

Chapter 7: Adverbs

INT Introducer particle

7.1 Introductory

Rigwe adverbs qualify verbs or other adverbs. In some expressions it is possible to have two adverbs following one another in order to intensify the meaning. Most ideophones are adverbial in character, and some examples are given here, but they are otherwise treated separately. Most adverbs are marked with obligatory introducer particles, such as *á* and *wé*. In some cases, *wé* seems to have an additional intensifier function as does the particle *maa*. Adverbs of time and place are marked with the particle *á*.

7.2 Place of the adverb in the sentence

The majority of adverbs obligatorily follow the verb they qualify. They can be fronted in the sentence or clause to create focus. A small minority of adverbs precede the verb when they are followed by the particle *ne*.

Following the verb;

á ɥa gbéɲmgbé
they went together

Fronted to indicate focus;

wé rǎŋ, áá ne
INT quietly he left
Quietly, he left

Preceding the verb;

wré quickly, at once

á ʼwré ne né ré ɲǝí
they quickly to depart to go
They quickly departed and went.

also

kò ʒʷɔ bíŋ wé
not he much have it not
He doesn't have much.

Adverbs that follow the verb can be divided into those with the introducer particle *wé* and those without. The main examples of those without are given in Table 1;

Table 1. Rigwe adverbs which follow the verb

| Rigwe | Gloss |
|--------------|--------------|
| gbáɲmgbá | long ago |
| gbàɲgráá | stubbornly |
| gbéɲmgbé | together |
| ɲgàá ɲû | alone |
| ní | like that |
| tijá | long ago |

Typical examples of these adverbs in use;

jà ñmgbà lédè 'í sra gbàñmgbá tíjá.
 a big pig PAST live long ago long ago.
 A very long time ago, there was a big pig.

á 'ya gbénmgbé
 they went together

à bí gbàngràá
 He behaves stubbornly

àá 'ya ñgàâ ñû
 He went alone

he re wê ní
 say they stop like that
 saying they should stop just like that

7.3 The Introducer *wé*

The use of *wé* to introduce adverbs is very common and it seems to be obligatory with some. However, in each case *wé* adds emphasis on the adverb. Typical adverbs with this strategy are given in Table 2;

Table 2. Rigwe adverbs taking *wé*

| Rigwe | Gloss |
|----------|------------------|
| ṁjêṁjê | quickly, at once |
| ʃɛ̃ɲ | slowly |
| jàń | much, a lot |
| rǎń | quietly |
| jéjérí | correctly |
| ríná | well, good |
| zè né né | now |
| dúdú | near |
| gbón | far |
| zénzè | distant |

Sentence examples are as follows;

àá 'né wé ṁjêṁjê ré ñzî
 he departed INT early to go
 he went early

The downstep preceding the first verb is a conventional tonal pattern after the first word. Some words have a downstep regardless of their position in the sentence or clause. This phenomenon causes a downdrift across the sentence with occasional upstep.

ñts'è 'ñná tó wé ʃɛ̃ɲ
 horse the run INT slowly
 the horse runs slowly

wé can be deleted in casual speech but will always be present in more formal discourse.

ʃɛ̃zì 'ñná [àá] kí tee [wé] jàń
 soldier the [he] him struck [INT] a lot
 The soldier beat him badly

àá ʰsra bè rǎŋ ñwé m̩e ñkà
 he sit down quietly PTCP counting message
 He sat down quietly, thinking

It is also possible to front *rǎŋ*, in which case the *wé* is obligatory;

wé rǎŋ, àá nɛ
 INT quietly he left
 Quietly, he left

àá ʰkí tiŋ [wé] jéjéí
 He him tell [s.t.] INT correctly
 He told him the truth

ɣa wé ʰriná
 Go INT well!
 [i.e. go in peace]

wé may also act as an optional intensifier

à bí [wé] ʰriná
 it is [very] good
 It's OK.

àá cɛ [wé] jàŋ
 He farmed [very] much

Examples where *wé* is not used;

| Rigwe | Gloss |
|-------------|--------------------|
| ʒʷɔ | much |
| tʃéntʃé | truly |
| wàwà | loud |
| riná | fine, good |
| ɣé | finish |
| wésà ne rʷé | without difficulty |

ʃʷɛ riná
 [it] smells good

àá ʰjé ʰɣé
 he eat completely
 He ate [it] completely.

àá ʰfó kpê wésà ne rʷéŋ
 he took put on head without with difficult[it]
 He lifted it to his head without any difficulty.

kò ʒʷɔ bíŋ wé
 not much have it not
 He doesn't have much

tʃɛntʃɛ, à' i kɪ tɪŋ
truly, he PAST him tell it
Truly, he told him.

he wàwà
speak loudly
Say it loud.

7.4 Fronting of Adverbs

Some adverbs that take the introducer *wé* may be fronted for focus. Table 3 below shows adverbs that can be fronted;

Table 3. Adverbs that permit fronting

| Rigwe | Gloss |
|----------------------|------------------|
| ɱjê ⁺ ɱjê | quickly, at once |
| ʃɛŋ | slowly |
| ɾɛŋ | quietly |
| ʒɛ né né | now |

Examples;

wé ⁺ɱjê⁺ɱjê, àá ⁺né ré ñzî
INT at once, he leave to go
Immediately, he departed to (the place).

wé ʒɛ né nê, né ŋ^wɛ já ⁺kí ŋ^wa
INT now, go you go him give
Right now, go and give it to him.

wé ʃɛŋ, àá ⁺já teú ⁺rí
INT slowly, he go arrive home
Slowly, he arrived home.

Table 4 shows a sample of those that cannot be fronted.

Table 4. Adverbs that do not permit fronting

| Rigwe | Gloss |
|--------|-------------|
| jàŋ | much, a lot |
| jéjérí | correctly |
| riná | well, good |
| dúdú | near |
| gbón | far |
| zénzé | distant |

7.5 Adverbs of time and place

Adverbs of time and place are typically marked with the introducer particle *á*, although this can often be deleted in casual speech. They follow the verb when not in focus but can be fronted to emphasise their significance. Typical adverbs of time with the introducer particle are given in Table 5;

Table 5. Rigwe adverbs of time

| Rigwe | Gloss |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| á rwi | yesterday |
| á teú | today |
| á èntèè | tomorrow |
| á r ^j eê | day after tomorrow |
| á r ^j eê | day before yesterday |
| á mèrĩ | after |
| á tènè | mid-day, noon |
| á zè né né | now |

Examples of these adverbs in use;

ñzě ì wie [á] rwi
 Rain PAST fell INT yesterday
 Rain fell yesterday

ñzĩ rí ɣa kàáwé á èntèè
 we will go market INT tomorrow
 We shall go to the market tomorrow.

à rí bè á r^jeê
 he will come INT day after tomorrow
 he will come the day after tomorrow

àá ì bè á r^jeê
 he PAST came INT day before yesterday
 he came the day before yesterday

ñzĩ tɛ́ɔ́ 'a 'ɲ^{wj}e kàâ á [ɲ]ɣé ɲú tɛ́ɔ́ be
 we will enter farming INT next month it will come
 We will begin farming next month.

ndzě ì cè wé jàń á r^jè
 I PAST farm intensifier too much INT last year
 I farmed too much last year

á já wré á tènè
 they come arrive INT noon
 They arrived around the middle of the day

Some adverbs of time do not take the introducer particle *á*, but instead they take *wé*, which adds emphasis. Examples;

wé [á zè] ne soon
 [wé] gbáɲmgbâ long ago

Some other adverbs of time are derived from nouns, where the noun takes a homorganic nasal prefix;

á [ɲ]ɣé within the month
 á [ɲ]r^jé within the year

The adverbial phrase *gàṣṣi* ‘from the beginning’ is derived from;

gà [since] *nín* [it] *ni* [do]

Some adverbs of time can only precede the verb. Examples;

á *teú* ní otú ²zrétĩ
INT today is day ²zrétĩ festival
Today is the ²zrétĩ festival

á *mèrĩ* ñké, ñú a ⁴né ré ñzĩ sèṅ
INT after this he then departed to go buy it
After this, he went to buy it.

Some exceptions are not preceded by á;

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| <i>ne</i> | before |
| <i>rĩfĩ</i> | yet |
| <i>wé ne</i> | as soon as |
| <i>wê zè né né</i> | now |
| <i>wíre</i> | before |
| <i>wré ne</i> | quickly |

Examples;

àá ⁴ní wê zè né né
He do [it] now
He has done it just now.

ñú a ⁴jé *wírí,* wíre ñú a ⁴tǽ ñkàn fě ⁴tsié ñú a fã.
he then eat completely before he then began issue pull (of) debt his his then
then he ate (it) all before he started talking about borrowing (money)

wíre in the above example is a discourse marker rather than an adverb.

wé ne ñwíe ‘a rí ñná, ²lédè é ⁴kí sé ne rèk’i,
just at the time enter into house the pig he him welcomed with joy,
As soon as he entered the house, pig welcomed him warmly

àá ⁴wré ne níṅ
he quickly at the time do it
He did it at once.

àá ⁴bé ne ñdzé rífi bé
he came at the time I yet come
he came before I did

Sequences of adverbs of time

Two adverbs may occur sequentially; an adverb can modify another adverb;

jà ñmgbá lédè’ ‘i sra *tijá.*
a big pig PAST live long ago.
A long time ago, there was a big pig.

jà ñmgbá lédè 'ì sra gbàṅmgbá tija.
 a big pig PAST live long ago long ago.
 A **very** long time ago, there was a big pig.

tija is the main adverb qualified by *gbàṅmgbá*. The two adverbs can be fronted in a clause with the meaning of 'once upon a time'.

gbàṅmgbá tija, ja ñnè 'ì srra
 long ago long ago, a man PAST live
 Once upon a time, there lived a man...

or

á 'ì sra gbàṅmgbá tija,
 they PAST live long ago long ago,
 Once upon a time,...

gbàṅmgbá can modify other time adverbs to make them more specific. Examples;

àá 'ì 'né gbàṅmgbá ñiêê
 he PAST leave long ago day before yesterday
 He left since two days ago.

àá 'ì 'bé gbàṅmgbá tènè r^{wi}
 he PAST come long ago noon yesterday
 He came since yesterday by noon.

7.5 Adverbs of place

Adverbs of place are almost always clause-final, and can be preceded by either introducer particle or nothing;

Table 6. Rigwe adverbs of place

| Rigwe | Gloss |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| [á] ṁv́á m'ê | left |
| [á] ṁv́á jíê | right |
| [á] t̥í | out, outside |
| [á] he | where |
| [á] yàrí | inside |
| [á] zètè | on top of, above |
| [á] tà ^m è | beneath |
| [á] bèbè | below |
| [á] bámbà | side |
| [wé] zénzè | far away |
| [wé] dúdú | close, near |
| gbón | far away |

Examples;

ya [á] ṁv́á m'ê
 turn INT left
 Turn left!

teɔ ré ɲí [á] ɲvá.ɲjê
 walk to go INT right
 Go towards the right

The adverbs ‘here’ and ‘there’ also take the introducer particle but with a falling tone.

[â] hé here
 [â] ʔjê there

Adverbs of place that do not take the optional á

à jɔ [wé] zénzɛ ré kɪ rɪ
 he stood far away to him see
 He stood, watching him from afar

àá ʔbé mí [wé] dúdú
 he brought it [very] close
 He brought near.

dʒúgɔ rí ʔekwé ñnà gbón
 Jugo see tree the far away
 Jugo saw the tree far away

The reversal optional introducer á

The adverb of place *tʃi* ‘outside’ naturally occur without the introducer particle *á*, but when the particle is added, it reverses the direction of the action. Example

Zóngó ʔwru tʃi
 Zonggo go outside
 Zonggo has gone outside.

Zóngó ʔwru [á] tʃi
 Zonggo go from outside
 Zonggo has come from outside.

7.6 Ideophonic adverbs

Ideophonic adverbs, those describing the way something happens, almost always follow directly the verb they qualify;

eri gû wròtòtò
 house fell wròtòtò

dʒùrrr describes s.t. flowing out through a big hole

bòhú tɛ́ɲcà tɔ dʒùrrr
 sack grain leak dʒùrrr
 The bag of grains leaks *dʒùrrr*

ʃɛʃɛ describes act of crushing s.t. fresh or live (fruit, snake, insect)

àá ʔmlé ñfè ñnà ʃɛʃɛ
he crush snake the ʃɛʃɛ
He crushed the snake ʃɛʃɛ

Rigwe has a rule that a pronominal object uses SOV word order, but the adverb is still in final position;

àá ʔkí mlé ʃɛʃɛ
he it crushed ʃɛʃɛ
He crushed him completely

Where the primary clause is followed by a locative expression, the ideophone still follows the main verb;

gòṅgòṅgò describes running water

ɾɿɿ tó gòṅgòṅgò á ñtfe
water flow gòṅgòṅgò inside river
Water flows gòṅgòṅgò in the river