Chapter 8: Conjunctions and co-ordination

8.1 Overview of conjunctions

Rigwe has a small number of conjunctions which are highly polysemous with respect to English. The conjunctions so far identified are;

Table 1. Rigwe conjunctions

Rigwe	Gloss
a	then
áha	because, for, so that, about
ɛ/a	then
gbáǹmgbá	since
gbéŋmgbé ʔní	yet
hɛ́rrí	even
ka	or
kúndu	if
ma	then
mɛ́dí	but
mí ne	with
ne	while, with, for, to, that, from, of, than, about, before, by
ŋ́mgbé	and, with, even
ŋ̀mgbé ne	and, with
ǹmgbé	so that, then, in order that, to
sé	until
sé ka	except
ʃĭ	as, like
wírè	then

a   then

Follows an initial head noun or pronoun

á	a	sra	á	jà	ɔtú,
they	then	live	on	some	day,

Then one day,

áha   because, for, so that, about

Table 2. Functions of *áha*

Gloss	Function
because/so that	begins a main clause of reason/purpose
for	joining words indicating possession
about	

Examples;

ǹdʒé	sɛ	krêdɛ	nê	áha	ŋ̄	ʍʲe
I	buy	book	this	so that	I	read

I bought this book so that I can read it

àá	ꜝnɛ́	ɾé	ǹʒí	áha	á	he	ne	ŋú	he	ɾè	be
he	went	to	go	because	they	say	to	him	say	he	come

Rigwe conjunctions

He went because he was told to go.

áha	rìɥɛ	jâ	ŋ́mgbé	ne	rìsì	ʃʷè
because	lack	food	and	with	water	drink.

due to lack of food and drinking water

ǹdʒé	ꜜjá	sɛ́	wêʌⱼè,	ʔjà	áha	ŋʷɛ̀,	ʔjà	áha	ǹdʒé
I	go	buy	two,	one	for	you,	one	for	me

I bought two, one for you, (and) one for me.

ǹdʒé	he	ǹkà	ne	ŋú	áha	ŋʷɛ̀
I	say	word	to	him	about	you

I talked to him about you.

bɾa   also, in addition

ʔlédè	ɛ	ꜜkí	ŋʷà,	ŋú	a	bɾa	ꜜkí	gaɾá	ŋ́kà
pig	then	him	gave,	he	then	also	him	put	word

pig gave him [money], and then warned him

àá	ꜜkí	ŋʷà,	ŋú	a	bɾá	he	ne	ŋú	he	rè	nɛ́
he	him	gave,	he	then	also	say	to	him	say	he	go

He gave it to him, then he also asked him to go

gbáŋ̀mgbá   since

à	ꜜ[g]ì	bè	gbáŋ̀mgbá	rⱼè	ǹtɛî
he	PAST	come	since	year	that

He came since two years ago.

N.B. *that* in the above example indicates a year before the last year.

gbéŋmgbé ʔní   yet

Introduces a fact, situation, or quality that is surprising after the previous statement;

Ìíʃé	ɲí	ńne	ǹtʃà,	gbéŋmgbé ʔní	n̄neɥí	gí	tʃe
Iishe	is	the	thief,	yet	people	like	him

hɛ́rrí   even

hɛ́rrí	ɲ̄ɲⱼɛ	jì	nɛ́ne	ne	kʷí
even	animals	bush	began	?	die

even the wild animals began to die

ka   or

Used between two words or phrases to show that either of two things is possible

Rigwe conjunctions

níŋ ⁺sɛ̂ wɔ̀ndɔ ka tágɔ
buy me trousers or shirt
Buy me a pair of trousers or a shirt.

ka tsʲé á ǹwʲé ʔbɛ́ɾí ʔlédè
or debt from place Mr. Pig
or borrow (money) from Mr. Pig.

kúndu if

Used to introduce conditional clauses;

he ne ŋú he ɾè bé, kúndu ŋú ʃî
say to him say he come, if he agree
Tell him to come, if he agrees

It can also be fronted, if the clause order is transposed for focus;

kúndu ŋʷɛ́ ⁺ɥa, ŋʷɛ [ɛ] he ne ŋú he ɾè bé
If you go, you then say to him say he come
If you go, tell him to come

kúndu ʔlédè ɾí ↓bé, ŋʷɛ́ ɛ he ne ŋú he ǹdʒé drɔ.
if pig will come, you then say to him saying I travel.
If pig comes, you should tell him that I have travelled.

ma then

ma n̄ ʃʷɔ n jáà tɕúgɾù a bè,
then I wake I myself turn upide down on ground
I will wake up and turn myself upside down,

mɛ́dí but

Introduces a negative clause and is either in sentence or clause-initial position;

á he ne ŋú he ɾè be, mɛ́dí à ɾá
they say to him say he come, but he refuse
He was told to come, but he refused.

mɛ́dí ǹdʒé tɕɔ́ ↓bé ɾí â brà tɛ̀nɛ.'
but I will come home at big mid-day.'
But I will come home by mid-day.'

mí ne with

bé mí ne ewé n̄nà á ǹwʲé ǹdʒé
come with child the to where I [am]
come along with the child to me

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Rigwe conjunctions

Table 3. Functions of ŋ́mgbé [ne]

Gloss	Function
and	joins two words, phrases or clauses
and/even	begins a subordinate clauses, it may take an optional particle [kɔ́]
with	joins words and phrases indicating co-existence of two things

ŋ́mgbé can be used to join two subjects, whether names or pronouns;

Example sentences;

pítà	ŋ́mgbé [ne]	jòhánnà	á	⁺nɛ́	ɍé	ǹʒí	jì
Peter	and	John	they	?	?	farm	go

Peter and John have gone to the farm

ŋú	ŋ́mgbe [ne]	ǹdʒé	n̄ʒí	⁺ɥa	ǹwʲé	ŋ̀gʷὲ
he	and	I,	we	go	place	chief

He and I, we have gone to see the chief

In a more complex example, it can join the primary clause to a subordinate clause, so the sense is 'together with' or 'along with';

ŋú	a	⁺nɛ́	ne	be	ŋ́mgbé [ne]	gà	n̄ne	⁺ŋú	ʒʷɔ́ʒʷɔ́
he	then	begin	to	worry	and [with]	all	people	his	all

Then he began to worry together with all his people.

A related conjunction, *ŋ̀mgbé*, but with a different tone, conveys a stronger sense of sequentiality;

Table 4. Functions of ŋ̀mgbé

Gloss	Function
to/so that	1. joins phrases and clauses to provide a reason for the main action
	2. follows [áha] 'because' to give additional information on a reason
then	joins clauses to tell a subsequent action

Examples;

cá	à	ɲí	ŋʷʲeè	n̄ʒí	be	ŋ̀mgbé	n̄ʒi	gí	jé	ḿbè
thing	it	is	that	we	come	so that	we	him	eat	ground

That is why we have come to worship him.

àá	ɥa	áha	ŋ̀mgbé	ŋu	já	gì	fɔ̂
he	went	in order	that	he	go	him	take

He went (so that) to take him.

[kɔ́]	ŋ́mgbḗ [ne]	ŋʷɛ́	ʒímè,	kɔ	ŋʷɛ́	ɍɛ	⁺wɛ́
even	with	you	Zhime,	not	you	least	not

Even you Zhime, you are not the least.

á	ʒè	ne	ŋú	ʃʷɔ	ɍé	be	dudu,	ŋ̀mgbé	ɛmʲɛ	ńnà	⁺[à]á	hɍu
at	time	when	he	move	to	come	near,	then	bird	the	it	fly

When he came closer, then the bird flew away.

à	ʃĭ	ŋ́mgbé	dὲ	ŋù
he	is	with	mother	his

He is with his mother.

Rigwe conjunctions

à tʃĭ tʃìntʃì ǹmgbê ŋʷɛ fɔ́ m̀brù gìmbé ŋʷɛ̂
it is taboo [for]that you take wife brother your
It is a taboo for you to marry your brother's wife.

ǹmgbé ŋʷɛ ɛ nɛ́ ne níŋ halí ńcà á ʍʲè ǹdʒé.
then you then begin to it grind grain on stomach me.
then you will begin to grind grain on (it) my stomach.

ǹmgbé ne   and with

ne   while, with, for, to, that, from, of, than, about, before, by

Table 5. Functions of *ne*

Gloss	Function
and, with	joins two or more nouns, pronouns or clauses
to	joins a verb and a noun or pronoun
to	joins two demonstratives
while	joins two clauses together to indicate simultaneous action
about	
before	

Conjoining two pronouns;

ǹké ne ǹké ǹtɕî á ʃĭ kàŋká
this and this that they are different
this and that are different

kɔ́ɔ́ tʃĭ ŋ́kʷìlɛ ne ŋû wɛ́
not-she put attention to him not
She did not pay attention to him

à he ne m̄bé he ɾe nɛ́
he said to them said they go
He told them to go

ne can join two clauses, with broadly that sense of 'that';

[à] ɲí ńdá ŋú tʃĭ ne ɲí ɾá bé ɛ̀ɛ̀?
it is what it cause and you refuse come QM
Why is it that you refuse to come?

àá níŋ he ǹkà ne ŋʷɛ̂
he me say word about you
He spoke to me about you

Where the sentence is marked for negative, *ne* can have the sense of 'nor';

kɔ́ɔ́ bɾâ ʃʷɔ̀ŋ ne cɛ̀ŋ wɛ́
not he replied red nor white not
he replied 'neither red nor white'
An idiom meaning 'he did not say anything'.

Rigwe conjunctions

sé   until N.B. probably < Hausa

kɔ̀   tɕɔ́   ꜜbé   tɕú   wɛ́   sɛ́   èŋ́tɕè̀   ꜜwíɾê
not he   v. aux. FUT   come   today   not   until   tomorrow   before
He will not come today, until tomorrow

sɛ́   ǹdʒé   ɾí   ꜜjá   nìŋ   brú
until   I   v.aux FUT   LOC   it   return
Until I come back

sé ka   except

Follows a negative statement, reflecting the truth-condition of the dependent clause;

kɔ̀   ʃi   ŋʷɛ   huŋ   cɛ́ŋ̄   wɛ,   sé ka   [kúndu]   ǹzè   ´[=ŋú]   wʲè   wíɾê
not   will   you   know(to)   farm(it),   except   [if]   rain   it   fall   before
You can not cultivate it, except when it rains

ʃĭ   as, like

ˀnɛ   ʃĭ   ʃĭ   ne   ɥ̥ɛ
sun   is   as   like   moon
the sun is like the moon
This looks like a verb to me

wíɾè 'then, next, after that'

wíɾè   ǹdʒé   ɛ   he   ne   ŋú   he   ɾè   nɛ́
then   I   PART   say   to   him   say   he   go
then I told him he should go

wiɾe   bɛɾi   ˀlede   ɛ   ja   wɾɛ   fa.
then   Mr.   Pig   then   go   arrive   then.
Then Mr. Pig arrived.

7.7 The intensifier *maa*

maa is an intensifier which goes with verbs of action and implies continuing until the act is completed. Unusually it seems to be able to change place in the sentence, become divorced from the verb it qualifies. Both these sentences have the same meaning;

àá   ꜜtɕo   hɛ́ɾí   àá   maa   já   tɕû
he   walk   until   he   INTS   go   reach
he carried on walking until he got there

or;

àá   ꜜmaa   tɕo   hɛ́ɾí   já   tɕû
he   TIME SP   walk   until   go   reach
he carried on walking until he got there.

If *maa* precedes a word with downstep, the downstep will shift leftwards.

Rigwe conjunctions

àá ꜛkí ꜛtɕé hérí àá ꜛmaa kí ꜛ u̜ ɛ́

he him beat until he point when him killed

He beat him until he killed him.

àá ꜛɲi ɾuhú hérí àá ꜛmaa já ꜛhú

he did sickness until he point when go die

He was sick all the time until the point when he died.

àá ꜛɲi ɾuhú hérí ɾé ꜛbé ʒè ne ŋú ꜛmaa já ꜛhú

he did sickness until to come time that he point when go die

n̄ʒí ꜛʃǐ wê hé nê̜ wíɾe ŋú ꜛmaa nɛ́

we are just here this before he point when depart

We were here even before he left.