

Grammar notes

The general sentence order in Chrau is Subject - Verb - Object. Anh sây nêh 'I saw him'. Listings of the following word classes can be found in Sec. 14 of the vocabulary.

Initial particles, such as time, some emphatic negatives, and questions, come before the Subject. Aheq anh sây nêh 'Then I saw him'

There is an interesting group of semi-onomatopoeic initial adverbs which also come before the Subject. Phut nêh lûh 'Suddenly he appeared.'

Preverbal auxiliaries come between the Subject and the Verb. Anh êq sây nêh 'I didn't see him.' These are mostly negatives and modals.

Final particles are sentence modals conveying the attitude of the speaker. Anh sây nêh âm 'I saw him indeed.'

There are a few prepositions (locatives). Anh sây nêh u nhi 'I saw him in the house.'

Adverbs, indicating the intensity or course of the action, follow the Verb (or sometimes the Object). Anh sây nêh diêt 'I saw him continually.'

Classifiers are obligatory when counting. The classifier comes between the numeral and the noun. du rawây chhe 'one piece of string'.

Connectives are found both within sentences and between sentences, and usually come between the elements being joined.

Exclamations are independent sentences, but they are more likely to come at the beginning than the end of a discourse.

Vocabulary arrangement

This vocabulary is arranged by general areas of meaning, grouping together words with somewhat similar meanings. Many of these groupings are self-explanatory, while other groupings and divisions may not be clear to the reader. So we beg the reader's indulgence if he doesn't always find his word on the first try, and we would refer him to the alphabetical indexes at the back.

Within sections, the more general terms are usually put before the more specific terms. For example, under Plants, tree is put before its parts branch and sap; and then tree, branch, and sap come before the specific names ebony, papaya, and water-

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Chrau words may be of one or two syllables. In 2-syllable words the second syllable is always accented and pronounced very distinctly. The first syllable is almost never accented, and its vowel is often variable or obscure; so we have usually written the vowel of the first syllable as a, though in some situations, especially next to a g, y, j, or d we have written the vowel as i, or occasionally as u or o. (In the index, for simplicity, we have written them all with a.) Final codification of the rules for writing the first syllable vowel will have to wait for a consensus of Chrau writers.

First-syllable consonants are also somewhat unstable, with the voiced/voiceless distinction and the l/r distinction frequently being neutral or shifting; and some dialects assimilate while others dissimilate tongue position in consonant clusters or between first syllable and main syllable consonants.

Chrau does not have tones like Vietnamese nor registers like Cambodian. Grammatical word classes, however, affect intonation, so that emphatics and some negatives generally have a high tone, and some other particles generally have a low tone, making it important to mark the tone on these words to avoid ambiguity.

14. Camvũm Nhai

Văn-phạm

Grammar

Chữ Văn-phạm

Grammatical Particles

Chữ đầu câu. Initial particles

năm	tại sao	why, what
tơ	tại sao	why
lũh	tại sao	why
bơ	tại sao	surprise
mỗq	sao	what, why
pách n'hya	cái gì	what
vi	đâu	where
en	rồi	then
ahęq	đàng này	then, at that
mỗh	đã, rồi	then, so
kế	kế	then
phăp	kế, đoạn	then
yăh mviêm	may rùi	by chance, fortunately
nhăng	thật	indeed
cớ	cứ	continue
đé	nhè	instead, indeed
tất đaq	đến nỗi, đến nước	to the point that, so much that
món	dĩ nhiên	of course, naturally
vaju	dĩ nhiên	of course, naturally
ví	không đâu	not!
văng	đừng	don't
tamvắc bi	vì, cớ	because
vadăng	khi nào	when
vagỗq	bao nhiêu	how much

davôq	trước hết	at first
ayh	chỉ có	only

Trạng-từ đầu câu, Initial adverbs

phut	ở đầu đâm ra	suddenly out
phư	khi-không vô	suddenly into
phing-ling	ào, ùng	thunderously up, down
chruh ruh	khi-không xuống	suddenly down
kruih	kéo ra	slidingly out
chruh	vô ào	noisily into
giut	kéo ra	continuously around, in

Trợ-động-từ, Preverbal auxiliaries

me	mới	just then
khoi	cũng	also
mi	mí	instead
hôm	còn	still
hôm mo	còn y	still
hôm ndôh	chưa	not yet
yêq	hỏi nãy	now, then
êq	không	not
sun	không	not
sây	không	not
đãng	không	not
jơ gêh	không có đâu	not
un	có, không	not, is
lêq	xong, hết	stop, quit, finished
dran	rán	vigorously
tâm, tam-	hành-động cho nhau	reciprocal action

Hậu-trí-tử, Final particles

àr	quá, rất	very, indeed
ohhuoi	cà, mất dạng	at all
ohhông	xong	finished
âm	mà	indeed
dơn	rồi	already
en	rồi	already
đăng	không?	yes/no question
hăng	không?	yes/ no question
hah	hà	is that so!
hôm	chưa?	yet?
lò	chớ	indeed
là	thật, thấy	indeed
ngần	thôi, không, thiệt	only
ơ	nhé	OK?
ơn	hà, hà	surprised, bewildered
pa	đâu	at all
siqvlòq	trở lại	again
te	nhé	OK
tơq	cà	at all
vây	vậy, đương	indeed
uy	chắc	surely
vồq	đi	mild imperative
vồh	đi	friendly imperative
wồq	nữa	more
yo	há	OK

Tiền-trị-từ, Prepositions

a	từ	from
ju	đang	at
tất	đến	to
tu	ở, đến	at, to
u	ở	at
sững	trong	in

(Cf. Mieu-tà : chiếu. Descriptives: placement)

Trạng-từ, Adverbs

lừng	lắm	very
lừng nggơi	lắm vậy	very
qua	quá	very
qua trời	quá trời	exceedingly
vyãq	nhiều quá	very
lễq	hết	completely
lễq tron	hết tron	completely
lawãn	luôn, tức-khắc	immediately, continu- ally
diết	miết	continually
chhuôí	tuốt	thoroughly, complete- ly
thet thet	thét thét	little by little
du ndết	một chút	a little
êq truh	không nổi	not able
gờh	được	able
ayh	riêng	alone
ndãng	nhu nhau	alike
simrát	bất-từ	suddenly, unpremedi- tated

Loại-từ, Classifiers

lâm	cái, con	gen. classifier
cũc	miếng, cục	cl. small pieces
bư	một bụi cây	small clump
đám	đám	group
rông	đám rông lớn	large clump, area
đôi	đôi	cl pairs
cốp	cái (đĩa, chiêng, chai...)	cl. dishes, gongs, bottles
jôm	nhum	a pinch
mvu, ndu	người	cl. people
n'ha	lá, sợi	cl. leaves, hair
n'hững	ổ (ong)	cl. beehives
ncong	miếng (cây, mây, tre, bút...)	cl. stalk-like object
nom	cái (cây)	cl. trees
păng	lá, miếng	cl. flat things
rot	cái (nhà)	cl. houses
tấp	lớp	layer
tong	cây, cái (súng, na, dao...)	cl. knives, tools
rawáy	sợi	cl. string, hair
vanông	con (thú-vật)	cl. large dead animals
vôq	con (thú-vật)	cl. animals
vũm	miếng, ngum (rượu)	mouthful (wine)
vau	lóng, khúc (tay)	section (arm, finger)
yu	bộ (chiêng)	set (gongs)

(Cf. Miêu-tả: số-lượng. Descriptives: quantity)

Liên-từ, Connectives

bay	theo, với	with
và	và	and
gồm và	với mà	and
ca	như	like
ca và	như vậy, như mà	like
mà	mà	but, and, which
canh	như vậy	like that
caheq	như vậy, này	like this
dằng	chừng	to, as much as
di-	để, cho	to, in order to
cổ	mà	that which
khây	các	plural, group
nối	mấy	pl., as for them
de, je	của	belonging to
lây	nào	whatever
pạch lây	cái nào	anything
đồ	đồ	anything, etcetera

Thán-từ, Exclamations

cha	chà	surprise
êh	ì	mild discontent
llăng	thôi	'say no more'
nduối	tội-nghiệp	pity, sympathy
ơih	ớì	mild dissatisfaction

dre	thôi	'that's enough'
valay	thấy kệ	'never mind'

Văn vân, Miscellaneous

păch	cái	thing
păch n'hya	cái gì?	what?
gễh	có	have, be
sinlơ	thứ, cái gì	thing, meaning
chiên	chuyện	episode
dấq	lần	time, occurrence
mất	lần	time, occurrence

TỪ SÁCH NGÔN - NGỮ
DÂN-TỘC THIỂU-SỐ VIỆT-NAM
CUỐN I

NGỮ - VỰNG CHRAU CHRAU VOCABULARY

CHRAU — VIỆT — ENGLISH



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