

Transitivity Parameters and the Transitivity Preference in Myanmar Language Compared to Japanese and English

Ei Ei Soe Min and Yoshiko Matsumura

Abstract—This study is the comparative analysis of Transitivity based on some of the Transitivity parameters proposed by Hopper and Thompson. The comparison is made amongst the three languages; English, Japanese and Myanmar language. The ten Transitivity parameters consist of various grammatical facets that are related not only to verbs but also to the participants (e.g., agent and patient.) The narrative events are analysed on the three versions of the novel *Kitchen* by Yoshimoto Banana. The English version and the Myanmar version are translated from the original Japanese one. The study is approached by applying some of the distinctive parameters out of the ten Transitivity parameters model. The study aims to investigate the differences and similarities of the Transitivity features that the three languages possess. Amongst the ten Transitivity parameters, parameters such as aspect, mood, and agency show the different Transitivity preferences in the three languages. The findings show that English prefers to encode the narrative events highly transitive than its counterparts. The Japanese and the Myanmar language prefer lower Transitivity in encoding the events than the English.

Index Terms—Agency, aspect, mood, ten parameters model.

I. INTRODUCTION

Transitivity is traditionally understood as *who does what to whom?* In Transitivity system, verbs are classified into transitive and intransitive in general. Transitive verbs take a direct object whereas intransitive verbs do not. There are verbs called ditransitive which can be transitive as well as intransitive verbs. In addition, verb is a main category in encoding every event both in written style and verbal forms. Different languages have different Transitivity preferences for encoding the events. Language like English is highly transitive in nature than Myanmar and Japanese. Although the three languages are derived from the different language families, the Myanmar and the Japanese are the verb final languages, i.e., SOV (subject, object, verb) in contrast with the English word order SVO (subject, verb, object).

Previous studies on the Transitivity of English and Japanese show that there are relatively big differences in encoding the narrative events. Although there are some similarities between English and Japanese, Japanese has lower Transitivity than English. Since the Myanmar language is grammatically close to the Japanese, I am interested to compare the Sino-Tibetan language family derived Myanmar language to Indo-European language, English and Japonic, Japanese. The study of Transitivity

can reveal various grammatical properties of these languages. Furthermore, the parameters such as aspect, mood and agency allow the researcher to consider both syntactic and semantic considerations while doing data analysis. We chose these three parameters in this study because the data are analysed on the exact same narrative events of the three versions of the novel. On account of that some of the parameters, for instance, Affirmation is not showing the relative amount of the differences. In other words, all the affirmative events in the Japanese version are translated into affirmative in English and Myanmar versions as well. Moreover, the Volitionality, i.e., whether the action or activity is purposefully done or not, also reveals the same result in the translated events. Therefore, this paper reveals the three most distinctive parameters that show the different preferences of Transitivity in the three languages. The translations of the events are closely stick to the original Japanese work especially in the Myanmar version. The English version has, no doubt, the structural differences in the sentences whereas the same word order allows the Myanmar language to translate very closely to the Japanese original. Therefore, this paper firstly shows the literature that inspired to do this comparative study amongst the three languages. Secondly this paper shows how the data are selected and how they are analysed. Thirdly, the results will be discussed with examples and finally the summing up of the paper is described.

II. BACKGROUND

Transitivity has long been studied from the different approaches. Hopper & Thompson defines Transitivity as an activity which is carried over or transferred from an agent to a patient [1, p. 251]. Their Transitivity hypothesis consists of ten parameters such as , Participants (two or more, agent & object), Kinesis (whether the verb is action or non-action v. one), Aspect (telic/completed v. atelic/ on-going action), Punctuality (the transitional phase of the verb is punctual v. non-punctual), Volitionality (volitional v. non-volitional), Affirmation (affirmative v. negative), Mode/mood (realis action corresponding to the real event v. the irrealis action in a non-real world), Agency (agent high in potency, e.g., animate noun v. agent low in potency, e.g., inanimate noun), Affectedness of O/object (object totally affected v. object not affected), and Individuation of O/object (object highly individuated, i.e., the object is proper, human, concrete noun etc., v. object non-individuated, i.e., the object is common, inanimate, abstract noun etc.) [1, p. 252]. The former categories of the parameters in the parentheses are related to the high Transitivity and the latter categories are

Manuscript received February 2, 2019; revised April 25, 2019.

Ei Ei Soe Min is with the Department of English in the Meiktila University of Economics, Meiktila, Myanmar (e-mail: eisoemin@gmail.com).

related to the low Transitivity. These parameters can be applied to investigate whether high or low Transitivity a language might have.

Apart from the ten Transitivity model, SFL (systemic functional linguistics) approach proposed by Michael Halliday [2] is another well-known approach to the study of Transitivity. He suggests persons and things are named by nouns, qualities by adjectives and processes by verbs [2, p. 38]. In the study of Transitivity, the process types are divided into material, behavioural, mental, verbal, relational, and existential process types [2, p. 171]. This process type approach is more closely related to the sociolinguistics studies.

The aim of the study is to compare and find out the Transitivity preferences of the three languages regardless of the social semiotic concern. The Transitivity parameters (aspect, mood and agency) in this paper allow the researcher to consider both syntactically and semantically while analysing data. In addition, the parameters can be applied to investigate how different languages encode the same events. Although there are ten Transitivity parameters, this paper only reveals the most distinctive parameters that show the differences and similarities in the Transitivity of the Myanmar language compared to Japanese and English. Aspect, Tense and, Modality play the vital role in the discussion of the Transitivity. Hopper states that the categories of Tense, Aspect, and modality are pervasive, universal as he claims no language lacks all three [3, p.3].

Regarding to the previous study on the Transitivity comparison of Japanese and English, Toshio Ohori also uses the ten Transitivity parameters and states that the Japanese prefer lower Transitivity, i.e., using intransitive when encoding the events, than the English Transitivity system. He analysed the folktales in Japanese and English versions for data analysis [4]. His findings show that there are different Aspect and Punctuality, Tense, and Agency between the Transitivity of Japanese and English.

Aspect is a verbal category which describes whether an event or action is on-going or completed. Bernard Comrie generally defines that aspects are different ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency of a situation [5, p. 3]. Moreover, in the study of aspect, most researchers in this field are familiar with the following classification of the inherent meaning of the verbs from the aspectual view proposed by Zeno Vendler, which are Activities: running, walking, swimming, pushing, pulling etc., Accomplishments: Painting a picture, making a chair, building a house, writing a novel etc., Achievements: reaching the summit, winning the race, crossing the border etc., States: having, possessing, desiring, loving, hating etc. [6]. Unlike the parameter as an aspect in the Transitivity study, Hopper & Thompson's view on aspect (telic v. atelic) is more general. The aspect itself is a wide range of study in the linguistic researches. Therefore, in this study, we simply look at the aspectual view of the three languages based on the telic or atelic situation. The focus is placed on whether the action or event is on-going or completed.

The different grammatical tense is also very distinctive in Myanmar language compares to its counterparts. Grammatical tense locates the time of an event or an action in languages. Tense, aspect and mood are correlative with

each other. Therefore, when the data are analysed, the focus is on the tenses of the narrative events as well. Because the different tenses of the three languages affect the different mood.

Another parameter that shows the differences is the agency. Hopper & Thompson assigned the scoring system for the agency analysis. In this paper, the scoring system of Hopper & Thompson (1980) is modified in order to meet the necessity of the three different sentence constructions. The methods used in this study will be described in the next section.

III. RESEARCH METHODS

This study is based on the parameters such as aspect, mood, and agency from the ten Transitivity parameters model. The material used for data analysis is the novel 'Kitchen' by Yoshimoto Banana in three different versions. The original Japanese version is translated into English by Megan Backus and translated to Myanmar by Ye Mya Lwin. Some of the sentences and clauses that show the main events of the novel are selected and analysed. The sentences are analysed manually in order to be compared with their counterparts.

The summary of the novel is that Mikage was brought up by her grandmother after her parents passed away in an accident. After her grandmother's death, her lonely life becomes more desolated. Fortunately, she met Tanabe Yuichi, a kind young man who used to be her grandmother's acquaintance. Then Tanabe who is somehow living an exceptional life with his transgendered mother, Eriko, suggests that Mikage moves in with them. After being left alone in her desolate life, and being broken up with by her boyfriend, Mikage moves in with Tanabe and Eriko. Although she falls in love with Tanabe, she decided to move out and stand on her own feet again after her staying with the Tanabe family caused Tanabe and his girlfriend to break up. When Eriko suddenly passed away, Mikage and Tanabe are in the same boat, being alone in life. Eventually, that situation brings them together again and they become closer than ever [7].

In the examples the Roman transcription of Myanmar language are described followed by the morphemic gloss, literal translation of Myanmar sentence based on the morphemic gloss, Japanese data in Roman transcription along with morphemic gloss, and finally the free translation of the English version. (Japanese original sentences are not translated into literal translation like Myanmar data do. Japanese original data and English free translated version of Megan Backus are directly compared to the literal translation of Myanmar data). For example:

<i>kyama. nanme apyei.asoun ka</i>	<i>Sakurai Mikage. pa</i>
<i>My name full NOM</i>	<i>Sakurai Mikage POL;</i>
<i>be</i>	
<i>kyama. Miba napar:salone ngenge yweywe ne pe</i>	
<i>sone</i>	
<i>My parent both</i>	<i>young PART</i>
<i>die</i>	
<i>twar: khae kya te</i>	
<i>PART; certainty PART PL RL; PAST</i>	

'My full name is Sakurai Mikage. Both my parents died young.' (Myanmar literal translation may be odd sometimes)

watashi, Sakurai Mikage no ryoushin wa,
I Sakurai Mikage GEN parents TOP,
so rotte wakaji ni shi te i ru both die young
STAT (Japanese original)

My parents—my name is Mikage Sakuria—both died when they were young. (free English translation version).

We can see that the translated sentences of Myanmar are different from English and the Japanese. In this case, English sentence is more closely translated into the original Japanese style. As far as the data analysis is concerned, Myanmar data are very closely translated into Japanese except for some sentences like this. Sometimes, Myanmar translator divides the one sentence of Japanese into two. Therefore, the length of the sentence in the three versions is not exactly the same. However, the sentence length does not fairly affect the data analysis.

IV. THE DIFFERENT TRANSITIVITY PREFERENCES

A. The Aspect Variation in Myanmar Language Compared to Japanese and English

When analysing, the grammatical devices that indicate the aspectual view such as V-ing (past/present participle), V-ed (past or past participle) and unmark simple form of verbs in English are emphasised. The particle V-te iru (the marker that can be used for on-going action or event as well as the resultative states) [8] and V- ta (the past tense marker), and the plain form of verbs in Japanese are analysed to see the aspectual view. Regarding to the Myanmar data, the verb modifier V nay (the marker for to be V-ing, V for the time being; to stay, remain V-ing), and the particle V pyi that has many functions, as the verb modifier V pyi= to finish, to complete V-ing, to have V-ed, have already V-ed, as emphasising prior occurrence of V, as verb attribute marker V pyi Noun (already V-ed) [9] show the aspectual view in Myanmar language. Romeo also states, "the verb represents the basic informative unit in Burmese, contained in the nucleus of the clause" [10].

The analysis is made not only on the syntactic level but also from the semantic point of view. The data analysis shows that English tend to use the telic aspect, which is viewing the situation as a completed one, more often than Japanese and Myanmar counterparts. The following examples illustrate the fact where aspect in English version is telic and Japanese and Myanmar are atelic. The Japanese sentences are transcribed in Roman transcription and the italic Japanese verb/verb phrase are accompanied by the English translation. The Myanmar data are described only the literal translation to save the space.

TABLE I: TELIC ASPECT IN ENGLISH AND ATELIC ASPECT IN JAPANESE AND MYANMAR

Lang uage	Data	Aspect
Eng.	There stood Yuichi Tanabe.	Telic
Jpn.	soko ni ha Tanabe Yuichi ga tatte itta. (was	Atelic

Myn.	standing) At the door, (I) saw Tanabe Yuichi <i>is standing</i> firmly.	Atelic
Eng.	I put on the borrowed pajamas and, barefoot, <i>went into the silent living room.</i>	Telic
Jpn.	karita nemagi ni kigaete, shinto shi ta heya ni <i>dete itta.</i> (was going out)	Atelic
Myn.	After (I) have worn (the) pajamas that (I) have borrowed a while, <i>go into (the) living room...</i>	Atelic
Eng. a warm, golden sunlight filled the empty rooms I had once called home.	Telic
Jpn.	kiniro no amai hisashi ga nani mo nai watashi no furusato de atta heya o <i>suka shi te itta.</i> (to hold up to the light)	Atelic
Myn.	<i>Golden sunrays of evening are stretching out, falling into (the) native room</i> that I live.	Atelic

In the examples, the events in the English version are expressed as completed and closer to the end point than the same events in the Japanese and Myanmar versions. In the English versions, the main verbs that describe the event such as 'stood, went, and filled' are in the simple past tense and there are no auxiliaries or adverbs that show the progressive situation. However, in Japanese, the verb phrases such as 'tatte itta, dete itta, and suka shit te itta' and in Myanmar, 'is standing, go into the living room, are stretching out, falling into the native room' are all in the progressive. Even though some of these progressive events in Japanese and Myanmar refer to the time in the past, the description of the events is continuing rather than completed, in contrast to the English.

There are times the Japanese and English aspectual views are telic while Myanmar encodes the same events in an atelic aspect. The following examples illustrate this variation.

TABLE II: TELIC ASPECT IN JAPANESE, ENGLISH AND ATELIC ASPECT IN MYANMAR

Language	Data	Aspect
Jpn.	sofa ni modotte suwaru to, atsui ocha ga <i>de ta.</i> (came out)	Telic
Eng.	I went back and sat on the sofa, and <i>out came hot tea.</i>	Telic
Myn.	when (I) returned to sofa and sat, Yuichi <i>comes (and) puts down hot green tea and hosts me.</i>	Atelic
Jpn.	Watashi ha bikkuri shi te me o <i>mihirai te shi matta.</i> (opened wide eyes)	Telic
Eng.	I was so stunned, <i>I gaped.</i>	Telic
Myn.	I, also, was very surprised and <i>gazing/looking with (my) mouth agape.</i>	Atelic
Jpn.	watashi ha me o mihiraita mama mugon de kare o <i>mitsumete shi matta.</i> (stared at)	Telic
Eng.	<i>I just stared at him</i> in wide-eyed silence.	Telic
Myn.	<i>I am, also, gazing/looking</i> (at) him with wide opened eyes.	Atelic
Jpn.	suru to, dewa ga <i>natta.</i> (rang)	Telic
Eng.	Just then <i>the telephone rang.</i>	Telic
Myn.	At that time, telephone <i>begins to ring.</i>	Atelic

In comparison with Japanese and English, aspectual view

in Myanmar language tends to be highly atelic. Moreover, the given examples describe that atelic aspects are often used by Myanmar language. In terms of Japanese, it can be said that Japanese has a more telic aspectual view than Myanmar. However, when compare to English, Japanese aspectual view is slightly more atelic. Thus, it can be considered that the Myanmar language encodes the narrative events in the continuous or progressive manner at the time of speaking. Japanese seems to be in the middle, i.e., neither lower than Myanmar nor higher than English. Amongst three languages, English encodes the events in the highest aspectual view.

Myanmar language often encodes the events with the use of the verb modifier 'nay' after a verb. Furthermore, in the Myanmar language, this particle can follow stative verbs in contrast with English where those kinds of verbs are normally in simple forms. The following example illustrates this use.

Kyontaw thu ko chit nay tel
I she OBJ love CONT RL
I am loving her. (literal translation)
'I am falling in love with her.' Or 'I still love her.'

B. The Effect of Different Tenses on the Mood

Not every language has the tense system and some languages are considered as tenseless. As for the Myanmar language, some scholars claim that Burmese or Myanmar language is a tenseless language. However, according to the Myanmar Language Commission, there are three tenses; past, present and future in Myanmar language [11]. The tense markers for past, present and future tenses in Myanmar language are the sentence final particles. Tenses in Myanmar language can be differentiated from the time reference phrases and sometimes from the contextual meaning. Myanmar language marks the future tense and mood with the same particles. In Myanmar language, the past and present markers 'te' /te/ is the marker for realis mood and the future marker 'me' /me/ is the irrealis mood marker.

When analysing the data, the focus is simply on the past, present and future despite there are present/past participle and present/past continuous forms. For instance, if an event is described in past continuous or past perfect and so on, it is assumed as being the past tense. The future tenses are seldom seen in the data analysis. The tenses of the three selected versions are analysed first. The result shows that Myanmar language has the least use of past tense with only in 15 sentences out of 130 sentences (the Japanese and English data are included in 130). Japanese has 37 and English has 41 past tense sentences. English uses the most past tenses than its counterparts. Although Japanese and English are not so different in using past tenses for encoding the narrative events, Japanese sometimes encodes the events with the present tense. Myanmar language is the most use of present tense amongst the three. The use of past tenses may relate to the irrealis encoding, such as some of the conditional clauses that show unreal situations. However, the data show that most of the Japanese and English data which encode the narrative events in past tenses are not

conditionals [12].

There are a few differences in the way events are encoded. In the example 1, English is more directly expresses the situation of the character; Mikage, when she is left alone in her life after her parents and her grandparents died. As she is very fond of being in the kitchen, she felt a little nicer being in the kitchen. To express this situation, Japanese and Myanmar use the clause 'I think', 'omou' respectively. That shows that Japanese and Myanmar are likely to avoid using strongly declarative mood while English is more direct in encoding the same event. The sentences are the Myanmar Roman Transcription followed by morphemic gloss and then literal translation. After that Japanese Roman transcription followed by the morphemic gloss and the free English translation at the last respectively.

e: ta yaut hte: ahti:kyan hpyit pyi: kyanyit ta ne. sayin
tot
alone be lonely and left PPM; compare to
po kaun: te lo. htin ta pa pe:
more nice NOM PART think that POL; be PART
'(I) think that compare to being lonely and left alone,
(this is) nicer.' (literal translation of Myanmar data)
jibun shika nai to ommo-te iru yori ha,
oneself only not PART- quoting think -PRES than TOP,
honno sukoshi mashina shisou da to omou
just little better idea be that think
It's just a little nicer than being all alone.

Another example shows where Myanmar uses the future tense 'will' and also the use of 'have to' to say that Mikage will go back to her lonely life even though she does not want to. And it encodes the character's decision as quite determined. This shows the more realis mood than Japanese and English. In Japanese the use of potential 'hitorigurashi ni modoreru noka' and the modals 'would' and 'could' in English has less degree of reality than their counterpart.

kyama. ahpou. belou pe: hpyit hpyit
I; FEM for how PART; (emphasis) whatever
ta yaut hte: ahti:kyan te. bawa. hte: kou
one COUNT be lonely PART; N form life to OBJ
pyanthwa: ya. tot me
return have to PART; (emphasis) IRL: FUT
'For me I will (have to) return to (the) lonely life that (I)
am alone what so ever.' (literal translation of Myanmar
data)
jibun ga dono gurai tsuyoi noka,
Oneself NOM how much strong PART; questioning
imasugu hitorigurashi ni
right now living alone LOC
Modo-reru noka, kento mo tsuka na katta.
go back- potential PART, have no idea PAST
As to how strong I was, or whether I would soon be ready
to go back to living alone, I couldn't venture a guess.

C. The Agency Scoring and Differences

In terms of the parameter, agency, we adopted the agency scoring system and modified to meet the necessity to

compare all three languages. The scoring assigned by Hopper & Thompson is, from 1 to 4, as in, 3rd pers. Human Pronoun 4 > Proper Name 3 > Human Noun 2 > Inanimate Noun 1 [1]. According to the sentence structure in the Myanmar and Japanese, the agent or subject is mostly embedded and not necessarily encoded to make sense. In contrast with English, English is encoding the events mostly with the agent or subject in the sentence. As we can look into the above Myanmar literal translations, some sentences include the subject in the (brackets) to make the literal translation meaningful for the readers. In actuality, the original Myanmar version does not describe those (subject in the brackets). The modified scoring for the agency is, Human noun, pronoun, proper name in Transitive clauses/sentences 5 > Human noun, pronoun, proper name in Intransitive clauses/sentences 4 > Implied human subject (ImHS) 3 > Inanimate noun/pronoun and dummy subjects (e.g., it, there, demonstrative pronouns, e.g., this) 2 > Implied inanimate subject (ImINS), dummy subjects and a clause as subject (e.g., Clause....no ha, Clause....to *iu no o....*, esp. found in Japanese version) 1. The data analysis for the agency scoring show that the agency score of Myanmar is 140, the Japanese is 129 and the English is 153. English has the highest agency score, that means English encodes the events with more agent/subject than Myanmar and Japanese do in the narrative events. At this time, Japanese agency score is less than Myanmar. The following examples show this variation. The first sentences in each example are the literal translation of Myanmar data and the second part is the Romanized Japanese sentence with morphemic gloss.

Yuichi hsou ta ka. ahpwa: a.thu.ba. nei. toun: ka.
Yuichi NOM SUB grandma funeral day LOC; at
asa.za. ayaya lait pyi: kunyi lout kain pei: sha
te.
everything thing along help do PART; offer PART
PART; (N form)
lu nge kalei: ta yaut lei
young man one COUNT SF; (euphony)

'Yuichi' is a young man who helped everything at grandma's funeral day. (literal translation of Myanmar data)

(ImHS) *Soushiki no tetsudai o*
Implied human SUB funeral GEN (the) help ACC
takusan shi-te kure ta.
many do- to do for someone PAST

Yuichi comes (and) puts down hot green tea and hosts me. (literal translation of Myanmar data)

(ImHS) *sofa ni modotte suwaru to,*
Implied human SUB sofa LOC return sit when,
atsui ocha ga de ta.
hot green tea NOM come out- PAST

The data analysis shows Japanese does not describe the human subject when encoding events. We can see the

(ImHS) implied human subject in Japanese examples when Myanmar version in this examples is encoded with Human proper noun 'Yuichi'. Amongst the three versions, English gets the highest agency role than its counterparts. The Myanmar language and the Japanese is lower than English because the human agent/subject and the dummy subjects are not described in the narrative like English does.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study shows the different transitivity preferences in the three languages, Myanmar, Japanese and English. Amongst the three, English prefers the high Transitivity for aspect and agency. Myanmar language seems to be prefer lower transitivity in aspect than Japanese. In terms of agency, Japanese is slightly lower than the Myanmar language. Therefore, when encoding the narrative events, Myanmar language uses agent or subject more often than Japanese. In contrast to the English, English is a language that needs to express the agent or subject to encode the event and highly agentive than its counterparts. In addition, this study shows that different tenses in encoding the narrative events has effect on the mood/mode of the three languages. Since realis and irrealis mode are one of the ten parameters of Hopper & Thompson, the different mode of languages effects on the transitivity degree. English encodes events mostly in the past tense and Japanese as well. However, Japanese uses present tense more often than English. Amongst the three languages, Myanmar language uses the present tense quite often and it shows the descriptive nature of the encoding events in Myanmar language.

When compared to Japanese and Myanmar language, English encodes the events more directly than its counterparts. Japanese and Myanmar encode the narrative events in a more indirect way while showing the character's opinion or desire. As far as the data analysis is concerned, the use of the simple future tense is not seen in English data. The most tenses used in the three languages are past and present tenses. Although the tenses in the data analysis are clustered under past, present and future tenses, we bear in mind that there are continuous and perfect tenses. Consideration of continuous and perfect tenses will be more useful from the Aspectual point of view. Since tense, aspect and mood are correlated with each other, it would be more efficient to include the aspectual analysis to see the transitivity preferences in each language. Having the same narrative events for the data analysis does show some differences and Transitivity preferences in the three languages. However, there might be some problem that the rhetoric of the individual language, esp., Myanmar language in this case, becomes vague. The Japanese composition style has considerable influence on the translation of Myanmar version. This shows that Myanmar and Japanese are quite alike in composing the literary work, i.e., some translator's sentences are like Japanese rhetoric although it might be slightly odd in the native speakers' eyes. However, this does not imply that those kind of sentences are ill formed and meaningless. Despite the fact that each language has its own composition style, the data analysis shows that Myanmar language can be translated very

closely like Japanese writing style. This suggests that it might be interesting to compare the texts that are Myanmar original and Japanese translated. This might solve further research question like ‘Does Japanese style of writing become vague if it is translated from the original Myanmar composition?’

APPENDIX

ACC	accusative
COUNT	counter
Eng.	English
FEM	feminine
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
IRL	irrealis
Jpn.	Japanese
LOC	locative
Myn.	Myanmar
N	noun
NOM	nominative
OBJ	object
PART	particle
PAST	past
PL	plural
POL	polite
PRES	present
RL	realis
SF	sentence final
STAT	stative
SUB	subject
TOP	topic

REFERENCES

- [1] P. J. Hopper and S. A. Thompson, “Tense-Aspect: Between semantics and pragmatics,” *Language*, vol. 56, pp. 251-299, Jun. 1980

- [2] M. A. K. Halliday, *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*, 3rd ed. New York, NY: Hodder Arnold, 2004.
- [3] P. J. Hopper, “Aspect between discourse and grammar: An introductory essay for the volume,” *Tense-Aspect: Between Semantics & Pragmatics*, pp. 3-18, 1982.
- [4] T. Ohori, “Transitivity in grammar and rhetoric: A case from English and Japanese,” *Locus of Meaning: Papers in Honour of Yoshihiko Ikegami*, pp. 389-406, 1997.
- [5] B. Comrie, *Aspect*, 1st ed. New York, NY: University of Cambridge, 1976.
- [6] Z. Vendler, “Verbs and times,” *The Philosophical Review*, vol. 66, pp. 143-160, Apr. 1957.
- [7] Y. Banana, *Kitchen*, translated by M. Buckus, New York, Washington Square Press, 1993.
- [8] W. M. Jacobsen, *The Transitive Structure of Events in Japanese: Studies in Japanese Linguistics*, Kurocio Publishers, 1992.
- [9] J. Okell and A. Allott, *Burmese/Myanmar Dictionary of Grammatical Forms*, New York, NY: Routledge.
- [10] N. Romeo, *Aspect in Burmese: Studies in Language Companion Series*, John Benjamins, 2008.
- [11] Myanmar Language Commission, *Myanmar Grammar*, 2nd ed. Yangon, 2013.
- [12] F. R. Palmer, *Mood and Modality*, New York, Cambridge University Press, 1986.



Ei Ei Soe Min was born in Taunggyi, Southern Shan State, Myanmar on November 3, 1985. She received the degree of M.A (English) from the University of Taunggyi, Taunggyi, Southern Shan State, Myanmar in 2009. She earned the degree of M.A (language, media and communication), from the Kyushu University, Fukuoka city, Japan in 2016. Her major field of study is comparative linguistics.

She is an assistant lecturer at the Department of English in the Meiktila University of Economics, Meiktila, Myanmar. She has 3 years and 7 months of job experience in the University of Economics. She started her studying abroad in 2013, in Japan and is now a doctoral student in Kyushu University. She has published in the East Asian Journal of Studies on the Japanese Language & Culture, Special Issue on Modern Studies of the Japanese Language and Teaching, Vol. 24. Ms. Soe Min Doctoral Student, Kyushu University, Japan. Assistant Lecturer, Meiktila University of Economics, Meiktila, Myanmar.