The Conjunct Verb Construction in Meiteilon
[1]Lourembam Surjit Singh[*]

Abstract
This paper reveals that a conjunct verb is formed by putting together either a noun or an adjective and a verb (as light verb) in Meiteilon. The formation of a reduced form of noun and verb is quite interesting in conjunct verb construction in Meiteilon. Such reduced form of noun (reduced form of noun) and verb sequence brings out an area of research for analyzing nominal elements with different values other than just sharing its semantic and syntactic features with the verb in the co-occurrence. Though it is in reduced form, this nominal can still function as a host in conjunct verb constructions in Meiteilon.

Key Words: Complex Predicates, conjunct verb, noun and verb sequence, adjective and verb sequence

1. Introduction
This paper examines the form and function of Meiteilon (Meeteilon) Conjunct verb constructions. Meiteilon conjunct verb can be considered as a kind of complex predicate (CP) that is formed by putting either a noun or an adjective and a verb (as light verb). Functionally, the light verb can take a host which could be a noun or an adjective in conjunct verb constructions in Meiteilon. The sequences like Noun + Verb and Adjective + Verb conjuncts are quite productive in Meeteilon. The Noun + Verb sequences may be further divided into two types from the functional point of view i.e. as *Free Lexical Noun + Verb,* where Noun is a lexical word and *Reduced Form of Noun[2] + Verb* sequences. The functions of reduced form of noun + verb conjuncts are more complex than the free lexical noun + verb conjuncts. It cannot occur independently or freely elsewhere in any sentences. The noun always attached to a verb serving the meaning of the main or

---

[1] Reduced form of noun means that this noun may have a full form in the language elsewhere; however, a shortened form of the noun with similar meaning is used in conjunct verb construction.

[*] Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, University of Delhi, Delhi, India.

light verb. Hence, the verb itself cannot produce the desire meaning without the help of noun in the construction to retain its meaning as main verb.

2. Formation of Complex Predicates

There are verbs that express an action or a state of being, but they can neither occur as a simple predicate and nor produce complete desired meanings unless there is another word or element attached to these verbs to form a predicate, thus, without the co-occurrences of other elements the verbs cannot produce main or complete desired meanings in the sentence, such verbs with another word in VP are known as 'Complex Predicate' (Das, 2009). It also refers to various kinds of verbal strings in many languages, particularly in South Asian languages, complex predicates are employed in various contexts to express different kinds of expressions. To differentiate complex predicate from a simple predicate, it contains the following parameters i.e. a simple predicate consists of only one verbal element, whereas, a complex predicate consists more than one verbal element in the verb phrase, or it can be a co-existent of a verb, noun, adjectives or other grammatical elements in the verb phrase. Hence, the form, function and the nature of complex predicate is more complex than a simple predicate. The term complex predicate has a wide range of usage. It includes compound verb, serial verb and conjunct verb constructions. By definition a 'Complex Predicate' is a grammatical category which is formed by some semantic features and co-occurrence of two or more lexical items such as a *'host'* and a *'light verb'* (Kellogg 1875, Butt 1993, Das 2006, Das, 2009). These two lexical items of complex predicate can be two verbs as in the case of compound verbs. However, in the case of a conjunct verb one of the lexical items can be either a Noun or an Adjective and a light verb which hosts the N/Adj. to form the CP. The co-occurrence of these two items in complex predicate acts as a single linguistic unit.
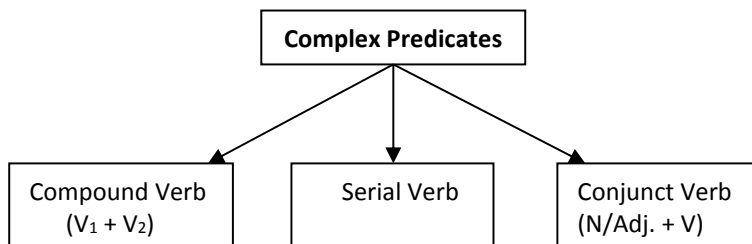

Fig. : **Complex Predicates**

As shown in the above diagram, the complex predicate includes 'Compound Verb' (CV), Serial Verb (SV) and Conjunct Verb (Conj V). In Compound verb, the first component of compound is the '*primary*' or '*main verb*' which is also known as '*polar verb*. In Meiteilon CV, the V_1 is always in root form like Hindi. This polar verb occurs in root/stem form in many languages. The name 'polar' is perhaps given to it because it contains the core meaning of the complex verb-

form. The second component of the compound is the "*light verb*" (Butt, 1995) is often termed as "*vector'* (Hook, 1974) or *'explicator'* (Masica, 1976) which is semantically delexicalized and bears all grammatical inflections such as PNG, tense, mood, or aspect of the sentence. The vector verb mostly does not retain its lexical complete meaning[3] and functions same like an auxiliary verb which is attached to the main verb. It, however, plays an important role in explicating the meaning of the polar or main verb. Hence, the i.e. polar verb compound verb is also called an '*explicator compound verb'* (Masica, 1976).

Examples from Meeteilon:

1. ('lɔitɑre' 'to settle')

cɑobə-du	wɑkhəl	lɔi	-tɑ-re
chaoba-3MS-DDET	mind- ACC	live-$_{V1}$	-fall-$_{V2}$-PERF

   'The Chaoba's mind has settled.'

2. ('jɔikhɑi' 'to beat')

liklɑi-nə	phəklɑŋ-du	jɔi	-khɑi
liklai-3FS-NOM	wall-DDET	hit-$_{V1}$	-cut-$_{V2}$-ASP

   'Liklai hit the wall.'

From the above examples, in (1 & 2) we find that compound verb in Meiteilon is formed with a sequence of V_1 and V_2 in which the polar verbs i.e. V_1 'lɔi' and 'jɔi' that function as main semantic unit for contributing the meaning of the compound verb, while the vector verb i.e. V_2 'tɑ-' and 'khɑi' get semantically delexicalized and functions as an auxiliary to give a syntactic form i.e. VP.

The Conjunct Verbs Constructions (CONVC) have been researched ad represented in many South Asian languages such as in Hindi, Urdu, Bangla, Meiteilon, Poula, etc. The structure of CONVC is primarily formed either with a Noun + Verb or Adjective + Verb combination (Butt, 1995). An interesting parts of conjunct verb construction in Meeteilon is that the co-occurrence of the 'host' i.e. noun or adjective has special function. According to Das (2009) this host i.e. "nominal entity sometimes functions as the integral part of the verb phrase in certain linguistic environment, however, in some other context, the host nominal despite the fact that it is the integral part of the verb phrase, shows the traits of a real nominal entity and controls the agreement pattern of the construction". Thus,

---

[3] It is generally the case; however languages differ in the degree of de-lexicalizing the V_2. Even in Meeteilon and Hindi there are verbs forms where V_2 retains quite a bit of meaning such as lei tɑre,   jɔikhɑi (in Meeteilon) likh denɑ/lenɑ,   perh denɑ/ lenɑ (in Hindi), etc.

the issue of conjunct verb and its agreement phenomenon is one of the most puzzling parts of complex predicates which remained descriptively untouched and still required to work extensively.

3. ('leinɑŋtabə' 'to become muddy')

   isiŋ-du   ləinɑŋ   -tɑ-re
   water-DDET   dirty watery mood-$_N$ -lay-$_V$-PERF
   'The water is dirtied (like mud).' or 'The water is becoming muddy.'

4. ('məŋəmsɑlle' 'be forwarded, advanced')

   əi-gi   thəbək-si   məŋəm   sɑl-le
   my-GEN   work-PDET   progress-$_N$ -forward-$_V$-PERF –ASP
   'My work becomes advance/forward.'

In the example of (3), the noun 'ləinɑŋ' '-dirty water' or '-muddy water' is co-occurred with the verbal word 'tɑ' '-to fall' or '-to lay' or '-laid' and produced the conjunct verb 'leinɑŋtabə' '-to become muddy' or '-to make muddy'. It will produce the sense of meaning that '-to make the water muddy' in another sense of meaning in the sentence. When we separate the noun 'leinɑŋ' '-dirty watery mood' from the verb 'tɑ' '-to lay' it can't construct or produce the desire meaning of the verb. To produce the desired meaning the noun and verb are semantically bleached with the light verb to form a conjunct verb or the noun is grammaticalized in the verb phrase to become a verbal conjunct. In case of the example (4), the host of the complex predicate that is reduced form of the noun 'məŋəm' '-progress' co-occurred with the light verb 'sɑl' '-forward', and formed a conjunct verb. However, the word class 'məŋəm' '-progress' is a reduce form of the Noun that cannot occur independently elsewhere in the language to produce complete nominal meaning, without any verbal element. After the co-occurrence with the verbal element the reduce form of the noun sɑl 'forward' can produce complete desire meanig in the CONV construction in Meiteilon.

The works are organized as section-1 is Introduction, it discussed about the general framework of complex predicates and its distinctive sub-classes. Section-2 reveals theory of CP. Section-3 consists of the construction of Meiteilon Conjunct Verb; there are two subclasses such as sequences of Free Lexical Noun and Verb Conjunct construction and Reduced Form of the Noun and Verb conjunct construction. The framework of entire Meiteilon noun + verb conjunct construction has been discussed in the context of Meiteilon along with its examples, excluding adjective + verb conjunct construction. Section-4 concludes the works, given possible outcomes of the issues.

2.1. Complex Predicates in Meiteilon
The Meiteilon conjunct verb can be formed with a combination of non-verbal element such as noun and adjective to a verb. In such constructions, functionally

the light verb can take a host which could be a noun and adjective. For instance, the Meiteilon light verb takes a nominal, an adjective and a derived noun as host respectively (as conjunct verb). The sequences like Noun + Verb and Adjective + Verb conjunct are quite productive. The sequences of Noun + Verb are more productive than the sequences of Adjective + Verb in most of the Asian languages (Abbi: and Gopalakrishnan & Abbi: 1992). There are quite numbers of the constructions in nouns + verb sequences in Meiteilon. The Noun + Verb sequences may be divided into two from the functional point of view i.e. as Free Lexical Noun + Verb, and Reduced Form of the Noun + Verb sequences.

In the type of free lexical noun construction, a free lexical noun always carries independent meaning though it attached to the verb to derive the conjunct verb, whereas, in the type of reduced form of noun construction, the noun is always in the position of reduce form (dependent) on the verb and it cannot occur independently or freely elsewhere in any sentences or constructions. In such construction the noun is always attached to a verb serving the meaning of the main or light verb in the sentence (Yashwanta: 2000, Premabati: 2008). Hence the verb itself cannot produce the desire meaning without the help of noun in the construction so as to retain its meaning as main verb.

In the following Meiteilon examples, the light verb takes a nominal, an adjectival and a derived noun as host respectively (as conjunct verb):

5. ('mipɑihɔubə' 'feeling scared')

    thoibi-si   lɑn-də   mipɑi   -hɔu-i
    thoithoi-3FS-PDET   war-DAT   afraid-$_{Adj.}$ -begins-$_V$-SAM
    'Thoithoi scared at the war.'

6. ('nɑokhɑibə' 'to wean')

    sənnɑo-si   nɑo   -khɑi-re
    calf-3FS-PDET   milk having baby-$_{Adj}$ -separate-$_V$-PERF
    'The calf is weaning.'

7. ('sərəksibə' 'to intervene')

    məphəm-si   sərək   -si-re
    place –PDET   interval-$_N$ -die-$_V$ -PERF.
     'This place is in intervened.'

8. ('khurəuthaŋbə' 'to hinder')

    ləicil-si-nə   məŋon-də   khurəu   -thaŋ-le
    cloud-PDET-NOM   he-3PS-DAT   lock-$_N$ -carry-$_V$ -PERF
    'This cloud hindered him.'

As we see in (5), (6), (7) and (8) that the conjunct verbs are formed by putting either a noun or an adjective and a verb. In example (5) and (6), the light verbs

'həu' '-begins' 'khɑi' '-separate, '-spread' take hosts which are adjectives 'mipɑi' '-afraid of' and 'nɑo' '-small (milk having calf/baby)' and make conjunct verb form in the sentence. In example (7) and (8), the light verbs 'si' '-die' and 'thaŋ' '-carry' take nominal hosts 'sərək' '-interval' and 'khurəu' 'lock' and make conjunct verb form. When the adjectival and nominal host co-occurred with the light verb in the above examples the light verbs take the hosts which are either nominal or adjectival and grammaticalized in order to bleach semantically with the hosts to form conjunct verbs. The meanings of the light verbs are in the form of reduced and shared with the host and produced desired meaning in the construction of conjunct verbs in Meiteilon.

However, as we have mentioned in introduction, in the following examples in (9) and (10) the sequences of noun and verb constructions are not grammaticalized and also not semantically bleached in any aspects. The predicate contains simply a verb and the thematic role.

9. *('isəi sək-I' 'singing song' is not a conjunct)

    əi   isəi   -sək-li

    I -1PS   song ₙ   -sing-ᵥ-PROG-ASP

    'I am singing song.'

10. *('ikɑiniŋ-i' 'wishing to shy' is not conjunct)

    əi   ikɑi   -niŋ-li

    I-1PS   shy-ₐ𝒹ⱼ   -wish-ᵥ-PROG-ASP

    'I am wishing to shy.'

As we had seen in (9 & 10), we do not consider that are as either complex predicates or conjunct verb construction, because the predicates contained in the constructions are just simple verbs, not the sequences of noun and verb conjuncts (Das, 2009). From the above examples, we have seen that the noun isɛi 'song' which is already gramaticalized and become a derived nominal but cannot take by the verb 'sək' '-sing' so it produces *'səisək' '-singing song'. The adjective 'shy/same' is not a host which can be taken by the verb niŋ 'wish/dream' so it produces 'ikɑi' *'ikɑiniŋ' -'wishing to shy' or 'feeling ashamed'. In fact that there are no such words which can be used as meaningful in the sentence in Meiteilon. Hence, these are not the sequences of noun + verb conjuncts, though they co-occurred in a sentence, there is no such process of sharing semantic properties or grammatical elements to produce the desired verbal meaning in the construction of conjunct verbs in Meiteilon.

3. Meiteilon Conjunct Verbs
There are quite good numbers of light verbs that are commonly used in Meiteilon as conjunct verbs construction both for noun + verb and Adjectives + verb

sequences. The table given below lists some light verbs that commonly used in conjunct verb constructions.

Out of these light verbs given in the table some examples of conjunct verbs can be given as following:

11.   ('ikɑikhɑŋbə' 'endure of ashamed' or 'feeling of ashamed')

   tombə-nə   ikɑi   -khɑŋ-i

Some Light Verbs that Commonly used in Conjunct Verb Construction in Meiteilon		
cən 'be fitted'	kʰɑ 'to wall'	tou 'to do', tət 'to disconnect'
cɑ 'to eat'	kʰɑŋ 'to endure'	tek 'to break'
cɑm 'to wash'	kʰɑi 'to separate', 'to net'	tɑ 'to fall'
həu 'to start'	kʰoŋ 'to loud/noise'	toŋ 'to sit on something'
hət 'to pinch or to beat/script'	kʰoŋ 'to loud/noise'	tʰət 'to release' or 'to put down'
hei 'to know'	kou 'to call'	tʰek 'to smash'
hei 'to pour'	koi 'to round'	tʰɑ 'to release' or 'to put down'
hou 'to rise/grow up'	lək 'to catch'	tʰɑŋ 'to lift'
hun 'to throw'	lou 'to take'	tʰi 'be ugly' or 'to search'
kɑ 'to climb'	lɑŋ 'to noise'	tʰok 'to get out'
kən 'to safe'	lei 'to live'	tʰoŋ 'to cook'
kɑi 'to break'	mən 'to make sarcasm'	tʰuŋ 'to reach, encompass'
kou 'to short/shortage'	sən 'to expand'	jɑ 'to agree'
kʰən 'to screen'	sem 'to make'	jeŋ 'to see'
kʰəŋ 'to know'	sum 'to lull, squeeze'	etc.

11.   tomba-3MS-NOM   shy-Adj   -endure-v-SAM
      'Tomba bears of ashamed.'

12.   ('khudithibə' 'be stumbled')

   tombə-nə   nuŋ-də   -khudi   thi

   tomba-3MS-NOM   stone-N-LOC   -stumbling N   be ugly-v-SAM
   'Tomba stumbled to the stone.'

13.　　('netɑbə' 'be settled/stabled')
　　　　məhɑk　　　　ne　　　　　　-tɑ-re
　　　　he-3MS　　　　position ₙ　　-lay/fall ᵥ-ASP
　　　　'He is settled.'

In example (11), the adjective 'ikɑi' '-shy' combines with the verb 'khɑŋ' '-endure' or 'bear' to express the sense of the verbal meaning '-to endure of ashamed' or 'feeling ashamed', in example (12), the noun 'khudi' '-stumble' combines with the light verb 'thi' '-be ugly' or '-stuck' to form 'khudithibə' '-stumble', and in example (13), the noun 'ne' '-position' combines with the verb 'tɑ' '-fall' or '-lay' to form 'netɑ' '-be settled' or '-be stable' as a conjunct verb.

Another interesting point in the study of complex predicates is that all the sequences of noun + verb or adjective + verb forms cannot be considered as 'conjunct verb'. To say conjunct verb there are some parameters of the process of grammaticalization. In the process of grammaticalization, noun or adjective gets incorporated in the verb phrase in order to meet the requirement of maintaining the structural gap between the hosts and light verbs, and come up with a complete expression in the formation of complex predicates (Das, 2009).

From the above studies, we can consider that the noun + verb conjunct can be divided into two types from the functional point of view i.e. (i) Free Lexical Noun + Verb (FLNV) and (ii) Reduced Form of Noun + Verb (RFNV).

3.1.1 Free Lexical Noun + Verb Conjunct
In this type of construction, a free lexical noun is always attached to the verb to form the conjunct verb in the language. Such types of conjunct verbs are very productive in Meiteilon. Here, the reason for classifying the first element of the conjunct verb as free lexical noun is because this noun can stand alone elsewhere in the language, it can also appear independently bearing complete nominal meaning in other constructions. However, when the verb occurs with a nominal host i.e. with a free lexical noun, it gives a grammaticalized meaning or that may slightly differ or may retain its own meaning. The reason for this is the noun that participates in the formation of the conjunct verb. Let us see the following examples in Meiteilon:

14.　　(məkɑtɑbə' 'be sprouted' (of spinach, mustard, arum plant etc.))
　　　　həŋgɑm-si　　　　məkɑ　　　　　　tɑ-re
　　　　mustard-PDET　　mustard-ₙ　　　　mustard-ᵥ-PERF
　　　　'The mustard plant has sprouted (many leaves).'

15.　　('khoilɑŋ' 'be excited')
　　　　əi　　　puknıŋ-si　　khoi　　lɑŋ-i

        I-1MS   mind-PDET   navel-N   -noise-V-ASP
        'I am feeling excited.'

16.   ('′sarukjɑbə' 'to participate', 'to join', 'to take part')
        mijɑm-gi   thəbək-tə   əi-su   səruk   jɑgə-ni
        people- GEN   service-LOC   I-also   share-N   -take-V-NREAL
        'I will participate to social service.'

17.   ('sərukthuŋbə' 'to get or receive one's share')
        nəŋ-gi   səruk   -thuŋ-lə-bə-rə
        you-GEN   share-N   -get-V-PROS-NOM-INTR
        'Have you got (your) share?

18.   ('sarukjenbə' 'to give or distribute one's share')
        mɑ-gi   səruk   jen-lə-bə-rə
        he-GEN   share-N   -distribute- V-PERF-NMZ-INTR
        'Have (you) distributed his share?'

19.   ('məhɑthɑbə' 'to deliver baby or give birth')
        nɑ-si   məhɑ   thɑ-re
        fish-PDET   baby N   -give birth V –PERF
        'The fish gives birth.'

In example (14), 'məkɑ' '-leaf' is an free lexical noun which combines with the light verb 'tɑ' '-fall' to express the sense of the verb 'sprouting (of spinach, mustard, arum plant etc.)'. In example (15), the free lexical noun 'khoi' '-navel' combines with the light verb 'rɑŋ' or 'lɑŋ' '-unstable' or '-noise' and finally construct a conjunct verb 'khoirɑŋ' '-be excited'. Similarly, in example (16), 'səruk' '-share' is a noun which combines with the light verb 'jɑ' '-agree' to express the meaning 'sərukjɑə' '-participate' or 'to join' or 'to take part', etc. Again in examples (17 & 18), 'səruk' '-share' is a noun which again combines with the light verb 'thuŋ' '-to get one's share' or 'jen' 'to give one's share' to express the meaning 'sarukthuŋbə' '-to get or receive one's share' and 'sərukjenbə' '-to give or distribute one's share' in examples (17 & 18). And finally, the free lexical nominal 'məhɑ' '-infant' or '-eggs' combines with the light verb 'thɑ' '-to give birth' and forms the conjunct verb 'məhɑthɑbə' '-to give birth a baby' which is also the case in (19) in Meiteilon.

3.1.2 Reduced Form of Noun + Verb Conjunct
In this type of construction, the noun is always in reduced form i.e. dependent on the verbal element and it cannot occur independently or freely in the sentence

bearing full or complete nominal meaning. In such construction the reduce form of noun is attached to a verb serving the meaning of the verb in the sentence. Hence, the verb itself cannot produce the desired meaning without the help of the reduce form of noun in the construction so as to retain its meaning as light verb. Let us see the following examples:

20. ('sɑrep phɑbə' 'be matured, fully grown up')

   ləi-əsi   sɑrep   -phɑ-re
   flower-3SF-this   growth-N   -complete-v-PERF-ASP
   'This flower is fully grown up.'

21. ('sərɑsənbə' 'be open to all' or 'spread into air')

   wɑri-əsi   sərɑ   -səl-le
   story –this   people-N   -spread-v-PERF-ASP
   'This story has been opened to all.'

22. ('nɑopubə' 'be pregnant')

   nupi-ədu   nɑo   -pu-re
   woman-DDET   baby-N   -bear-v-PERF
   'The woman becomes pregnant.'

23. ('torɑtubə' 'fall sick in a mass')

   lɑicət   əmə-də   imuŋ-si   torɑ   -tu-re
   epidemic   one-DET   family-DET   mass N   -fall sick v -PERF-SAM
   'All the family members have felled sick from an epidemic.'

24. ('səihekpɑnbə' 'making or tuning rhythm')

   məhɑķnə   isəi-du   səihek   -pal-li
   he-3S-NOM   song- DDET   rhythm- N   -make-v-PROG
   'He is tuning (rhythm of) the song'.

In example (20-24) these   reduced form of nouns such as 'sɑrep' '-grow', 'sərɑ' '-people', 'pɑŋthok' '-function', 'torɑ' '-mass', 'səihek' '-rhythm' combines with the light verbs 'phɑ' '-complete', 'səl' '-spread', 'cɑm' '-wash', 'tu' '-fall' or '-collapse' and 'pɑn' '-make' formed conjunct verbs constructions. In case of these reduced form of nouns when the light verbs are not combined with these nominals, these all verbal words have different word classes bearing different meanings. But the light verbs alone cannot produce desired meanings of conjunct verbs. Same to the light verbs, the reduce form of nouns also cannot produce full nominal meanings and cannot even occur alone without any verbal elements in the language. So, it becomes a reduced form of noun in the constructions. Hence, the complete desired meaning of a conjunct verb can produce only after this

reduced form of noun and light verb are co-occurred in sharing their semantic and syntactic features in Meiteilon.

Agreement pattern of the sequences of reduced form of nouns and verb conjuncts is quite complex and produce complex meaning if we try to segment from the co-occurrence of reduce form of noun from the verb. This is also because, without the reduce form of noun, the verb becomes weak and sometimes the verb alone cannot produce the desired meaning for the conjunct verbs in Meiteilon. It may become a reason for producing negation in the sentence. For instance, we have mentioned in the example (4) in introduction, without the nominal məŋəm 'to progress', the other formation like "eigi tʰəbəksi sɑlle"- gives meaning as "my work is for distance" or "my work to be placed at far", so the verb sɑl 'forward' produced a meaning like "transferring of someone's job position to somewhere else or the jobs makes distance from him or a place". Though we have sensed somewhat the meaning of the verb nearly to that, grammatically it cannot even produce a complete and clear predicative meaning which is to mean "to transfer' for the subject in the sentence, so, it processes an unclear or incomplete meaning in the sentence.

Thus, in (20), without the reduced form of noun sɑrɛp 'growth', the occurrence of the verb pʰɑ 'to complete' only produced the meaning in the sentence as "nupi əsi pʰɑrɛ" – sounds the meaning as "the girl is eloping forcefully (by someone)" or "The girl is being arrested" or "the girl is arrested". However, in the example of (20), (21), (22), (23) and (24), all the reduced form of nouns are grammaticalized and semantically bleached before they are added to the verbs and form conjunct verbs in Meiteilon. It reveals that either the light verb or reduced form of noun alone cannot give desire meaning of the conjunct verb, unless there are co-occurred in the sequences like noun + verb sequences take place to form conjunct verbs in Meiteilon.

3.2 Adjective + Verb Conjunct

Meiteilon adjectives are derived from nominal and verbal roots, nouns and verbs are the only major lexemes in Meiteilon (Bhat and Ningomba: 1986, Chelliah: 1994, 1997, and Thoudam: 1980). The Meiteilon Conjunct Verbs which are in the sequences of Adjectives and Verbs are not productive as Noun and Verbs Conjunct. The constructions of adjectival derivational compounds like verbal or nominal derivational adjectives are quite productive but these are not in the status of conjunct verbs. The following are the examples of Adjective + Verb conjunct in Meiteilon.

25. ('əwɑtpələite' 'be prosperous' or 'be wealthy')

tombə-gi	əwɑtpə	-ləite
tomba-3MS-GEN	short-_{Adj}	-have-_v-NEG

'Tomba is enriched.'

26. ('ikɑikhəŋde' 'does not feel ashamed')

tombə-do	mə-mɑi	ikɑi	-khəŋ-de
tomba-3MS-NOM	he-face	shy-Adj	Feel-V-NEG

'Tomba does not feel of ashamed on his face.'

27. ('phəɟəthokpə' 'become glowed' or become fair')

nupi-du	phəɟə	-thok-le
woman-3FM-Det	beautiful Adj	glow-V-PERF

'The woman becomes glow.' Or 'The woman becomes fair.'

28. ('wɑkɑiŋɑŋbə' 'speaking harmful word')

məŋon-də	wɑkɑi	-ŋɑŋ-gənu
he-3S-DAT	harmful word -Adj	-speak-V-PROH

'Don't speak harmful word to him'

29. ('wɑthisubə' 'speaking useless word')

məhɑk	wɑthi	-su-ri
He-3MS	useless word Adj	work V-PROG-ASP

He is speaking useless word.'

In example (25), the adjectival element 'əwɑtpə' '-short' is a host which combines with the verb 'ləite' '-does not have' to express the sense of the verb as 'əwɑtpələite' '-be enriched' or '-having no shortage'. Similarly, in example (26), the adjectival hosts 'ikɑi' '-shy', 'phəɟə' '-beautiful' in example (27), 'wɑkɑi' '-harmful word' in example (28) and 'wɑthi' '-useless word' in example (29) take the following light verbs 'khəŋde' '-does not know or feel', 'thok' '-glow', 'ŋɑŋ' '-speak' and 'su' '-work' or '-speak' in the co-occurrences. When they co-occurred they have mutually shared their grammatical features and formed conjunct verbs in Meiteilon. In the process of grammaticalization the semantic features of verbs have been functionally delexicalized in order to explicate the meaning to the adjectival hosts to form conjunct verbs in Meiteilon.

4. Conclusion

The work of conjunct verb construction in Meiteilon reveals that there are two types of nouns i.e. *free lexical noun* and *reduced form of noun* in conjunct verb construction. The free lexical noun can bear complete nominal or 'host' meaning to co-occur with light verb, whereas, the reduced form of noun is always in shortened form and functions as a 'host' and it also ddominates the semantics of conjunct verb, but it cannot occurs independently in this context and co-occurs with a verbal element in the conjunct verb construction in Meiteilon. Though the light verb becomes a reason of sharing its semantic and syntactic features with the reduced nominal, the reduced form of noun always functioned as host in the

conjunct verb construction. This noun + verb co-occurrences are more productive than adjective + verb constructions in the construction of complex predicates in Meiteilon. All the adjectives which co-occur with light verbs in conjunct verbs constructions are all derived lexemes, either from nominal or verbal category. However, these adjectives are more productive to construct conjunct verb as a 'host' than the compounding adjectives.

ABBREVIATIONS

Dative	-tə/tə	DAT
Determiner (pronominal)	-sɛ/si	PDET
Determiner (distal)	-du/tu/to/do	DDET
Feminine	-pi/bi	FEM
Genitive	-ki/gi	GEN
Instrumental	-nə	INST
Interrogative	-lə	INTR
Nominalizer	-bə/pə	NMZ
Nominative	-nə	NOM
Perfective	-lə/rɛ	PERF
Progressive	-li/ri	PROG
Prospective	-lə	PROS
Simple aspect marker	-i	SAM
1ˢᵗ person	-ɛi	1
2ⁿᵈ person	-nəŋ	2
3ʳᵈ person	-mɑ	3
Singular	-hɑk	S
Plural	-siŋ/khoi	P

References
1. Abbi, A. 1991. Semantics of explicator compound verbs. In South Asian Languages, *Language Sciences,* 13:2, 161-180
2. Abbi, A. 1992. The Explicator Compound Verb: Some Definitional Issues and Criteria for Identification. *Indian Linguistics,* 53, 27-46.
3. Alsina, A. 1996. *Complex Predicates: Structure and Theory.* CSLI Publications: Stanford.
4. Alsina, A., Bresnan, J., and Sells, P. (ed.), 1997. *Complex Predicates*. Stanford, CSLI Publications: Stanford.
5. Begum, R -et al. 2011. *Identification of Conjunct verbs in Hindi and its effect on Parsing Accuracy.* Cicling: Sciweavers.
6. Bhat, D.N.S. and Ningomba, M.S. 1986. *A Manual of Manipuri Grammar.* Manipur University, Imphal.
7. Bhat, D.N.S. and Ningomba, M.S. 1995. *Manipuri Grammar.* Mysore: CIIL.

8. Burton, J. 1957. Compound and Conjunct Verbs in Hindi. *BSOAS*, 19: 469-78.

9. Butt, M and Jessica. 1993. Conscious Choice and Some Light Verbs in Urdu. In M. K. Verma (ed.), *Complex Predicates in South Asian Languages.* Manohar Publishers and Distributors: New Delhi.

10. Butt, M. and Jessica. 1995. *The Structure of Complex Predicates in Urdu.* Doctoral Dissertation, Stanford University: Stanford.

11. Chelliah, S. L. 1997. *A Grammar of Meitei.* Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin: New York.

Das, P. K. 2006. *Grammatical Agreement in Hindi-Urdu and its Major Varieties.* Munchen: Lincom Europa.

12. Das, P.K. 2009. *Journal of South Asain Studies*. Forms and Function of Conjunct Verb Construction in Hindi*, HUFS, South Korea*

13. Hook, P. E. 1974. *The Compound Verb in Hindi*. Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies: The University of Michigan.

14. Kellogg, S. 1875. *Grammar of the Hindi language*. London: Routledge.

15. Masica, C. 1976. *Defining a Linguistic Area: South Asia*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

16. Mohanan, Tara. 1994. *Argument Structure in Hindi.* The Stanford University Press.

17. Nishiyama, Hunio. 1998. V-V Compounds as Serialization. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*, Springer: Netherlands, Vol. 7, No. 3, pp. 175-217.

18. Paul, S. 2003. Composition of Compound Verbs in Bangla. *Multi-Verb Constructions,* Trondheim Summer School:.

19. Paul, S. 2004. *An HPSG Account of Bangla Compound Verbs with LKB Implementation* [Ph.D. Dissertation]. University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.

20. Probal, D. 1997. The Internal Grammar of Compound Verbs in Bangla. *Indian Linguistics*, 38 (3): 68-85.

21. Stewart, O. Th. 1998. *The Serial Verb Construction Parameter* [Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation]. McGill University: Montreal.

22. Thoudam, P. Ch. 1980. *Grammatical Sketch of Meiteilon* [Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation]. Jawaharlal Nehru University: New Delhi.

23. Verma, M. K. (ed.) 1993. *Complex Predicates in South Asian Languages.* Manohar Publisher and Distributor: New Dehi.

24. Yashwanta Singh, Ch. 2000. *Manipuri Grammar.* Rajesh Publication: New Delhi.

❑❑❑