

CONJUNCTIONS AND CO-ORDINATION IN TAROK

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 1
4. SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTIONS 5
REFERENCES 5

TABLES

Table 1. Tarok conjunctions 1

1. Introduction

Table 1 shows the conjunctions so far identified in Tarok.

Table 1. Tarok conjunctions

Tarok	Gloss	Comment
ḃén k-	because of...	The vowel and tone following k- assimilates to the prefix of the following noun.
hár	until	< Hausa
k-	with, and	The vowel shows concord and tonal agreement with the following noun-prefix. The particle is used together with number nouns aman ‘addition of’ and isòm ‘multiple of’ in composite number.
kakúl	because	
kang	and/but	
té	when, then	narrative conjunction particle (then) linking one part of a story to another
ki...pi	with	Brackets noun
kpá	also	
mo té	maybe, perhaps	
pa	like that, as that	used to make comparisons
wa, w-	like	The vowel can assimilate to the prefix of the following noun.

ḃén k- because of...

The vowel and tone following k- assimilates to the prefix of the following noun.

uTali ḃén kù ùyèn wò kang à pá ilùkwàn
 Tali because child his before he wear shirt
 Tali was able to wear a shirt because of his child (i.e. the child supported him).

uTali ḃén ká mmayi kang à gbál amanta
 Tali because we before he finish school
 Tali was able to finish school because of us (i.e. we supported him through).

uTali ḃén ko ocar wò te, arizàng bíbén á ná
 Tali because wives his that Rainy-season good for him
 Tali was able to have a good harvest because of the help of his wives (i.e. his wives have been most supportive).

uTali ḃén ki iva wò kang a ba cu nzhi
 Tali because dog his that he came reach home
 Tali was able to return home because of the help of his dog (i.e. his instrumental to his safe return).

hár, hál until

I lòk òkpàng | hál | á yál i rí kang i gà.
 We waited porridge | until | it cook we ate before we went-away.
 We waited until the porridge cooked we ate before leaving.

Bu **lòk** **mi** | **hál** | **mi** **wóng** **nzhi** **kang** **i** **gà.**
 You-will wait me | until | I close-for home before we go.
 You have to wait for me to close from work before we can go.

k- with, and

The vowel shows concord with the following noun-prefix.

n **tat** **agúng** **̀nzhi** **kí** **ìwàr**
 I shot derelict house with arrow
 I shot against the derelict house with an arrow.

n **tat** **agúng** **̀nzhi** **ká** **ashár**
 I kicked derelict house with foot
 I kicked the wall with my foot.

Assimilation with any central vowel in the stem is with the neutral central vowel a:

̀Ùjùlcít **yár** **̀ngbàt** **ká** **̀ndàkal.**
 Julcit carry pot and mat.
 Julcit carried a pot and a mat.

̀ùTali **wur** **ován** **ká** **ngbát**
 Tali carry pl. children with pots
 Tali and the children carried the pots.

̀ùTali **kú** **̀ùPài** **cíng.**
 Tali and Pai run away pl.
 Tali and Pai ran (away).

k- also forms composite numbers for higher numerals together with **aman** ‘addition, plus’ and **isəm** ‘multiple’

̀ùgbápci **(ká)** **aman** **pá** **shádəng.**
 ten and addition of three
 ten plus three i.e thirteen

isəm **pi** **ipàróm** **(ká) aman** **pá** **pàróm.**
 ten of two (and) addition of two
 twenty-two

The conjunction is optional. Further shortening can take place as in these examples;

nzhizhi **pá** **ngbápci** **aman** **pá** **shádəng.**
 House-his of ten plus of three.
 He has thirteen houses.

nzhi **pá** **ngbáci** **ashádəng.**
 House-his of ten of-three.
 Thirteen houses.

I took five measures of melon to my in-laws.

kpá...[kpá] also, too

kpá is placed in a variety of positions in a clause or sentence. An example of sentence-final position is;

n yil té, á càng ñyil á ná kpá
I laugh then it be sweet laughing to him also
When I laughed, so did he.

It can be copied between the first and second clausal elements;

uzi i wá òmóng kpá kang i wá ñcè kpá
he HAB drink gruel also and he drink beer too
He drinks *kunnu* but he also drinks beer.

U bá cít kpá té î le ñzəng.
You come already too then we-will return together.
Since you have already come, we shall go back together.

mo té maybe, perhaps

mo té can either conjoin clauses or can be fronted for emphasis;

ùzá là pa, mo té ò bá ìpín ñggò té, kát té ñlomò
he say that maybe he come tomorrow doubt then not then day after tomorrow
He said that maybe he will come tomorrow or the next day.

The particle **ñggò** expresses doubt about intentions and adds to the emphasis on uncertainty

Mo té, mmabú na u wur akwàp mi ðakbo?
May be you-are one who took shoes mine is-it?
Perhaps it was you who took my shoes?

pa like, as

té when, then

ùzá bá té, á là pa i gà
he reached then he said INTR we go
When he came, he said that we should go together with him.

O gà o cú ñZhàn té, o lòk mi ka tà.
You go yo reach Gerkawa then, you wait me at there.
u

When you reach Gerkawa wait for me there.

Ma la a na pa upupon ku. Té, uza túl ka aying.
They told to him that his-father died. Then he burst in crying
People told him that his father had died. Then he burst into tears.

wa, w- like

Ipəri i nəm ikum wi ina kát.

