

KUOT GRAMMAR ESSENTIALS*

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1 Introduction

The Kuot language is spoken by approximately 2,000 people in 10 villages scattered along the east and west coasts of the north central part of New Ireland Province. There are no significant dialects in the Kuot language. It is the only non-Austronesian language of the nineteen languages spoken in New Ireland Province. It is classified as a family-level isolate in the New Britain stock in the East Papuan phylum. To the north it is bordered by Notsi on the east coast, and Nalik on the west coast. Madak borders it to the south on both coasts. Kuot speakers feel that their language is very difficult to learn since it is so different from the neighbouring Austronesian languages.

2 Clause Level

The clause is a construction in which subject, predicate, object and indirect object are arguments. In terms of internal composition clauses can be divided into independent and dependent clauses. The normal unmarked word order for the Kuot clause is VSO.¹

- 1) V S O
parak-oŋ *ira-ruaŋ* *kamin*
eat-3ss father-1sg yam
'my father eats yam'

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¹ The phonemes are listed in Appendix A; the grammatical abbreviations in Appendix B.

- 2) V S O
a-kart-oy *kaβuna* *migan-tuaŋ*
 3sO-bite-3sS dog friend-1sG
 ‘the dog bit my friend’

However, the subject may be fronted and followed by the subject focus marker *la* for emphasis. We have not found a case in which the object is fronted.

- 3) S V O
irie migana la o-pul-oy *obinam aŋ* *papa-ruaŋ*
 ND man SF 3sfO-steal-3sS canoe 3smG brother-1sG
 ‘this man stole my brother’s canoe’

- 4) S V O
lou-ruŋ *la a-bit-ieŋ* *kumebun*
 sister-1sG SF 3sO-beat-3sfs sow
 ‘my sister beats the sow’

2.1 Independent Clause

Independent clauses are able to ‘stand alone as complete utterances initiating a conversation’ (Elson Pickett, 1983:120) and are of three types: declarative, interrogative and imperative/prohibitive.

2.1.1 Declarative Clause

Declarative clauses include intransitive, transitive, ditransitive, and various stative clauses. All declarative clauses may consist of a single verb with no stated subject, object or indirect object. These constructions will be discussed under verbs. What we will discuss now is the construction in which stated subject, object and indirect object fill the appropriate slots in the clausal construction.

2.1.1.1 Intransitive Clause

The intransitive clause is a clause in which there is a stated free form subject and an intransitive verb but no object. The nuclear constituents of intransitive clauses are:

Predicate + (Subject)

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The verb always takes an affix agreeing in person, number and gender with the subject. Subjects may be noun phrases as in (5-7), pronouns as in (8-10) or proper nouns as in (11-13).

- 5) *me-la-ra migap nuam* 'your friends have gone'
 3pS-go-COMPL friends 2sG
- 6) *ijit-iej bugam-tuo* 'I have a headache'
 pain-3sfs head-1sG
- 7) *aga-u-lie ira-ruaj* 'my father rests'
 rest-3sms father-1sG
- 8) *u-i irie* 'he is looking'
 3sms-look 3sm
- 9) *ibir-ieng urie* 'she is running'
 run-3sfs 3sf
- 10) *muli<βa>ba paba* 'we (ex) are ashamed'
 shame<1px> 1px
- 11) *i-mira maset desi* 'Desi hears well'
 3sS-hear well Desi
- 12) *mu-o lamuana titot* 'Lamuana came today'
 come-3sms Lamuana today
- 13) *te<u>aba adam* 'Adam starts (to work)'
 start<3sms> Adam

Subjects can function semantically as agents or patients. In (14-15) the subject is the agent of the clause. (Agent means the actor, causer or doer of the action of the verb.)

- 14) *ibir-lion esau ga paul* 'Esau and Paul are running'
 run-3dms Esau CJ Paul
- 15) *tego-oj adam* 'Adam is jumping'
 jump-3sms Adam

In (16-17), the subject is the patient of the clause. (Patient means the undergoer, recipient or experiencer of the action of the verb.)

- 16) *me-lum kumep* 'pigs fell'
3ps-fall pigs
- 17) *i-riβa danuot* 'the stream is flowing'
3sfs-flow stream

2.1.1.2 Transitive Clause

The transitive clause is a clause in which there is a transitive verb and a stated object. The nuclear constituents of the transitive clause are:

Predicate + (Subject) + (Object)

Most transitive verbs take affixes agreeing in person, number, and gender with both the subject and object.

- 18) *ma-βas-meŋ tatak lop babap* 'small children read books'
3pO-read-3pS small childen leaves
- 19) *u-abu-a ira-ruaŋ turuo bo labun*
3sms-put-3smO father-1sG 1s on desk
'my father put me on the desk'

Some transitive verbs, however, only take agreement markers according to the person, number, and gender of the subject. These include *mira* 'hear', *taφ* 'drink', and *parak* 'eat'.

- 20) *taφ-no burunam* 'drink water'
drink-2s water
- 21) *parak-meŋ upaubip* 'they ate food'
eat-3ps food.PL

Objects may be noun phrases as in (22-23), proper nouns as in (24-25) or pronouns as in (26-27).

- 22) *parak-ieŋ kumbun nirobu ila nei*
eat-3sfs sow coconut REL new
'the pig ate the new coconut palm'
- 23) *o-gosar-oŋ uro ubi*
3sfo-make-3sms ND.sf work
'he did this work'

- 24) *a-kar-oy* *kaβuna* *lamuana*
 3smO-bite-3smS dog Lamuana
 ‘the dog bit Lamuana’
- 25) *le-bit-oy* *migana* *desi* *ga* *dokas*
 3dO-beat-3smS man Desi CJ Dokas
 ‘the man beat Desi and Dokas’
- 26) *u-abu-a* *adam* *turuo* *togo*
 3smS-put-3smO Adam 1s here
 ‘Adam put me here’
- 27) *me-aer-a* *papap* *nuam* *irie* *irobuan*
 3pS-leave-3smO brothers 2sG 3sm there
 ‘your brothers left him over there’

A verbal comparative clause is a subtype of transitive clauses in which the subject and the object of the clause are compared. Comparative clauses are used to compare similar or dissimilar objects. When similar objects are compared, the comparative morpheme *are/gare* ‘like’ is used. The object being compared precedes the comparative marker and the object to which it is being compared follows the comparative marker.

- 28) *ties-oy* *gare* *kobeŋ* *iro* *migana*
 speak-3smS COMP bird ND.sm man
 ‘this man speaks like bird’
- 29) *paβa* *a* *la* *u-i* *are* *kumorot*
 face 3smG SF look-3smS COMP pig
 ‘his face looks like a pig’

When dissimilar objects are compared, the morpheme *me* ‘than’ is used. The structure is the same as when similar objects are compared.

- 30) *ties-oy* *iro* *migana* *kakani* *me* *kobeŋ*
 speak-3smS ND.sm man big COMP bird
 ‘this man speaks louder than a bird’
- 31) *pura-ruaŋ* *la* *u-i* *kakapi* *me* *pura-nuaŋ*
 chicken-1sG SF look-3smS small COMP chicken-2sG
 ‘my chicken looks smaller than your chicken’

The object of comparison can be omitted as in (32).

- 32) *u-i kakani pura ruaŋ ame*
 look-3sms big chicken 1sG COMP
 ‘my chicken looks bigger than it (m)’

2.1.1.3 Ditransitive Clause

The ditransitive clause is a clause in which an indirect object occurs with a transitive verb. The direct object is obligatory in the ditransitive clause. The nuclear constituents for a ditransitive clause are:

Verb + (Subject) + (Indirect Object) + Direct Object

Ditransitive verbs take agreement markers according to the person, number and gender of both the subject and indirect object. The head position of the indirect object phrase construction may be filled by noun phrases as in (28-29), pronouns as in (30-31), or proper nouns as in (32-33).

- 33) *a-me-lo magaulap poi ruaŋ uro gas*
 3smO-3ps-tell women son 1s ND.sf story
 ‘women told my son this story’

- 34) *ma-gam-i magaulap onim kuot dagarip*
 3pO-give-3ss women GEN Kuot eggs
 ‘he gave eggs to Kuot women’

- 35) *a-me-lo teip irie uro gas*
 3sOSm-3ps-tell men 3sm ND.sf story
 ‘men told him this story’

- 36) *ma-gam-i mame abulap*
 3pO-give-3ss 3p fish.pl
 ‘he gave fish to them’

- 37) *ma-gam-i jodam dagarip*
 3pO-give-3ss Jodam eggs
 ‘he gave eggs to Jodam’

- 38) *i-u-lo laipak sition gas*
 3sfO-sSm-tell old.man Sition story
 ‘the old man told Sition the story’

2.1.1.4 Stative Clause

There are three types of stative clause: non-verbal equative clauses, non-verbal descriptive clauses, and non-verbal comparative clauses. A non-verbal clause is defined as a clause in which at least two phrases are present forming a complete thought without using verb.

The equative clause consists of two contiguous phrases which function as a predicate construction. The subject slot may be filled with a noun phrase, proper noun or a pronoun, while the predicate slot must be filled with a noun phrase.

- 39) *tadasip la bo nunamap*
 stones SF on table
 ‘the stones are on the table’

- 40) *migana irie*
 man 3sm
 ‘he is a man’

It is important not to confuse the equative clause with several similar constructions:

- 41) *irie migana* ‘this man’
irie la migana ‘**he** is a man’
migana la irie ‘he is a **man**’

Examples (42-43) differ in the presence or absence of the subject focus marker *la*.

- 42) *urobu kabo la uro kabo* ‘that nut is same as this nut’
 FD.sf nut SF ND.sf nut
 43) *uro kabo urobu kabo* ‘this nut is same as that nut’
 ND.sf nut FD.sf nut

Similarly, (44-45) differ in the presence of the subject focus marker *la* versus the relative marker *ula*.

44) *uro kimanam la kimanam ula tatalu*
 ND.sf soil SF soil REL old
 ‘this soil is an old soil’

45) *kimanam ula tatalu uro kimanam*
 soil REL old ND.sf soil
 ‘this soil is an old soil’

The descriptive clause consists of a noun phrase contiguous to a possessive phrase. The subject slot may be filled with a noun phrase, proper noun or pronoun and the predicate slot may be filled with a possessive noun phrase or possessive pronoun.

46) *iam naga ruŋ miro dagarip*
 3sfG mother 1sG these eggs
 ‘these eggs are my mother’s’

47) *aŋ iroma kaβuna*
 3sm FD dog
 ‘that dog is his’

The nonverbal comparative clause can be used for the comparison of similar objects, but not for dissimilar objects. The same comparative marker used in transitive comparative clauses, *are/gare* ‘like’ (see section 2.1.1.2) is used. The object being compared precedes the comparative marker and the object to which the subject is being compared follows the comparative marker.

48) *iro migana la gare kobey*
 ND.sm man SF COMP bird
 ‘this man is like a bird’

49) *are kumorot paβa a*
 COMP pig face 3smG
 ‘his face is like a pig’

2.1.1.5 Other Constituents of the Declarative Clause

The optional constituents of the declarative clause are temporals, locatives and instrumentals. Temporals occur in pre-predicate, clause-initial position or in post-predicate, clause-final position. They may not, however, occur in both slots in the same clause. Time

words fill both slots. Locatives occur in the post-predicate position and locative phrase or locative words fill this slot. The nonverbal comparison and equative clauses can take neither locatives nor temporals as optional constituents. The expanded declarative clause constituents are as follows:

(T) + Predicate + (Subj) + (DO) + + (IO) + (INST) + (LOC) + (T)

Temporals occur in (50-51), instrumentals in (52-53), and locatives in (54-59).

- 50) *kalup eba muoŋ poi ruaŋ*
 tomorrow FUT 3smS son 1sG
 'tomorrow, my son will come'
- 51) *eba muoŋ poi ruaŋ kalup*
 FUT 3smS son 1sG tomorrow
 'my son will come tomorrow'
- 52) *u-namu-a adam kumorot o alabun*
 3smS-kill-3smO Adam pig INST ax
 'Adam killed the pig with an ax'
- 53) *aru-meŋ magaulap na kimanam o aru*
 sweep-3pS women LOC ground INST broom
 'women sweep the ground with a broom'
- 54) *bet-oŋ toruan rabaul*
 arrive-3smS LOC Rabaul
 'he arrived in Rabaul'
- 55) *eba ta-raŋ uduma na panap*
 FUT 1sS-take banana LOC bush
 'I will take banana from the bush'

Prepositions do not differentiate between goal and source in Kuot. Instead, goal and source are distinguished by deictics as well as by the verb.

- 56) *me-la na ubi*
 3pS-go LOC garden
 'they go to garden'

- 57) *mu-maio na ubi*
 come-3ps LOC garden
 ‘they come from garden’
- 58) *bet-oŋ todaŋ kavieng toruan rabaul*
 arrive-3sms LOC Kavieng LOC Rabaul
 ‘he arrived at Kavieng from Rabaul’
- 59) *u-la todaŋ kavieng toruan rabaul*
 3smS-go LOC Kavieng LOC Rabaul
 ‘he went to Rabaul from Kavieng’

The noun in the locative phrase can be omitted.

- 60) *bet-oŋ todaŋ*
 arrive-3sms LOC
 ‘he arrived there’
- 61) *eba ta-raŋ uduma · irobuma*
 FUT 1ss-take banana LOC
 ‘I will take the banana over there’

2.1.2 Interrogative Clause

There are two types of interrogative clauses: polar questions, which require a ‘yes/no’ response, and content question, which require a content-information response.

2.1.2.1 Polar Question

Polar question clauses differ from declarative clauses only in intonation. The only difference between (62) and (63) is the interrogative clause (62) has a clause-final rising pitch whereas the declarative clause (63) has a clause-final descending pitch.

- 62) *taŋa-oŋ me parak* ‘does he want something to eat?’
 sick-3sms GOAL food
- 63) *taŋa-oŋ me parak* ‘he wants something to eat!’
 sick-3sms GOAL food

Questions may be tagged with *tara* to receive an expected ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response. The clause is stated in the affirmative to indicate an expected ‘yes’ answer or in the negative to indicate an expected ‘no’ answer.

- 64) *taɸa-oŋ me parak, tara*
 sick-3sMS GOAL food TAG
 ‘he wants something to eat, right?’
- 65) *tale kan taɸa-nuŋ me parak, tara*
 NEG EMPH sick-2SS GOAL food TAG
 ‘you don’t feel hungry, do you?’

2.1.2.2 Content Question

Content questions expect a response giving specific information rather than a simple ‘yes/no’ response. Any question word may be spoken in isolation as an independent utterance. A Kuot interrogative word occurs in the same position in the phrase or clause as the element it is questioning normally does. The required information may have the form of a noun, adjective, adverb, etc. If the required information is a noun that is normally inflected, then the inflection is suffixed to the interrogative word.

Questioning of core elements in verbal clauses is illustrated in (66-74). The subject is questioned in (66-69), the direct object in (70-73), and the indirect object in (74).

- 66) *eba a-la aga* ‘who is going?’
 FUT 3sS-go who
- 67) *aga la eba a-la* ‘**who** is going?’
 who SF FUT 3sS-go
- 68) *aga la parak-oŋ uduma* ‘who ate the banana?’
 who SF eat-3SS banana
- 69) *aga la u-alo irie un* ‘who gave that to her?’
 who SF 3sMS-give FD 3sFB
- 70) *parak-nuŋ mani* ‘what did you eat?’
 eat-2SS what
- 71) *nu-ga mani* ‘what do you like?’
 2sS-like what

- 72) *nu-ga man paga* 'what **thing** do you like?'
2sS-like which thing
- 73) *o-gam-ni mani* 'what did you give her?'
3sfO-give-2sS what
- 74) *nu-alo uduma aun aga* 'to whom do you give the banana?'
2sS-give banana 3smB who

Questioning of core elements in stative clauses is illustrated in (74-77).

- 75) *auaŋ sakmes irie* 'whose spear is this?'
whose spear ND
- 76) *auaŋ iro sakmes* 'whose **spear** is this?'
whose ND.sm spear
- 77) *irie migana la aga* 'who is this **man**?'
ND man SF who
- 78) *aga la irie migana .* 'who is this man?'
who SF ND man

Manner and reason question words occur clause initially and finally. When they occur clause initially they are followed immediately by the causative conjunction. This construction represents a threatening question, emphasising an accusing attitude on the speaker's behalf.

- 79) *ma-pul-oŋ kubama purap tuam aremani*
3pO-steal-3sms boy chickens 1sG how
'how did the boy steal my chickens?'
- 80) *ma-pul-nuŋ kubama purap tuam memani*
3pO-steal-3sms boy chickens 1sG why
'why did you steal my chickens?'
- 81) *aremani ga a-bit-oŋ kaβuna timoi*
how CJ 3smO-hit-3smS dog yesterday
'how did he hit a dog yesterday?'

- 82) *memani ga a-bit-oŋ kaβuna timoi*
 why CJ 3smO-hit-3sms dog yesterday
 ‘why did he hit a dog yesterday?’

The location question word *lag* acts differently than the other question words discussed so far. It agrees in number and gender with the subject of the clause, although *lagum* is used in ordinary conversation for all numbers.

	masc.	fem.
sg.	<i>lagi</i>	<i>lagu</i>
dl.	<i>lagin</i>	<i>lagin</i>
pl.	<i>lagim</i>	<i>lagum</i>

The location question word occurs clause-finally in verbal clauses and clause-initially in non-verbal clauses.

- 83) *na-la lag-um* ‘where are you going’
 2sS-go where-2s
- 84) *lag-in loβien-tuaŋan* ‘where are my two boys?’
 where-3d child.DL-1dG
- 85) *lag-um pagap-tuam* ‘where are my things’
 where-3p things-1sG

2.1.3 Imperative and Prohibitive Clause

The imperative clause is constructed in one of two ways depending upon the emphasis. In the non-emphatic construction the simple second singular imperative form of the verb is used.

- 86) *ubi-naŋ titot rogan* ‘work (it) right now’
 work-2s today just
- 87) *na-bu-ŋ bo labun* ‘put (it) on the bench’
 2sS-put-3sm on bench

The emphatic construction is identical except that it begins with *eβa* ‘must’.

- 88) *eβa ubi-naŋ titot* ‘you must work (it) now’
 must work-2s today

- 89) *eβa na-bu-ŋ bo labun* 'you must put (it) on the bench'
 must 2sS-put-3sm on bench

Sometimes the emphatic word *kan* accompanies *eβa* to further emphasise the construction.

- 90) *eβa kan na-la kavieng titot*
 must EMPH 2sS-go Kavieng now
 'you must go to Kavieng now'

The prohibitive clause is constructed with prohibitive word *buat* 'not' occurring clause initially with the imperative form of the verb.

- 91) *buat ubi-nuŋ titot* 'don't work today'
 NEG work-2s today
- 92) *buat na-bu-ŋ isik bo labun* 'don't put (it) on the bench'
 NEG 2sS-put-3sm 3s on bench

Sometimes the emphatic word *kan* accompanies *buat* for emphasis.

- 93) *buat kan ubi-nuŋ titot* 'you never work today'
 NEG EMPH work-2s today

2.1.4 Negative Clause

In negative clauses the negative morpheme *tale* precedes the verb. It can occur in intransitive clauses as in (94-95), transitive clauses as in (96-97), ditransitive clauses as in (98-99), stative clauses as in (100-101), or interrogative clauses as in (102-103).

- 94) *tale u-la migan tuŋ*
 NEG 3sS-go friend 1sG
 'my friend did not go'
- 95) *inamaniap la tale me-nama labinim*
 people SF NEG 3pS-sit ashore
 'people did not sit down on the beach'
- 96) *kubap la tale o-gosar-meŋ uro ubi*
 boys SF NEG 3sO-make-3ps ND.sf work
 'boys didn't make this'

- 97) *tale tu-abu-a bo labun*
 NEG 2sS-put-3smO on desk
 'I did not put this on the desk'
- 98) *magaulap la tale a-me-lo adam uro gas*
 women SF NEG 3smO-3ps-tell Adam ND.sf story
 'women didn't tell this story to Adam'
- 99) *tale ma-gam-ti teip purap tuam*
 NEG 3pO-give-1sS men chickens 1sG
 'I didn't give my chickens to the men'
- 100) *iroma kaβuna la tale aŋ*
 FD dog SF NEG 3sm
 'that dog is not his'
- 101) *tale magan-ieŋ na pirom*
 NEG calm-3sfs LOC sea
 'the sea is not still'
- 102) *mani la tale it-ua-mu timoi*
 what SF NEG finish-3smS yesterday
 'what didn't he finish yesterday?'
- 103) *tale ubi-nuŋ memani titot*
 NEG work-2sS why today
 'why don't you work today?'

2.2 Dependent Clause

Up to this point we have been discussing independent clauses, although an occasional illustration included a dependent clause. In this section we will describe in closer detail the various types of dependent clauses which occur in Kuot. There are two types of dependent clauses: relative and adverbial. Both are subordinate constructions and as such can be differentiated from independent clauses by the presence of dependent words such as demonstrative pronouns, locational words and time words.

2.2.1 Relative Clause

Relative clauses are subordinate clauses within a main clause. They are constructed by using *la* which functions as a relative pronoun that is coreferent with the head of the phrase the relative clause modifies. The relative clause may modify the subject noun phrase as in (104), the direct object noun phrase as in (105-106) or the indirect object noun phrase as in (107). In each case the relative clause immediately follows the noun phrase it modifies.

- 104) *migana la bet-oŋ timoi la u-βarara titot*
 man RP arrive-3SS yesterday SF 3SS-die today
 ‘the man who arrived yesterday died today’
- 105) *a-gima-ruŋ kumorot la a-sau-nuŋ na sune*
 3smO-see-1SS pig RP 3smO-buy-2SS LOC market
 ‘I saw the pig which you bought at the market’
- 106) *na-laŋ kakep la to-marik-oŋ tinan aun lamuana*
 2SS-give money RP 1sO-ask-3smS before 3SB Lamuana
 ‘give to Lamuana the money for which he asked me before’
- 107) *na-laŋ kakep aun lamuana la to-marik-oŋ tinan*
 2SS-give money 3smB Lamuana RP 1sO-ask-3smS before
 ‘give the money to Lamuana who asked me (for it) long before’

The examples thus far contain non-restrictive relative clauses. Restrictive relative clauses, that is, clauses which help to identify or specify the modified head noun, take a final restrictiviser (RSTV).

- 108) *a-duri-meŋ luquan la komum nibanap a*
 3smO-tear-3pS house RP rotten posts RSTV
 ‘they are tearing down the house whose posts are rotten’
- 109) *le-namu-o puraibun la kire kibaβien o*
 3ds-kill-3sfO hen RP bad foot.DL RSTV
 ‘they (dl) killed the hen whose legs were bad’

2.2.2 Adverbial Clause

Kuot adverbial clauses function as time clauses, location clauses, purpose clauses, and quotation clauses, each of which employ an introductory subordinating word appropriate to the function of the clause.

Subordinate time clauses are prepositional constructions introduced by *na* ‘during/at’.

- 110) *na tara bet-oy lamuana u-βarara lagin*
 LOC time arrive-3smS Lamuana 3smS-die Lagin
 ‘at the time Lamuana arrived, Lagin died’

- 111) *u-βarara lagin na tara bet-oy lamuana*
 3smS-die Lagin LOC time arrive-3smS Lamuana
 ‘Lagin died at the time Lamuana arrived’

Subordinate location clauses are subordinate clauses identifying the particular location of the event expressed in the predicate. They are introduced by the preposition *na* ‘in/at’.

- 112) *u-nama na pianam la papot ma suveilap*
 3smS-stay LOC place RP many PL wild.animals
 ‘he lives where the wild animals live’

The subordinate purpose clause is introduced by the purpose marker *eba* ‘to/in order to’.

- 113) *bet-oy eba ma-sau-oy kumep tuam*
 arrive-3sS PURP 2pO-buy-3smS pigs 1sG
 ‘he arrived in order to buy my pigs’
- 114) *na-rij maranit uro iagur eba nu-lum lourup*
 2sS-hold strong ND.sf vine PURP 2sS-fall down
 ‘hold on tightly to this vine lest you should fall down’

The subordinate quotation clause is introduced by verbs such as *gama* ‘say’, *ait* ‘know’, *duriong* ‘dream’, *kukuφoy* ‘shout’, *amarikoy* ‘ask’, *upta* ‘hear’, *agatoy* ‘think’, *upto* ‘answer’, *umirong* ‘write’. The direct speech clause signifies the actual words of a speaker given second hand. In the direct speech clause, the first person pronouns and verb subject agreement markers are used in the subordinate clause.

- 115) *u-gama sabalolotut tu-namuam numeip nuam na panap*
 3smS-say monster 1sS-kill family 2sG LOC bush
 ‘Sabalolotut said, “I killed your family in the bush.”’

The indirect speech clause signifies a paraphrase of the speaker’s words. The indirect speech clause employs the third person pronouns and verbal subject agreement markers.

- 116) *u-gama sabalolotut u-namuam numeip tuam na panap*
 3smS-say monster 3sS-kill family 1sG LOC bush
 ‘Sabalolotut said he killed family in the bush’

3 Phrase Level

A phrase is a unit potentially composed of two or more words, but which does not have the propositional characteristic of a clause. Phrases are characterized as having a head and various modifiers indicating quality, quantity, possessor, augmentation, negation, etc. Kuot phrases include noun phrases, pronoun phrases, possessive pronoun phrases, adjective phrases, verb phrases, coordinate phrases, serial phrases and prepositional phrases.

3.1 Noun Phrase

The noun phrase consists of a noun head, relator and modifiers. The head is obligatory whereas relator and modifiers are optional. A noun phrase usually has very few elements. The phrase quickly changes to a descriptive stative clause if too many modifiers are present.

3.1.1 Descriptive Noun Phrase

Kuot descriptive noun phrases may be modified to indicate specificity (MOD₁), quantity (MOD₂), quality (MOD₃), and possession (MOD₄) as shown in the following chart:

MOD ₁	MOD ₂	HEAD	MOD ₃	MOD ₄
DP	QM	N	MW	PC

The noun may be made specific by adding a demonstrative pronoun preceding the head noun in the noun phrase. This demonstrative functions as a specifier.

- 117) *nomurit kamin* ‘one yam’
 one yam

118) *iro kamin* 'this yam'
 ND.sm yam

119) *uro magabun* 'this woman'
 ND.sf woman

Quantities indicated in MOD₂ may be precise quantities (one, two, three, etc.) or quantity in general (some, many, etc). The quantifier may include the plural marker *ma* as in (122-123). Quantity modifiers (QM) occur following the specifier and preceding head noun.

120) *iro nomurit kamin* 'this one yam'
 ND.sm one yam

121) *uro nomurit magabun* 'this one woman'
 ND.sf one woman

122) *miro naien ma kamilip* 'these three yams'
 ND.p three PL yams

123) *mirobu papaluaip ma magaulap* 'those many women'
 FD.p many PL women

Nouns may also be modified to indicate a certain quality pertinent to that noun. The quality modifier with its relator follows directly after the head.

124) *iro nomurit kamin ila muri*
 ND.sm one yam REL good
 'this one good yam'

125) *uro nomurit magabun ula muru*
 ND.sf one woman REL good
 'this one good woman'

126) *miro naien ma kamilip mila murum*
 ND.p three PL yams REL good
 'these three good yams'

127) *mirobu papaluaip ma magaulap mila murum*
 FD.p many PL women REL good
 'those many good women'

There are three types of possessive noun phrases: those with a possessive relative construction in the MOD₄ slot, those with a coreferent construction, and those with the possessive marker *onim*.

The possessive relative phrase construction consists of a head noun followed by a possessive pronoun construction (PPC) which functions as the possessor of the phrase.

- 128) *iro nomurit kamin ila muri aŋ lamuana*
 ND.sm one yam REL good PN Lamuana
 ‘this one good yam of Lamuana’
- 129) *uro nomurit magabun ula muru aŋ lamuana*
 ND.sf one woman REL good PN Lamuana
 ‘this one good woman of Lamuana’
- 130) *miro naien ma kamilip mila murum am lamuana*
 ND.p three PL yams REL good PN Lamuana
 ‘these three good yams of Lamuana’
- 131) *mirobu papaluaip ma magaulap mila murum am lamuana*
 FD.p many PL women REL good PN Lamuana
 ‘those many good women of Lamuana’

The PPC consists of a possessive preposition optionally followed by a proper noun or noun phrase.

- 132) *sakmes aŋ*
 spear 3sm
 ‘his spear’
- 133) *sakmes aŋ lamuana*
 spear 3sm Lamuana
 ‘Lamuana’s spear’
- 134) *sakmes iaŋ buptamap ula kanu*
 spear 3sf clan REL big
 ‘big clan’s spear’ (the spear that belongs in the big clan)

The coreferent possessive construction is a noun-noun construction. The possessed head noun is followed by possessor modifying noun filling the MOD₄ slot. Either of the two

nouns may be fully modified with qualifiers, quantifiers, etc. Their coreferent relationship is what binds them together as a phrase.

- 135) *kilan a amatao* 'the handle of ax'
arm PPI ax
- 136) *kilan a adam* 'Adam's arm'
arm PPI Adam

The possessor may also take a possessive suffix to indicate an extended form of possession.

- 137) *kilan a amatao tuang* 'the handle of my ax'
arm PPI ax 1SG

To extend the range of possession even further, another noun may occur specifying the pronoun.

- 138) *kilan a amatao aŋ adam*
arm PPI ax 3sm Adam
'the handle of Adam's ax'
- 139) *kilan a amatao maioŋ lop am adam*
arm PPI ax 3pG sons 3smG Adam
'the handle of Adam's sons' ax'

Finally, possession can be expressed using the free form possessive marker *onim* as a possessor relator word before a location word.

- 140) *migana nim kuot* 'Kuot man'
man GEN Kuot
- 141) *magabun nim rabaul* 'Rabaul woman'
woman GEN Rabaul

3.1.2 Coordinate Noun Phrases

A coordinate phrase consists of two head elements joined by one of the conjunctions *ga* 'and' or *o* 'or'. Either head slot may be filled with common nouns, proper nouns, pronouns, or noun phrases as follows.

HEAD	CJ	HEAD
CN	CJ	CN
PN		PN
PRO		PRO
NP		NP

- 142) *turuo ga adam* 'I and (with) Adam'
 1s CJ Adam
- 143) *turuo o adam* 'I or Adam'
 1s CJ Adam
- 144) *migana ila kakani ga magabun ula popou*
 man REL big-m CJ woman REL small
 'the big husband and small wife'

3.1.3 Serial Noun Phrase

The serial noun phrase is constructed using three or more head elements and a conjunction separating only the last two head elements in the phrase. Common nouns, proper nouns, pronouns and noun phrases fill the head slots as follows.

HEAD	HEAD...	CJ	HEAD
CN	CN	CJ	CN
PN	PN		PN
PRO	PRO		PRO
NP	NP		NP

- 145) *adam jonathan ga turuo*
 Adam Jonathan CJ 1s
 'Adam, Jonathan and I'
- 146) *kobeŋ ula kanu, kobeŋ ula kapio, ga kiφama*
 bird REL big bird REL small CJ mouse
 'a big bird, small bird and mouse'
- 147) *babam, pas, igunam, kabo o man paga*
 leaf branch root fruit CJ which thing
 'leaf, branch, root, fruit or any thing'

3.1.4 Benefactive Noun Phrase

In a benefactive construction, a benefactive pronoun precedes the noun head. In this construction, the benefactive pronoun agrees in gender and number with the following noun.

- 148) *aun lamuana* 'for Lamuana'
 3smB Lamuana
- 149) *maun inamaniap onim kuot* 'to the Kuot people'
 3pB people GEN Kuot
- 150) *un magabun tuŋ* 'for my wife'
 3sfb wife 1sg

3.2 Pronoun Phrase

The pronoun phrase is a head/modifier construction with the head being a free-form pronoun and the modifier serving a reflexive function as in (151), a specifier function as in (152), or adverbial functions as in (153-154).

- 151) *irie kan* 'he himself'
 3sm REFL
- 152) *irie isik* 'this one'
 3sm SPEC
- 153) *irie talamet* 'he alone'
 3sm EX
- 154) *irie gat* 'he also'
 3sm INC

3.3 Number Phrase

3.3.1 Cardinal Numbers

Cardinal numbers greater than ten are constructed as phrases. Numbers of this sort are HEAD₁-AXIS-HEAD₂ constructions where the HEAD₁ slot is filled with a base number and an optional non-base number and the HEAD₂ slot is filled with a non-base number. The AXIS slot is filled with the conjunction *ga*.

- 155) *manaburuan ga nagala* 'fourteen'
 ten CJ four
- 156) *naien ma manaburualap ga gamiala*
 three MULT ten CJ nine
 'thirty nine'
- 157) *naraen manaburualapβien ga gamura*
 two ten.DL CJ seven
 'twenty seven'

Numerals between 11 and 99 are formed as in (158-159):

- 158) *manaburuan ga nomurit ma kumorot*
 ten and one PL pigs
 'eleven pigs'
- 159) *naraen manaburualapβien ga gamiala ma kubap*
 two ten.DL CJ nine PL boys
 'twenty nine boys'
- 160) *muanam ma manaburualap ga gamura ma magaulap*
 five MULT ten.PL CJ seven PL women
 'fifty seven women'

The numeral for 100 is a reduplicated form of *manaburuan* 'ten', so numerals from 100 to 999 are formed as in (161-162):

- 161) *naraen manaburualapβien ma manaburualap ga naien ma manaburualap ga gamin*
 'two hundred and thirty eight'
- 162) *gamiala ma manaburualap ma manaburualap ga gamiala ma manaaburualap ga gamiala*
 'nine hundred and ninety nine'

Numerals over 1000 are extremely rare except for year counting. It is possible to construct these numbers by further reduplication of *manaburuan* 'ten'. But speakers almost always switch to Tok Pisin for obvious reasons of economy.

- 163) *manaburuan ma manaburualap ma manaburualap ga gamiala ma manaburualap ma manaburualap ga gamiala ma manaburualap ga naraen a karanim.*

3smG year '1992 of year'

The special term *koφibam* 'ten kina' is used when counting money to shorten the number of digits. This term is used only for counting money. It also has dual and plural forms like *manaburuan* 'ten': *koφibavien* and *koφibap*, respectively.

- 164) *naraen koφibavien* 'twenty kina'

- 165) *manaburuan ma manaburualap ma koφibap* 'thousand kina'

3.3.2 Ordinal Numerals

Ordinal numerals are generally formed by the ordinal number indicator (ONI) *lama* preceding a cardinal numeral construction.

- 166) *lama gunamur* 'sixth'
ONI six

- 167) *lama manaburuan* 'tenth'
ONI ten

- 168) *na lama nagala o la me-la na ubi*
T ONI four 3sfG day 3pS-go LOC garden
'on the fourth day they went to the garden'

The only exception is that the ONI *nata* is used for 'first'.

- 169) *nata nomurit* 'first'
ONI one

The form *natauan* 'first' can also be used as a verb by adding a verb suffix as in (170).

- 170) *urie la natauan-iej* 'she is best'
3sfs SF first-3sf

3.3.3 Distributive Numerals

Distributive numerals are formed by the addition of *naritnarit* 'each', or *ut* 'every'.

- 171) *mirier pialap ganam la me-maning puoranama narit narit*
 every villages all SF 3pS-have boy.house each each
 ‘there is a boy house in each village’
- 172) *me-num magaulap na alang ut naraen ut naraen*
 3pS-walk women LOC road every two every two
 ‘the women walk along the road two by two’

3.4 Locative Phrase

Location and direction prepositional phrases contain a location or direction preposition and a locative noun phrase axis.

- 173) *ma-isin-oj kakep am na alaj*
 3pO-find-3sS money 3smG LOC road
 ‘he found his money on the road’
- 174) *u-βarara non laipak pat kuguom*
 3sS-die some old.man under tree
 ‘an old man died under the tree’

3.5 Negation Phrase

When negation is emphatic, emphatic markers occur following the negator.

- 175) *karuk kan* ‘not at all’
 NEG EMPH
- 176) *karuk it* ‘certainly not’
 NEG EMPH
- 177) *tale kan* ‘never’
 NEG EMPH

3.6 Verb Phrase

The verb phrase is a cluster of one or more verbs with its auxiliaries and modifiers that function as the predicate of a clause. The head of the verb phrase is the verb. The accompanying auxiliaries include the subject agreement marker, negation, tense, aspect, mood, and intensification. Manner adverbs are also incorporated into the verb phrase.

3.6.1 Agreement

A Kuot clause can consist of only a verb because the subject and object (if transitive) are reflected in it. It requires very strict agreement in person, gender and number with the subject and with most objects of the clause.

- 178) *to-aga-na-lie kirat togo*
 1sO-help-2s little here
 ‘help me here for a minute’
- 179) *le-igor-li-la kibaβien lion parabira*
 3dO-change-3ds foot.DL 1sfG morning
 ‘they exchange trousers in the morning’
- 180) *a-wan-me-la oronj kakaliat ana luguan aj*
 3smO-wait-3ps big.man long inside house 3sm
 ‘they waited for him in his house for a long time’
- 181) *a-u-lo migana poi aj me gas ula tatalu*
 3smO-3smS-tell man child 3sm about story REL old
 ‘a man told a traditional story to his son’
- 182) *ma-me-la kubap papaluaip ma magalip na pirom*
 3pO-3ps-catch boys many PL crayfish LOC sea
 ‘the boys caught many crayfish in the sea’

3.6.2 Negation Auxiliaries

Kuot has two negative words: *tale* in declarative clauses and *buat* in imperative clauses. The morpheme *tale* precedes the verb in a general verb phrase or is the last element in a stative clause. It can also occur with *karuk* ‘no’ as the complete answer to a yes/no question. In (183-185) if *tale* is deleted the resulting statement will be positive.

- 183) *uro magabun la tale a-bit-ieŋ kaβuna*
 ND.sf woman SF NEG 3smO-beat-3sfS dog
 ‘this woman did not beat the dog’

- 184) *karuk, tale papaluaip ma purap tuam*
 no NEG many PL chickens 1sG
 'no, I don't have any many chickens'
- 185) *karuk, iro nirobu la tale kakani*
 no ND.sm coconut SF NEG big
 'no, this coconut is not big'

The morpheme *buat* precedes the verb in a negative imperative construction. It only occurs with present tense verbs.

- 186) *buat aga-nu-lie titot*
 NEG rest-2sS now
 'do not take a rest now'
- 187) *buat nu-βiet na danuot*
 NEG 2sS-bathe LOC river
 'do not take a bath at the river'

3.6.3 Intensification Auxiliary

When the intensification auxiliary *it* occurs in a verb phrase it immediately follows the verb head.

- 188) *a-gosar-nung mani duri-rung it*
 3smS-make-2sS what sleep-1sS EMPH
 'what did you do? I just slept'
- 189) *memani go u-namua migan ang bukbuk-ong it*
 why 3smS.kill friend 3sG upset.3smS EMPH
 'why did he kill his friend? He just got upset.'

3.6.4 Modal Auxiliaries

Mood morphemes indicate the speaker's feelings about the reality of an event or signal the hearer how the verb and clause relate to him. These morphemes usually immediately precede the verb they modify.

- 190) *buat tego-naŋ nakap eba nu-lum* (Prohibitive)
 PROHIB climb-2s high FUT 2sS-fall
 ‘never go up that high lest you fall down’
- 191) *puo-ruŋ o-βas-tuŋ babam nuŋ* (Ability)
 able-1sS 3sFO-read-1sS leaf 2sG
 ‘I can read your book’
- 192) *eba kan terigi-naŋ togo* (Imperative Request)
 FUT EMPH return-2sS here
 ‘you must come here’
- 193) *tu-ga ta-la toruan rabaul kakalait* (Desirative)
 1sS-want 1sS-go LOC Rabaul fast
 ‘I would like to go to Rabaul as soon as possible’

3.6.5 Adverbs

Adverbs describe the manner in which the action takes place.

- 194) *me-num teteiliat* ‘they walk slowly’
 3pS-walk slowly
- 195) *kukup-oŋ maranit me mani* ‘why does he yell loudly?’
 yell-3sS hard why

3.7 Prepositional Phrase

The prepositional phrase is made up of a preposition relator and noun phrase. The preposition does not modify or expand the meaning of the noun phrase, but it relates the noun phrase to the rest of the clause. Instrumental phrases were illustrated in section 2.1.1.5 with the preposition *o* ‘with/by’. Location and time prepositional phrases take the preposition *na* ‘at/in’ as shown in (196) and (197), respectively.

- 196) *pa-la numeilup-tuam ga turuo na ubi*
 1pS-go family-1pG CJ 1s LOC garden
 ‘my family and I went to garden’

- 197) *mu-o iro laipak timoi na arubu*
 come-3SS ND.sm old.man yesterday T night
 'This old man came yesterday night'

The accompaniment prepositional phrase take the preposition *ga* 'with'.

- 198) *tu-la ga poi ruaŋ na ubi*
 1sS-go with child 1sG LOC garden
 'I went to garden with my son'

The directional prepositional phrase take the preposition *me* which indicates direction.

- 199) *i-lum kobej me lourup*
 3sfs-fall bird D down
 'a bird fell down'

3.8 Adjective Phrase.

Adjectives and their modifiers exhibit strict agreement in gender and number. Adjectives follow their modifiers.

- 200) *u-la mur-u* 'very good (sg.fem.)'
 sf-very good-sf
- 201) *i-la mur-i* 'very good (sg.masc.)'
 sm-very good-sm
- 202) *mi-la mumu-rum* 'very good (pl.)'
 p-very good-p

3.9 Adverbial Phrase

Adverbs and their modifiers do not exhibit agreement. Adverbs follow their modifiers. The intensifier *mitara* modifies verbs or predicate adjectives. It is found immediately before the word it intensifies. Modifiers usually function as intensifiers.

- 203) *mitara tevurus-meŋ me morowa*
 EMPH glad-3ps D God
 'they were delighted with God'

204) *pianam mitara ula kakanu*
 place EMPH REL big
 ‘very big place’

205) *mitara migat ties aŋ*
 EMPH true language 3sG
 ‘what he said is very true’

When a negative is intensified, the clitic *kan* precedes the verb.

206) *irie la tale kan puo-oŋ*
 PN SF NEG EMPH able-3sS
 ‘he is not able to (do)’

207) *kikis-nuŋ uro ubi karuk kan, na-ruŋ ume*
 dislike-2sS ND.sf work no EMPH like-1sS ND.sm
 ‘do you dislike this work? no, I like this very much’

4 Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Nouns are words which designate or name people, places, or things. They function as the head of a noun phrase and can be the sole argument of the verb. They do not take case markers to specify gender, number, or animacy.

4.1.1 Proper Nouns

Proper nouns name specific people or places including mythical people and places. Proper nouns cannot be inflected to mark possession nor can they be counted.

208) *mamaniap onim kuot*
 people GEN Kuot
 ‘The people of Kuot’

209) *toi-gor-ula adam*
 1sO-change-3sS Adam
 ‘Adam changed me’

4.1.2 Common Nouns

Common nouns distinguish masculine and feminine gender in the singular and dual but lose the distinction in the plural. Although the criteria for gender is cultural, there are some guidelines as to whether a given noun is masculine or feminine.

Most nouns ending in *ma* are masculine. These generally include body parts and names of fruits and fish. Examples include *irama* ‘eye’, *nigunama* ‘ear’, *agabunima* ‘nose’, *dedema* ‘bone’, *kiraima* ‘finger nail’, *nirobuma* ‘back bone’, *muranama* ‘spirit’, *udlma* ‘banana’, *lekpanama* ‘a type of fruit’, *kasonama* ‘mango’, *puolanama* ‘ton tree’, *abuluma* ‘fish’, *magalima* ‘clawfish’, and *managrima* ‘octopus’.

Most nouns ending in *bun* are feminine although they are few in number. Examples include *magabun* ‘woman’, *kubebun* ‘lass’, *kumbun* ‘sow’, *laibun* ‘bitch’, and *kalagalabun* ‘butterfly’.

It is possible to categorise nouns on the basis of the mass/count distinction or by the possessive constructions they can occur in.

4.1.2.1 Mass and Count Nouns

Count nouns can be counted, while mass nouns cannot be quantified. Some examples of mass nouns include:

ubiem ‘sand/rice’

burunam ‘water’

iφiφ ‘wind’

- 223) *tu-ga ma-sau-raŋ ubiem ba*
 1ss-want 3po-buy-1ss rice some
 ‘I want to buy some rice’

4.1.2.2 Possessive Constructions

Common nouns can be divided into three classes based on possessive constructions. Some common nouns are closely associated with the possessor; these are inalienably possessed. A second group is more loosely associated with the possessor; these are alienably possessed nouns. A final group cannot be possessed. Common nouns can be classified as follows.

Possessed	Inalienable	Alienable	Unpossessable
Body parts	yes		
Kinship terms		yes	
Some Locations		yes	
Temporal nouns			yes
Natural beings			yes
All other nouns		yes	

Unpossessable nouns include *panbinim* 'sky', *uduk* 'thunder', *irak* 'thunder light', *ubao* 'fog', *ubiem* 'sand', *pirom* 'sea', *kabinama* 'mountain', *muabari* 'sun', *ulag* 'moon', *matalenlej* 'star', *paβaluma* 'fly', *ηatηarima* 'mosquito' and *panap* 'bush'.

The inalienably possessed nouns, generally body parts, are obligatorily possessed. The regular suffixes are:

	singular	dual	plural
1st person	<i>-tuo/ruo</i>	incl <i>-bi</i> excl <i>-i</i>	incl <i>-buo</i> excl <i>-pa</i>
2nd person	<i>-nuo</i>	<i>-me</i>	<i>-mi</i>
3rd person	masc <i>-a</i> fem <i>-o</i>	<i>-li</i>	<i>-ma</i>

- 210) *kiban-tuo* *kiban-nuo* *kiban-a* *kiban-o*
hand-1sG hand-2sG hand-3smG hand-3sfG
'my hand' 'your hand' 'his hand' 'her hand'

The first person suffix *-tuo* becomes *-ruo* when noun stems end in an open syllable.

- 211) *irama-ruo* *irama-nuo* *irama-a* *irama-o*
eye-1sG eye-2sG eye-3smG eye-3sfG
'my eye' 'your eye' 'his eye' 'her eye'
- 212) *olabuan-bi* *olabuan-me* *olabuan-li*
blood-1dnG blood-2dG blood-3dG
'our blood' 'your blood' 'their blood'
- 213) *dalap-pa* *dalap-mi* *dalap-ma*
heart-1pxG heart-2pG heart-3pG
'our heart' 'your heart' 'their heart'

This construction is formed by a possessive pronoun following a possessed noun. The possessed nouns are generally certain kinship terms, common nouns, and even location words. The form of the pronoun changes depending on the person, number and gender of both the possessor and the possessed. The forms following singular nouns are:

Possessor \ Possessed	singular		dual		plural	
	masc	fem	masc	fem	masc	fem
1st person			incl			
			excl			
2nd person						
3rd person	masc					
	fem					

The first person singular suffixes begin with *t* after closed syllables and *r* after open syllables. Examples of possessed masculine singular nouns are given in (214-216), of possessed feminine singular nouns in (217-218), of possessed dual and plural nouns in (219)

- 214) *ira-ruaŋ* *ira-nuaŋ* *ira-aŋ* *ira-iaŋ*
 father-1sG father-2sG father-3smG father-3sfg
 ‘my father’ ‘your father’ ‘his father’ ‘her father’
- 215) *tabeka-ruaŋ* *tabeka-nuaŋ* *tabeka-iaŋ*
 papaya-1sG papaya-2sG papaya-3sfg
 ‘my papaya’ ‘your papaya’ ‘her papaya’
- 216) *kabil-tuaŋ* *kabil-nuaŋ* (*kabil*: male village name)
 Kabil-1sG Kabil-2sG
 ‘my Kabil’ ‘your Kabil’
- 217) *naga-ruŋ* *naga-nuŋ* *naga-aŋ* *naga-ieŋ*
 mother-1sG mother-2sG mother-3smG mother-3sfg
 ‘my mother’ ‘your mother’ ‘his mother’ ‘her mother’
- 218) *liadan-tuŋ* *liadan-nuŋ* (*liadan*: female village name)
 Liadan.1sG Liadan.2sG
 ‘my Liadan’ ‘your Liadan’

219)	<i>tata-biq</i> uncle-1dnG 'our uncle'	<i>tata-meq</i> uncle-2dG 'your uncle'	<i>tata-miq</i> uncle-2pG 'your uncle'	<i>tata-maiog</i> uncle-3pG 'their uncle'
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The form of the possessive pronouns following dual nouns is identical to that following singular nouns with the addition of final *an*.

220)	<i>loβien-tuaŋan</i> child.DL-1sG 'my two children'	<i>loβien-liaŋan</i> child.DL-3dG 'their two children'	<i>loβien-miŋan</i> child.DL-3pG 'your two children'
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The form of the possessive pronouns following dual nouns is identical to that following singular nouns except that the final *ŋ* becomes *m*. (Kuoŋ plural noun forms always end in *p*.)

221)	<i>pebup-am</i> banana.PL-3smG 'his bananas'	<i>pebup-liam</i> banana.PL-3dG 'their bananas'	<i>pebup-mim</i> banana.PL-2pG 'your bananas'	<i>pebup-maiam</i> banana.PL-3pG 'their bananas'
222)	<i>abulap-iam</i> fish.PL-3sfG 'her fish'	<i>abulap-mem</i> fish.PL-1dG 'your fish'	<i>abulap-pam</i> fish.PL-1pxG 'our fish'	

4.1.3 Derived Nouns

Nouns can be derived from verbs as in (227-232).

223)	<i>ubi-og</i> 'he works'	→	<i>ubi</i> 'garden'
224)	<i>magi-ieŋara</i> 'she got married'	→	<i>magi</i> 'marriage'
225)	<i>teβurus-tuŋ</i> 'I am happy'	→	<i>teβurus</i> 'happiness'
226)	<i>taφa-nuŋ</i> 'you are sick'	→	<i>taφa</i> 'illness'
227)	<i>marik-tuŋ</i> 'I pray'	→	<i>marik</i> 'prayer'
228)	<i>ai-t</i> 'he knows'	→	<i>ait</i> 'news'

Cognitive objects can be formed by reduplication.

229)	<i>ilabie</i> 'bright'	→	<i>lalabie</i> 'light'
	<i>gigino</i> 'heavy'	→	<i>giginanim</i> 'burden'

Other nouns are derived by adding plural affixation.

- 230) *aganalie* ‘take a rest’ → *aganuliap* ‘rest’
usiɲnuala ‘teach’ → *usiɲnualap* ‘school’
- 231) *nunama* ‘sit down’ → *nunamap* ‘chair’
ninim ‘live’ → *ninimiap* ‘life’

A number of nouns are identical with the verbal forms.

- 232) *agat* ‘think’ → *agat* ‘thought’
arubu ‘dark’ → *arubu* ‘night’
- 233) *taɸa* ‘sick’ → *taɸa* ‘sickness’
marik ‘ask’ → *marik* ‘prayer’

4.2 Verbs

Verbs are words which manifest the predicate tagmeme in an active clause. The verb in Kuot is the one obligatory item in a clause or sentence. The Kuot tense system is quite simple, consisting of future and non-future. The agreement system, however, is complex.

4.2.1 Agreement Affixes

Kuot verbs require very strict agreement with the subject according to person, number and gender in all clause types.

- 234) *u-βarara* *papa-ruaŋ* ‘my brother died’
 3sMS-die brother-1smG
- 235) *i-βarara* *papa-ruŋ* ‘my sister died’
 3sfs-die sister-1sfG

In transitive and ditransitive verbs there is generally also agreement between the verb and object although some transitive verbs do not take object markers as shown in (240-241).

- 236) *kikis-tuŋ* *kagok* ‘I dislike snakes’
 dislike-1ss snake
- 237) *taɸ-maio* *burunam* ‘they drink water’
 drink-3ps water

Ditransitive verbs show agreement with the indirect object, not the direct object.

238) *a-gam-ti migan-tuaŋ kumorot*
 3smO-give-1ss friend-1sG pig

‘I gave a pig to my friend’

239) *le-siŋ<pa>la kakep-pam*
 2dO-show<1px> money-1pxG

‘we showed our money to them’

Kuot verbs can be divided into seven classes according to the location of agreement affixation. Most singular affixes have different future and non-future forms.

4.2.1.1 Class 1 Verbs

Class 1 verbs take only subject agreement prefixes.

	singular		dual		plural
	non-future	future	incl	excl	
1st person	<i>tu-</i>	<i>ta-</i>	<i>bi-</i>	<i>i-</i>	<i>bu-</i> <i>pa-</i>
2nd person	<i>nu-</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>ma-</i>		<i>mi-</i>
3rd person	masc <i>u-</i> fem <i>i-</i>	<i>a-</i> <i>i-</i>	<i>li-</i>		<i>me-</i>

240) *tu-la* ‘I go’
eba ta-la ‘I will go’

241) a. *nu-βina* ‘you dance’
eba na-βina ‘you will dance’

b. *li-βina* ‘they (dl) dance’
eba li-βina ‘they (dl) will dance’

242) *u-bila* ‘it (m) ripens’
eba u-bila ‘it (m) will ripen’

The verb *pta* ‘hear’ has the future form *ptaŋ*, but the subject markers are the same as above.

243) *bu-pta* ‘we (inc) hear’
bu-ptaŋ ‘we (inc) will hear’

The verb *nama* ‘sit’ has the future form *naŋ*, as well as a slightly different set of subject agreement prefixes.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	<i>tu-</i>	<i>to-</i>	incl <i>bio-</i> excl <i>io-</i>	<i>bu-</i> <i>pa-</i>
2nd person	<i>nu-</i>	<i>no-</i>	<i>ma/mo-</i>	<i>mio-</i>
3rd person	masc <i>u-</i> fem <i>io-</i>	<i>o-</i> <i>io-</i>	<i>lio-</i>	<i>me/maio-</i>

The second person dual and third person plural markers have two forms, used in the non-future and future tenses, respectively.

- 244) a. *u-nama* ‘he sits’
o-naŋ ‘he will sit’
- b. *pa-nama* ‘we (ex) sit’
po-naŋ ‘we will sit’
- c. *ma-nama* ‘you (dl) sit’
mo-naŋ ‘you (dl) will sit’
- d. *me-nama* ‘they sit’
maio-naŋ ‘they will sit’

Similarly, the verb *nim* ‘awaken’ has the future form *muŋ*, as well as a slightly different set of subject agreement prefixes.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	<i>ti-</i>	<i>te-</i>	incl <i>bi-</i> excl <i>i-</i>	<i>bu-</i> <i>pa-</i>
2nd person	<i>ni-</i>	<i>ne-</i>	<i>me-</i>	<i>mi-</i>
3rd person	masc <i>u-</i> fem <i>i-</i>	<i>e-</i> <i>i-</i>	<i>li-</i>	<i>mai-</i>

- 245) a. *ti-nim* 'I awake'
te-muŋ 'I will awake'
- b. *u-nim* 'he awakes'
e-muŋ 'he will awake'
- c. *bu-nim* 'we (inc) awake'
bi-muŋ 'we (inc) will awake'
- d. *pa-nim* 'we (inc) awake'
pe-muŋ 'we (inc) will awake'

4.2.1.2 Class 2 Verbs

Class 2 verbs take only subject agreement suffixes.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	<i>-tuŋ</i>	<i>-taŋ</i>	incl <i>-biŋ</i> excl <i>-iŋ</i>	<i>-buoŋ</i> <i>-paŋ</i>
2nd person	<i>-nuŋ</i>	<i>-naŋ</i>	<i>-maŋ</i>	<i>-miŋ</i>
3rd person	masc <i>-oŋ</i> fem <i>-ieŋ</i>	<i>-aŋ</i> <i>-ieŋ</i>	<i>-lioŋ</i>	<i>-meŋ</i>

Class 2 verb stems include *na* 'like', *kikis* 'dislike', *saŋ* 'hang', *bet* 'arrive', *kagai* 'swim', *tego* 'get on', *igo* 'run away', *ibir* 'run', and *iŋit* 'feel pain'.

The verb *mu* 'come' takes a slightly different set of subject agreement suffixes.

	singular		dual		plural	
	non-fut	fut	non-fut	fut	non-fut	fut
1st per	<i>-tuo</i>	<i>-taŋ</i>	incl <i>-bio</i> excl <i>-io</i>	<i>-bioŋ</i> <i>-ioŋ</i>	<i>-buo</i>	<i>-buo</i>
2nd per	<i>-nuo</i>	<i>-naŋ</i>	<i>-mo</i>	<i>-moŋ</i>	<i>-mio</i>	<i>-mio</i>
3rd per	masc <i>-o</i> fem <i>-io</i>	<i>-oŋ</i> <i>-ioŋ</i>	<i>-lio</i>	<i>-lioŋ</i>	<i>-maio</i>	<i>-maio</i>

- 246) a. *mu-ruo* 'I come'
 mu-raŋ 'I will come'
- b. *mu-io* 'we (dl ex) come/ she comes'
 mu-ioŋ 'we (dl ex) will come/ she will come'
- c. *mu-mo* 'you (dl) come'
 mu-moŋ 'you (dl) will come'
- d. *mu-maio* 'they come'
 mu-maioŋ 'they will come'

Similarly, *taφ* 'drink' takes a slightly different set of subject agreement suffixes.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	<i>-to</i>	<i>-to</i>	incl <i>-bio</i> excl <i>-io</i>	<i>-bu</i> <i>-po</i>
2nd person	<i>-no</i>	<i>-no</i>	<i>-mo</i>	<i>-mio</i>
3rd person	masc <i>-o</i> fem <i>-io</i>	<i>-o</i> <i>-io</i>	<i>-lio</i>	<i>-maio</i>

- 247) a. *taφ-no* 'you (sg) drink'
 eba taφ-no 'you (sg) will drink'
- b. *taφ-po* 'we (ex) drink'
 eba taφ-po 'we (ex) will drink'
- c. *taφ-lio* 'they (dl) drink'
 eba taφ-lio 'they (dl) will drink'

4.2.1.3 Class 3 Verbs

Class 3 verbs take only subject agreement infixes.

Two Non-Austronesian Grammars from the Islands

	singular		incl	dual	plural
	non-future	future			
1st person	-tu-	-ta-	incl	-bia-	-bu-
			excl	-ia-	-pa-
2nd person	-nu-	-na-		-mai-	-mi-
3rd person	masc	-u-		-li-	-mei-
	fem	-ia-			

- 248) a. *aga-ru-lie* 'I rest'
eba aga-ra-lie 'I will rest'
- b. *muli-bu-ba* 'we (inc) are ashamed of'
eba muli-bu-ba 'we (inc) will be ashamed of'
- 249) *te-bia-ra* 'we (dl inc) get up'
eba te-bia-ra 'we (dl inc) will get up'
- 250) *paba-mi-la* 'you (pl) fly'
eba paba-mi-la 'you (pl) will fly'
- 251) *te-mei-nie* 'they get off'
eba te-mei-nie 'they will get off'

Class 3 verb stems include *aga*⟨*lie* 'take a rest', *it*⟨*amu* 'finish', *pu*⟨*ro* 'start', *muli*⟨*ba* 'ashamed', *te*⟨*aba* 'start', *paba*⟨*la* 'fly', and *te*⟨*nie* 'get down'.

The verb *it*⟨*mu* 'finish' has the future form *it*⟨*muj*; it takes the regular class 3 subject agreement infixes.

- 252) a. *it-u-amu* 'he finish'
eba it-a-muj 'he will finish'
- b. *it-lia-mu* 'they (dl) finish'
eba it-lia-muj 'they (dl) will finish'

4.2.1.4 Class 4 Verbs

Class 4 verbs take subject agreement prefixes and object agreement suffixes which are only inflected for the third person forms. The subject agreement prefixes are as follows.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	<i>tu-</i>	<i>ta-</i>	incl excl <i>bia-</i> <i>ia-</i>	<i>bu-</i> <i>pa-</i>
2nd person	<i>nu-</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>ma-</i>	<i>mi-</i>
3rd person	masc fem	<i>u-</i> <i>ia-</i>	<i>a-</i> <i>i-</i>	<i>li-</i> <i>mei-</i>

The object agreement suffixes are as follows.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
3rd person	masc fem	<i>-a</i> <i>-o</i>	<i>-ŋ/aŋ</i> <i>-ŋ</i>	<i>-an</i> <i>-am</i>

- 253) *tu-abu-o* 'I put it (f)'
eba ta-bu-ŋ 'I will put it'
- 254) *u-bul-a* 'he cuts it (m)'
a-bul-aŋ 'he will cut it (m)'
- 255) a. *lia-r-an* 'they (dl) take them (dl)'
eba lia-r-am 'they (dl) take them (pl)'
- b. *mea-r-am* 'they (pl) take them (pl)'
eba mea-r-an 'they (pl) take them (dl)'
- 256) *tu-abi-am kuop na panap*
 1sS-bring-3pO trees LOC bush
 'I brought trees from bush'
- 257) *mea-r-an migap tuam dagarβien na luguan o kit*
 3pS-take friends 1sG egg.DL LOC house INST fire
 'they took two eggs from the kitchen'
- 258) *bu-ari-o maranit pas ula kanu*
 1pns-hold-3sfo hard stick REL big
 'we held a big stick firmly'

Class 4 verb stems include *abu* ‘put’, *bul* ‘cut’, *βul* ‘answer’, *ar* ‘take’, *ari* ‘hold’, *aer* ‘leave’, *abi* ‘bring’, and *al* ‘give’.

4.2.1.5 Class 5 Verbs

Class 5 verbs take subject agreement suffixes and object agreement prefixes, which are generally only inflected for the third person forms. The subject agreement suffixes are as follows.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	- <i>tuj</i>	- <i>taŋ</i>	incl excl - <i>biŋ</i> - <i>iŋ</i>	- <i>buoŋ</i> - <i>paŋ</i>
2nd person	- <i>nuj</i>	- <i>naŋ</i>	- <i>maŋ</i>	- <i>miŋ</i>
3rd person	masc fem - <i>oŋ</i> - <i>ieŋ</i>	- <i>aŋ</i> - <i>ieŋ</i>	- <i>lioŋ</i>	- <i>meŋ</i>

Object agreement prefixes are as follows.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
3rd person	masc fem <i>a-</i> <i>o-</i>	<i>a-</i> <i>o-</i>	<i>le-</i>	<i>ma-</i>

- 259) *a-gosar-tuj* ‘I make it (m)’
eba o-gosar-taŋ ‘I will make it (f)’
- 260) *ma-rik-meŋ* ‘they (pl) cut them (pl)’
eba le-rik-lioŋ ‘they (dl) will cut them (dl)’
- 261) *le-φir-ieŋ* *magabun-tuj* *nur-βien*
 3dO-scratch-3sfs wife-1sG coconut-DL
 ‘my wife scratched two coconuts’
- 262) *a-βure-oŋ* *sakmes ira a kumorot*
 3smO-shoot-3smO spear toward 3s pig
 ‘he shot a pig with a spear’

- 263) *eba ma-βas-liŋ lovien tuŋan papaluaip ma babap*
 FUT 3pO-read-3ds child.DL 1sG many PL leaves
 ‘my two children will read many books’

Class 5 verbs include *gosar* ‘make’, *fir* ‘scratch’, *βas* ‘read’, *saga* ‘sell’, *sau* ‘buy’, *rik* ‘cut’, *rul* ‘catch’, *βure* ‘shoot’, and *pul* ‘steal’.

The class 5 verb *gam* ‘give’ takes different sets of subject agreement suffixes and object agreement suffixes. The subject agreement suffixes are as follows.

	singular		dual		plural		
	non-fut	fut	non-fut	fut	non-fut	fut	
1st per	<i>-ti</i>	<i>-teŋ</i>	incl excl	<i>-bi</i> <i>-i</i>	<i>-biŋ</i> <i>-iŋ</i>	<i>-bi</i> <i>-pe</i>	<i>-biŋ</i> <i>-peŋ</i>
2nd per	<i>-ni</i>	<i>-neŋ</i>		<i>-me</i>	<i>-meŋ</i>	<i>-mi</i>	<i>-miŋ</i>
3rd per	masc fem	<i>-i</i> <i>-i</i>		<i>-li</i>	<i>-liŋ</i>	<i>-mai</i>	<i>-maieŋ</i>

The object agreement prefixes are inflected for all persons.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	<i>to-</i>	<i>to-</i>	incl excl	<i>bi-</i> <i>i-</i>
2nd person	<i>no-</i>	<i>no-</i>		<i>me-</i>
3rd person	masc fem	<i>a-</i> <i>o-</i>		<i>li-</i>

- 264) *to-gam-maieŋ koip ba*
 1sO-give-3ps bowls some
 ‘they (pl) will give me some bowls’
- 265) *ma-gam-li kumep*
 3pO-give-3ds pigs
 ‘they (dl) give pigs to them (pl)’

4.2.1.6 Class 6 Verbs

Class 6 verbs take subject agreement prefixes and object agreement prefixes. The object agreement affixes precede the subject agreement prefixes. The subject agreement prefixes are as follows.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	<i>ru-</i>	<i>ra-</i>	incl <i>bi-</i> excl <i>i-</i>	<i>bu-</i> <i>pa-</i>
2nd person	<i>nu-</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>me-</i>	<i>mi-</i>
3rd person	masc <i>u-</i> fem <i>i-</i>	<i>a-</i> <i>i-</i>	<i>li-</i>	<i>mai-</i>

The object agreement prefixes are as follows.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	<i>to-</i>	<i>to-</i>	incl <i>bi-</i> excl <i>i-</i>	<i>bu-</i> <i>pa-</i>
2nd person	<i>no-</i>	<i>no-</i>	<i>me-</i>	<i>mi-</i>
3rd person	masc <i>a-</i> fem <i>o-</i>	<i>a-</i> <i>o-</i>	<i>le-</i>	<i>ma-</i>

- 266) *to-u-lo* 'he tells something (f) to me'
eba no-ra-la 'I will tell you something (m)'
- 267) *a-u-la* 'he catches him'
eba o-i-la 'she will catch her'
- 268) *a-u-lo* *migana poi aŋ me gas ula tatalu*
 3smO-3smS-tell man child 3smG about story REL old
 'a man told a tumbuna story to his son'
- 269) *ma-me-la* *kubap papaluaip ma magalip na pirom*
 3pO-3pS-catch boys many PL clayfish.PL LOC sea
 'boys caught many clawfish in the sea'

- 270) *o-ri-t-ara* *maset* *agat-nuŋ* *na* *dalap* *nuo*
 3sfO-1sS-know-INCHO well think-1sG LOC heart 2sG
 ‘I came to know what you are thinking of in your heart’

Class 6 verb stems include *lo* ‘tell’, *nim* ‘resurrect’, *la* ‘catch’, *lae* ‘lose’, and *ri* ‘buy’.

The verb *ra* ‘know’ takes a slightly different set of subject agreement prefixes.

	singular		dual		plural
	non-future	future	incl	excl	
1st person	<i>ti-</i>	<i>te-</i>	<i>bi-</i>	<i>i-</i>	<i>bi- βe-</i>
2nd person	<i>ni-</i>	<i>ne-</i>	<i>me-</i>		<i>mi-</i>
3rd person	masc	<i>i-</i>	<i>li-</i>		<i>mai-</i>
	fem	<i>i-</i>			

- 271) a. *no-ri-ra* ‘I know you’
eba to-ne-ra ‘you will know me’
- b. *mi-βe-ra* ‘we know you (pl)’
eba mi-βe-ra ‘we will know you (pl)’
- 272) *tu-ga* *o-re-ra* *ties* *onim* *kuot*
 1sS-like 3sfO-1sS-know language GEN Kuot
 ‘I like to know the Kuot language’

The verbs *ri* ‘buy’ and *lae* ‘lose’ have the future forms *reŋ* and *laeŋ*, respectively, but they take the regular agreement prefixes.

- 273) *a-u-ri* ‘he buys it (m)’
eba a-u-reŋ ‘he will buy it (m)’
- 274) *ma-bu-lae* ‘we (inc) lose them’
eba ma-bu-laeŋ ‘we (inc) will lose them’

4.2.1.7 Class 7 Verbs

Class 7 verbs take subject agreement infixes and object agreement prefixes. Only three verbs belong to this category: *aga* < > *lie* ‘help’, *igor* < > *la* ‘change’, and *wan* < > *la* ‘wait’. The subject infixes are as follows.

Two Non-Austronesian Grammars from the Islands

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	-ru-	-ra-	incl excl	-bi- -i- -bu- -pa-
2nd person	-nu-	-na-		-ma- -mi-
3rd person	masc fem	-u- -i-		-a- -i- -li- -me-

The object prefixes are as follows.

	singular		dual	plural
	non-future	future		
1st person	to-	to-	incl excl	bi- i- bu- pa-
2nd person	no-	no-		me- mi-
3rd person	masc fem	a- o-		a- o- le- ma-

- 275) *to-aga-u-lie* 'he helps me'
eba to-aga-a-lie 'he will help me'
- 276) *bu-igor-me-la* 'they change us (inc)'
eba bu-igor-me-la 'they will change us (inc)'
- 277) *mi-uan-ila* 'they (dl) wait for you'
eba mi-uan-lila 'they (dl) will wait for you'
- 278) *to-aga-na-lie kirat togo*
 1sO-help-2s little here
 'help me here for a minute'
- 279) *le-igor-lila kibaßien lion parabira*
 3dO-change-1ss foot.DL 1sfG morning
 'they exchange trousers in this morning'
- 280) *a-uan-mela oron kakaliat ana luguan an*
 3smO-wait-3ps big.man long inside house 3sm
 'they wait for him in his house for a long time'

4.2.1.8 Generalisations Concerning Agreement Affixes

There are a number of generalizations that can be made about the seven classes of verbs. First, when related morphemes differ in that one ends in *ŋ* and does not, the form with final *ŋ* is future or transitive. Second, if object agreement is marked with a suffix, then subject agreement is marked with a prefix. Third, if both subject and object agreement is marked with prefixes, the object agreement prefix precedes the subject agreement prefix.

Subject agreement marking seems more central to Kuot morphology than does object agreement. This can be seen in three areas. First, all transitive verbs show subject agreement, while only some show object agreement. Second, some subject agreement affixes are infixes, while no object agreement affixes are. Third, subject agreement affixes are closer to verb root than object agreement affixes if both occur as prefixes.

Verb class membership is partially determined by transitivity. Transitive Verbs belong to class 5, 6 and 7.

- 281) a. *o-gosar-oŋ* 'he made it'
3sfO-make-3sms
- b. *o-gosar-oŋ obinam* 'he made a boat'
3sfO-make-3sms boat
- 282) a. *ma-vas-ieŋ titot* 'she reads them now'
3pO-read-3sfS now
- b. *ma-vas-ieŋ babap* 'she reads books'
3pO-read-3sfS leaves
- 283) *u-abu-o* 'he put it'
3sdSm-put-3sfO
- 284) *o-φir-nuŋ* 'you scratched it'
3sfO-scratch-2ss
- 285) *a-gam-ti* 'I gave him'
3smO-give-1ss

Intransitive verbs belong to classes 1 and 3.

- 286) *i-la* 'she goes'
3sfS-go

- 287) *u-bila* 'it is ripe'
3smS-ripen
- 288) *tu-nama* 'I sat'
1sS-sit
- 289) *nu-pta* 'you hear'
2sS-hear

Stative verbs belong to classes 2.

- 290) *magan-ieŋ pirom* 'sea is calm'
calm-3sfs sea
- 291) *pirom la mitara mus-ieŋ* 'sea is very rough'
sea SF very rough-3sfs
- 292) *iŋit-oŋ bugam tuo* 'I have a headache'
pain-3smS head 1sG
- 293) *mitara teβurus-tuŋ* 'I am happy'
very delight-1sS
- 294) *susugun-meŋ neip-tuo* 'I feel cool'
cool-3ps skin-1sG
- 295) *madin-ieŋ burunam o kin* 'spring water is cold'
cold-3sfs water INST spring

Di-transitive verbs belong to classes 4 and 5.

- 296) *tu-a-la kamin aun*
2sS-3smO-give yam 3sB
'I gave a yam to him'
- 297) *a-go-meŋ kier ira ruo*
3smO-throw-3ps spear toward 1s
'they threw a spear towards me'
- 298) *a-βaik-tuŋ migan-tuaŋ mai tinan*
3smO-introduce-1sG friend-1smG 3p before
'I introduced my friend to them before'

4.2.2 Other Verbal Affixes

In addition to the agreement affixes, verbs can be marked to indicate tense/aspect, completion, reflexivity, reciprocity, and negation.

4.2.2.1 Tense/Aspect

There is no distinction between present tense and past tense in Kuot as far as the morphological level is concerned. The non-future forms of the agreement affixes can be used for either.

- 299) *li-la* 'they go/they went'
3d-go

Accordingly, time words may be added to differentiate present and past.

- 300) *ubi-og* *lai-ruaŋ* *na* *ubi* *titot*
work-3smS husband-1smG LOC garden now
'my husband works in the garden now'

- 301) *ubi-og* *lai-ruaŋ* *na* *ubi* *nata* *na* *arubu*
work-3smS husband-1smG LOC garden last T night
'my husband worked in the garden last night'

Future tense can be differentiated morphologically by the agreement affixes when the subject is singular. Two other morphemes can be added to further specify the future tense. The morpheme *eba* indicates the future event is uncertain.

- 302) *eba* *ta-la* *kavieŋ* *titot* *nabit*
FUT 1sS-go Kavieng today afternoon
'I am supposed to go Kavieng today afternoon'

- 303) *eba* *magi-ieŋ* *poi* *ruŋ* *ga* *poi* *nuag*
FUT marry-3sfs child 1sfG CJ child 2smG
'my daughter is going to get married to your son'

The morpheme *er* indicates the future event will occur in the near future.

- 304) *er* *ta-la* *today* *kavieŋ*
FUT 1sS-go LOC Kavieng
'I am about to go down to Kavieng right now'

- 305) *er ma-sau-buoŋ gararip na sune titot kan*
 FUT 3pO-buy-1pnS betelnuts LOC market now just
 ‘we will buy betelnut at the market right now’

The present imperative is marked with second person agreement affixes.

- 306) *parak-naŋ parak-maŋ parak-miŋ*
 eat-2s eat-2d eat-2p
 ‘eat!’ ‘you two, eat!’ ‘You all, eat!’

The present exhortative is marked with first person inclusive affixes.

- 307) *parak-biŋ parak-buoŋ*
 eat-1dn eat-1pn
 ‘Let us two eat’ ‘Let us eat’

4.2.2.2 Completion

The morpheme *-ara* frequently occurs at the completion or change of an event over time. The shortened form *-ra* occurs when the verb root ends in an open syllable.

- 308) *u-lu-ra taβuna* ‘the door is closed’
 3smS-close-COMPL door
- 309) *dak-oŋ-ara burunam* ‘water is filled’
 fill-3SS-COMPL water
- 310) *ne-ra* ‘it is finished’
 finish-COMPL
- 311) *me-la-ra* ‘they have gone’
 3p-go-COMPL
- 312) *pir-e-ra iro uduma* ‘this bunch of bananas got ripe’
 ripe-3sm-COMPL ND.sm banana
- 313) *it<na>muŋ-ara* ‘finish it, now’
 finish<2SS>-COMPL
- 314) *namuk-ara* ‘how much, now?’
 how-COMPL

- 315) *kakan-i-ra* 'he has grown up'
big-3sm-COMPL
- 316) *misik-ara* 'are they?'
3ps-COMPL
- 317) *bu-la-ra* 'let us go (now)'
1pns-go-COMPL

4.2.2.3 Reflexivity

Reflexive verbs are identified by the reflexive prefix *te*.

- 318) *te-gima-meŋ paβa ma*
REFL-see-3ps face 3pG
'they look at their own face'
- 319) *te-βadun-tuŋ kiban tuo o pas*
REFL-slam-1sS foot 1sG INST stick
'I slammed a stick on my foot'
- 320) *te-gos-miŋ naip mio kakalait*
REFL-wash-2p skin 2pG quick
'wash your body as soon as possible'

The reflexive morpheme *kan* affects how participants are related to the verb.

- 321) *u.namu.a irie kan*
3sS-kill-3sO 3sm REFL
'he killed himself'
- 322) *aga la eba a-gosar-oŋ ŋunuo kan*
who SF FUT 3sO-make-3sS you REFL
'who is supposed to do that? you yourself'

4.2.2.4 Reciprocity

Reciprocal verbs are identified by the reciprocal prefix *ne-*. It always co-occurs with dual or plural agreement affixes.

- 323) *ne-li-nam naraen papaβien mirier lap ganam*
 REC-2ds-fight two brother.DL several days total
 ‘two brothers fight each other all the time’
- 324) *ne-βuk-lila migana ga magabun o ties*
 REC-talk-3ds man CJ woman INST language
 ‘husband and wife quarrel with each other’

4.2.2.5 Negation

Kuot has two negative words: *tale* in declarative clauses and *buat* in imperative clauses. The morpheme *tale* is used preceding the verb in a general verb phrase or as the last element of a stative clause. It negates the clause in which it occurs. It can also occur with *karuk* ‘no’ as the complete answer to a yes/no question. In the following examples deleting *tale* will make each negative statement into a positive statement.

- 325) *uro magabun la tale a-bit-iej kaβuna*
 ND.sf woman SF NEG 3smO-beat-3sfS dog
 ‘this woman did not beat the dog’
- 326) *karuk, tale papaluaip ma purap tuam*
 no NEG many PL chickens 1sG
 ‘no, I don’t have any many chickens’
- 327) *karuk, iro nirobu la tale kakani*
 no ND.sm coconut SF NEG big
 ‘no, this coconut is not big’

The morpheme *buat* is used preceding the verb in the negative imperative construction. It only occurs in the present tense.

- 328) *buat aga<nu>lie titot*
 NEG rest<2ss> now
 ‘do not take a rest now’
- 329) *buat nu-βiet na danuot*
 NEG 2sS-bathe LOC river
 ‘do not take a bath at river’

In the preceding examples, deleting *buat* and changing the verb from the present tense to the future tense will make each negative statement into a positive statement.

330) *aga<na>lie titot*
rest<2sS> now
'take a rest now'

331) *na-βiet na danuot*
2sS-bathe LOC river
'take a bath at the river'

4.2.3 Derived Transitive Verbs

Transitive verbs can be derived from intransitive verbs as in (332-335) or from adjectives as in (336-338) by adding object agreement affixes.

332) *duri-0ŋ* → *a-duri-0ŋ*
3smO-sleep-3smS
'he made it sleep/he broke it down'

333) *sap-0ŋ* → *a-sap-0ŋ*
3smO-hang-3smS
'he hung it (m)'

334) *dus-0ŋ* → *a-dus-0ŋ*
3smO-erect-3smS
'he erected it'

335) *aga<u>lie* → *to-aga<u>lie*
1sO-help<3smS>
'he helped me'

336) *babau* → *a-babau-0ŋ*
3smO-cleanse-3smS
'he cleansed it'

337) *laklage* → *o-laklak-naŋ*
3sfO-enlarge-2sS
'you enlarge it (f)'

- 338) *popou* → *ma-popou-oŋ*
 3pO-shorten-3smS
 ‘he shortens them’

4.3 Pronouns

There are three sets of pronouns in Kuot: subject, benefactive, and intimitive.

4.3.1 Subject Pronouns

Subject pronouns are not generally used since the person and number of the subject is indicated by agreement markers on the verb. But when subjects are fronted for focus overt subjects (including free pronouns) occur clause initially as discussed in section 2. Subject pronouns are also used as responses to questions. The forms of the subject pronouns are as follows.

	singular	dual	plural
1st person	<i>turuo</i>	incl <i>bibi</i> excl <i>ii</i>	incl <i>bubuo</i> excl <i>paβa</i>
2nd person	<i>nunuo</i>	<i>mame</i>	<i>mimi</i>
3rd person	masc <i>irie</i> fem <i>urie</i>	<i>litie</i>	<i>mirie</i>

- 339) *irie la u-la-ra*
 he SF 3sm-go-COMPL
 ‘he has gone’

- 340) *aga la a-gosar-oŋ iro mirie*
 who SF 3sm-make-3sm ND.sm 3ps
 ‘who did this? they did.’

4.3.2 Benefactive Pronouns

Benefactive pronouns end in *un*.

	singular		dual		plural	
1st person	<i>toun</i>		incl <i>biun</i> excl <i>iun</i>	incl <i>buun</i> excl <i>paun</i>		
2nd person	<i>noun</i>		<i>meun</i>		<i>miun</i>	
3rd person	masc <i>aun</i> fem <i>un</i>	<i>liun</i>		<i>maun</i>		

341) *me-rili-a inamaniap luguan ila kani un magabun*
 3ps-build-3smO people house REL big 3sfb woman
 ‘people built one big house for a woman’

342) *a-sau-oŋ migana ubiem aun numeilup am*
 3smO-buy-3sms man rice 3smb family 3sg
 ‘a man bought rice for his family’

343) *ties-tuŋ maranit maun inamaniap onim kuot*
 speak-1ss hard 3pb people GEN Kuot
 ‘I spoke for Kuot people’

344) *na-laj nomurit dagar toun* ‘give me an egg’
 2s-give one egg 1sb

345) *paragiap ba paun* ‘some food for us’
 food.PL some 1pxb

4.3.3 Intimative Pronouns

Intimative nouns convey the meaning of ‘close to’ or ‘get along’.

346) *no-naŋ toi*
 2ss-sit 1sI
 ‘sit down close to me’

347) *luguan-aŋ la dus-ong ai alan*
 house-3sG SF stand-3ss 3smI Alan
 ‘his house is standing by Alan’s’

- 348) *mu-ruo ii dokas*
 come-1sS 3sfl Dokas
 ‘I was with Dokas and come back’

Intimative pronouns end in *i*.

	singular		dual		plural	
1st person	<i>toi</i>		incl <i>bii</i>	excl <i>ii</i>	incl <i>bui</i>	excl <i>pai</i>
2nd person	<i>noi</i>		<i>mei</i>		<i>mii</i>	
3rd person	masc <i>ai</i>	fem <i>u</i>	<i>lii</i>		<i>mai</i>	

- 349) *mio-naj toi* ‘sit down close to me’
 2p-sit 1sl

- 350) *tu-ga a-vaik-taj migan tuaj noi*
 1sS-like 3smO-introduce-1sS friend 1smG 2sl
 ‘I’d like to introduce my friend to you’

- 351) *marik-buog maranit ira morowa*
 pray-1pnS hard toward God
 ‘let us pray fervently to God’

4.4 Deitics

Deitics include anything that helps the hearer pin down the exact person, time, and place being talked about. In Kuot deitics include demonstrative pronouns, demonstrative adjectives, directional prepositions, and location words.

- 352) *li-gama, irie irobuma*
 2d-say 3sm FD
 ‘You say, “he is there”’
- 353) *me-la-ra toruan ukarumpa*
 3ps-go-COMPL LOC Ukarumpa
 ‘they have gone to Ukarumpa’

- 354) *mu-o toma namatanai titot*
 come-3sms LOC Namatanai today
 'he came from Namatanai today'

4.4.1 General Contrast Between Near And Far

There is a basic deictic contrast between near and far for animate and inanimate demonstrative pronouns and locations relative to the speaker. Deictics also exhibit gender distinctions.

Near	Far	
<i>irie</i> (animate)	<i>irodu</i> (animate)	masculine
<i>urie</i> (animate)	<i>urobu</i> (animate)	feminine
<i>iro</i> 'here'	<i>iroma</i> 'there'	masculine
<i>uro</i> 'here'	<i>uroma</i> 'there'	feminine
<i>togo</i> (<i>inani</i>) 'here'	<i>tie</i> (<i>inani</i>) 'there'	
355) <i>aga irie</i>	<i>aga irodu</i>	
'who is this?'	'who is that?'	
356) <i>mani iro</i>	<i>mani iroma</i>	
'what is this?'	'what is that?'	
357) <i>nonaŋ</i>	<i>togo-nonaŋ tie</i>	
'sit here'	'sit there'	

When *-bu* or *-buma* are suffixed to the deitic word they indicate a thing, location, or direction far away from the speaker.

4.4.2 Deictic Center

The speaker represents the deictic center. The speaker can then refer to a person, place or thing by using a specific word to point the addressee to a certain direction or location.

	far	near	very near
higher elevation	<i>toma</i>	<i>irima</i>	<i>tapma</i>
lower elevation	<i>todaŋ</i>	<i>toburaŋ</i>	<i>tidaŋ</i>
sunrise/from sea	<i>toruan</i>	<i>ittuan</i>	<i>tatuan</i>
sunset	<i>toruan</i>	<i>tataŋ</i>	<i>irodaŋ</i>

4.5 Specifiers.

Specifiers are related to deictics in that they identify the noun for the hearer. They can be divided into non-referential, referential indefinite, and referential definite forms.

The free morpheme *noba* ‘some, any, another’ is a non-referential specifier. When the speaker uses *noba* to refer to a general category instead of to a particular entity. It precedes the noun it is modifies.

- 358) *u-βarara noba migana na alaŋ timoi*
 3smS-die some man LOC road yesterday
 ‘someone died on the road yesterday’

- 359) *karukara noba pagap togo*
 NEG another things here
 ‘aren’t there other things here?’

The referential indefinite specifier *non* is used when the speaker has a definite entity in mind but it is known to the hearer.

- 360) *non migana la taφa-oŋ me parak na ubi*
 INDEF man SF sick-3smS D foods LOC garden
 ‘some man felt hungry in the garden’

- 361) *o non la irie la terigi-aŋ me lourup*
 T INDEF day 3sm SF return-3sfSu LOC down
 ‘he will come back down some day’

The referential definite specifiers are used when the speaker has a definite entity in mind that the hearer can also identify. The definite singular specifiers are *iro* for male and *uro* for female, respectively.

- 362) *iro kaβuna la mitara pupul-i*
 DEF dog SF very black-m
 ‘this dog is very black’
- 363) *a-pul-oŋ iro migana pura-nuaŋ*
 3smO-steal3s DEF man rooster-2sG
 ‘this man stole your rooster’
- 364) *uro kumbun la mitara taφa-iej*
 DEF sow SF very sick-3sfs
 ‘this sow is very sick’
- 365) *i-lum uro kuguom timoi*
 3sfs-fall DEF tree yesterday
 ‘this tree fell down yesterday’

The word *liro* is the dual definite specifier.

- 366) *liro tei-βien la nebuk-li-la o ties lata na arubu*
 DEF man-DL SF quarrel-DL INST language last T night
 ‘these man quarreled last night’
- 367) *aga la u-namu-an liro pura-βien*
 who SF 3sS-kill-3dO DEF rooster-DL
 ‘who killed these two chickens?’

The word *miro* is the plural definite specifier.

- 368) *maiaba kakeβ-up miro paga-p*
 great money-PL DEF things
 ‘these are very expensive’
- 369) *miro inamaniap la onim kuot*
 DEF people SF GEN Kuot
 ‘these people are from Kuot’

4.6 Adjectives

Adjectives are descriptive words that modify nouns in noun phrases or function as complements in stative descriptive clauses. Adjectives generally follow a noun head of a

noun phrase. They fill the adjective slot as in (370-371) or the predicate adjective slot as in (372-373).

- 370) *luguan ila tatali* 'the old house'
 house REL old
- 371) *kuguom ula tatalu* 'the old tree'
 tree REL old
- 372) *luguan la ila tatali* 'house is very old'
 house SF REL old
- 373) *kuguom la ula tatalu* 'tree is very old'
 tree SF REL old

Two exceptional forms that precede the noun head are *tatak* 'small' and *maiaba* 'big'. These adjectives do not change for gender or number.

- 374) *tatak kulot* 'small boy'
 small boy
- 375) *maiaba kakeβup* 'large amount of money'
 big money

Nouns can join with other nouns to form a noun complex.

- 376) *kadi nunamap* 'bamboo chair'
 bamboo chair
- 377) *begat afarat* 'hat for rain'
 hat rain

Nouns with gender, like *lop* 'children', can be used in a noun complex. These nouns function as adjectives.

- 378) *lop mila teip* 'boy children'
 children REL men
- 379) *lop mila magaulap* 'girl children'
 children REL women

Quantifiers precede the noun head. They can take several grammatical forms. The word *papaluaiβ* 'many' focuses on quantity while *papot* 'many' focuses on types.

380) *papaluaip ma teip ga magaulap*
 many PL men and women
 'many people'

381) *papot ma upaubip*
 many kind food.PL
 'various kinds of food'

Quantifiers may also be used in the negative to indicate few.

382) *karuk, tale kan papaluaip ma pagap*
 no NEG EMPH many PL things
 'No, there are not many things.'

383) *tale kan papot ma udup*
 NEG E many PL bananas
 'there are not various kinds of bananas'

Numerals also precede the noun head. The traditional counting system of Kuot is based on units of ten. These numbers are generally used to count common nouns. These numbers are:

<i>ar</i> 'one'	<i>aras</i> 'two'	<i>naien</i> 'three'	<i>nagala</i> 'four'
<i>muanam</i> 'five'	<i>gutnamur</i> 'six'	<i>gamura</i> 'seven'	
<i>gamin</i> 'eight'	<i>gamiala</i> 'nine'	<i>manaburuan</i> 'ten'	

But when *ar* 'one' and *aras* 'two' are used as modifiers of nouns, they become *nomurit* and *naraen*, respectively.

384) *nomurit la naraen laβien*
 one day two day.DL
 'one day' 'two days'

The dual and plural forms for *manaburuan* 'ten' are *manaburualαβien* and *manaburualap*, respectively.'

4.7 Adverbs

Adverbs generally immediately follow the verb or adjective they modify. They describe how the action takes place.

- 385) *igo-mej kakalait* 'they ran away quickly'
 ran-3ps quickly
- 386) *bu-num teteiliat* 'let us walk slowly'
 1pn-walk slowly
- 387) *parak-mej pebuop iat* 'they eat bananas together'
 eat-3ps bananas together
- 388) *to-uan-nala kirat* 'wait a minute!'
 1sO-wait-2sS little
- 389) *bu-la kalup parabira namur*
 1pnS-go tomorrow morning early
 'let's leave early tomorrow morning!'

The adverb *mitara* intensifies verbs or predicate adjectives. It occurs immediately before the word it modifies.

- 390) *mitara tevurus-mej me morowa*
 EMPH glad-3ps D God
 'they were delighted with God'
- 391) *pianam mitara ula kakanu*
 place EMPH REL big
 'very big place'
- 392) *mitara migat ties aŋ*
 EMPH true language 3sG
 'his talk is very true'

When a negative is intensified, the clitic *kan* precedes the verb.

- 393) *irie la tale kan puo-oŋ*
 3sm SF NEG EMPH able-3sS
 'he is not able to (do)'
- 394) *kikis-nuŋ uro ubi karuk kan-na-ruŋ ume*
 dislike-2sS ND.sf work no EMPH like-1sS ND.sm
 'do you dislike this work? no, I like very much'

The morpheme *-it* ‘just/only’ qualifies or limits the condition or event of a clause. It often occurs peripheral slots of a clause or in a sentence fragment. Following a word ending in a vowel it is realised as *-t*.

- 395) *urie-t* ‘that’s all’
3sf-LIM
- 396) *aga nunuo turuo-t*
who you 1s-LIM
‘who is it? just me’
- 397) *ma-nula namuk ma abulap kirat-it*
3ps-catch how plI fish.pl few-LIM
‘how many fish did you catch? very few’

The modal adverbs *atabun* and *atabo* tend to modify a whole clause instead of just a verb. They communicate the speaker’s attitudes or opinions about the content of the clause. These words generally appear as peripheral elements in the margin of a clause. The adverb *atabun* indicates a greater possibility than *atabo* that something will occur.

- 398) *atabo eba u-lum aφarat kalup*
perhaps FUT 3ss-fall rain tomorrow
‘perhaps it will rain tomorrow’
- 399) *atabun eba terig-ieg obinam lata na arubu*
perhaps FUT 3sfs-return canoe last T night
‘the canoe probably came back last night’

Temporal adverbs refer to temporal sequential ordering.

- 400) *marik-buon ka parak-buon bat*
pray-1pnS first eat-1pnS next
‘let’s pray and then have a meal’
- 401) *aga la ula laike ga aga la malonim*
who SF go first CJ who SF last
‘who goes first and then who goes last?’

- 402) *tu-ga umir-taŋ tubiat*
 1SS-want write-1SS after
 ‘I want to write later’

Directional adverb refer to location or direction.

- 403) *na-bar tie, er ta-ba ro*
 2SS-go FD FUT 1SS-go ND
 ‘you go that way, and I go this way’

- 404) *ila obinam bubaro alaŋ*
 3sfs canoe right.here road
 ‘that canoe went by right here’

4.8 Prepositions

Prepositions are relator words that link noun phrases to the rest of the clause. They function as directionals, locationals and temporals. Prepositions in Kuot include:

<i>ga</i> ‘with’	<i>ana</i> ‘inside’
<i>nakap</i> ‘above’	<i>labie</i> ‘outside’
<i>bo</i> ‘on’	<i>taralap</i> ‘side’
<i>lourup</i> ‘under’	<i>na</i> ‘T, LOC’
<i>pat</i> ‘below’	<i>me</i> ‘D’
<i>laike</i> ‘in front of’	<i>a, o, le, ma</i> ‘INST’
<i>pakur</i> ‘behind’	<i>ira</i> ‘toward’

- 405) *tego-naŋ bo obinam*
 jump-2s on canoe
 ‘get in the canoe’
- 406) *a-go-meŋ tadasip ira kobey*
 3smO-throw-3pS stones toward bird
 ‘they threw stones at a bird’
- 407) *dus-oy luguan tuaŋ taralap danuot*
 stand-3smS house 1sG side river
 ‘my house stands on the side of the river’

- 408) *o-βis-mej kumbun o iagur ula mamaranu*
 3sfO-bind-3ps sow INST vine REL strong
 'they bound the sow with very strong vine'

4.9 Question Words

Question words include the following.

<i>lagum</i> 'where'	<i>are mani</i> 'how'
<i>man</i> 'which'	<i>me mani</i> 'why'
<i>mani</i> 'what'	<i>aga</i> 'who'
<i>o man la</i> 'when'	<i>auaŋ</i> 'whose'

4.10 Conjunctions

The conjunction *ga* 'and' is used to join words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence.

- 409) *lai ga kuala la terigi-lion titot*
 bridegroom CJ bride SF return-3ds today
 'the bridegroom and bride came back today'
- 410) *poi nuaŋ ga poi ruaŋ la nelinam maranit*
 child 2sG CJ child 1sG SF fight hard
 'your son and my son are fighting hard'
- 411) *ubi-ieŋ papa-ruŋ ga sagu-oŋ papa-ruaŋ*
 work-3sfs sister-1sG CJ play-3sms brother-1sG
 'my sister works and my brother plays'

The conjunction *o* 'or' also joins words, phrases or clauses in a sentence.

- 412) *aga eba a-la nunuo o turuo o aga*
 who FUT 3sfsu-go you CJ I CJ who
 'who is supposed to go? you or I or who?'
- 413) *man uduma la maset uduma ila kani o ila kapi*
 which banana SF good banana REL big CJ REL small
 'which banana is better? the big one or the small one?'

- 414) *atabo migan nuaj la duri-øj o taða-øj*
 guess friend 2sG SF sleep-3sms CJ sick-3sms
 ‘perhaps your friend is sleeping or feels sick.’

5 Sentence Level

Kuot sentences are divided into coordinate and subordinate sentences.

5.1 Coordinate Sentence

Coordinate sentences include two or more independent clauses joined using coordinating conjunctions as connectors or by juxtaposition. They include temporal sentences, contrastive sentences, and reason–result sentences.

5.1.1 Temporal Sentence

Temporal sentences indicate punctilliar time, simultaneous time or sequential time. A punctilliar time relation between two independent clauses is indicated by juxtaposing them. The punctilliar time reference is from the perspective of the second clause in the construction.

- 415) *na tara u-βina pu-ruara*
 T time 3sm-dance sing-1s
 ‘when he dances, I sing’

The connector *ga* ‘and’ is used to join two independent clauses to indicate simultaneous time.

- 416) *i-βina magabun-tuŋ ga pu-ruara turuo*
 3sfs-dance wife-1sG and sing-1s 1s
 ‘my wife is dancing and I am singing’

The connectors *ga* ‘and’ and *tubiat* ‘after/then’ are used to connect two clauses to indicate a sequential time relation.

- 417) *i-βina magabun-tuŋ ga tubiat pu-ruara turuo*
 3sfs-dance wife-1sG CJ then sing-1s 1s
 ‘my wife dances and then I sing’

5.1.2 Contrastive Sentence

Two clauses are connected by *pa* ‘but’ in a contrastive sentence.

- 418) *bet-toŋ kavieng pa tale a-gima-ruŋ lamuana*
 arrive-1sS Kavieng CJ NEG 3sMS-see-1sS Lamuana
 ‘I arrived in Kavieng but I did not see Lamuana.’

5.1.3 Reason–Result Sentence

The reason–result sentence is constructed with a connector between two clauses whose verbs are fully inflected to indicate the subject. If the reason clause precedes the result clause, the clauses are connected by *are la* ‘and/so’ or *are ratmat* ‘therefore’.

- 419) *iŋit-oŋ bugam a are la tale puo-oŋ aβure-oŋ kumorot*
 hurt-3sMS head 3sm so NEG able-3sMS shoot-3sMS pig
 ‘his head hurt so he was not able to shoot pig.’

- 420) *iŋit-oŋ bugam a are ratmat tale puooŋ aβure-oŋ kumorot*
 hurt-3sMS head 3sm therefore NEG able shoot-3sMS pig
 ‘his head hurt therefore he was not able to shoot pig.’

If the result clause precedes the reason clause, the clauses are connected by *me mani* ‘because’ or the stronger result–reason conjunction *me mani go* ‘simply because’.

- 421) *tale puooŋ aβure-oŋ me mani iŋit-oŋ bugam a*
 NEG able shoot-3sMS because hurt-3sMS head 3sm
 ‘he was not able to shoot him because his head hurt.’

- 422) *tale puooŋ aβure-oŋ me mani ga iŋit-oŋ bugam a*
 NEG able shoot-3sMS because hurt-3sMS head 3sm
 ‘he could not shoot him just because his head hurt.’

5.2 Subordinate Sentence

In a subordinate sentence, an independent clause and a dependent clause are joined by the use of a subordinating conjunction or by juxtaposition. When a subordinating conjunction is used, it immediately precedes the dependent clause. Subordinate sentences include purpose sentences, conditional sentences, quotative sentences and temporal sentences.

5.2.1 Purpose Sentence

In a purpose sentence a subordinate purpose clause is joined to an independent clause with the subordinating conjunction *eba* ‘to, in order to’.

- 423) *bet-mej eba no-aga-melie*
 arrive-3ps PURP 2sO-help-3ps
 ‘they arrived in order to help you’

5.2.2 Conditional Sentence

A conditional sentence consists of a subordinate clause marked with the subordinating conjunction *leba* ‘if’, followed by an independent clause marked with the conjunction *eba* ‘then’.

- 424) *leba na-la today kavieng eba ta-la ga nunuo*
 CJ 2sS-go LOC Kavieng CJ 1sS-go with you
 ‘if you go to Kavieng, then I will go with you’
- 425) *leba marik-paj maranit, eba pa-sij-uala alaj aj*
 CJ pray-1ps strong CJ 1pO-show-3sms road 3sm
 ‘if we prayed fervently, then he would show his way to us’

5.2.3 Quotative Sentence

The quotative sentence is a relator-axis construction where the relator is the orienter and axis is the quotation. The orienter consists of the subject and an orienter verb such as ‘say’, ‘think’, ‘pray’ or ‘write’. The quotation has no special introducer.

In direct quotations the verb in the axis takes first person agreement affixes as in (426-427), while in indirect quotations the verb in the axis takes third person agreement affixes as in (428-429).

- 426) *ties-oy adam, u-gama, a-sak-tuj iro kaβuna*
 say-3sms Adam 3sms-say 3smO-hit-1ss ND.sm dog
 ‘Adam said, “I hit this dog.”’
- 427) *umir-iej desi, i-gama, a-sak-tuj iro kaβuna*
 write-3sfs Desi 3sfs-say 3smO-hit-1ss ND.sm dog
 ‘Desi wrote, “I hit this dog.”’

428) *ties-oy adam, ugama, a-sak-oy iro kaβuna*
 say-3smS Adam ORI 3smO-hit-3smS ND.sm dog
 ‘Adam said he hit this dog’

429) *umir-ieη desi, igama, a-sak-ieη iro kaβuna*
 write-3sfs Desi ORI 3smO-hit-3sfs ND.sm dog
 ‘Desi wrote she hit this dog’

The quotative construction is also used to indicate an animated action for the purpose of demonstration.

430) *a-bit-oy jodam kaβuna gare ro*
 3smO-beat-3smS Jodam dog like ND
 ‘Jodam beat the dog this way...’ (the speaker animates an action)

431) *u-βarara saul gare tiro...*
 3smS-die saul like ND
 ‘Saul died this way...’ (the speaker animates an action)

5.2.4 Temporal Sentence

A simultaneous time sentence consists of a dependent clause beginning with the subordinating conjunction *na tara* ‘when’ followed by an independent clause.

432) *na tara pu-a-ra tu-βina*
 when sing-3smS 1s-dance
 ‘when he sang I danced’

433) *na tara ubi-nuη na ubi duri-ruη na puoranama*
 when work-2s LOC garden sleep-1s LOC boy.house
 ‘when you worked in the garden, I slept at the boy house’

5.3 Sentence Periphery

Exclamations occur sentence initially and include exclamations of affirmation as in (434), negation as in (435), repetition as in (436), surprise as in (437), amazement as in (438), disgust as in (439), truthfulness as in (440), sympathy as in (441), acknowledgement as in (442), uncertainty as in (443-444), introduction as in (445-446) and vindication as in (447).

- 434) *tie a-saga-raŋ kumorot ga terigi-raŋ*
 yes 3smO-sell-1sS pig CJ return-1sS
 ‘yes, I will sell the pig and come back’
- 435) *karuk kikis-tuŋ iro ga na-ruŋ me irobu*
 no dislike-1sS ND.sm CJ like-1sS GOAL FD.sf
 ‘no, I do not like this and I like that’
- 436) *are tie a-bit-toŋ ga igo-ruŋ*
 such as 3smO-hit CJ flee-1sS
 ‘that’s what I did, I hit him and fled’
- 437) *ui tu-rup-nu-aba ga tu-rao*
 EX 1s-surprise-2sS CJ 1s-afraid
 ‘oh, you surprised me and I was afraid’
- 438) *ubonubara tema-ieŋ ga mitara tema-ieŋ*
 EX good-3sfs CJ EMPH good.3sfs
 ‘wow, it was extremely, extremely good!’
- 439) *sheesh a-gosar-nuŋ mani*
 EX 3smS-make-2sS what
 ‘sheesh, what are you doing?’
- 440) *migat ties-nuŋ la migat*
 surely word-2sG SF true
 ‘surely, your talking is true’
- 441) *kadige u-βarara laipak-nuaŋ*
 EX 3smS-die grandfather-2sG
 ‘sorry, your grand father died!’
- 442) *aritara ubi-buoŋ iat kalup*
 EX work-1pnS together tomorrow
 ‘ok, let’s work together from tomorrow’
- 443) *atabo eba mu-oŋ nabit*
 guess FUT come-3sfSu afternoon
 ‘perhaps he will come at afternoon’

- 444) *atabun, naga-nuj la na binim*
 guess mother-2sG SF LOC beach
 ‘perhaps your mother would be at the beach’
- 445) *miptaj tu-ga ta-laj ait miun*
 listen 1sS-like 1sS-give information 2pB
 ‘listen! I like to give news to you’
- 446) *a-gima-mij tu-ga ta-laj ait miun*
 3sS-look-2pO 1sS-like 1sS-give information 2pB
 ‘look! I like to give news to you’
- 447) *oh ho nu-lum-ara*
 EX FUT 2sS-fall-resul
 ‘uh huh! you fell!’

There may be more than one exclamation in the same sentence.

- 448) *tie atabo ties-tuj-ara gare ro tinan*
 yes perhaps speak-1sS-COMPL like ND before
 ‘yes, maybe I said that before’
- 449) *tsss are tie tu-namu-a ga u-βarara*
 EX as such 1sS-kill-3smO CJ 3smS-die-pa
 ‘sheesh! that’s what I said, I killed it!’

Appendix A: Phonology and Morphophonemics

The Kuot language has fourteen phonemic consonants and six phonemic vowels.

Consonants

		Bilabial	Pre-Palatal	Post-palatal
Stops	- Voiceless	p [p ~ p ^h]	t [t ~ t ^h]	k [k ~ k ^h]
	- Voiced	b [b]	d [d]	g [g]

Two Non-Austronesian Grammars from the Islands

Fricatives	- Voiceless	ϕ	s
		[ϕ ~ f]	[s ~ ʃ]
	- Voiced	β	
		[β ~ v]	
Nasals		m	n
		[m]	[n ~ ɲ]
Lateral			ŋ
			[ŋ]
Flap			l
			[l]
		r	
		r	
		[r]	

Vowels

	Front	Back
High	i	u
	[i ~ ɪ ~ y]	[u ~ ʊ ~ w]
Mid	e	o
	[e ~ ε]	[o ~ ɔ]
Low	a	
	[a ~ ʌ]	

Morphophonemic Alternations

A.3.1 *t ~ r Alternation*: The initial /t/ in the possessive markers /-tuan/, /-tun/, /-tuo/ becomes /r/ after a morpheme ending in a vowel.

/-tuan/ 'my (alienable, masc. possessed)'

/luguan-tuan/ 'my house

/ke'in-tuan/ 'my bag'

/bup'tamat-tuan/ 'my clan'

/kumo'rot-tuan/ 'my pig'

/pa'pa-ruan/ 'my brother'

/ma'mo-ruan/ 'my father'

/ta'ta-ruan/ 'my uncle'

/ta'beka-ruan/ 'my papaya'

/-tun/ 'my (alienable, fem. possessed)'

/kumbun-tuŋ/ 'my sow'
/'ties-tuŋ/ 'my language'

/talau-ruŋ/ 'my nephew'
/'naga-ruŋ/ 'my mother'

/-tuo/ 'my (inalienable)'

/'nanam-tuo/ 'my mouth'
/'kiginam-tuo/ 'my ear'
/'bugam-tuo/ 'my head'
/'bonim-tuo/ 'my name'
/'olabu'an-tuo/ 'my blood'
/'dalap-tuo/ 'my heart'

/'i'rama-ruo/ 'my eye'
/'aga'bunima-ruo/ 'my nose'
/'ka'rima-ruo/ 'my belly'
/'a'roma-ruo/ 'my breast'
/'mura'nama-ruo/ 'my spirit'
/'logima-ruo/ 'my tooth'

A.3.2 *Vowel Shortening Rule*: When the third person singular masculine suffix /-oŋ/ is added to vowel-final verb stems, the first vowel is generally not pronounced.

/agimaa-oŋ/	[ʼagimɔŋ]	'he will see'
/asaga-oŋ/	[a'saɔŋ]	'he sends it'
/lesau-oŋ/	[le'saɔŋ]	'he buys them (dl)'
/amaŋa-oŋ/	[a'maŋɔŋ]	'he peels it'

A.3.3 *Voicing Rule*: When vowel-initial suffixes such as /-oŋ/, /-aŋ/, /-ieŋ/, /-a/, /-o/, /-up/ are added to stems which end in voiceless consonants, those consonants become voiced. The phoneme /p/ becomes [β], not [b], in this environment.

/obareit-oŋ/	[oba'reidɔŋ]	'he splits it'
/marik-oŋ/	[ma'riɔŋ]	'he prays'
/aritik-oŋ/	[ari'tiɔŋ]	'he cuts it'
/abakba:k-oŋ/	[abak'ba:ɔŋ]	'he covers it'
/pu'rap-ieŋ/	[pu'rabiyeŋ]	'her roosters (pl)'
/taϕ-o/	[ta'βo]	'he drinks'
/'sip-oŋ/	[ʼsiβɔŋ]	'it comes out'
/agirip-oŋ/	[agi'riβɔŋ]	'he strips it'
/u'paubip-aŋ/	[u'paubiβaŋ]	'his foods'
/irap-a/	[i'raβa]	'her eyes'
/kakep-up/	[ka'keβup]	'money'
/nap-'up/	[na'βup]	'part (pl)'

This voicing does not occur before voiced consonants.

/taϕ ¹ meŋ/	[taϕ ¹ meŋ]	‘they drink’
/kukuϕ ¹ meŋ/	[ku ¹ kuϕ ¹ meŋ]	‘delicious (pl)’
/kukup ¹ meŋ/	[ku ¹ kup ¹ meŋ]	‘they (pl) shout’
/sip ¹ buoŋ/	[¹ ʃip ¹ buoŋ]	‘we (pl) come out’
/aɣirip ¹ maŋ/	[aɣi ¹ ri ¹ p ¹ maŋ]	‘slice it’
/u ¹ paubip ¹ lioŋ/	[u ¹ paubip ¹ liyoŋ]	‘their (dl) foods’
/i ¹ rap ¹ maioŋ/	[i ¹ rap ¹ mayoŋ]	‘their (pl) eyes’

Appendix B: Abbreviations

Glosses for pronouns and agreement affixes consist of the person (1, 2, 3) and number (s, d, p). First person nonsingular is followed by inclusive or exclusive (n, x), while third person singular is followed by gender (m, f). Agreement affixes end with subject or object (s, o), while pronouns may end with genitive, benefactive, or intimate (G, B, I) markers. Deictics may also indicate person and gender. Angle brackets (<>) indicate infixes.

BEN	Benefactive	INDEF	Indef Modality	PRO	Pronoun
CJ	Conjunction	INST	Instrument	PURP	Purpose
COMP	Comparative	LIM	Limitier	QM	Quantity Mod
COMPL	Completive	LOC	Locative	RC	Rel Clause
DEF	Definite	MULT	Multiplier	REC	Reciprocal
D	Direction	ND	Near Deictic	REFL	Reflexive
DL	Dual	NEG	Negator	REL	Relator
DO	Direct Object	NW	Number Word	RP	Rel Pronoun
DP	Demonstr Pron	ONI	Ord Num	RSTV	Restrictivizer
EMPH	Emphatic Pron		Indicator	S	Subject
FD	Far Deictic	PL	Plural	SF	Subject Focus
FUT	Future Tense	PN	Proper Noun	SPEC	Specifier
GEN	Genitive	PC	Poss Construct	T	Time
GOAL	Goal	PPI	Poss Pron	TAG	Yes/No Q Tag
IMP	Imperative		Indicator		
INCHO	Inchoative	PROHIB	Prohibitive		