Verb Classes in Thai

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to propose a set of syntactic tests for determining verb classes in Thai, with reference to the syntactic tests presented in Van Valin and LaPolla (1997) and Van Valin (In press). Thai, the national language of Thailand, is a member the Tai-Kadai family of languages. It is an isolating language with almost no morphology. It is also highly context-sensitive. Even so, Thai exhibits distinct verb classes that parallel those discovered in other languages.

The syntactic tests for determining verb classes in Thai are presented in Section 2. In Section 3, the application of the tests is demonstrated with a selection of non-causative Thai verbs. Finally, Section 4 concludes with a summary of syntactic testing for Thai verb classes and directions for further research.[1]

2. Syntactic tests for Thai verb classes

Since morphology is limited in Thai, verbs are often called upon to code grammatical information handled by morphology in other languages. Because of this, it is important to establish that a particular form is, in fact, a main verb. Occurrence with the negative marker *mâj* 'NEG' serves to differentiate verbs from nominals in Thai. Prototypical verbs such as *phát* 'blow', *sâaŋ* 'build', *ráʔbɔ̀ət* 'explode' and *mii* 'have' all occur with *mâj*. In addition, descriptive words such as *sŭaj* 'beautiful' and *rew* 'fast' also occur with the negative marker which identifies them as verbs in Thai as well. However, it is not enough to establish verb membership. In order to be considered a main verb, a verb must be able to head a verb phrase. For example, *tɔ̂ɔŋ* 'must', passes the negative marker test, however, it cannot head a verb phrase by itself. Therefore, it cannot be considered a main verb and is not eligible for the verb class tests that follow.

The syntactic tests for distinguishing Thai verb classes are listed in Table 1, below.[2] Seven non-causative verb classes can be distinguished in Thai as opposed to the six verb classes distinguished in Van Valin (In press). These seven classes are: Adjectival States, Verbal States, Achievements, Accomplishments, Activities, Active Accomplishments and Semelfactives. The additional class, Adjectival States, includes all the semantic types of adjectives found in English (Dixon 1977:31). A similar adjective class, a sub-type of verbs, has also been described for Lao, a related language (Enfield 2004).

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[1] This paper covers research carried out with non-causative verbs only.

[2] Two tests, Test 1 and Test 2, as presented in Van Valin and LaPolla (1997:94), do not work well for Thai. Test 1, occurrence with progressive aspect, is not possible in Thai because Thai does not have progressive aspect implying continuous action. Test 2, occurrence with dynamic adverbs, is a challenging one in Thai due to the large inventory of dynamic adverbs and the collacational restrictions with each adverb. Given the complexity of this test in Thai and the fact that this test is not necessary to distinguish Thai verb classes, we have chosen not to include it in this set of syntactic tests.

	Adjectival States	Verbal States	Achievements	Accomplishments	Activities	Active Accomplishments	Semelfactives
1) Occurs with the comparative marker *kwàa*	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
2) Occurs with pace verbs like *rew* 'fast', *tçháa* 'slow'[3]	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*
3) Occurs with the durative marker *kamlaŋ*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No*
4) Occurs with (*phaaj*) *naj nɯ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ* 'in one hour'	No	No	No*	Yes	No	Yes	No
5) Occurs with *phɔ̂əŋ* 'just now' and *săam khráŋ* 'three times' with a singular subject	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
6) Causative paraphrase with *hâj* 'cause, allow'	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Table 1. Verb class tests for Thai[4]

The first test, occurrence with the comparative marker *kwàa* 'more than', serves to distinguish adjectival states from other verb classes in Thai. Of the Thai verbs, only adjectival states, such as *sŭaj* 'beautiful' and *rew* 'fast', can occur with the comparative marker.

The second test, occurrence with pace verbs, serves to identify non-static verbs with temporal duration and behaves in Thai as outlined in Van Valin and LaPolla (1997). The asterisk for Achievements indicates that Achievements can occur with pace verbs indicating very short duration, so care has been taken to test with pace verbs indicating a longer temporal duration. The asterisk for Semelfactives indicates that Semelfactives can occur with pace verbs with an iterative reading. However, if a time phrase is added indicating the action occurred one time, occurrence with a pace verb is not possible with Semelfactive verbs. Therefore, semelfactive verbs are tested with a temporal phrase such as *nɯ̀ŋ khráŋ* 'one time'. Accomplishments, Activities and Active Accomplishments pass this test with verbs indicating a longer temporal duration, while Adjectival States, Verbal States, Achievements and Semelfactives fail this test.

The third test, occurrence with the durative marker *kamlaŋ*[5], provides a fairly pragmatically-neutral test of temporal duration as opposed to using a temporal phrase such as *pen weelaa nɯ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ* "for an hour". For example, the durative marker can occur with Adjectival States referring to inherent properties, whereas occurrence with *pen weelaa nɯ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ* is ungrammatical as illustrated by example (1) , below.

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[3] /tç/and /tçh/ are being used to represent the non-aspirated and aspirated Thai devoiced lenis affricates [dʑ] and [dʑh], respectively.

[4] The asterisks in Table 1 indicate problems and considerations that affect a test for a particular verb class. These are discussed in the description of each test, below.

[5] *kamlaŋ* is defined by the Haas Thai Dictionary (1964:34) as indicating ongoing action or a prevailing state.

1) *lék sǔaj   pen weelaa nùŋ tçhuamooŋ
   Lek beautiful be time   one hour

With Semelfactives, *kamlaŋ* can only occur if no counting expressions are added such as *nùŋ khráŋ* 'one time' or *sǎam khráŋ* 'three times', so for Semelfactives the test is marked 'No' with an asterisk. Finally, while *kamlaŋ* can occur with Accomplishments and Activities, it cannot occur with Active Accomplishments.[6] We know from a positive result for Test 3, occurrence with pace verbs, that Active Accomplishments have temporal duration. However, it appears that the telicity of Thai Active Accomplishments seems to preclude them from co-occurring with the durative marker. Since Thai Active Accomplishments do not behave the same as with Test 3, the results of this test are relevant, providing a means of distinguishing Accomplishments and Active Accomplishments in Thai. Adjectival States, Verbal States, Accomplishments and Activities pass this test, while Achievements, Active Accomplishments and Semelfactives fail this test.

The fourth test, occurrence with the *in*-phrase, *phaaj naj nùŋ tçhuamooŋ* 'in one hour', serves to identify verbs with a terminal point. The asterisks for Achievements and Semelfactives indicate that they can occur with *in*-phrases of very short duration, but they cannot occur with *in*-phrases of longer duration. Therefore they are marked 'No' with an asterisk for this test. Accomplishments and Active Accomplishments pass this test with *in*-phrases of longer duration, while Adjectival and Verbal States, Achievements, Activities and Semelfactives fail this test.

The fifth test, occurrence with *phôəŋ* 'just now' and *sǎam khráŋ* 'three times' with a singular subject, is designed to distinguish Achievements, which have a result state, from Semelfactives, which have no result state.[7] The format of this test is taken from verb class tests for Phowa, a Tibeto-Burman language of China (Pelkey 2004). It is based on the observation (Van Valin, In press) that Achievements can have an iterative reading only with plural subjects, while Semelfactives can have an iterative reading with a singular subject. Only Semelfactives pass this test. Adjectival and Verbal States, Achievements, Accomplishments, Activities and Active Accomplishments fail this test.

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[6] The temporal phrase *pen weelaa nùŋ tçhuamooŋ* also cannot occur with Active Accomplishments as demonstrated by example (1), below.

1) *khǎw wîŋ paj thǔŋ suansǎathǎaraná? pen weelaa nùŋ tçhuamooŋ
   3s   run go to   park   be time   one hour

[7] The suggested test to distinguish Achievements and Semelfactives is whether the verb can function as a stative modifier. In Thai, however, modfied nouns and relative clauses are configured in the same way, making their interpretation ambiguous. This is illustrated in example (2), below, where *bâan jàj* can be interpreted as a modified noun or an attributive sentence.

2) bâan jàj
   house big
     'the big house'
      'The house is big'

The semelfactive verb *kra?phríp* 'flash, blink' can occur in the same syntactic configuration as in example (2). This is illustrated in example (3), below.

3) tôn khrísamâat tòktæ̀æŋ dûaj **faj   kra?phríp** làak sǐi
   tree Christmas   decorate with **light flash**   many colour
     'The Christmas tree is decorated with flashing lights of many colours.'

Given the ambiguity of modified nouns and relative clauses, the stative modifier test cannot be used to distinguish Semelfactives and Achievements in Thai.

Finally, Test 6, is designed to identify lexical causatives. A verb is causative if it can be paraphrased with a causative marker such as *hâj* 'cause, allow', a result state and the same number of arguments as in the sentence being paraphrased. Intransitive verbs have only one argument so they cannot be causativized, since causation requires at least two arguments. The application of this test is illustrated with two Thai causative verbs *lá?laaj* 'melt' and *khâa* 'kill' in examples (2) – (5), below. Examples (2) and (4) are the basic sentences with these verbs and examples (3) and (5) demonstrate causative paraphrases of the basic sentences in (2) and (4).

2) *khăw   lá?laaj   námkhăŋ*
   3s   melt   ice
   'He melted the ice.'

3) *khăw   hâj   námkhăŋ   lá?laaj*
   3s   cause   ice   melt
   'He caused the ice to melt.'

4) *khăw   khâa   mææw   (hâj   taaj)*
   3s   kill   cat   cause   die
   'He killed the cat (dead).'

5) *khăw   hâj   mææw   taaj*
   3s   cause   cat   die
   'He caused the cat to die.'

3. The application of verb class tests to Thai verbs

This section of the paper provides a demonstration of the application of the proposed syntactic tests in Table 1, above, to a selection of Thai non-causative verbs. We will begin with Adjectival States.

3.1. Adjectival states

The behaviour of Adjectival States is illustrated with two verbs: *sŭaj* 'beautiful' and *pùaj* 'sick'.

3.1.1. *sŭaj*

Example (6) is the basic sentence for *sŭaj*.

6) *tὲæŋ   bὲæp   níi   sŭaj*
   decorate type   this beautiful
   'This kind of decorating is beautiful.'

sŭaj occurs with the comparative marker *kwàa* (Test 1) as in example (7). It also occurs with the durative marker *kamlaŋ* (Test 3) as in example (8).

7) *tὲæŋ   bὲæp   níi   sŭaj   kwàa*
   decorate type   this   beautiful more
   'This kind of decorating is more beautiful.'

8) *tὲæŋ   bὲæp   níi   kamlaŋ sŭaj*
   decorate type   this DUR   beautiful
   'This kind of decorating is beautiful (now).'

sŭaj fails the remaining four tests. It cannot occur with pace verbs (Test 2) as illustrated by example (9). It cannot occur with the *in*-phrase (Test 4) as demonstrated by example (10). Nor does it pass the test for iteration with a singular subject (Test 5) as shown in example (11). Finally, since *sŭaj* is an intransitive verb a causative paraphrase is not possible (Test 6).

9) **tæ̀æŋ   bæ̀æp níi   sŭaj   rew/tçháa*
    decorate type this beautiful quickly/slowly

10) **tæ̀æŋ   bæ̀æp níi   sŭaj   phaajnaj nɨ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ*
    decorate type this beautiful inside   one   hour

11) **tæ̀æŋ   bæ̀æp níi   phɔ̂əŋ   sŭaj   sǎam khráŋ*
    decorate type this just_now beautiful three time

The test results for *sŭaj* are listed in Table 2, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
sŭaj	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

Table 2. Test results for *sŭaj*

These test results show that *sŭaj* 'beautiful' is an Adjectival State. The semantic representation of (6), above, is as follows:

$$\textbf{be}' \, (\text{tæ̀æŋ bæ̀æp níi}, [\textbf{beautiful}'])$$

3.1.2.   *pùaj*

The second adjectival state verb is *pùaj* 'sick'. Example (12) is the basic sentence for *pùaj*.

12) *pìʔtìʔ pùaj*
    Piti   sick
    'Piti is sick.'

pùaj passes Test 1, occurrence with the comparative marker, as illustrated in example (13)

13) *pìʔtìʔ pùaj kwàa*
    Piti   sick more
    'Piti is sicker.'

pùaj cannot occur with pace verbs, as in example (14).

14) **pìʔtìʔ pùaj rew/tçháa*
    Piti   sick quickly/slowly

pùaj does occur with the durative marker as demonstrated by example (15).

15) *pìʔtìʔ kamlaŋ pùaj*
    Piti   DUR   sick
    'Piti is sick (now).'

pùaj does not occur with the *in*-phrase as illustrated by example (16). *pùaj* also fails the test of repeated action with a singular subject (Test 5) as illustrated by example (17). It also fails Test 6, since it is an intransitive verb, making a causative paraphrase impossible.

16) **pìʔtìʔ pùaj   phaajnaj nɨ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ*
    Piti   sick   inside   one   hour

17) **pìʔtìʔ phɔ̂əŋ   pùaj sǎam khráŋ*
    Piti   just_now big three time

The test results for *pùaj* are summarized in Table 3, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
pùaj	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

Table 3. Test results for *pùaj*

These test results show that *pùaj* 'sick' is an Adjectival State. The semantic representation of (12), above, is as follows:

$$be' \ (pì?tì?, [sick'])$$

3.2. Verbal states

The behaviour of Verbal States is illustrated with two verbs: *mii* 'have' and *pen* 'be'.

3.2.1. *mii*

The basic sentence for *mii* is found in example (18)

18) *tɕʰuutɕaj   mii   ŋəən*
    Chujay   have   money
    'Chujay has money.'

mii cannot occur with the comparative marker (Test 1) nor does it occur with pace verbs (Test 2) as illustrated by examples (19) and (20), respectively.

19) **tɕʰuutɕaj mii   ŋəən   kwàa*
    Chujay   have   money   more

20) **tɕʰuutɕaj mii   ŋəən   rew/tɕháa*
    Chujay   have   money   quickly/slowly

mii does occur with the durative marker, *kamlaŋ*, passing Test 3, as illustrated in example (21)[8].

21) *tɕʰuutɕaj kamlaŋ mii   ŋəən*
    Chujay   DUR   have   money
    'Chujay has money (now).'

mii does not occur with the *in*-phrase (Test 4) as demonstrated by example (22). It does not have an iterative reading with a singular subject (Test 5) as demonstrated by example (23). Finally, a causative paraphrase is ungrammatical as illustrated by example (24).

22) **tɕʰuutɕaj mii   ŋəən   phaajnaj nɨ̀ŋ tɕhuamooŋ*
    Chujay   have   money   inside   one   hour

23) **tɕʰuutɕaj phə̂əŋ   mii   ŋəən   sǎam khráŋ*
    Chujay   just_now have money   three time

24) **tɕʰuutɕaj hâj   ŋəən   mii*
    Chujay   cause money   have

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[8] However, *kamlaŋ* cannot occur in more static situations as illustrated by example (4), below where the norm is for someone to have a house for a very long time.

4) **tɕʰuutɕaj kamlaŋ   mii   bâan*
   Chujay   DUR   have   house

The test results for *mii* are listed in Table 4, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
mii	No	No	Yes	No	No	No

Table 4. Test results for *mii*

These test results show that *mii* 'have' is a Verbal State. The semantic representation of (18), above, is as follows:

have′ (tçhuutçaj, ŋəən)

3.2.2.   *pen*

The basic sentence for the second verbal state verb, *pen* 'be' is in example (25).

25) *phlɔɔj pen wàt*
Phloy   be   common_cold
'Phloy has a cold. (Phloy is (with) cold.)'

pen cannot occur with the comparative marker (Test 1) as demonstrated by example (26). It also cannot occur with pace verbs (Test 2) as in example (27), below.

26) **phlɔɔj pen   wàt   kwàa*
Phloy be   common_cold more

27) **phlɔɔj pen   wàt   rew/tçháa*
Phloy be   common_cold quickly/slowly

pen does occur with the durative marker, passing Test 3 as in example (28).

28) *phlɔɔj kamlaŋ pen   wàt*
Phloy DUR   be   common_cold
'Phloy has a cold (now).'

pen cannot occur with the *in*-phrase as in example (29), nor does it have an iterative reading with a singular subject as demonstrated by example (30). Finally, a causative paraphrase with *pen* is ungrammatical as demonstrated by example (31), below.

29) **phlɔɔj pen   wàt   naj nɯ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ*
Phloy be   common_cold in   one   hour

30) **phlɔɔj phɔ̂əŋ   pen   wàt   săam khráŋ*
Phloy just_now be   common_cold three time

31) **phlɔɔj hâj   wàt   pen*
Phloy cause   common_cold   be

The test results for *pen* are summarized in Table 5, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
pen	No	No	Yes	No	No	No

Table 5. Test results for *pen*

These test results show that *pen* 'be' is a Verbal State. The semantic representation of (25), above, is as follows:

be′ (phlɔɔj, wàt)

3.3. Achievements

The behaviour of Achievements is illustrated with two verbs: *rá?bə̀ət* 'explode' and *taaj* 'die'.

3.3.1. *rá?bə̀ət*

The basic sentence for *rá?bə̀ət* is found in example (32), below.

32) *bâan*   rá?bə̀ət
    house   explode
    'The house exploded.'

rá?bə̀ət passes none of the first five tests as demonstrated by examples (33) – (37), below. Finally, since *rá?bə̀ət* is an intransitive verb, the causative paraphrase test (Test 6) cannot be applied.

33) **bâan   rá?bə̀ət   kwàa*
    house explode   more

34) **bâan   rá?bə̀ət   rew/tçháa*
    house explode   quickly/slowly

35) **bâan   kamlaŋ   rá?bə̀ət*
    house DUR   explode

36) **bâ͡an   rá?bə̀ət   phaajnaj   nɯ̀ŋ   tçhuamooŋ*
    house explode   inside   one   hour

37) **bâan   phə̂əŋ   rá?bə̀ət   sǎam   khráŋ*
    house just_now explode   three time

The test results for *rá?bə̀ət* are listed in Table 6, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
rá?bə̀ət	No	No	No	No	No	No

Table 6. Test results for *rá?bə̀ət*

These test results show that *rá?bə̀ət* 'explode' is an Achievement. The semantic representation of (32), above, is as follows:

INGR **explode′** (bâan)

3.3.2. *taaj*

The basic sentence for the second achievement verb, *taaj* 'die' is in example (38).

38) *taa*   *taaj*
    Grandfather   die
    'Grandfather died.'

taaj cannot co-occur with the comparative marker as in example (39).

39) **taa*   *taaj   kwàa*
    Grandfather die   more

taaj does occur with *rew* 'quickly' in colloquial speech as in example(40), below. However, *rew tçaŋ* in (40) refers to the untimeliness of the death, not the speed of the act of dying. So, *taaj* can be counted as not occurring with pace verbs, which is characteristic of achievement predicates.

40) *thammaj taa*   *taaj   rew*   *tçaŋ*
    why   Grandfather die   quickly   very
    'Why did he die so quickly (before his time).'

taaj cannot occur with the durative marker as shown by example (41), below. It cannot occur with the *in*-phrase, as in example (42). The action of dying cannot be repeated with a singular subject as demonstrated by example (43). Finally, *taaj* is an intransitive verb so it cannot participate in a causative paraphrase.

41) **taa   kamlaŋ taaj*
  Grandfather DUR die

42) **taa   taaj phaajnaj nʉ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ*
  Grandfather die inside one hour

43) **taa   phɔ̀əŋ   taaj sǎam khráŋ*
  Grandfather just_now die three time

The test results for *taaj* are summarized in Table 7, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
taaj	No	No	No	No	No	No

Table 7. Test results for *taaj*

These test results show that *taaj* 'die' is an achievement verb. The semantic representation of (38), above, is as follows:

INGR **die′** (taa)

3.4. Accomplishments

  The behaviour of Accomplishments is illustrated with two verbs: *sâaŋ* 'build' and *lá?laaj* 'melt'.

3.4.1. *sâaŋ*

  The basic sentence for *sâaŋ* is presented in example (44), below.

44) *lék   sâaŋ bâan*
  Lek build house
  'Lek built a house.'

sâaŋ does not occur with the comparative marker, as illustrated by example (45).

45) **lék   sâaŋ bâan kwàa*
  Lek build house more

sâaŋ does co-occur with pace verbs as demonstrated by example (46). It also occurs with the durative marker as illustrated in example (47).

46) *lék   sâaŋ bâan   rew/tçháa*
  Lek build house quickly/slowly
  'Lek is building a house quickly/slowly.'

47) *lék   kamlaŋ sâaŋ bâan*
  Lek DUR build house
  'Lek is building a house.'

Pragmatically, one cannot build a house in an hour as illustrated by example (48). However, it is possible to build a birdhouse in an hour, as illustrated by example (49), below, evidence that *sâaŋ* can occur with the *in*-phrase.

48) **lék sâaŋ bâan   phaajnaj nʉ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ*
  Lek build house inside one hour

49) *lék   sâaŋ   bâan   nók   phaajnaj nùŋ tçhuamooŋ*
    Lek   build   house   bird   inside   one hour
    'Lek built the birdhouse in one hour.'

The action of *sâaŋ* cannot be repeated with a singular subject as demonstrated by example (50). Finally, *sâaŋ* cannot successfully occur in a causative paraphrase as demonstrated by example (51).

50) **lék   ph∂əŋ   sâaŋ bâan lăŋ níi săam khráŋ*
    Lek   just_now build house CL   this three time

51) **lék   hâj   bâan   sâaŋ*
    Lek   cause   house   build

The test results for *sâaŋ* are summarized in Table 8, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
sâaŋ	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Table 8. Test results for *sâaŋ*

These test results show that *sâaŋ* 'build' is an Accomplishment. The semantic representation of (44), above, is as follows:

BECOME **built´** (lék, bâan)

3.4.2.   *lá?laaj*

The basic sentence for the second accomplishment verb, *lá?laaj* 'melt' is in example (52).

52) *námkhă̆ ŋ lá?laaj*
    ice   melt
    'The ice melts.'

lá?laaj does not occur with the comparative marker as illustrated in example (53), below.

53) **námkhă̆ ŋ   lá?laaj kwàa*
    ice   melt   more

lá?laaj occurs with pace verbs as illustrated in example (54). It occurs with the durative marker as in example (55). It also occurs with the *in*-phrase as demonstrated by example (56).

54) *námkhă̆ ŋ   lá?laaj   rew/tçháa*
    ice   melt   quickly/slowly
    'The ice melts quickly/slowly.'

55) *námkhă̆ ŋ   kamlaŋ   lá?laaj*
    ice   DUR   melt
    'The ice is melting.'

56) *námkhă̆ ŋ   lá?laaj phaajnaj nùŋ   tçhuamooŋ*
    ice   melt   inside   one   hour
    'The ice melted in one hour.'

The action of *lá?laaj* cannot be repeated as demonstrated by example (57). Finally, *lá?laaj* is an intransitive verb in the context of the basic sentence (52), thus, the causative paraphrase test cannot be applied.

57) **námkhă̆ ŋ   ph∂əŋ   lá?laaj săam khráŋ*
    ice   just_now   melt   three time

The test results for *láʔlaaj* are listed in Table 9, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
láʔlaaj	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Table 9. Test results for *láʔlaaj*

These test results show that *láʔlaaj* 'melt' is an Accomplishment. The semantic representation of (52), above, is as follows:

BECOME **melted′** (námkhǎŋ)

3.5. *Activities*

The behaviour of Activities is illustrated with two verbs: *phát* 'blow' and *khǎaj* 'sell'.

3.5.1. *phát*

The basic sentence for *phát* is found in example (58).

58) *lom   phát*
    wind blow
    'The wind blows.'

phát does not occur with the comparative marker as illustrated in example (59).

59) **lom   phát   kwàa*
    wind blow more

phát does occur with pace verbs and the durative marker as illustrated by examples (60) and (61), respectively.

60) *lom   phát   rew/tçháa*
    wind blow   fast/slow
    'The wind blows quickly/slowly.'

61) *lom   kamlaŋ   phát*
    wind DUR   blow
    'The wind is blowing.'

phát cannot occur with the *in*-phrase as demonstrated by example (62). The action of *phát* cannot be repeated with a non-plural subject, as demonstrated by example (63). Finally, *phát* is an intransitive verb, so the causative paraphrase test cannot be applied.

62) **lom   phát naj   nʉ̀ŋ   tçhuamooŋ*
    wind blow in   one   hour

63) **lom   phôəŋ   phát   sǎam   khráŋ*
    wind just_now blow three time

The test results for *phát* are summarized in Table 10, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
phát	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Table 10. Test results for *phát*

These test results show that *phát* 'blow' is an Activity. The semantic representation of (58), above, is as follows:

do′ (lom, [**blow′** (lom)])

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3.5.2. *khăaj*

The basic sentence for the second activity verb, *khăaj* 'sell' is in example (64).

64) *dææŋ   khăaj   khɔ̌ɔŋ*
    Daeng   sell   thing
    'Daeng sells things.'

khăaj does not occur with the comparative marker, as illustrated by example (65).

65) **dææŋ   khăaj   khɔ̌ɔŋ   kwàa*
    Daeng   sell   thing   more

khăaj does occur with the pace verb *rew*, as illustrated by example (66). It also occurs with the durative marker as demonstrated by (67).

66) *dææŋ   khăaj   khɔ̌ɔŋ   rew   tçaŋ*
    Daeng   sell   thing   quickly   very
    'Daeng sells things very quickly.'

67) *dææŋ   kamlaŋ   khăaj   khɔ̌ɔŋ*
    Daeng   DUR   sell   thing
    'Daeng is selling things.'

khăaj cannot occur with the *in*-phrase as demonstrated by example (68). The action of *khăaj* cannot be repeated with a singular subject as in example (69). Finally, a causative paraphrase of the basic sentence in (64), above, is ungrammatical as demonstrated by example (70), below.

68) **dææŋ   khăaj   khɔ̌ɔŋ   naj   nɨ̀ŋ   tçhuamooŋ*
    Daeng   sell   thing   in   one   hour

69) **dææŋ   phə̂əŋ   khăaj   khɔ̌ɔŋ   săam   khráŋ*
    Daeng   just_now   sell   thing   three   time

70) **dææŋ   hâj   khɔ̌ɔŋ   khăaj*
    Daeng   cause   thing   sell

The test results for *khăaj* are summarized in Table 11, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
khăaj	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Table 11. Test results for *khăaj*

These test results show that *khăaj* 'sell' is an Activity. The semantic representation of (64), above, is as follows:

$$\textbf{do}' \, (dææŋ, \, [\textbf{sell}' \, (dææŋ, \, khɔ̌ɔŋ)])$$

3.6. Active Accomplishments

The behaviour of active accomplishment predicates will be demonstrated with *khăaj mòt* 'sell completely' and *wîŋ paj thɨ̌ŋ sŭan săathăaraná?* 'run to the park'.

3.6.1. *khăaj mòt*

The basic sentence for *khăaj mòt* is in example (71), below.

71) *jút   khăaj   ?aahăan   mòt*
    Yut   sell   food   completely
    'Yut sold all the food.'

khăaj mòt does not co-occur with the comparative marker, as demonstrated by example (72).

> 72) *jút   khăaj   ?aahăan mòt   kwàa
>   Yut   sell   food   completely more

khăaj mòt does occur with the pace verb *rew*, as in example (73), which shows that it has temporal duration.

> 73) jút   khăaj ?aahăan mòt   rew
>   Yut   sell   food   completely fast
>   'Yut quickly sold all the food.'

However, *khăaj mòt* does not occur with the durative marker, as illustrated in example (74), even though its temporal duration property was confirmed through occurrence with a pace verb in example (73), above.

> 74) *jút   kamlaŋ khăaj ?aahăan mòt
>   Yut   DUR   sell   food   completely

khăaj mòt occurs with the *in*-phrase as in example (75).

> 75) jút   khăaj ?aahăan mòt   naj nὖŋ tçhuamooŋ
>   Yut   sell   food   completely in   one hour
>   'Yut sold all the food in one hour.'

The action of *khăaj mòt* cannot be repeated with a singular subject as demonstrated by example (76). Finally, a causative paraphrase of the basic sentence in (71), above, is ungrammatical as demonstrated by example (77), below.

> 76) *jút   phɔ̀əŋ   khăaj ?aahăan mòt   săam khráŋ
>   Yut   just_now sell   thing   completely three time

> 77) *jút   hâi   ?aahăan khăaj mòt
>   Yut   cause   food   sell   completely

The test results for *khăaj mòt* are summarized in Table 12, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
khăaj mòt	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Table 12. Test results for *khăaj mòt*

These test results show that *khăaj mòt* 'sell completely' is an Active Accomplishment. The semantic representation of (71), above, is as follows:

$$\textbf{do}' \ (\text{jút}, \ [\textbf{sell}' \ (\text{jút}, \ \text{?aahăan})]) \ \& \ \text{INGR NOT} \ \textbf{have}' \ (\text{jút}, \ \text{?aahăan})$$

3.6.2.   *wîŋ paj thὖŋ suansăathăaraná?*

The basic sentence for *wîŋ paj thὖŋ suansăathăaraná?* 'run to the park' is presented in example (78), below.

> 78) mὖɨj   wîŋ   paj thὖŋ suansăathăaraná?
>   Muei run   go   to   park
>   'Muei ran to the park.'

wîŋ paj thὖŋ suansăathăaraná? cannot co-occur with the comparative marker, as illustrated by example (79), below.

> 79) *mὖɨj   wîŋ paj thὖŋ suansăathăaraná? kwàa
>   Muei run go   to   park   more

wîŋ paj thɤ̆ŋ suansăathăaraná? can occur with a pace verb showing its temporal duration. This is demonstrated by example (80), below.

80) *mɤ̆ɤj wîŋ paj to   park   quickly*
    Muei run go to   park   quickly
    'Muei ran to the park quickly.'

However, *wîŋ paj thɤ̆ŋ suansăathăaraná?* cannot occur with the durative marker, another indicator of temporal duration, demonstrated by example (81).

81) **mɤ̆ɤj kamlaŋ wîŋ paj to   park*
    Muei DUR   run go to   park

The telicity of *wîŋ paj thɤ̆ŋ suansăathăaraná?* is shown by its occurrence with the *in*-phrase in example (82), below.

82) *mɤ̆ɤj wîŋ paj to   park   phaajnaj nɤ̀ŋ tçhuamooŋ*
    Muei run go to   park   inside   one   hour
    'Muei ran to the park in one hour.'

The action of *wîŋ paj thɤ̆ŋ suansăathăaraná?* cannot be repeated with a singular subject (Test 5) as shown by example (83). Finally, since *wîŋ* is an intransitive verb, the causative paraphrase test cannot be applied.

83) **mɤ̆ɤj phɔ̂əŋ   wîŋ paj to   park   săam khráŋ*
    Muei just_now run go to   park   three time

The test results for *wîŋ paj thɤ̆ŋ suansăathăaraná?* are summarized in Table 13, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
wîŋ paj thɤ̆ŋ suansăathăaraná?	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Table 13. Test results for *wîŋ paj thɤ̆ŋ suansăathăaraná?*

These test results show that *wîŋ paj thɤ̆ŋ suansăathăaraná?* 'run to the park' is an Active Accomplishment. The semantic representation of (78), above, is as follows:

do′ (mɤ̆ɤj, [run′ (mɤ̆ɤj)]) & INGR be-at′ (suansăathăaraná?, mɤ̆ɤj)

3.7.   Semelfactives

The behaviour of semelfactive predicates will be demonstrated with *khɔ́?* 'knock, tap' and *tçaam* 'sneeze'.

3.7.1.   *khɔ́?*

The basic sentence with *khɔ́?* is in example (84), below.[9]

84) *maanii khɔ́?   pra?tuu nɤ̀ŋ khráŋ*
    Maanii knock door   one time
    'Maanii knocked (on) the door once.'

khɔ́? does not occur with the comparative marker, pace verb, durative marker or the *in*-phrase, failing Tests 1-4. This is illustrated in examples (85) – (88), respectively.

85) **maanii khɔ́?   pra?tuu nɤ̀ŋ khráŋ kwàa*
    Maanii knock door   one time   more

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[9] The basic sentence for semelfactive verbs includes the temporal phrase indicating a single instance of the action in order to insure a non-iterative reading with Tests 2 and 3, occurrence with pace verbs and the durative marker.

86) *maanii khɔ́ʔ pra?tuu nɯ̀ŋ khráŋ rew/tɕháa
Maanii knock door one time quickly/slowly

87) *maanii kamlaŋ khɔ́ʔ pra?tuu nɯ̀ŋ khráŋ
Maanii DUR knock door one time

88) *maanii khɔ́ʔ pra?tuu nɯ̀ŋ khráŋ phaajnaj nɯ̀ŋ tɕhuamooŋ
Maanii knock door one time inside one hour

The action of *khɔ́ʔ* is repeatable with a singular subject, showing that *khɔ́ʔ* has no result state. This is illustrated in example (89), below.

89) maanii phɔ̂əŋ khɔ́ʔ pra?tuu paj sǎam khráŋ
Maanii just_now knock door go three time
'Just now, Maanii knocked (on) the door three times.'

Finally, a causative paraphrase of the basic sentence in example (84), above, is ungrammatical as illustrated in example (90), below.

90) *maanii hâj prá?tuu khɔ́ʔ nɯ̀ŋ khráŋ
Maanii cause door knock one time

The test results for *khɔ́ʔ* are summarized in Table 14, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
khɔ́ʔ	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Table 14. Test results for *khɔ́ʔ*

These test results show that *khɔ́ʔ* 'knock, tap' is a semelfactive verb. The semantic representation of (84), above, is as follows:

$$\text{SEML } \textbf{do}'(\text{maanii}, [\textbf{knock}'(\text{maanii, prà?tuu})])$$

3.7.2. *tɕaam*

The basic sentence with *tɕaam* is in example (91), below.

91) maaná? tɕaam nɯ̀ŋ thii
Maaná? sneeze one time
'Maana sneezed one time.'

As with *khɔ́ʔ* 'knock, tap', above, *tɕaam* does not occur with the comparative marker, pace verbs, durative marker or the *in*-phrase, thus failing Tests 1-4. This is demonstrated by examples (92) – (95), below.

92) *maaná? tɕaam nɯ̀ŋ thii kwàa
Maaná? sneeze one time more

93) *maaná? tɕaam nɯ̀ŋ thii rew/tɕháa
Maaná? sneeze one time quickly/slowly

94) *maaná? kamlaŋ tɕaam nɯ̀ŋ thii
Maaná? DUR sneeze one time

95) *maaná? tɕaam nɯ̀ŋ thii phaajnaj nɯ̀ŋ tɕhuamooŋ
Maaná? sneeze one time inside one hour

The action of *tçaam* is repeatable with a singular subject as demonstrated by example (96). Finally, *tçaam* is an intransitive verb, so a causative paraphrase is not possible.

96) *maaná? phɔ̂əŋ   tçaam paj sǎam thii*
     Maaná? just_now sneeze go   three time
     'Just now, Maana sneezed three times.'

The test results for *tçaam* are summarized in Table 15, below.

	Test I	Test II	Test III	Test IV	Test V	Test VI
tçaam	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Table 15. Test results for *tçaam*

These test results show that *tçaam* 'sneeze' is a semelfactive verb. The semantic representation of (91), above, is as follows:

SEML **do′**(maaná?, [**sneeze′** (maaná?)])

4. Conclusion

This paper has presented a possible set of syntactic tests for identifying and distinguishing non-causative verb classes in Thai. It has also demonstrated the fact that syntactically distinct Aktionsart classes can be distinguished in Thai.

Those tests that parallel the tests presented in Van Valin and LaPolla (1997) and Van Valin (In press), namely, the pace verb, *in*-phrase, iterative action with a singular subject and causative paraphrase tests, behave, for the most part, as predicted for Thai. One notable exception is the inability of the occurrence of the durative marker *kamlaŋ* with Active Accomplishments. This is contrary to the prediction that Accomplishments and Active Accomplishments will pattern the same way with a marker of temporal duration since they pattern the same way with pace verbs, also indicators of temporal duration. This is an area that requires further investigation. Finally, two other areas for immediate investigation are lexical causative verbs and their interaction with these tests as well as patterns of derivation between Thai verb classes.

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