

Extended Functions of the Northern Pwo Karen Medial Demonstrative

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- Northern Pwo Karen
- Medial demonstrative
- Medial demonstrative clause marking
 - Conditionals
 - Declaratives
 - Imperatives
- Source
- Conclusion

Northern Pwo Karen (N. Pwo)

- Karenic, Tibeto-Burman language
- 60,000 speakers located in northwest Thailand
- Language typology
 - Isolating
 - SVO
 - Appositional structure
 - Dependence on context for interpretation
- Data: 55 traditional narratives and elicitation notes

N. Pwo medial demonstrative

(1) Folktale 8.176

p^hɕ̃ *lə* *p^ho'* *nɔ*
bamboo.tube one CL:tube-shaped that
Lit. 'bamboo tube, one tube that'
'that bamboo tube'

(2) Folktale 3.167

ʔãtɕâ' *bì* *nɔ* *lə* *uɿ̃*
ask **like** **that** NEG don't
“Ask like that don't.”
“Don't ask like that.”

(3) Folktale 55.7

nə me' lə t^hâi bɛ nɔ p^hlô sák^hu
2:SUBJ be NEG return NEG DEM person black.head

mə k^hə lâ nə p^hâ
IRR dig descend 2:POSS hole

Lit. ““You be not return, person black-head will dig your hole.””

““If you don’t return, the humans will dig your hole (kill and bury you).””

(4) Folktale 3.7

ʔo kâ' lə uê ʔĩ nɔ tɕə mə
exist remain one CL:person this DEM 1:SUBJ IRR

ʔãxĩ dɛ jí lə uê l̩
seek alone myself one CL:person EMPH

Lit. ““Exist remain this one person; I will seek alone myself one person.””

““There remains this one person; I will seek this person myself.””

(5) Folktale 55.19

nəʂĩ bɛ ʔã mĩ mĩ sá nĩ nɔ
 2PL:SUBJ must eat cooked.rice day three CL:day DEM

nə bɛ ʔã â' lə p^há l̂
 2:SUBJ must eat 3:OBJ one CL:time EMPH

Lit. ““You all must eat rice day three days; you must eat it one time.

““You all must eat rice every three days; you must eat it one time.””

(6) Notebook 2012.64.1

tɕə su lə ʔo bɛ nɔ
1:POSS oil NEG exist NEG DEM

(kə bɛ li dí k^hã)
(1PL:SUBJ must go with foot:leg)

Lit. ‘My oil not exist; (we must go with feet:legs.)’
‘I don’t have any petrol; (we must go on foot.)’

(7) Folktale 7.80

ʔə wé lo' nĩ bì sũ' t^hũ' nɔ l̂

3:SUBJ play mire as same pig DEM EMPH

Lit. 'He mire played the same as a pig.'

'He played in the mire the same as a pig.'

(8) Folktale 7.81

ʔo lə nĩ t^hũ' kəlo' ʔə mé ...

exist one CL:day pig round one's wife ...

Lit. 'Exist one day, the round pig's wife ...'

'One day, the round pig's wife ...'

(9) Folktale 18.113

ʔo wé dɛ dǎmɛwê dí ʔə p^hlè
exist 3:SUBJ husband.and.wife with one's servant

ʔə bǎ nɔ l̂
one's servant DEM EMPH

Lit. 'Existed them, husband and wife, with their servants.'

(10) Folktale 53.165

ʔo kâ' wé dɛ bì nɔ l̂
exist remain 3:SUBJ like that EMPH

Lit. 'Existed remaining it like that!'

'It existed like that!'

Summary

- *no* occurs with the first clause of a two clause unit, followed by a pause (e.g. conditionals, statement/imperative–clarification pairs)
- The clarification clause following a *no*-marked statement is optional
- Episode-final statements with *no* have no subsequent clause

- The function of *no* in all conditionals, declaratives and imperatives is the same
- *no* cannot be functioning as a subordinator, since it occurs on episode-final statements
- In N. Pwo, *no* functions as an “attention” marker
- Diessel (2006:464): Demonstratives “function to coordinate the interlocutors’ joint focus of attention”