



SELINUS UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCES AND LITERATURE

**COMPARATIVE STUDY OF KHMER AND
ENGLISH, A CASE STUDY OF ADJECTIVE:
MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX**

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CERTIFICATE FORM GUIDE

This is to certify that the present work in the form of a thesis entitled: **COMPARATIVE STUDY OF KHMER AND ENGLISH, A CASE STUDY OF ADJECTIVE: MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX**, which is being submitted herewith for the award of the degree of Doctorate of Philosophy in Linguistics, Selinus University of sciences and literature, Department of Arts and Humanity Program, is the best result of the original research work carried out and completed by **Moeurn LINNA** under my supervision and therefore for the best of acknowledgment, the work embodied in this thesis has not formed earlier the basis for the award of any Degree or similar title of this or any University or examining body.

ABSTRACT

Our work, based on comparative studies of Khmer and English: a case study of adjective morphology and syntax, argues that the essence of comparative linguistics was essentially focusing on contrasting elements of two or more languages so as to bring out their differences and similarities. The method has always been a scientific procedure and helps to classify languages into phyla based on some common features they share. Our project begins with historical frameworks of the past and modern-day's theories of comparative linguistics cited the most relevant ones. As focal point of study: adjective morphology and syntax, our study has demonstrated that Khmer language on one hand, has undergone many changes from pre old Khmer to modern Khmer; English on the other hand has also undergone diverse and different changes leading to what we call standard English with its different varieties and accents as it is spoken throughout the world. Both languages weighed on a contrastive balance share many similarities such as: neutral degree of adjective, the function of adjective in a sentences etc. However, Khmer language and English seem to have more divergent points than similar ones. Adjectives are more flexible and mobile in English than in Khmer. The adjective formational process is narrow in Khmer as compared to English. We equally discovered that, still in syntax, Khmer allows only a limited number adjective where in English, you can use as many as possible but respect their order. Our research has shown that the two languages are quite distinct in terms of typology. English is an analytical language where Khmer is an isolating language thus many differences in their internal organisation. English present regular and irregular adjective while Khmer, the rules are standard and applicable to all adjectives. Furthermore, Khmer used some particles which are quite separated from the main adjective to either express comparative or superlative forms, but in English most of the affixes are directly attached to the main adjective. This is a significant breakthrough in the research on Khmer language linguistics and comparing it to English or other languages will open new doors of research.

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CHAPER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Khmer is the official language of Cambodia. It originates from the Khmer people and has been influenced considerably by Sanskrit and Pali, particularly in the royal and religious registers, and through Hinduism and Buddhism. The language has come in close contact with Thai, Lao, Vietnamese and Cham due to geographical proximity and cultural connection. Khmer's main distinction from its neighbouring languages is that it is not a tonal language.

The earliest written and recorded language from the Mon-Khmer family, Khmer is spoken by 90% of the population (some 7 million people) and is used in most social and professional contexts such as government administration, education at all levels and in mass media. After Vietnamese, it is the second most widely spoken Austroasiatic language.

Modern Khmer is used nationwide and is understood by most of the country's inhabitants. Influence from Sanskrit and Pali is characterized by vocabulary used in administration, and the effect of years of French colonial rule is evident in the language too. Although there wasn't obvious contact between Khmer and English as a result of colonial period, the two languages are now more than ever getting in contact by virtue of globalization. Many Cambodians are now more and more interested in learning English for different purposes. English speakers for diplomatic and academic reasons are also learning Khmer.

There exists a large amount of researches showing the comparative view of the Khmer and English in terms of phonology and semantics, but very little research has

gone into how morphology can be of great interest in comparing these two distinct languages.

This study is based on the assumption that both Khmer and English would have undergone some morphological changes over the past years: due to the increased contact with the outside world and the dynamism of languages. It is posited that although Khmer and English are from very different language families, they however share some common features at the level of adjectives position and morphology.

1.2 Objectives of the study

Studying Khmer and English based on a comparative and contrastive method is highly commendable for its open the doors to various importance. The main objectives are not withstanding countless. However, we will enumerate some of them by as providing some guidelines for learners of the two languages; elaborating academic and professional working tools for bilingual students of Khmer and English. We are sure that languages are part of society as J P Vinay et Dabelnay said in his famous book (*Stylistique Comparee du Francais et de l'Anglais*), as such, the more the two languages interact through their speakers, the more it become interesting to compare them. Our research has both academic and social focuses.

1.2. Problem of the study

The study focused on the comparative and contrastive analysis of adjective morphology and syntax between Khmer and English language.

It specifically aims to answer the following questions:

- 1- What are the common adjectives morphological features in Khmer and English?
- 2-What are the common syntactical features of adjective in Khmer and English?

3-Is there any differences between Khmer and English as far as adjectives are concerned?

4- Is there any significant effect on second language learners of both languages?

1.3 The hypothesis

The hypothesis of this study is that Khmer and English, though linguistically and geographically share different denominator, both languages show also some resemblances in their monophthonal and syntactic adjectival system. Adjectives in Khmer follow the noun; doubling the adjective can indicate plurality or intensify the meaning (*see more on adjective position in Khmer*).

Adjectives follow verbs when they function as adverbs. Adjectives are actually stative verbs and are used without a copula and can be negated, like other verbs. In English, There are three positions where an adjective can be placed - before a noun, after a noun, or in the predicate. These positions of adjectives are called attributive, postpositive and predicative respectively.

Though the current study is focused only on comparing Khmer and English at the level of adjective position and morphology, I believe that the hypothesis should be proved correct, it will provide justification for further investigations into the research looking for similar results in other aspects of grammar which can help learners of the two languages to understand the different mechanisms.

1.4. Importance and scope

1.4.1 Importance

As for the whys of the study, we can mention the following: have a detailed overview of adjectives of both languages, their function and every grammatical aspects

related to that, we equally want to provide the second learners of both languages, an insight of how the languages function in their dynamic way(diachronically and synchronically). All the above tools will enable learners not only to know more about the languages, but also to predict and avoid some frequent errors during the process of learning.

1.4.2 Scope

The scope of the current study consists of the following aspects. The scope of the content: this research is the comparative study of Khmer and English: a case study of adjective: morphology and syntax. The study is to compare adjective in both languages based on examples drawn from some selected from some selected books. The Target Data focuses on the differences and similarities of adjective in Khmer and English. The Scope of the Time focuses on taking the time to collect and gather the above data. As such, it collect and gather data from various sources to quantitatively sort them similar to J.P Vinay and Dabelnet when he compared French and English(*Stylistique Comparée du français et de l'anglais*).

1.5 Research questions

The study aims at investigating in a comparative manner under the following questions:

1. How is adjective used in Khmer and English?
2. Do Khmer and English have the same syntactic usage of adjective?
3. Is adjective morphologically used the same in both languages?
4. Which of the two languages has more complexity in the usage of adjective?

5. What is the rate of sameness and differences?

1.6 Outline of thesis structure

The presentation of this study will be divided into six (6) chapters. Following the introduction, pre-existing literature and related studies of the topic at hand will be considered in chapter 2. Chapter 2 will be further divided into sections by topic, exploring literature concerning frameworks for analyses of adjectives position (1) and morphology (2) previous studies that inform the current study, as well as (5) gaps in the existing research. Chapter 3 will mainly be concerned with the research methodology used to carry out the study, as well as an explanation of the statistical results on how many sentences are similar in both languages and how many are different. Following the methodology and explanation of statistical treatments, chapter 4 will contain a presentation of the results of the study and organization of the gathered data. Chapter 5 will discuss the presented results and draw conclusions, analyzing the implications of the results in both social and linguistic contexts. Finally, chapter 6 will present a summary of the research of the current study, conclusion and recommendation, highlight possibilities for further extensions of the study to other aspects of the Khmer language, as well as discuss promising applications of the methodology to related studies in other languages.

CHAPTER 2

LITERARY REVIEW

Literary review

In this chapter, we will firstly provide background ideas on what is known as comparative linguistics. Much works in this domain have either directly or indirectly to previous study of comparative studies. Secondly, we will lay emphasis on adjectives (forms: morphology and position: syntax) their usage in the Khmer and English. In other words, the focus will be on the differences and resemblances between the two languages as what has been the interest area of the previous researches carried out by some researchers (linguists, language experts etc). Finally, we will draw the attention on the gaps (insufficiencies) in the existing literary works and demonstrate the need to continue the research to further levels.

2.1 History

2.1.1 Brief history of comparative linguistics

Language is a social factor and the more two or more languages come together, the greater the impact is visible between them it becomes interesting to put them together with the aim(s) of bringing out what they have in common and what make(s) their differences. In linguistics, the domains that deal with comparing languages is called "comparative linguistics".

It's a linguistic branch which compares and contrasts relative phyla (languages family) with a view of reconstructing forms of their ancestor: phylum and establishes their relations.

Some languages, although different and distinct in forms and geography, linguists have established their closeness or historical relatedness. The main data used by linguists are genetics and after the research, they will finally conclude that the two or more languages have a common ancestor. The result of the research enables to classify the languages into different typology or family.

They are often some misconceptions in understanding the main differences between **comparative linguistics** and **historical linguistics**. Comparative linguistics, also called comparative philology or comparative languages on one hand study is fundamentally technical and uses phonological, morphological, syntactic and lexical system of the two or more languages. **Historical linguistics** on the other hand, studies languages from a historical perspective.

The early studies on comparative linguistics ranging from the Greek Era to 17th Century, such as the works of **Dante Aligieri** (1265-1321) and many other prominent linguists were carried out on European languages. At that time, the interests were put on some vernacular languages and how they were related one to the other.

Another new era of comparative studies was that of the "Sanskrit". In the eighteen century, Western missionaries in the East, started to be busy about this great group of languages: Sanskrit. After years of ardent works, they came up with the conclusion that languages such as Sanskrit, Greek and other European languages are part of what is today called: Indo-European. It was a result of a thorough comparing systems used by those scholars and declared the outcome of their research.

The era of nineteen century will also witness a very high wave of researches in the domain of comparative linguistics. Prominent scholars such as Joseph Greenberg, August Schleicher and Johannes Schmidt among other have brilliantly made some contribution in that walk. Greenberg was interested in mostly African languages and he was credited to have studied and brought out the Afro-asiatic, Niger-Kordofanian, Nilosaharan and Khoisan families. The classification given by Greenberg included all the different languages found in Africa.

Other contemporary scholars of Greenberg such as Schmidt admitted that the above classification was a good one but could have some limits as language is a purely dynamic factor. Geographical factors can also have influences on the classification. That is why; Schmidt proposed his new classification model known as "*wave model*". Linguists do not agree on the classification method, reason why some suggested new ones.

Some linguists among them prefer to classify language not from their historical or genetic perspective, but from their forms (sound system, phonemes, morphemes etc). August W, Schlegel (1767-1845) had on his own classified the world's languages based on their typology as follow: *isolating languages, agglutinating languages, inflectional languages etc.*'

Another outstanding work in that walk was carried out by a group of students from the German University of Leipzig in the year 1870 century. Their main focus was on the Indo-European language family. They laid emphasis on restructuring both the proto language and the different sister-languages belonging to that phylum. Although their works were not appreciated at the beginning by their elders who were mockingly calling them "Neogrammarians, it ended up that that they had revolutionized the history of comparative linguistics. As a result, many started to embrace their works. The main method applied by **Neogrammarians** was "sound **empirism**" which according to us was a kind of syllogism based on sound rules.

If A sound can change to B sound in a given empirical environment, so the change in A and B can occur in all the other languages. They were convinced that any phonological change(s) occurring in language A is likely to happen in language B too.

Last but not the least, another linguistic research on languages classification appeared after the works of **Neogrammarians** who, according to some linguists were limited on their view of **neologism**. Linguists like **Kreschtschner** brought about the new method called " linguistics paleontology which was not only focusing on the <<today>> of languages, but also their past.

Still according to that trend, Hugo (1842-1928) brought his share of contribution by somehow refusing what 'Neogrammarians' said. He proposed that the study of languages must take into consideration the cultural and social aspects. Researches on Creole and Pidgin were attributed to him.

2.2 Brief history of Khmer language

Khmer language, also called Cambodian, Mon-Khmer language is a language spoken by most of population of Cambodia where it is seen and considered as the official language and by over a million speakers in Thailand and Vietnam. It is an official language in the kingdom of Cambodia as a native language of Khmer people and spoken by Khmer (Cambodia people); it belongs to a member of Mon-Khmer subgroup of the Austro-Asiatic family language. Other Mon-Khmer languages are spoken in those areas too with slight variations (**Jenner, Phillip Norman: 1921**).

Khmer language has been written since the early 7th century using the script system origination from South India called Sanskrit. The language used the ancient Khmer empire Angkor, its capital, was Old Khmer. A lot of monumental inscriptions and documents found in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Burma dating from the early 7th century attested that prestigious literary works have been carried out in this language.

Khmer language according to some scholars has continued to exert a lasting influence on the languages of the region, as evidence by the large number of the Khmer borrowings found in Thai, Lao, Kuay, Stieng, Samre and others. However, Khmer has in turn borrowed many words and expressions from Sanskrit and Pali especially in the domain of philosophy and some social sciences. It remains a great language and a cultural asset for both Cambodians and some populations in the regions neighbouring Cambodia and even among the Cambodian Diaspora.

Khmer is a natively of */phiäsaä khmae/*, which in the Khmer pronunciation reads as: */p^hiäsa: k^hmae /* and it is also the formally of */kheemara phiäsaä/*, which

pronunciation by Khmer people: /K^he:mpʔraʔ p^ɨasa:/. The word “Khmer” has a number widely different meaning. It is referring to the Khmer people and also describes to a particular of the language. Moreover, it is also expression to the Cambodia territory.

According to the linguistics study of the Khmer language divided the history of Khmer language into the periods such as: proto-Khmer, pre-Angkorian, Angkorian, middle Khmer and modern of Khmer. They are following:

- Proto- Khmer (before 600 EC)
- Pre-Angkorian (600-800)
- Angkorian (800 to middle the 14th century)
- Middle of Khmer (Middle 14th century -18th century)
- Modern of Khmer (1800- nowadays)

2.2.1 Proto-Khmer

As the name shows, Pro-Khmer is the original language spoken by the ancient Khmer people and tribes since **4000 years B.C**. It served as the basis and foundation to what is nowadays called Khmer language. The bulk of Pro-Khmer lexis (set of lexicon) was a combination of Khmer and Mon words and that was a result of the cohabitation of the two tribes through commercial and other social affairs in that period.

2.2.2Pre-Angkorian (600-800)

One of the main characteristics of this Khmer was the influence of Sanskrit on it. A great deal of Sanskrit words which were highly related to the domain of literature could still be noticed in Pre-Angkorian Khmer. The period of **600-800** marked a real turning point in the history of Khmer language as it welcomed loaned words from another

language. However, it is worthy to mention that most of the borrowed words were adapted either in writing or speaking to the Khmer context to the extent that they sound like Khmer words. Some linguists called this process: ‘<<*Khmerization*>>’.

2.2.3 Angkorian (800 to middle the 14th century)

Also called Old Khmer, Angkorian Khmer was the imperial language during 9th century. Like the Pre-Angkorian Khmer, Angkorian Khmer also used Sanskrit words. The language went along with the empire until its decline. It drew the attentions of many language scholars such as Saveros Pou, Phillip Jenner and Heinz-Jürgen Pinnow whose research is still serving as foundation to many contemporary scholars. The language became the popular lingua after the decline of the empire and stopped being the language of the high class. As a result of this, it underwent many morphological changes due to lack of standardization.

2.2.4 Middle of Khmer (Middle 14th century -18th century)

It is the transitional language: moving from the Angkorian to modern Khmer. Middle Khmer saw many influences of neighbouring languages such as Thai, Lao and so on. It was predominantly language that borrowed a lot from Sanskrit and Pali. It should be mentioned that almost all the loaned lexicons were morphologically changed and adapted to Khmer language. This has served as the starting point to the modern time Khmer with simplified grammar and rules of speech.

2.2.5 Modern of Khmer (1800- nowadays)

This started in the 9th Century with the arrival of French colonial powers. Their presence largely impacted on the language spoken by the locals. Not only French became the language of the high class, but also the Khmer underwent some changes

with the transfer of French words and expressions into it. Faced with that situation, some native scholars stood against the influence of French on their language and started to elaborate rules related to affixation, coinage and other words formation processes to make it sound more Khmer and limit the influence of the French language.

2.3 Brief history of English language

English is a name of a language spoken in some European countries and also other countries in the world. English is a member of the subgroup of Germanic languages of the Indo-European family .The word “English” has a number widely different meanings. It describes the people from a particular part of Great Britain. It also refers to a particular language, the English language, and is used very broadly in this sense (Elly van Gelderen, 2014: 01). The history of English is a story of cultures in contact during the past 1,500 years (Albert C.Baugh& Thomas Cable, 1993: 01). The evidence of the history of the English language started when the Germanic tribes came to invade Britain during the 5th century. These tribes were called Angles, Saxons and Jutes, crossed the North Sea which are nowadays Denmark and northern Germany. Before that time, the Britains spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed to the west and north by these tribes and is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Angles came from "Englaland" [sic] and their language was called "Englisc", from which the words "England" and "English" are derived. The following historical events tell more about the history and evolution of the English language:

- Old English (450-1100 AD)
- Middle English (1100-1500)
- Modern English(1500 to nowadays)

2.3.1 Old English

Mostly referred as the original English, Old English is considered as the essence of English par excellence. Various political, social and literary factors have influenced it and it is the most difficult of the Englishes.

The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English. Old English did not sound or look like English today. Native English speakers now would have great difficulty understanding Old English. Nevertheless, about half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots. The words be, strong and water, for example, derive from Old English. Old English was spoken until around 1100. Some examples of Old English texts are still found in the **Beowulf**.

2.3.2 Middle English (1100-1500)

Middle English was the English that witnessed a lot of movement such as the event and invasion by foreign fighters who came to conquer England and impose their power. Many of them have in one way or the other brought changes in that English.

In 1066 William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy (part of modern France), invaded and conquered England. The new conquerors (called the Normans) brought with them a kind of French, which became the language of the Royal Court, and the ruling and business classes. For a period, there was a kind of linguistic class division, where the lower classes spoke English and the upper classes spoke French. In the 14th century English became dominant in Britain again, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. It was the language of the great poet Chaucer (c1340-1400), but it would still be difficult for native English speakers to understand today.

2.3.3 Modern English

It is worthy-noting that the concept of modern English is stretching from a long period of time with different events. In the following paragraph, more details will be given:

2.3.3.1 Early Modern English (1500-1800)

Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (the Great Vowel Shift) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From the 16th century the British had contact with many people from around the world.

This, and the Renaissance of Classical learning, meant that many new words and phrases entered the language. The invention of printing also meant that there was now a common language in print. Books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the dialect of London, where most publishing houses were, became the standard. In 1604 the first English dictionary was published.

2.3.3.2 Late Modern English (1800-Present)

The main difference between Early Modern English and Late Modern English is vocabulary. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: firstly, the Industrial Revolution and technology created a need for new words; secondly, the British Empire at its height covered one quarter of the earth's surface, and the English language adopted foreign words from many countries.

From around 1600, the English colonization of North America resulted in the creation of a distinct American variety of English. Some English pronunciations and words "froze" when they reached America. In some ways, American English is more like the English of Shakespeare than modern British English is. Some expressions that

the British call "Americanisms" are in fact original British expressions that were preserved in the colonies while lost for a time in Britain (for example trash for rubbish, loan as a verb instead of lend, and fall for autumn; another example, frame-up, was re-imported into Britain through Hollywood gangster movies). Spanish also had an influence on American English (and subsequently British English), with words like canyon, ranch, stampede and vigilante being examples of Spanish words that entered English through the settlement of the American West. French words (through Louisiana) and West African words (through the slave trade) also influenced American English (and so, to an extent, British English).

Today, American English is particularly influential, due to the USA's dominance of cinema, television, popular music, trade and technology (including the Internet). But there are many other varieties of English around the world, including for example Australian English, New Zealand English, Canadian English, South African English, Indian English and Caribbean English.

2.3.4 English varieties or the Englishes

English language, West Germanic language of the Indo-European language family that is closely related to Frisian, German, and Dutch (in Belgium called Flemish) languages. English originated in England and is the dominant language of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and various island nations in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. It is also an official language of India, the Philippines, Singapore, and many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa. English is the first choice of foreign language in most other countries of the world, and it is that status that has given it the position of a global lingua franca. It is estimated that about a third of the world's population, some two billion persons, now use English. **(Simeon PotterDavid Crystal: 2003)**

It is with no doubt the most widespread language in the world. Thanks to some reasons the most internationalized language across the globe.

It is the most widely spoken language in the world far from Chinese with the status of official language in many countries. Despite the uniformities of this language "English ", it has a lot of major and minor (slight) varieties due to the geographical and social differences. The main areas of differences are at the levels of sounds, spellings etc.

The most striking example of Englishes is that of the American English and the British English. After the War of independence, Americans tried to dissociate from their colonial master and introduced some changes in the kind of English that should be spoken. The dialects is usually the factor that enables one to distinguish the various types of English spoken out there ranging Europe (the origin) to America, passing across Africa, Asia and the Antarctica.

Like most languages, there are varieties of English too, however, some linguists stress out by saying the different are not as obvious as it is the case in other languages.

From the Ugandan English to the French-like Canadian English, the varieties of accents present are both diverse and quite beautiful. Apart from accent, we can also mention the habit of some speakers in mixing English their local languages as it is the case in countries like China etc. This results in a kind of a hybrid language: a combination of English words, sound and the local expressions. This phenomenon is mostly found in Caribbean countries such as Antigua, Barbuda, Samoa etc. We can therefore briefly cite some salient varieties of English namely:

2.3.4.1 British English

This is the language spoken and written in the United Kingdom or most broadly throughout the Great Britain. In this English, we also have some slight varieties which exist in formal and written British English.

2.3.4.2 American English

American English, sometimes called United States English or U.S. English, is the set of varieties of the English language native to the United States and widely adopted in Canada. English is the most widely spoken language in the United States and is the common language used by the federal government, considered the de facto language of the country because of its widespread use. English has been given official status by 32 of the 50 state governments.

2.3.4.3 Australian English

English is a major variety of the English language, used throughout Australia. Although English has no official status in the constitution, Australian English is the country's national and de facto official language as it is the first language of the majority of the population.

Australian English began to diverge from British English after the founding of the Colony of New South Wales in 1788 and was recognized as being different from British English by 1820. It arose from the intermingling of early settlers from a great variety of mutually intelligible dialectal regions of the British Isles and quickly developed into a distinct variety of English. It still keeps its linguistic independence despite some slight differences noticed hitherto.

2.3.4.4 Canadian English

It is a French-themed English thought being the major one in that country. Canadian English is the set of varieties of English native to Canada. According to the 2011 census, English was the first language of approximately 19 million Canadians (57% of the population) the remainders of the population were native speakers of Canadian French (22%) or other languages (allophones, 21%).

The term “**Canadian English**” is first attested in a speech by the Reverend A. Constable Geikie in an address to the Canadian Institute in 1857. Canadian English is the product of five waves of immigration and settlement over a period of more than two centuries. The first large wave of permanent English-speaking settlement in Canada, and linguistically the most important, was the influx of loyalists fleeing the American Revolution, chiefly from the Mid-Atlantic States – as such, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and West Virginia. Canadian English is believed by some scholars to have derived from northern American English.(Prof Ubanako 2018)

2.3.4.5 Indian English

English public instruction began in India in the 1830s during the rule of the East India Company (India was then, and is today, one of the most linguistically diverse regions of the world). In 1835, English replaced Persian as the official language of the Company. Lord Macaulay played a major role in introducing English and western concepts to education in India. He supported the replacement of Persian by English as the official language, the use of English as the medium of instruction in all schools, and the training of English-speaking Indians as teachers.

2.3.4.6 Ugandan English

Ugandan English, or Uglish (pronounced you-glish), is the dialect of English spoken in Uganda. As with similar dialects spoken elsewhere, Ugandan English has developed a strong local flavour. The speech patterns of Ugandan languages strongly influence spoken English. Uganda has a large variety of indigenous languages, and someone familiar with Uganda can readily identify the native language of a person speaking English. Ugandan speakers will alter foreign words to make them sound more euphonic. It should be recalled that the list above has just taken some salient examples.

2.4 Adjective

Language is the source of human life and power (V.Fromkin, R.Rodman, N.hyams; 2017). It is also a system of human's communication in the society either spoken or written. While speaking language, we make use of words to express ideas. In this sense, we can say language and words are in dissociable. Word can be classified based on various criteria such as: phonological properties, social factors and language history. All these are words classes (M.Haspemath:2011, 16538).

In all natural languages, words classes or parts of speech can be divided into some classes. For some linguists, we can classify them into two broad classes: content words (*noun, verb, adjective and adverb*) and functional of words (*adposition, conjunction, articles, auxiliaries and particles*) (M.Haspemath:2011, 16539). Furthermore, other linguists also divided the word classes into two part but they named them: major classes (*noun, verb and adjective*) and subclasses (*adposition, conjunction, articles, auxiliaries and particles*).

Following the above-mentioned classification criteria, adjective can be classified in the category of content words or word class (part of speech or syntactic category) the same as the other words classes such as noun, verb and adverb.

The word adjective is etymologically from Old French *adjectif*, from Latin *adiectīvum*, from ad (**next to**) +-iect-, perfect passive participle of iaciō(“throw”) +-īvus, adjective ending; hence, the word "**thrown next to** " a noun, modifying it. This in turn was a calque of Ancient Greek ἐπιθετικόν (epithetikón,“added”), a derivative of the compound verb ἐπιτίθημι(epitíthēmi), from which also comes epithet (English offline dictionary,2009-2019). Adjective is a word used to modify a noun or pronoun by providing descriptive or specific detail (Southeastern Writing Center. July, 2011), it also denotes or describes the manner of properties. In other words, adjective can be used as manner of adverb without any special making.

According to historical linguistics, as we knew, adjective is a word typology that has been the centre of studies carried out by linguists who were studying the Indo-European language family several centuries ago (Prum Mole, 2011:01).

In the ancient Greek’s grammar, Aristotle for instance, is credited to be the first to carry out researches on word classes (noun and verb) since (384-322 B.C) and took as the basis (R. H. Robins 1990). In the fourth B.C., Plato, one of Aristotle's disciples, continued on the works of his master, in which, he developed his own thought about a new type of word class. Therefore, he added one more part of speech called adjective (R. H. Robins 1990).

In the Khmer language, the very first grammar book was published in 1915 "**Grammaire de la langue Khmer**" (*the grammar of Khmer language*), written by Georges Gaspero. Gaspero has given some basic and necessary details and information on the grammar of Khmer language.

As for the English language in 1762, Robert Lowth published the first work on the English grammar: **A Short Introduction to English Grammar**. This book had laid down some of the fundamental rules for the correct usages of the language among which we had adjective. Before him, other thinkers such as John Dryden in 1672 had also contributed in this sense.

2.4.1 The importance of adjective in Khmer

Unlike other languages surrounding Cambodia, Khmer language is not a tonal language (that means the tone does not play a role in distinguishing words patterns). However, the different parts of speech making up the language are crucial in expressing meaning and passing across a message in daily utterances and conversations. Among which, we can mention adjective which is also given a place of choice in Khmer language especially in Modern Khmer.

Khmer speakers are usually fond of using descriptive and pectoral ideas to describe what they have or perceive in mind. They mostly use strong words to design shape, size, colour, scent, taste, mood perception, quantity and quality of certain things.

e.g.: ផ្ទះធំ /p^htĕh tum/ =house **big**: which mean *a big house*.

According to **Britanica** (official website: **2010**, adjective in Khmer seems to be playing the most crucial as it enables speakers to understand themselves in their day-to-day conversation and interaction. Native Khmer speakers make use of adjective as a means to say what they think or mean.

2.4.2 The importance of adjective in English

As in every language, adjective plays a very capital role in English like the other parts of speech.

As it is generally known, it is the adjective that gives us more details about things we use in our daily communication. It tells us more about the subject or the object such as: **the size(big), the mood(sad), the colour(black), the quality(good) amount(ten) etc** by providing extra information. In this situation, both (speakers and hearers) need adjective to specify on a given thing they are talking about.

For instance: (1) *this book is very (...)*

Note: In the above sentence, the reader can understand nothing on the book we are talking about. The listener or the reader needs to know how the book is. Which kind of book are we talking about? Therefore, for more information, our sentence (1) should be like: (2) *This book is very **interesting**.*

This can show us how indispensable is adjective in any casual speech be it formal or informal.

It is also worthy to note that adjective is one of content words which make up the English language. It bears on it information required for a better understanding any sentence. It plays a very important role in the English sentence.

For many linguists, a sentence without adjective is sending no information and is therefore incomplete.

2.5 Definitions of key terms used in the study

-Comparative study: This is a sub-branch of linguistics that deals with comparing and contrasting languages or language elements to bring out similarities and differences and finally establish the relation between the languages involved in the study.

-Khmer: it is the official language in the kingdom of Cambodia as a native language of Khmer people and speaking by Khmer (Cambodia people), it belongs to the member of the Mon-Khmer subgroup of the Austroasiatic family language.

- English: It is an Indo-European language belonging to the Germanic subphylum spoken in the United Kingdom and many other countries.

-Adjective: It is a word used to give more details such as shape, size, a mood of a subject, or an object. The adjective is one of the parts of speech.

-Morphology: It is a level of linguistic analysis that focuses on the study of morphemes (the smallest linguistic elements).

-Syntax: Part of syntagmatic studies, syntax emphasizes the position and structure of words in a given sentence. It gives information on the role each language element is playing in a given sentence.

2.6 Adjective in Khmer

2.6.1 Syntax of adjective in Khmer

Considerable works have been conducted regarding the linguistic support found on adjective syntax in Khmer. Despite the attempt by those researchers who were either linguists or mere translators such as:

- **Georges Gaspero** in his (Grammaire de la langue Khmer) published by National Printing House, Paris 1915. In the above-mentioned book, G. Gaspero gave some specificities of the Khmer adjective syntax summarised in the following rules:

***Rule 1:** Adjective qualifying a noun always comes after the noun.*

Example:

- គាត់មានប្រាជ្ញាធំណាស់។

- /ʔa: nih misn pracna: tom nah/

- This people have great knowledge

***Rule 2:** when we have two adjectives, all qualifying a noun in one clause, the second adjective will be considered as an attributive adjective:*

Example:

- គាត់ទេពប្រវឹបប្រវិលល្អពិសិដ្ឋជាងគេបង្អស់។

- /nieŋ te:p prəmprəj lʔaʔ piʔsəj cizŋ ke: baŋʔah/

-This girl is the most beautiful than other girls

Rule 3 Any qualitative adjective following a verb is playing the role of an adverb.

Example:

- ស្រីនេះល្អ

- / Srej nih l^əʔaʔ/

- This girl is good

Rule4. Any qualificative which follows another determinative adjective in a clause without a verb is always considered as an attribute.

Example:

- ម្ចាស់ផ្ទះឱ្យអ្នកដើរស្រួល។

- / m^əcah praz ʔaʔj daz sruʔl/

- The owner gives you to walk well

Rule5. A qualificative Adjective that follows an adjective used as an adverb is generally marking the comparative and the superlative and should be translated as an adverb.

Example:

- វាឱ្យដឹកកាយដ៏ខ្លាច់ម្តងៗ។

- /βi:ʔ ʔaʔj cɪc kəka:j dɛj k^hsac crəi tɔm/

- It can dig very deep sand

Rule 6 An adjective compliment is always placed after the adjective

Example:

- ឃើញទាងក្រមុំនេះស្អាតណាស់មែន។

- /khə:ŋ nieŋ krəmɔm nih sloʊt lʰəʔ mə:l/

- To see the single girl, she is very kind.

Rule 7 Demonstrate adjectives qualifying nouns are always placed after the nouns they qualify.

Example:

- អញបាញ់ប្រាជ្ញានឹងមហាសេដ្ឋីនេះហើយ។

- /ʔaŋ caŋ praçna: nəŋ məha: sethej nih hə:j/

- I lost my wisdom on this billionaire

Rule 8(a). In Khmer, there is no possessive adjectives, however we use personal pronouns placed after the noun to express possessive adjectives (ownership)

Example:

- ឯងចង់បានកូនអញមែនឬទេ?

- /ʔaɛŋ caŋ ba:n koon ʔaŋ mə:n ri: te:/

- Do you need my child, right?

Rule 8(b) we can also the verb can before a noun in opposition to show possession

Example:

- ចិនឃ្នាខ្ញុំសំរេចតែប្រើគ្មានប្រណីអាណិត។

- /cɜn ci:ɜ m^hcah cəh taɛ praz k^hmizn pranĕj ʔanɜt/

- *The owner's Chinese give to do works too much.*

Rule 9 *When we have many nouns **enumeration**, we don't repeat the possessive pronouns, but only one at the end.*

Example:

- អាណេសណាជីដូននិងប្រពន្ធថាទៅសួរម្តាយឪពុកវា។

- /pa:le:i liz cidoun nəŋ prəpən tha: tɔi su:ɔ m^ada:j ʔɔipɔk βi:ɔ/

- *Mr. Laev say goodbye to his cousin and his wife "he will go to visit his parents.*

Rule 10 *Interrogative adjectives are always after the nouns they determined.*

Example:

- អ្នកឯងនៅស្រុកណា?

- /nɛa? ʔaɛŋ nɔi srɔk na:ʔ/

- *Where are you living?*

Other prominent linguists such as **Philip and co.** in their famous book "**A Lexicon of Khmer Morphology**" have also given some overviews on the grammatical functional system of adjective. They provided some set of rules aiming at clearly facilitating and identifying adjective and its position both with a context and individually.

Jacob's (1968:113) argued that, in the contemporary Khmer grammar, the word adjective does not exist, since she made her word classification based on words order. She used "**attributive verb**" to refer to adjective. Her works are still among the most tremendous ones ever carried out on comparative linguistics in English and Khmer.

She said that in modern Cambodian, verbs are usually not followed by nouns, rather adverbs and they fully play the role of adjective (Jacob's 1968:113).

Ehrman's (1972:59) and **Huffman (1986: 164)** both made researches on Khmer adjective via different dimensions and their conclusions were almost similar. While Ehrman used the term **stative verb** to describe and adjective, Hoffman on his side prefers to call it predicate section. Notwithstanding, both agree on the semantic function of adjective.

Last but not the least, **C. S Humphry** in his Journal article titled: **Adjective and Stative Verb in Modern Khmer'** after quoting previous works carried out by his predecessors, he has come to conclusion that, although the word adjective triggers a lot of debates in Khmer language, linguists have ended up accepting that the concept of adjective in Khmer does exist. Though with different forms and formation. Many linguists prefer to call adjective in Khmer as <<**stative verb**>>. He went further to note that most of adjective in Khmer are a result of compound words (verb+a particle; verb+a) grammatical structure and so on.

Bounchan Suksiri (Khmer Learner English: A Teacher's Guide to Khmer L1 interference), 2010, said: "_adjectives are normally placed after nouns, except in formal writing, literature or poetry when used with words borrowed from Pali or Sanskrit. In the latter case, adjectives that describe the state of a noun are placed before the noun". For example:

(1) ឧត្តមភរិយា / *oudam pheakriyea* / [super wife]

(2) កំពូលបុរស / *kompool borohs* / [super man]

Prum Mole (2012:213) in his researching articles on Khmer adjective (Recueil des articles de linguistique et de linguistique appliqué), he showed some specificities of testing rule to setting the word class on the Khmer adjective. His rule has divided adjectives

into three typically: 1) stylistics 2) deleted word and 3) changing the located in the syntaxes. The following rule is:

1) Examine to typology of the adjective structure by tests: stylistic

Example:

- ផ្ទះធំ /p^htɛ̌ah tɔm/ = the big huse > ផ្ទះដ៏ធំ /p^htɛ̌ah dv: tɔm/ = the very big house)

2) Examine to typology of the adjective structure by test: deleted word.

Example:

- ផ្ទះធំនេះនៅជាប់ផ្លូវ > \emptyset ផ្ទះនេះនៅជាប់ផ្លូវ។

- / p^htɛ̌ah tɔm nih nɔi coap p^hlɔi / > / \emptyset tɔm nih nɔi coap p^hlɔi/

3) Examine to typology of the adjective structure by test: changing the located of syntaxes.

Example:

- កម្មករ ខ្ញុំ លើកដៃសំពះសូរទាញទាវ > ខ្ញុំ កម្មករ លើកដៃសំពះសូរទាញទាវ។

- / kamm^əkv: t^hmɛ̌i lɔ:k dai sɔmpɛ̌ah su:ɔ nɔiɲ nɔiri/ > /t^hmɛ̌i kamm^əkv: lɔ:k dai sɔmpɛ̌ah su:ɔ nɔiɲ nɔiri/

Khmer Grammar (2018:67-69) published by **National council of Khmer language of Royal academics of Cambodia**. In this book, the Khmer grammier group had classified Khmer adjective into two typically: 1) descriptive adjective 2) limiting adjective. They also classify the limiting of Khmer adjective in to four typically. The four typically of limiting adjective in Khmer grammar has following: 1) demonstrative adjective 2) interrogative adjective 3) indefinite adjective 4) cardinal and ordinal adjective. The fundamental of this classifies is base on the located on syntaxes.

2.6.2. Morphology of adjective in Khmer

Though, the bulk of researchers were mostly interested in syntax while studying Khmer adjective, it is worthy to note that, adjectives are also made up of one or more morphemes both in classical and modern Khmer. Most of the constructions in adjectives are done by adding some particles either pro or post resulting in a new word.

For many modern Khmer language experts, the adjective does not obey gender as in English or other languages. However, for the tetralogy of **positive+comparative+superlative**, some morphological mechanisms take place.

Example:

1. ស៊ុកតូម /Sok *tom*/ = Sok is big.
2. ស៊ុកតូមធំជាងស៊ុកស៊ាវ /Sok *tom cizn* Saov/= Sok is bigger than Saov.
3. ស៊ុកតូមធំបំផុត /Sok *tom nah*/ = Sok is the biggest.

We notice that as opposed to English morphology system, adjectives in Khmer have a very distinct method of formation most especially for the three ones cited above. Rules are not by attaching a morpheme to root word but an independent word is added by virtue of duplication or reduplication.

2.7 Adjective in English

2.7.1 Brief review on the morphology of adjective in English

An adjective is a word used to describe a person, a concept, a situation, a mood, etc. It is one of the core elements which constitute the English parts of speech. In a sentence, the adjective tells more about how a subject or a predicate looks like does or how it is shaped.

Studying adjectives based on their morphology forms has drawn the attention of many linguists (classical and modern ones).

Right (1974: 131) has advanced some criteria on which adjectives in English can be classified.

A) Deverbal adjectives

Many adjectives according to him are derived from verb. He further gave some description patterns on how these adjectives are formed. He referred to them as deverbal adjectives by virtue of their origin from the verb.

B) Adjectives derived from adjectives

Morphologically speaking, some adjectives are also results of other adjectives.

Right (1996: 131) has used the term adjectival adjectives as a reference to those kinds of adjectives.

C) Participial adjectives

These adjectives are the active and passive participles of verbs of all forms and they usually modify (describe) nouns. Nonetheless, most of them appear to be somewhat verbal in English as opposed to other languages.

Note derivation is the most common process of adjectives formation.

2.7.1.1 Other linguistic theorists (American linguists)

First, many adjectives have three distinct forms relating to the straightforward adjective (traditionally called the positive form), the situation in which two elements are compared with respect to the property expressed by the adjective (the comparative form) and the situation in which more than two elements are compared (the superlative form): (98) positive: tall sure clever comparative taller surer cleverer superlative tallest surest cleverest Although there are few

irregular adjectival inflections for comparative and superlative (many – more – most, good – better – best, far – further – furthest being obvious examples), there are a number of adjectives which do not take part in this morphological paradigm at all. One class of adjectives that do not have comparative or superlative forms are those which cannot be used for the basis of comparison from a semantic point of view.

Obviously, the notion of comparison involves properties that can be graded into more or less: the property long, for example, covers a whole range of lengths, some longer some shorter. A long piece of string could be anything between, say 1 meter and infinitely long. We can therefore compare two elements in terms of their lengths and determine that one is longer than the other. Some adjectives however, do not express properties that can form the basis of comparison: some states such as being dead or being married are absolute or upgradable, so someone cannot be more dead or more married than someone else. Clearly upgradable, adjectives are not going to have comparative or superlative forms: (99) dead set married frozen Plural **deader setter marrieder frozener pluraler deadeest settest marriedest frozenest pluralist*.

In the above cases there is a semantic explanation for the lacking forms. In other cases however, there are other explanations. Quite a few adjectives are morphologically complex, being derived from nouns or verbs. It seems that morphologically complex adjectives cannot bear the comparative and superlative morphemes: (100)

- beautifuler-----beautifulest
- Americaner-----Americanest
- fortunater-----fortunatest
- edibler-----ediblest

- sunkener-----sunkenest
- smilinger-----smilingest

There are, however, some exceptions to this: (101)

- Smoke – smoky – smokier –smokiest

Jagger (1978: 150), have also talked about adjective based on their morphological forms. The most known degree of adjective: positive, comparative and superlative.

a) Formation of comparative adjectives

- There are two ways to make or form a comparative adjective

- For short adjectives, we add 'er'

Example:

- -Small -----smaller-----smallest
- -Smart-----smarter-----smartest
- -Old-----older-----oldest

- For long adjectives, the rules stipulate that we should add "more

Example:

- Intelligent-----more intelligent-----most intelligent
- Brilliant-----more brilliant-----most brilliant

- However, Jagger stated that there are countless adjectives which do not follow the

above-mentioned rules. These adjectives are called irregular ones. They do not follow the schema of the others.

Such adjectives are found in the following:

Examples:

- Good-----better-----best
- Well-----better-----best
- Bad-----worse-----worst
-

2.7.2 Brief review on the syntax of adjective in English

Syntax is a fundamental element of language studies. It is that part of language analysis which studies the position of each word or part of word in a sentence. Without syntax, we will not be able to identify the different functions of each word in a sentence. As such, syntactically speaking, a word can be a subject, object, predicate etc. Adjective and syntax are in dissociable, for the former tells more about the later.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, the essential roles of syntax on adjectives are to show their position. When more than one adjective come before a noun, the adjectives are normally a particular order. Adjectives describe options or attitudes (e.g. *amazing*) usually come first before neutral, factual ones (e.g. *red*) **CAMBRIDGE WIKITIOBARY (2019: 23).**

Example: She was wearing an *amazing red* coat.

Instead of: -----*red amazing* coat

They went further to say, if we do not want to emphasize any of the adjectives, the most usual sequence of adjectives is:

- 1) Opinion: *usual, lovely, beautiful, fat...*
- 2) Size: *big, small, tall, tiny, fat.....*

- 3) Physical quality: *thin, rough, untidy*.....
- 4) Shape: *round, square, rectangular, cubic*.....
- 5) Age: *young, old, youthful, elderly*.....
- 6) Colour: *black, yellow, red white*.....
- 6) Purpose: *cleaning, hammering, gladdening, cooking*.....

The position of adjective in sentences is also influenced by the presence of some conjunctions such as "**and**".

For Guglielmo (2010) in his famous article: "Syntax of adjectives, A comparative study", he offers a cross-linguistic evidence that adjectives have two standards sources.

Arguing against the standard view, and compromising on his own earlier working and analysis. He said: "*adjectives enter the nominal phase either as " adverbial " modifiers to the noun or as the predicate of reduces relative clauses.*

He therefore showed some simple X- formula to illustrate his point of view. It is still on the syntactical position(s) of adjectives, some syntacticians proposed three main environments in which an adjective can occur. The three environments are called zones and they are as follows: *determination, quality attribution and categorization.*

We talk of determination when it was introduced by a determiner; whereas quality-attribution introduced attributive adjectives and finally nouns are for categorization.

We can better illustrate the above-mentioned types through the following examples:

- a) *On this basis, we wrote to the **Home Office Minister**.....*
- b) *I organize a **client lunch** and many men found it difficult.....*
- c) *The Japanese **financial market** will be.....*

In her works on adjectives categorization, **Traugott** advanced some rules which, she said could tell more not only about adjective position but also on their semantic influence.

In brief, the studies and researches we have discussed have allowed us to know more about the different trends and theories proposed by linguists in the history of English adjectives syntax. We can equally assert, grammatically speaking that adjectives in English are more flexible than in Khmer although the change in position can also affect the meaning in both languages.

2.7.3 Adjectives variation and grammatical measurements

2.7.3.1 Parameters of variation

As for the adjectives parameters, much linguistics acknowledges that we may classify them in accordance with certain parameters which mean: adjective A is different from adjective B or C.

For almost every language, adjective classes differ in their size and productivity, and whether their grammatical properties are similar to those of nouns, or of verbs, or both, or neither. Size. In every language, the class of nouns has several thousands of items.

The verb class generally has at least several hundred, but there are languages which have only a few score or so verbs (and many complex expressions involving them)—an example of the Australian language Yawuru. Adjective classes present a rather different picture. We can therefore have:

- (i) Languages with a large, open class of adjectives which include hundreds of language members. New items may be added to the class, by derivations from within the language, and by loans from without with a higher property of adjectives than nouns.
- (ii) Languages with a small closed adjective class, to which new members may not be added. An adjective class may be exceedingly small, as in Yimas language family for

which just three adjectives are identified by some linguists. Some of them present 10 or more adjectives classes.

2.7.3.2 Grammatical properties

For some linguists, grammatical properties constitute important features of studying and classifying adjectives. Here, adjectives are grouped into four sections such as:

(a) Adjectives having similar grammatical properties to those of verbs, as in Mandarin Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Korean and Khmer. Typically, verb and adjective may both function as head of an intransitive predicate, taking similar marking for some or all of tense, aspect, modality, and mood. It is often the case that verbs and adjectives may only modify a noun—which is head of an NP—through a relative clause construction.

Note: Khmer language falls under this category as in most cases; adjectives are even confused with verbs. Still following this assertion, many linguists consider Khmer adjectives as verbs or stative verbs given that they are, in some points interchangeable and present similar grammatical properties to those of verbs.

(b) Adjectives with similar grammatical properties to those of nouns, as in Latin and other similar languages. Typically, both noun and adjective may be restricted to occurrence in an NP (that is, they cannot be used in a predicate). An NP may include noun, or noun plus adjective, or just adjective. Adjectives may take the same inflectional processes as nouns, for instance relating to gender and number.

(c) Adjectives combine some of the grammatical properties of nouns with some of those of verbs (as in Berber languages from North Africa, Tariana from Amazonia, Nunggubuyu from north Australia, and Takelma from Oregon). For example, they may be able to occur in an NP, then inflecting like a noun, and also as head of an intransitive predicate, then inflecting like a verb.

(d) Adjectives have grammatical properties different from those of nouns and from those of verbs (as in English, Tunica from Louisiana, and Mam and Teribe from Central America). An adjective cannot be the sole lexeme in an NP; neither can it function as intransitive predicate.

It is very worthy to note that there are fewer languages of types (c) and (d) than of types (a) and (b). It is for languages of the two major types that justification for recognizing an adjective class has been denied.

And Khmer language is falling under (a) category which makes it a very complex language with difficult and irregular grammar rules.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research methodology used in the study. It includes the research, the research design, and source of the data, the data tool, the data collection as well as the data analysis

3.1 Research Design

In our research, we made use of documents-based research in a natural comparison of common and divergent features between our two languages and more specifically at the levels of adjectives with a critical analysis of morphology and syntax. Our design measures the dependent and different variables at the subject and disparate time (old and modern language for English and Khmer). By using such a design, we were able to determine if our design program could affect the different data we are going to collect. We mostly used not only document-based design but also qualitative and quantitative ones with the sole aim to bring out the sameness and differences as far as our area of study is concerned with critical analysis of data. It worthy-noticing that the data were as natural as possible to object and unaltered raw material serving to compare our two languages in the discussion.

3.2 Source of Data

The data is a collection of some sentences randomly taken from syllabus tools. The source of data being analysed is from the primary sources of many scholarly books related to Grammar and so on respectively on English and Khmer. The analysis of the data will lead to a comprehensive understanding of the method of comparative study. In other words, the bulk of our sources are made up of teaching materials, historical

linguistics books and articles, essays of translation (English-Khmer and vice versa). Using a contrastive analysis, we usually focused on variables presenting both similarities and differences so as to substantiate the objectives of our research topic which, as stated above aims at showing what are similar and what are different between the two languages. The source has concerned different language levels and standards (basic, intermediate, advanced and professional) in Khmer as well as in English. We equally strived to include in our examples sentences from different language jargons (religious, philosophical, literary, and historical, etc.)

3.3 Data Tool

Given that, we were dealing with comparative linguistics, we tried as much as possible to remain objective in our research. Our work never intends to bring our personal judgment on what other have said. The main tools used in the collection of our data were mostly softcopy and hardcopy of the above-mentioned supports. We therefore used either our laptops or phones as a server for stocking and processing all information found. Furthermore, notebooks, pens, pencils were of great use in our work. Knowing that it was a long-term process, we thoroughly used efficient tools to assure the content were neither lost nor altered.

3.4 Data Collection

For the purposes of this research, and the aims of being objective and random in the collection of our data, we preferred quantitative methods of gathering our data. This includes the use of semi-oriented and oriented questions that we formulated before starting to collect our first data. How often can adjectives have the same form and position in English and Khmer? In a certain number of sentences, how many of them present sameness as far adjectives structures and forms are concerned. After randomly collecting them, we then proceed in sorting them according to the different criteria we

chose: adjectives in Khmer and English having the same morphological mechanism; adjectives in Khmer and English with different morphological mechanism; **adjectives in Khmer and English with same or similar syntactical mechanism and those which are different; what are the common factors?** This method of sorting has easily guided us to group our data during their collection.

3.5 Data Analysis

In this analysis, our main focus was firstly to sample the data under discussion. Secondly, to separate them according to their categories In the current study, we did not carry out a given interviewees or populations to study, as a result, we highlighted on ‘‘the how and the why’’ sometimes English adjectives differ from Khmer adjectives. The main analysis tools were the forms and position of adjectives from mostly the translated documents English-Khmer or vice versa? Which factors influenced the differences? Is it because the two languages are not linked in terms of their phylum? Is it because of the question tonal and non-tonal languages differences as we know English as opposed to Khmer is purely a tonal language? A critical analysis of our samplings has shown that, in most cases, the two languages are far from being similar in terms of morphology and syntax levels of adjectives.

CHAPTER 4

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

1. Analysis

In this chapter, the data will be presented as follows: first, an overview of the two collected samples (sentences and phrases from both English and Khmer in which we have adjectives and their elements of comparison) will be discussed. The analysis will then proceed according to the study's research questions: Q1: how are adjectives used in Khmer and English? Q 2: Are adjectives syntactically used the same in both languages? Q 3 Are adjective morphologically used the same in both languages? Q 4: Which of the two languages has more complexity in the usage of adjectives?

The adjectives will be compared in English and Khmer based on their morphology and syntax different features to address the research questions. Next, to address the third research question, the morpheme or forms of Khmer adjectives will be compared with the English ones to weigh the differences and eventually bring out some conclusions. The specific pragmatic features of the Khmer language family and language sample will also be reviewed to provide an overall characterization of this language as compared to English. Sample

The following details categorized the examples of Khmer adjectives and their formation process.

1.2. A sample of Khmer corpora

ព្រឹកមិញសុខាចារ្យបណ្ឌិត។ ទាន់ទិញសម្ភារៈសិក្សាជា **ប្រើ** នៅទីនោះ។ ទាន់ទិញបិទ **ខ្សែ** ដើមនិងបិទ **ក្រហម** ដើម។ សុខាចារ្យសៀវភៅសម្រាប់សរសេរមេរៀន។ ទាន់ទិញសៀវភៅសរសេរ **ខ្ពស់** ក្បាល។ ទាន់កំពុងរៀនភាសាចិន។ ដូច្នេះទាន់ក៏ទិញ **ទាន់** ក្រុមចិននិងខ្មែរ **ខ្ពស់** ក្បាល។ កាតាបរបស់សុខាចារ្យប្រើយូរឆ្នាំហើយ។ ទាន់ទិញកាតាប **ប្រើ** ទៀត។ ក្រៅពីនេះទាន់ទិញបន្ទាត់ **ខ្ពស់** រលុប **ឈ្នួល** ដៃ **ស្រី** និងប្រដាប់ប្រដារ និងប្រដាប់គៀប **តូច**។

Ref : Khmer language for foreing speakers

As stated above, all the corpus sets are randomly chosen from Khmer texts and the aim was mainly to contrast them with the English which are more or less their close equivalents. In terms of texts equivalents and correspondence, English texts seem much longer than the Khmer and this can also be applied to adjectives.

1.3 A sample of English corpora

Linguistics is the **scientific** study of language.[1] It involves the analysis of language form, language meaning, and language in context.[2] Linguists traditionally analyses **human** language by observing an interplay between sound and meaning.[3] Linguistics also deals with the **social, cultural, historical, and political** factors that influence language, through which **linguistic** and **language-based** context is often determined.[4] Research on language through the sub-branches of **historical** and **evolutionary** linguistics also focuses on how languages change and grow, particularly over an **extended** period of time

(Wikipedia, the free encyclopedias)

The above text stemmed from a Wikipedia, free encyclopedias as indicated above. The corpus included some guidelines on linguistics understanding and objective.

1.4 Morphology of adjective in Khmer and English

1.4.1 Morphology of adjective in Khmer

In this part, we will study the morphology of adjective in Khmer language based on the data collected. The part will be divided into sections such as: Khmer adjectives formation proceses: affixation, adjectives degrees and intensity degree of adjectives in Khmer. So, let us look at the below study.

1.4.1.1 Affixation in Khmer adjectives

Now, let us take a look at affixation. Affixes are a group of morphemes that can be added to a root or stem of a word but cannot stand alone. They are divided into prefixes, suffixes, and infixes. Example: *unyielding* consist of the root “*yield*” added the affixation “*un (prefix) and ing (suffix)*”. **Affixes** which stand before the root is called “**prefixes**”; those added at the end of the root are called “**suffixes**” and **infixes** are added into the middle of the root. So, we will first and foremost, focus on Khmer adjective affixation.

1.4.1.1 Prefixation in Khmer adjectives

The following prefixes will be our area of interest: ភាព /**phɨɜp**/, សេចក្តី /**seck^odɛj**/, មហា/**maha**:/ + adjective and infixes such as: Adjective+infix /**ɔm**/, /**ɑŋ**/, /**an**/ and /**ɑŋ**/.

1.4.1.1.1 Prefix: ភាព /**phɨɜp**/ + adjective

Type of prefix	Adjective	Final result	Meaning
ភាព/ phɨɜp /	ល្អ /l ^o ʔɔ/	ភាពល្អ/ phɨɜp l ^o ʔɔ/	Good
ភាព/ phɨɜp /	អាក្រក់/ ʔakraʔ /	ភាពអាក្រក់/ phɨɜpʔakraʔ /	Bad
ភាព/ phɨɜp /	ស្អាត /s ^o ʔa:t/	ភាពស្អាត / phɨɜp s ^o ʔa:t/	Beauty
ភាព/ phɨɜp /	ខ្ជិល/ k^hcəl /	ភាពខ្ជិល / phɨɜp k ^h cəl/	Lazy

ភាព/phiəp/	ខ្សោយ/ k ^h saəj/	ភាពខ្សោយ /phiəpk ^h saəj/	weak
ភាព/phiəp/	ឧស្សាហ៍/ʔuʔsa:/	ភាពឧស្សាហ៍/ phiəpʔuʔsa:/	laborious
ភាព/phiəp/	រុងរឿង/ronŋriəŋ/	ភាពរុងរឿង/ phiəpronŋriəŋ/	prosperous
ភាព/phiəp/	ថ្លៃថ្នូរ/t ^h lait ^h nou/	ភាពថ្លៃថ្នូរ/phiəpt ^h lait ^h nou/	modest
ភាព/phiəp/	ខ្ពង់ខ្ពស់/k ^h pouŋk ^h pūʒh/	ភាពខ្ពង់ខ្ពស់ /phiəpk ^h pouŋk ^h pūʒh/	superior
ភាព/phiəp/	ខ្លាំង/k ^h lan/	ភាពខ្លាំង /phiəpk ^h lan/	strong
ភាព/phiəp/	ឆាត់/thoət/	ភាពឆាត់/phiəp ^h thoət/	Fat

1.4.1.1.2 Prefix (សេចក្តី /seck^ədəj/)+ adjective

Type of prefix	Adjective	Final result	Meaning
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dəj/	ល្អ/ l ^ə ʔv:/	សេចក្តីល្អ/ seck ^ə dəjl ^ə ʔv:/	Good
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dəj/	អាក្រក់/ʔakraʔ/	សេចក្តីអាក្រក់/seck ^ə dəjʔakraʔ/	Bad

សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dɛj/	ក្រៃលែង/kraile:n/	សេចក្តីក្រៃលែង/seck ^ə dɛjkraile:n/	great
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dɛj/	ចម្រើន/cəmra:n/	សេចក្តីចម្រើន/seck ^ə dɛjcəmra:n/	prosperous
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dɛj/	ពិបាក /piʔba:ʔ/	សេចក្តីពិបាក/seck ^ə dɛjpiʔba:ʔ/	difficult
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dɛj/	សំខាន់/səmkan/	សេចក្តីសំខាន់/seck ^ə dɛjsəmkan/	important
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dɛj/	សុខ /sək/	សេចក្តីសុខ/seck ^ə dɛjsək/	peaceful
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dɛj/	វេទនា/βɛtənɔi:ɜ/	សេចក្តីវេទនា/ seck ^ə dɛjβɛtənɔi:ɜ/	tribulating
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dɛj/	ថ្លៃថ្នូរ/ t ^h lait ^h nou/	សេចក្តីថ្លៃថ្នូរ /seck ^ə dɛjt ^h lait ^h nou/	modest
សេចក្តី/ seck ^ə dɛj/	ខ្ពង់ខ្ពស់ /k ^h pɔŋk ^h pŭɜh/	សេចក្តីខ្ពង់ខ្ពស់/seck ^ə dɛjk ^h pɔŋk ^h pŭɜh/	superiorous

1.4.1.1.3 Prefix(មហា/məha:)+ adjective

Type of prefix	Adjective	Final result	Meaning
មហា/məha:/	ល្អ/ l ^ə ʔɔ:/	មហាសេចក្តីល្អ/ seck ^ə dɛjl ^ə ʔɔ:/	Very good

មហា/moha:/	ស្អាត /sʰa:t/	មហាស្អាត/moha:sʰa:t/	very beautiful
មហា/moha:/	អាក្រក់/?akra/	មហាអាក្រក់/moha:ʔakra/	very bad
មហា/moha:/	ស្នួត /slɔ:t/	មហាស្នួត/ moha:slɔ:t/	very docile
មហា/moha:/	ត្រង់ /trɔ:ŋ/	មហាត្រង់/ moha:trɔ:ŋ/	very loyal
មហា/moha:/	ខ្សោយ /kʰsəj/	មហាខ្សោយ/moha:kʰsəj/	very weak
មហា/moha:/	ខ្លាំង /kʰlaŋ/	មហាខ្លាំង /moha:kʰlaŋ/	very strong
មហា/moha:/	ឆ្លាត /cʰla:t/	មហាឆ្លាត /moha:cʰla:t/	very smart
មហា/moha:/	ពូកែ /pukaɛ/	មហាពូកែ /moha:pukaɛ/	very intelligent
មហា/moha:/	រឹង /rɛŋ/	មហារឹង /moha:rɛŋ/	very inflexible
មហា/moha:/	ជ្រៅ/ crəi/	មហាជ្រៅ /moha:crəi/	very deep

Partial analysis on Khmer prefixes

As previously said, the word-formation processes in Khmer is limited as compared to that of English. This can be explained by many reasons and factors namely the low number of techniques for coining new words. In the above tables, we were analyzing the adjectives formation through the use of a prefix.

The tables cited above have summarised the formation of adjective through the use of a prefix: E.g: ភាព /phiəp/ plus a given adjective: ពេញ /thoət/ to get the following result: ភាពពេញ /phiəpthoət/(too fat).

In Khmer, the process does neither alter nor changes the word class of adjective, it rather gives it a new shape but keeping the same meaning. The use of prefix has allowed to create new adjectives or give new formation to pre-existing ones. It is one of the common factors between the two languages.

E. g: សេចក្តី / seck^ədɛj/ ល្អ / l^əʔɔː/ សេចក្តីល្អ / seck^ədɛj l^əʔɔː/

Note: This technique is indicated in the following formula: the prefix+ adjective=adjective.

សេចក្តី / seck^ədɛj/ ល្អ / l^əʔɔː/ សេចក្តីល្អ / seck^ədɛj l^əʔɔː/

Here, the process is almost the same as the previous and does not semantically impact on the final result since it remains as an adjective. Based on the words formation ratio, this prefixation seems to be one of the most common .

➤ មហា /maha:/ **particle + adjective**

The use of មហា /maha:/ is one of the adjectives degree formation processes. Morphologically, it is not possible in English , but in Khmer it is. We use it to say a high degree of something by giving a descriptive feature of it.

1.4.1.2 Infixation in Khmer adjectives

As for the infixation process, the following infixes will be our main focus: Adjective+infix /əm/, Adjective+infix /əp/ and Adjective+infix /ən/, /əŋ/.

1.4. 1.2.1 Adjective+infix /ɔm/

Adjective	Type of infix	Final result	Meaning
រៀច /piɔc/	[អ'ម] /ɔm/	កំរៀច/ kɔmpiɔc/	to be dented
ស្ទុក់ /stũɔɔ/	[អ'ម] /ɔm/	សំទក់ /sɔmstũɔɔ/	Slower
ឆ្គួល/ k ^h cɔl/	[អ'ម] /ɔm/	កឆ្គួល/ kɔmcɔl/	Lazy
ក្រៀម /kriɔm/	[អ'ម] /ɔm/	កក្រៀម/kɔmriɔm/	to be dry
ខ្សោយ/ k ^h saɔj/	[អ'ម] /ɔm/	កខ្សោយ/ kɔmsaɔj/	Weak
ក្រាស់ /krah/	[អ'ម] /ɔm/	កក្រាស់/kɔmrah/	Thick
ក្រិន/ krɔn/	[អ'ម] /ɔm/	កក្រិន /kɔmrɔn/	to be atrophied

1.4.1.2 .2 Adjective+infix /ɑɲ/

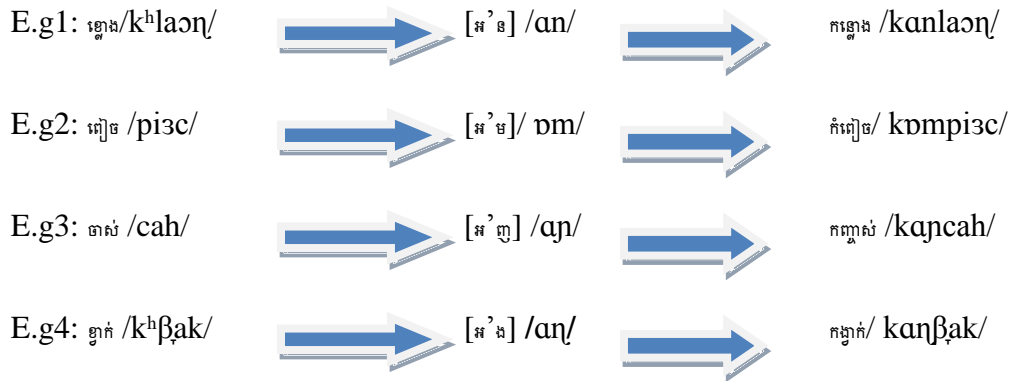
Adjective	Type of infix	Final result	Meaning
ចាស់ /cah/	[អ'ញ] / ɑɲ/	កញ្ចាស់ /kaɲcah/	very old
ចោត /caot/	[អ'ញ] / ɑɲ/	កញ្ចាត /kaɲcaot/	allegeing
ខ្នក់ /k ^h ɔɔ:ʔ/	[អ'ញ] / ɑɲ/	កញ្ចក់ /kaɲɔɔ:ʔ/	to be with uneven legs

1.4.1.2.3. Adjective+infix /an/, /ɑŋ/

Adjective	Type of infix	Final result	Meaning
ឆ្មោះ /k ^h laɔŋ/	[អ'ន.] /an/	កឆ្មោះ /kanlaɔŋ/	very big
ស្មើៗ /steh/	[អ'ន] /an/	សន្មើៗ /santeh/	worn and chipped
ខ្វាក់ /k ^h βak/	[អ'ង] /ɑŋ/	កង្វាក់ /kaŋβak/	blind

With respect to Khmer language standard grammar, the second affixation process is infixation. It consist in adding an infix ([អ'ន] /an/; [អ'ម] / ɑm/ or [អ'ញ] /ɑɲ/) in a middle of a stem so as to give it a new form; It can more or less bring about a semantic shift but not the change in words classes. The below table has detailly shown the infixation

process in Khmer (infixation process is rarely found in English or not as far as adjective is concerned).



Analysis on infixation in Khmer

In all languages, and Khmer in particular, the vocabulary is usually carefully chosen to promote positive associations in the minds of the target audience, and this is especially the same in the choice of adjectives. In our section about **morphology** we have seen the frequent use of **comparative** and **superlative** adjectives (this will be the next focus of our work). In this section we have been focusing on adjectives in their basic form and changes with the main interest points (affixation). The reason for dealing with them in this section is because we consider that adjectives are chosen on the basis of their denotative and connotative meaning in Khmer.

1.4.2 Adjectives degrees in Khmer

1.4.2.1 Positive degree of adjectives

In Khmer like in other languages, this is the normal degree of adjective. It is considered to be describing or telling a subject is without referring him/ it to others. They are taken at their basic form and meaning.

E.g.:

Adjectives	Phonetics	Meaning	Adjectives	Phonetics	Meaning
វែង	/βɛ:n/	Long	កាច	/ka:c/	scold
ខ្លី	/k ^h lɛj/	Short	ខ្ពស់	/k ^h cɛj/	green
ជ្រៅ	/crəi/	Deep	ទុំ	/tom/	ripe
រាវ	/rɛaʔ/	Shallow	ខ្សោយ	/k ^h saɔj/	Weak
ខ្លាំង	/k ^h lan/	Strong	រឹង	/rən/	hard
ផ្អែម	/p ^ə ʔaem/	Sweet	ទ្រាយ	/criɜj/	soft
ល្ងង់	/l ^ə βi:n/	Bitter	ត្រង់	/trɔ:n/	Strang
ជូរ	/cu:/	Sour	ង្រួម	/βiɜc/	bent
ចាស់	/cah/	Old	ឆោត	/chaɔt/	stupid
ថ្មី	/ t ^h məi/	New	ស្អាត	/c ^h la:t/	smart

1.4.2.2 Comparative degree of adjective

1.4.2.2.1 Comparative of equality: ដូច /douc/ (as....as....)

One of the peculiarities of Khmer is, it presents its comparative of equality (that means two or more subjects having the same quality mentioned) through the use of the grammatical particle ដូច /**douc**/ preceded by adjective. It is as if you want say: *Graham is as wise as Paul*. Here, the two subjects are presented similarly.

The formula is as follows: **djective** + ដូច /**douc**/

The following is table will provide more examples to substantiate our point

Adjective	Particle ដូច /douc/	Rendering	Meaning
វែង/βɛːŋ/	ដូច /douc/	វែងដូច/ βɛːŋdouc/	As long as
ខ្លី/kʰlɛj/	ដូច /douc/	ខ្លីដូច /kʰlɛjdouc/	As short as
ជ្រៅ/crəi/	ដូច /douc/	ជ្រៅដូច/crəidouc/	As deep as
អាក្រក់/ʔakraʔ/	ដូច /douc/	អាក្រក់ដូច/ʔakraʔdouc/	As bad as
ខ្លាំង/kʰlan/	ដូច /douc/	ខ្លាំងដូច/kʰlandouc/	As strong as
ផ្អែម/pʰaem/	ដូច /douc/	ផ្អែមដូច/ pʰaemdouc/	As sweet as

ត្រជាក់/trɔcǎaʔ/	ដូច /douc/	ត្រជាក់ដូច/trɔcǎaʔdouc/	As cold as
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1.4.2.2 Comparative superiority/ inferiority

Secondly, Khmer language, unlike other languages presents its comparative degrees by associating the grammatical particle ជាង /Ciɜn/ preceded by adjective.

The rule is as follows: **adjective+ ជាង /Ciɜn/**.

The following is table will provide more examples to better substantiate our points.

Adjective	The particle ជាង /Ciɜn/	Rendering	Meaning
វែង/βɛ:ŋ/	ជាង/ciɜn/	វែងជាង/βɛ:ŋciɜn/	Longer than
ខ្លី/k ^h leɟ/	ជាង/ciɜn/	ខ្លីជាង/ k ^h leɟciɜn/	Shorter than
ជ្រៅ/crəi/	ជាង/ciɜn/	ជ្រៅជាង/crəiciɜn/	Deeper than
អាក្រក់/?akraʔ/	ជាង/ciɜn/	អាក្រក់ជាង/?akraʔciɜn/	Worse than
ខ្លាំង/k ^h lan/	ជាង/ciɜn/	ខ្លាំងជាង/k ^h lanɟciɜn/	stronger than
ផ្អែម/p ^o ?aem/	ជាង/ciɜn/	ផ្អែមជាង/p ^o ?aemciɜn/	Sweeter than

ល្ងឹង/ɫ ^ə βiːŋ/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	ល្ងឹងជាង/ɫ ^ə βiːŋciɜŋ/	Bitterer than
រឹង /rɛŋ/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	រឹងជាង /rɛŋciɜŋ/	Harder than
គ្រង់/trɔːŋ/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	គ្រង់ជាង /trɔːŋciɜŋ/	Stranger than
ធំ /tom/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	ធំជាង /tomciɜŋ/	Bigger than
ត្រជាក់/trɔcɛaʔ/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	ត្រជាក់ជាង/trɔcɛaʔciɜŋ/	Colder than
ក្តៅ /k ^ə dia/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	ក្តៅជាង/k ^ə diaciɜŋ/	Hotter than
ថ្លៃ /t ^h lai/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	ថ្លៃជា /t ^h laiciɜŋ/	Expensive than
ខ្មៅ/k ^h mai/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	ខ្មៅជាង /k ^h maiciɜŋ/	Blacker than
ស /sɔ/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	សជាង /sɔciɜŋ/	White than
តិច/tec/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	តិចជា /tecciɜŋ/	Smaller than
ច្រើន/craɜn/	ជាង/ciɜŋ/	ច្រើនជាង /craɜnciɜŋ/	More than

Analysis on comparative in Khmer:

As shown above, the main process in producing a comparative form is more or less limited in the above-given formula.

As a result, tables (1 and 2) have provided the standard techniques of comparative forms.

The main striving point here is that in Khmer, the comparison is split into two sub-categories. The first (1) as indicated in the table compares two entities one is either bigger or smaller than the other. This case is also found in the English language. Secondly, the comparison based on equality: here the two entities are presented having the same features (qualities) mentioned. It is also found in English but in a form of riddle or words game.

E g: *As simple as ABC. He is as mightier as the soldier. As white as snow etc.*

In other words, the point of comparative form of adjectives presents more similarities in both languages than differences. Nevertheless, it is important to note that that the process is more expanded in English than in Khmer.

1.4.2.3 Superlative form of adjectives in Khmer language

Though rare in Khmer, but the construction of superlative form of adjectives is possible both in written and spoken language.

Grammatically speaking, we form the superlative form by using the below formula:

Adjective+ ក្នុងគ្រប់ /Ciɜŋ ke:/

Before details and more analysis, let us have a look at the following table.

Adjective	Particle	Rendering	Meaning
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	/ជាងគេ /Ciɜŋ ke:/		
ខ្លី /k ^h lɛj/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	ខ្លីជាងគេ /k ^h lɛjciɜŋ ke:/	shortest
វែង /βɛ:ŋ/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	វែងជាងគេ /βɛ:ŋciɜŋke:/	longest
ជ្រៅ /crəi/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	ជ្រៅជាងគេ/crəiciɜŋke:/	deepest
ផ្អែម /p ^ə ʔaem/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	ផ្អែមជាងគេ/p ^ə ʔaemciɜŋke:/	sweetest
ល្ងើង /l ^ə βi:ŋ/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	ល្ងើងជាងគេ /l ^ə βi:ŋciɜŋke:/	bitterest
រឹង /rəŋ/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	រឹងជាងគេ /rəŋciɜŋke:/	hardest
ធំ /tom/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	ធំជាងគេ /tomciɜŋke:/	biggest
យឺត /yi:t/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	យឺតជាងគេ /yi:tcɜŋke:/	slowest
តិច /tɛc/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	តិចជាងគេ/ tɛccɜŋke:/	littlest
ស្រួល /sruɜl/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	ស្រួលជាងគេ /sruɜlciɜŋke:/	easiest
ខ្មៅ /k ^h mai/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	ខ្មៅជាងគេ /k ^h maiciɜŋke:/	blackest

ត្រជាក់ /trɔcɛaʔ/	ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/	ត្រជាក់ជាងគេ/trɔcɛaʔciɜŋke:/	coldest
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A meticulous look at this table will give us an overview on how to construct(form) a superlative adjectives in Khmer.

One interesting things about it is: the bulk of the morphological constructions are centered around the particle : ជាងគេ /Ciɜŋ ke:/ as opposed to English where we got different choices. For Eg: Big-----bigger-----biggest etc.

The Khmer grammar according to samples we collected stipulates that the rules are standard(for superlative, we need adjective+ ជាងគេ/Ciɜŋ ke:/).

Eg: ផ្លូវវែងជាងគេៗ/ p^hlɜinihβɛ:ŋciɜŋke:/: this road is the longest.

In the following analytical points, the rates based on statistical results will be of great interest in our works as far the superlative form of adjectives is concerned.

1.4.3 Intensity degree of adjectives : reduplication (adjective+ adjective) adjective + នាស់ /nah/

Another analytical level of adjectives concerning our research is the intensity level. We mentioned it as linguistic situation whereby, the speaker wants to lay emphasis on his speech. He wants to lay a certain gradation so as to captivate his/her hearer’s attention. This can be paraphrased as : *very very.....; so so.....; hyper hyper...*

In Khmer, the rule stipulates that we should reduplicate(the same adjective) or put the adjective+ the particle នាស់ /nah/. We will start with the first category.

1.4.3.1 Adjective + Adjective

Adjective	Adjective	Rendering	Meaning
វែង /βɛ:n/	វែង /βɛ:n/	វែងវែង /βɛ:n βɛ:n/	Very long
ខ្លី /k ^h lɛj/	ខ្លី /k ^h lɛj/	ខ្លីខ្លី /k ^h lɛj k ^h lɛj/	Very short
ជ្រៅ /crəi/	ជ្រៅ /crəi/	ជ្រៅជ្រៅ /crəi crəi/	very deep
រាវ /rɛaʔ/	រាវ /rɛaʔ/	រាវរាវ /rɛaʔrɛaʔ/	very shallow
ល្អ /l ^o ʔɒ:/	ល្អ /l ^o ʔɒ:/	ល្អល្អ /l ^o ʔɒ: l ^o ʔɒ:/	Very good
ស្ងួត /slɒ:t/	ស្ងួត /slɒ:t/	ស្ងួតស្ងួត /slɒ:t slɒ:t/	very docile
កាច /ka:c/	កាច /ka:c/	កាចកាច /ka:c ka:c/	very scold
ខ្ពស់ /k ^h cɛj/	ខ្ពស់ /k ^h cɛj/	ខ្ពស់ខ្ពស់ /k ^h cɛj k ^h cɛj/	very green
ទុំ /tom/	ទុំ /tom/	ទុំទុំ /tom tom/	very ripe
ខ្សោយ /k ^h saɔj/	ខ្សោយ /k ^h saɔj/	ខ្សោយខ្សោយ /k ^h saɔj k ^h saɔj/	very weak

ខ្លាំង/k ^h lan/	ខ្លាំង/k ^h lan/	ខ្លាំងខ្លាំង/k ^h lank ^h lan/	Very strong
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1.4.3.2: Adjective + particle នាស់ /nah/

Adjective	particle នាស់ /nah/	Rendering	Meaning
តឿ /ti:3/	នាស់/nah/	តឿនាស់/ti:3nah/	very short
ខ្ពស់/k ^h pũ3h/	នាស់/nah/	ខ្ពស់នាស់/k ^h pũ3hnah/	very high
ត្រជាក់/trɔcǎaʔ/	នាស់/nah/	ត្រជាក់នាស់/trɔcǎaʔnah/	Very cold
ក្តៅ /k ^o dia/	នាស់/nah/	ក្តៅនាស់/ ^o k ^o dianah/	Very hot
ថោក /thaok/	នាស់/nah/	ថោកនាស់ /thaoknah/	Very cheap
ថ្លៃ/ t ^h lai/	នាស់/nah/	ថ្លៃនាស់/t ^h lainah/	very expensive
ពិបាក/piʔba:ʔ/	នាស់/nah/	ពិបាកនាស់/piʔba:ʔnah/	very difficult
ស្រួល /sru:3l/	នាស់/nah/	ស្រួលនាស់/sru:3lnah/	very easy
មួល/mu:l/	នាស់/nah/	មួលនាស់/mu:l nah/	very round

លឿន/liɜn/	ណាស់/nah/	លឿនណាស់/liɜnnaɦ/	very fast
ស្ងួត/snuɔt/	ណាស់/nah/	ស្ងួតណាស់/snuɔtnaɦ/	Very dry

Note: As we said it above, Khmer language follows a syntactical method to form its degree given that the language is morphologically an **isolating language**.

The reduplication of adjectives and the use of ណាស់/nah/ particle are the two most known constructions processes.

Here, the adjective is either reduplicated(repeated) or followed by ណាស់/nah/ particle. It is also important to mention that, the second construction is less used than the first one.

Linguists think that these constructions are similar to those in English eventhough some differences are visible.

1.4.2 Adjectives morphology in English

In this section, our main interest will be given to the study of different degrees of adjectives in the Khmer language. The method will be, as usual, a contrasting one (seeking to contrast them with their English counterparts). As such, we have sectioned the work in three sub-sections: **positive**, **comparative**, and **superlative**. It is worthy to note that the comparative degree is also divided into two sub-categories namely: **comparative of equality** and **comparative of superiority**.

1.4.2.1 Adjectives formation

In English, adjectives give us more information and details about a particular subject(people , places, animals, things or concepts). Some adjectives are derived from nouns, verbs and even other adjectives by adding some affixes items such as ful, ious, etc.

We can use suffixes to form or change nouns and verbs into adjectives as opposed to Khmer. We can even change the meaning of the adjectives. Some suffixes have general meanings whilst others transform words into adjectives.

1.4.2.1.1: nouns + Suffixes=adjectives

Nouns	Suffixes	Adjectives	Nouns	Suffixes	Adjectives
Power	<i>Less</i>	Powerless	care	<i>Less</i>	careless
hope	<i>Ful</i>	hopeful	meaning	<i>Full</i>	meaningful
child	<i>ish</i>	childish	girl	<i>Ish</i>	girlsih
Wood	<i>En</i>	wodden	wool	<i>En</i>	woolen
rain	<i>Y</i>	rainy	sil	<i>y</i>	silly

In English, we can use a noun associated to a suffix to form an adjective as it is illutrated in the above table. When comparing this kind of contruction to Khmer, it comes out that English is broader than Khmer.

Note: We do not normally add or take away letters, we sometime simply add the suffix to the word ending.

Nevertheless, some exceptions are always found. In this situation, we will either double the final consonant (in the word as in rain=**rainy**, sil=**silly**, etc) or add an ‘e’ (as in fortune= fortunate, forseable)

1.4.2.2: Adjectives deriving from verbs

In the English morphology, various adjectives are stemmed from verbs The main affixaton constructions is the prefixation technique.

Verbs are directly attached to some prefixes to forms new adjectives.The following tables is detailly summerising this.

Note: Countries’ adjectives

Still under nouns to adjectives construction, we can mention the ‘country adjectives’. These are adjectives that describe nationalities and they are always in upper cases. For regular, we usually use an ‘n’ at the end of the noun, or ‘ese. Or even ‘ian’

Here are some examples

Suffix	Country	Adjective	Suffix	Country	Adjective
<i>-ese</i>	Sunan	Sundane	<i>-ese</i>	China	Chinese
<i>-ian</i>	Chad	Chadian	<i>-ian</i>	Cambodia	Cambodian

<i>-i</i>	Qatar	Qatari	<i>-i</i>	Irak	Iraqi
<i>-ish</i>	Britain	British	<i>-ish</i>	Spain	Spanish
<i>-n</i>	Russia	Russian	<i>-n-</i>	Jamaica	Jamaican
<i>-n</i>	America	American	<i>-n</i>	Australia	Australian

We should note that this rule is only applied on regular forms as some countries' names have irregular formation process.

For examples: France =====French ; Germany=====German

Suffix	Verb	Adjective	Illustrations
<i>-able</i>	See	seeable	A seaable situation
<i>-ative</i>	Inform	informative	This document is informative
<i>-ing</i>	Annoy	annoying	An annoying movie
<i>-tive</i>	Produce	productive	We need productive results

Many learners of English are sometimes confused as what to choose between "ing" or "ed". Many adjectives are seemingly ending either in "ed" or "ing". However, we

use adjectives that end in –ing to describe and effect of a noun., In this situation, the modified adjective can be morphologically changed to another forms.

Note: Some linguists, based on morphology and structure, classified adjectives into *simple, derivative and compound*.

a) Simple adjectives

Simple adjectives: They have no affixes and thus cannot be further segmented. In other words, they are called basic adjective: *red, white, big, kind*.

b) Derivative adjectives

Derivative adjectives derive from either nouns, verbs or even adjectives themselves by means of suffixes and prefixes: *beautiful < beauty, friendless < friend, illogical < logic, unreliable < rely,*

The productive adjective-forming suffixes are:

-able/-ible: usable, readable, intelligible, and responsible;

-like: businesslike, childlike.

The less productive suffixes are:

-ish after the nounal root-stem: *British, Turkish. Spanish; selfish, foolish, childish;*

-ish after the adjectival root-stem: *greyish, yellowish, youngish, tall ish:*

-ish after the numeral root-stem: *eightish, fortyish;*

-ant/-ent: confidant, expectant; consequent, current;

-ous: curious, obvious, industrious, and infectious;

-some: troublesome, quarrelsome;

-en: woolen, wooden, silken;

-y: watery, snowy, rainy, easy;

-al: principal, accidental, parental;

-ic/-ical: photographic; grammatical, hysterical, musical; historic — historical, economic — economical;

***-ive/-ative:** active, explosive; communicative, derivative;*

***-ate/-ite:** delicate, animate, accurate; definite, composite;*

***-or/ory/ary:** inferior, superior; compulsory, consolatory, preparatory; customary, stationary, sanitary;*

***-ed:** barbed, beaded; **ly:** friendly, womanly, monthly. / **ing:** surprising, perplexing;*

Note: that *-ed, ing* and *or y* can be regarded as adjectival suffixes only with some reservation for adjectives like *surprising, perplexing* and *barbed, beaded*

They are in fact adjectivised present and past participles correspondingly while the *-ly* suffix is more typical of adverbs.

The adjective-forming prefixes are:

- *pre-: prearranged, prewar;*
- *pro-: pro-American;*
- *un-: unusual, unpredictable, unhappy;*
- *in-: insensitive, inanimate;*
- *im-: impossible, immoral;*
- *il-: illiterate, illogical;*

- *dis-*: *dishonest, disinterested*; \
- *a-*: *aloof, agog, ajar, ablaze, aglow, afire*.

Note that words with the- prefix are traditionally discussed within the class of adjectives though actually their morphological status is rather ambiguous: they are in between adjectives and adverbs.

Compound adjectives are made up of two or more stems. Here are the main types of compound adjectives:

- a) noun-stem + adjective-stem: *point-blank, raven-haired*,
- b) adjective-stem + noun-stem: *small-scale, smalltime, blue-collar*,
- c) adjective-stem + adjective-stem: *deaf-mute, good-looking, small-minded*.

1.4.2.3. Adjectives degree in English

English like other Indo-european languages presents adjective in different degrees or levels: **positive, comparative and superlative**. The positive degree is the lowest and unaltered level (big, small etc); followed by the comparative degree which denotes a higher degree of quality. E.g. *Paul is bigger than John*. The superlative degree denotes the highest degree of a quality. E.g. *He is the smartest of the family*

1.4.2.3.1. Comparative degree of adjectives

We often describe something by comparing it to something else. And, when two items are compared, we enter into the land of comparative adjectives. For example, we might say, "This fireplace is **bigger** than the last one." When a word ends in **-er**, it's a good indication you are looking at a comparative adjective.

Other giveaways are the words "**more**" or "**less.**" For example, "*It's **more expensive** to study in the United States than in France*"

Comparative of adjective ending with ‘er’

According to the English grammar, when you have single-syllable adjectives (such as tall), you typically add –‘er’ to form the comparative adjective (tall becomes taller). This isn't universally true, as some multi-syllable words also receive an **-er** ending. This is what we have called in our research, regular or standard rules for they are applied on regular forms of adjectives. Let us take a look at the following table for more illustrations.

Adjective	Comparative	Illustrations
Big	Bigger	<i>The world is bigger than our imagination</i>
Small	Smaller	<i>She is smaller than him</i>
Fat	Fatter	<i>She grew fatter</i>
Fit	Fitter	<i>The trousers is fitter than the shirt</i>
Sad	Sadder	<i>Our situation is sadder than yours</i>
Short	Shorter	<i>Tom is shorter than Hans</i>
Smart	Smarter	<i>He is smarter than I</i>

Tan	Tanner	<i>The situation is getting tanner and tanner</i>
Soft	Softer	<i>This foam is softer than the other one</i>
Cold	Colder	<i>It is colder than the previous one</i>
Thick	Thicker	<i>Natural milk is not as thicker as that</i>

Other adjectives are presenting their comparative differently

Adjective	Comparative	Illustrations
Clumsy	Clumsier	<i>He is clumsier than them</i>
Easy	Easier	<i>It is easier to write here</i>
Deadly	Deadlier	<i>The accident was deadlier than expected</i>
Muddy	Muddier	<i>The roads are muddier in villages</i>
Dusty	Dustier	<i>The day was dustier than last year</i>
Guilty	Guiltier	<i>I feel guiltier than you</i>
Fancy	Fancier	<i>It is getting fancier and fancier</i>

Happy	Happier	<i>We are happier than you</i>
Lonely	Lonelier	<i>It makes me lonelier</i>
Lovely	Lovelier	<i>The groom feels lovelier than the bride</i>
Pretty	Prettier	<i>She is prettier than her senior sister</i>
Smoky	Smokier	<i>The weather is smokier than expected</i>
Tasty	Tastier	<i>Rice is tastier than noodles</i>
Worthy	Worthier	<i>Knowledge is worthier than money</i>
Weary	Wearier	<i>My situation is wearier than yours</i>
Risky	Riskier	<i>Riding at night is riskier than now</i>

The comparative form of long adjectives (with more than one syllable)

As we mentioned above, there are always exceptions to rules. As such, when dealing with root adjectives that are two or more syllables, we generally place "**more**" or "**less**" before the adjective instead of the ‘et’ prefix.

Some examples

Adjective	Comparative	Illustrations
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Beautiful	More/less beautiful	<i>She is more/less beautiful than her sister</i>
Difficult	More/less difficult	<i>English is more/less difficult than Khmer</i>
Interesting	More/less interesting	<i>It is more/less interesting now</i>
Expensive	More/less expensive	<i>Gold is more/less expensive than diamond</i>
Tired	More/less tired	<i>I am more/less tired than you</i>
Clever	More/less clever	<i>Tony is more/less clever than Uther</i>
Polite	More/less polite	<i>Girls are more/less polite than boys</i>
Political	More/less political	<i>This issue is more/less political than..</i>
Historical	More/less historical	<i>It is morre/less historical to mention it</i>

Comparative forms of irregular adjectives

As far as comparative degree of adjective in English is concerned, English, as opposed to Khmer language, has irregular forms of adjective used in the comparative forms. That is to say, when we are comparing two items, the following adjectives take on an entirely new word form.

Let us have a look at the following tables

Adjective	Comparative	Illustration
------------------	--------------------	---------------------

Bad	Worse	<i>It is getting worse and worse</i>
Far	Futther	<i>The moon is further than the earth</i>
Litle	Less	<i>Paying today is less perilous than tomorrow</i>
Good	Better	<i>Is it better to go now or after?</i>
Well	Better	<i>He is feeling better than yesterday</i>
Late	Later	<i>The later he is, the riskier it is</i>
Ill	Worse	<i>My health got worse yesterday</i>
Many	More	<i>More people think Khmer and English were linked</i>
Much	More	<i>Much ideas are coming to support him.</i>

Partial analysis

Comparative forms of adjectives English as compared to Khmer are more expanded. It is also worthy to note that the rules governing them are more flexible in English than in Khmer. In Khmer, we made the only mention of three particles such as ដូច /dooc/ and so on, but in English, though we have some exceptions, it seems to be more elaborated. There's a small stipulation to "less." Depending on the context, you could also say "littler."

For example, "A is littler than B." Typically, we could use "smaller" in cases like this. A good way to distinguish between the two is to remember it's "less" if you're

discussing quantity and "littler" if you're discussing physical size. For example, "I have little time, but you?"

1.4.2.3.2 Superlative of adjectives in English

A superlative expresses the highest or the extreme degree of quality of an adjective. It is mostly used to describe the extreme quality(s) or feature(s) of one thing in a given group of things. The superlative form can also be used to talk about two or more things.

1.4.2.3.2.1 Formation of superlative adjectives

From a comparative degree, we can form two types of superlatives: “*est*” and “*most*”

It is important to note that, English, as opposed to Khmer, adds “the” at the beginning to form the superlative.

a) For short adjectives(one syllable), the rules stipulates that we add”est” at the end.

Adjective	Superlative	Illustration
Old	Oldest	John is the oldest student
Cold	Coldest	Here the weather is the coldest in the country
Fast	Fastest	Bolton was the fastest runner in 2015
Slow	Slowest	Snail is the slowest maybe the slowest animal.
Near	Nearest	Where is the nearest Post Office please?

Small	Smallest	Atom is considered the small entity being
Clean	Cleanest	They live in the cleanest house in Los Angeles

- For syllables ending with ‘y’, we replace the ‘y’ with an ‘i’ and add the ‘est’.

Adjective	Superlative	Illustration
Easy	Easiest	Khmer could be the easiest language
Happy	Happiest	That was my happiest day
Silly	Silliest	Alex was the silliest boy among the three

- For short and regular adjectives ending ‘e’, we merely add ‘st’

Adjective	Superlative	Illustration
Late	Latest	<i>This is the latest world news.</i>
Brave	Bravest	<i>They are the bravest soldiers in the history.</i>
Close	Closest	<i>The closest way to get there is by boat</i>
Cute	Cutest	<i>She got the cutest baby child</i>

Dense	Densest	<i>Amazon is the densest forest in the world.</i>
-------	---------	---

➤ For adjectives ending in a consonant, we double the consonant

Adjective	Superlative	Illustration
Fat	Fattest	This is the fattest world news.
Big	Biggest	I have the biggest house in the township
Hot	Hottest	Carnal is the hottest event in Brazil
Fit	Fittest	These trousers are the fittest among the others
Sad	Saddest	It was the saddest memory in my life

b) For regular adjectives with long syllables

Here, the English grammar states that, we should only add “*most*” to form the superlative..

Adjective	Superlative	Illustration
Expensive	Most expensive	<i>This is the most expensive watch.</i>
Beautiful	Most beautiful	<i>It has the most beautiful landscape.</i>
Intelligent	Most intelligent	<i>Einstein is considered by many as the most</i>

		<i>intelligent scientist</i>
Horrible	Most horrible	<i>War creates the most horrible scenes</i>
Horrific	Mhost orrific	<i>They saw the most horrific event in their life</i>

Superlative of irregular adjectives

A small number of adjectives constitute what we call irregular, that is to say, they do not follow any of the standard rules mentioned above. In this case, the positive is different from the comparative, the comparative is totally different from the superlative.

Adjective	Superlative	Illustrations
Good	Best	<i>The best painting by Piccini are sold here.</i>
Far	Futhest	<i>This is the furthest distance we run</i>
Bad	worst	<i>That was he worst performance</i>
Little	Least	<i>‘‘Yes’’ is the least I could say.</i>
Many	Most	<i>Most of them do not believe in this theory</i>

Analysis

From the examples fore-cited, it is clear that, in English, the superlative forms of adjectives are some rules governing the well-function of the language. When we contrast this to the Khmer language rules of superlative it becomes clear that English is broader and more expanded than Khmer. However, it necessary to note that, some adjectives which sometimes are called irregular do not follow that scheme. The rules are common with some exceptions.

1.5.Syntax of adjective in Khmer and English language

1.5.1 Syntactic function

In linguistics, **syntactic function** is the grammatical relationship of a given constituent(word) to another within a syntactic construction.

We have different kinds of syntactic function in English namely: *adjunt, compliment, modifier, predicate, head, predicator, attribute* etc.It is important to precise that syntactic function is different from **semantic funtion** of words such as adjective, nouns, etc Our main interest in this section is to brign out some adjective syntactic functions based on their positions.

1.5.2 Syntax of adjective in English

In English, adjective based on its positions can have different syntactic functions such as:

1.5.2.1 Attributive (pre-modifying nouns)

- a) *The beautiful painting.*
- b) *His main argument.*
- c) *The biggest country.*

These are all examples of noun phrases that include an adjective phrase.

a) *She returned in the **early** morning.*

b) *After **careful** consideration we accepted the offer.*

c) *Trying to conceal her embarrassment she turned away her **red** face.*

In these cases, the adjective phrases are only the adjectives themselves, for the words that come in front of them are **not** adverbs.

Sometimes adjectives used attributively may occur in postposition, i.e. after the noun they describe: ***This is the only possible answer.** — **This is the only answer possible.***

In some cases the postpositional use of adjectives is obligatory: ***I'll do everything possible to help you.***

1.5.2.2 Predicative

When used **predicatively**, adjectives are combined with link-verbs *be, feel, get, grow, look, seem, smell, taste, turn.*

For instance:

- *John was early for work today.*

- *When driving, he is always careful.*

- *They feel nervous.*

- *He looked happy.*

- *Honey tastes sweet.*

- *She turned red with embarrassment.*

- *I feel awful.* (Complement of the subject)

-I consider him foolish. (Complement of the object)

Note: (They come after a linking verb “be”, “become”, etc.–in the predicative function: complement of the subject or of the object)

1.5.2.3 Post-modifier

Any adjective coming after a pronoun is considered as post-modifier according the English grammar. It comes to add more meaning or details to the subject or the object.

- a) The people (who were) *involved* were reported to the police. (**Post-modifier: Reduced wh- clause**)

b) The men (who were) *present* were his supporters. (Post-modifier: Reduced wh- clause)

c) Anyone *intelligent* can do it.

d) I want to try something *larger*. (Adjectives after indefinite pronouns)

1.5.2.4 Head of a noun phrase

Adjectives as nouns of a noun phrase. Often adjectives denoting nationalities or with abstract references. This function is also possible in Khmer as any adjective playing this role is automatically considered as a noun.

Examples:

-The *rich* will help the *poor*.

- He's acceptable to both *old* and *young*.

- You *British* and you *French* ought to be allies.

1.5.2.5 Adjectives order in English

Both in Khmer and English, adjectives, when more than one, should follow a certain order. In English denoting attributes actually occur in the specific order. The rule of English grammar stipulates that, when more than one adjective preceding a noun, the adjectives are to follow a particular order. When you are going to use a number of different adjectives to describe a noun it is important to be able to put them in the correct order. The reason is that when placed in the wrong order, numerous adjectives can sound misplaced, uneven and somewhat cacophonous.

In order words, In English, it is common to use more than one adjective before a noun. For example, “It is a beautiful long new dress.” or “She has bought a square white Japanese cake.” When you use more than one adjective, you have to put them in the right order as follows: quantity/number-opinion-size-physical quality-shape-age-colour-origin-material-

Type-purpose

Order	Relating to	Illustration
1	One/two/three	<i>Three of them were willing to go there, but no way.</i>
1	Beautiful/lovely	<i>That is a beautiful girl</i>
2	Big/small/	<i>We have a very big house in a small town.</i>
3	Thin/fat/slim	<i>She is such a very slim and thin girl.</i>
4	Round/square	<i>I have a square room in the University campus</i>
5	Young/old	<i>Hans is young and handsome</i>

6	Black/pink/white	<i>They sell black seeds in the White House</i>
7	Cambodian/English	<i>I want a Cambodian dish.</i>
8	Metal/golden	<i>After the completion, they won a golden trophy</i>
9	Unbelievable	<i>What an unbelievable scene</i>
10	Frying /running	<i>This is my running mate</i>

E.g 1: *The intelligent, big, young, brown Cambodian student studies here*

E.g2: *A lovely, large, antique, round, black, Spanish, wooden, mixing bowl*

Analysis

With the aim to regulate the use of the language in an orderly manner, the English grammars have laid down the above rules so as to allow both native and non-native speakers to correctly the language. However, some languages including Khmer may have different rules of usage. The general order as we said in the above sentences is:

1. Determiner

Words that work as articles and other limiters including numbers.

Example: *a, an, the, both, either, some, many, my, your, our, their, his, her, five, each, every, this, that...*

2. Observation (Opinion)

In general, an opinion adjective explains what you think about something (other people may not agree with you).

Example: *good, bad, great, terrible, pretty, lovely, silly, beautiful, horrible, difficult, comfortable/uncomfortable, ugly, awful, strange, delicious, disgusting, tasty, nasty, important, excellent, wonderful, brilliant, funny, interesting, boring.*

3. Size

Adjectives that describe a factual or objective quality of the noun.

A size adjective, of course, tells you how big or small something is.

Example: *huge, big, large, tiny, enormous, little, tall, long, gigantic, small, short, minuscule.*

4. Shape

A shape adjective describes the shape of something.

Example: *triangular, square, round, flat, rectangular.*

5. Age

An age adjective (adjective denoting age) tells you how young or old something or someone is.

Example: *young, old, new, ancient, six-year-old, antique, youthful, mature, modern, old-fashioned, recent...*

6. Color

A color adjective (adjective denoting color), of course, describes the color of something.

Example: *red, black, pale, bright, faded, shining, yellow, orange, green, blue, purple, pink, aquamarine...*

7. Origin

Denominal adjectives denoting source of noun. An origin adjective describes where something comes from.

Example: *French, American, Canadian, Mexican, Greek, Swiss, Spanish, Victorian, Martian...*

8. Material

Denominal adjectives denoting what something is made of.

Example: *woollen, wooden, silk, metal, paper, gold, silver, copper, cotton, leather, polyester, nylon, stone, diamond, plastic...*

9. Qualifier (Purpose)

Final limiter often regarded as part of the noun.

A purpose adjective describes what something is used for. These adjectives often end with “-ing”.

Example: *writing (as in “writing paper”), sleeping (as in “sleeping bag”), roasting (as in “roasting tin”), running (as in “running shoes)*

1.5.3 Syntactic Khmer adjective

1.5.3.1 Adjective positions in Khmer language

Though the issue of adjective existence in Khmer is mostly questioned, however, many linguists confirm that we do have adjectives in Khmer but with different forms (morphosyntactic). In Sax Murphy’s article, we usually talk of ‘adjectival verbs and intransitive verbs. However, all these terms allude to adjective in other words. As such, Khmer as other languages presents some syntactic functions of adjectives depending on the positives.

1.5.3.1.1 Post positive adjective

This adjectival function is very frequent in Khmer. Here the adjective is preceded by the noun it modifies.

E.g:

a) កំលាំងឆ្លាំង សំរេចការងារច្រើន។

/kɔmlaŋ k^hlaŋ sɔmrac kaŋi:ɔ crazn/

(Power *strong* achieve work a lot)

A strong power can achieve-more.

Analysis: the word ឆ្លាំង /k^hlaŋ/ is directly preceded by the modified by the word កំលាំង /kɔmlaŋ/ This is the typical post-position of adjective. As we said above, English and Khmer converge in this syntactic function both in meaning and position.

b) កំលាំងខ្សោយសំរេចការងារតិច។

/kɔmlaŋ k^hsaɔj sɔmrac kaŋi:ɔ tɛc/

(Power *weak* achieve work *less*)

A weak power has less achievement.

Analysis: The word ខ្សោយ /k^hsaɔj/ is directly preceded by the modified by the word កំលាំង /kɔmlaŋ/

c) ខោនិងអាវក្រហម លក់នៅផ្សារច្រើនណាស់។

/khaɔ nɛŋ ʔa:ɨ̌ kɔp^hɔ:m lɨɔʔ nɛi p^hsa: crazn nah/

(Pants and shirt red sell at market a lot)

The red pants and shirt are sold alot at market.

Analysis The word *ក្រហម* / *krəhə:m* /is directly preceded by the modified by the nouns.

ខោនិងអាវ/khaɔ nəŋ ʔa:ɿ

d)តុមួយ មួយនៅក្បែរស្នូនខ្មៅ។

/tək mu:l muɔj nəi kʰbae sa:ləŋ kʰmai/

(Table *around* a (one) near sofa black)

The round table is near the black sofa.

Note: The word *មួយ* / *mu:l* / is directly preceded by the modified noun *តុ*/ *tək* /

e) កូន ល្អ ស្តាប់ឪពុកម្តាយ សិស្សល្អ ស្តាប់គ្រូ។

/koun lʰʔa: sʰdʰap ʔəipuk mʰda:j sɔh lʰʔa: sʰdʰap kru:ɔ/

(Child *good* listen parents, student *good* listen teacher)

A good child listens to his parents and a good student listens to his teacher.

Note: The word *ល្អ* / *lʰʔa:* / is directly preceded by the modified noun *កូន*/ *koun* /

1.5.3.1.2 Predicative adjective

A predicative adjective belongs to the types of adjectival functions we mentioned above. It comes to modify the subject of the sentence. The main difference between a predicative adjective and the other categories is that the predicative adjective is always connected by a linking verb to the noun it qualifies.

In Khmer, it usually follows the schema of English in terms of position and even the meaning. The (linking) verb is introducing the adjective and the later modifies the subject.

E.g:

a) មេឃក្លាយជាស្រឡាតិច្ចើន្តថ្ងៃនេះ។

/me:c k^hla:jci:ɔ sɾɔlah t^hɲai nih/

(Sky become *clearly* today)

The sky has become clearer today

b) ស្លឹកឈើស្រពោននេះក៏ប្រក្លាយជាស្រស់វិញ។

/slɛkchə: sɾɔpɔ:n nih praɛk^hla:jci:ɔ sɾah βəŋ/

(Leaf faded this become fresh again)

This faded leaf has refreshed.

c) សត្វនេះរត់លឿនណាស់។

/sa:t nih rɔt liɜn nah/

(Animal this runs *fast* very)

This is a very fast animal.

d) សិស្សម្នាក់នេះរៀនសូត្រតិចជាងគេនៅក្នុងថ្នាក់។

/sɜh m^ənɛa? nih riɜn k^hsaɔj ciɜŋ ke: nɔi k^hnɔŋ t^hna?/

(Student one this study *weak* than in class)

This student studies less and less in class/

e) សត្វស្កម្លៀងព្រោះខ្វះស្មៅ។

/sa:t skɔ:m k^hlan prɜɜh k^hβah smai/

(Animal thin *strong* because lack of grass)

The animal is very thin due to the lack of grass

Analysis: As shown above, in all the Khmer sentences, predicative adjectives are always preceded by a linked verb who links them with the main subject. This is a typical Khmer. However, some characteristics may be different from the one shown so far. The language syntactic structure is not as flexible as in English. This and other syntactic constraints make it difficult and tough for foreign learners and even some native speakers who do not have a good mastery of grammar.

1.5.3.1.3 Adjctivised verb

In some syntactic environment, adjective is both playing its function and that of the verb. This is seemingly absent or quasi impossible in English as it does not allow such grammatical mechanisms.

This is different to predicative adjective as we do not have any linking verb joining the adjective to the subject.

The following illustrations will tell us more:

a) ត្រីស្ងួតណាស់ថ្ងៃនេះ។

/trɛj sɣuət nah tʰəjəi nih/

(Fish *dry* very today)

The fish is very dry today.

b) កូនក្រូចស្ងួតណាស់។

/koun kʰɔm slout nah/

(Child I *docile* very)

My child looks very mild

c) ពួកនេះភាគខ្លាំងណាស់។

/pǔzʔ nih ka:c kʰlaŋ nah/

(They this *scold strong* very)

They are too ferocious.

d) គ្នាសត្វជាងឆ្កែ។

/cʰma: chaʊt ciʒŋ cʰkaɛ/

(Cat *stupid* than dog)

The cat is more stupid than the dog.

e) អណ្តើកស្លាភាវងទន្សាយ។

/ʔandaʒk cʰla:t ciʒŋ tonsa:j/

(Turtle *smart* than rabbit)

The turtle is smarter than the rabbit.

f) អាកាសធាតុក្ដៅណាស់ថ្ងៃនេះ។

/ʔakahthiʒt kʰdaɪ nah tʰŋai nih/

(Weather *hot* very today)

The weather is very hot today.

Analysis: One may be confused when seeing the translated version of the above sentences, but we should bear in mind that it was just a nearer corresponding equivalence that we provided. For many, the adjctivised function is none other than the predicative function, ‘yes’ in English but they are different and distinct in Khmer language as it clearly illustrated in the examples.

1.5.3.2 Adjective order in Khmer

Like in any other language, the Khmer language also has a mechanism the question of adjective order is dealt with. In spoken or written language, one may feel the need to give more than one descriptive item or feature to his subject. In this situation, the question on which and what description should come first and which should be placed at the end arise.

In modern Khmer, the order is as follow:

1. Shape
2. Opinion
3. Colour
4. Size
5. Determiner
6. Demonstrative

Though other series could be added to the ones we already have, but these are the most frequent in Khmer.

E.g1:

a) គាត់មានសក់ដីង ក្រាស់ ខ្លៅ ល្អ ណាស់។

/koat mizn sak βɛ:ŋkrah k^hmai l^ə?v: nah/

(He has hair *long thick black good* very)

He has very good long, thick, black hair

Analysis: If we take a close look at the first sentence, we will realize that the adjective order is as follow: *shape-opinion, colour*. We cannot reverse the other.

E.g2:

b) សិស្សទិញប៊ិកក្រហម ខៀវ ២០ដើម។

/sʰh tɨŋ bi:c k^hph^ə:m khiev 20 dazm/

(Student bought pens *red blue* 20)

The student bought 20 red, blue pens.

Analysis: In sentence (2), the adjectives order is a follow: *colour-colour-determiner* (quantity).

E.g3:

c) នាឡិកាចាស់ស្អាតមួយលក់នៅផ្សារថ្មី។

/ni:le?ka cah s^ə?a:t 1 lü:ʔ nɔi p^hsa:t^mei/

(Watch *old beautiful one* sell at market thmei)

One beautiful old watch is sold at the Psa-Thmey market

Analysis: For sentence 3, *age-opinion-determiner* is the adjective order.

E.g4:

d) ប្រអប់ខ្សែវែងមួយនោះធ្លាក់តាមផ្លូវ។

/proʔɔp khiev tɔm l nih tʰlɛaʔ ta:m pʰlɜi/

(Box *blue big one this* fails on street)

This big blue box fails on the street.

Analysis: *colour-shape-determiner-demonstrative* is the order

E.g5:

e) ម៉ែមានពានសំប៉ែត មូល រូបីនណាស់។

/mae miɜn ca:n sɔmpaet mu:l crazn nah/

(Mother has plates *flat round many* very)

The mother has a lot of flat and round plates.

E.g6:

f) មាន់ធ្លីបែកកែវតូចធំរូបីនណាស់។

/moan tʰβɔːbaec kaeʊ tɔʊc tɔm crazn nah/

(Chicken broke up glasses *small big many* very)

The chicken has broken many small and big glasses.

Analysis: *shape-shape-determiner (quantifier)* is the formula

In Khmer, the adjective order is of the capital interest, though no previous researches have been carried out in this sense, the natural speeches have allowed us to draw some rules regulating the use of adjectives in terms of their order in sentences.

CHAPTER 5

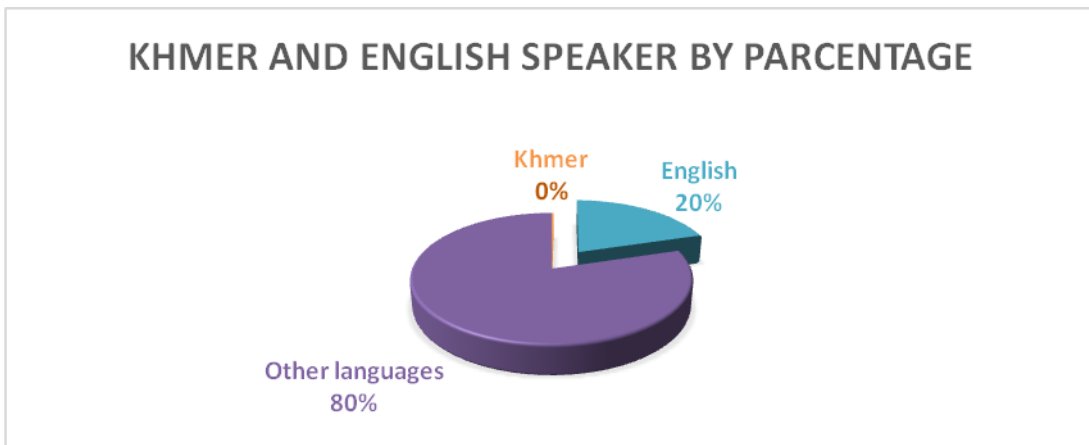
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, we are going to give the results of our research and analysis followed by the discussion. The main method will be on comparing the two languages based on not only their different mechanisms (adjective morphology, adjectives degree, etc) but also provide some statistical figures on how they behave. Let us now apply the chart and tables models in percentages of the different types of adjectives and their characteristics.

Some basic comparative linguistics data (English and Khmer).

Language	Khmer	English
Code	ISO 639-1 km Central Khmer/ ISO 639-2 khm Central Khmer	ISO 639-1 en ISO 639-2 eng ISO 639-3 eng
Phylum	Austroasiatic	Indo-European
Writing system	Khmer script (abugida)	-Latin script (English alphabet) -Anglo Saxon runes
Number of character	33 consonants, 23 vowels, and 12 independent vowels	24 consonant phonemes, 20 vowel sounds
Type	isolating language	Analytic language
Geographical zones	ASEAN(<i>Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam</i>)	Commonweath(<i>U.K, USA, Australia, Bermuda,</i>)

	<i>and in some diaspora)</i>	<i>Trinidad, etc</i>
Number of types (dialect)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Battambang 2. Phnom Penh 3. Khmer Surin (Northern Khmer) 4. Khmer Krom (Southern Khmer) 5. Cardamom 6. Khmer (Western Khmer) 7. Khmer Khe 	More than 160 with distinct accents.
Speakers	About 20 million (2020) according to Glottopol	About 1.5 billion speakers with 360 million native



The above diagram is illustrating the proportion of speakers by each of the two languages in the world. English represents approximately 20%, Khmer on its own is totalizing 0.24%. The remaining 69.64 % is going to the other languages. Henceforth, we can see the first comparative points between Khmer and English at the level of their

speakers (both first and second language speakers. Khmer is mostly concentrated in the ASEAN zone plus some diaspora spread throughout the world, whereas English has gained the position of an international language with more than a billion speakers.

1.5.1. Adjectives formation processes in Khmer and English

One of the most relevant contrastive morphology points we need to describe was the adjectives formation process used in both languages. In our primary corpora, on the one hand, we will focus on the frequency of occurrence of affixation particles for the two languages. These are occurrences of adjectives in both languages based on the two corpora we provided. Because of the high usage of particles and even their position in both Khmer and English seems to be similar.

Corpus 1 statistical analysis:

Frequency of occurrences of adjective per language

Language	Types of adjective	No of occurrences
Khmer	Qualificative	12
English	Qualificative	10
Total number of adjectives		22

Table 1.2 corpora

The most obvious analysis we can do here is that the two corpuses having almost the same length but Khmer used the highest number of adjectives. Though adjectives play

the same role, but we noticed that in the English version, we got more compound and derivative adjectives (**language-based, historical etc**) than in Khmer.

Prefixation in Khmer and English

Synopsis table on Khmer and English languages

Language	Prefix	No of occurrences
Khmer	<i>ភា</i> / <i>phizp/</i>	11
	<i>សេក្ដ</i> / <i>seck²dej/</i>	10
	<i>មហា</i> / <i>maha:/</i>	11
Total number for Khmer	32	
English	<i>pre-</i>	1
	<i>pro-</i>	1
	<i>un-</i>	1
	<i>in-</i>	1
	<i>dis-</i>	1
	<i>il-</i>	1

	A	1
Total number for English	07	

The table above shows the illustration of prefixes used in adjectives formation processes. The statistic data showed that though Khmer has presented the highest number of occurrences, it a lower tendency of using prefixes than English (**30% for Khmer vs 70%** approximately in English). What stands is that the English prefixation is richer than Khmer. In other words, the prefixation process is more flexible in English than in Khmer.

1.5.2 Infixation in Khmer and English

The phenomenon of infixation is part of the process class of affixation. We should note that it is more visible in Khmer than in English for so many reasons. They are very rare in English but could be found in the plural forms of some words.

Language	The infix	No of occurrences
Khmer	[^២ ម] / ្ណm/	8
	[^២ ញ] / ្ណn/	3
	[^២ ឆ] / ្ណn/	2
	[^២ ង] / ្ណn/	1

Total number of occurrences in Khmer		14
English		0

In Khmer, infixation is a normal rule and even frequently used in the casual writing and speech as it is shown in the examples above. More, it should highlight that the infixation process is relatively rare in the English language although possible in some morphological transformations such as **plural markers, intensifier insertion**.

1.5.3 Adjectives degree in Khmer and English (a contrastive methodology)

In all the human languages, there are grammar-based rules governing the use of adjectives and the way two or more entities can simultaneously be compared. They may either have the same qualities or one may have higher qualities than the other. In this case, we talk about: ‘adjectives degree’ (comparativeness etc). In our area of interest, we simultaneously compared the linguistic mechanisms of using adjectives in their different degree (both Khmer and English). It worthy to note that both languages present the following features:

- a) **Positive:** the state of an adjective indicating the simple quality without comparison or relation to increase or diminution. In this case, Khmer and English look similar.

Language	Adjective	Illustration
	-ង៉ង /βɛ:ŋ/ (<i>long</i>)	- ពុកទិញតុ ង៉ង = Father bought long chair
	-ត្លី /k ^h le:j/ (<i>short</i>)	-ផ្លូវមានប្រវែង ត្លី = the road is short

<p>Khmer</p>	<p>-ជ្រៅ /crɔi/ (<i>deep</i>)</p> <p>-រាវ /rɛaʔ/ (<i>shallow</i>)</p> <p>-ខ្លាំង /kʰlan/ (<i>strong</i>)</p> <p>-ផ្អែម /pʰaem/ (<i>sweet</i>)</p>	<p>- ជ្រោះមានជំហរជ្រៅ = Crevasse is very deep</p> <p>-ទន្លេមានជម្រៅរាវ = River is very shallow</p> <p>- គាត់មានកំលាំងខ្លាំង = He has strong power</p> <p>-ក្រូចមានរសជាតិផ្អែម =the orange has sweet taste</p>
<p>English</p>	<p>-<i>big</i></p> <p>-<i>small</i></p> <p>-<i>nice</i></p> <p>-<i>easy</i></p> <p>-<i>cold</i></p> <p>-<i>vivid</i></p> <p>-<i>overcast</i></p>	<p>-This is a big house</p> <p>-We have a small land</p> <p>-It was a nice movie</p> <p>-English is easy.</p> <p>-She feels cold</p> <p>-What a vivid class!</p> <p>-today the sky is overcast.</p>

Statistically and analytically speaking, the two languages as far as the positive degree of the adjective is concerned, present some obvious sameness and likeness. In Khmer, the lowest and most simple level of an adjective such as រាវ/**rɛaʔ**/ (Shallow) is possible. English language on the other hand admits this rule too. Despite being in different phylum and even geographical zones, we can clearly say that Khmer and English look alike at the level of the positive degree of the adjective. Differently put, they have the same semantic mechanism of using adjectives in their basic form.

b) Comparative degree of adjective in Khmer and English

By comparative, it is meant adjectives used to differentiate (between two or more ones). For instance, which one is *higher, better* or *lower* in the mentioned quality?

One of the peculiarities of Khmer language is, it presents its comparative degree (that means two or more subjects having the same quality mentioned) by using the grammatical particle ដូច /**douc**/ and ជាង /**Ciɲ**/ both preceded by an adjective.

As for English, the rule seems more complicated than in Khmer. The reason is, the kind of particles to use in forming comparative (affixes etc) depends on the length of the adjectives

Language	Type of comparisons	Particles (affixes)	Illustration
	Comparative of Equality	ដូច/douc/ As.....as	ស្វាយមានជាតិដូចម្លូ រ៉េប៉ា។ Mango is as sweet as apple.
ដូច/douc/ As.....as		ក្រូចមានជាតិដូចស្វាយ។ Orange is as sour as mango.	
ដូច/douc/ As.....as		នាងមានធ្មេញស្អាតដូចសំឡី។ She has teeth as white as kapok.	
ដូច/douc/		ស្រីមានប្រាថ្នាដូចសំរឹម។	

Khmer		As.....as	Saov is as smart as Sam
		ដួច/douc/ As.....as	វាមានគំនិត ដួចដួច ត្រឹមត្រូវ។ It is a stupid as buffalo.
Comparative of sup/inferiority.		ជាង /Ciɜn/ ...er than	គាត់និយាយខ្មែរ ល្អជាង នាង He speaks Khmer better than her.
		ជាង /Ciɜn/ ...er than	នាងទិញអាវ ល្អជាង គាត់ She bought shirt better than him.
		ជាង /Ciɜn/ ...er than	សៅបោកខោ លឿនជាង សំ Sao wash clothes faster than Sam
		ជាង /Ciɜn/ ...er than	វាផ្សំនិចន ល្អជាង នាង។ He learns Chinese smatter than her
		ជាង /Ciɜn/ ...er than	វាមានមុខ ល្អជាង គាត់។ Her face is blacker than his.
			“as.....as”
		“as.....as”	It is as easy as ABC

English	Comparative of equality	“ <i>as.....as</i> ”	She is as white as snow
		“ <i>as.....as</i> ”	Graham is as slow as the snail
		“ <i>as.....as</i> ”	As dark as night
	Comparative of sup/inferior.	“ er ” for 1 syllable	He is bigger than her.
		“ er ” 1 syllable	Here is wider than there
		“ more ” 1 or More syllables	Alex is more intelligent than Sophia
		“ irregular ”	He is better (from good) than me,
		“ er ”	That boy is sillier than his sister

C) Superlative adjective in Khmer and English

English and Khmer use different superlative forms of adjectives. From a comparative degree, English forms two types of superlatives: “*est*” and “*most*” for regular adjectives such as:

big= biggest; short=shortest; tall=tallest; smart=smartest(for short adjectives)

Intelligent=the most intelligent; tremendous=the most tremendous(for long adjectives).

As for irregular adjectives, there is no fixed or clear-cut rule.

Example: Good=the best' bad=the worst;

It is important to note that, English, as opposed to Khmer, adds ‘**the**’ at the beginning to form the superlative.

Eg: *The biggest, the smartest, the highest etc*

For Khmer language, the rules are quite different, it stipulates that we should follow the following formula: **Adjective+ ភាគីក្រីក្រ /Cɪɹŋ ke:/**. The process is limited but presents a standard value. This rule is applicable no matter the adjective or the circumstances. As is was stated above, English is broader and more flexible in terms of rules governing superlative than Khmer and those examples illustrate more.

D) Contrastive analysis of adjective order in Khmer and English

As far as we do realize that adjectives describe and modify nouns. However, in order to describe nouns in everyday life, one may want to use more than one adjective. In English language there is an order generally the adjective order in English language is as follows: **quantity/number-opinion-size-physical quality-shape-age-color-origin-material-type-purpose.**

E.g.: A lovely, large, antique, round, black, Spanish, wooden, mixing bowl

In the above example, **lovely** is an adjective indicating opinion, **large** is an adjective indicating size, **antique** is an adjective indicating material, **black** is an adjective indicating colour, **Spanish** is an adjective describing origin, **wooden** is an adjective indicating wooden. On the contrary in Khmer language, though possible in some cases, doesn't exist in long and more complex sentences. In this case, adjectives are used freely according to the speaker choice.

Example 1:

a) កំលាំងខ្លាំង សំរេចការងារច្រើន។

/kɔmlaŋ k^hlaŋ sɔmrac kaŋi:ɔ crɔzn/

(Power *strong* achieve work *a lot*)

A strong power can achieve more.

b) កំលាំងខ្សោយសំរេចការងារតិច។

/kɔmlaŋ k^hsaɔj sɔmrac kaŋi:ɔ tɛc/

(Power *weak* achieve work *less*)

A weak power achieves less.

c) ខោនិងអាវក្រហម លក់នៅផ្សារច្រើនណាស់។

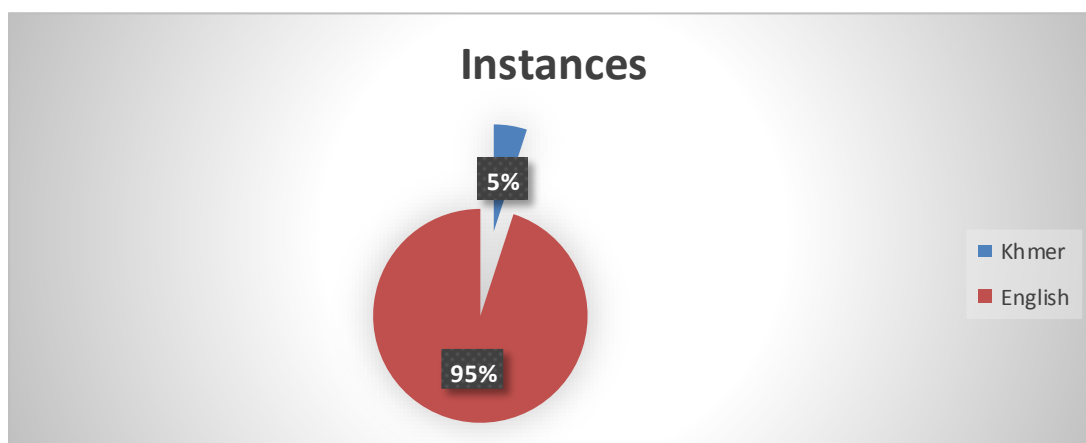
/khaɔ nɔŋ ʔa:ɿ kɔp^hhɔ:m lūzʔ nɔi p^hsa: crɔzn nah/

(Pants and shirt *red* sell at market *a lot*)

The red pants and shirt are sold at market.

When we look at those examples in Khmer, we realize that the length of the sentences and even the number of adjectives are limited compared to English. From the above example and the tacit knowledge, it becomes clear that, in Khmer, the adjectives order, though possible, is natively incorrect. It is more correct when adjectives are used freely and independently.

Possibility to use a maximum number of adjectives in a single sentence (Khmer and English)



From the above statistics, we may conclude that the use of multiples adjectives (concerning the order of the adjective) is a normal linguistic process in English. However, based on some data collected, the Khmer language does not admit such grammatical construction.

Based on the analysis of the contrastive method used in this chapter, it reaches to a partial conclusion that both Khmer and English share some common linguistic attributes such as the adjective adjectives formation, degree, and order. However, it very important to note that Khmer as an isolating language presents more complex and narrow grammatical rules than English which as we said above is an analytical language. It is equally worthy to highlight the fact that our data are based on the standard use usage of language. That is to say, even if some aspects were possible in the old Khmer and English, we did not consider them. We only focused on the present-day use of the language.

Another striking point of differences between the two languages is the (value of the) use of “**reduplication** of adjectives. In Khmer, you can reduplicate an adjective to show a degree of intensity. What should be noted here is that the value remains the same (i.e. they remain adjectives used to show how high is something. This grammatical construction is not possible in English or to the extreme, it is rare. Let us have a look at the following table for more illustrations.

Adjective	Adjective	Rendering	Meaning
អ័ង /βɛ:ŋ/	អ័ង /βɛ:ŋ/	អ័ងអ័ង /βɛ:ŋ βɛ:ŋ/	Very long
ខ្លី /k ^h lɛj/	ខ្លី /k ^h lɛj/	ខ្លីខ្លី /k ^h lɛj k ^h lɛj/	Very short
ជួនា /crəi/	ជួនា /crəi/	ជួនាជួនា /crəi crəi/	very deep
រាត់ /rɛ̃aʔ/	រាត់ /rɛ̃aʔ/	រាត់រាត់ /rɛ̃aʔrɛ̃aʔ/	very shallow
ល្អ /l ^o ʔɒ:/	ល្អ /l ^o ʔɒ:/	ល្អល្អ /l ^o ʔɒ: l ^o ʔɒ:/	Very good
ស្ងួត /slɒ:t/	ស្ងួត /slɒ:t/	ស្ងួតស្ងួត /slɒ:t slɒ:t/	very docile
កាច /ka:c/	កាច /ka:c/	កាចកាច /ka:c ka:c/	very scold

Though it is grammatically possible to reduplicate adjectives in English, the (semantic) value is different. In English, it is mostly used to create new proper nouns or even news adjectives. In some cases, only some syllables or portions of adjectives are repeated. But in Khmer, the whole adjective is reduplicated.

These analyses can lead us to a number of results and findings in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

The study focuses on the comparative and contrastive studies of Khmer and English. We have chosen as an area of research adjective. More specifically, the morphology and syntax of adjectives in Khmer and English. We have gone through different linguistic aspects of the two languages such as the adjectives meaning, their formation processes, their degree, their functions as well as their order in sentences.

It came out from our research that adjectives in both languages share similarities and differences. The reasons may be linked to the difference in their system. English is an analytical language whereas Khmer is purely an isolating language. From this perspective, it is clear that the two languages will surely be different as far as their functioning mechanisms are concerned.

6.2 Findings

After a systematic contrastive and comparative study of Khmer and English adjective, it became clear that the two languages present the following features:

- Khmer is an isolating language (a type of language with a very low morpheme per word ratio and no inflectional morphology whatsoever) whereas English is an analytic language (any language that uses specific grammatical words, or particles, rather than inflection (q.v.), to express syntactic relations within sentences) and thus giving them distinct morphological mechanism.

- English uses more adjectives than Khmer (in Khmer, most adjectives are called nominalized adjectives or stative verbs).

- Hence based on the data, it can fairly be said that Khmer is very limited as far as the adjectives formation process is concerned as compared to English. In Khmer, only a few numbers of particles are grammatically allowed to be used in creating and coining new adjectives.

- When using comparative forms of adjectives, Khmer makes use of post **postpositive** particle as opposed to English which only allows adding a prefix to the existing word.

- In Khmer, there is no article before adjectives such as **the biggest, the smallest** as in English when using adjectives in their superlative forms. You can only use the adjective plus the following particle ក្រីក្រ /Cikɿ ke:/

- It is grammatically correct in Khmer to reduplicate an adjective so as to show the intensity of what we are talking about. This process is not possible in English.

- Using a maximum number of adjectives in a single clause or sentence is possible in English, whereas this process is limited in Khmer language. Adjectives are freely and independently used in Khmer sentences.

- Adjectives mobility in Khmer sentences is not allowed as compared to English. Adjectives have fixed position in Khmer

- Compound adjectives are from our research very rare and limited in Khmer This process is only possible when using comparative forms of adjectives not even in the positive level of adjectives.

- Syntactically speaking, the two languages are very different and this makes the learning process tougher to non-native speakers learning one of the two languages as second language learner.

6.3 Conclusion

The original scope of this case study was to identify the sameness and differences between Khmer language and English at the level of adjective (its syntactic position and morphology). When researching some language elements, few researches were to be found, which indicates that more research needs to be done in this sense. We made use of a four-dimension method to identify the common features and differences between Khmer and English adjectives: adjective formation, adjective degree, adjective functions and adjective order.

It was found that the two languages can be compared at different levels (morphological, syntactic and phonological) and therefore share many common features but also many differences).

English is an analytic language and uses more inflection in coining new words thus adjectives.

Khmer is an isolating language and presents a very complex words formation process.

Adjectives need some separate particles to form comparatives and superlatives. Furthermore, our study has shown that the rules are standard and regular in Khmer as opposed to English where some adjectives do not abide by the rules (irregular adjectives) Perhaps, only then there can be some results on actual behavior. Both languages do not admit concord such as plural marker.

This study contributes to the knowledge of different comparative and contrastive research on languages belonging to different language families. It is a better way of learning to know how different languages evolve in their different geographical zones, and at the same time finding ways to help them.

6.4 Recommendations

After this study, the research comes out with the following recommendations for both researchers and learners of the two languages (Khmer native speakers learning English or native English speakers learning Khmer).

- While learning English, Khmer native speakers should take into account the specificities and features of the English language which are totally different from that of Khmer.
- English native speakers learning Khmer should try to not only understand the syntactic, morphological but also phonological complexities of Khmer language.
- Researches on Khmer language should be extended to other aspect of languages as more still needs to be done.
- More academic contrastive and comparative researches (English and Khmer) should be encouraged so as to widen and broaden the readers outside Cambodia.
- Khmer language should also be used in digital supports to facilitate the access and extend the readers spectrum.
- The bank of corpuses in Khmer is very limited, so academicians should create modern supports to provide more data and modernise the research works in this language.
- Government agencies in charge elaborating or syllabus should double their effort so as to promote Khmer language at both national and international level.
- Khmer/English translators and interpreters should also bring more contributions in this domain.
- Khmer and English linguists should take into account the dynamism of language and coin new words and expressions to fill some gaps. Many English expressions and words do not have their equivalences in Khmer.

- Teachers should use modern and adaptable methods to improve students' listening and speaking skills, especially Khmer speakers learning English and vice versa.
- Khmer language teachers and experts should accept new innovations of teaching, leaning process and researches.
- New innovative methods of Khmer teaching and researches should be introduced in the curriculum (teaching programs) by the government.
- Education and researches ministries and agencies should encourage articles and other papers writing so as to fill in the gap so far noticed.

CHAPTER 7

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