

wife is confident that the woman is her husband's lover. This sentence [6] confirms the speaker (wife)'s confidence of the main verb phrase /skaa11 baan= saan/, meaning "You know Mr. Saan, don't you?" The sentence [11] mentioned later gives and compares the example using /ri+i+/ which the lover is asking in the same scene.

[7] taŋ tae pii sqæk nih tɨw
 (from tomorrow this)
 yəəŋg cáŋ qawy qəŋ tɨw riən
 (I want make you go study)
 ta tɨw tɨət
 (continue again)
 taə qaeŋ sũəkh cət tee?
 (whether you be pleased)

(SPT:p.33)

In this scene, a foster father decides to make Sophaat, who has been interrupting his studies temporarily, go to school again. The foster father is confident that Sophaat is pleased to be able to return to school. It confirms the speaker's confidence with the main verb phrase /sũəkh cət/, meaning "I want you to go to school again from tomorrow. You are pleased, aren't you?"

[8] ñam kaafee tee?
 (drink coffee)

It confirms the speaker's confidence that the hearer will drink coffee, meaning "You drink coffee, don't you?" Or, since /tee/ is used with the speaker's confidence, sometimes this sentence [8] seems to express an invitation like "Let's drink coffee." But /tee/ does not have a meaning of an invitation in itself.

2.3. /ri:/

In Khmer, noun sentence "A be B" is expressed with the form of /A B/. If using copula word /ciə/, /kɨ:/ or a combination of these two words /kɨ ciə/, noun sentence is expressed as /A ciə (or kɨ or kɨ ciə) B/. Also, just /B/ makes the meaning of "(...) be B". In making a noun sentence into an interrogative sentence, /ri:/ is used for the interrogative particle.

[9] nih kɨ koun sao ptəəh qnak kruu ri:
 (this be key house teacher)

This sentence [9] asks whether this is a key of the teacher's house or of something else. Showing the noun phrase /koun sao ptəəh qnak kruu/ (a key of the teacher's house) right after /kɨ/ (be), the speaker asks other alternatives. For other

alternatives, there may be "a key of this room" or "a key of the teacher's car," for example.

/ri:/ is also used in the sentence including verb phrases. However, in Khmer, a verb can be used as a noun with the same form. For example, the verb ñam (drink) is also used as a noun "to drink".

[10] ñam kaafee ri:
 (drink coffee)

Affirmation or negation "drink or not" was asked in sentence [4]. In this sentence [10] however, using /ri:/ other various alternatives about /ñam kaafee/ (drink coffee) are presented. For other alternatives, there may be "drink tea" or "make coffee" etc... If /ñam kaafee/ is considered as a noun phrase "to drink coffee" and this sentence [10] is considered as a kind of noun sentence meaning "What you are going to do is to drink coffee?" it may be easy to understand and may be possible to cover the usage of /ri:/ generally.

[11] bqoun srəy qaeŋ tlaáp skaál
 (you have know)
 baŋ saan ri:
 (Mr. Saan)

(CTC:p.96)

This sentence [11] is asked in the same scene as sentence [6]. In contrast to sentence [6], in this case, since the speaker knows the listener, other alternatives about /tlaáp skaál baŋ saan/ (know Mr. Saan) cannot exist. It can be analyzed that "blame" is expressed by using /ri:/ intentionally about what the speaker knows in fact, "Do you know him or not or what kind of acquaintance?"

In the collected data using /ri:/, many examples are in the scene which cannot consider other alternatives. However, they are found to express "blame", "irony" or "surprise" as in sentence [11].

3. Conclusion

The overall results of this research shows that the three interrogative particles have different roles respectively as follows.

- /ri: tee/ asks affirmation or negation about the main verb phrase.
- /tee/ confirms the speaker's confidence in the main verb phrase. Sometimes a /tee/ sentence expresses "invitation".
- /ri:/ is used to ask other alternatives about the noun phrase as in a noun sentence. When there are no possible alternatives, /ri:/ sentences express "blame", "irony" or "surprise".

NOTES

The romanization follows Sakamoto (1988). The sources of each example are abbreviated at the end of the example. Examples with identified sources are the examples from the informant directly. I appreciate the cooperation of Mr. Ungsa Marom and Ms. Kep Sokunthearith as informants. The sources of the examples and their abbreviations are as follows.

SPT: Rim, Kin 1952 *Sophaat*.
CTC: Duong, Can 1996 *A narrow path*.
YKR: Pal, Vannarirak 2000 *Night has passed*.

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