

focus position but following any other noun phrases in the clause. Following are some examples; see also the examples in §3.2.6.

- (3.107) a. *sum*      *the:-tɕ*      *pi:-xsə-la*      *de-l*.  
 teacher      3sg-GEN      pen-three-CL      DIR-give  
 ‘The teacher gave him three pens.’
- b. *qa*      *the:-ta*      *ɤzə-xsə-la*      *zə-pa*.      (< pə)  
 1sg      3sg-LOC      fish-three-CL      DIR-buy:1sg  
 ‘I bought *three fish* from him.’
- c. *qa*      *ɤzə-xsə-la*      *the:-ta*      *zə-pa*.      (< pə)  
 1sg      fish-three-CL      3sg-LOC      DIR-buy:1sg  
 ‘I bought three fish *from him*.’

### 3.2.6. Goal or recipient of a ditransitive verb

Qiang formally distinguishes between two types of argument that we will call goal and recipient. The goal of an action is the referent at which an action is directed, such as a person being told something. The verb involved may be a transitive or a ditransitive verb. The recipient of an action is the referent who receives some object as a result of the action. The verb expressing such an action must be ditransitive. These two types of argument are marked by different postpositions in Qiang. The positions in the clause in which noun phrases representing these arguments can appear are the same, though. The unmarked position is between the noun phrases representing the actor and the undergoer, but it is also possible to have the noun phrase representing the goal or recipient appear in the immediately preverbal focus position or the clause-initial topic position (see examples below).

The postposition used after a noun phrase which represents a goal argument is /-ta/, the same form as one of the locative postpositions. We saw above (§3.2.5) that this form is also used in some cases for the undergoer of a transitive verb. Following are examples of its use in ditransitive clauses and of the different positions in the clause in which the noun phrase representing the goal (here underlined) can appear.

- (3.108) *the: qa-ta*                    *ksə-xʂə-la*                    *tə-χua-(sə).*  
 3sg 1sg-LOC                    fish-three-CL                    DIR-sell-1sgU  
 ‘He sold me three fish.’
- (3.109) *tʂhətsə-zə-ŋuən*i**                    *qa*                    *the:-ta*                    *kə-ja.*                    (<ji)  
 car-affair-TOP                    1sg                    3sg-LOC                    thus-say:1sg  
 ‘I told him about the car.’
- (3.110) *qa*                    *the:-(ta)*                    *zme-z*                    *su-a.*  
 1sg                    3sg-LOC                    Qiang-language                    teach-1sg  
 ‘I teach him Qiang.’

In these clauses, the only postposition that can be used after the noun phrase representing the goal is /-ta/, it is not possible to use /-tə/, the postposition used for marking a recipient. For example, were (3.108) to have /-tə/ instead of /-ta/, then the meaning would be either ‘He sold fish for me’ or ‘He sold my fish’ (see Sections 2.2.10 and 2.2.15). What is possible, at least in (3.110), is to not use any postposition after the relevant noun phrase, as the fact that the first person is the actor is clearly marked on the verb, so there would be no ambiguity even if the postposition marking the goal were to be omitted. It would even be possible to omit the noun phrase representing the actor without any problem of ambiguity, as the person and number of the actor are recoverable from the person marking. Even so, if there is a marked word order, where the noun phrase representing the goal appears in topic position with only the topic marker following, then the noun phrase representing the actor would take the agentive marker /-wu/ (see §3.2.3), as in (3.111).

- (3.111) *the:-ŋuən*i**                    *qa-wu*                    *zme-z*                    *su-a.*  
 3sg-TOP                    1sg-AGT                    Qiang-language                    teach-1sg  
 ‘I teach him Qiang.’

As mentioned above, the postposition used to mark a noun phrase representing a recipient argument is /-tə/, the same form as the genitive postposition. Consider the clause in (3.112):

- (3.112) *sum*      *the:-tɕ*      *pi:-xsə-la*      *de-l*.  
 teacher      3sg-GEN      pen-three-CL      DIR-give  
 ‘The teacher gave him three pens.’

While the recipient marker has the same form as the genitive marker, in this example [the:-tɕ] and [pi:-xsə-la] are two noun phrases (the word order could be changed with [pi:-xsə-la] appearing in topic position, and native speakers feel they are two separate arguments, not one possessed entity). In this clause, the noun phrase representing the recipient argument can only take the postposition /-tɕ/, it cannot take /-ta/. Comparing (3.108) and (3.112), we can see that even though the person to whom something is sold is often treated in grammatical theories as a semantic recipient, the formal treatment of this argument in the grammar of Qiang is not the same as the recipient of the verb ‘to give’. Yet there are some situations where the relevant referent can be profiled (presented) in the clause as either a goal or as a recipient, and therefore either /-ta/ or /-tɕ/ can be used, but the meanings of the resulting two clauses will differ somewhat. Compare (3.113a) and (3.113b).

- (3.113) a. *χumtʂi-wu tsi-le:*      *lisɿ-ta*      *tə-γzə*.  
 χumtʂi-AGT daughter-DEF:CL      Li.Si-LOC      DIR-marry.off  
 ‘Xumtʂi married off his daughter to Li Si.’
- b. *χumtʂi-wu tsi-le:*      *lisɿ-tɕ*      *tə-γzə*.  
 χumtʂi-AGT daughter-DEF:CL      Li.Si-GEN      DIR-marry.off  
 ‘Xumtʂi gave his daughter in marriage to Li Si.’

In (3.113a), the emphasis is on Li Si as the goal of the action, not as recipient of an object, whereas (3.113b) emphasizes the nature of Li Si as “recipient” of the woman in marriage.

If a true genitive phrase occurs in a clause with a recipient, then there can be two tokens of the same marker, but with different meanings, as in (3.114).

- (3.114) *qa*      *the:-tɕ-fa-le:*      *the:-tɕ*      *de-l-a*.  
 1sg      3sg-GEN-cothing-DEF:CL      3sg-GEN      DIR-give-1sg  
 ‘I gave him his clothes.’