

**A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS
OF
ENGLISH AND MYANMAR VERB SYSTEMS**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

This research applies Contrastive Analysis to the study of English and Myanmar verb systems with an aim to compare the similarities and differences in the verb systems of the two languages in terms of their morphological, syntactic and semantic features, to predict the areas of difficulty and to facilitate Myanmar learners of English in the use of English verbs and foreign learners of Myanmar in the use of Myanmar verbs. At the morphological level, it studies what morphological systems the Myanmar language belongs to, and how the three types of verbs in Myanmar: simple verbs, complex verbs and compound verbs differ from each other. At the syntactic level, it finds out the ways in which time reference and aspect are expressed, using the context as well as the auxiliary verbs and verb particles in Myanmar. It also proposes two new rules: an orthographic rule and a phonological rule for forming h-/ non-h pairs of transitive and intransitive verbs in Myanmar. Moreover, this research attempts to prove that Myanmar has the passive structures completely different from English. It also finds out the use of creaky tone to denote passivity. It highlights the rules for subject-verb agreement in Myanmar and those for forming verbs in negative, interrogative and imperative clauses in Myanmar. At the semantic level, it classifies 3,000 Myanmar verbs according to a modified classification system of Halliday (1994). The contrastive analysis of English and Myanmar verb systems helps indicate the difficulty areas for learners and they are stated in a list. The findings of this research are related to the pedagogical implications.