

# Prominence in Paumarí

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Preliminary Version - 1979  
Online Version - 2008

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### Introduction

There appear to be two separate and independent systems for marking prominence in Paumarí<sup>1</sup>. One is verbal and the other nominal. The verbal system is used to differentiate between monologue and dialogue and within monologue between primary and secondary information. The nominal system, by means of varying word and phrase order, is used to indicate topics, selection and contrast, identification and communication. The nominal system is also used to put focus on participants through a special set of pronouns.

This paper is restricted to a description of the clause nuclear elements (surface structure subject, object<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup> and verb). In general, the information given about the nuclear elements may also be applied to the clause periphery elements (time, location, instrument) and to sentence periphery dependent clauses.

The derivational affix system in Paumarí and how it affects prominence has previously been described<sup>3</sup> and is not included in this paper.

## 1. Verbal Prominence

By means of an obligatory verb final suffix, traditionally called a margin<sup>4</sup>, the speaker makes certain choices. Some of these are grammatical - gender, transitivity and dependency. Other choices are semantic - primary vs secondary information, monologue vs dialogue, indicative vs imperative etc. The monologue/dialogue distinction is not made exclusively on the basis of the margin but includes word order changes from the nominal prominence system. In a monologue the speaker selects the **-hi/-ha** margin to indicate information of primary importance. Verbs so marked are the important ones in the event line but may also include prominent non-eventive material.

- 1)    ihamahi-   'a- ha                    ada Dono  
      angry-     asp- theme=margin dem Dono  
      'Dono was angry.'

The fact that Dono was angry was relevant and important information in the narrative. It is also possible to bring information that would normally be considered background or setting and bring it into the theme line by using this margin. For example:

- 2)    pořořo-     ha     apdabahi  
      black-     theme dem rain  
      'The rain was black.'

The story, of which this clause forms part of the introduction, is all about the storm which was about to start.

The speaker may mark certain primary information as being more prominent than other primary information by the addition of the aspect marker<sup>5</sup> - 'i/- 'a. This aspect, in dialogue is used to indicate completive action and at times this meaning may also be evident in a narrative. It is possible for more than one event in a sequence to be marked for prominence. The final event in a sequence is recognised by falling intonation and usually has the aspect marker.

Secondary information is usually background, non-thematic material which supports the primary theme line. It normally includes explanations, descriptions, negations, reason, purpose, cause and effect, contrafactuals, time and location and manner. Background material is not usually marked with the aspect - 'i/- 'a except when a **-ki** margin is present.

When a speaker reports dialogue material it is given in identical form to that of the original conversation. The margin on the quotation tag marks the dialogue as primary or secondary information. Dialogue material given as reported speech fits directly in as primary or secondary information.

## 2. Nominal Prominence

The term 'nominal phrase' is understood to mean a noun with optional modifiers, a nominalisation, or an embedded clause. These are marked in the examples as the surface level subject (S) or object (O). Although nominal phrases are marked at times in formulas and charts as optional, they are always present in the deep structure and may only be omitted if they can be elicited from the context. A deleted nominal phrase still governs the number, gender and person

agreement that it would have had if it had been overtly stated. For example, the unmarked order for a transitive clause is +S-a +V +dem +O. If both the S and O are deleted because they are given information a V clause results:

- 3)    va- nako'di- ha  
       3pl- seek=for- theme  
       'They searched.'

The context supplies the information who 'they' are and 'what' they were looking for. The object '**ada baroro** (dem leaves (type of)) which has been deleted is masculine singular, so the margin on the verb is marked by the masculine singular theme affix **-ha**. Verb margin agreement is with nominal phrase not marked by an enclitic.

Number agreement also occurs between the subject and the verb and is marked by a verbal prefix. First and second person subjects are only marked by a verbal prefix. A free pronoun automatically marks it as prominent. Only one demonstrative (dem) may occur within a clause nucleus and this also agrees in number and gender with the nominal phrase with which it is associated:

number/person		gender/number	
S-a	V	dem	O

- 4)    Dono-a        bi-ko'diraha- 'a-ha    ada isai hoariha  
       Dono-S=topic 3sg-pinch-       asp-theme dem child other  
       'Dono pinched the other boy.'

The third person singular prefix **bi-** agrees with the subject. The masculine theme suffix **-ha** and the singular masculine demonstrative agree in gender and number with 'boy'.

The normal unmarked order of clause nuclear elements is, with an intransitive verb:

+ V + dem + S

and with a transitive verb:

+ S-a + V + dem + O

In the unmarked orders the subject is the natural topic. The subject of a transitive verb occurring immediately preceding the verb is tagged by the enclitic **-a** 'S=topic'. The subject of an intransitive verb never has an enclitic tag. Following a word final /a/ the subject enclitic is elided. A topicalised object is shifted forward to the pre-verb position and tagged with the enclitic **-ra**.<sup>5</sup> Nearly all prominence shifts the item (participant or prop) forward to a pre-verbal position. There are two possible kinds of prominence in the pre-verbal position.

Informational Prominence	Topic	Verb
	S-a	V
S	O-ra	V



If the speaker wishes to make the object prominent without making it the topic, the object is fronted to the clause initial position but has no enclitic tag. The remainder of the clause is in the unmarked order and stands in apposition to the informationally prominent object. It gives non-thematic information concerning the object such as an explanation, suggestion or description. It frequently concerns something over which the speaker feels strongly:

+ O + S-a + V

- 8) 'akadi- prato jara radahaki- a bi- na-  
 our- plates non=paumari passing- S=topic 3sg- cause-  
 roiroi- mai- ribani- vini  
 row- side=by=side- line- dep=trans  
 'Our plates, a passing Brazilian had stood them up side by side in a line.'

When the speaker arrived at their canoe she found that their plates had been tampered with. Neither the plates nor the Brazilian had any previous or further relevance to the narrative and the event had taken place outside of the theme time line. The next two examples show a similar construction:

- 9) baida va- n- ihima- hahavi- 'i- ki  
 turtle=shell 3pl- cause- finish- all- asp- indep  
 'The meat in the turtle shell, they finished it all up.'

The speaker was feeling strongly about the turtle meat. The other participants had eaten it all up, and she got none. The subsequent clause repeats the information in the normal order.

- 10) ija'ari jamaraha- mani- ja 'ida  
 people claw- response- immediate dem  
 'People, she could claw them.'

While in the jungle the speaker saw an onça. She wanted her companion to hurry, 'Hurry a little. A fierce animal I have just seen. It isn't big. (But) people, it could claw them.'

Occasionally a speaker may wish to clarify a participant or topic that had been deleted from the utterance. This may be done by adding the clarification in the clause final position with the enclitic. The example shows deletion of both subject and object and then the subject is clarified. In the context there were other possible candidates for subject position:

- 11) bi- oga- ki 'ovari Parajairo-a  
 he- know- indep Sf=focus Parajairo-S=topic  
 'He knew, that is Parajairo (knew).'

Subject focus is dealt with on pages 7-8.

An unusual form of clarification occurs with a few verbs that are semantically transitive but grammatically intransitive. Grammatically no overt object is allowed within the clause nucleus but it may be tagged clause final with the object enclitic:

- 12) vi- 'bai- maina- 'a- ha siri amabokhoni- ra  
 3pl- eat- next- asp- theme tartaruga elbow- O=topic  
 'They ate next - turtle elbow.'

## 2.2. Topic with contrast/selection

When a speaker wishes to make a participant or prop prominent in order to indicate that it is being selected out of other possible choices, or to make a contrast between that item and others in the immediate context, then the particle **vani** is added to that item. **vani** is always associated with a nominal phrase in clause initial position or is prefixed with a person marker and becomes a free subject contrast/selection pronoun (Sp-**vani**).

There are three possible ways to mark the selection/contrast prominence: a. strong selection, b. weak selection with weak contrast, c. strong contrast.

### a. Strong selection

The free subject selection/contrast pronoun precedes the informationally prominent subject. The speaker is strongly pointing out one member of a group of people or objects. In the first example the subject is also topic. In the second example the object also has topical prominence.

+ Sp=**vani** + S + V

- 13) 'ada- vani vahabini kodi- makhini kha- 'a- ha  
 S-pronoun- sel maybe my- grandson come asp- remote  
 'That one maybe is my grandson coming.'

In the context the speaker was pointing out one of a group of three people who were approaching.

+ Sp-**vani** + S + O-**ra** + V

- 14) hida- vani mani siho ka- nadarani pamoari-ra  
 S=pronoun- sel equative fire nncl- coals Paumarí-O=topic  
 ka- ka- barava- ki  
 nncl- verbaliser- fever- indep  
 'It is this firecoal that causes a Paumarí to have fever.'

The speaker was identifying various objects that cause people to get sick and firecoals was selected as the cause of fever.

### b. Weak selection with weak contrast

In this construction **vani** is added directly to the subject or object nominal phrase in clause initial position or **vani** occurs within the subject pronoun but they do not co-occur. The first two examples show weak selection/contrast prominence being given to an already prominent subject as topic.

+ Sp-**vani** + V

- 15) ho- vani 'o- kasisiha- ka'oa- 'i-ki  
S=pronoun- sel/contr 1sg- smoke- only- asp-indep  
'I, I only smoked a cigarette.'

Her companions had all eaten but she hadn't because someone else had eaten her food.

+ S **vani-a** V

- 16) mina'di vani- a bi- noba- 'iana- hi  
electric=eel sel/contr- S=topic 3sg- shock- again- theme  
'An electric eel shocked (her) again.'

The next example shows weak selection/contrast prominence on the subject while the object is marked as topic.

+ Sp-**vani** + O-**ra** + V

- 17) ho- vani 'o-daina-ra 'o-nofi-hi  
S=pronoun- sel/contr my-load- O=topic 1sg-want-theme  
'I, I wanted my load (to carry it).'

Even though the speaker had a stiff neck she wished to carry her own load - against the wishes of her companions.

The final example of weak selection/contrast prominence is on a topicalised object.

+ O **vani-ra** + V

- 18) khaño kaasi 'ba'dani vani- ra ni- 'a- 'a- ha  
bite sand grains sel/contr- O=topic pro=verb- trans- asp- theme  
'It was sand that he bit on.'

He had been expecting it to be manioc flour.

### c. Strong contrast

This form of prominence is used when there is a strong contrast between the participant or prop in the marked clause with another in the immediate context. There is usually contrastive action as well. **vani** + demonstrative occur immediately after a clause initial S or O, or the subject pronoun with **vani** is followed by a demonstrative. The first two examples show strong contrast on a prominent topic subject.

+Sp-**vani** + dem (+ loc) + V

- 19) 'o- vani 'ada kaasi-a vadi- thimaha- ma'o- ha  
S=pronoun- contr dem beach-loc sleep- up=river- ground- theme  
'That one he slept on the beach towards upriver.'

His companions had not slept with him but in a different place.

+ S **vani** + dem + V

- 20) a'o morani vani 'ida aani- 'i- hi  
beiju crumb contr dem remain- asp- theme  
'Only a beiju crumb remained.'

His companions had a whole beiju each but he only had a remaining crumb.

The following example shows strong contrast on the subject and a topicalised object.

+ Sp-**vani** + dem + O-ra + V

- 21) 'o- vani 'ada kapita abono ka'oa- ra  
S=pronoun- contr dem fish (type of) body only- O=topic  
kakhaa- 'iana- ha  
choke=out- again- theme  
'That one he choked out again only whole fish.'

His companions did not choke out whole fish, only fish heads.

The final example is of strong contrast prominence on a fronted object. A demonstrative and enclitic may not cooccur following **vani** but this object is regarded as topic.

+ O **vani** + dem + V

- 22) 'bamiki vani 'ida va- ani- 'a- ha  
few contr dem 3pl- take- asp- theme  
'It was only a few that they took.'

They had gone to look for a special kind of leaf to line baskets and only found a few. The previous statement says that they had found none.

It may be noted that the only margin that occurs with strong contrast in the clause is theme. It may also be noted that in both weak and strong contrast only one nominal element preceding the verb may be filled with a noun. The other element is filled by a pronoun.

### 2.3. Identification/communication

Both of these kinds of prominence are extremely common in dialogue - questions, answers, comments, warnings - when the transference of information or the identification of people and props are highly relevant. The pre-verb demonstrative appears to be a signal to the listener - pay attention, I want to give you or receive from you some information that is relevant now to our situation. Both of these kinds of prominence are achieved by fronting the demonstrative that is associated with the noun phrase concerning which information or communication is important. Fronting that gives an order NP ± dem is concerned with communication. Fronting that gives an order dem ± NP is concerned with information. Both are a modification of the simple topic system. (see the chart for comparison on page 16.)

**a. Identification**

It should be noted that the normal identificational equative clause order is:

NP ±**mani** + dem

- 23) nahina mani 'ida  
what equational dem  
'What is that?'

To achieve identificational prominence both the demonstrative and the nominal phrase are fronted in reverse order. The unmarked intransitive clause order V + dem + S becomes:

S + dem + V

- 24) nahina 'ida kha- ja  
who dem come- immediate  
'Who is that coming?'

The next example is a typical way to express a warning or advice. In all the examples the object was filled by an object pronoun.

+ S + dem + O-**ra** + V

- 25) makha bana hada haria ananaha- ra  
snake warning dem us bite- immediate  
'It is a snake that is going to bite us.' (implication - let us get out of here)

In the following example the object is being identified and is also considered to be the topic.

+ O + dem + V

- 26) 'o-sa'a hida 'o- ka- noba- ja  
my-hand dem 1sg- nocl- chop- immediate  
'It is my hand I've chopped.'

The speaker had arrived with a bleeding hand, identifying what had been damaged.

In the final example of identificational prominence the object is identificationaly prominent but is not the topic. It seems to be a similar construction to that discussed on page 6, examples 8, 9, and 10. The object seems to be in apposition to the rest of the clause.

+ O + dem + S + V

- 27) kodi- bihadi hada nahina vahabini-a bi- koho- ra  
my- nephew dem what maybe 3sg- sting- immediate  
'My nephew, what was it maybe that stung him.'

## b. Communication

Examples of this may be found in monologue but it is most common in dialogue. The speaker's aim is to communicate relevant situational information or to obtain it from the listener. When it occurs in monologue it amplifies a given topic giving additional descriptive information. Communication prominence is always signalled by a clause initial demonstrative. The nominal phrase with which it is associated may be left in the original order, fronted or deleted. When fronted it is also the topic. Firstly, an example of communication prominence being given to the natural topic of an unmarked clause:

(S)  
+ dem + V

- 28) 'adani va- ki'dama- 'a- ha bana  
dem 3pl- embark- asp- remote warning/future  
'They are getting into the boat.'

An example of communication prominence being placed on an already prominent topic:

(S)  
+ dem + S ± (loc) + V

- 29) 'ada papai 'ida hoja- ha- ha  
dem father there stay- distance- remote  
'Father stayed there.'

This was a reply to a question from a child who had returned alone.

It is possible for the subject to have communication prominence while the topic is the object:

(S)  
+ dem + S + O-**ra** + V

- 30) 'ada bana jara kavi kagahafani hoãani  
dem warning non-paumarí beer bottle one  
maina- ra vi- gaimori- 'a- ha  
next- O=topic accompany- go=up=bank- asp- theme  
'That Brazilian (watch out!) is now taking a bottle of beer up from the port.'

The speaker was keeping her eye on the activities of another group and reporting them to her companion.

The following example was taken from a narrative in which the topic was already about some leaves they were looking for. The speaker then amplifies the topic of leaves by describing them.

+ dem + O-**ra** + V

- 31) 'ada baroro 'dara'darahana- ra  
 dem leaves (type of) big/black- O=topic  
 ni- va- karaga- 'i- ki  
 neg- 3pl- find- asp- indep  
 'The big black leaves they didn't find.'

In a similar way the next example shows amplification of an already established topic. The speaker had previously seen some bacaba and says:

(O)  
 + dem + O + V

- 32) (ni- 'o- nofi- ki 'ida hoja-ha- ni) 'ida  
 (neg- 1st- want- indep dem stay-distance- dep=intrans) dem  
 kajaviro 'da'dini 'a- noki- ki  
 bacaba/palm=fruit head 1pl-see- indep  
 '(I didn't want to leave it behind), the head of bacaba/palm fruit which we'd seen.'

The final two examples of communication prominence are similar to example 28, except that the referent to the demonstrative is made explicit, perhaps for clarification of the given information:

(S)  
 + dem + V + S

- 33) 'ada kha- ra- foni- 'a- ha jara  
 dem come- downwards- water=edge- asp- remote não=paumari  
 'He's come down to the water's edge, the Brazilian.'

(O)  
 + dem + V + O

- 34) ajabona, 'oni 'i- kamitha- mani- hi hahani  
 Brother=in=law, dem 2sg- hear- interrog- remote laughter  
 'Brother-in-law, do you hear that, the laughter?'

## 2.4. FOCUS

Focus may be likened to the spotlight momentarily resting on one or more of the major participants. They are always in the subject position. It may be used to change focus from one major participant to another, to separate major participants into groups or to show negative contrastive action (i.e. non-thematic background).

Focus does not appear to be a different system from those previously described, in the sense of changing word orders, but using those orders, the subject focus pronoun may occur with an overt subject or replace it.

If the speaker wishes simply to put focus on a participant then the subject focus pronoun is used. If the overt subject is retained it serves as clarification of the pronoun and if it occurs in an already marked prominent or topical position that prominence is retained.

+ Sf=focus + S=topic + V

- 35) ovari Vararibori jaboni ka- raborabo- ki  
 Sf=pronoun Vararibori also possess- trinket- indep  
 'That one Vararibori also had a trinket of arara/macaw feathers.'

The speaker had just mentioned that the three major participants had found some trinkets and put them on. He then picks out one of the three, who is the non-conformer throughout the story as also having a trinket.

If contrast or division of participants into groups is desired **hiki** is always present. The negative enclitic always governs the non-thematic margin **-ki** 'independent'. A negative contrast must, therefore, be non-thematic but a participant in it may be focal. In the immediate context of the following examples there is contrast of participants. The first shows **hiki** with an informationally prominent subject, the second with a subject focus pronoun + **hiki** and the third with subject clarification, the O<sub>2</sub> being the topic.

+ S=topic + **hiki**=contr + V

- 36) gamo hiki ni- barobaro- ki  
 woman contr neg- naked- indept  
 'The woman contrastively didn't take her clothes off.'

+ Sf=focus + **hiki**=contr + V

- 37) 'ovari hiki ni- varavara- ki  
 S=focus contr neg- converse- indep  
 'He contrastively didn't say anything.'

+ Sf=focus **hiki**=contr S=clarification O<sub>2</sub>=topic + V

- 38) 'ovari hiki Vararibori siri amabokhoni- a  
 S=focus contr Vararibori tartaruga/turtle elbow- O<sub>2</sub>=topic  
 vahi'a- siaga- ki  
 eat=travelling-following-indep.  
 'It was Vararibori who travelled in the back of the canoe eating turtle elbow.'  
 (Others ate different parts of the turtle.)

Focus may rest on a participant of a clause that is otherwise unmarked.

+ V + dem + Sf-**hiki**

- 39) nokho 'afora- 'a- ha ada 'ovari hiki  
wake=up- asp- theme dem Sf=focus contr  
'He contrastively woke up (alone, away from others who were already gone).'

+ V + dem + Sf S

- 40) ni- ha ada 'ovari Vararibori  
said- theme dem Sf=focus Vararibori  
'Said that one Vararibori.'

Focus may also be found in a general clarification of participants as may be seen in the following two examples.

V + Sf + S-**a** (see example 11)

- 41) bi- oga- ki 'ovari Parajairo- a  
3sg- know- indep S=focus Parajairo- S=topic  
'He knew, that one Parajairo did.'

The following example shows clarification of which two children are mentioned in the identificationaly prominent topic.

- 42) isai vi- 'bamiki 'imidia hadani vi- 'oraha- ha  
child 3pl- two first dem=pl 3pl- crawl- theme  
Fatima, Nego vi- hiki  
Fatima Nego 3pl- focus=contr  
'The two children were the first to crawl, they were Fatima and Nego.'

The final two examples put focus on contrastive information regarding a prominent subject. The information is unexpected. In the first, the actor had thrown turtle bones into the water (which he shouldn't have done) and now the bones surface as a live turtle.

- 43) Siri hoki- ki hini vani<sup>11</sup>  
tartaruga/turtle live- descr contr=focus weak=contr/sel  
'dorima- 'i- hi  
surface- asp- theme  
'It was a live turtle that surfaced.'

- 44) va- kahagi mabidiri hina vani  
their- canoe water=snake contr=focus weak=contr/sel  
a- joi- thima- 'a- ha  
direction=away- return- upriver- asp- theme  
'Their canoe, being a water snake returned upriver.'

### 3. Passives

Passive constructions also form part of the possible prominence marking system. A full study of their grammatical features has not yet been done. In a narrative they are most likely to occur at a point describing potentially dangerous or critical circumstances or when a resolution is pending. It can also be used when the speaker is ignorant of or does not wish to disclose the identity of a participant.

## OVERVIEW OF THE WHOLE THING

	ENCLITIC MARKING		SELECTION CONTRAST MARKING <b>vani</b>	
	Simple Topic + Info Prom.	STRONG SELECTION	WEAK SEL WEAK CONTR	STRONG CONTRA
Natural Intrans	+V ±(dem +S) Examples 1, 2			
Topic Unmarked Trans	±(S-a) +V ±(dem +O) Examples 3, 4			
Info. Prom. = S	+S +V Example 5	+Sp- <b>vani</b> +S +V example 13	+Sp- <b>vani</b> +V ±(dem+O) Example 15	+Sp- <b>vani</b> +dem (+loc) +loc Example 19
Topic = S			+S- <b>vani-a</b> +V ±(dem+O) Example 16	+S <b>vani</b> +dem +V Example 20
Info. Prom. = S Topic = O	+S +O- <b>ra</b> +V Example 6	+Sp- <b>vani</b> +S +O-ra +V Example 14	+Sp- <b>vani</b> +O- <b>ra</b> +V Example 17	+Sp- <b>vani</b> +dem +O- <b>ra</b> +V Example 21
Info. Prom. = O Topic = O	+O- <b>ra</b> +V ±(dem+S) Example 7	*	+O <b>vani-ra</b> +V ±(dem+S) Example 18	+O <b>vani</b> +dem +V Example 22
Info. Prom. = O	+O +S- <b>a</b> +V Example 8			
Topic = S	+O +V Examples 9, 10			
Clarification S = Topic	V +S- <b>a</b> Example 11			
Clarification O = Topic	V +O- <b>ra</b> Example 12			

## ABBREVIATIONS

Aspect	(asp)	Noun class	(nncl)
Contrast	(contr)	Object	(O)
Demonstrative	(dem)	Plural	(pl)
Dependent	(dep)	Regarding	(re)
Descriptive	(descr)	Selection	(sel)
Independent	(indep)	Selection/contrast	(sel/contr)
Information Prominence	(info prom)	Singular	(sg)
Interrogative	(interrog)	Subject	(S)
Intransitive	(intrans)	Subject focus	(Sf)
Locative	(loc)	Transitive	(trans)
Masculine/feminine	(masc/fem)	Verb	(V)
Negative	(neg)		

## FOOTNOTES

1. The field work on which this paper is based was carried out during the period 1964-79. The Paumarí number approximately 300 people. The data represented in this paper comes from a study of the speech habits of a group of about 180 living in the area of São Clemente, on the Purus River in Amazonas, Brazil. Paumarí is Arawakan. Extended contact was made possible through contracts between the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) of the Brazilian Ministry of the Interior, and the National Museum, Rio de Janeiro.

2. The terms 'first' and 'second' object are used rather than 'direct' and 'indirect' object because traditionally the object refers to a patient and the indirect object refers to a beneficiary or a recipient. In Paumarí, however, the beneficiary is found in the object<sub>1</sub> slot and the patient in the object<sub>2</sub> slot in ditransitive clauses. Object<sub>1</sub> is tagged with **-ra** and object<sub>2</sub> is tagged with **-a** in some marked word orders. Certain transitive verbs govern an object<sub>2</sub> in the clause nucleus and the object<sub>1</sub> slot is obligatorily absent.

3. 'Paumarí Derivational Affixes' A preliminary version done in Porto Velho, 1978 by Shirley Chapman.

4. 'Meaning and Function of Verb Margins in Paumari' Unpublished manuscript by Shirley Chapman and Joan Boswood, 1973.

- hi / -ha** fem/masc, theme, monologue, remote in time/space from speaker (dialogue), independent.
- ja / -ra** fem/masc, dialogue, near in time/space, independent, identification/communication, contrafactual.
- ki** descriptive, explanation, non-specific re time/space, independent, non-thematic.
- vini** transitive, dependent, non-thematic, secondary information.
- ni / -na** intransitive, dependent, non-thematic, secondary information, nominal margin, modifier margin.
- zero** imperative

The above margins show one or more of the features indicated.

5. **-'i -'a** is the completive aspect in dialogue and marks important primary information in monologue.

- 'a** occurs before the margins **-ha**, **-ra**, **-vini** and **zero**.
- 'i** occurs before the other margins.

6. When an object pronoun occurs it is obligatorily placed immediately preceding the verb. The object pronouns are:

1 sg	<b>ho-ra</b>	2 sg	<b>'i-ra</b>	3 sg	zero
1 pl	<b>haria</b>	2 pl	<b>'a'oni-ra</b>	3 pl	<b>va'o-ra</b>

When the third person object is plural **va'ora** must occur, even though the object is overtly stated.

When a first or second object pronoun occurs there is ambiguity concerning the degree of prominence that it has because of its obligatory pre-verb position.

7. Subject selection/contrast pronouns are:

1sg	<b>ho-vani</b>	2sg	<b>'i-vani</b>	3sg	<b>'oni-vani</b>
1pl	<b>hari-vani</b>	2pl	<b>'a'oni-vani</b>	3pl	<b>'adani-vani</b>

The third person pronoun prefix is identical to the set of demonstratives.

	near speaker	near listener	distant in
	near time/space	near time/space	time/space
3sg. fem	<b>hida-vani</b>	<b>'oni-vani</b>	<b>'ida-vani</b>
3sg. masc	<b>hada-vani</b>	<b>'o-vani</b>	<b>'ada-vani</b>
3pl	<b>hadani-vani</b>		<b>'adani-vani</b>

8. Members of the **ka-** noun class (nnc1) are not distinguishable from other nouns either semantically or phonetically. They govern a **ka-** prefix on any modifier within the nominal phrase in which they occur. If they occur in the clause nucleus they also govern a **ka-** prefix in the verb. Canoe travel is also **ka-**. Allomorphs of **ka-** are **ki-**, **ko-** and **ak-**.

9. **khaño--ni-** 'bite on' is one of a class of verbs which does not take affixes on the verb root. The affixation is transferred to the pro-verb **ni** 'do, be' which immediately follows it. A topicalised object or object pronoun may occur between the root and the affixed pro-verb.

10. Subject participant focus pronouns are:

1sg	<b>ho-hiki</b> (very rare)
2sg	(no eg)
3sg.fem	<b>'oniaro ± hiki</b>
3sg.masc	<b>'ovari ± hiki</b>
1pl	<b>hari-hiki</b> (rare)
2pl	(no eg)
3pl	<b>va'oaniaro ± hiki</b>

11. The focus contrast particle **hiki** is **hi-** plus margin **-ki**. In examples 43 and 44 **hiki** became part of a dependent equative clause so the dependent intransitive margin was used, **-ni** feminine to agree with 'turtle', and **-na** masculine to agree with 'snake'.