

Grammar write up 24/2 1982

The Noun Phrase

The NP can consist of a noun as head of the NP with possible attributives, or of a pronoun. There is concord within the NP in that all (?) attributives take the same prefix as the Head Noun (prefix here symbolised C-), and also concord between NPs and NP complement
subject

Nouns

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Nouns have a singular and a plural form, both of which take a prefix. According to the prefixes, nouns can then be divided into classes. There is some semantic correlation between most of the nouns within each noun class. This numbering follows mostly Dr. Stevensons:

Noun class	1:	bale:da	- chief	b-	
	2:	ale:da	-chiefs	Ø-	
	3:	bi:ra	- tree	b-	
	4:	gira	- trees	g-	
	5:	dagø	- toe	a-	
	6:	magø	- toes	m-	
	7:	ga	- body	g-	
	8:	wa	- bodies	w-	
	9:	dabå	- valley	d-	
	10:	rabå	- valleys	r-	
	11:	wa:bi	- 1p. of meat	w-	
	12:	gabi	- meat	g-	
?	13:	galabi	- bird	g-	
	14:	nalabi	- birds	n-	
	15:	lam:e	- bone	l-	
	16:	lam:e	- bones	l-	
	17:	liggi	-sun, day	l-	
	18:	miggi	- days	m-	
	19:	dim:i	-breast	d-	
	20:	gim:i	- breasts	g-	
	21:	någgåre	- nights	n-	
	22:	måggåre	- nights	m-	
	23:	sagataj-basket, tarabeese,-table, librik-jar			s-,t-,l-
	24:	magataj marabeese mibrik			m-

In addition to nouns that have no plurals and therefore perhaps may be grouped together, there are a number of exceptions:
Baar-rijasr - man, ba:ri - rija:ri, woman, wa - eregu-cow, gu:r:u - u:r:u - ostrich, mwi (muwi?) - gim:i - goat, wi-wuwi-wind, mwu:tu - Wu:tu - horse, Ne:re - we:re - wood, gake:r:u, rake:r:u, -dog, iaba:r - ba:r -river.

* Orthography for the purpose of this write up:
 å = ɔ, ø = ə, d = ɔ̃, g = ŋ, d = d̃, t = t̃, l = l̃, n = ñ
 retroflex.

Others

The following attributives have not yet been classified:

another, others: *ɛalu ɛalu ɛala* - another book, 2.10

few: *rã:ma ja:ra* - few houses } may take a-

many: *Rã:ma ru:m* - many houses }

which? *dã:ma dia* - which house?,

how much/many: *Gurus jãdinã* , how much money?. However, when appearing in an NPo, it is followed by a further *Cã: eregu*

jãdinã jãpegã - how many cows do you have? 2.25

Word order would seem to be:

? Noun, Poss. dem. which?, adj, "very", gen., numerals, quantities
how many?

The Q.mark refers to phrases like *aderagãná dã:ma ge nadã* - a house built of stone, which hasn't been analysed yet.

Noun Phrase Attributives take prefixes according to the following chart:

		<i>(*this)</i>	dem.that which?, num. 1-5	Adjectives +others/anoth.		<i>meaning?</i>
	Noun prefix	possess. genitiv	ordin.w. How many	+ a	+ a	existing, Ar. "fii"
<i>bu:r</i>	b-	mb-	b-	ap-	b-	ãmbe
<i>da:bã</i>	d-	nd-	d-	at-	d-	ãnde
<i>gi:ra</i>	g-	gg-	g-	ak-	g-	ãgge
<i>ma:ga</i>	m-	m:-	m-	am -	m-	ãm:e
<i>nelabi</i>	n-	n:-	n-	an-	n-	ãn:e
<i>galabi</i>	g-	g:-	g-	ag-	g-	ãg:e
<i>ɛaga</i>	ɛ-	ɛ:-	ɛ-	ae-	ɛ-	ãe:e
<i>ra:bã</i> <i>+iaãggare</i>	r-	ri:-	r-	ar-	r-	ãr:e
<i>liggi</i>	l-	lq-	l-	at	l	ãlqe
<i>qamme</i>	q-	qt-	q-	aq-	q-	ãq:e
<i>wa:bi</i>	w-	w:-	w-	aw-	w-	ãw:e
<i>ã:r</i>	ã-	j:-	j-	aj-	j-	ãj:e
<i>sagataj</i>	Zero					
<i>gurus</i>	loan-	j:-	j-	aj-	j-	ãj:e
<i>lepun</i>	words					

Pronouns

Personal pronouns are : *ãgi*, -1 sg, *ãgu*, -2 sg, *ãgã* -3sg (male and female) *ãgãri* -1dual, *ãgãrà* - 1 pl excl., *ãgãrà tã* - 1 pl incl., *ãgãge* - 2 pl, *ãge* - 3 pl.

When the NPs is a pronoun, it appears to be obligatory only if followed by a NPC, or if the VP contains no subject marker.(?)

e.g. *ãgi burpaba:r* - I'm a man, but (*ãgi*) *baleda ke* - I'm a chief, 1.25

Pers. pron in NPo are not always used when the object's identity is obvious. Object pron. seem very complex and have not been satisfactorisly analysed yet.

~~Demonstrative~~ pronouns are *mi*-this, *ã* and *meti* - that.

Possessive pronouns: as pers. pron. are used the attributive ones: *ɛalu ɛalu dã:bi?* - *ɛi!* - whose book? mine! 3.17

who? *ã:bi* , sg, *ã:bige* - pl.

what: *ja/i* 1.9, 2.56

The Verb Phrase

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A verb is head of the Verb Phrase. It may be preceded by the prefix a-, which seems to denote "news", probably a feature of a higher level. Cp. adjectives.

2 verbs may occur together:
akâ gadâte ragâ - 3.3. he finishes eating.

6 forms of verbs can be distinguished: Infinitive (I. also functions as a noun, e.g. gi:r nâ ju - drinking water), present tense, past tense, future, imperative, exhortative, (and ?continuous?.)

Verbs can be divided into two main types:

1. those whose infinitive end in a consonant + e, ("C-stems") (not monosyllables)
2. others ("V-stems")

For Type 1 the Verb Stem is the infinitive +e, whereas for type 2 the verb stem is the whole infinitive (imp. -ø?)

e.g. Type 1: gadât/e, 3.3, Type 2: gerâ/- to buy

ðæzttz

Present Tense

The following morphemes occur before the verb stem, but after the optional prefix a- :

1 sg	2sg	3sg	1dual	1pl incl	1plexcl	2pl	3pl
ki	ka	kâ*	kaŋi	kaŋâ	kegi	kagâ	ke+

* (a)ki and the verb stem may be separated by the NPs if this is a noun. If so, kâ and ke (3 sg and pl.) become ka:

aka gadâ ga gâŋi - this stew will be good, 3.24

The present tense is often used in a future sense, probably then with an obligatory Temporal Phrase: aki nâ garadâ:bi dâ:ma - I will see the house tomorrow, 1.41.

Past tense

Past tense takes the optional prefix a-, and the following obligatory suffixes:

	1 sg	2 sg	3 sg	1dual	1pl incl	1pl excl	2 pl	3 pl
Type 1:	-i	-u	-â	-eti	-etâ	-egi	-egâ	-e
Type 2:	-ri	-ru	-nâ	-ŋi	-ŋâ	-ŋi	-ŋâ	-ŋe

Future tense

The following morphemes occur before the verb stem, but after the optional prefix -a:

1 sg	2 sg	3 sg	1 dual	1 plexc	1pl inc	2 pl	3 pl
kiŋdi	kaŋda	kâŋdâ	kaŋdaŋi	kaŋdaŋâ	kaŋdegi	kaŋdagâ	keŋde

This seems to have the meaning "afterwards": aki rakâ kiŋdi
law dabâ - I wash, and then I go out., 3.20

Imperative

For imperative is used the infinitive, although many verbs of Type 2 take -ø as their final vowel. Plural is expressed by the suffix -nâ, e.g. ðandegâ - lie down, all of you! 2.23. "Do not" is ma + imperative, do not pl. magâ + imperative, e.g. magâ blekâ:te - do not run, all of you!

Let me go: bânitiŋi ki law 2.57

Let us 2 go: bânitegiŋi kagâ law 2.57

let him go: bânitebedi kâ law 2.57

Exhortative

is expressed by the suffix -tã for 1[?] dual and pl:

raga:tã - let's eat . 3.1

(a:qi let's go, 2.1 ?)

"Continuous"?

mbe, mba, mbã, pe, pa, pã for sg and nde, nda, ndã, te, ta tã for plural seem to ~~xxxxxx~~ set of prefixes which may denote some kind of continuous sease.

Verbsin Why? clauses *Also what? who? where?*

Why can be expressed by da or ja q(i) (dep. on Subj.person) ma, followed by VP which is without the prefix a-.

e.g. Já ñi ma ki te - why do I cook? 3.50

da te:ru - why did you cook? 3.52

With negated verbs, however, the following prefixes occur before the infinibive. Note that past tense has no suffixes.

1 sg	2 sg	3 sg	1 dual	1 pl incl.	1 pl excl	2 pl	3 pl	
deme	dema	demã	dema:ti			demaga	deme	-pastt.
li	la	lã	la:ti			lagã	le	-pres.t.

e.g. Já nu ma la q:a - why don't you come, 3.49
 ta demã te - why didn't you cook,

Special cases.

Certain verbs appear to need a following word/clitic:

bedi:te dã/da - to hear, listen

kindrate ma - to want (when followed by (new verb))

ari ma - to say

gar:aga: qi ma - my name is...

some verbs take ja in present tense:

aki mijã - I sing

"To have"

Present tense:

1 sg	2 sg	3 sg	1 dual	1pl(i+E)	2 pl	3 pl
qi	qu	qã	qeti	qetã	qegã	qe

An alternativ to this present tense, with a slightly different meaning, possibly used instead of "a:ri", is "Ugi be:ne (be:ne for all p sg, de:ne for all p. pl.) However, Ugi be:ne seems to be used only for possessions.

Future tense:

1 sg: a:ki:qi qa - I shall have, with qa being constant for all persons/numbers, and x prefixes as for other verbs in future tense.

Past tense:

qa a:ri, wãk - I had, with qa being constant for all persons/numbers and a:ri as in past tense of "to go", see below.

The verb qi/qa is used in a number of senees:

possession: sagataj qi - I own a basket

"states": lwi:ñi - I am hungry, lia: ñi gãti - I am happy,
 gaje qã - he is ill.

emotion: a ñi glak:ke - I like, love, want

Name: gar:aga:ñi ma ... - My name is ..

age: rabø bu:rʔø ʔi - I am twenty years old
 timespan: miti wânâ ʔi wâwigʔr:i - I came five months ago
 price: galam agi ʔâ gurus ju:m (?) - this pen is expensive

The verbs for go need much clarification yet, but

are:â and law & present tense

a:ri (stem:a-) = past tense

imp. sg. aw and ma ʔa, pl. a:gâ

a:ri ~~xxx~~ provides a past tense marker for 'to have' and 'to be' (see below), and is also used in a:ri nâmade, I slept/went to sleep.

Stative clauses

According to their ~~xxxxxx~~ way of changing ^{form} from one tense to another, plus presence/absence of stative verb, stative clauses can be divided into 4 types. It would seem that ga is an underlying form in all types.

Present tense

<u>Type 1.</u>	1 sg	2 sg	3 sg	2dual	1 pl	2 pl	3 pl
+NPs +ga	ge	ga	gâ+	gaʔi	gaʔâ	gagâ	ge+

+3 sg and 3 pl become ga when followed by NPs, NPc or LP of its own clause.

The verb is used obligatorily in the present tense when the stative clause denotes profession, location, time (+ nâmade), and in other stative clauses, when NPs is absent

e.g. gre ga galam - where is the pen? 3.11
 aʔe:da ge - they are chiefs 1.26
 mâ ga etama - when is the meeting 2.16
 bu:m gâ - he is big

Type 2. When the stative clause consists of a NPs and a NPc, there is not normally a VP. If NPs is a common noun, this type of clauses are therefore indistinguishable from single NP.
 dâ:ma ata:ra - small haouse, the house is small, 1.41.
 âgi bije - I'm unwell, 3.32. g
 gøne(ga)jite - those are mothers
 Åge gøde (ge) - they are fathers

Type 3 For "presentation", "it is", "this is", gai is used. gai remains the same with sg. and pl., pos and neg. There is no e.g. ʔi:r ʔaj - this is water, 1.10 past og future t.
 âgi gai - this is me, 3.38
 de galam gai ʔi - this is not a pen, 1.14
 rakeru gai, - these are (it is) dogs 3.37
 ngwi gâʔi (gai) - this is good milk, 3.21

Type 4

There is (available?), Arabic "fii", is expressed with the noun followed by âCCe/ âC:e: ʔ gwi âg:e, there is milk, 3.33, da:bâ ânde, there is a valley, 3.33. As âCCe/âC:e takes C as Noun Phrase attributives, one would ~~xx~~ reckon it to be part of the NPs. âCCe/âC:e is absent in other tenses, when a verb is present.

Past tense

Types 1,2, and 4 express past tense with (a)ga a:ri.

Type 1: dâ:ma ga a:ri - I was at home 3.23

etama g etama ga a:pâ(aki)- the meeting was (yesterday) 3.37

Baŋeda ga a:pâ - he was a chief, 3.37

aga a:pâ bu:m - he was big, 3.23

Type 2: Ŋi:r aga a:pâ gâ:ri:ri - the water was clean, 3.16

Type 4: aga a:pâ Ŋwi - there was milk, 3.33

Future tense:

Types 1,2, and 4 express future with(a)ki (also (a)kiŋdi?):

Type 1: a ki ga dâ:ma - I will be at home, 3.24

etama akâ ga garadâ:bi - the meeting will be tomorrow,

akâ ga baŋe:da - he will be a chief

akâ ba bâ:ti - he will be well, 2.24

Type 2: aka gadâ ga gâ:ti - the stew will be good, 3.24

Type 4: aka gwi ga - there will be milk, 3.38