# CONJUNCTIONS AND CO-ORDINATION IN TAROK 

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## 1. Introduction

Table 1 shows the conjunctions so far identified in Tarok.
Table 1. Tarok conjunctions
Tarok Gloss bén k- because of... hár until k- with, and

| kakúl <br> kang <br> té | because <br> and/but <br> when, then |
| :--- | :--- |
| ki...pi | with |
| kpá | also |
| mo té | maybe, perhaps |
| pa | like that, as that |
| wa, w- | like |

## Comment

The vowel and tone following k - assimilates to the prefix of the following noun.
$<$ Hausa
The vowel shows concord and tonal agreement with the following nounprefix. The particle is used together with tnumber nouns aman 'addition of' and ìsд̀m 'multiple of' in composite number.
narrative conjunction particle (then) linking one part of a story to another
Brackets noun
used to make comparisons
The vowel can assimilate to the prefix of the following noun.
bén $k$ - because of...
The vowel and tone following k- assimilates to the prefix of the following noun.

| uTali | bén kù | ùyèn | wò | kang | à | pá | ìlùkwàn |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 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 bén ká mmayi kang à gbál amanta
Tali because we before he finish school

Tali was able to to finish school because of us (i.e. we supported him through).
uTali bén ko ocar wò te, arìzàng bíbén á $\quad$ 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 | bén 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 | ǹkpàng | hál | á | yál | $\mathbf{i}$ | 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 ǹzhí kí ìwàr

I shot derelict house with arrow
I shot against the derelict house with an arrow.

| n | tat | agúng | ǹzhí | ká |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 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 $\underline{\text { a }}$

| ÙJùlcít | yár | ǹgbòt | ká | ǹdàkal. <br> 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 $\quad$ kú
ùPàì
Tali cíng.
Tali and
Pai ran
(away).
$\mathbf{k}$ - also forms composite numbers for higher numerals together with aman 'addition, plus' and ìsə̀m 'multiple'

| ùgbápci | (ká) | aman | pa | shádəng. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ten | and | addition | of | three |

ten plus three i.e thirteen

| ìsə̀m | pi | ipàrə́m | (ká) aman | pa | pàróm. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ten | of | two | (and) addition | of | two |
| twenty-two |  |  |  |  |  |

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

| nzhizhi | pa | ngbapci | aman | pa | shádəng. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| House-his of | ten | plus | of | three. |  |


| nzhí | pa | ngbaci | ashádəng. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| House-his | of | ten | of-three. |

Thirteen houses.

| nzhí | ìsə̀m | pi | ipàróm | (ká) aman | pa | pàrám. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| houses | multiple | of | two | (and) addition | of | two |
| twenty-two houses. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| nzhí | ìṡ̀m | pâpàr |  |  |  |  |
| houses | multiple | twenty-two |  |  |  |  |
| twenty-two houses. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

A compound sentence can consist of two main clauses joined by the same k - coordinating conjunction:

| n | gà | pá | kòlák | káng | ká | ǹnà | kpá | té, | n | gà | n | yá | ná | kát |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| I | went | INTR | quick | but | with | it-is | too | then, | I | go | I | see | him | not | I went there on time, but I missed him all the same.

## kang and/but

| ùwà | kun | kpá | kang | ùwà | fam | kpá. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| It-is-he | poor | also | and | It-is-he | proud | also | It-is-him that is poor as well as proud.


| ùwà | kùn | kpá | kang | ùwà | cang | acen | kpá. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| It-is-he | scarce | also | but | it-is-he | likes | journey | also |

It-is-him that is unavailable but he is the one that likes travelling.
kakúl because, for the sake of
kakúl usually is placed after the main verb and introduces the dependent clause;

```
ùzá cír kákúl pá ayáng i gbál wò
he run because that hunger will kill him
```

He ran for fear of dying because of food shortage
However, it is possible to front it, when emphasis is required;

| kákúl | wó | nà | n | lé, | kát | té | ká | ń | ga | ǹggà | ìkù |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| because | you | that | I | return, | not | then | should | I | go | going- <br> of | as-if-dead |

It is for your sake that I returned, if not I should have gone forever.
A wrong tone on ìkù is deliberately employed as a rhetorical device to cushion the effect of a direct reference to absconding or death.
(ǹzəng) k'....pi along with, together with
(ǹzong) k-....pi brackets the conjoined noun but young people are changing tit o k'....ki in their speech.

| m | bá | kí | ivá | pi | ìpàróm |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| I | come | with | dogs | with | two |
| I came with two dogs. |  |  |  |  |  |


| $\mathbf{N}$ | gà | ká | azúl | ikpáng | pi | itúkún | ôgwár | mi. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| I | took | with | melon | calabash | of | five | to-in-laws | mine. |

I took five measures of melon to my in-laws.
kpá...[kpá] also, too
kpá is placed in a variety pf positions in a clause or sentence. An example of sentence-final position is;

| n | yil | té, | á | càng | ǹyil | 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;


| U | bá | cít | kpá | té | î | le | ǹzong. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 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, | moté | ò | bá | ìpín | nggò | té, | kát | té | ǹlomò |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 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 nggò expresses doubt about intentions and adds to the emphasis on uncertainty

| Mo té, | mmafú | na | u | wur | akwàp | mi | dakbo? |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 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 | ǹZhàn | té, | o | lòk | mi | ka | tà. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| You | go | yo | reach | Gerkawa | then, | you | wait | me | at | there. |

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.

Horse it do fight like bull not The horse is not as aggressive as the bull.

N rong pa mi ban na ban kang mmami ka nwa nzam na pa mwang. I thought I might catch up with him but it was in vain.

## 4. Serial verb constructions

Tarok allows serial verb constructions (SVC) although the long strings of verbs found in southern languages such as Igbo and Yoruba do not usually occur. SVCs are a common way of expressing sequencing of two events;

| akə̀ri | fál | gà | arán |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| soup | boil | go | over the brim |

The soup boiled and spilled over
Ìpəripəri cir rú gwak té a wuwóng ka dí
his horse run fall gwak then it get up again His horse ran and fell gwak and then got up again.

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