

CLAUSES OF TIME HIPOTAXIC CONSTRUCTION IN SVAN

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ABSTRACT

The paper presents the hypotactic constructions occurring in Svan, where a subordinate clause is the temporal adverbial one, explaining the function of a temporal modifier expressed by an adverb in the principal clause. There are as many kinds of adverbial clauses as adverbial modifiers themselves, thus, the following ones are attested: adverbial subordinate clauses of place, time, manner, reason, and purpose. The same hypotactic constructions are identified in all four dialects of Svan and the patois of Choluri, which are interesting due to the abundance of indicator words, relative adverbs, and conjunctions with phonetic variants.

There is no comprehensive research on this issue in academic literature, where the data of all four dialects (Upper Bal, Lower Bal, Lentekhian, Lashkhian) would have been considered. Our research presents samples of Choluri speech as well, which allows rather interesting conclusions to be drawn. Research has shown that among the adverbial clauses in Svan, adverbial clauses of time are the most frequently attested ones and no significant difference is observed between the dialects, except for the presence or absence of certain linking means.

In terms of the use of subordinating conjunctions in adverbial clauses of time, Svan dialects contradict each other: as it turned out, cases of using indicator words to connect components of hypotactic constructions prevail in Lower Bal, while subordinating conjunctions are always missing (though implied) in a subordinate clause, unlike relative words, which are always present in all dialects.

The subordinating conjunction lakhe (“that”) mostly occurs in the Upper Bal dialect, although it may not accompany a subordinate clause. A subordinating conjunction is mostly represented in Lentekhian and Lashkhian, while in Choluri speech the subordinating conjunction ere (“that”) is clearly prevalent in the use of relative words. The data of Lower Svan is also interesting because en (Lentekhian) / ī (Choluri) “that” forms that are equivalent to the er “that” subordinating conjunction are found in Lentekhian and Choluri speech. The en variant often occurs along with its parallel forms in Lentekhian, while the ī variant has been attested in the Sakdari speech (Choluri gorge) bordering the Lentekhian dialect.

The paper also examines such hypotactic constructions where it is difficult to draw a distinct boundary between compound coordinated and complex sentences, however, it is possible to distinguish them based on the material found in the Choluri speech.

Keywords: Svan dialects, syntax, complex sentence.