

Youle Jino adjectives

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Jino is a Lolo[Yipho]-Burmese (Tibeto-Burman) language, spoken in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous State, Yunnan province, China. In this paper, I will describe the characteristics of adjectives in the Youle dialect of Jino and contrast them with other Asian languages.

[Morphology]

In Youle Jino, the basic form of adjectives can be schematized as follows;

- (1) a-/ la-/ jɔ- [**VERB**]
 PREF- verbal root

As in (1), Youle Jino adjectives usually consist of two parts, namely prefix and verbal root. However, when prefixing negative prefix or preverbs, or attaching adverbs to adjectives, adjective prefixes are obligatorily omitted.

(2)	a^{33} - PREF-	tso^{55} short	ma^{33} - NEG-	tso^{42} short	$tʃɣ^{33}$ - more-	tso^{42} short	$a^{33}thi^{55}$ - a little-	tso^{42} short
		‘short’		‘not short’		‘more short’		‘a little short’

Reduplication is productive in adjectives, as in (3).

- (3) a^{33} - tso^{55} ‘to be short’, a^{33} - tso^{55} lo^{55} ‘a little more short’, a^{33} - tso^{55} tso^{55} ‘very short’
 PREF- short PREF- short RDP PREF- short short.RDP

[Syntax]

Youle Jino adjectives have two functions, namely modifying nominals and becoming predicate. When modifying nominals, the basic form of adjectives follows nouns.

- (4) $kɔ^{55}tɔ^{44}$ $a^{33}nɣ^{55}$ ‘a red clothes’, $kɔ^{55}tɔ^{44}$ $a^{33}nɣ^{55}nɣ^{55}$ ‘a very red clothes’
 clothes to be red clothes to be red.RDP

However, the negative form of adjectives can follow or precede nouns.

- (5) a. $a^{33}tsu^{55}$ $ma^{33}mjo^{55}$ - $mɣ^{55}$, b. $ma^{33}mjo^{55}$ - $mɣ^{55}$ $a^{33}tsu^{55}$ ‘trees which are not tall’
 tree NEG-tall -REL NEG-tall -REL tree

In (5a), mjo^{55} in the modifier seems adjective, because its word order is the same as (4), whereas in (5b), it seems verb, because its word order is the same as the default order of relative clause.

When becoming predicate, adjectives are placed after subjects.

- (6) $a^{55}mɔ^{55}$ $a^{33}lɔ^{55}lɔ^{55}$. ‘My body is very hot.’
 body hot.RDP

Besides, when adjectives become predicate, they often precede the copular verb $ɲu^{55}$.

- (7) $ɕi^{44}=pɔ^{44}$ $ɕɔ^{33}khi^{55}$ $a^{33}krɔ^{55}$ $ɲu^{33}$ - $nɔe^{44}$. ‘It is slippery here.’
 this=direction foot slippery COP-SFP

[Typology]

Although the basic form of Jino adjectives contains verbal root, the root can not appear independently, whereas the roots of adjectives in Bisu (XU 1998) and Hani (DAI and DUAN 1995) can.

- (8) a. [**Bisu**] $aŋ^{33}$ - $vɣ^{33}$ / $vɣ^{33}$ ‘far’ b. [**Hani**] $zɔ^{33}$ - $mɔ^{55}$ / $mɔ^{55}$ ‘long’
 PREF-far far PREF-long long

Whereas the characteristics of adjectives in Bisu and Hani are more similar to verbs than nouns, those in Jino are similar to both nouns and verbs.