

## A SKETCH OF NISSAN (NEHAN) GRAMMAR

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Nissan is spoken on a small group of islands (Green Is.) located between New Ireland and Bougainville (North Solomons Province) in Papua New Guinea. The wordlists of Mayr and Dempwolff (1929) and of Capell (1971) have already established that Nissan is in the Oceanic division of Austronesian, but although the Austronesian languages of New Ireland seem the most likely close relatives, its immediate affiliations are not clear. The present study of this little-known language is based entirely upon written materials obtained through correspondence with a native-speaker with no supporting taperecordings or fieldwork.<sup>1</sup> It is offered therefore simply as an introduction to the language, to facilitate further study. And because of the nature of the materials, only a few general remarks will be made about phonological matters. The main focus of this study will be on syntax. The appendices (pp. 1217-26 and 1227-38) offer some texts and a brief lexicon.

### PHONOLOGY

We are reasonably confident that the phonemic inventory is as follows:

p	t	k	
b	d	g	
m	n	ng	
	l		
	r		
	s		h
w		y	
i		u	
e		o	
	a		

The orthography used in our written materials does not show any significant deviation from that of the published wordlists of Mayr and Dempwolff, or Capell. Our correspondent has used w and u interchangeably in some forms, presumably for non-syllabic sounds.

The most common syllable structure is (C)V, with (C)VC finally and initially (in reduplication only). There are a few cases of vowel sequences, but we do not know if these should be regarded as unit diphthongs or as V syllables. Examples of these syllable types are given in the following words.

lo	'dog'	pukpuk	'crocodile'
kih	'rat'	pudpudo	'crooked'
ian	'fish'	makmakos	'straight'
ut	'louse'	wilwiloh	'round'
huet	'pig'	mamaol	'lightweight'
bakue	'shark'	kubkubar	'red'

Some words show a stem-final variation between C and CV, the final vowel occurring only before certain consonantal suffixes or words beginning in a consonant, e.g. pos(o) 'banana' as in the following contexts:

ingo ku ananin tiehe tar <u>pos</u>	'I ate too many bananas'
ingo u malara tar <u>posor</u> ulek	'I want the large banana'
o <u>poso</u> rola	'those bananas'

Other words show only one form, e.g. pos 'kill', which shows the same form before consonant or vowel in the following:

ka gatang hung <u>pos</u> in	'it nearly killed him'
ingo u haluh <u>pos</u> tanon	'I'll kill him'

In the material available there is a variation in the representation of some forms. In particular there is a relational morpheme R 'genitive, etc.' that has been identified in three forms. It is usually written as a suffix, e.g. it is added to lot(o) 'sore, hurt' in the following:

inga u lotor <u>u</u> kolom	'you will injure your lungs'
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It is also shown as an independent word of the form ar, er, ir, or, and ur following words ending in a consonant, and it is likely that the vowel is actually part of the preceding word stem, e.g. the genitive in the following phrase follows the noun an(i) 'food':

na an <u>ir</u> pusi	'the cat's food'
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Finally we find R in ro, apparently prefixed to the noun article o of one class of nouns, often found under circumstances where one would

otherwise expect the genitive to be suffixed to the preceding word, as in the following:

nag momolowina ro dok lo 'my shade tree'

There may be phonological reasons underlying the separation of such forms by a native speaker. The difficulties involved in interpreting variations such as these can only be resolved by actual fieldwork, and so in this paper we are retaining the written representations of our translator.

## SYNTAX

The structure of Nissan sentences will be described in terms of simple sentences and their primary constituents - nominal phrases, verb phrases, and locative phrases of place and time. More complex sentences may be regarded as expansions or transformations of the simple sentences. The discussion which follows will outline the structure of the primary constituents, and then survey some simple and complex sentence types.

## NOMINAL PHRASES

Nominal phrases occur as subject (S), predicate (P), and object (O) and also in locative phrases of place (L) and time (T). They typically consist of a personal pronoun or a noun with various modifiers. Nouns may be replaced by non-personal pronouns in many constructions because of features of agreement. A nominal phrase that precedes a predicate and is the subject of the sentence is said to be 'topicalised', and may be differently marked than it would be in other syntactic positions. Personal pronouns in such phrases have a special form, and nouns take distinctive articles. Inflectional categories of the substantives - namely person, number, and class - are expressed primarily in personal pronouns and in articles, and secondarily through agreement in the verb auxiliary, in possessed nouns, and in non-personal pronouns which modify or replace nouns.

### Personal Pronouns

There are two series of independent personal pronouns that occur as subjects of verbs or possessors of nouns, and two series of forms that occur as objects of verbs. The categories represented are first, second, and third person, and singular, dual, and plural number, with a distinction between inclusive and exclusive in the dual and plural first person forms.

TABLE 1

## Personal Pronouns - Subject/Possessor Forms

Number	Person	Primary	Secondary
Singular	1	ingo	(i)o
	2	lnga	(i)a
	3	ingon(o) git	(i)on(o) (i)et
Dual	1 excl.	raem	raem
	1 incl.	raeg	raeg
	2	raom	raom
	3	rasin(o) rasit	rasin(o) rasit
Plural	1 excl.	ingam	(i)am
	1 incl.	ingeg	(i)eg
	2	ingam	(i)am
	3	gisin(o) gisit	sin(o) sit

The personal pronouns that occur as subject or possessor are listed in Table 1. Those of the primary series are found in topicalised nominal phrases, which occur as subjects in preverbal position, and where the pronoun indicates a possessor it precedes the possessed noun instead of being in its otherwise post-nominal position. Examples of topicalised nominal phrases with a primary personal pronoun follow:

S[ingo] P[u turung kere]  
*I Aux will sing*  
 'I will sing.'

S[ingo tang tamag] P[e turung kere]  
*my Art father Aux will sing*  
 'My father will sing.'

The personal pronouns of the secondary series occur as subject in post-verbal position, or as possessor in post-nominal position within non-topicalised nominal phrases.

L[ia] P[ru turung wangol] S[io] T[tar bong]  
*where Aux will sleep I Art night*  
 'Where will I sleep tonight?'

P[o turung wangol] L[tenag wan io]  
*Aux(you) will sleep Art place my*  
 'You can stay at my place.'

The singular and plural pronouns of the secondary series appear to be reduced forms of the primary series pronouns, losing medial ng or

initial *g*. The dual forms are the same in both series and appear to be formed with a dual morpheme *ra* prefixed to the secondary plural forms. The longer and shorter forms of the secondary subject/possessor forms are probably phonologically conditioned, but the evidence from the data is conflicting, so no rules can be formulated.

Two third person forms have been recorded but the semantic or syntactic difference between them has not been adequately determined as yet. In comparing the plural forms it seems *gisin(o)* occurs where preceded at some point by a noun or another pronoun with the same referent, while *gisit* always occurs sentence initially.

S[*gisit*] P[*ra hhip*] O[*tasir pukpuk*]  
*they* Aux *hunting* Art *crocodiles*  
 'They are hunting crocodiles.'

[*gere kara lame sin*], S[*gisino*] P[*ka wahuhutung pokoso manas*]  
*if* Aux *come they* *they* Aux *near* *arrive soon*  
 'If they are on their way here, they should arrive soon.'

S[*o Gerei*] P[*gisino noso welhire sioko pon*]  
 Art *Gerei* *their* Art *language own too*  
 'Gerei people also have a dialect of their own.'

The same distinction may obtain between *sin* and *sit*, the secondary equivalents, which appear to occur in near identical environments, except that in the following examples *sin* occurs where prior indication of the persons have been made, while *sit* occurs in an isolated phrase:

... *tonoso uma sin*  
 Art *house their*  
 '... to their (previously mentioned) house'

*nas uma sit*  
 Art *house their*  
 'their house'

Objective forms of the personal pronouns are listed in Table 2. These forms occur as objects and as locatives of place. They are formed of at least two, perhaps three morphemes. We describe one series as 'direct' forms, and the other as 'indirect' forms, but the syntactic distinction is not particularly clear in the present data. The direct object base is *ta-* (*to-* before first and second person singular suffixes). To this is added a complex which appears to consist of a pronominal suffix (resembling its counterpart in possessive suffixes), plus the equivalent secondary pronoun, sometimes in an irregular form. The indirect object bases is *tata-* and it takes the same set of complex suffixes.

TABLE 2  
Personal Pronouns - Object Forms

Number	Person	Direct	Indirect
Singular	1	toguo	tataguo
	2	tomua	tatamua
	3	tanon(o)	tatanon(o)
		tanet	tatanet
Dual	1 excl.	tamiraem	tatamiraem
	1 incl.	tagiraeg	tatagiraeg
	2	tamiraom	tatamiraom
	3 <sup>+</sup>	tasirasin	tatasirasin
Plural	1 excl.	tamiwam	tatamiwam
	1 incl.	tagigeg	tatagigeg
	2	tamiwam	tatamiwam
	3	tasisin(o)	tatasisin(o)
		tasisit	tatasisit

<sup>+</sup>second forms for the third person dual are not in data

The formation of possessive pronouns resemble that of the objective pronouns, consisting of a base with a complex pronominal suffix. Since these pronouns occur in place of possessed nouns and occur with an article they are discussed in more detail in connection with the structure of possessed nominal phrases (see below p.1193).

#### Nouns and Articles

Nouns in Nissan are classified according to the types of articles with which they occur, and the articles are selected in part according to syntactic function. Indication of number and other inflectional categories is found primarily in articles, not in the nouns themselves. The articles that are relevant to noun subclassification are of three main types, locative, general, and possessive, and the choice of articles is affected by two major syntactic factors, the possessive construction, and the distinction between subject/predicate versus object/location occurrence of noun phrases.

The morphology of nouns is unremarkable with little that can be identified as derivational structure, so that the following discussion will focus on articles and noun classification. Kin terms and body parts do have inflectional suffixes, which will be described in connection with possessive articles (see below p.1189).

*Locative Articles*

Place names are inherently locative and occur only with the locative article *i* whether in a place phrase or in a subject phrase.

S[a balus] P[ke nihing pokoso tur puk] L[i Retan]  
 Art plane Aux recent arrive from only Art Buka  
 'The plane has just arrived from Buka.'

S[i Malaita] P[i reh]  
 Art Malaita Art far  
 'Malaita is far away.'

*General Articles*

General articles accompany all unpossessed nouns other than place names, and have two forms, one used in subject or predicate noun phrases, the other used in object and place phrases. Three groups of nouns are defined by the selection of general articles in these two contexts. The sets of articles are listed in Table 3. The modified forms used with certain possessed nouns will be presented later (see below p1189).

TABLE 3

## General Articles (with unpossessed nouns)

Noun Type	Subject		Object	
	sg	pl	sg	pl
Personal name	-	-	tang	-
Class A	a	o	tar	tasir
Class O	o	o	toro	tosor

Personal names (of which we have few in the data) apparently do not take an article in subject or predicate noun phrases, and are always singular. The plural article *o* is used with place names to indicate the people, and since none have been recorded in the singular the class of such nouns is indeterminate. All other nouns belong to class A or class O according to the article selected in singular subject/predicate phrases - class A nouns have the article *a*, and class O nouns have the article *o*.

a tamata	'person'	o tamata	'people'
a kih	'rat'	o kih	'rats'
o kumal	'sweet potato(es)'	o hue	'fire'

The normal position for the subject of simple sentences is before the predicate, since it is topicalised:

S[a nian] P[ke moh]  
 Art food Aux cook  
 'The food is cooking.'

When the subject noun occurs after the predicate the connective R is inserted, appearing as a prefix to the o article, but as a suffix to a preceding word otherwise with deletion of the a article.

P[gere tuk ur] S[ulek] O[tar tuk] ...  
*if beat R chief Art drum*  
 'If the chief beats a drum ....'

P[o ra emi raem me nag kuaha] S[ro poso rone]  
*Art du. ours we and my wife Art banana this*  
 'This banana tree is my wife's and mine.'

Although predicate nouns are not topicalised there is no connective R or deletion.

S[Maria] P[a titia timuh]  
*Maria Art teacher new*  
 'Mary is the new teacher.'

Since there is no change in the form of articles there is no structural difference between object and locative phrases; only syntactic and semantic context allow one to distinguish them. The articles have a base of ta- (~ to- with class O), followed by a number feature which is zero for singular and si- for plural, and finally the suffix of relationship -r (~ -ro with class O). Exceptionally the article is tang before personal names, and with singular kinship terms.

S[ingo] P[ku tupara tur] O[toro pas] ...  
*I Aux find Art letter*  
 'I found the letter ....'

S[ingo] P[u la tur baka me] O[tang Peter] T[daan]  
*I Aux go visit intend Art Peter today*  
 'I will go to visit Peter today.'

S[inga] P[o ate] O[tasir tamata sila]  
*you Aux know Art people those*  
 'Do you know those people?'

L[ia] P[ru turung wangol] S[io] T[tar bong]  
*where Aux will stay I Art night*  
 'Where will I stay tonight?'

S[ingeg] P[i la wok] L[tar iom]  
*we Aux go work Art garden*  
 'We will work in the garden.'

S[a tinihe] P[ke won manas] [tar wonun]  
*Art canoe Aux fill now Art water*  
 'The canoe is beginning to fill up with water.'

*Possessive Articles*

In common with other Oceanic languages Nissan has two main noun classes determined by the possessive system, namely alienable and inalienable nouns. Inalienable nouns, mainly kinship terms and body parts, occur only in possessive constructions and take possessive suffixes along with a modified general article. Alienable nouns may occur in unpossessed form with a general article, but when possessed they require a possessive article.

**Inalienable Possession**

Inalienable possessed nouns occur with an article which differs from the general article only in object forms and in those cases where the possessor is dual. With singular and plural possessors the articles are as in Table 4.

TABLE 4  
General Articles with Inalienable Nouns

	Subject		Object	
	sg	pl	sg	pl
Class A				
kin terms	a	o	tang	tas
body parts	a	o	tar	tas
Class O	o	o	toro	toso

Actually the subject article occurs only rarely in the data because when a possessive noun phrase is topicalised a personal pronoun possessor must come first in the phrase and in its primary form, while the possessed inalienable noun that follows occurs with the object form of its article, as illustrated in the following examples.

S[ingo tang tinog] P[a puhin]  
*my Art mother-my Art short*  
*'My mother is short.'*

S[ingo tar limag] P[e ising]  
*my Art arm-my Aux swell*  
*'My arm is swelling.'*

In the case of a dual possessor the dual marker *ra* occurs before the possessed inalienable noun, suffixed to the general article (see Table 5 below). When the noun is object or location the object base is *ta-* for a singular noun, and *toso-* for a plural noun. (Since all possibilities are not recorded in the available data, this requires further investigation.)

S[raeg tara tinogi] ...  
*our-du. Art mother-our*  
 'Our(du.) mother ....'

The data are inconclusive but the singular article base may  $\sim \emptyset$  in some subject/predicate positions, e.g.

P[e wanal ompa] S[ra tumiraem] ...  
*Aux live Art son-our-du.*  
 'Although our(du.) son lives ....'

The inalienable noun also has a possessive suffix to agree with the possessor. These suffixes are displayed in Table 5.

TABLE 5  
 Possessive Suffixes (Inalienable Nouns)

Possessor	Article Suffix	Noun Suffix
Number	Person	
Singular	1	-g(uo)
	2	-m(ua)
	3	-n(on)
		-n(et)
Dual	1 excl.	-ra
	1 incl.	-ra
	2	-ra
	3	-ra
		-s(ia)
Plural	1 excl.	-gog geg
	1 incl.	-gi geg
	2	-miu
	3	-s(ia)

When the possessor is a personal pronoun it occurs phrase-initially and in primary form when the possessive phrase is topicalised, and then the short form of the possessive suffixes is always used.

S[rasit tosora kaluas] ...  
*their-du. Art-du. friends-their*  
 'Their friends ....'

The long form of certain possessive suffixes occurs in possessed nouns which are in non-topicalised phrases with an accompanying secondary form of personal pronouns, and may represent a merging of possessive suffix with secondary pronoun.

S[rasit] P[ura wala an] O[tosora tusia]  
*they-du. Aux cause eat Art-du. children-their*

It should be noted that some of the suffixes in Table 5 are rare in the data, and there may be errors involved.

#### Alienable Possession

Possessed alienable nouns occur with a possessive article. This article occurs in two base forms reflecting subclassification of alienable nouns, *na-* with 'neutral' nouns, and *re-* with 'edible' nouns (*~no-* and *ro-* respectively with class 0 nouns). To this base are added a set of possessive suffixes agreeing with the possessor. These suffixes are presented in Table 6.

TABLE 6  
Possessive Article Suffixes

Possessor	Possessive Suffixes	
Number	Person	(Class 0 variants in parentheses)
Singular	1	-g
	2	-ng ( <i>~mo</i> )
	3	-∅
Dual	1 excl.	-mira
	1 incl.	-gira
	2	-mura
	3	-sura
Plural	1 excl.	-mi
	1 incl.	-mi
	2	-miu
	3	-s ( <i>~so</i> )

Alienable possessed nouns occurring in subject and predicate constructions have the simple possessed article described above, that is, a base form plus possessive suffix.

S[o Yatchibol] P[noso kain welhire siok]  
 Art Yatchibol their language own  
 'The Yatchibol people have their own language.'

... [gete mamawa] S[reng an ia]  
 if-Aux cold your food your  
 '... or your food will get cold.'

But when they occur in object or locative phrases the possessive article acquires a prefix *ta-* with Class A neutral, *te-* with Class A edible, or *to-* with Class 0.

P[lame] L[tanag um o]  
 come my house my  
 'Come to my house.'

S[o keketik bulot] P[ra marang an] O[teres paenap]  
 Art children male Aux want eat their pineapple  
 'The boys want to eat their pineapple.'

S[git] P[e marang ate] O[tonomo weihire a]  
 he Aux want learn your language your  
 'He wants to learn your language.'

### *Indefinite Articles*

Nissan has the indefinite articles *me* (Class A) and *mo* (Class O) which may occur with nouns and some other substantive forms.

<i>me wonun</i>	<i>'some water'</i>
<i>mo iab</i>	<i>'a knife'</i>
<i>ingo u de me kusi</i>	<i>'I don't want any cats'</i>
<i>o malara me siok</i>	<i>'would you like one (of them)?'</i>

### *Possessive Phrases*

The basic possessive nominal phrase consists of a nominal phrase denoting the possessor which modifies a nominal phrase denoting the possessed person or thing. We will now consider the syntax of these phrases, describing first those with a possessed noun, and secondly those with a possessive pronoun.

### *Possessed Nouns*

The possessor of a possessed noun is either a personal pronoun or a noun. Details of possessive articles and suffixes for pronominal possessors have been provided in the preceding sections, so we will describe only syntax here, and the structure of possessive phrases with a noun possessor.

A pronominal possessor in a topicalised phrase occurs in primary form and precedes the possessed noun and its articles. Otherwise the pronoun is in secondary form, following the possessed noun, and apparently merging with possessive suffixes of inalienable nouns. Secondary pronouns may be deleted without loss of meaning since the articles and possessive suffixes agree, providing the same information.

When a noun is possessed by another noun, the possessed noun always precedes the possessor and has the same personal suffix or possessive article as if possessed by a third person personal pronoun. In addition the genitive suffix *-r* is added to the possessed noun before all but proper names and kin terms. Examples follow:

a limanar keketik	'the boy's arm'
a susunar kekeg	'my ankle (joint of my leg)'
na anir kuah ela	'that woman's food'
na wonunar lo	'the dog's water'
na an Pita	'Peter's food'
na keu tinag	'my mother's grave'

Many possible combinations of noun types in possessive phrases are not represented in the data, so more study is required for a complete understanding of this construction.

#### *Possessive Pronouns*

Possessive pronouns are found mainly in predicates in the present data. They are morphologically similar to object forms of personal pronouns (see above p.1186), consisting of a base *no-* (∩ *na-* with third person) when substituting for a neutral noun, and *e-* when substituting for an edible noun. To the base are added pronominal suffixes or complexes which are like the longer forms of possessive suffixes, except that when the possessor is a personal name the suffix is *-ng*. The following examples represent all cases of possessive pronouns in the data:

a lo ene a <u>noguo</u>	'This dog is <u>mine</u> '
o poso rone o <u>eguo</u>	'This banana tree is <u>mine</u> '
ahik paha <u>nomua</u>	'It isn't <u>yours</u> (sg.)'
a torik a <u>nan et</u>	'Two are <u>his</u> '
ara <u>nomi</u> raem	'It is <u>ours</u> (du.excl.)'
ara <u>nomi</u> raom iene	'Is this <u>yours</u> (du.)?'
ara <u>nosia</u>	'It is <u>theirs</u> (du.)'
a <u>nomiwam</u>	'It is <u>ours</u> (pl.)'
a paenapi nit a <u>emiwam</u>	'Those pineapples are <u>ours</u> (pl.)'
ingo u malaran tiehe tono dreser kuah ela toro <u>nang</u> Maria	'I prefer this girl's dress to Maria's'

The possessive pronouns are accompanied by a general article, and since they may substitute for any nouns, both Class A and Class O articles may occur with the pronouns. When the possessor is dual the article receives a dual suffix *-ra*, i.e. possessive pronouns are structurally similar to inalienable nouns.

#### *Demonstratives*

The demonstratives occur in two forms, one a modifier in post-nominal position, the other as a noun substitute or pronoun.

a bulot ene            'this man'  
 gine nag wan lo        'this is my village'

There are noticeable errors in concord in a number of sentences in our data, so there is a certain lack of confidence in some forms, but those recorded are presented in Table 7.

TABLE 7  
 Demonstratives

		Adjectival	Pronominal
Class A Neutral	'this'	ene et	gine
	'these'	sin(e) sit	gisin(e)
	'that'	ela et	gila
	'those'	sila sit	gisila
Edible	'this'	nine	ginine
	'these'	--	
	'that'	nit	ginit
	'those'	--	--
Class O	'this/these'	rone	rone
	'that/those'	roet	roet
		rola	--

### Adjectives

When adjectives are included in a nominal phrase they follow the noun they modify, at least when it is an alienable noun.

a bulot ulek        '*big boy*'  
 a bulot mahoho    '*old man*'

The only case in which an adjective is recorded with an inalienable noun is in the predicate of a possessive sentence (see below p.1204), and here the adjective is before the noun and takes a linking suffix -r or -ng before the noun.

a barahng keken        '*long-legged*'  
 a delawanar kapokon    '*clean skinned*'

### Quantitative Expressions

The unit cardinal numbers are siok(o) 'one', torik(i) 'two', towon(o) 'three', towat(i) 'four', tollm(a) 'five', tonom(o) 'six', towit(i) 'seven', towal(i) 'eight', lusio 'nine', hangaul(u) 'ten'. Decades are formed by compounding the units with hangaul, an -r suffix being added to the first member in the following: a slokor hangaul 'one ten', a torikir hangaul 'twenty', a hangaulur hangaul 'one hundred'. Co-ordinative phrases are formed of a decade plus conjunction doh and a unit thus: a slokor hangaul doh a towit 'seventeen', a tonomor hangaul doh a tolim 'sixty-five'.

Numerals and other quantitative qualifiers precede the head noun and take -r (v ro with Class O) or occasionally -ng.

a burahir dok	'many trees'
a burahing wanan	'many roots'
lusio ro bek kurum	'nine bags of copra'
a torokir lo kura matot	'two dogs are enough'

Pre-nominal numerals may have the prefix tan- which is sometimes, but not always, associated with partitive meaning.

a tansiokor keketik bulot haian te pokos	'One of the boys hasn't come home yet.'
a tantorik ir bulot ura malara tatamua	'Two men love you.'

### Compound Noun Phrases

A compound noun phrase consists of a noun linked to another noun or to a verb. Two nouns are linked by suffix -ng to the first or head noun:

tolahang koko 'a basket for yams'

Similarly the head noun may be linked by the suffix -ng to a modifying verb following it, where the noun is denoting the object or location of the action of the verb:

ineteng an	'something to eat'
wonunang inum	'water to drink'
umang tabila	'rest-house'

### Co-ordinative Noun Phrases

Co-ordination of nouns or combinations of personal pronouns plus nouns is usually accomplished with a conjunction me before singulars, mer before duals, and meso with plurals:

Pita me tahn            *'Peter and his brother'*  
 Sala mer toking tahn   *'Sala and his two brothers'*  
 Maria meso kaluana     *'Maria and her friends'*

Commonly a personal pronoun denoting a group is linked to a noun denoting a person included in the group:

raem me nag bulot   *'my husband and I' (lit. we(du.) with my husband)*

#### Nominalised Sentences

Some sentences are nominalised about the verb. In one type of nominalisation the subject is deleted and the verbal auxiliary replaced by an article, the class A singular *a*, or equivalent object form *tar*.

S[git] P[e tele]      O[tar somap]  
*she*      Aux *not-know*      Art *sew*  
*'She doesn't know how to sew.'*

If the verb is transitive it may retain its object, but possessive *-na* and genitive *-r* are suffixed to the verb before its object, as they would be after a noun before its possessor.

S[a walar kar] P[a parahuhuh]  
 Art *drive*      car      Art *difficult*  
*'It is difficult to drive a car.'* or *'Driving a car is difficult.'*

S[gisit] P[ka walasiro] O1[tataguo] O2[tar tuhanar ro kirei]  
*they*      Aux *teach*      *me*      Art *make*      Art *pudding*  
*'They taught me how to make pudding.'*

A second type of nominalisation is based on prefixing or pre-posing *ni* (passive?) before the verb, and deleting the object but not necessarily the subject. In the following example a connective suffix *-ng* links the verb to its object.

nang ni eteting kohik  
*your*      *bite*      *mosquito*  
*'your mosquito-bite'*

At least one common noun seems to have been derived in this fashion, namely a *nian* 'food', from an(i) 'eat', but in this case the noun appears fully derived as a single word, without any syntactic subject.

#### VERB PHRASE

The verb phrase proper includes two obligatory elements, the auxiliary and the verb and several optional elements which may occur immediately before or immediately after the verb. Object and locative phrases are normally outside the verb phrase proper.

## Auxiliary

Verbs are preceded by an auxiliary which agrees in person and number with the subject of the verb. In the case of an independent sentence the auxiliary has two forms, one with a prefix k- generally associated with past tense (exact meaning undetermined), the other lacking the prefix and associated with present and future tense.

In various types of subordinate clauses the auxiliary acquires prefixes of conjunction, and it occurs there in a bound form. The forms of the auxiliary are in Table 8.

TABLE 8  
Forms of the Auxiliary

Number	Person	Present	Past	Bound
Singular	1	u	ku	-u
	2	o	ko	-o
	3	e	ke	-e
Dual	1 excl.	mlra	klra	-ira
	1 incl.	ira	klra	-ira
	2	mura	kura	-ura
	3	ura	kura	-ura
Plural	1 excl.	mɪŋ (ʷmi)	kiŋ	-iŋ
	1 incl.	i	ki	-i
	2	mʊŋ (ʷmu)	kʊŋ	-ʊŋ
	3	ra	ka	-a

## Modal Prefixes

There are a few modal prefixes which may occur in independent sentences. They are prefixed to the auxiliary which is in bound form. Quite possibly the so-called 'past' forms of the auxiliary are actually formed with a modal prefix k- the precise meaning of which has eluded the author. Two modal prefixes are pak- 'ought to', and her- 'hope to, may be', the use of which is illustrated in the following sentences.

a mahoh ene pake rikin wah  
old that should lie rest  
'That old man should lie down and rest.'

ingeg dehe paki la kalekinale tenagl iom  
we ? ought go work our garden  
'We should go and work in our garden.'

ingo dehe heru momoh  
I ? maybe sick  
'I think I may be getting sick.'

ingono here huan  
*it maybe rain*  
 'It will probably rain.'

Such prefixes appear to occur as well before the article in the predicate of equational sentences:

... her a balokos  
*maybe pregnant*  
 '... she may be pregnant.'

### Verbal Modifiers

There are a variety of words which may occur in the verb phrase. These modify the verbs semantically in the areas of tense or aspect, etc.

The particles *turung* 'future', and *me* 'intent' may be used only with the present auxiliary, while *nihing* 'immediate past', and *hutung* 'immediate future' may occur only with the past auxiliary. These are mutually exclusive and occur before the verb:

ingeg i turung ker                    *'we will sing'*  
 ingo u me banga tatamua            *'I'm coming to visit you'*  
 ingo ku nihing pokoso puk         *'I just got home'*  
 ingo ku hutung wasulung manas    *'I will cook soon'*

The word *siok* (o) 'one' is ubiquitous in Nissan. Occurring as a numeral before nouns, it also follows nouns in the sense of 'another, own', and with the possessive *-na* and genitive *-r* it precedes nouns meaning 'same'. Preceding verbs it has the genitive *-r* and means 'both, all, together', semantically referring to the subject of intransitives and the object of transitives.

S[rasino] P[he ura siokor momoh]  
*they.du. may will both sick*  
 'I'm afraid they will both be sick.'

S[git] P[ke siokor kale] O[tar apol] L[i ium]  
*he all take apple home*  
 'He took all the apples home.'

Another word that is semantically similar is *wakap*(a), which occurs in post-nominal position meaning 'all, every', but also follows verbs with the meaning 'finish, completely, all'.

S[git] P[ke inum wakapa] O[tar wonuna welsuk]  
*he drink all water hot*  
 'He drank up the boiled water.'

It is noteworthy that in spite of the apparent semantic overlap, both *siok(o)* and *wakap(a)* may modify the same verb in a sentence:

S[ingo] P[ku *siokor wa-tapolaka wakapa*] O[*tasir tagun*]  
*I all drop finish egg*

*'I dropped all the eggs (and broke them all).'*

Several post-verbal directional particles occur. These are *llw* 'away', *tur* 'from' (also a verb, 'stand'), *watuk(a)* 'toward', and *wahiwo* 'down'. Commonly these words modify verbs in sentences which also contain locative phrases of time or place.

P[ke *kulo llw*]  
*run away*

*'He is running away.'*

P[ke *tabila tur*] S[ion] L[ane] T[naliwo]  
*sit from he here morning*

*'He has been sitting there all morning.'*

S[ingo] P[u *la tur*] L[i *Retan*] ...  
*I go from Buka*

*'I went from Buka ....'*

... P[u *la watuk*] L[i *Arawa*]  
*go to Arawa*

*'... I went to Arawa.'*

S[git] P[ke *wok tur*] T[namaraan *ulek*] P[ke *watuka*] T[nabong]  
*he work from day big until night*

*'He worked from noon until dark.'*

S[git] P[ke *luluh wahiwo*] L[toro *dok*]  
*he jump down tree*

*'He jumped out of the tree.'*

### Verb Types

Verbs may be classified as intransitive or transitive according to the construction in which they occur.

Intransitive verbs include two sets. One set are the adjectives which may occur with noun articles in stative sentences describing states, or with verb auxiliaries in sentences describing change of state.

*git a peke 'he is bald'*

*git e peke 'he is getting bald'*

The other set of intransitives occur only with verbal auxiliaries, and may be considered semantically 'active'.

*a tetlaw et ke luluh 'that bird is flying'*

*ingo u huhu dede ... 'I always bathe ...'*

Some time words occur as intransitives, and here a temporal process rather than state seems to be indicated.

ingono ke hutung raw manas *'it is (becoming) evening already'*  
e bong bak ono ... *'after it becomes dark ...'*

Transitive verbs occur in sentences with one or more object phrases.

git ke at tar bilin *'he bit his lip'*  
inga o ate tasir tamata sila *'you know those people'*  
git e malara tanet *'he likes him'*

Causatives are formed from intransitive verbs with the compounded wa-.

wa-welsuk tar kumara nit ke mok *'heat up the leftover kumara'*  
huhu, wa-huhu *'swim, bathe'*

Reciprocals are marked with wel before the transitive verb and is afterwards. Since the object is the same as the subject it is usually deleted, or if present does not occur in the normal object form.

rasino kura wel bange is *'they see each other'*  
raem mira wel malare is raem *'we like each other'*

Some verbs occur in both transitive and intransitive roles, but the objective article seems to be optional with objects of such verbs.

... song ro inum *'... then you may drink'*  
git e inum wonuna *'he is drinking water'*  
inum tar wonuna nine *'drink this water'*

The benefactive word weleher may be added to an intransitive verb making a verb phrase that is transitive.

ingo ru wok weleher tomua *'I will work for you'*  
u dangat o tatanon e me wasulung *'I asked her if she would cook for me'*  
welehar tataguo

As illustrated in the above sentences, the object may be 'direct' or 'indirect'.

### Compound Verb Phrases

There are several types of compounding which will be briefly illustrated. It is not presently clear when each type is to be employed. In one construction the subject is deleted from what is presumably a second sentence with the same subject, and the second verb retains its auxiliary:

ingo u malara u an *'I want to eat'*

In a second type of construction there are two verbs with a single auxiliary:

ingeg i la wok 'we'll go (on) working'

Finally the first two verbs may take the linking suffix -ng:

... u lang har tatamua  
Aux come give you  
'... I come to give to you.'

a lo mahoh et a bangang gog  
Art dog old that Art look hungry  
'That old dog looks hungry.'

#### PLACE AND TIME PHRASES

Place (L) and time (T) phrases normally occur in that order immediately after the verb and its objects, if any.

S[ingo] P[heru la tur bak] L[i Australia] T[me binak]  
I maybe go stand visit Australia some time  
'I hope to visit Australia some day.'

Many locative phrases are structurally identical to object phrases with *ta-* objective marker (or some variant of it) and a nominal phrase, and thus can only be identified as to what they are by context and choice of words.

P[ra wanganl dehe] S[sino] L[tar wan lene]  
Aux stay ? they village that  
'They live in that village.'

S[inga] P[o turung momoh] T[tar bong]  
you will sick night  
'You will be sick tonight.'

Some locative phrases of place are introduced by the locative article *i* followed by an inherently locative noun.

S[ingo] P[u marang huhu] L[i teh]  
I like.to swim sea  
'I like to swim in the sea.'

S[raem me nag bulot] P[mira tapokis] L[i Nehan]  
we my husband return Nissan  
'My husband and I are going back to Nissan.'

There are some inherently locative place nouns that must be possessed, and serve as relational words like English prepositions:

P[tabil] L[i wentlanlnasia sit]  
sit between.them they  
'Sit between them.'

P[ahik paho tur] L[i wamuguo]  
*not no stand front.of.me*  
*'Don'd stand in front of me.'*

Also there are locative particles of place comparable to the demonstrative pronouns, *ane* 'here', and *ala* 'there'. These may be found with and without *i*.

ahik paho lala ala  
*not no go there*  
*'Don't go there.'*

tur i ala  
*stand there*  
*'Stand there.'*

Two locative phrases of place may be combined in appositional phrases.

S[na niu ir tetiaw et ginah] L[i rana] L[toro dok]  
*nest bird that ? top tree*  
*'That bird's nest is up in this tree.'*

S[ingeg] P[i wanga] L[i ane] L[i Nehan]  
*we live here Nissan*  
*'We live here in Nissan.'*

Phrases expressing time often consist of time words with or without articles. Two common words of this type are *daan(a)* 'today', and *nerau* 'yesterday'. The following temporal nouns typically occur with the article *tar*, *liwo* 'morning', *raw* 'afternoon', *bong* 'night'. These may also be prefixed with *na-* 'past' and *ro-* 'future' and then occur without an article.

ingo ku bang tomua nabong *'I saw you last night'*  
 roliwo ingeg i wok *'tomorrow we must work'*

Two time phrases may occur in apposition:

naliwo nerau *'yesterday morning'*  
 roliwo tar raw *'tomorrow afternoon'*

### SIMPLE SENTENCES

Simple sentences in Nissan have the following general structure:

Subject Predicate (Object (Object)) (Place) (Time)

The principal sub-types of simple sentences are based on verbal versus non-verbal predicates. Objects occur only with verbal predicates. Subject, object, place and time phrases are usually nominal phrases. We take as the basic type the affirmative sentence. In written form at least yes-or-no interrogative sentences have the same structure, and

presumably are distinguished from the affirmative by features of intonation, since the syntax is identical. Having examined basic sentence types we will examine passive, relative, interrogative, and negative modifications.

### Non-verbal Predications

Most non-verbal sentences have only a subject and predicate, though place and time phrases are possible. The model for all such predications is the basic equational sentence with a nominal phrase as predicate. This may be a noun with or without modifiers.

S[ingon] P[a kuaha ulek]  
*she Art woman fat*  
*'She is a fat woman.'*

The nominal phrase may be a possessive pronoun with article.

S[o poso rone] P[o eguo]  
*Art banana this Art mine*  
*'This banana tree is mine.'*

S[a torik] P[a nanet]  
*Art two Art his*  
*'Two are his.'*

In the next sentence the predicate is a nominalised sentence with deleted subject and object, but the deleted object is the same as the subject of the non-verbal sentence.

S[ingo tereg gorew] S[ani tuha tar puhung rawot]  
*my Art lime Art-Nom made Art bamboo*  
*'My lime-box is made of bamboo.'*

Some of the modifiers that occur in verb phrases may also occur in nominal predicates, and locative phrases can also be added.

... S[ingono] P[hera kuah]  
*it may-Art girl*  
*'... it may be a girl.'*

S[git] P[a teacher baka] T[sion]  
*she Art teacher ? once*  
*'She used to be a teacher.'*

Stative sentences mimic equational sentences with a predicate based on an article plus adjective, numeral, or equivalent construction. The predicate article agrees with any article accompanying the subject.

S[a kalanguhu niner iawiawe] P[a mataia]  
*Art flower this yellow Art pretty*  
*'This yellow flower is pretty.'*

Only rarely is the subject retracted to post-predicate position in a simple sentence, although this is quite common in a clause of a complex sentence.

... P[a parakukuh] S[ion]  
 Art *difficult* it  
 '... it is difficult.'

Modifiers found in verb phrases are occasionally in descriptive predicates:

S[o kuaha sit] P[o sasalik wakap]  
 Art *girls these* Art *young all*  
 'These girls are all young.'

Comparative predicates may be formed by suffixing -n to the adjective, and adding tiehe 'so, than, compared to'. The object of comparison in the following predicate is a nominalised sentence with deleted subject (which is identical to the main sentence subject).

P[o sasaliikin tiehe Cl(P[*tar hiliw*] L[*i kanak*])]  
 Art *young than* Art *leave Art away*  
 '(They are) too young to go away from home.'

Evidently an inalienable body-part noun cannot occur as subject with an adjective predicate. Instead the possessor is the grammatical subject and the body part occurs in the predicate in composition with the adjective. The adjective has a compounding suffix -ng or genitive -r preceding the noun.

S[git] P[a uleking nugusun] 'he has a big nose'  
 S[gisit] P[a uiekir ngususia] 'they have big noses'  
 S[git] P[a barahing keken] 'he is long-legged'

Non-verbal predicates may centre on a quantitative word. Some of these are possessive expressions, in which the numeral or equivalent is linked to a noun possessed by the subject.

S[ingo] P[nag torikir pusi]  
 I my two cat  
 'I have two cats.'

S[o mamang tamata lik] P[a torikir matas]  
 Art *every person ?* Art *two their-eyes*  
 'Everyone has two eyes.'

Both possessive and quantitative non-verbal predicates are often modified by locative phrases.

S[ingo] P[reg bongo gine] L[*tar ngusug*]  
 I my pimple this Art *my-nose*  
 'I have a pimple on my nose.'

S[o kih] P[o burah tun] L[tar wan iene]  
 Art rat Art many too Art village this  
 'There are too many rats in this village.'

Sometimes a subject phrase is deleted.

P[a tantowonor titia] L[tar sikul]  
 Art three teacher Art school  
 '(There are) three teachers at the school.'

### Verbal Predications

A verbal sentence consists minimally of a subject and predicate.

S[a tetlaw et] P[ke luluh]  
 Art bird that Aux fly  
 'That bird is flying.'

When a verb is inherently transitive an object phrase must occur as well.

S[ingo] P[u wahuhu] O[tanang labalab a]  
 I Aux wash Art clothes your  
 'I am washing your clothes.'

A few verb phrases require a second, indirect object.

S[ingo] P[u pusaka weleher] O1[tar iana] O2[tomua]  
 I Aux clean for Art fish you  
 'I'll clean a fish for you.'

Locative phrases of place and time often follow the predicate and object phrases.

S[ingo] P[u turung wekeluk] O[toso buloti sit] L[tar wan iela]  
 I Aux will follow Art men those Art village that  
 'I'll follow those men to the next village.'

S[ingo] P[ku ia iotu] T[daan]  
 I Aux go pray today  
 'I went to church today.'

S[ingo] P[u ia] L[tar bung] T[tar wik iet]  
 I Aux go Art market Art week that  
 'I'm going to the market next week.'

Other phrases of means and purpose are indistinguishable by structure from locative phrases, that is they are noun phrases.

S[ingo] P[ku wahuhu] O[toro iug] [tar marising pam]  
 I Aux wash Art head-my Art medicine-of pump  
 'I washed my hair with (in) malaria spray.'

In simple sentences the subject is usually topicalised, i.e. in pre-verbal position. However when part of a more complex sentence, and occasionally for no apparent reason, the subject may be permuted to post-verbal position.

P[ke tabila tur] S[ion] L[ane] T[naliwo]  
 Aux sit from he here morning  
 'He has been sitting here all morning.'

With permutation to post-verbal position a personal pronoun is in secondary form, and a connective R links a verb to a post-nominal subject (see below p.1207).

### Imperative Sentences

Imperative sentences are based on the structure of simple sentences with second person subjects, in which the verb has a non-past auxiliary. A pronominal subject is normally deleted and even the verbal auxiliary may be deleted, although this is by no means always the case.

P[an]  
 eat  
 'Eat!'

P[mu me walongoro tataguo]  
 you intend listen-to me  
 'Listen to me!'

### Passive and Similar Constructions

Passive sentences are those in which an object phrase or equivalent is given prominence, becoming in effect a passive subject (Sp) or surface subject, while the underlying subject is merely agent (A). The passive subject phrase is often permuted to preverbal position, but may occur immediately after the verb phrase, especially in complex sentences. In a passive subject phrase a noun article or personal pronoun has subject form.

The most common type of passive sentence is one in which the underlying subject or agent is vague, an indefinite 'they' represented only in the verbal auxiliary since the agent/subject phrase is absent; this type is best translated by the English passive. The verb receives a suffix -n with a singular passive subject, -s with a plural passive subject, or -g under unknown conditions.<sup>2</sup>

### Active

S[o tamata] P[ra kep] O[tar kuaha] L[i teh]  
 Art Aux Art Art  
 'People take the girl to the beach.'

## Passive

Sp[a kuaha] P[ra kepin] L[i teh] ...  
 Art girl Aux taken Art beach  
 'The girl is taken (by "them") to the beach ....'

Sp[o tamata wakapa] P[ka kilos] L[toro an]  
 Art people all Aux called Art feast  
 'Everyone has been invited to the feast.'

When a noun occurs as passive subject in post-verbal position, as it may do, particularly in subordinate clauses, the connective R (see p.1182 above) links verb to subject as in active sentences.

Sp[a tractor] P[ka bulawan] Cl(P[mara tuhan ir] Sp[lel])  
 Art tractor Aux bought so-Aux built R road  
 'A tractor was bought (by "them") so a road could be built (by "them").'

L[te] P[ra wamwamokog] Sp[ro sosopen doha an]  
 there Aux kept R-Art saucepans and food  
 'There the saucepans and food are kept (by "them").'

Several more sentences of this type are found in Texts III and IV.

The verbs kulo 'say' and kilo 'call, name' do not always take a nominal object as such, but can be accompanied by a complement sentence, the subject of which can become the passive subject of the main verb.

Sp[a um ono] P[ra kilon] Cl(P[a haus kuk])  
 Art building this Art called Art cook-house  
 'This building is called (by "them") a cook house.'

... Sp[ingono] P[ra kulen] Cl(P[ke hohowo kep] O[me bulot])  
 she Aux said Aux sleep with a man  
 '... she is said (by "them") to have slept with a man.'

In the interrogative sentences that follow, the logical object of the verb is a nominal phrase containing an interrogative word, so the phrase is permuted to sentence-initial position, and the sentence becomes passive automatically.

Sp[me an hawa] P[ro marang anig] A[ia]  
 some food what R-Aux want-to eat you  
 'What kind of food do you want to eat?'

Sp[a towihar hanga] P[ka poka wahiws]  
 Art how-many names Aux written down  
 'How many names were written down (by "them")?'

Note the underlying subject or agent phrase may be retained, but in post-verbal position, and when it is a vague third person it is deleted altogether and represented only by the verb auxiliary.

Apparently passive, yet somewhat different is the following sentence.

Sp[ingo] P[ke etir] A[hilanga] ?L[toro warwarog]  
 I Aux bite-R centipede Art my-chest  
 'I was bitten on the chest by a centipede.'

Here the logical subject or agent is not deleted but is in post-verbal position and the connective R occurs as a verbal suffix. But although the pronominal object is topicalised as a passive subject there is no verbal suffix to agree with it. No other examples of this particular kind are found in the data, and this along with other puzzles should motivate further detailed field study.

Another passive-like construction involves the word *kae*- 'be, exist', which occurs with the same suffixes as a passive verb, but it does not have an auxiliary, nor does it occur like a verb in any other context. The suffixes -n, -s, -g presumably agree with the apparent subject of the sentence, but the basis of agreement is not at all clear, as can be seen from the following examples.

P[kaen] S[monomo taunam ia]  
 be a mosquito-net your  
 'Do you have a mosquito net?'

S[a dan uma] P[kaeg] L[i lolon]  
 Art few houses be Art bush  
 'There are a few houses in the bush.'

P[kaes] S[monong ut ia]  
 be some lice your  
 'Do you have lice?'

P[kaeg] S[me suisana] L[tar tor ene]  
 be some mountains Art island this  
 'Are there any mountains on this island?'

P[kaeg] S[meng kumaling wabulaw a]  
 be some kumara-to well your  
 'Have you any sweet-potatoes to sell?'

### Relativisation

There is little consistent evidence for relative constructions. In some cases *ge-* is prefixed to the past verb auxiliary, but *r-* is prefixed to the non-past auxiliary (as in many subordinate clause constructions). A relativised subject or object phrase precedes the balance of the sentence which modifies it, and when the relativisation centres in the object the predicate becomes passive.

S[a huet Cl(P[geke dura] O[banis])] P[a noguo]  
 Art pig Aux break fence Art mine  
 'The pig that broke the fence is mine.'

S[a tamata Cl(P[geka kuse]) P[ke la] L[tar karabus]  
 Art man Aux arrested Aux go Art jail  
 'The man who was arrested.(by "them") has gone to jail.'

Note in the passive construction above the verb *kuse* evidently lacks the suffix of agreement with the passive subject. Nothing is prefixed to the verbal auxiliary in the relative clause of the following sentence.

S[ingo] P[u ate] O[tar inete Cl(P[ko gata] S[ia])]  
 I Aux know Art thing Aux do you  
 'I know what you have done.'

Relativisation may centre about a noun of a locative place or time phrase. The locative phrase occurs first with the remainder of the sentence modifying it as a clause. In the next examples the verb in the clause has a suffix *-n* as in passive sentences and *r-* is prefixed to the auxiliary.

... L[tar uma Cl(P[re wangolin ir] S[kuah])]  
 Art house Aux live R girl  
 '... in the house the girl lives in.'

... T[tar binaka Cl(P[re belan ir] S[kuah])]  
 Art time Aux menstruate R girl  
 '... when the girl menstruates.'

### Negative Sentences

In most negated sentences *ahik* precedes the predicate and *pah* combines with the general article of the predicate nominal or with the auxiliary of the verb.

S[inga] [ahik] P[paha mataia]  
 you not Art pretty  
 'You are not pretty.'

S[ingo] [ahik] P[pahu marang tabil]  
 I not Aux want-to sit  
 'I don't want to sit.'

Secondary subject pronouns occur after *ahik* instead of after the verb, or they may be deleted.

... [te maene] [ahik] S[io] P[pahu gog]  
 that why not I Aux hungry  
 '... that's why I'm not hungry.'

... [ahik] S[ia] P[paho walasiro]  
       not       you   Aux   help  
 '... you don't need to help.'

Imperatives are formed in the same way, with subject pronoun usually deleted. Auxiliaries however are not deleted in prohibitive sentences.

[ahik] P[paho wapunga] O[tar guam]  
       don't   Aux   drop           Art   baby  
 'Don't drop the baby!'

[ahik] P[pahi wok] T[roliwo]  
       not       Aux   work   tomorrow  
 'Let's not work tomorrow.'

Certain verb modifiers may be permuted to preverbal positions, immediately after ahik.

... [ahik manasa] P[pahe wok]  
       not   now           Aux   work  
 '... she doesn't work any more.'

S[git] [ahik tun] P[pahe rldrid]  
       she   not   ever   Aux   read  
 'She never reads.'

The dubitative particle her, normally accompanying the predicate article or auxiliary, instead precedes the negators in the following sentence.

[her ahik puk] P[paho mata hohowon tiehe]  
       maybe not just   Aux   ?   sleep   so  
 'Maybe you are not sleepy enough.'

Negative ahik may occur like a numeral before the subject noun with connective R as in the following non-verbal sentence.

S[ahikir wonuna] P[paha burah] L[tar tang]  
       not   water       Art   much       Art   well  
 'There isn't much water in the well.'

The negator pah does not occur with the indefinite article me in the following non-verbal sentences; ahik is part of the nominal phrase.

P[ahik dehe me wonunang inum]  
       not   ?   some water-to drink  
 'There isn't any water to drink.'

L[tar wasulung] P[ahik me lnete buburah]  
       Art cooking   not   some thing much  
 'There isn't much (to say) about cooking.'

## Interrogative Sentences

The basic interrogative words are haw(a) (∪ hapa) 'what', hinia 'which', towih(a) 'how many', ma (∪ mae) 'who', maene (∪ maet) 'why', ia 'where', and mangih(a) 'when'. An interrogative phrase is permuted to sentence-initial position, while a non-interrogative subject phrase occurs post-verbally and r- is prefixed to a non-past auxiliary.

Sp[a uma hawa] P[ro wangali] A[ia]  
 Art house what Aux live-in you

'What kind of house do you live in?'

Sp[a hawa] P[ro wanio] A[ia]  
 Art what Aux laugh you

'What are you laughing at?' (note no suffix on verb, see p.1207)

Sp[hinia ro welhire] P[ro welhire] A[ia]  
 what Art language Aux speak you

'What language do you speak?'

Sp[hapa] P[ke kulo pa] S[ingon]  
 what Aux say ? he

'What did he say?' (note primary pronoun in post-verbal position)

P[a nang maer] S[um ene]  
 Art his who house this

'Whose is this house?'

P[a tetiawa haw] S[ela]  
 Art bird what that

'What kind of bird is that?'

P[rong towiha ro krismas]  
 your how-many Art year

'How old are you?'

P[ke haw] S[on]  
 Aux what-did he

'What happened (to him)?'

L(P)[ia] S[nang wan ia]  
 where Art house your

'Where is your house?'

L[ia] P[kaen ir] S[nanon]  
 where be R his

'Where is his?' or 'Which is his?'

L[ia] P[re lar] S[lel ene]  
 where Aux go-R road this

'Where does this road go?'

T[mangih] P[re tapokisi mer] S[porau]  
*when Aux return back-R boat*  
 'When does the boat come back?'

[maet] P[ani banisir liman on]  
*why Art bandaged arm his*  
 'Why is his arm bandaged?'

[maene] P[re la] S[on]  
*why Aux go he*  
 'Why is he going?'

### COMPLEX SENTENCES

We turn now to some examples of more complex Nissan sentences, essentially those that contain more than one verb.

Co-ordinative sentences consist of two independent sentences linked by a conjunction *doh* 'and', *bo* 'but', or *we* 'or'.

[ingo ku weltupar tang tatahimu lik ia naliwo] *doh* [kira  
*I met your.brother small you morning and we*  
 welwatat tatamua]  
*talked about.you*  
 'I met your brother this morning and we talked about you.'

[o iana ra unga he tar ieletesia] *bo* [ingeg ir tamat i unga  
*fish breathe gills but we humans breathe*  
 he tar kalogig]  
*our.lungs*  
 'Fish breathe through gills, but we humans breathe with lungs.'

Sentences with a subordinate clause added to an independent sentence typically include a prefix added to the auxiliary of the verb in the subordinate clause, which may also be introduced by a separate conjunction. When a subject is a noun it follows the verb with connective *R* between, and when it is a personal pronoun it normally occurs in secondary form.

Subordinate clauses of condition are introduced by *ge*. When the verb is not negated the conditional marker is prefixed to the verb auxiliary, with *ger-* before the bound form and *ge-* before the past form which already has a prefix *k-*. Subjects must follow the verb, and if pronominal they are in secondary form or even deleted.

[geku wa-mahing io tomua] ingo u weldolomo tun  
*if hurt I you I sorry very*  
 'If I hurt you, I'm very sorry.'

[geko kale inga tenag mani o] inga o hire  
*if take you my money my you way*  
 'If you took my money, I want you to confess.'

[gero boha toguo] ingo u tupara wom toro man  
*if lie me I find.out ? truth*  
 'If you are lying to me, I'll find out the truth soon.'

As usual verbs take the suffix -r when followed by a noun subject.

[gera gogor keketik] ...  
*if hungry children*  
 'If the children are hungry ....'

[gere etir lo toguo] ingo u halit pos tanon  
*if bite dog me I hit kill him*  
 'If the dog bites me, I'll kill him.'

Negative conditional clauses are introduced by ge ahik with pah before the verbal auxiliary. The pah occurs independently before the past form of the auxiliary, but is prefixed to the bound form. A pronominal subject occurs just after ahik, in secondary form (rather than post-verbally as might have been expected):

[ge ahik ia paho wok] ingo ahik pahu bulawa tomua  
*if not you not work I not not pay you*  
 'If you don't work, I won't pay you.'

Subordinate clauses introduced by get- 'after, when', which is prefixed to the bound form of the auxiliary, may occur initially or finally in a sentence. Nominal subjects must follow the verb and pronominal subjects are sometimes in primary form, but usually are in secondary form or even deleted.

an [gete mamawa reng an ia]  
*eat since cold your food your*  
 'Eat, your food is getting cold.'

u turung gata welkot wom io [getu del wakapa tar tolah]  
*will help ? I when make finish basket*  
 'I'll help (you) after I've finished making this basket.'

As expected, when a noun occurs as post-verbal subject the verb has an -r suffix.

[gete mater doki nine] koho tar koko  
*after die plant this dig.up yam*  
 'After these plants die dig up the yams.'

[gete welsukur pisar] tabila tar momolowin  
*when hot sun sit shade*  
 'When the sun gets hot, sit in the shade.'

It is difficult to discern a difference between *ge-* and some occurrences of *ge- ~ ger-*.

[geru wa-huhu wakapa] ingo tar labalab ...  
*when wash finish I clothes*  
 'When I finished washing the clothes ....'

[getu la ingo tar sisiokong wk] ...  
*when go I one week*  
 'Whenever I go for one week ....'

The combination *get ahik* 'without' is recorded with a noun phrase following, forming a modifying phrase:

ahik pahu tokot toro poso [get ahik mo iab]  
*not not cut banana with not a knife*  
 'I can't cut down the banana tree without a knife.'

[get ahik me wonunang inum] ingeg i mat  
*with out some water.to drink we die*  
 'Without water to drink we would soon die.'

There are some sentences in which *ge-* appears to function exactly like *ge* with the negative:

tila turung an teregi nian [get ahik iono pahe pokosl walahur]  
*let's soon eat our food if not he not arrive soon*  
 'Let's eat our food if he doesn't arrive soon.'

Clauses of purpose are formed with *mar-* 'to, in order to' which prefixes to the bound form of the auxiliary.

ura damdam tar kekes [mare delawan]  
*lick their.fur so.it clean*  
 'They lick their fur to make it clean.'

banga ko i lolona [maro bang huara tar wonun]  
*look ? down.it so.you see water*  
 'Look down and you will see water at the bottom.'

Complement clauses are formed with *mat-* 'to'. These may occur with the main verb *maha* 'wish, want'.

u maha tun [matu lulu]  
*wish very that.I fly*  
 'I wish I could fly.'

These clauses also occur with the verbs *de* 'refuse', and *ut* 'forbid'. With *de* the subject of the complement clause is the same as the subject of the main verb.

gisit ka de [mata helip tataguo]  
*they refuse to help me*  
 'They refused to help me.'

mona e de [mate pilai]  
 Mona refuse to play  
 'Mona doesn't want to play.'

With *ut* the (surface) object of the main verb is the logical subject of the complement clause (due to subject raising).

git ke ut tasir keketik [mata pilai tar huen]  
 she forbid children to play rain  
 'She forbid the children to play in the rain.'

ingo tang tatahigu lik e ut toguo [matu pilai tagu tanet]  
 I my.brother forbid me to play ? him  
 'My brother has forbidden me to play with him.'

Subordinate clauses initiated with *song* 'and then, before' occur after independent sentences and clauses. The auxiliary of the verb in the subordinate clause has an *r-* prefix, and subject nominals follow the verb unless deleted.

ingo u malara u rid wakapa baka toro bok rone [song ru her  
 I want read finish ? book this before I give  
 tomua]  
 you  
 'I want to finish reading this book before I give it to you.'

[gere hul wakap on] e wahuhu [song re wamoko la tar palawa  
 when peel finish she wash then put go on stone  
 welsuk]  
 hot  
 'When she finishes peeling, she will wash them and put them on hot stones.'

Somewhat similar are subordinate clauses with *kar-* 'and then' prefixed to the auxiliary.

a bulot ke haluh tar lo [kare la]  
 man hit dog and went  
 'The man hit the dog and went.'

[ingo ku wala an tar keketik iet] doh [ku wahuhu] [karu wa  
 I feed child that and wash then put  
 hohow]  
 to-sleep  
 'I fed the child, then bathed him and put him to sleep.'

These examples of subordinate clauses by no means exhaust the types found in Nissan, but are representative. Subtle differences in meaning can only be understood by more exhaustive research. It is hoped that this introductory survey will at least stimulate further study.

N O T E S

1. The data on Nissan has been provided by Magdalene Kelesin (now Mrs John Wakaria) who was working in Panguna, Bougainville, when contacted in 1975. Although we have not met personally we have corresponded from time to time since then. She has translated some 2000 English sentences and written a few notes on island culture which she then translated into English (see Appendix A).

During the course of the academic year 1976-77 I had the pleasure of working on the Nissan data with an advanced undergraduate student, Lorna A. MacDonald. Many of the aspects of grammar discussed herein were described in a series of term reports that she prepared. Although I have made many changes and additions, I am indebted to her for the contribution she has made to my understanding of this language.

2. The suffix -g seems most often associated with edible nouns, but since this is not always the case, and since our data are very limited, the correct usage cannot be confidently determined.

APPENDIX A

Texts

These texts were written in Nissan by Magdalene Kelesin. I have provided an interlinear translation for words that have been identified with reasonable confidence. Articles and auxiliaries are not translated. The full sentence translation is that provided by the native-speaker and may include some information not given in the Nissan original.

I WAN  
'THE VILLAGE'

1. ingo nag wan i Tapongal e toka tar totoro lik e  
*I my village Art Tapongal Aux located Art island little Aux*  
 toka wahuhut tar toro ulek i Nehan.  
*located near Art island big Art Nissan*  
*'I come from Tapongal village, situated on a little island just*  
*lying beside the main island.*
2. ter pekono puk ke hua bulut tar giomeher hua maene ahik ir hua  
*mangrove only thick Art other why not*  
 par ra ba parokon.  
*Mangroves have grown so thick that we hardly notice the passage on*  
*the other end of the island.*
3. tar wan a siokor hangaul doh a towonor family ura wanal.  
*Art village Art one ten and Art three families Aux live*  
*In the village there are about thirteen families.*
4. gitie sion o tamata ra siokor wanal tar siokor wan puk.  
*once Art people Aux together lived Art one village only*  
*In the past all these families lived in a big village.*
5. bo gine daan glsino ka wanal pakpakah, ra wanal wahuhut  
*but these days they Aux live separately Aux live near*  
 tonoso iom, ra kaweke taslr huet geta leka toro iom.  
*their gardens Aux look-after Art pigs so-they get-in Art garden*

*Nowadays however they've all lived in small villages according to families, they live mainly near their gardens to look after them lest pigs go in and eat up all the food.*

6. i Tapongal a 200 yds liu puk i teh.  
 Art Tapongal Art away just Art sea  
*Tapongal the main village is about 200 or so yards away from the beach.*
7. toro welhire o Tapongal doho Torohatap, o Tanaheran doho  
 its language Art Tapongal and-Art Torohatap Art Tanaheran and-Art  
 Kulis noso sioko ro kain welhire.  
 Kulis their same Art language  
*The dialect spoken in Tapongal covers about three other villages, Torohatap, Tanaheran, and Kulis.*
8. o Yatchibol noso kain welhire siok.  
 Art Yatchibol their language one  
*The Yatchibol people have a dialect of their own.*
9. o Tanamalit mes ir Mapiri noso siok.  
 Art Tanamalit and Mapiri their one  
*Tanamalit and Mapiri have one.*
10. o Lihon doho Poriwon doho Siaken dohon Siar doho Balil  
 Art Lihon and-Art Poriwon and-Art Siaken and-Art Siar and-Art Balil  
 doho Sirot noso kain welhire siok.  
 and Sirot their language one  
*Lihon, Poriwon, Siaken, Salipen (omitted), Siar and Balili and Sirot speak the same dialect.*
11. o Gerei gisino nosia sioko pon.  
 Art Gerei they theirs one too  
*The Gerei people also have a different dialect of their own.*
12. o Pinepir gisino noso welhire sioko tun pon.  
 Art Pinepel they their language one very too  
*As for Pinepel, they speak a totally different language.*
13. o burah ir bulot doho kuaha kalan ra tele toro welhireng  
 Art many of men and women young Aux not-know Art language-of  
 Pinepir.  
 Pinepel  
*Many of the young people don't know the Pinepel language (only the old people can speak and understand it).*
14. bosir Pinepir ra welhire pono toro welhireng tar toro ulek.  
 but-they Pinepel Aux speak too Art language-of Aux island big  
*But the Pinepel people can speak and understand the language(s) of the big island.*

15. Giner burah par mamang welhire lik o tamata ra wel  
*these many ? every language little Art people Aux each-other*  
 longor parokes ra welhire pa.  
*hear ? Aux speak ?*  
*Despite the number of different dialects spoken on the main island*  
*they're all spoken and understood by the people of the island.'*

II UM  
 'BUILDINGS'

1. o uma ginino ani tuha tar doking lolona kuku  
*Art houses Art-Passive make Art (material) bush (roof)*  
 ra kokopon tar kamang iatou, ra susukig tar usirin ar kamanana  
*Aux covered Art leaf sago Aux sewn Art midrib leaf-of*  
 iatou.  
*sago*  
*'Houses are made of bush material, the roof is made of sago leaves*  
*sewn together with the midrib of a sago leaf.*
2. tanami um am a tolimar tin menana tar tineng tabil.  
*Art house our Art five rooms Art room-for sit*  
*Our house has five rooms including a sitting-room.*
3. ingam nami umang wesulung siok e tok i kot.  
*we house-for cook one Aux located on ground*  
*We have a cooking house; it has an earth floor.*
4. a um ono ra kilon a haus kuk.  
*Art house this Aux called Art house cook*  
*It is known as a cook-house.*
5. tera wamwamokog ro sosopen doha an.  
*there-Aux kept Art saucepan and food*  
*There cooking utensils and food is kept.*
6. bo umang hohow ingon a paranda.  
*and house-for sleep it Art veranda*  
*And the sleeping room is a veranda.*
7. i luma tar um inga o tupara tar wat doha a tewol doha a  
*Art inside Art house you Aux find Art bed and Art table and Art*  
 sia ani tuha tar dok.  
*chair Art-Passive make Art wood*  
*Inside the house you will find beds, tables, and chairs, made of*  
*wood.*
8. a ineteng rikin doha lababang loh doha ininete  
*Art thing-for lie-down and Art cloth-for dress and-Art thing*  
 lik e moko pon.  
*little Aux too*

*You can also find bedding, clothing, and other little things used from day to day.'*

III A KALEKINALE DOHA NIAN  
'WORK AND FOOD'

1. i Nehan a mamang an pare a pos, kumal koko  
in Nissan Art all-kinds food Art banana sweet-potatoes yam  
hon kon melen pamken, a kuen bario a ketam, a loh  
taro corn watermelon pumpkin Art coconut peanuts  
doh a mamang kaen dok re wawa.  
and every tree Aux bear-fruit  
'In Nissan there are many kinds of food such as bananas, sweet-potatoes, yams, taros, corn, watermelons, pumpkins (peanuts, tapioca) coconut, breadfruit, chestnut, galip nut and other fruit-bearing trees.
2. i lolon ahik paha bulbulutunan tieh a ionenan doh a papalawan.  
Art jungle not Art thick so Art sandy and Art stony  
The jungle is not so thick, and it's mostly sandy and stony.
3. o iom o ulek ra banisig mara hik ir huet pah ra lek.  
Art garden Art big Aux fenced so-Aux not pig Aux go-in  
(We have) big gardens fenced to keep pigs (and other animals) from getting in.
4. tar wekih, o tamat ahik pah ra wekih tar mamang binaka lik.  
Art fishing Art people not Aux fish Art every time little  
As for fishing, people don't fish all the time.
5. tar Sunday ter ra wekih noman ar tamata geta lotu wakapa bak.  
Art Sunday Aux fish people when-Aux pray finish  
People usually go fishing on Sundays after church.
6. tar wok o bulot doh o kuah a nasi siokonar wok ra gatag.  
Art work Art men and Art women Art their one work Aux done  
As for work, men and women have just about the same sort of work to do.'

IV WESULUNG  
'COOKING'

1. tar wesulung ahik me inete buburah.  
Art cooking not a thing much  
'There's nothing much (to say) about cooking.
2. i Nehan doh ter wesulung puk ompa tar sosopen toro hue.  
Art Nissan and Art cooking only Art saucepan Art fire  
In Nissan cooking is mainly in a saucepan on an open fire.

3. te geto nian tun ra guat an song ra hopig ir nian tar palawa  
 when feast too Aux feast then baked food Art stone  
 welsuk.  
 hot  
 When there is a feast to be held (cooking great variety) the food  
 is baked on heated stones (covered with leaves).
4. tar binakang hop o gisiameher kuaha ra hui tar an doh o  
 Art time-of bake Art some-of women Aux peel Art food and Art  
 gisiamehe ra hulung tar hop.  
 others Aux fire-up Art earth-oven  
 During the cooking some women peel food while others make fire to  
 heat the stones.
5. a pen ar kaman dok a nosia tanika ro kukuaha lik.  
 Art ? R leaf tree Art theirs ? Art girls young  
 Leaves from the bush are usually collected by young girls.
6. gete welsuk ur palaw doh ke lomoh or hop song ra  
 when-Aux hot R stone and Aux die-down oven then Aux  
 kihangag ir an kara kokoponir hop.  
 placed-on-top R food Aux covered oven  
 When the stones are heated and the fire died down, then the food  
 is placed on top of the stones and then covered by leaves.
7. a puhpuhun dok ra taonog tar hop mar ahikir kaman  
 Art (few-pieces) tree Aux put-on-top Art oven so-that not leaf  
 dok pahe punga we mara hikir huet we o hawa pah ra an.  
 tree Aux fall-off or so-that not pig or Art what lest Aux eat  
 A few pieces of wood are put on top of the oven to keep the leaves  
 in place or so that pigs or other animals cannot (get in and) eat  
 them.
8. a hop e rakopo pare a tolima we a tonomor awa song  
 Art oven stays until-Aux Art five or Art six hours then  
 ra puken.  
 Aux unwrapped  
 The food stays covered for five to six hours, then is unwrapped.
9. tar binaka gera kokopon ir hop tar raw ingon e matot e  
 Art time if-Aux covered oven Art evening it Aux can  
 rakopo wa marang.  
 stays morning  
 If the oven is covered in the evening it usually stays over night.
10. gete mohor an song ra puken ir hop kara kale ilwig  
 when-Aux cooked food then Aux unwrapped oven Aux taken away  
 ir an ra watoka kaeg e matoto pare gete matoton ir binakang an.  
 food put up able when-Aux ready time-for eat  
 When the food has cooked then the oven is unwrapped and the food is  
 taken away to a (safe) place until such time as everyone is ready  
 for eating.

11. a an moho ra bulig toso matmatame kahakah we a  
 Art food cooked Aux distributed Art ? ? or Art  
 gniameher binak ra wa wiliones ir kuaha doho bulot  
 some time Aux Caus. ? R women and-Art men  
 wakapa tun.  
 finish too  
*All that's been cooked is brought together to be distributed to  
 people, each family has its own share, in some cases everyone has  
 his or her own share.'*

V LOTU  
 'RELIGION'

1. i Nehan doh toro torotoro lik a sioko pukur lotu a  
 Art Nissan island island small Art one only religion Art  
 katolik.  
 Catholic  
*'Within the Nissan Island groups there is only one church group,  
 that is Catholic.'*
2. halana haraha me pepa ta pokag toro welhireng Nehan bo a  
 never yet a book ? written Art language Nissan but Art  
 lotu doh a kereker toro welhireng Nehan e mokom pa.  
 prayer and Art hymn Art language Nissan  
*There hasn't yet been a book written in Nissan, but there are  
 prayers and hymns in Nissan.*
3. toro tolina we o tonomo ro krismas rasit kura la wom o  
 Art five or Art six Art years they.du Aux go ? Art  
 tamata ra lotu doh ra kereker tor welhireng Nehan.  
 people Aux pray and Aux sing-hymns Art language Nissan  
*During the past five to six years people have been saying prayers  
 and hymns in the Nissan language.*
4. kaem pen me binak et i wom ra turung wapalhig ir  
 ? ? a time that Aux ? Aux will-soon (translated) R  
 kereker doh a lotu toro welhireng Nehan.  
 hymns and Art prayers Art language Nissan  
*However I hope there will soon be some prayer books and hymns  
 translated in the Nissan language.'*

VI TAR BINAKA RE BELA WAKIKILANGAN IR KUAH  
'AGE OF PUBERTY'

1. tar binaka re bela wakikilangan ir kuah, ingon ahik  
Art time Aux menstruate first R girl she not  
manasa paha keketik ke wahire manasen pare ke mahoh.  
any more Art child Aux told now that-Aux Aux adult  
*'When the girl has her first menstruation it is believed she has gone through childhood and has reached womanhood.*
2. tar ni tagarong manang sion a kuah e bela ton gete  
Art Nom believe once Art girl Aux menstruate when-Aux  
no sio kor hangaul doho tolima ro girls mas.  
her one ten and five R-Art years  
*According to customary belief a girl usually menstruates when she is fifteen years of age (or more).*
3. doh gete bela to ion i mud ingono ra kulen ke hohowo  
and if-Aux menstruate she Art after she Aux said Aux sleep  
kep me bulot we ani wa mahoh  
with a man or Art-Nom cause mature  
*And if she menstruates earlier it is believed she slept (had sex with) a man, or (is one who) was made an adult.*
4. me inete wasa e turung tupara tatano me binaka re  
some thing make-bad Aux will find to-her some time Aux  
wangol pela.  
live ?  
*(And it is believed) she would have some bad luck during her life-time.*
5. we tar binaka bo re belan ir kuah ingon ahik pahe  
(or) Art time (and) Aux menstruate R girl she not Aux  
matotong tawtawete tal late i kalahar doh ahik pahe matot e  
able-to leave Art outside and not Aux able Aux  
an ta nian ni welsulung.  
eat food Nom cook  
*However while the girl menstruates she is not allowed to come out of the house or to eat boiled food.*
6. e an puk tar an ir ni uk doh a wonuna molomol.  
Aux eat only Art food R Nom (roast?) and Art water cold  
*She only eats roasted food and cold water.*
7. Gitie re wangol pela ingon i ium doh geta pe ion ahik pahe  
? Aux live ? she Art inside and so-Aux it not Aux  
amuh a busila muh uia ra pe ion turig i lolona kara kepi  
smell Art smell good Aux it from Art bush Aux take  
hag tar uma re wangolin ir kuah.  
(blow?) Art house Aux lived-in girl

*While she is kept in the house and in order to avoid any odour, some sweet-smelling leaves are collected from the bush and put in the house she lives in.*

8. ahik me tamata re lek we e la wa huhut tar um.  
not a person Aux go-in or Aux go cause near Art house  
*No one is allowed to enter or go near the house.*
9. te tinana puk ompor kuah re kaweke.  
there her-mother only ? girl Aux look-after  
*Only her mother looks after the girl.*
10. tar binaka re peper kuah i ium, tinan on doh o tahina kuaha  
Art time Aux girl Art inside mother her and sister female  
tinan la i lolona ra la kale me an ra turung an ig  
her-mother go Art bush Aux go take some food Aux will eaten  
gete tawete tapokisir kuah.  
so-Aux leave? come-back girl  
*During the days she stays inside her mother and her aunts (mother's sisters) go to the garden and get food that will be eaten at the ceremony when the girl returns.*
11. o bulot ra hihip me huet.  
Art men Aux hunt some pigs  
*Some special men are hired to hunt for pigs.*
12. a torik we a towon or huet ura matoto ra anis.  
Art two or Art three R pigs Aux can be-eaten  
*Usually two or three pigs are killed for the ceremony.*
13. gete moho manas ar an doh tar binaka ra kale watoros ir  
when-Aux cooked already R food and Art time Aux take ? R  
tamata toro an a kuaha ra kepini teh ra la wahuu  
people Art food Art girl Aux taken Art beach Aux go bathed  
wakikilingan ke bela pen.  
first Aux menstruate ?  
*When the food is cooked, and while other people are ready for the ceremony, the girl is taken to the beach to have her first shower after her period.*
14. gete huhu wakapa bak ono doh ke loho palih song ra puken  
when-Aux bath finish ? she and Aus dress then Aux unwrapped  
ro an, ra wel hireng wala waha menenan ir kuah ke kuaha  
Art food Aux together tell make happy girl Aux women  
mahoho pa.  
adult  
*When she has finished her shower and dressed up, (the ceremony is declared open), the food is unwrapped, followed by a speech of good luck and then the girl is congratulated on having reached womanhood.*

15. tar binaka ro kapa ro an, a kuah e waiapagah pare  
 Art time Art finished Art food Art girl Aux swear that-Aux  
 masingolo manas toso bung tatahina lik doh no bung turaka doh  
 respect now Art brother young or hear cousin and  
 no hinot.  
 his wives  
*After the ceremony, the girl swears to the public that from then  
 on she will respect her older brothers, her older cousins and their  
 wives.*
16. tar masingol on ene, ingono pare geta banga ro bung tatahina  
 Art respect that she ? when-Aux see Art brother  
 lik iono doh no bung turaka tatanon e iame, gisino ra tur  
 young her and her cousins her Aux come they Aux stand  
 liw.  
 away  
*Respect means that when her older brothers or cousins see her  
 coming, they stand away.*
17. ingon ahik pono pahe banotong tuna tenas inete ro tatahina  
 she not too Aux allowed-to ? their thing Art brother  
 lik we mate ieka tonoso uma sin.  
 small or to-Aux enter Art house their  
*She is also not allowed to touch her brothers' clothing or other  
 belongings nor to enter their houses.*
18. ingono pare doh ahik pono matotong buaka toso tusia sino  
 she ? and not too able touch Art children their  
 gesir wom.  
 ? ?  
*She can't even touch their first-born children until they're grown  
 up.*
19. ingono ra tagorong mana ponen pare tar binaka re belan  
 she Aux believed ? ? Art time Aux menstruates  
 ir kuah ingon ahik pahe banot e iek i koboro tar iom  
 R girl she not Aux allowed Aux enter Art ? Aux garden  
 we mate buaka guam, we mate wasulung me an.  
 or to-Aux touch baby or to-Aux cook any food  
*It is also believed that when she has her monthly period she is  
 not allowed to enter the garden, or to touch babies, or to cook any  
 food.*
20. ra namana iono gete iek i kobor o huet ra leka tar  
 Aux believe she if-Aux enter Art ? Art pigs Aux enter Art  
 ioma kara an wakapa tar an we gete buak ono tasir guam,  
 garden Aux eat finish Art food or if-Aux carry she Art children  
 o guama ra momoh we gete wesulung tar an, ra namanan  
 Art children Aux sicken or if-Aux cook Art food Aux believe

gete har mo mate tasir gisiameher tamat.  
 if-Aux give some sickness Art other people

*They believe that if she goes into the garden the pigs might go into the garden and eat all the food, or if she carries the babies they might get very sick, or if she cooks food it is thought she might give some sickness to the other people.*

21. tar binaka re bela ion, ingono ra kulen pare a beng we  
 Art time Aux menstruate she she Art said Art dirty or  
 a uhor hinan  
 Art dirty her-hand

*She is believed to be dirty (or have dirty hands) during her monthly periods.*

22. gine daan ra namnamang manate pelar tamata doh re palih pelar  
 nowadays Aux believe ? ? people and Aux ? ?  
 binak ginlnor gatang sion ahik manasa pah ra namanan tieh tunig  
 time that make once not now Aux believed so ?  
 bo sir mahoho ra tagorong mana horaham pa tanisin.  
 bur ? old Aux believe ? ? them

*However, nowadays as people are becoming more civilised, these things don't apply any more but old people still believe them.'*

APPENDIX B

Lexicon

ABBREVIATIONS

adj.	adjective	loc.	locative
art.	article	n.	noun
aux.	auxiliary	num.	quantitative word
caus.	causative	pri.	primary
dem.	demonstrative	prn.	pronoun
excl.	exclusive	q.	interrogative
gen.	general	s.	singular
i.	intransitive	sec.	secondary
in.	inalienable	t.	transitive
incl.	inclusive	v.	verb

a 1. s.art. with class A nouns;  
2. sec.prn. *you(s.)*; *your*

aa *yes*

ahik *no, not*; ahik pah- before  
auxiliary: ahik pahu marang  
tabil '*I don't want to sit*'

ala loc. *there*

aloho n. *ant*

am sec.prn. *we(excl.)*, *you(p.)*;  
*our*, *your*

amuh v.t. *smell*

ane loc. *here*

angal n. *pus*

an(i) v. *eat*; n. *food* (cf. en,  
nian): reng an ia '*your food*'

apup v. *leak*

ate v. *know*

atow(o) n. *sago palm* (alt. spelling  
atou)

atun n. *bonito (tuna)*

bah n. *lizard*

bak(a) v. 1. *visit*; 2. *put*; 3. in  
composition with other verbs,  
meaning cannot be determined  
exactly

bakue n. *shark*

balus n. *aeroplane*

banbanue n. *jellyfish*

banga v. *see*

banis n.,v. <i>fence</i>	delewana adj. <i>clean</i>
banot v. <i>allowed</i>	doh <i>and</i>
barah adj. <i>tall, long</i>	dok n. <i>wood, tree; doking lolona</i> <i>'bush materials'</i>
beb n. <i>butterfly</i>	dom v. <i>dance</i>
beh v. <i>defecate</i>	e aux. <i>he, she, it</i>
bel n. <i>arrow</i>	eg sec.prn. <i>we(incl.), our</i>
bela v. <i>menstruate</i>	ela dem. <i>that</i>
beng adj. <i>dirty, rotten; v. decay</i>	en v. <i>eat (more commonly an)</i>
bialok n. <i>moon</i>	ene dem. <i>this</i>
bili- n.in. <i>lip</i>	et 1. sec.prn. <i>he, she, it; his,</i> <i>her, its; 2. dem. this (that?)</i>
binak(a) n. <i>time, occasion</i>	ger- + aux. <i>if, when: geri</i> <i>kaiekinale eg tar lom ... 'when</i> <i>we work in the garden ...'</i>
bo <i>but</i>	get- + aux. <i>if, when: gete huan</i> <i>on ... 'if it rains ...'</i>
boh v. <i>lie, prevaricate</i>	gila dem. <i>that</i>
bolia n. <i>sea snail</i>	gine dem. <i>this</i>
bong n. 1. <i>night: nabong 'last</i> <i>night'; 2. pimple</i>	ginine dem. <i>this</i>
borboriana v. <i>dream</i>	ginit dem. <i>that</i>
buak(a) v. <i>touch, carry</i>	gisamehe num. <i>some, another, others</i>
buli v. <i>distribute</i>	gisila dem. <i>those</i>
bulot n. <i>man, male</i>	gisin(e) dem. <i>these</i>
bulut(u) adj. <i>thick; bulbulutunan</i> <i>(reduplicated)</i>	gisin(o) pri.prn. <i>they, their</i>
bung ? (precedes kin terms)	gisit pri.prn. <i>they, their</i>
burah num. <i>much, plenty;</i> <i>buburah (reduplicated)</i>	git pri.prn. <i>he, she, it; his, her,</i> <i>its</i>
bus adj. <i>wet</i>	gitie dem. <i>that</i>
daan n. <i>day (cf. maran); gine</i> <i>daan 'nowadays, now'</i>	gog(o) adj. <i>hungry</i>
dan num. <i>few</i>	gom(o) v. <i>wrap; n. parcel</i>
dangata v. <i>ask</i>	gorah only in following expression <i>walwala gorah 'be noisy'</i>
de v. <i>refuse, not want to</i>	gorew n. <i>lime (powdered)</i>
dede <i>always</i>	
del v. <i>weave</i>	

guam(a) n. <i>baby</i>	hohow(o) v. <i>sleep</i>
guat(a) v. <i>feast</i>	hon n. <i>taro</i>
gulete v. <i>stay up: gulete wabarah 'stay up late'; gulete waliwo 'wake up in the morning'</i>	hop v. <i>bake, n. earth oven</i>
guluh v. <i>play</i>	hua v. <i>paddle</i>
gune only in following expression gune wamatoto ' <i>get ready</i> '	huan(a) v. <i>rain</i>
hag v. <i>blow</i>	hue n. <i>fire, volcano, blanket</i>
haka v. <i>pierce</i>	huet n. <i>pig</i>
halana <i>never</i>	huhu v. <i>swim</i>
haluh v. <i>hit</i>	huhu- n.in. <i>breast</i>
hamas <i>slow</i>	huhuata- n.in. <i>shoulder</i>
hanga- n.in. <i>name</i>	hui v. <i>peel</i>
hangaul(u) num. <i>ten</i>	hulung v. <i>fire up (oven)</i>
hapa q. <i>what? how? (cf. hawa)</i>	hutung <i>will</i>
har v. <i>give</i>	i 1. loc.art. <i>in, at, to; 2. aux. we(incl.)</i>
harah(a) <i>still</i>	ia 1. q.loc. <i>where?; 2. sec.prn. you(s.), your</i>
haw n. <i>owl</i>	iab n. <i>knife</i>
hawa q. <i>what?</i>	iakah adj. <i>tall</i>
heg n. <i>bed mat</i>	iam sec.prn. <i>we(excl.), you(p.); our, your</i>
her v. <i>give</i>	ian(a) n. <i>fish</i>
her- + aux. <i>maybe</i>	iat <i>there</i>
hihip v. <i>hunt</i>	iatou n. <i>sacsac (cf. atou)</i>
hilang(a) n. <i>centipede</i>	iawon n. <i>string</i>
hiliw v. <i>go, leave</i>	ideu n. <i>arrow</i>
hinia q. <i>what?</i>	ieg sec.prn. <i>we(incl.), our</i>
hinot n. <i>sister-in-law or wife?</i>	iet sec.prn. <i>he, she, it; his, her, its</i>
hire v. <i>tell</i>	inet(e) n. <i>thing</i>
hirhir v. <i>crawl</i>	inga pri.prn. <i>you(s.), your</i>
hiro- n.in. <i>bone</i>	ingam pri.prn. <i>we(excl.), you(p.); our, your</i>
hoh v. <i>suckle, n. milk</i>	

- ingeg pri.prn. *we (incl.), our*  
 ingem cf. *ingam*  
 ingo pri.prn. *I, my*  
 ingom cf. *ingam*  
 ingon(o) pr.prn. *he, she, it; his, her, its*  
 inum v. *drink*  
 io sec.prn. *I, my*  
 iom n. *garden*  
 ion n. *sand: ionenan adj. sandy*  
 ion(o) sec.prn. *he, she, it; his, her, its*  
 irah adj. *far: ahik paho tabila wa irah 'don't sit so far away'*  
 iru n. *tea, soup*  
 ising v. *swell*  
 lum loc. *home, inside (cf. um(a)): i ium 'inside'*  
 kabel v. *overturn*  
 kabi- n.in. *nephew (sister's son)*  
 kadak adj. *dry*  
 kadoi n. *umbrella*  
 kae up  
 kah num. *one*  
 kah(i) v. *scrub, scratch*  
 kais left  
 kaki adj. *brown*  
 kaiahar(a) loc. *outside*  
 kaian adj. *young*  
 kaianguh(u) n. *flower*  
 kale v. *take, get (a disease)*  
 kaiekinale v. *work*  
 kaio- n.in. *friend*  
 kamadak adj. *thirsty*  
 kamanan n. *leaf: kamang hiar 'leaf to chew with betel nut'*  
 kamot lima- n.in. *finger*  
 kanak loc. *away from home*  
 kanau n. *lightning*  
 kap n. *cup*  
 kapa adj. *finished: wakapa caus.v. finish*  
 kapoko- n.in. *skin*  
 kapul n. *possum*  
 kara n. *seagull*  
 karabus n. *jail*  
 karurunar lima- n.in. *finger nail*  
 kasokana n. *rubbish*  
 katong(o) *by self; 1. occurs with sec.prn. as object: ingo u mataio katongo io 'I am ashamed of myself'; 2. compounds with verb: ingo ku dei katongo tar tolah 'I wove this basket by myself'*  
 kaweke v. *look after*  
 kawiwih *right (direction)*  
 keh v. *scratch, itch*  
 keke- n.in. *leg*  
 keketik n. *child*  
 kep(i) v. *1. take; 2. with (in combination with other verbs): wangoi kep 'live with'*  
 ker v. *sing: kereker v. 'sing hymn', n. 'hymn'*  
 keu n. *grave*  
 kihanga v. *place on top*  
 kih n. *rat*  
 kik v. *kick*

kiliionar gorew n. <i>lime box</i>	kuse v.i. <i>hang</i> ; v.t. <i>catch</i>
kilo v. <i>call</i>	ia v. <i>go</i>
kirel n. <i>pudding</i>	iaia v. <i>walk</i>
kiring v. <i>dry</i>	iabaiab n. <i>clothes, calico</i>
kisong adj. <i>narrow</i>	iaie n. <i>feather</i>
kit(i) <i>small</i>	lam n. <i>lamp</i>
kobor(o) loc. ? (re. <i>garden</i> )	iame v. <i>come</i>
kodom(o) n. <i>river, water</i>	iang(o) n. <i>fly</i>
kohik n. <i>mosquito</i>	iangit n. <i>sky</i>
koko n. <i>yam</i>	iatiatal(i) v. <i>hang around, go anywhere</i>
kokopo v. <i>cover (with leaves)</i>	laur loc. <i>sea (cf. lor)</i>
kolo- n.in. <i>lungs</i>	le adj. <i>married</i> ; v. <i>get married</i> ; n. <i>married person</i>
konkonomo- n.in. <i>throat</i>	lean n. <i>bow</i>
kor v.i. <i>boil</i>	lebiebag v.t. <i>grow</i>
korkorak v. <i>chew betel nut</i>	lek(a) v. <i>enter, go in</i>
kororo v. <i>crow</i>	lel n. <i>path, road</i>
kot 1. loc. <i>ground, floor, land</i> ; 2. v. <i>cut</i>	lelete- n.in. <i>fin</i>
kota- n.in. <i>heart</i>	leta n. <i>mail, letter</i>
krismas(i) <i>year</i>	libur v. <i>urinate</i> ; n. <i>urine</i>
kuah(a) n. <i>woman, wife</i>	ligun v. <i>fold</i>
kubkubar adj. <i>red</i>	lih n. <i>nit (louse egg)</i>
kuen(e) n. <i>coconut tree</i>	lik 1. num. <i>few</i> , adj. <i>small</i> ; 2. adj. <i>older</i>
kuk n. <i>crab</i>	lima- n.in. <i>arm</i>
kukule n.loc. <i>under</i>	lingi(a) v.i. <i>taste</i>
kukurai n. <i>chief</i>	liw <i>away</i>
kulo v. <i>say, tell</i>	lium n. <i>whale</i>
kumahuan n. <i>ashes</i>	liwo n. <i>morning</i> : naliwo ' <i>this morning (past)</i> '; roliwo ' <i>tomorrow</i> '; waliwo ' <i>at daybreak</i> '
kumal(a) n. <i>sweet potato</i>	liwo- n.in. <i>tooth</i>
kurlap n. <i>seahorse</i>	lo n. <i>dog</i>
kurkurum(u) adj. <i>dark, black</i>	
kurum n. <i>coconut, copra</i>	

- lobolob n. *lake*  
 loh(o) v. *get dressed, wear*  
 lolon *low tide*  
 lolon(a) loc. *in, inside, inland, bush*: i lolona tel 'inland'; i lolona tar tinih 'in the canoe'  
 lomoh v. *die down (of fire)*  
 longor(o) v. *hear, understand*  
 loplopou n. *slingshot*  
 lor loc. *sea (cf. laur)*  
 los v. *pick*  
 lot(o) adj. *sore*; n. *sore*; v. *injure*  
 lotu v. *pray*; n. *church, religion, prayers*  
 lou v. *spit*; n. *saliva*; alt. spelling low: lowlow v. *spit*  
 lu- n.in. *head*  
 lua v.n. *vomit*  
 luh v. *burn*  
 luluh v. *jump, fly*  
 lusio num. *nine*  
 mae q. *who?*  
 maene q. *why?*  
 mahan v. *not know*  
 mahang adj. *difficult*  
 mahingi v. *be hurt*  
 mahmahur adj. *full (of food)*  
 mahoh adj. *old, mature, adult*  
 maket n. *market (cf. bung)*  
 makih n. *betel nut*  
 makos(o) adj. *right (direction)*: makmakos adj. *straight*  
 malagir adj. *easy*  
 malahong 1. v. *cool, get cold*; 2. n. *fog*  
 malara v. *like, want*  
 maluana v. *get tired*  
 mamadalon adj. *smooth*  
 mamang *every*: mamang ... llk 'every single ...'  
 mamaol adj. *lightweight*  
 mamawa adj. *cold*  
 man 1. adj. *sharp*; 2. n. *coral*  
 man(a) adj. *true*, n. *truth*  
 manas(a) *now, soon, already*: ahik manas 'not any more'  
 mangliha q. *when?*  
 manguh(e) adj. *tired*  
 mani n. *money*  
 manom num. *six (cf. tonom(o))*  
 manulab n. *eagle*  
 marak(a) adj. *ripe*  
 maran n. *day*: wa 'in the (coming) day'; tar maran ulek 'at noon'  
 matalo v. *ashamed*  
 matot(o) v. *able, can*  
 mi (~ ming) aux. *we(excl.)*  
 mia- n.in. *tongue*  
 mimi n. *pawpaw (papaya)*  
 ming (~ mi) aux. *we(excl.)*  
 mira aux. *we(du.excl.)*  
 moh(o) adj. *cooked, roasted*; v. *cook*: a nian ke moh 'the food is cooking'  
 molomol adj. *cold*  
 momoh adj. *sick*: momohin 'sickness'  
 momolowina ro dok *shade tree*

more- loc.in. <i>in front of</i>	obot adj. <i>thick</i>
moto v. <i>climb up</i>	ompa ?
mowit num. <i>seven</i> (cf. towit(i))	ompo ?
mu (v mung) aux. <i>you(p.)</i>	on(o) sec.prn. <i>he, she, it; his, her, its</i>
mu-di- n.in. <i>backside; loc.in. behind</i>	paenapir <i>pineapple</i>
muhu v.i. <i>smell, emit odour</i>	pah- predicate negator after ahik before article or auxiliary
mung (v mu) aux. <i>you(p.)</i>	pahe- in. <i>alone, by oneself:</i> ahik paho latlataling pahem 'don't go anywhere alone'; git e wangoling pahen 'he lives alone'
murak(a) adj. <i>ripe; v. ripen:</i> murakan 'ripest'	pahi- n.in. <i>twin</i>
nabong <i>last night</i>	pakpaka <i>separately</i>
naliwo <i>this morning (past)</i>	palaw(a) n. <i>stone:</i> papalawan adj. <i>stony</i>
namana v. <i>believe, hope</i>	palih v. ?
Nehan <i>Nissan</i>	pam v. <i>spray (for malaria control)</i>
neraw(a) <i>yesterday</i>	panis v. <i>punish</i>
ngohngoho- n.in. <i>beak</i>	papadak adj. <i>dry</i>
ngohi- n.in. <i>appearance</i>	papago <i>few</i>
nguhnguh v. <i>kiss</i>	parara- n.in. <i>cheek</i>
ngusu- n.in. <i>nose</i>	parau n. <i>boat</i>
ni <i>my mother</i> (short form of tinag)	patere n. <i>priest</i>
ni nominaliser	pato n. <i>duck</i>
nian <i>meal</i> (cf. nien): nian ulek 'feast'	pator adj. <i>grey-haired</i>
nien(i) <i>food, meal, feast:</i> niening tar maren ulek 'dinner'	peke adj. <i>bald, v. become bald</i>
nihing <i>just, just now</i>	pekono n. <i>mangrove</i>
nil n. <i>nail</i>	pelek adj. <i>green, unripe</i>
nimaliana adj. <i>angry:</i> wa nimaliana 'anger'	pension adj. <i>old</i>
nine dem. <i>this</i>	pepa n. <i>book, paper</i>
nowat <i>four</i> (cf. towat(i))	pil n. <i>thunder</i>
o 1. s.art. with class 0 nouns, p.art.; 2. aux. <i>you(s.);</i> 3. sec.prn. <i>I, my</i>	pilai v. <i>play</i>
	pilan v. <i>shoot</i>

pipis(i) v. <i>twist</i> ; pipipisi adj. redup. <i>curly</i>	raem pri.sec.prn. <i>we(du.excl.), our</i>
pirik(i) n. <i>door</i>	rah loc. <i>far</i>
pisar(a) v. <i>shine</i> , n. <i>sun</i>	ran loc. <i>top</i>
pitopit n. <i>star</i>	randok n. <i>firewood</i>
po- n.in. <i>wife's brother</i>	rang n. <i>branch</i> : rang kuen ' <i>coconut branch (frond)</i> '
poha v. <i>give birth, be born</i>	ranis n. <i>orange fruit</i>
poka v. <i>write</i>	raom pri.sec.prn. <i>you(du.), your</i>
pokos(o) v. <i>arrive, come</i> : pokpokoso reduplicated	rasin(o) pri.sec.prn. <i>they, their</i>
polaka v. <i>split</i>	rasit pri.sec.prn. <i>they, their</i>
poluk <i>later (after T), more (after N), again (after V)</i>	raw <i>afternoon, evening</i>
pon(o) <i>too, also</i>	rawot n. <i>bamboo</i>
popokoho adj. <i>strong</i>	reh 1. loc. <i>far</i> (cf. rah); 2. v. <i>pull, float away</i>
pore- n.in. <i>forehead, face</i>	rew <i>evening</i> (cf. raw)
poropor v. <i>shake</i>	rikin v. <i>lie down, put down</i>
porpori- n.in. <i>kidney</i>	roet dem. <i>this, these</i>
pos v. <i>kill</i>	rogoto n. <i>sugarcane</i>
pos(o) n. <i>banana</i>	rokrok n. <i>frog</i>
pudpudo adj. <i>crooked</i>	rola dem. <i>that, those</i>
puhin(a) adj. <i>short</i>	roliwo <i>tomorrow</i>
puke v. <i>unwrap</i>	rom n. <i>wind, cyclone</i>
pukpuk n. <i>crocodile</i>	rone dem. <i>this, these</i>
puk(u) <i>only, just</i>	sa adj. <i>bad</i>
pul n. <i>sea cucumber</i>	sasala v. <i>trip</i>
pung(a) v. <i>fall down</i>	sasalik adj. <i>thin, young</i>
purpur n. <i>flower</i>	seng n. <i>parrot</i>
pusaka v. <i>clean</i> (e.g. <i>fish</i> )	ser n. <i>horn (of animal)</i>
ra 1. aux. <i>they</i> ; 2. dual (usually suffixed)	siapan n. <i>Japanese</i>
rabian adj. <i>wide</i>	slaw <i>too late</i>
raeg pri.sec.prn. <i>we(du.incl.), our</i>	slneir n. <i>spear</i>
	sin(o) sec.prn. <i>they, their</i>

siok(o) <i>one: nagu siokor lom</i> <i>'one of my gardens'</i>	tamato n. <i>tomato</i>
sion <i>already, long ago, once</i>	tampan v. <i>sprain</i>
siro <i>like, as, comparative</i>	tampopokoh(o) adj. <i>strong</i>
sit sec.prn. <i>they, their</i>	tang gen.art. with names, kin terms
soi n. <i>snake</i>	taono v. <i>put on top</i>
sokoro v. <i>fear, be afraid</i>	tapeka n. <i>tobacco</i>
somap v. <i>sew (cf. susuki)</i>	tapokis(i) v. <i>come back, return</i>
song r- (+ aux.) <i>and then,</i> <i>before</i>	tapolak(a) v.i. <i>break</i>
sop v. <i>stab</i>	tar gen.art.s. with class A
sosoi n. <i>worm</i>	tara n. <i>seagull</i>
sosopen n. <i>saucepan</i>	tas(ir) gen.art.p. with class A
suisan n. <i>mountain</i>	taun n. <i>ashes</i>
sulu n. <i>high tide</i>	tawar n. <i>eel</i>
susu- n.in. <i>joint; susunar</i> keke- n.in. <i>ankle</i>	tawete v. <i>leave?</i>
susuki v. <i>sew</i>	tawi v. <i>dig</i>
tabara <i>beside</i>	teh n. 1. <i>beach, 2. salt</i>
tabil(a) v. <i>sit, sit down</i>	tele v. <i>not know, not understand</i>
tabon v. <i>be away, absent</i>	tengkana ro dok <i>tree bark</i>
tagarong mana v. <i>believe: ni</i> tagarong manang sion <i>'custom-</i> <i>ary belief'</i>	tetiaw(a) n. <i>bird</i>
tagun(a) n. <i>egg</i>	tidungan n. <i>clam</i>
tahang adj. <i>wide</i>	tlehe <i>than, so, compared to</i>
tahi- n.in. <i>cousin (parallel),</i> <i>sibling</i>	tilim num. <i>five</i>
tai n. <i>excrement</i>	timuh adj. <i>new, clean, fresh</i>
takuras v. <i>hatch</i>	tina- n.in. <i>mother</i>
takut n. <i>gecko</i>	tin(e) n. <i>room</i>
talinga- n.in. <i>ear</i>	tingia v. <i>squeeze</i>
tama- n.in. <i>father</i>	tinih(e) n. <i>canoe</i>
tamata n. <i>man, person</i>	to n. <i>sugarcane</i>
	toka v.i. <i>located</i>
	tokin v. <i>cut with a knife</i>
	toking <i>a pair</i>

tokot	v. <i>cut down</i>	udel	<i>all</i>
tokunu-	n.in. <i>body</i>	uh(o)	adj. <i>dirty</i>
tolah(a)	n. <i>basket</i>	uia	adj. <i>good</i> (alt. spelling <i>wia</i> )
tolim(a)	num. <i>five</i>	ulek(i)	adj. <i>fat</i> ; uleki- n.in. <i>body fat</i>
tonom(o)	num. <i>six</i>	ulu-	n.in. <i>hair, feathers</i> ; ulunar
tor(o)	n. <i>island</i> ; totoro redup.	mata-	n.in. <i>eyelash</i>
torik(i)	<i>two</i>	um(a)	<i>house, building</i>
toro	gen.art.s. class 0	unga	v. <i>breathe</i>
toso(r)	gen.art.p. class 0	up	n. <i>snot</i>
totwe-	n.in. <i>uncle</i>	urang	n. <i>crayfish</i>
towal(i)	num. <i>eight</i>	ut	n. <i>louse</i>
towat(i)	num. <i>four</i>	wa	causative (forms transitives from adj. and intransitives): wa abeab ' <i>shine (polish)</i> '
towih(a)	q. <i>how many?, how much?</i>	wabulaw(a)	v. <i>sell</i>
towit(i)	num. <i>seven</i>	wadudura	v. <i>put</i>
towon(o)	num. <i>three</i>	wah(a)	v. <i>rest</i>
tu-	n.in. <i>child</i>	waha	v. <i>happy, love</i>
tub	n. <i>boil</i>	wahlwo	<i>down</i>
tubu-	n.in. <i>grandchild, grand- parent</i>	wahohow	<i>put to sleep</i>
tuha	v.t. <i>make, build</i>	wahuhu	v. <i>wash</i>
tumarang(a)	v. <i>sweat</i>	wahuhut(u)	v. <i>near, be beside</i> : gisino ka wahuhutung pokoso manas ' <i>they should arrive soon</i> '
tun	<i>too much, very</i>	waia	adj. <i>sufficient, enough</i> (cf. <i>uia</i> )
tunaha	v. <i>wipe, rub</i>	wakadaka	t. <i>dry</i>
tung	v. <i>fight</i> : tung pos ' <i>kill</i> '	wakap(a)	1. v. <i>finish</i> , 2. <i>all</i>
tupara	v. <i>find</i>	wakawigala	v. <i>twist</i>
tur	1. v. <i>stand</i> , 2. <i>from</i>	wakeluk	v. <i>follow</i>
turak(a)	n. <i>cousin</i>	wakes	v. <i>watch</i>
turung	<i>will (future)</i>	waklklangan	<i>first, beginning</i>
tuwal(i)	num. <i>eight</i>	wala an	v.t. <i>feed</i>
u	aux. <i>I</i>	walagure	v. <i>wake up</i>
uben	n. <i>net</i>		

- walahur *right away*
- walapagah v. *swear*
- walasiro v. *show, help, teach*
- walih v. *paddle*
- waliwo *at daybreak, early in the morning*
- walo v.i. *run*; v.t. *drive*:  
walwalo redup.
- walongoro v. *listen to*
- waluh v.t. *burn*
- walwala gorah v. *disturb, be noisy*
- wamahing v.t. *hurt*
- wamamawa v.t. *cool, let cool*
- wamaren *through the night, until morning*
- wamoko v. *put, place*:  
wamwamoko redup.
- wamu- loc.in. *in front of*
- wan n. 1. *village*, 2. *root*
- wan(a) v. *shoot*
- wangal(i) (v wangol) v. *stay, live*: wangwangal redup. *wait*
- wanio v. *laugh (at)*
- wapung(a) v. *drop*
- was n. *horn*
- wasu *badly*: ku sokoro wasu tun  
'I was terribly frightened'
- wasulung v. *cook* (alt. spelling wesulung)
- wat n. *vein*
- wat(a) n. *bed*
- watewel(e) *fast, quick*
- watoka v.t. *put, place*:  
watoka wahiwo 'put down';  
watoka wasa 'hurt'
- watuk(a) 1. v. *put* (alt. spelling watoka), 2. (direction) *to*
- watun(a) n. *seed*
- wau n. *dust*
- wawa- n.in. *mouth*
- wawago- n.in. *wife's sister*
- wawa v. *bear fruit*: wawan n. *fruit*
- wawelsuk v. *warm up*
- we *or*
- wehu- n.i. ?; wehunar mata- n.in. *eyebrow*
- wekih v. *fish*
- wekweko- n.in. *neck*
- wel ... is reciprocal or reflexive
- weldolomo v. *be sorry*
- weleher(i) *for* (benefactive)
- welhire v. *speak*; o welhire n. *language*
- welkot v. *help*
- welpisir v. *sting*
- welsuk(u) adj. *hot*
- weluh v. *bleach with lime*
- welwataat v. *talk, converse*
- welweliatunge *fight one another*
- wenaw(a) v. *steal*
- wentinani- loc.in. *between, middle*:  
i wentinaninar um 'in the middle of the room'
- wenut v. *tie*; wenutuna n. *knot*
- weru- n.in. *joint*; werunar keke-  
n.in. *knee*; werunar lima- n.in. *elbow*
- wesulung v. *cook, boil*
- weswes n. *beard*

wih v. *tie*

wihi- n.in. *buttocks, tail*

wiloho v. *walk around, encircle:*  
 wilwiloh adj. *round*

woh n. *rope*

wok v. *work* (cf. *kalekinale*)

wom v. ?

won 1. n. *turtle*; 2. adj. *full, covered*, v. *fill*: o lango gisila  
 ka won tar mit '*there are flies all over the meat*'

wonun(a) n. *water*

woto *habitually*: inga a woto  
 borboriana tar binaka ro hohowa  
 '*do you dream when you sleep?*'

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