?ā-prefixation on verbs and auxiliaries in Lhaovo (Maru)
Language: non-derivational use

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Lhaovo (Maru), a Burmish language, has a prefix ?ā- deriving a noun from a verb, like Burmese ?ā-.

big one to be big hole to bore high place to be high end to end

However, not all ?ā- prefixed to verbal morphemes have derivational function. ?ā- prefixed to the predicate verb (or verbal string) of sentence/clause does not have nominalizing power.

(2) a. tsoF ?ā-tsoH(-raH). '(I/you/(s)he) ate a meal.'
   b. tsoF ?ā-tsoH(-raH). (= a. in propositional meaning)

?ā- can also be prefixed to auxiliaries such as -koH 'plural', -vaH 'speaker's realization of events/situations reported in real time', -šiL 'still' (or strings of auxiliaries).

(3) a. ?ā-y-meyF naF-šiH(-raH). '(I/you/(s)he) still stay(s) there.'
   b. ?ā-y-meyF naL ?ā-šiH. (= a. in propositional meaning)

(4) loL ?ā-vaH . '(I/you/(s)he) have/has just come.'

(5) loL ?ā-vā-koH . '(We/you/they) have/has just come.'

(6) ?ā-y-meyF naL ?ā-šā-koH . '(We/you/they) still stay there.'

Verbs/auxiliaries with non-derivational ?ā- are preferred (not selected) in the second sentence of 'not ... but ...'-like combination, and with -tsaL 'only'.

   'Zakhaung Khao Je did not come. It is Lamaung Leim Khao that came.'
   'Zakhaung family did not come. It is Lamaung family that came.'

(8) a. vo?FšoL ?ā-tsoH . '(I/you/(s)he) eat(s) only pork.'
   b. vo?FšoL ?ā-tsoH . '(I/you/(s)he) have/has become to eat only pork.'

In this presentation, I try to clarify similarity and difference between the above two constructions with ?ā-, in connection with its function of nominalization.