The objective of this study is an analysis of the syntactic and semantic properties of concessive sentences in Thai.

A concessive sentence in Thai is composed of an adverbial clause and a main clause. It is classified as a complex sentence. However, the presence of lɛɛ̀ and kɔ̂ gives the sentence an added feature of a compound sentence. The two compound connectives only occur when the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. Concessive sentences can be divided syntactically into two types, based on the positioning of the adverbial clause: Type 1 with an adverbial clause preceding the main clause and Type 2 with an adverbial clause following the main clause. Connectives in concessive sentences can be divided into those linking the main clause and the adverbial clause, and those preceding the adverbial clause. In Type 1 concessive sentences, the linking connective is optional but in Type 2 concessive sentences, the linking connective is absent. The position of the adverbial clause does not change the semantic content of the sentence.

Semantically, concessive sentences in Thai consist of two parts: the condition and the insistence. The first part, represented in the adverbial clause, supplies the concessional condition offered by the speaker. The second part is represented in the main clause. It supplies the state or the event which counters the natural expectation of the concession. The condition found in concessive sentences can be one of these three types: irrealis condition, realis condition, and potential condition. The classification is based on the semantic content of the connective and the adverbial clause itself. Concessive sentences in Thai can also be divided on semantic basis into three types: definite concessive sentences, disjunctive concessive sentences, and indefinite concessive sentences.