

Thesis Title                      Verb Phrase in Rangoon Burmese

Name                                Waralak Sethasathien

Degree                              Master of Arts (Linguistics)

Thesis Supervisory Committee

                                        Wirat Niyontan, M.A.

                                        Phaiboon Duangchan, M.A., D.E.A.

                                        Robert S. Bauer, Ph.D.

                                        Suwilai Prensirat, Ph.D.

Date of Graduation                25 July B.E. 2538 (1995)

#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to describe the structures and functions of the verb phrase in standard colloquial Burmese (Rangoon) from the phrase level to the clause level.

This study has found that the verb phrase is a core which is always positioned at the end of the clause. The verb phrase is generally composed of the main verb and optional pre-verbal and post-verbal modifiers. Verbs are divided into 10 types by their semantics and functions in clauses, viz., transitive, bitransitive, intransitive, equational, motional, directional, ambient, quotative, existential, and propulsional verb. The structures of verbs include the simple verb, compound verb, and complex verb.

Other dependent verbal modifiers in the verb phrase are the pre-verbal elements, i.e., the adverb and negator; while in post-verbal position, auxiliaries and verb suffix particles occur. In addition, there are other elements which indicate time and location, and these have relatively unfixed positions, but occur before the main verb.

Apart from the basic structure of the verb phrase, there are such complex structures as variable structures and verb serialization

in the extended structure.

The main function of the verb phrase is predication at the clause level. However, it also functions as the noun or verb modifier in the noun phrase and the verb phrase by reduplication, nominalization, and the affixation of verbs. Finally, verbs with question and final particles and verbs in subordinate and compound clauses have also been described.