3 (a) immediately preceding event: ผมอิ่ม เพราะกินข้าวมาแล้ว
(I am full because I have already eaten.)

The act of eating naturally precedes the feeling of being full.

- 4 (a) future: นักศึกษารีบอ่านหนังสือ เพราะว่าพรุ่งนี้จะสอบแล้ว
(The students are in a hurry to study their textbooks
because they will take the test tomorrow.)

The anticipation of future problems in case they do not prepare properly for the examination causes the students to be diligent.

4.2.1.2. The Use of เพราะ (because) in the First Chapter of "Si Phaendin"

In order to get an idea of how the different functions of เพราะ are distributed, I have made a list of all เพราะ-clauses in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin". Altogether, the conjunction เพราะ is used 52 times. Since the novel has 49 chapters, this amounts to roughly 2,500 appearances of the conjunction เพราะ in the whole novel.

4.2.1.2.1. เพราะ-clauses Referring to a Qualification

34 of these เพราะ-clauses refer to a qualification as for instance the first เพราะ-clause of the novel:

ดูผู้คนริมตลิ่งและในเรือที่ผ่านมาด้วยความตื่นตาตื่นใจอย่างบอกไม่ถูก เพราะครั้งนั้นเป็นครั้งแรกที่พลอยได้ออกจากบ้านมาไกลถึงเพียงนี้ และเมื่อก่อนที่จะออกจากบ้าน แม้ก็บอกแล้วว่า ไปแล้วเป็นไปเลย เป็นตายชาตินี้จะไม่กลับมาเหยียบหัวกระไดบ้านนี้อีก (13)

(She looked at the people on the banks and on the passing ships with eyes wide open from excitement and a heart full of astonishment she had never

known before, **because** it was the first time that Ploi had been so far away from her home. And before they left, mother had said that this was forever and they would die without ever setting their feet again on the entrance stairs of that house.)

The conjunction เพราะ gives a clear reason for Ploi's excitement by qualifying the event of leaving the house in two ways, firstly as a first-time event (ครั้งนั้นเป็นครั้งแรก) and secondly as a singular event (เป็นตายชาตินี้จะไม่กลับมาเหยียบหัวกระไดบ้านนี้อีก).

The เพราะ-clause is also often used to ascribe qualifications to a person, in the following example with regard to age and certain attractive behavioral patterns. Qualification thus means characterization:

นอกจากพ่อเพิ่มพี่ร่วมท้อง พลอยคุ้นเคยกับคุณชายเป็นพิเศษ **เพราะ**อายุรุ่นราวคราวเดียวกัน และคุณชายเป็นเด็กชอบเล่นป่ายปีนไปที่ต่าง ๆ (16)
(Beside her elder brother Perm from the same mother, Ploi was especially close to Khun Choey **because** they were of the same age and Khun Choey loved to roam and climb around in all kinds of places.)

4.2.1.2.2. เพราะ-clauses Referring to Simultaneous Action

Altogether eight เพราะ-clauses refer to events taking place simultaneously with the action of the main clause as in the following two examples:

พลอยนิ่งเงียบอีก **เพราะ**ถึงจะตอบก็ไม่ว่าจะตอบอย่างไรถูก (28)

(Ploi remained stiff and silent **because** when it was her turn to answer she didn't know what to say.)

ทางฝาด้านใกล้ประตู พลอยมองไปเห็นก็ใจเต้น **เพราะ**เข้าวันนั้นพลอยเพิ่งรู้ว่ายังไม่ได้ออกข้าว ท้องกำลังจะเริ่มร้องเมื่เดินทางมาถึงที่หมาย

สิ่งที่เตือนให้พลอยรู้ว่าไม่ได้กินข้าว ก็คือชั้นเดียว ๆ ที่วางอยู่ชิดฝาตู้ด้านข้างประตู บนชั้นนั้นมีขวดโหลวางเรียงรายอยู่เป็นแถว ในขวดโหลนั้นใส่ข้าวตังกะทิบ้าง น้ำพริกเผาบ้าง หมูหยอง [...]

(43/44)

*(Ploi looked at the wall next to the door and her heart jumped with excitement **because** at this time in the morning she just realized that she hadn't eaten yet. Her stomach was just about to roar when they reached the destination of their journey. What reminded Ploi that she had not eaten yet was the lower shelf leaning against the wall next to the door. On this shelf a dozen of bottles were lined up containing rice and essence of coconut, smoked chili paste, shredded dry pork, [...].)*

4.2.1.2.3. เพราะ-clauses Referring to Previous Action

Only six of the 52 เพราะ-clauses actually refer to previous action. They are sometimes marked by an adverbial indicator of the past such as เคย (*ever, already before*) as in the following example:

พอได้ยินแม่บอกว่าจะเอาไปถวายเสด็จพลอยก็เข้าใจทันที เพราะพลอยเคยได้ยินเรื่องเสด็จของแม่จากปากแม่อยู่เสมอ

(20)

*(When she heard her mother saying that she would be presented to Sadech [Her Royal Highness], Ploi understood immediately what it meant **because** she had already often heard about Sadech from her mother.)*

Only in the following passage, time-marking is exact. The เพราะ-clause refers to the first time Ploi had entered the palace. The event took place immediately before the situation described in the main clause.

ผ่านทิมโฆนซึ่งพลอยต้องสะดุ้งกลัวอีกครั้ง เพราะก้าวแรกที่ย่างเข้ามาในวังก็รู้จักอำนาจโฆนเสียแล้ว

(37)

(They passed a group of threshold guardians and Ploi was scared again **because** when she had entered the [palace] for the first time she had already experienced the power of the threshold guardians.)

It is conspicuous that in both cases despite the indications of the past, the temporal differentiation is of no relevance. It is not important to know since when Ploi has heard about Sadech nor when she had first experienced the power of the threshold guards. It is only important to know that in both cases, Ploi is "prepared". Obviously, the marking of previous action in เพราะ-clauses is not important. Since not a single เพราะ-clause in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin" is used to identify a cause in the distant past, it can only be assumed that เพราะ-clauses are generally not used in cases where the temporal aspect of a cause-effect relationship is of any great importance. Thus one important aspect of the marking of a cause seems to be absent from the semantic properties of the conjunction เพราะ, at least on a pragmatic level.

4.2.1.2.4. เพราะ-clauses Referring to Future Action

Finally, four of the เพราะ-clauses refer to action that is anticipated to be happening in the future. In three of the four cases, this is emphasized by the marker of future, จะ as in the following example:

[...] แม่เคยบอกว่า ถ้าพลอยโตขึ้นอีกสักหน่อยก็จะส่งตัวไปถวาย แม่เคย
ขออนุญาตเจ้าคุณพ่อแล้วในเรื่องนี้ ท่านก็ไม่ขัดข้อง [...] แต่แล้วท่านก็ขอ
ผิดว่าอย่าเพิ่งส่งไป เพราะท่านไม่มีลูกเล็ก ๆ จะเล่นด้วย (21)

(Already long ago mother had told her that when Ploi would be older she would be sent to the palace. Mother had asked for Chao Khun Father's permission in this case. Father had nothing against it. [...] but at that time he had asked for a postponement. "Don't send her right away **because** then there is no little one for me to play with."

In one case, the anticipation of future events is expressed through a combination of the conjunction เพราะ and the conjunction ถ้า (if, when):

พ่อเพิ่ม [...] ดูสวามีรักดีคุณชิตมากกว่าพี่น้องอื่นๆ แต่พ่อเพิ่มก็ต้องแอบไป
มาหาสู่มิให้แม่เห็น เพราะถ้าแม่รู้ว่าพ่อเพิ่มไปคบกับคุณชิตที่ไรเป็นเมีย
เอาทุกที (17)

(Perm [...] was closer to Khun Chit than the other brothers and sisters but he had to go and see Khun Chit secretly and be careful that his mother wouldn't know about it because if she would learn about his meetings with Chit, she would beat him each and every time.)

4.2.1.2.5. เพราะ-Clauses Referring to Indirect Causes

Not every เพราะ-clause is as obvious as the examples given so far. There are some instances where the clause introduced by เพราะ does not directly relate to the preceding main clause as for instance in the following passage:

ถ้าใครไปถามพลอยในขณะนั้นว่าใครเป็นบิดา พลอยก็จะตอบว่าชื่อพระยา
พิพิธ ฯ มารดาชื่อแฉ่ม เป็นเอกภรรยาของพระยาพิพิธ ฯ แต่มิใช่ในฐานะ
คุณหญิง เพราะคุณหญิงท่านชื่อเอี่ยมเป็นคนอัมพวา [...] (15)

(If anyone at that time would have asked her who her father was, Ploi would answer "Phraya Phiphit, and my mother's name is Chaem." She was Phraya Phiphit's Major Wife but not in the official position of Khunying, because the name of the Khunying was Euam who was from Amphawa.)

It obviously makes no sense to say that Ploi's mother does not have the official position of Khunying because the name of the Khunying is Euam. What is meant here is that Ploi's mother does not have the official position of Khunying because this position has already been taken by a woman with the name Euam. Such a causal clause could be

called indirect. It *implies* the cause but does not state it directly. The following sentence is an example for an indirect causal clause in English:

*She never got to wear new clothes as a child **because** she was the youngest of five sisters.*

Of course, being the youngest of five sisters is not the direct reason for not wearing new clothes. The real reason is that the clothes worn by the older sisters were still good enough or that the parents could not afford to buy new clothes for every daughter.

There are more indirect causal clauses introduced by เพราะ in the first chapter, for instance:

ทางฝาด้านใกล้ประตู พลอยมองไปเห็นก็ใจเต้น เพราะเช้าวันนั้นพลอย
เพิ่งรู้ว่ายังไม่ได้กินข้าว ท้องกำลังจะเริ่มร้องเมื่อเดินทางมาถึงที่หมาย
สิ่งที่เตือนให้พลอยรู้ว่าไม่ได้กินข้าว ก็คือชั้นเตี้ย ๆ ที่วางอยู่ชิดฝาด้าน
ข้างประตู บนชั้นนั้นมีขวดโหลวางเรียงรายอยู่เป็นแถว ในขวดโหลนั้นใส่
ข้าวตังกะทิบ้าง น้ำพริกเผาบ้าง หมูหยอง [...]

(43/44)

*(Ploi looked at the wall next to the door and her heart jumped with excitement **because** at this time in the morning she just realized that she hadn't eaten yet. Her stomach was just about to roar when they reached the destination of their journey. What reminded Ploi that she had not eaten yet was the lower shelf leaning against the wall next to the door. On this shelf a dozen of bottles were lined up containing rice and essence of coconut, smoked chili paste, shredded dry pork, [...].)*

The reader clearly understands why Ploi is excited: she is hungry and she sees food. This causal connection, however, is not made clear by the เพราะ-clause but by the following co-text.

The use of the เพราะ-*clause* in the following passage is unusual because it refers to the same matter as the main clause

พลอยจำได้ว่าคุณชิตหายไปหลายวัน แต่พอกลับมาเกิดเรื่องใหญ่
เพราะเจ้าคุณพ่อท่านมัดมือเขียนที่หน้าตึก ทั้งคุณชิตและทนาย (17)

(Ploi remembered that Khun Chit had once disappeared for several days.

But when he came back, a big affair ensued **because** Chao Khun Father bound his and his buddy's hands and beat them in front of the house.)

Actually, the "big affair" and the beating are one and the same thing. The big affair ensued because Khun Chit had disappeared and not because he was bound and beaten. Nevertheless, the passage will not be misunderstood. It is, however, like the use of เพราะ-*clauses* to refer to indirect causes, another indication that เพราะ-*clauses* do not need to be used in the strict sense of a cause-effect relationship.

4.2.2. Temporal Conjunctions Used in a Causal Sense

As with the English conjunction *since*, temporal conjunctions can occasionally take on a causal meaning. In these cases, the causal clause appears in the first position and the chronological order is retained. I found two examples in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin", the first one being เมื่อ (usually: *when*, in the following passage translated as *since*) which is classified by Haas (1964: 410) as a conjunction:

"เมื่อท่านไม่เลี้ยงแม่แล้ว แม่ก็จะไปตามยถากรรม [...]" (21)

("Since he is not going to support me anymore, I will do what I have to do.")

In English, the chronological order would not be obligatory in such a sentence since the morphological time-marking helps to avoid confusion as to what happens when. The sentence above could easily be rephrased into:

I will do what I have to do since he is not going to support me anymore.

I found no example of the possibility of such a switching of the purpose clause with the main clause in Thai. This indicates a certain inflexibility of the syntactical order of the language.

Apart from the sentence above, I found one more example of an indicator of relative time used in a causal sense in the first chapter of "Si Phandin", แล้ว ... ก็ (usually: *and then*, but here again best translated as *since*):

"ใครให้" แม่ถาม แต่แล้วแม่ก็เดาออกพูดต่อไปทันทีว่า "คุณเชยหรือ (25)
 ("Who gave it to you?" asked her mother, but **since** she could guess it, she went on saying immediately: "Khun Choey, right?")

4.2.3. Asyndetic Causal Clauses

Asyndetic causal clauses are rare since the omission of any linguistic marking of the semantic relationship between clauses automatically leads to the assumption that there is just an ordinary succession of events or a result relationship. However, I have found one sentence where a cause is given in the second position without a conjunction (the asterisks * indicates where a causal conjunction could be inserted):

"[...] อย่าไปเกิดเรื่องกับไซลอน *แกด่ายับที่เดียว [...]" (36)
 ("Don't cause a quarrel with the threshold guardians, [because] they will just scold you badly.")

4.3. Result Clauses

4.3.1. General Characteristics of Result Clauses

The absence of obligatory time-marking makes the use of เพราะ as an indicator of a causal relationship dispensable. There are many other ways to express causality and there is no reason why the เพราะ-clause should take preference. It is often easier or more practical to adhere to the chronological order and avoid the potential confusion of switching around cause and result by means of the conjunction เพราะ.

The result is frequently marked, for instance, by the resultive conjuncts ก็ (so), จึง (so, consequently) and ดังนั้น (consequently) or ฉะนั้น (so, therefore).⁵ However, the marking of a result is not obligatory. The chronological succession in itself often makes the cause - effect relationship sufficiently clear. In spoken language, the examples 1(a) and 2(a) which contain a causal clause with the conjunction เพราะ (because) would probably be rephrased as asyndetic result clauses 1(b) and 2(b):

- 1(a): ผมยกกระเป๋าไม่ไหว เพราะหนักเกินไป
(I can't lift the bag because it is too heavy.)
- 1(b) กระเป๋าหนักเกินไป ผมยกไม่ไหว
(The bag is too heavy. I can't lift it.)
- 2(a) รถติด เพราะฝนตกหนัก
(The traffic was bad because it was raining heavily.)
- 2(b) ฝนตกหนัก รถติด
(It rains heavily. The traffic is bad.)

⁵ All the words marking result relationships can be classified as resultive conjuncts. (GREENBAUM & QUIRK, 1993: 186) Since Mary Haas (1964: 1, 120) classifies ก็ (so) and จึง (so, consequently) as adverbials on account of their syntactical position (ibid.: xxii), they should be considered resultive conjuncts with regard to their function in the sentence. ดังนั้น (consequently) and ฉะนั้น (so, therefore) are not given any classification by Mary Haas. อัมภา โอตระกุล (1982: 191, 237) however classifies ฉะนั้น and ดังนั้น as adverbs and I have therefore decided to consider them in their functional capacity as resultive conjuncts for the purpose of the present analysis.

It is obvious that such asyndetic coordination of clauses always has to follow the chronological order. Usually, this shifts the emphasis from the cause to the result.

4.3.2. The Adverb ก็ and Its Different Functions

One of the most frequently used words in Thai is ก็. It appears 325 times in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin". It can be used as a conjunct to mark a **result**. In this case it is usually translated into English as **so**:

แม่เห็นพ่อเพิ่มร้องไห้ดัง ๆ ก็ดึงตัวมากอดไว้ (21)
 (Mother saw that Perm was crying loudly, **so** she pulled him close to herself and held him tight.)

But ก็ has many functions and is not exclusively used to mark a result. It is frequently used to mark **chronological succession** as in the following example:

ตั้งแต่นั้นมา ก็ให้เกรงกลัวห้องนั้นเป็นพิเศษ (14)
 (Since then, she held special awe and respect for that room.)

Often, ก็ is not used out of a semantic necessity but for **prosodic** reasons.⁶ The function of ก็ here is to prevent a part of a sentence from sounding too abrupt. It does not need to be translated. There are many examples for the prosodic use of ก็ in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin":

กินอะไรกันก่อนเถิดพลอย แม่ก็หิวเหมือนกัน (45)
 (Lets eat something first, Ploi, I [mother] am [is] hungry as well.)

⁶ *Prosody* as a linguistic term refers to the patterns of stress and intonation of a language. (BALDICK, 1990: 180)

Since ก็ has different functions and is always used in accordance with the chronological order, there was no point in making a complete list of all the sentences that use ก็ to mark a result. Since it can mark both chronological succession and result, its actual meaning depends on the co-text.

4.3.3. The Conjunct จึง (so, consequently)

The use of the word ก็ however is not the only way to mark a result. Among the conjuncts that exclusively refer to results, จึง (so, consequently) is used most often in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin". It appears eleven times altogether. The following sentence is one example of the use of จึง as a marker of result:

พลอยเหลือบไปดู เห็นแม่ยังวุ่นอยู่ในเรือน จึงค่อย ๆ ย่องลงบันได (22)
(Ploi glanced sideways and saw that her mother was still busy in the house
so she carefully tiptoed down the stairs.)

The use of จึง, however, is not always as clear as in this example. Sometimes, it is rather difficult to translate จึง as the first two appearances of the conjunct in the novel show:

วันหนึ่ง พลอยถามแม่ถึงเรื่องพี่น้องเหล่านี้ว่า ทำไมคนจึงเรียกลูกเจ้า
 คุณพ่อว่า คุณอ๋น คุณชิต คุณเชย แล้วทำไมจึงเรียกลูกอื่นว่า พ่อ
 เพิ่ม แม่พลอย แม่หวาน (17)

*(One day, Ploi asked her mother the following about her brothers and sisters:
 "Why are some children of Chao Khun Father addressed "Khun" like Khun
 Oon, Khun Chit, Khun Choey while the other children are called "Pho" or
 "Mae", like Pho Perm, Mae Ploi, Mae Wan?)*

I found one sentence where both the cause and the result were marked, indicating that the distinction between marking of the cause and marking of the result is not always definite and clear-cut:

"[...] ถ้าผู้ชายเข้าไปได้แม่ก็ไม่ต้องทิ้งพ่อเพิ่มไว้ นี่เพราะจนปัญญาแม่จริง ๆ จึงไม่ได้เอามา" (31)

*(If it would be possible for men to enter this place, I [mother] would not have to leave Perm behind. **Because** this is the real problem, I couldn't take him with me. [This is the real reason **that** I couldn't take him with me.])*

4.3.4. The Resultive Conjunctions ฉะนั้น (so, therefore) and ดังนั้น (consequently)

The resultive conjunction ฉะนั้น (so, therefore) appears only once in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin":

[...] แม่เคยบอกว่า ถ้าพลอยโตขึ้นอีกสักหน่อยก็จะส่งตัวไปถวาย แม่เคยขออนุญาตเจ้าคุณพ่อแล้วในเรื่องนี้ ท่านก็ไม่ขัดข้อง [...] แต่แล้วท่านก็ขอผัดว่าอย่าเพิ่งส่งไป เพราะท่านไม่มีลูกเล็ก ๆ จะเล่นด้วย ฉะนั้น พ่อแม่เอ่ยปากว่าจะพาตัวไปถวายเสด็จ พลอยก็เข้าใจทันที (21)

*(Mother had already long ago told her that when Ploi would be older she would be sent to the palace. Mother had asked for Chao Khun Father's permission in this case. Father had nothing against it. [...] but at that time he had asked for a postponement. "Don't send her right away because then there is no little one for me to play with." **Therefore**, when mother uttered she would go with Ploi and leave her in the care of Sadech, Ploi understood immediately.)*

In the following sentence from "Si Phaendin" the conjunction ฉะนั้น is combined with the conjunct จึง (so). ฉะนั้น is referring back to the cause while จึง is marking the result:

พลอยว่ายน้ำเป็นมาแล้วจากตีนท่าหน้าบ้าน **ฉะนั้น**จึงไม่กลัวเรือล่ม (146)
*(Ploi knew how to swim from the pier at her house, **therefore** [for that reason] / **so** she was not afraid that the boat could capsize.)*

ดังนั้น (usually: *consequently*) also appears once in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin" albeit not in the function of a resultive conjunct but more of a demonstrative pronoun that summarily points at the previous sentence:

"หน้าตาน่าเอ็นดู สวยกว่าแม่อีก ผิวพรรณก็ดี สมเป็นลูกพระหน้าพระยา"
 พลอยได้ยิน**ดังนั้น**ก็แทบจะตัวลอย [...] (58)
*("What a cute face, even more beautiful than her mother. Her skin is of a good kind, befitting the child of a nobleman." Hearing **this** [understanding the meaning of these words], Ploi felt like floating in the air [...].)*

4.3.5. The Indicator of Future **จะ** as Indicator of a Result

Result relationships can also be indicated by **จะ** if it refers to an anticipated future result as in the following sentence:

"อย่าทำกลับไปกลับมา **จะ**เสียรัศมีแม่ผู้ดีแปดสาแหรก" (28)
*("Don't keep coming back and forth **so that** the shining demeanor of that fine mother of yours wouldn't have to suffer.")*

4.4. Purpose Clauses

4.4.1. The Conjunction เพื่อ (in order to)

4.4.1.1. General Characteristics

Purpose clauses point at a desired result. They are marked by the conjunction เพื่อ (in order to, to) as in the following sentence which, as usual, keeps the chronological order:

เขาทำงานหนัก เพื่อจะได้ซื้อรถคันใหม่

(He is working hard **in order to** be able to buy a new car.)

In English, the purpose clause could also be placed at the beginning of the sentence:

(**In order to** be able to buy a new car he is working hard.)

I have not found an example in Thai where the เพื่อ-clause is the first part of the sentence.

4.4.1.2. The Conjunction เพื่อ (in order to) in the First Chapter of "Si Phaendin"

Specific marking of purpose clauses is rare compared to the marking of result and เพราะ-clauses. There are five sentences with the purpose conjunction เพื่อ in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin" (see appendix). Two of them appear together with จะ the indicator for the future as in the following example:

และแม่บอกว่าคุณอ่อนเป็นคนยกบ่าวของตนขึ้นเป็นเมียเจ้าคุณพ่อ เพื่อจะ
กำจัดแม่ออกจากบ้าน (18)

(And mother said, Khun Oon was the person who promoted her servants to be minor wives of Chao Khun Father **in order to** force her out of the house.)

The verb ไป (to go) may appear together with the conjunction เพื่อ:

เมื่อพลอยยังเด็ก ๆ อายุ ๖ - ๗ ขวบ เคยขึ้นไปบนตึกตอหน้าเพื่อไปหา
เจ้าคุณพ่อ (14)

(One afternoon, when Ploi was still a child of six or seven years, she went up to the top of the building **in order to** see Chao Khun Father.)

4.4.1.3. Asyndetic Purpose Clauses

There are also asyndetic purpose clauses but it is often difficult to clearly separate them from an ordinary temporal relationship between events. In the following sentence it is not clear whether we have a purpose relationship or a simple chronological succession of events:

แม่เอาผ้าเช็ดหน้าตาให้ (25)

This sentence can be translated as

- a) purpose: Mother took a piece of cloth **to** wipe away [his] tears. or
b) chronological succession: Mother took a piece of cloth **and** wiped away [his] tears.

The same ambiguity is found in the following sentence:

เจ้าคุณพ่อท่านปูพรมเล็ก ๆ นั่งอยู่ที่เฉลียงหลัง (15)

- a) purpose relationship: Chao Khun Father spread out the little mat **to** sit on the back part of the balcony.
b) chronological succession: Chao Khun Father spread out the little mat **and** sat on the back part of the balcony.)

4.4.1.4. The Indicator of Future, จะ, as Indicator of Purpose

In some cases, the indicator of future, จะ, can be understood as indicating a purpose clause but again the meaning is ambiguous. The following sentence, for instance, can be translated as a purpose clause as well as a result clause:

ที่นอนหมอนมุ้งต่าง ๆ แม่ทิ้งไว้ที่เรือน พ่อเพิ่มอยู่ต่อไปจะได้ใช้ (24)

a) purpose relationship: *Mother left the mattresses, pillows and mosquito nets at her house for Perm to use.*

b) result relationship: *Mother left the mattresses, pillows and mosquito nets at her house so that Perm could use them.*

4.4.1.5. The Use of the Verb ไป as a Purpose Auxiliary

The use of the verb ไป as an auxiliary to express a purpose is also ambiguous. It can be interpreted as expressing a purpose or simply a chronological succession.

เมื่อพลอยขึ้นไปกราบลา [...] (15)

a) purpose relationship: *When Ploi went up in order to prostrate herself to take leave [...]*

b) chronology (coordination with and): *When Ploi went up and prostrated herself to take leave [...]*

4.5. Causative Auxiliaries

4.5.1. General Characteristics of Causative Structures

As in English, causative clauses are constructed with an auxiliary verb. They do not need any additional marking of causality and do not violate the chronological order. The Thai causative auxiliary is ทำให้ (to cause, to make something happen) as in the following example:

การกระทำของรัฐบาลทำให้ประชาชนเดือดร้อน

(*The decision of the government has **caused** trouble for the people.*)

4.5.2. The Auxiliary ทำให้

The causative auxiliary ทำให้ is used nine times in the first chapter of "Si Phaendin" (see appendix). Two of them are found in the following passage:

พอเรือออกจากคลอง แม่พูดด้วย พลอยก็หาได้สนใจไม่ เพราะความรู้สึก
ตระหนกตกใจที่ได้รับแต่เมื่อคืนตอนดึกเมื่อแม่มาปลุก ความเศร้าสลดใจ
ตอนที่จะต้องจากบ้าน และความขุ่นใจจากถ้อยคำของคุณอ่อนเมื่อตอนจะ
จากกัน **กระทำ**ให้ประสาทความรู้สึกของพลอยมีนชาอยู่ ประกอบกับมา
ได้เห็นของใหม่ที่หน้าดินแดนต่าง ๆ **ทำให้**พลอยมีความสนใจคำพูดของ
แม่แต่น้อย (29)

(*When the boat left the canal, mother started to talk but Ploi could not sum up her concentration to listen to her because the shock from last night when her mother came to wake her up, the sadness of having to leave her home and the bitterness caused by Khun Oon's words when they were going to part [all that] **made** her [nerves and feelings] dizzy and numb and - together with the new and exciting prospects lying ahead of her - **caused** Ploi to have little interest in the words her mother spoke.)*

4.6. Conclusion

There are many ways to convey causality. The most common ones are result clauses introduced by resultive conjuncts such as ก็ (so), and จึง (so, consequently) and causal clauses introduced by the conjunction เพราะ (because). Purpose clauses (introduced by the conjunction เพื่อ [*in order to*]) occur seldom. The time difference between cause and effect is never emphasized. It does not appear as a point of great importance. This may have to do with the absence of obligatory time-marking in Thai.

The speaker of Thai is not forced to make a choice between morphologically indicated time levels to make a temporal distinction between cause and effect. The chronological order itself conveys the natural succession of cause and effect. เพราะ-clauses in second position never really violate the chronological order as they are mostly used to ascribe qualifications to events and to people instead of referring to causes as specific or singular events. Whenever they do refer to the past, marking of time is not important.

Lack of obligatory time-marking and the dominance of the chronological order diminish the necessity of clearly defined linguistic marking of causality. Although conjunctions and conjuncts are frequently used for specific marking of cause, result and purpose, their semantic properties are not always restricted to their respective purpose, nor are they always clearly defined. The word ก็ for instance is used in many ways and the marking of result is only one of them. The words จึง and ฉะนั้น are not exclusive markers of a result either and the causal conjunction เพราะ sometimes refers to indirect causes. Furthermore, the fixed order of chronology favors the use of asyndetic coordination. What happens first will be mentioned first and it is also the cause in a cause-effect relationship. Thus, there is often no need for any marking at all. Asyndetic coordination naturally tends to be inaccurate as it leaves the specific identification of events or action as cause, result or purpose to the interpretation of the reader (or listener).

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