Title

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines how the lexicon is organized in a typical South Central language. Items like nouns, verbs, and adverbial expressions belong to open classes; pronominals, demonstratives, numerals, quantifiers, interjections, and onomatopoetic words form closed classes. Middle markers, case markers, directionals, tense/aspect markers, valence-changing elements, verbal classifiers, elaborate expressions, and reduplicative patterns are treated as bound elements.

KEYWORDS

Kuki-Chin, South Central, Tibeto-Burman, Trans-Himalayan, lexicon, word classes, noun, verb, pronoun, demonstrative, verbal classifier, applicative, causative.

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1 Introduction

This paper investigates issues of lexicon in South Central (SC) Tibeto-Burman, also known as Kuki-Chin (KC).[1] It includes discussion on the organization of lexical materials in terms of phonological necessities, and considers how word classes such as nouns and verbs are determined. It also deals with widespread SC phenomena such as psycho-collocations, relational nouns, exclusive vs. inclusive personal pronouns, preverbal directionals, valence-increasing markers such as causatives and applicatives, elaborate expressions, reduplication, and verbal classifiers. Additionally, it covers the issue of adjectives and adverbials (often expressed by highly specific post-verbal particles).

This paper follows the definition of lexicon as "a mental list of lexical items together with detailed information about each one" (Clark 1993:2).

2 Phonology

Most SC languages have the syllable structure of $[C_1(C_2)V(:)(C_3)(C_4)]^T$. The minimal main syllable type consists of just a single vowel. Table 1 illustrates the possible syllable types with examples from Monsang (Northwestern), Hyow (Southeastern), Tedim (aka Tiddim, Northeastern), and Hakha Lai (Core Central). Note that "-" indicates lack of data, e.g., in Tedim (Henderson 1965), whereas no marking indicates a systematic gap, as seen in Hyow (Zakaria 2018), Hakha Lai (Hyman and Van Bik 2004) and Monsang (Konnerth and Wanglar 2014).

Syllable types	Monsang	Hyow	Tedim	Hakha Lai
V	*é* 'crab'	*ɔ̂* 'good smell'	-	
VV	*śu* 'brother /sister-in-law'		-	*èe* 'defecate'
VC	*ìn* 'look'	*ák* 'one'	*ip* 'sleep'	*it* 'sleepᴮ'
VVC	*ìːn* 'call'		*aːk* 'fowl'	*aat* 'cutᴮ'
CV	*pè* 'give'	*bî* 'work'	*ba* 'owe'	
CVV	*tʰśu* 'oil'			*sàa* 'meat'
CCV		*klɔ̂* 'fall'		
CVC	*kùm* 'crooked'	*bút* 'cook'	*dam* 'be well'	*dam* 'be well'
CVVC	*bàːr* 'eat with palm of hand'		*baːk* 'twig'	*laak* 'takeᴅ'
CCVC		*blúŋ* 'sound of jumping'	-	
VCC		*ǽʔj* 'unactualized event'	-	
CVCC		*bɔ́ʔl* 'mingle/mix-II'	-	
CCVCC		*klóʔj* 'burn-II'	-	

Table 1. Syllable types in SC languages

Note that in some SC languages the open syllable has only CVV structure. For example, in Hakha Lai, the only morphemes with CV structure are pronominal clitics (e.g., *ka-* 'my'), or reduced syllables in compounds (e.g., *sa-khîi* 'deer', *sa-* being a reduced form of *sàa* 'animal'). Interestingly, the reduced syllables lose their tone, but maintain their vowel quality. For example, the F tone of *kâa* 'mouth' and the R tone of *kĕe* 'leg' are neutralized when they are first members in compounds, *a-ka-hmâa* 'his mouth wound' (*ka-* < *kâa* 'mouth') and *a-ke-hmâa* 'his leg wound' (*ke-* < *kĕe* 'leg'). Similarly, the long vowels of pronominal reflexives (e.g., *àa* 'himself') have an L tone, whereas its reduced syllable *a-* 'his' bears no tone.

Lexical tones in SC languages range from two (Thlantlang, Hyman 2007) to five (Khumi, Peterson 2019), as shown in Table 2.

2 Tones	*3 Tones*	*4 Tones*	*5 Tones*
Bawm, Daai Thlantlang	Hakha Lai, Hyow, Mara, Senthang, Tedim, Thado, Kuki, Zophei	Falam Chin, Mizo	Khumi

Table 2. Distribution of tones in SC languages

The phenomenon of tone sandhi is an important feature of SC languages. These sandhi rules may be analyzed as language specific phenomena. For example, in Mizo, a rising (R) tone becomes a low (L) tone when followed by a high (H) tone, that is, R + H → L + H (Chhangte 1993:56). In Lai, when a rising tone is followed by a rising tone, the result is F + F, that is, R + R → F + F. (See Hyman and Van Bik (2004) for a detailed analysis of tone sandhi in Lai.) Zakaria (2018) also presents an analysis of tone sandhi in Hyow. For more discussion on tonal phenomena, see Lotven (2023).

3   Word classes (lexical categories)

SC languages display both open and closed word classes. Nouns, verbs, and adverbial expressions are considered open classes, whereas closed classes include pronouns, demonstratives, numbers and quantifiers, case markers, and interjections.

This paper also discusses bound elements such as preverbal directionals, elaborate expressions, reduplicative patterns, valence-increasing suffixes such as causative and applicative markers, and verbal classifiers.

3.1   Open word classes

Nouns, verbs, and adverbial expressions are considered open word classes in SC.

3.1.1   Nouns

A word's nominal status may be determined by several criteria in SC languages. First, demonstratives often follow or precede a noun (or NP) in SC languages, and therefore may serve as a good criterion in testing "nounhood". The examples in (1a-d) illustrate where demonstratives follow nouns and (1e) exemplifies an instance where a demonstrative precedes a noun. Note that demonstratives may be used as discourse markers, or information status markers, which are fully illustrated in section 3.2.2.

(1)   a.   Daai (So-Hartman 2009: 122)
              hnashen sun
              child   DEM
              'the child'

b. Falam Chin (King 2010: 64)
naam   cu
knife   DEM
'that knife'

c. Senthang (Par 2016: 35)
ʔín   khí
house   DEM
'that house'

d. Hakha Lai (H. Van Bik 2018: 61)
Lasi siangpahrangnnu   hi
Lasi   sìaŋ.pa.hrâaŋ-nùu   hĭi
Lasi   king-lady (queen)   DEM
'this Lasi queen'

e. Hyow (Zakaria 2018: 160)
èy   khô=â=tsæ
ANAPH.DEM   time=LOC=TOP
'at that time'

Secondly, quantifiers, e.g., *some, little, many,* may serve to test nominal status since they follow the noun in SC, as illustrated in (2a-d).

(2)   a.   Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 78)
kpaːmi akhak
man   some
'some men'

b. Hyow (Zakaria 2018: 106)
táá   ɔ́bɔ́ng
money many
'a lot of money'

c. Mizo (Chhangte 1986: 96)
aar¹   tleem¹   tee²
hen   few   little
'few hens'

d. Senthang (Par 2016: 35)
ʔín   ṯám   pɔ́
house many AUG
'many houses'

Thirdly, as shown in (3a-d), another test for nounhood (and verbhood), for example in Hakha Lai, is if a word could be possessed (preceded in the case of verbhood) by a pronominal clitic. This diagnostic is helpful if a word is at least a N or a V, excluding the possibility of other lexical categories.

(3)   a.   Hakha Lai
               ka-tsòo
               1SG.POSS-cow
               'my cow'

     b.   Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 81)
               kah   ksiːm
               1SG.POSS   knife
               'my knife'

     c.   Hyow (Zakaria 2018: 413)
               kú-tsúhnú
               1SG.POSS-daughter
               'my daughter'

     d.   Paite (Singh 2006: 81)
               kə́-in
               1SG.POSS-house
               'my house'

3.1.1.1 Relational noun

Relational nouns are a subclass of nouns in SC. These nouns express locational, positional, and temporal meanings. In Hakha Lai, these relational nouns, such as *cung* /tsùŋ/ 'above (top)', *tang* /tàŋ/ 'under (beneath)', *hmai* /hmâay/ 'front', *hnu* /hnùu/ 'back', *lei* /làay/ 'towards', and *karlak* /kàr.lak/ 'between', etc. exhibit the two characteristics of nounhood discussed in section 3.1.1, as illustrated in (4a-c).

(4)   Hakha Lai relational nouns
     a.   *na **cung** khi zoh tuah*
               *na-**tsùŋ**   khĭi   zawʔ   tuaʔ*
               2SG.POSS-***top***   DEM   lookINV   IMP
               'Please look above you'

     b.   *kan **karlak** hi zoh tuah*
               *kân-**kàrlak**   hĭi   zawʔ   tuaʔ*
               1PL.POSS-***between***   DEM   lookINV   IMP
               'Please look between us'

c. *na **hmailei** ca hi ruat tuah*

    *na-**hmàaylày***   *tsàa*   *hĭi*   *ruat*   *tuaʔ*

    2SG.POSS-***future***   for   DEM   thinkᴮ   IMP

    'Please think about your future'

The grammatical labels applied to this subclass of nouns are not uniform in the SC literature. For example, Singh (2006) labels these nouns as "Noun Bound Roots". So-Hartmann (2009) calls them "Location Nouns", and Zakaria (2018) uses the term "Locative Nouns". Further examples illustrating these nouns are provided in (5)-(7).

(5)   Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 88)

    a.   *Msääi*   *nu:*   *sun*   *khuui-**pei***   *su*   *ngshut=kti.*

        Msääi   GEND   DEM   cave-***beside***   DEM   sit=NON.FUT

        'The Msääi woman sat beside the cave.'

    b.   *Ksoong-**hnu***   *su*   *shangpho*   *nglin=kti=e.*

        hut-***behind***   DEM   chilly (sic. chilli)   plant=NON.FUT=PL

        'They plant chilli behind the hut.'

(6)   Hyow (Zakaria 2018: 114)

    a.   *shíʔ-ní*   *èy*   *hnûng=â*   ***ɔ́-kɔ́l***   *shó-êy-âʔ*

        pluck.II-TEMP ANAPH.DEM   time=LOC   ***GRP-under***   look.I-MID-3SG.NEG

        'When he was plucking (the pears), he did not look down at that time.'

    b.   *thîng*   ***kɔ́l**=â*   *kêy*   *ká-á-kóʔl-âl*

        tree   ***under**=*LOC   1SG   1A-DIR-pick.II-DEP

        'I went to pick up that (bird) under the tree.'

(7)   Paite (Singh 2006: 24)

    a.   *tuŋ*   'on, upon'

    b.   *núŋ*   'behind'

    c.   *lə̀k*   'among'

    d.   *tə̀k*   'right'

    e.   *vəy*   'left'

It appears that the term 'relational noun' best captures the varied locational and temporal meanings of this subclass.

3.1.2 Verbs

Verbs form an open class in SC languages. The best criterion for testing verbhood appears to be negation since nouns and adverbs cannot be negated compared to verbs, as shown in (8a-d).

(8)   Negation of verbs in SC
    a.   Falam Chin (King 2010: 108)
            Hai   ka   ei   dah   lo
            mango   1SG.NOM   eat   ever   NEG
            'I never eat mangoes'

    b.   Paite (Singh 2006: 152)
            ə́máʔ   kə́p   lə̀w   ə́hí
            3SG.PRO   weep.1   NEG   COP
            'He does not weep'

    c.   Daai (So-Hartmann 2008: 96)
            Ahin   ta   am   do.
            DEM.PRO   TOP   NEG   good
            'This is not good!'

    d.   Senthang (Par 2015: 2)
            Abawi   thw   veh
            Name   sit.I   NEG
            'Abawi did not sit'

In many SC languages, it would appear that there is no distinction made between adjectives and verbs. For instance, what correspond to the English adjective 'cold' and to the intransitive verb 'laugh' show identical grammatical behavior, as exemplified in Falam Chin (9a-b). Thus, morphemes which correspond to English adjectives are generally treated as stative verbs in such SC languages (see also the discussion in Zakaria 2018: 173).

(9)   Pattern of verb and "adjective" in Falam Chin
    a.   *Cinte   a   dai*   (King 2010: 160)
            Cinte   3SG.NOM   cold.1
            'Cinte is cold'

    b.   *Cinte   a   hni*   (King 2010: 156)
            Cinte   3SG.NOM   laugh.1
            'Cinte laughs'

Additionally, the examples (10a-b) in Hakha Lai illustrate the syntactic similarity of adjectives and intransitive verbs. Note that *puan sen* 'red blanket' (10a) and *lo kal* 'farm goer' (10b) are noun compounds.

(10)   a.   *puan sen khi ka ta a si*
                pûan-sèn   khĭi   ka-tăa   a-sîi
                blanket-red_B   DEM   1SG.POSS-own   3SG.SBJ-COP
                'The red blanket is mine'

b.   *nihin lo kal an um ma?*
    nihîn   lâw-kàl   ân-um   măa
    today   farm-go_B   3PL.SBJ-exist_B Q
    'Are there any farm-goers today?'

On the other hand, verbs are distinguished from adjectives in some SC languages, exemplified by Daai (So-Hartmann 2009).

Verbal alternations, (also known as Form 1/2 or Stem 1/2 or A/B) are one of the hallmarks of SC languages. The form alternation may also be described as base vs. derived (see Bedell et al. (2023), who use Base (B) and Derived (D)). It appears that, on the one hand, the syntactic function of this alternation tends to be more robust when the language has a variety of coda consonants (e.g., Daai, Hyow, Hakha Lai, Mizo, Tedim, etc.). On the other hand, SC languages which have fewer coda consonants (e.g., Khumi, Mara, etc.) show little to no alternation of the different verbal forms in different syntactic contexts. This may be due to inadequate description of what is going on with tone in (some of) these languages, however.

Verbs in SC languages often bear participant markers (also called argument indexation, agreement markers, etc.) as shown by the third person singular marking in (11a) from Falam Chin. However, this is not a fool-proof diagnostic for the category of verb, as seen by the absence of explicit marking for third person subject in Sizang (11b).

(11)   Intransitive clause in Falam Chin and Sizang
    a.   Falam Chin (King 2010: 196)
            Cinte   a   ṭap
            Cinte   3SG.NOM   cry.1
            'Cinte cried'

    b.   Sizang (Davis 2017: 25)
            uĭ-sĭːa   thiː   hî
            dog-ABS   die   be
            'The dog died'

3.1.2.1 Psycho-collocation

Psycho-collocation, a term coined by Matisoff (1986), is a type of noun-verb collocation which expresses a psychological state or disposition, usually expressed with a body-part and a stative verb. Psycho-collocation is very common in SC languages. The lexical items, noun and verb, involved in a collocation act as a unit and therefore should be listed together in the lexicon because of their idiomatic meanings. The robust nature of psycho-collocation is exemplified by Daai, Hyow, Hakha Lai, and Sizang in (12)-(15).

(12) Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 85)

a. *Kah*   *she*   *nu:=a*   **mik**=a   **le**-*naa:k*   *ni*
    POSS:1S   cow   GEND=GEN   **eye**=GEN **blackness**-reason   EMP
    'This is the reason that my cow is sad.' (lit: 'has black eyes')

b. *Ka:*   *ah*   **mlung** *ta*   *am*   **shou:** *khiin.*
    no   POSS:3S **heart** FOC   NEG   **angry** MOD:proper
    'No, he should not be angry.'

(13) Hyow (Zakaria 2018: 307)

tsét-ông-ú-lá=tsâ̂   *èy*   *í-ní-hɔ́wêy-hí=tsâ̂*
go-STAT-3PL-SEQ=TOP   ANAPH.DEM   3A-PL-search.II-COND=TOP

èybɔ́   *èydɔ̂*   *í-ní-lò-âl-ní*   *tsú=tsâ̂*   *ú-**lúng***
like.that then   3S-PL-come-DEP-TEMP   DIST=TOP   3SG.POSS-**heart**

pû-*hnɔ́ʔ=tî*
feel.II-ULT=R.EVID

'After they went for a while, when they searched that like that, then when they came back, she (the younger sister) was worried (she felt her heart)'

(14) Hakha Lai (Van Bik 1998)

a. *ka **mit** a **thi***
    *ka-**mit***   *a-**thîi***
    1SG.POSS-**eyes** 3SG.S-**die**ₐ
    'I like it' (lit: 'my eyes are fixated on it')

b. *ka **lung** a **hring***
    *ka-**lûŋ***   *a-**hrîŋ***
    1SG.POSS-**heart**   3SG.S-**green**ₐ
    'I am suspicious' (lit: 'my heart is green')

(15) Sizang (Davis 2017: 13)

mi: *zɔ:ŋ=pǎ:*   **luŋ-kim**   *ŋɔ̂l*   *a:*
person   be.poor=MASC   **heart-content** NEG   NF
'The poor man was not pleased, and...'

3.1.3 *Adverbial expressions*

Adverbial expressions with a postposition (PP) adverbializer may be regarded as an open word class since they can be formed from an open class of stative verbs. For example, in Daai, a PP morpheme *=a* is attached to stative verbs to form adverbial expressions, as exemplified in (16b).[2]

(16)   Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 119)
      a.   *jaa:ng*   'quick'
      b.   *akjaa:ng=**a***   'quickly'

Sizang also has adverbial expressions with a PP suffix *-in*, as seen in (17).

(17)   Sizang (Davis 2017: 72)

tu:a	*á=hi:maân=**in***	*tʃiː.pí:=in*	*tu:a*	*dôŋ*
that	3=that.being.said=*PP*	lion=ERG	that	until

sî:a	*kâ:i*	*nɔ̂n-ŋɔ̆l*	*hî:*
tax	collect.I	anymore-NEG	be

'Because of that, to this day, lions don't collect taxes anymore'

Similarly, Falam Chin has a productive suffix *-in* which is glossed as an adjunct clause marker (AJC). This suffix is used to form adverbial expressions in Falam Chin; the suffix is often accompanied by an augmentative marker (AUG) *pi* or a diminutive marker (DIM) *te*, as illustrated in (18b) and (18c), respectively.

(18)   Falam Chin
      a.   Adverbial clause (King 2010: 103)

zamlam	*khua*	*a*	*sim=**in***	*tlangval-pa*
evening	cosmos	3SG.NOM	dark=*AJC*	young.man-MASC

cu=n	*"Tlung*	*uhsi,"*	*a*	*ti*
TOP=ERG	return.1	COH.PL	3SG.NOM	say.INV

'… as the evening was become dark, the young man said "Let's go home," …'

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[2] As explained by So-Hartmann (2009: 119), a prefix *ak-* (the *-k-* may be an additional segmentable element–see So-Hartmann 2009: 53) is also involved in this derivation.

b. Adverbial clause with AUG (adapted[3] from King 2010: 107)

*ring-pi=**in**   au   hlah   aw*
loud-AUG=*AJC* shout   NEG.IMP   SG.POL.IMP
'Please don't shout so loudly.'

c. Adverbial clause with DIM (King 2010: 79)

*ih-nak   khan=ah   zamrang-te=**n***
sleep.2-NMLZ room=LOC   quick-DIM=*AJC*

a   va   lut
3SG.NOM   go   enter.1
'He went quickly to his bedroom'

Note that SC lexicographers should pay attention the grammatical labels that involve "adverbs" or "adverbials" because lexical items marked as such in one language may not be treated similarly in another language. For example, time adverbials in Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 116) such as *tuh-ngooi:* 'today' or *kho-ngooi:* 'tomorrow' may be analyzed as a subclass of noun, namely temporal nouns in Hakha Lai: *nihin* /ni-hîn/ 'today' *thaizing* /thàay.zìiŋ/ 'tomorrow' since they meet the criteria for membership in the class of nouns. Namely, they may be possessed by pronominal clitics (e.g. *na thaizing* 'your tomorrow') and can be flanked by deictic demonstratives (*cu thaizing cu* 'that next day').

3.2   Closed word classes

SC closed lexical classes include pronouns, demonstratives, numbers and quantifiers, case markers, and interjections.

3.2.1 Pronouns

Personal pronouns are a closed lexical class in SC languages. In natural discourse, agreement (participant) markers usually get used in place of these personal pronouns. SC systems of pronouns fall into two groups. On the one hand, Daai, of the Southeastern subgroup, represents those which have an inclusive vs. exclusive distinction in first person dual and plural, exemplified in Table 3. (One element includes the person being spoken to, and the other excludes the person being spoken to.) Tables 4 and 5 list the corresponding verbal participant markers: subject and object agreement paradigms, respectively. The verb stem occurs following the participant marker.

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[3] In the speech of Falam town, the two sequence of morphemes *aw hlah* (as recorded by King) should be *hlah aw*. Also, *aw* is a singular polite imperative marker (Run Cung Mang 2017: 201) as opposed to *u* which is a plural one. For example, *Siar aw* 'Please read' vs. *Siar u* 'Please you (PL) read'. The gloss of the morpheme *hlah* is a negative imperative, e.g. *Feh hlah* 'Don't go'; *Feh hlah aw* 'Please don't go' (PC: Rev. Dr. Joseph Run Cung Mang, March 3, 2022).

		1st Person	*2nd Person*	*3rd Person*
Singular		*kei꞉*	*na꞉ng*	*ah-nih*
Dual	*excl*	*kei-nih*	*na꞉ng-nih*	*ah-nih-nih*
	incl	*nih-nih*		
Plural	*excl*	*kei-nih-e*	*na꞉ng-nih-e*	*ah-nih-nih-e*
	incl	*nih-nih-e*		

Table 3. Personal pronouns in Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 140)

		1st Person	*2nd Person*	*3rd Person*
Singular		*kah*	*nah*	*ah*
Dual/Plural	*excl*	*kah-nih*	*nah-nih*	*ah-nih*
	incl	*nih-nih*		

Table 4. Subject agreement paradigm in Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 233)

	1st Person	*2nd Person*	*3rd Person*
Singular	*nah*	*ni꞉ng*	*--*
Dual/Plural	*jah*	*ni꞉ng-jah*	*jah*

Table 5. Object agreement paradigm in Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 233)

On the other hand, Hakha Lai represents those languages which lack an exclusive vs. inclusive distinction in first person, as displayed in Table 6, with the corresponding participant markers in Table 7. The verb stem usually occurs following the participant marker in Lai. The only word class that can occur between the participant markers and verb stems is the preverbal directionals. For detailed discussion on participant markers, see the paper by DeLancey in this volume (DeLancey 2023).

	1ˢᵗ Person		*2ⁿᵈ Person*		*3ʳᵈ Person*	
	SG	PL	SG	PL	SG	PL
Neutral	*kây-maʔ*	*kân-maʔ*	*nâŋ-maʔ*	*nân-maʔ*	*a-maʔ*	*ân-maʔ*
Contrastive	*kăy*	*kân-niʔ*	*năŋ*	*nân-niʔ*	*a-niʔ*	*ân-niʔ*

Table 6. Pronouns in Hakha Lai

	Subject	*Object*	*Reflexive*
1SG	*ka*	*ka*	*kaa*
2SG	*na*	*in/n with sg. subj.*	*naa*
3SG	*a*	*Ø*	*aa*
1PL	*kan*	*kan + hnaa*	*kan i*
2PL	*nan*	*in / n with sg. sbj. + hnaa*	*nan i*
3PL	*an*	*Ø + hnaa*	*an i*

Table 7. Participant markers in Hakha Lai

Interrogative pronouns also form a closed lexical class in SC languages. Table 8 lists those pronouns in Daai (Southeastern), Falam Chin (Central), and Sizang (Northeastern). Note that in some of these cases there is arguably more going on than simple pronominalization. Some of these involve relational nouns (*tik* 'time', *ruang* 'reason', see section 3.1.1.1), as well as the adverbialization construction (*tin* 'every time', see section 3.1.3).

Interrogative pronouns	*Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 308)*	*Falam Chin (King 2010: 127)*	*Sizang (Naylor 1925: 19)*
who	*u*	*zo*	*koi*
what	*i*	*ziang*	*bang*
why	*ilü*	*ziang ruang ah*	*a bang hang*
when	*itüh*	*ziang tik*	*a bang hun chiang*
how	*ihokba*	*ziang tin*	*koi bang*
where	*ho*	*khoi*	*koi lai*
how much	*ikän*	*ziang zat*	

Table 8. Interrogative pronouns in SC languages

Indefinite pronouns in SC are usually formed with a combination of morphemes. For example, the word for 'some' in Hakha Lai is *cheukhat* /tshêw-khat/, a combination of *cheu* 'half' and *khat* 'one'. In Daai, the negative indefinite pronouns are formed by suffixing the morpheme *phi* to the

interrogative pronouns. For example, the word *u-phi* 'nobody' is a combination of *u* 'who' and the inclusive particle *phi* 'also' (So-Hartmann 2009: 127).

3.2.2 *Demonstratives*

Demonstratives (DEM), which have the function of pointing or deictic reference (Diessel 1999) constitute a small lexical class in SC, ranging from two in Hyow (*ní* 'proximal', *tsú* 'distal' (Zakaria 2018: 127)) to six in Mizo, as shown in (19). For more discussion on demonstratives, see the paper by Baclawski in this volume (Baclawski 2023).

(19)   Demonstratives in Mizo (Chhangte 1986: 162)
        a.   *hei³ hi¹*   'this (near speaker)'
        b.   *khaa³ kha¹*   'that (near addressee)'
        c.   *khii³ khi¹*   'that (up there)'
        d.   *khuu³ khu¹*   'that (down there)'
        e.   *soo³ so¹*   'that (far)'
        f.   *cuu³ cu¹*   'that (out of sight)'

As illustrated by Hyow in (20a) and (20b), demonstratives are deictic, and often may follow or precede a noun or a noun phrase.

(20)   Demonstratives in Hyow
        a.   *eydö*   *å-hnåmåŋ*   *tun-bala=cæ*   *ey*   *muy=**ni***   *con*
            then   3S=trunk   straighten-SUB=TOP   DX   elephant=DX   run
            'Then, straightening its trunk, that elephant ran.' (Baclawski 2012:31)

        b.   ***ni***   *s'möycå*   *u-nuy-så*
            DX   boy   3S-laugh-REAL
            'This boy laughs.' (Baclawski 2012:51)

Hakha Lai, which has four demonstratives, as seen in (21), has received the most scholarly attention, namely Barnes (1998), Bedell (2001), and Wamsley (2019 and 2020).

(21)   Demonstratives in Hakha Lai (adapted from Barnes 1998)
        a.   *mah* /maʔ/   general DEM
        b.   *hi* /hĭi/   proximal to speaker
        c.   *kha* /khăa/   proximal to addressee
        d.   *khi* /khĭi/   distal to both speaker and addressee
        e.   *cu* /tsŭu/   reference to non-visible (remote)

In Hakha Lai, these demonstratives are often used in (what Wamsley 2019 calls "circumnominal") pairs, as exemplified in (22a-d). Note that the general DEM *mah* /maʔ/ could replace the first DEM without any change in meaning.

(22)   Demonstratives in Hakha Lai (adapted from Barnes 1998: 71)

a.   *hi/mah… hi* (proximal to speaker)
hi *thingkung* **hi** *ka pu nih a rak cin mi a si*

hìi	*thìŋkùŋ=***hĭi**	*ka-pûu=niʔ*	*a-rak-tsìin=mìi*
DEM	tree=DEM	1SG.POSS-grandpa=ERG	3SG.S-PAST-plant_D=REL

a-sîi
3SG.S-COP
'This tree (near me) is the tree that was planted by my grandpa.'

b.   *kha/mah… kha* (proximal to addressee)
kha *inn* **kha** *Ni Hu nih a rak sak mi a si*

khàa	*ìn=***khăa**	*Nìi Hŭu=niʔ*	*a-rak-sak=mìi*	*a-sîi*
DEM	house=DEM	Ni Hu=ERG	3SG.S-PAST-build_D=REL	3SG.S-COP

'That house (near you) is the house that was built by Ni Hu.'

c.   *khi/mah… khi* (distal to both speaker and addressee)
khi *caw* **khi** *aho caw dah a si ?*

khìi	*tsòo=***khĭi**	*ahàw*	*tsòo*	*daʔ*	*a-sĭi*
DEM	cow=DEM	who	cow	WH.Q	3SG.S-COP

'That cow (seen together by speaker and hearer from one place) is whose cow?'

d.   *cu/mah… cu* (remote reference)
cu *pa* **cu** *a sualnak ka phuan*

tsùu	*pàa=***tsŭu**	*a-sùal-naak*	*ka-phŭan*
DEM	male=DEM	3SG.POSS-be sinful_D-NOM	1SG.S-REVEAL_D

'I revealed that man's (already mentioned in the discourse) guilt.'

3.2.3 Numbers and quantifiers

As discussed in Van Bik (2021), cardinal number in SC languages might have no prefix[4] as in *hma* 'five' (Mindat K'Cho) or up to two prefixes as in *pao-pa-ngaw* 'five' (Mara). Table 9 shows examples from Mindat K'Cho (Jordan 1969: 23), Hakha Lai, and Mara (Savidge 1908: 6).

	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
K'Cho	*tumat*	*hngih*	*thum*	*phi'li*	*hma*	*chuk*	*chih*	*cheit*	*ko*	*gha*
Hakha Lai	*khat*	*hniʔ*	*thûm*	*lîi*	*ŋâa*	*ruk*	*sa-riʔ*	*riat*	*kûa*	*hrâa*
Mara	*khā*	*nang*	*thao*	*lì*	*ngaw*	*ru*	*sa-ri*	*cha-ri*	*ki*	*hraw*

Table 9. Numbers in SC (1-10)

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[4] These prefixes are "lexical prefixes" which strictly accompany certain word classes such as numerals.

Additionally, as shown in Table 10, featuring Hakha Lai, the higher numbers are formed by adding certain prefixes. For example, for the numbers 11-19, the prefix *hlei* 'extra' is used; and for the numbers 30 and above, the prefix *sawm* 'ten' is used. But *sawm* is obligatory only for the multiples of 10 (30, 40, 50, etc.). For example *sawn* is optional for the numbers 31 '*(sawm) thum khat* (lit. three one)' and 82 '*(sawm) riat hnih* (lit. eight two)'. Note that the word *kul* '20' is not used in forming higher numbers such as *za-hnih* '200'.

11	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
hlây-khat	*kûl*	*sôom-thûm*	*sôom-lîi*	*sôom-ŋâa*	*sôom-ruk*	*sôom-sa-riʔ*	*sôom-riat*	*sôom-kûa*	*za-khat*

Table 10. Numbers in Hakha Lai (11-100)

Quantifiers follow the noun in SC languages, as illustrated in (2a-d). It is possible to analyze the internal source of some quantifiers. For example, in Hakha Lai, the quantifer *tampi* 'many' is a combination of *tam* 'be plentiful' and *pi* 'AUG'. Similarly, the quantifier *tlawnte* 'little' is a combination of *tlawn* 'be small in number' and *te* 'DIM'. Note also that in Hakha Lai, one cannot use the nominal quantifier *tampi* 'many' to modify the whole sentence, e.g., **rian a ṭuan tampi* /rîan a ṭûan tàmpìi/ 'he works a lot.'

3.2.4 Interjections

Interjections are mostly monosyllabic morphemes in SC languages. Table 11 lists some types of interjections in Daai, Hyow, and Hakha Lai. The examples in (23a-d) illustrate how these interjections are used in Daai.

Interjection types	*Daai* (So-Hartmann 2009)	*Hyow* (Zakaria 2018)	*Hakha Lai*
Agreement	*ä!*	*ś!*	*aw!* /ôo/
Disagreement	*ka:! , a:!*	*ɜ̀hó!*	*eih!* /âyʔ/
Surprise	*ee:!*	*óh!*	*ai.ze!* /âay.zêe/

Table 11. Types of interjection in SC

(23)   Types of interjection in Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 130-131)
   a.   Agreement
   Ä,   ä,   asän   ni.
   yes,   yes   DEM.PRO   COP
   'Yes, yes, this is it!'

b.   Disagreement

    A:!   *nah*   *khyah=a.*
    No!   O.AGR:1S   release=IMP
    'No! Let me go!'

c.   Surprise
    Ee:!   *kho.khi-in*   *lo*   *ve.*
    oh!   wind.blow-MIR   ASP   ASP
    'Oh, the wind is starting to blow!'

3.2.5 Onomatopoeic words

Onomatopoeic words are ones by which speakers of a language imitate motions and sounds. Table 12 illustrates onomatopoeic words in Khumi, Hyow, and Hakha Lai. Note that the gap indicates lack of data.

Onomatopoeic words	Khumi (Peterson 2013)	Hyow (Zakaria 2018)	Hakha Lai
Human spitting	*thuy⁵*	*thúʔthúʔthúʔ*	*phui*
Human sound of irregular breathing	*hüng¹hüng⁵*	-	*hui-hui*
Rooster's crow	*kå¹k'l'ö⁵*	*kókkǽlǽkók*	*ok.ka.li.ok*
Dog's barking	*bu¹¹'ung¹*	*wáw*	*ou*
Sound of something falling	*paw⁵*	*krûng*	*pung*

Table 12. Examples of onomatopoeic words in SC

3.3 Bound elements

Bound elements in SC include certain morphemes whose occurrence depends on free morphemes, such as nouns and verbs.

3.3.1 Middle markers

The middle construction in SC languages involves the use of either prefixal or suffixal middle markers. By middle marker is meant a single formal marker which is involved in the expression of certain intransitive events, e.g., grooming, positional, or mental state, etc., or a variety of reciprocal, reflexive, and anticausative, etc. events. Middle marking only happens for verbs and so can be used

as a diagnostic. Languages that use middle prefixes include Hakha Lai, Mizo, Lawmtuk-Ruawghawn in Central Chin, Sizang and Tedim in Northeastern, and Daai and Mindat K'Cho in Southeastern. On the other hand, Falam Chin (Central) and Hyow (Southeastern) use middle suffixes in their middle construction. Examples of these middle constructions are provided for languages with prefixal marking in (24a-e) and for languages with suffixal marking in (25a-b).

(24)   Prefixal middle construction in SC languages
       a.   Hakha Lai (adapted from Smith 1997)
           kan hmai kan i phiah
           kân-hmàay   *kân-**i**-phiaʔ*
           1PL.POSS-face   1PL.SBJ-*MID*-wash$_{INV}$
           'We washed our faces'

       b.   Mizo (Chhangte 1986: 152)
           *a¹-**in**-meet³*
           3SG.SUB-*MID*-shave
           'he is shaving'

       c.   Lawmtuk-Ruawghawn (Peterson and Van Bik's field notes, Jan.2020)
           m'khan di   *a-tsot*   *tikkhan phe-*
           then   thatch   3SG.SBJ-pull2   when   false.start

           gom-puy   *he*   *khan*   ***k'**-tong*   *a-ca*
           bear-AUG   COM   DEIC.OBL   *MID*-meet   3PL.SBJ-say
           'When he was pulling thatch, Rab- (false start) he met with bear they say'
           (*Gompuy le Pheto* 'Bear and Rabbit')

       d.   Sizang (Davis 2017: 36)
           áماː=tɛ̌ː   *tʰíŋkúːŋ=tɛː*   *níː*   *á=dɔːn*
           3s=PL   tree=PL   two   3.POSS=tree.top

           ***kî**=kɔai*   *hîː*
           MID=embrace.I   be
           'They, the two trees, their treetops hug each other'
           (*Tei le Zuang thu*).

       e.   Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 206)[5]
           ***Ng**-khyuː-**ng**-la=kti=xooi.*
           MID-wife-*MID*-take=NON.FUT=DU
           'They marry each other'

---

[5] Clearly more than simple prefixation is going on in this example. Perhaps this is an elaborate expression (see below), and the first root, here glossed as 'wife', previously had a verbal meaning expressing what the wife does in the act of marrying (the man "takes" a wife in many SC languages).

(25)   Suffixal middle construction in SC languages
      a.   Falam Chin (King 2010: 276)
            Mang   *cu*   *amah*   *le*   *amah*
            Mang   TOP   3SG.PRON   and   3SG.PRON

            *a-at-**aw**   *pang*
            3SG.SBJ-cut.1-*MID*   accidentally
            'Mang cut ***himself*** accidentally'

      b.   Hyow (Zakaria 2018: 291)
            èydŝ   *ú-lúkí*   *hángháng*   *kháʔ-**êy**-âl=tî*
            then   3SG.POSS-head   all   shave.II-*MID*-DEP=R.EVID
            'Then he shaved all his head himself'

3.3.2 *Case markers*

Case markers, such as genitive, ergative, and locative (see Peterson (2023) for further discussion of a subset of these markers), belong to a closed class in SC. Table 13 lists selected clitic postpositions for Daai (Southeastern), Mizo (Central), and Sizang (Northeastern). Detailed illustrations are provided for Daai in (26a-f) and Hakha Lai in (27a-c). It is noteworthy that Daai has a polysemy of genitive and locative marker *-a*, as exemplified in (26d-e).

Case	*Daai* *(So-Hartmann 2009)*	*Mizo* *(Chhangte 1986)*	*Sizang* *(Davis 2017)*
Genitive	*a*	*ii*	*in*
Ergative	*noh*	*in*	*nǎː*
Locative	*â*	*aʔ*	*aː*

Table 13. Case markers in SC

(26)   Case markers in Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 160-170)
      a.   Ergative
            Thang   *sun=**noh***   *pasong*   *ah*   *hnim=kti*
            Thang   DEM=*ERG*   important.man   S.AGR:3S   killed=NON.FUT
            'Thang killed an important man.'

      b.   Dative
            Ah   *mahpa=noh*   *vok=**üng***   *buh-kkhyung*   *ah*   *mbei.*
            POSS:3S   master=ERG   pig=*DAT*   rice-crust   S.AGR:3S   feed
            'The master fed rice crust to his pig.'

c.　Instrumental

*Sisi=**üng*** *nana* *ngmäh=kti.*
older.sister=*INSTR* younger.brother is.carried=NON.FUT
'The younger brother is carried by the older sister.'

d.　Genitive

Ahin *kei:=**a*** *i:m* *ni.*
DEM.PRON 1S=*GEN* house COP
'This is my house.'

e.　Locative

Joong *sun* *thi:ng=a* *pa:m=**a*** *kaai=kti.*
monkey DEM tree=GEN top=*LOC* climb=NON.FUT
'The monkey climbed to the top of the tree.'

f.　Vocative

*Mah-püi=**o*** *käh* *kyap=a.*
grandmother=*VOC* NEG cry=IMP
'Grandmother, don't cry!'

(27)　Case markers in Hakha Lai

a.　Comitative (Ni Kio 2014: 294; see also Peterson and Van Bik 2004)

Biakinn ah ka nu he kan kal

biak-ìn=aʔ *ka-nûu=**hĕe*** *kân-kàl*
worship-house=LOC 1SG.POSS-mother=*COM* 1PL.SBJ-go_B
'I go to the church with my mother.'

b.　Oblique (Ni Kio 2014: 801)

Phaisa na ka ṭhenhmi kha hloh loin kaa ken rinren ko

phâay.sâa *na-ka-ṭhenʔ=mìi* *khǎa* *hlawʔ-lâw=**în***
money 2SG.SBJ-1SG.OBJ-give_D=REL DEIC spend_D-NEG=*OBL*

kàa-kĕn *rînrên* *kâw*
1SG.RFL-carry_D P.RED (safely) AFF
'I keep the money you gave me safely without spending it.'

c.　Standard of comparison (Ni Kio 2014: 642)

Kan khua nakin nan khua a ngan deuh

kân-khùa ***naak.ìn*** *nân-khùa*
1PL.POSS-village *STAND* 2PL.POSS-village

a-ŋân *dewʔ*
3SG.SBJ-big_B more
'Your village is bigger than our village.'

3.3.3 *Preverbal directionals*

Preverbal directionals are morphemes which describe how the participants are oriented in terms of position, distance, and movement (Van Bik and Tluangneh 2017). Languages have from one directional prefix, as in Hyow, where there is a single prefix, *á-* (Zakaria 2018: 344), to six in Daai (So-Hartmann 2008:284), as seen in Table 14.

Directional	Gloss	Direction of Action
jän-	upwards	towards higher level
jäng-	upwards	towards higher level
juk-	downwards	towards lower level
ju-	downwards	towards lower level
va-	forward	towards destination on same level
hei-	forward	across a hindrance on same level

Table 14. Preverbal directionals in Daai

It appears that these directionals were once full verbs which grammaticalized into directional morphemes (DeLancey 1981). The examples in (28)-(32), adapted from Osburne (1975: 166-172), illustrate that, in Falam Chin, what are historically the same elements may sometimes be used both as independent verbs and as bound prefixal directionals.[6] Once the independent verbs grammaticalize as directionals, they tend to develop additional semantic nuances which are only available for the bound elements.

(28)   Functions of *ra* verb/directional
      a.   Independent verb
          hi-in-ah   *ka-**ra***
          DEM-ADV-LOC   1SG.S.-***come.1***
          'I came here.'

      b.   Directional
          *a-**ra**-thleng*   *zo*
          3SG.S-*DIR*-arrive.1   PRF
          'He has already arrived here.'

---

[6] The glosses in these examples are provided elsewhere in Osburne's dissertation or in King (2010).

(29)   Functions of *va* verb/directional
    a.   Independent verb
        khi-in-ah   *ka-va*
        DEM-ADV-LOC   1SG.S.-*go.1*
        'I went there.'

    b.   Directional
        khi   *tlaang-ih*   *kan-va-thlen*   *tikah*   *kan-baang*   *zet*
        DEM   mountain-LOC   1SG.S-*DIR*-arrive.2   when   1SG.S-tired.1   very
        'When we went arriving at that hill we were very tired.'

(30)   Functions of *rung* verb/directional
    a.   Independent verb
        hi-khaan-ah   *ka-rung*
        DEM-room-LOC   1SG.S.-*come down.1*
        'I came down to this room.'

    b.   Directional
        a-rung-ra
        3SG.S-*DIR*-come.1
        'He came down.'

(31)   Functions of *vung* verb/directional
    a.   Independent verb
        khi-khaan-ah   *ka-vung*
        DEM-room-LOC   1SG.S.-*go down.1*
        'I went down to that room.'

    b.   Directional
        a-vung-ra
        3SG.S-*DIR*-come.1
        'He came down.'

(32)   Functions of *hung* verb/directional
    a.   Independent verb
        thingkung-par-ah   *ka-hung*
        tree-top-LOC   1SG.S.-*go up.1*
        'I went up to the top of tree.'

    b.   Directional
        a-hung-feh
        3SG.S-DIR-go.INV
        'He went up.'

In addition to the seminal work of DeLancey (1981), the phenomena of grammaticalization of full verbs to directionals in Falam Chin is well known from other SC languages (see Chelliah and Utt 2017 for Lamkang, Van Bik and Tluangneh 2017 for Lai, etc.).

3.3.4 Valence-increasing morphemes [7]

Valence-increasing morphemes include causative and applicative construction markers.

3.3.4.1 Causative construction markers

Causative constructions in SC involve valence increasing morphemes which usually come in two types: non-productive vs. productive. (See also So-Hartmann and Peterson (2023).)

Non-productive causatives, which only occur with a limited number of base predicates, tend to involve a prefix, e.g., *m-* in Daai, as illustrated in (33a-c)[8], or aspiration/devoicing of the initial consonant of the verbal root, shown for Falam Chin in (34a) vs. (34b).

(33) Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 55-56)

	Simplex	Causative
a.	*ei*	***m**bei*
	'eat'	'feed'
b.	*oo:k*	***m**book*
	'drink'	'give to drink'
c.	*ooi*	***m**booi*
	'hand around the neck'	'put over the neck of another person'

(34) Falam Chin (King 2010: 221)
a. Non-causative

ka	*kawr*	*a*		*tlek.*
1SG	shirt	3SG.NOM		torn.INV

'My shirt is/got torn.'

b. Causative

Thangte	*in*	*ka*	*kawr*	*a*		***thlek**.*
Thangte	ERG	1SG	shirt	3SG.NOM		tear.INV

'Thangte tore my shirt.'

---

[7] Some of the morphemes involved in these causatives no longer constitute a separate morpheme, especially the causative formation pattern that involves aspiration or devoicing of the onset. However, as shown in Matisoff (1976), the aspiration/devoicing of the onset resulted from an **s-* causative prefix. As recently suggested by Peterson (p.c.), a **p-* prefix might be an alternative source of the aspiration or devoicing of the onset.

[8] With vowel-initial roots, such as those seen here, apparently there is an excrescent *b* associated with this prefix. Alternatively, the *b* here is an oral stop remnant from when this *m*-prefix was previously non-nasal: it presumably corresponds to a prefix *p-* seen elsewhere in SC. (See So-Hartmann and Peterson (2023).)

Productive causatives, which involve suffixes, are illustrated for three SC languages from different subgroups in (35)-(37): Falam Chin (Central), Sizang (Northeastern), and Hyow (Southeastern).

(35)　Falam Chin (King 2010: 195)
　　　*Parte　in　　Cinte　a　　　　　hni-**ter**.*
　　　Parte　ERG　Cinte　3SG.NOM　　laugh.1-*CAUS*
　　　'Parte made Cinte laugh.'

(36)　Sizang (Davis 2017: 35)
　　　*â:.ma:=na:　　tʰiŋ.ŋa:=siǐa:　â:=taǐ:nuǐ:　　　　sil=**sâk**　　hiâ:*
　　　3SG=ERG　　　fruit=ABS　　3.POSS=daughter　　wash.I-*CAUS*　　be
　　　'She made her daughter wash the fruit' (Elicited).

(37)　Hyow (Zakaria 2018: 378)
　　　tsú=â　　　　á-tsáng-nú　　ím=â=ní
　　　DIST=LOC　　GRP-be.old-F　house=LOC=FOC

　　　*á-á-ní-íp-**shɔ́k**-hnɔ́ʔ=tî*
　　　3A-DIR-PL-sleep-*CAUS*-ULT=R.EVID
　　　'They went to make her sleep there in the old woman's house.'

3.3.4.2 *Applicative construction markers*

Applicative morphemes constitute a functional class that involves valence increase in SC. Table 15 provides applicative morphemes found in three SC languages: Hakha Lai (Central), Sizang (Northeastern), and Daai (Southeastern), with illustrations from Hakha Lai in (38a-g).

	Hakha Lai (Peterson 1998)	*Sizang (Naylor 1925)*	*Daai (So-Hartmann 2009)*
Benefactive/ malefactive	-*piak*	-*sak*	-*pee:t*
Allative/ malefactive	-*hnoʔ*		
Instrumental	-*naak*		-*naa:k*
Comitative/ associative	- *pîi*	-*pui*	-*pui*
Relinquitive	-*taak*	-*san*	-*taa:k*
Priorative	-*kanʔ*		
Additional benefactive	-*tsemʔ*		

Table 15. Applicative morphemes in SC

(38) Applicative morphemes in Hakha Lai
    a. Benefactive/malefactive applicative
        lo a ka thlawh piak
        *lâw   a-ka-thloʔ-**piak***
        field   3SG.S-1SG.O-hoe_D-BEN.APPL
        'He hoed the field for me.'

    b. Comitative/associative applicative
        Bawi a ka chawnh pi
        *bòoy   a-ka-tshonʔ-**pîi***
        officer   3SG.S-1SG.O-speak_D-COM.APPL
        'He spoke to the officer with me.'

    c. Additional benefactive applicative
        Thil a ka suk cemh
        *thîl   a-ka-suuk-**tsemʔ***
        thing (cloth)   3SG.S-1SG.O-wash_D-ADD.BEN.APPL
        'She washed the clothes for my benefit (in addition to her benefit).'

    d. Prioritive applicative
        Sianginn a ka kai kanh
        *sìaŋ-ìn   a-ka-kǎay-**kanʔ***
        school   3SG.S-1SG.O-climb_D-PRIOR.APPL
        'He attended the school ahead of/before me.'

    e. Allative malefactive applicative
        Kheng a ka tengh hnawh
        *khêeŋ   a-ka-teŋʔ-**hnoʔ***
        plates   3SG.S-1SG.O-throw_D-ALL.MAL.APPL
        'He threw the plates at me to my detriment.'

    f. Relinquitive applicative
        Rawl a ka ei taak
        *rôol   a-ka-ày-**taak***
        food   3SG.S-1SG.O-eat_D-RELINQ.APPL
        'He ate the food leaving me behind (not waiting for me).'

    g. Instrumental applicative
        Ka naam thing a tan naak
        *ka-nâam   thîŋ a-tàn-**naak***
        1SG.POSS-knife   wood 3SG.S-cut_D-INST.APPL
        'He cut the wood with my knife.'

It is interesting to note that in Hakha Lai there are certain lexicalized pairs which are a combination of particular predicates and CAUS/APPL markers. For example, in *zah-pi* /zaʔ-pîi/ (shy-

COM.APPL) 'be ashamed of', *thih-pi* /thiʔ-pîi/ (die-COM.APPL) 'be obsessed with', *cawn-piak* /tsôon-piak/ (learn-BEN.APPL) 'teach', and *hmuh-sak* /hmuʔ-sak/ (see-CAUS) 'show', modern Lai speakers are no longer aware of the morpheme boundaries.

3.3.5 Tense and aspect markers

Tense and aspect markers include morphemes such as future, perfect, and progressive markers. Table 16 lists some aspectual morphemes in three SC languages.

	Daai *(So-Hartmann 2009)*	*Falam Chin* *(King 2010)*	*Paite* *(Singh 2006)*
Future/Irrealis	*kkhai*	*ding*	*ding*
Perfect	*pääng*	*zo*	*ta*
Progressive	*k'um*	*lai*	*lay*

Table 16. Examples of aspectual markers in SC

In many cases, it might be possible to trace the diachronic path of these markers. For example, the perfect marker *zo* 'PRF' in Falam Chin in (39) obviously came from the Proto-Kuki-Chin (PKC) verb *yaw 'finish, complete' (Van Bik 2009: 283).

(39) *Rawl   na   ei   **zo**   maw?*   (King 2010: 110)
      food   2SG.NOM   eat   *PRF*   INTG
      'Have you eaten?'

Heine and Kuteva (2002: 138) provide examples of how verbs with the meaning of 'finish, complete' grammaticalize into perfect markers.

3.3.6 Reduplication

Reduplication is very common in SC for the indication of intensification. For example, Mizo (Chhangte 1986: 242-244) has several attributive types of reduplication with this function: *trhaa trhaa* 'best one' ("good good"); *a kal¹ a kal¹* 'she went back and forth' ("she went she went"); *tak tak* 'very very' ("INT INT"); *zong zong* 'all' ("also also"). The examples in (40) and (41) illustrate reduplication in Hakha Lai and Daai with the same function.

(40) Reduplication in Hakha Lai (Adapted from Ni Kio 2015: 22)
      a ṭha cemcem kan thimh
      a-thăa　　　　**tsêm-tsêm**　　　　*ka-n-thimʔ*
      3SG.S-goodB　*RED (superlative)*　1SG.S-2SG.O-chooseINV
      'I chose THE BEST OF THE BEST for you'

(41)   Reduplication in Daai (So-Hartmann 2009: 122)

Hnashen	*sun*	***lon-lon**=a*	*ngpyaang=kti.*
child	DEM	loudly=CF	shout=NON.FUT

‘The child shouted loudly.’

3.3.7 Elaborate expressions

An elaborate expression (EE) is prototypically defined as "a compound containing four (usually monosyllablic) elements, of which either the first and third or the second and fourth are identical (A-B-A-C or A-B-C-B)"(Matisofff 1982: 82), as illustrated by Burmese in (42a-b) and (43a-b).

(42)   A-B-A-C

    a.

pwe:	*gji:*	*pwe:*	*gaun:*	(MED: 293)
event	big	event	good	

‘well-matched contest’

    b.

le'	*shou'*	*le'*	*kain*	(MED: 441)
hand	grasp	hand	hold	

‘(be caught) red-handed’

(43)   A-B-C-B

    a.

taun	*boun*	*ja*	*boun*	(MED: 178)
hill	heap	hundred	heap	

‘in abundance’

    b.

jei	*lai'*	*nga:*	*lai'*	(MED: 397)
water	follow	fish	follow	

‘accommodatingly’

The investigation on the EE's structures of ABAC or ABCB is not very prominent yet in the grammars of SC languages. For example, EEs are not included in the tables of contents for the grammars of Daai (So-Hartmann 2009), Hyow (Zakaria 2018), and Paite (Singh 2007), etc. It does not mean, however, that these structures do not exist in SC languages. Hakha Lai has a small number of these structures, as exemplified in (44a-b) and (45a-b).

(44)   A-B-A-C

    a.   *khua nu khua pa*

khûa	*nùu*	*khûa*	*pàa*
village	mother	village	father

‘village/town elders’

b.   *fial chuk fial cho*
        fial   chuk   fial   châw
        ask   downward   ask   upward
        'care taker of all errands'

(45)   A-B-C-B

a.   *mi chaw mah chaw*
        mìi   tshòo   maʔ   tshôo
        person goods   self   goods
        'something for everyone'

b.   *mei hu pa hu*
        mây   hùu   pâa   hùu
        fire   power   father   power
        'the power of fire and father give the same warmth' (proverb)

Peterson 2010 identifies an additional way of recognizing the phenomenon of elaborate expressions in SC languages. Focussing on Khumi, Peterson defines EEs as "quasi-reduplicative, compound-like structures consisting of an element which imparts meaning to the whole expression, and a second element which ranges from a reduplicative template (e.g., *mi-maay,* ELAB(ORATION)-fire 'fire') to formally constrained nonce elements (*srúng-sraaw,* ELAB- tobacco 'tobacco'), to otherwise meaningful elements which bear some semantic resemblance to their paired element (*uy-klaay,* dog-monkey 'dog')". The main point of his article is that the use of EEs in discourse correlates with other sorts of things reduplication often does in languages in terms of indicating multiple participants, different subtypes of imperfective aspect, and intensification. He also notes that the use of elaborate expressions is regarded as a sign of good speaking that has aesthetic effect (Peterson 2013).

In Hakha Lai there seem to be some compounds that meet some criteria of Peterson's EE definition, as shown in (46a-b).

(46)   a.   *an i naihniam.*
                ân-i-nayʔ-nîam
                3PL.SBJ-MID-close$_{INV}$-short$_B$
                'they are close'

b.   *a ka muaithai.*
        a-ka-mŭay-thâay
        3SG.SBJ-1SG.OBJ—caress$_D$-scratch$_B$
        'she caresses me'

In (46a), the verb *naih* 'be close' has the same meaning without the second element *niam*, and therefore the first element imparts the meaning of the whole expression. Similarly in (46b), the verb *muai* 'caress' has the same meaning without the second element *thai*, which elaborates the expression.

3.3.8 Verbal classifiers

Verbal classifiers are grammatical morphemes which describe the manner of verbal performance, such as what have been variously called 'chiming' adverbs in Tedim (Bhaskararao 1989), ideophonic elements Hakha Lai (Patent 1998), and adverbials involving sound symbolism in Mizo (Chhangte 1993), etc. These verbal classifiers often occur in large/small (AUG/DIM) pairs in the SC languages that have them. The large/small aspect of these are exemplified by Khumi and Hakha Lai in (47) and (48) respectively.

(47)   Khumi verbal classifiers (Peterson 2008: 110-111)
  a.   *ang-jeew=boeloee*   *ueeng moo='iee*   *beewng-puuy*   *cangpaay=aa*
         3-come=WHEN   house front=GEN   banyan-AUG   branch=ALL

       ajuu=poee   *coeng-paaw*   *jvoó=poee*   *coeng-**paaw**=te*
        wife=also   land-AUGVCL   husband=also   land-*AUG.VCL*=EVID
        'When they came, the female bird and the male bird [=large eagles] landed on the branch of the big banyan tree in front of the house.'

  b.   *toeéng=te*   *toeéng-maa=boeloee*   *ewkóo*   *sahueeng*
        arrive=EVID   arrive-FIRST=WHEN   deck   fence

       *coeng-**poee**=te*
        land-*DIM.VCL*=EVID
        'It arrived, and after it arrived, it [=a small bird] landed on the deck fence.'

(48)   Hakha Lai verbal classifiers (adapted from Ni Kio 2015: 52)
  a.   *kan khuami khual ah an pem thluahmah.*
        kân-khùamìi   *khûal=aʔ*   *ân-pèem*   ***thluaʔmaʔ***
         3PL.POSS-villagers   foreign.land=LOC   3PL.SBJ-migrateᵦ   *AUG.VCL*
         'Our villagers migrate to foreign lands in *large* numbers.'

  b.   *kan khuami cu khual ah an pem thliahmah.*
        kân-khùamìi   *khûal=aʔ*   *ân-pèem*   ***thliaʔmaʔ***
         3PL.POSS-villagers   foreign.land=LOC   3PL.SBJ-migrateᵦ   *DIM.VCL*
         'Our villagers migrate to foreign lands in *small* numbers.'

Notably, verbal classifiers have the typological characterization of such elements, including "optionality, occurrence of different predicates with different classifiers, occurrence of multiple classifiers with a single predicate, use of classifiers for maintenance of participant reference in discourse, and participant type that classifiers can refer to", of which Peterson gives illustrations with data from Khumi and other SC languages (Peterson 2008: 112-120).

4 Conclusion

This work assumes that any serious attempt to deal with the infinite variety of sentences in a language must involve grouping its morphemes and words into a lexicon of a few large classes on the basis of certain salient distributional and semantic characteristics (Matisoff 1982: 42).

This paper adopts the conventional approach of recognizing open and closed classes of word in the investigation of the lexicon in SC languages. It has demonstrated that items like nouns, verbs, and adverbial expressions belong to open classes; pronominals, demonstratives, numerals, quantifiers, interjections, onomatopoetic words, and case markers form closed classes. Middle markers, case markers, directionals, tense/aspect markers, valence-changing elements, verbal classifiers, elaborate expressions, and reduplicative patterns are treated as bound elements.

It is hoped that the issues identified in this paper will be informative to researchers in SC as they make analytical decisions needed in formulating an account of a language's grammar, and in structuring lexical materials for a language.

ABBREVIATIONS

1	first person	IPFV	imperfective aspect
2	second person	INCL	inclusive
3	third person	INST	instrumental
A	agent	INTG	interrogative
ABL	ablative	INV	invariant (verb form)
ABS	absolutive	LOC	locative
ADD	additional	MAL	malefactive
ADVZ	adverbializer	MASC	masculine
ADV	adverb	MED	Myanmar-English dictionary
AFF	affirmative	MID	middle
AJC	adjunct	MIR	mirative
ALL	allative	MOD	model
ANAPH	anaphoric	NEG	negative
AO	agent orientating	NF	non-final
APPL	applicative	NOM	nominative
ASP	aspect	NMLZ	nominalizer
AUG	augmentative	O	object
AUX	auxiliary	OBJ	object
B	base (verb form)	PERF	perfect
BEN	benefactive	PL	plural
CAUS	causative	PM	predicate marker
CF	constituent final	PP	post position
CLF	classifier	PRF	perfect tense
CLS	classifier	PROX	proximal
COH	cohortative mood	Pv	verb particle
COM	comitative	POL.IMP	polite imperative

COMP	complementizer	POSS	possessive
COP	copula	P.RED	partial reduplication
D	derived (verb form)	PRIOR	prioritive
DAT	dative	PRO	pronoun
DEM	demonstrative	Q	question marker
DEP	departative	QT	quotative particle
DIM	diminutive	R	recipient (indirect object)
DIR	directional	R.EVID	reported evidential
DP	discourse particle	REAL	realis
DU	dual	REL	relativizer
DX	deictic	RELINQ	relinquitive
ELAB	elaborate expression	RFL	reflexive
EMP	emphasis	S	subject; intransitive subject
ERG	ergative	S.AGR	subject agreement
EVID	evidential	SBJ	subject
EXC	exclusive	SG	singular
F	female	STAND	standard of comparison
FOC	focus	SUB	subject
FUT	future	SUB	subordinate
GEN	genitive	SUGG	suggestive
GRP	generic referential prefix	TOP	topic
IDEO	ideophone	VCL	verbal classifier
IMP	imperative	ULT	ultimative suffix

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