CHAPTER ELEVEN

VERBA SENTIENDI ET DICENDI

11.1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Zaiwa has a number of verbs which I have grouped together as the verba sentiendi et dicendi, which clearly form a natural class. Most of these Zaiwa verbs can refer both to speaking and feeling. Others, such as <dai^{11}> ‘speak’, only refer to speaking but are included in order to illustrate certain differences in meaning, such as between English *speak*, *talk* and *say*. The possibility of verbs referring to both speaking and feeling may be an aerial feature. Dai & Xu (1992: 66-7) have described two Jingpo verbs that are somewhat similar. One of these Jingpo verbs appears to have been borrowed into Zaiwa as <ngvu^{31}> ‘say’ and is described in this chapter. Another reason for discussing these verbs together is that several of them are used in subordinating constructions, including those used for quoting. This chapter discusses all Zaiwa verba sentiendi et dicendi together, in the following sections.

11.2 The verbs <dai^{11}> ‘speak’ and ge^{1}-ru^{11} (random-talk.(noise)) ‘talk (noise)’
11.3 The verb <ngyo^{31}> ‘talk’
11.4 Direct and Indirect Speech in Zaiwa
11.5 More on the verb <ngvu^{31}> ‘say’
11.6 The verb <ga^{11}> ‘perceive’
11.7 The morpheme <mu^{31}> ‘happen’ as a verb and as a clause marker

11.2 THE VERBS <dai^{11}> ‘SPEAK’ AND ge^{1}-ru^{11} ‘TALK (NOISE)’

The verb <dai^{11}> ‘speak’ refers to speaking in the most general sense, i.e. to passing on specific information via speech.
1. Zaiwa lead/connect NEG know (ipf) speak
   I don’t know how to say it in Zaiwa.

2. Nang! yvang yvang speak SIM
   Say (SG) it yourself!

3. Le go kyang clear speak SIM
   Speak (SG) clearly.

The verb ‘speak’ can also be used in the context of speaking specific languages.

4. Ngo Zaiwa language NEG indiscriminately able speak
   I don’t speak Zaiwa very well.

The verb ‘happen’ is another verb that is used in the context of speaking languages. The latter verb in this use, however, specifically refers to speaking one’s mother tongue, as will be discussed in Section 11.7.

The verb ‘speak’ cannot be used for reporting speech. In such cases either the verb ‘say’ or the verb ‘perceive’ is used instead. The verb ‘speak’ is often used in certain fixed combinations. The combination of the noun ‘words’ and ‘speak’ is the common way of referring to speaking in a general sense.

5. Yvang speak+FCT words 2SG believe
   lye also+I Y/N
   Do you (SG) believe what he says?

6. Yvang speak+FCT words 1SG