Word Classes in Brôu

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I. INTRODUCTION

This study is an attempt to establish the syntactically signif-
ificant word classes in Brôu.¹ Class definitions have been stated in
terms of several different criteria such as transformational bat-
tery function, tagmemic filler function, possibilities of other
occurrence, etc., according as one or another criterion afforded
an easier statement. In general an attempt was made to avoid
negative definitions.

¹ Brôu is a language of the Mon-Khmer family. It is estimated that
there are between thirty and fifty thousand Brôu speakers in the northwest
corner of South Viet Nam and in the neighboring areas of Laos and North
Viet Nam. Data for this paper were collected in Hướng Hóa district of Quảng
Tri province in South Viet Nam.

I am indebted to David D. Thomas of the Summer Institute of
Linguistics for help in the organization and writing of this paper.
Words in Bròu may be simple or complex. A simple word is considered to be the minimum meaningful unit which can be spoken in isolation. A complex word is a combination of two or more simple words, whose meaning is not the same as the sum of the meanings of its parts. For the purposes of this paper both simple and complex words will be referred to as ‘words’.

II. MAJOR CLASSES

1. Nouns (N). A noun is any word that can fill the Noun Head slot in a substantive phrase. The tagmemic formula for the Bròu substantive phrase is: ± (± Nu ± Cl) ± NH ± P ± M ± D ± L, in which Nu = Number, Cl = Classifier, NH = Noun Head, P = Possessive, M = Modifier, D = Demonstrative and L = Location.


This class has the following subclasses: Pronouns (Pr), Indefinite Pronouns (indPr), Non-classifiable Nouns (nclN), and Classifiable Nouns (clN).

2. Carolyn P. Miller, ‘The Substantive Phrase in Bròu.’ In this same volume.
1.1. Pr. A pronoun is any general replacer noun which can substitute for or refer back to another noun, and which cannot be possessed by another pronoun.

This class is limited to the following words: cīrq 'I', mói 'you', anhia 'you', án 'he, she, it', alöi 'they (definite)', nau 'they (indefinite)', hāi 'we (inclusive)', hēq 'we (exclusive)', ca 'that one, some', cāi 'you (direct address)'. All members of Pr except ca 'that one, some' and cāi 'you' are also members of clN.

1.2. indPr. An indefinite pronoun is any general replacer word that can substitute for a noun or substantive phrase and function like ntrou 'what, whatever, anything' in the following frames: ntrou mói i bourn 'what you want have' 'What do you want?' cīrq taur eiq ntrou 'I not want anything' 'I don't want anything'.

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data: ntrou 'what, whatever, anything', nau 'who whoever', alēq 'which, whichever', malēq 'how many', māh lēq 'how many'.

1.3. nclN. A non-classifiable noun is any noun which cannot occur in immediate constituency with a preceding classifier.

This class comprises words such as dārq 'water', cumo 'year', casāi 'month', phēac 'smoke', lūq 'mud', crēq 'feces', achoang 'measurement for outspread arms', dōal 'hill', keing 'side, edge', etc. Words in this class tend to be items which are non-discrete or non-segmentable.
This class may be subdivided into countable (cnclN) and non-countable (ncnclN) nouns.

1. 3. 1. cnclN. A countable non-classifiable noun is any nclN which can be preceded directly by, and be in immediate constituency with, a number.

This class comprises words such as cumo ‘year’, casái ‘month’, achoang ‘measurement for outspread arms’, dōal ‘hill’, keing ‘side, edge’, etc. Words in this class tend to be locations or units of measurement of time or space.

1.3.2. ncnclN. A non-countable non-classifiable noun is any nclN which can never be preceded by a number.

This class comprises words such as daurq ‘water’, phēac ‘smoke’, lūq ‘mud’, créq ‘feces’, etc. Words in this class tend to stand for items which are somewhat amorphous or unbounded.

1. 4. clN. A classifiable noun is any noun which can be preceded by, and be in immediate constituency with, a classifier. This class may be subdivided on the basis of semantic criteria inherent in the classifiers with which they occur, but there appear to be no syntactic criteria for subdividing it.

cloth’, *parño* ‘a gong’, *tangan* ‘bowl’, *cachei* ‘lumber’, *ratàng* ‘woven bamboo wall’, etc. Words in this class tend to be items which are somewhat discrete by nature.

2. **Verbs** (V). A verb is any word that can be preceded by *i* ‘to want’.

This is a large open class comprising words such as *pauro* ‘go’, *lúh* ‘run’, *taco* ‘sit’, *tayung* ‘to stand’, *táq* ‘do’, *toán* ‘hit’, *cha* ‘eat’, *howm* ‘see’, *chéic* ‘write’, *óat* ‘sing’, *cacháng* ‘laugh’, *niham* ‘to cry’, etc. Words in this class tend to be actions rather than states.

*cirq* *i* *cha* ‘I want eat’    *I want to eat
*cirq* *i* *pauro* ‘I want go’    *I want to go

This class is divided into Intransitive Verbs (iV) and Transitive Verbs (tV).

2. 1. **iV**. An intransitive verb is any verb that can function like *pauro* ‘go’ in the following pair of transforms:

*acho* *pauro* ‘dog go’ *The dog goes* ⟨1, 2⟩ - simple statement.

*pauro* *acho* ‘go dog’ *Go, dog!* ⟨2, 1⟩ - command.

This class comprises words such as *pauro* ‘go’, *taco* ‘sit’, *lúh* ‘run’, *tayung* ‘stand’, *cacháng* ‘laugh’, *niham* ‘cry’, etc.

2. 2. **tV**. A transitive verb is any verb which can take an object. Clauses with transitive verbs cannot fit the ⟨1, 2⟩, ⟨2, 1⟩ transformations of section 2.1 above. Transitive clauses which might appear to be transforms of the ⟨1, 2⟩, ⟨2, 1⟩ type actually are simple statement forms, from two different batteries (similar to *John saw* (*Bill*) and (*Bill*) saw *John* in English).
This class comprises words such as *hoirm* ‘see’, *cha* ‘eat’, *táq* ‘do’, *toân* ‘hit’, *chèic* ‘write’, *ôat* ‘sing’, etc.

*cîrq* *hoirm* acho ‘I see dog’ *I see the dog*

3. **Modifiers (Mod).** A modifier is any word that can fill the modifier slot in a substantive phrase, and is not a verb. I.e., a modifier can function as a word describing the noun head.²

This is a fairly large class comprising words such as *toir* ‘big’, *cót* ‘small’, *dein* ‘low’, *saraih* ‘tall’, *ô* ‘good’, *sâuq* ‘bad’, *crâi* ‘correct’, *bein* ‘accurate’, *rëng* ‘powerful’, *lamên* ‘pliable, soft’, etc.

acho *toár* *paurq* ‘dog big go’ *The big dog goes*
acho *ô* *paurq* ‘dog good go’ *The good dog goes*

This class has one significant subclass, Adjectives (Adj).

3. 1. **Adj.** An adjective is any modifier that can function like *ô* ‘good’ in the following set of transforms:

N — *ô* — V. *ô* describes N  ⟨1, 2, 3⟩
N — V — *ô*. *ô* describes V  ⟨1, 3, 2⟩
o — N — V. *ô* describes V  ⟨3, 1, 2⟩

In other words, adjectives can modify either nouns or verbs.

acho *ô* *paurq* ‘dog good go’ *The good dog goes*
acho *paurq* *ô* ‘dog go good’ *The dog goes well*
o acho *paurq* ‘good dog go’ *The dog goes well*

The membership of this class is quite fluid, varying with individual speakers and situations. This class comprises perhaps
three-fourths of the modifiers and includes words such as o ‘good’, sàrq ‘bad’, cràī ‘correct’, bein ‘accurate’, rèng ‘powerful’, lamèn ‘soft, pliable’, etc.

III. ADVERBIALS

4. Adverbs (Adv). An adverb is any word that can function like sia ‘repeat’ in the following set of transforms, in which 1 = actor, 2 = action, 3 = adverb.

\[
\begin{align*}
cìrq paurq sia & \quad \text{‘I go repeat’} \quad / go \ again \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle \\
cìrq sia paurq & \quad \text{‘I repeat go’} \quad / go \ again \langle 1, 3, 2 \rangle \\
paurq cìrq sia & \quad \text{‘go I repeat’} \quad / go \ again \langle 2, 1, 3 \rangle \\
paurq sia cìrq & \quad \text{‘go repeat I’} \quad / go \ again \langle 2, 3, 1 \rangle \\
\end{align*}
\]

In each of these forms 3 is always in immediate constituency with 2, the predicate.


This class has one significant subclass, Temporal Adverbs (tAdv).

4. 1. tAdv. A temporal adverb is any adverb that can occur sentence initial. These are mostly words referring to time.

sanua cîrq paurq ‘now I go’ I’m going now \( \langle 3, 1, 2 \rangle \)

sanua paurq cîrq ‘now go I’ I’m going now \( \langle 3, 2, 1 \rangle \)

5. Indefinite Adverb (indAdv). An indefinite adverb can substitute for any adverbial phrase except a temporal adverb and can function like nôq ‘how, why’ in the following frames:

nôq möi tâq nái ‘how you do this’ How do you do this?

cîrq taur dâng tâq nôq ‘I not know do how’ I don’t know how to do it.

This class has only one member: nôq ‘how, why’.

6. postverbs (poV). A postverb is bound to a preceding verb and functions as a modifier of that verb. This class has two members: thâng ‘uncertain duration’, loâng ‘uncertain duration’.

cîrq paurq thâng ‘I go uncertain’ I’m going (and not returning right away)

paurq thâng cîrq ‘go uncertain I’ I’m going (and not returning right away)
7. Preverbs (preV). A preverb is a word that can occur before a verb and be in immediate constituency with that verb. A preverb cannot be immediately preceded by taur ‘not’.

This class is limited to the following members: i ‘to want’, őt ‘continually’ phái ‘must’, choui ‘don’t’. i ‘to want’ occurs only bound to a following verb. choui ‘don’t’ can occur alone as a negative command.

mői choui paqr ‘you don’t go’ Don’t you go
choui mői paqr ‘don’t you go’ Don’t you go
choui ‘don’t’ Don’t!

8. Negativizers (Nég). A negativizer is any word that can function like taur bourn ‘no’ in the following set of transforms, in which 1 = actor, 2 = negativizer, 3 = action.

mői taur bourn paqr ‘you no go’ You aren’t going (1, 2, 3)
taur bourn mői paqr ‘no you go’ You aren’t going (2, 1, 3)
mői paqr taur bourn ‘you go no’ Are you going? (1, 3, 2)

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data: taur ‘no’, taur bourn ‘no’, ngcaurn ‘no’, taur caurn ‘no’, yōah ‘not yet’, taur yōah ‘not yet’.

9. (tē). tē ‘also’ is a one-word class that can occur following the predicate. It can also occur as a final particle. In both instances it functions as a modifier of the predicate.

cirq paqr tē ‘I go also’ I’m going too
paqr tē cirq ‘go also I’ I’m going too
10. $\langle dõq \rangle$. The $\langle dõq \rangle$ class consists of words which function like $dõq$ ‘usually’ in the following set of transforms, in which $1 = \text{actor}$, $2 = \text{action}$, and $3 = dõq$.

$cirq$ pairq $dõq$ ‘I go usually’ $l$ usually go $\langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$
$cirq$ $dõq$ pairq ‘I usually go’ $l$ usually go $\langle 1, 3, 2 \rangle$
$dõq$ cirq pairq ‘usually I go’ $l$ usually go $\langle 3, 1, 2 \rangle$
$dõq$ pairq cirq ‘usually go I’ $l$ usually go $\langle 3, 2, 1 \rangle$

* pairq cirq $dõq$ cannot occur
* pairq $dõq$ cirq cannot occur

In each form that can occur $dõq$ functions as a modifier of the verb.

This class has a limited membership: $dõq$ ‘usually’, $loq$ ‘seldom’, $ngur$ mā$h$ kēi ‘sufficient’, $ngur$ mahēi ‘sufficient’.

IV. NOMINAL SUBORDINATES

11. Classifiers ($Cl$). A classifier is any word which can fill the classifier slot in a substantive phrase. Classifiers can occur only accompanied by one of the other tagmemes within the substantive phrase. I. e., a classifier cannot occur as a minimal manifestation of the substantive phrase.

$mõî$ $\tilde{e}i$t ntreh aluang ‘you get Cl tree’ $You$ get a tree
$mõî$ $\tilde{e}i$t ntreh ki ‘you get Cl that’ $You$ get that tree
$mõî$ $\tilde{e}i$t ntreh o ‘you get Cl good’ $You$ get a good tree

* $mõî$ $\tilde{e}i$t ntreh cannot occur.
This is a fairly large class but one of limited membership. The following is complete for our data, though presumably not complete for the language. It should be noted that some classifiers can be used with only one or two nouns, but others can be used with a wide range of nouns. Also, there is often more than one classifier which would be appropriate with any given noun.


choang — classifies string-like objects: casái ‘vein’, theip ‘wire’, etc.

churoq — classifies saráq ‘word, letter’.

churoc — classifies sei ‘vehicle’.

clông — classifies sa-ôh ‘a quiver’.

clu — classifies onion-like vegetable: sakieu ‘onion’, taveil — ‘an onion-like vegetable’, etc.

coâl — classifies living plants: aluang ‘tree’, aho ‘bamboo’, etc.

couiq — classifies root-like vegetables: abáng ‘bamboo sprouts’, bat ‘vegetable’, etc.

duóng — classifies taméang ‘crossbow’, and kén ‘a musical instrument’.


lau — classifies saniat ‘gun’.

lám — lám is a general classifier that can classify both animate and inanimate objects. Many of the nouns that can take lám as a classifier also occur with other more specific classifiers. When lám occurs it must always be preceded by a quantifier. lám can be used to classify words such as acáp ‘a trap’, achoiq ‘large basket’, atéi ‘hand’, carvih ‘trigger’, acho ‘dog’, atia ‘duck’, ai ‘older brother’, ariaih ‘chief’, etc.

láng — classifies dông ‘house’ and sei ‘vehicle’.


lot — classifies balls or spools of priai ‘thread’.
naum — classifies living plants: aluangs 'tree', breng 'an edible plant', chor 'a fetish made of leaves', etc.

noaq — classifies persons: cóai 'person', carnein 'child', manseim 'girl', amiang 'brother', etc. noaq must always be preceded by a quantifier.

ntreh — classifies stick-like and string-like objects: aho 'bamboo', tanóul 'house post', coih 'spear', bran 'ribs', tapang 'bamboo flooring', crái 'rattan', panóar 'rope', etc.

phein — classifies broad flat objects: pian 'plank', ratàng 'wall', akéng 'windmill', etc.

pla — classifies cutting edges: achoù 'knife', pria 'bushhook', saréam 'digging tool', achät 'axe', etc.

plaur — classifies déiuq 'pipe'.

ploah — classifies certain broad flat objects and cloths: au 'shirt', aliaiq 'hunting net', sën 'skirt', dónq 'large flat basket', etc.

pûng — classifies cakes of dêng dang 'sugar' and tarang 'wax'.

prôh — classifies strands of string-like objects: theip 'wire', samour 'string', ngcuac 'necklace', etc.

racong — classifies stalks of fruit: priat 'banana', saro 'unhusked rice', etc.

riang — classifies long-handled tools: achät 'axe', saréam 'digging tool', pria 'bushhook', etc.
talâh — classifies hands of priat ‘banana’.


tôp — classifies groups of animates: côai ‘people’, tamôr ‘monkey’, chôm ‘bird’, etc.

yac — classifies coins: proaq ‘money’.


12. Prepositions (Prep). A preposition is any word that is bound to a following noun, demonstrative, or locative, and marks a subordinate construction within a clause.


cîrq pawq nìrng móî ‘I go with you’ I’m going with you

cîrq tâq youn móî ‘I work for you’ I’m doing it for you

13. Locatives (Loc). A locative is any word that functions like paunng ‘above’ in the following set of transforms:

móî axt paunng mpuol ‘you stay above roof’ You stay on the roof 〈1, 2, 4, 5〉.
mői axt tàng paung mpuol ‘you stay at above roof’ You stay on the roof 〈1, 2, 3, 4, 5〉
mői axt tàng paung ‘you stay at above’ You stay up there 〈1, 2, 3, 4〉

In the first sentence paung ‘above’ functions as a preposition of location, with mpuol ‘roof’ as object of the preposition. In the second sentence paung functions simultaneously as the object of the preposition tàng ‘at’ and as a preposition of location, with mpuol ‘roof’ as object. In the third sentence paung functions only as object of the preposition tàng.

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data: paung ‘above’, purn ‘below’, clêi ‘behind’, mpûng ‘between’, clông ‘inside’, tiah ‘outside’.

14. Indefinite Locatives (indLoc). An indefinite locative is a general replacer word that can substitute for a locative phrase and functions like lèq ‘where’ in the following frames:
mői parq pa lèq ‘you go loc. where’ Where are you going?
cûrq taur dâng pa lèq mői parq ‘I not know loc. where you go’ I don’t know where you are going

This class is limited to two members: lèq ‘where, wherever’ and nlèq ‘where, wherever’.

15. Quantifiers (Q). A quantifier is any word that can occur by itself in the numeral slot of the substantive
phrase. \^2 l.e., it can occur in preposed attributive construction with classifiers.

This class has a limited membership, of which the following is a sampling. Complete lists will be given under the subclasses. *mua‘* 'one', *bar‘* 'two', *pai‘* 'three'. *poun‘* 'four', *nheq‘* 'all' *dou‘* 'every', *sa-owi‘* 'many (anything but people)', *beiq‘* 'few', *seiq‘* 'how many', *maléq‘* 'how much'.

This class is divided into the following subclasses: Counters (C), Numbers (Nu), and Quantitative Interrogatives (Qi).

15. 1. C. A counter is any quantifier that can occur preceding another counter or a number, but cannot follow a number.

This class has the following membership, which is complete for our data: *nheq‘* 'all', *cu‘* 'every', *dou‘* 'every', *sa-owi‘* 'many (anything but people)', *clúng‘* 'many (animates)', *biaq‘* 'few', *beiq‘* 'few', *khám‘* 'enough', *péq‘* 'sufficient', *num‘* 'enough', *mah‘* 'all', *máh kéi‘* 'all', *mahéi‘* 'all', *calowi‘* 'excessive', *póq‘* 'excessive', *sarlavrq‘* 'excessive', *mah‘* 'predominantly', *ôh‘* 'many; crowded', *ca‘* 'some'.

*môi èit nheq päi lám alic‘* 'you get all three Cl pig' *You get all three pigs*

15. 2. Nu. A number is any quantifier that can precede another number but cannot precede a counter. When a number precedes another number without an intervening number multiplier
(see 16. below) both numbers are in coordinate construction with one another.

This is a closed class with the following membership: muoi ‘one’, bar ‘two’, pāi ‘three’, poun ‘four’, sainng ‘five’, tapoāt ‘six’ tapul ‘seven’, tacual ‘eight’, takēh ‘nine’, tadei ‘half’.

mōi ēit bar pāi lām alic ‘you get two three Cl. pig’ You get two or three pigs

15. 3. Qi. A quantitative interrogative is any quantifier that cannot occur with any other quantifier. This class is composed of seiq ‘how many’, malēq ‘how much’, måh lēq ‘how much’.

mōi ēit seiq lām alic ‘you get how-many pigs’ How many pigs did you get?

16. Number Multipliers (NuM). A number multiplier is any word that occurs only as a bound adjunct to a quantifier.

This is a closed class with the following membership: chit ‘ten’, culām ‘hundred’, ngin ‘thousand’, vian ‘ten thousand’, irt ‘hundred thousand’, veu ‘million’, poan ‘ten million’, moq ‘hundred million’.

bar vian bar ngin bar culām bar chit la bar ‘two ten-thousand two thousand two hundred ten and two’ Twenty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-two.

17. <ōng>. Ōng ‘only’ is a one-word class that occurs only bound to a following noun.
ong mòi paqr 'only you go'  Only you go
paqr onga mòi 'go only you'  Go alone! (command)

18. Demonstratives (Dem). A demonstrative is any word that can fill the demonstrative slot in a substantive phrase.2

This class has a limited membership. The following is complete for our data: ki ‘that’, nái ‘this’, nái ‘here’, tih ‘there (relatively far)’, aki ‘there’, anái ‘this’.

mòi ət aluанг ki ‘you get tree that’ You get that tree

V. CONNECTIVES

19. Connectives (Con). A connective is any word that occurs between two verbs (when functioning as modifiers), two nouns, or two modifiers, to form a coordinate construction within a clause; or any word that occurs between two clauses and functions as a relator of the second clause to the first.

This class has a limited membership. The following list is complete for our data: cóp ‘and’, tòp ‘and’, máh ‘similar’, arróng ‘similar’, patoat ‘similar’, samoāt ‘similar’, samoāt samauri ‘similar’, machóng ‘same’, mpha ‘different’, ratoi ‘same’, ma ‘or’, neq ‘like this’.

mòi tág máh cürq tág ‘you do similar I do’ You do like I do
mòi ət acho cóp tariac cóp alic ‘you get dog and buffalo and pig’ You get a dog, a buffalo, and a pig.

20. Relators (Rel). A relator is any word that occurs
sentence initial and relates that sentence to the previous one.

This class has a limited membership. The following list is complete for our data: ngkîq ‘therefore’, ki ‘then’, nôq ‘then’ toâq ‘then’, la ‘then’, ma ‘but’. ki ‘then’ can also occur in combination with la, ma, and nôq to form complex relators.

curq sa-ôh moi, ki hâi rien. ‘I visit you, then we study’
I’ll come to visit you. Then we will study

21. Introducers (Intro). An introducer occurs only clause initial and introduces a subordinate clause in a conditional sentence. In this type of sentence the clause order may be reversed. This class has only two members: khân ‘if’, riang ‘if’.

khân curq tau bourn miaq, curq sa-ôh moi If I not have busy, I visit you’ If I’m not busy I’ll come to visit you

curq sa-ôh moi, khân curq tau bourn miaq ‘I visit you, if I not have busy’ I’ll come to visit you, if I’m not busy

22. (<la>). la is a one-word class that occurs between the number multiplier chît ‘ten’ and any one-syllable number in complex numeral constructions involving numbers eleven to fifteen. la also functions as a relator with the approximate meaning of ‘then’. It also occurs as a final particle.

mûoi culâm mûoi chît la bar ‘one hundred one ten and two’
One hundred and twelve

curq sa-ôh moi, la hâi rien ‘I visit you, then we study’
I’ll come to visit you. Then we will study

curq i sa-ôh moi la ‘I want visit you la’ I want to visit you
VI. MISCELLANEOUS PARTICLES

23. Final Particles (finPart). A final particle occurs only sentence final. This class has a limited membership, the following list being complete for our data. All forms carry the meaning of 'emphasis'. *mo, móh, dái, dáih, déh, mo* and *móh* occur only in negated sentences.

taur bōrn mo ‘not have emphasis’ No!

24. <lirq>. *lirq* ‘intensive’ is a one-word class that can fill the modifier slot in a substantive phrase. It can also function as an interrogative, depending on the context in which it occurs. When functioning as an interrogative it may or may not be accompanied with interrogative intonation. It can also stand alone as an affirmative response to a question or as an indication of agreement with what has just been said.

 ánki ariaih lirq ‘he chief inten.’ **He really is chief or Is he chief?**

 lirq ánki ariaih ‘inten. he chief’ **He really is chief or Is he chief?**

 ánki lirq ariaih ‘he inten. chief’ **He really is chief or Is he chief?**

25. <no>. The <no> class is composed of words which can function like *no* in the following set of transforms, in which 1 = actor, 2 = action, 3 = <no>. This class is limited to two members: *no ‘huh?, okay?’, dno ‘huh?, okay?*.

 möi táq no ‘you do okay’ **You'll do it, okay?** <1,2,3>
no mői tåq 'okay you do' You'll do it, okay? ⟨3,1,2⟩
mői no tåq 'you okay do' You'll do it, okay? ⟨1,3,2⟩
tåq no mői 'do okay you' You'll do it, okay? ⟨2,3,1⟩
* no tåq mői cannot occur.

VII. INTERJECTIONS

26. Interjections (Inj). An interjection is any word that must occur by itself without structural relationship to preceding or following forms.

This class comprises words such as ur 'exclamation', uri 'exclamation', áu 'oh!, my', ñq 'indication of agreement', or 'yes, I hear you', kih 'call attention to', ki 'interest response', ngkiq 'interest response', etc.

27. ⟨thoui⟩ thoui is a one-word class that functions as an interjection in that it can occur alone without any structural relationship with preceding or following forms. It can also occur within the sentence as a final particle. It can occur with or without a preceding la 'then'. thoui carries approximately the meaning of 'resignation to the circumstances'.

ntrou la thoui 'what then thoui' Whatever happens, okay!