Logical Relations in Meramera

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Abbreviations

1, 2, 3 first, second, and third person respectively

CAUS causative **CIRC** circumstance connective CON CONTR contrast

direction away from DA

demonstrative **DEM** DT direction towards

du dual

exclusive ex

HM human noun marker

HON honorific inclusive in intensifier **INTS IRR** irrealis **ITR** intransitive KIN kinship limiter LIM **NEG** negative

neutral NH non-human noun marker

NOM nominalised NP noun phrase

NEUT

PERF perfective aspect

plural (more than two) pl

POS possessive **PREP** preposition **RDP** reduplication **REC** reciprocal reflexive **REFL** REL relativiser singular S

thematic pro-form THE PRO

TR transitive TRANS transitiviser

 \mathbf{V} verb

1. Introduction

In this paper we examine how logical relations function in Meramera. There are various connectives used to help speakers communicate clearly with one another. However we also observed that in many cases a logical relation could be understood without a connective because the context made the proposition clear. In looking at clause level connectives we have ordered our paper according to Chapters 26 and 27 of Mildred Larson's book *Meaning-based Translation: A Guide to Cross-language Equivalence*. We have then added some observations about connectives used at discourse level. We used an inductive method to examine these connectives.

The examples included in this paper are taken mostly from natural texts.²

2. Logical Relations at Clause Level

2.1 Circumstance-HEAD

"Circumstance-HEAD is a relation in which the circumstance provides background information about the HEAD unit." This information can include time, location or background. In Meramera a circumstance clause is normally marked by *do* or its variants *odo*, *odolo*, *iodo* and *iodolo*. These are positioned at the end of the circumstance clause which precedes the HEAD. Below are examples of time, location- and background- HEAD relations. The HEAD can optionally start with the conjunction *m*- as seen in Example 3.

1) De malada tolu lou i pulu odo, a uusi-na golu iodo i CON day three INTS 3s finish CIRC NH sprout-NOM thing DEM 3s

buo.

After three more days had passed the shoot which sprouted from it grew.

¹ Meramera is an Austronesian language spoken by about 2000 people on the north coast of New Britain in Papua New Guinea. The Meramera language group spreads over the border between the Provinces of West New Britain and East New Britain. It is an SVO language.

² The texts we analysed make up about 1000 clauses and include narrative, instructional and hortative texts. We also received some input from Meramera speakers for which we are very grateful.

³ page 289 Larson Mildred. 1984 *Meaning-based Translation: A Guide to Cross-language Equivalence* University Press of America: Lanham

⁴ See Appendix E for further information on these forms.

2) Seido tama-n-e Diaa i asu CON father-POS-HM *** 3s go

u-sala **do**, ei oite sele moni e Diaa Aulu. DT-outside CIRC 3s see INTS LIM HM *** HON

Then going outside Diaa's father did indeed see Uncle Diaa.

3) De tua-na i dam-ta-tala do, m-ei vei l-e CON older_sibling-3sPOS 3s think-RDP⁵ CIRC and-3s say PREP-HM

tasi-na maido, ".... younger_sibling-3sPOS thus

Now his older brother having thought said to his younger sibling thus, "...

It is however possible for the connective do to be absent and a circumstance-HEAD relation to be communicated, as seen in Example 4. Here the m- at the start of the HEAD is obligatory.

4) Ei vasale-sale n-a mado, m-ei saga a 3s walk -RDP PREP-NH shore and-3s be_surprised NH

mui-n-a tavi-vi-ne sou eli-eli a siloga place-POS-NH⁶ woman-RDP⁷3pl dig-RDP NH spring

Walking along the shore, he was surprised to see a place where women dig for water.

2.2 Orienter-CONTENT

"In the **orienter**-CONTENT relation, the proposition which is the **orienter** serves to introduce the CONTENT." The **orienter** proposition includes propositions such as *He said to her...., He knew...., He wanted....,* and so on. There are different ways in which Meramera shows this relation. Firstly the CONTENT can be marked with an irrealis marker. This always occurs with the verb *kale* (to want) and often with the verbs *mapigogoi* and *puiale* (to be possible). It also often occurs where the orienter is a speech EVENT, see Example 7. Secondly the connective *ve* can be used. This is always used to indicate indirect speech. It can also be used in other kinds of orienter-CONTENT relations. The connective *maido* is normally used to introduce direct speech. Like *ve, maido* is used to indicate other orienter-CONTENT relations and in many of these cases *ve* and *maido* are interchangeable. However more commonly no

⁵ The reduplication here is the infix -ta- and the stem is damtala.

⁶ The "human" words bibi (man) and tavine (woman) always take a non-human marker.

⁷ The stem is *tavine* and the reduplication is the infix -vi-.

⁸ ibid page 290

connector is used at all, see Examples 12 and 13. In each of the following examples the orienter clause is in **bold**

5) Maido⁹ m-e ami kale n-o valipute palipali THE PRO and-HM 1du.ex want IRR-2s kill INTS¹⁰

sele a bonu-bonu vuso.

INTS NH turtle-RDP all

So we want you to completely kill all of the turtles.

6) Ei ma puiale ete n-i tabule a lala-la-n-a 3s NEG possible NEG IRR-3s carry NH branch-RDP-POS-NH

bolo buo. Ei saboa buo. pig big 3s not yet big

He is not able to carry the legs of a big pig. He is not big (enough) yet.

7) Ami bee-si oo n-o tavui ei. 1du.ex command-PERF 2s IRR-2s marry 3s

We have commanded you to marry her.

8) *Ei vei* ve ei iubi.
3s say that 3s strike

She says that she struck (him).

9) **M-e** *Pusi vei maido*, "De o asu!" and-HM¹¹ cat say thus CON 2s go

And Cat said thus, "Alright, you go."

⁹ When *maido* occurs at the beginning of a clause it has a head-tail linkage function. It is a pro-form for the preceding proposition, which it refers back to. *maido* has a semblative function and could be glossed by the English *like that*. We refer to it in this paper as a thematic pro-form.

the adverb *palipali* occurs when the verb is transitive. When the verb is intransitive *palupalu* is used.

¹¹ The word *pusi* normally takes a non-human marker but in this case it takes a human marker because the narrator wishes to personify it.

10) Ea muada maido¹² eina i ma-alepos-e¹³ eau luma
1s know that my mother 3s CAUS-appear-TRANS 1s house

n-a aubu. PREP-NH village

I know that my mother gave birth to me at home in the village.

11) **Sou muada i** ve ei mate-si n-a avena tasa.

3pl know 3s¹⁴ CON 3s die-PERF PREP-NH place one

They know that he died in a certain place.

12) Sulu ini a namu-na m-e su somiale ei doana sele, 3du drink NH water-3sPOS and-HM 3du feel 3s good INTS

mamisi sele. tasty INTS

The two drink its juice, and they find it very good, very tasty.

13) Ei damu a kuau odo i kuba. 3s think NH plane DEM 3s good

He thinks that the plane is good.

2.3 HEAD-equivalence

"HEAD-equivalence indicates that the two units convey the same meaning. They are equivalent." We were not able to find many examples of this relation. Examples 14 and 15 are the only two cases of HEAD-equivalence which we were able to find. Meramera often uses repetition to emphasise an event or action. In these cases the verb is simply repeated as can be seen in Example 16.

14) Ei ma ade oto. Ei vale moni. 3s NEG speak NEG 3s be silent LIM

He did not speak, he was just silent.

 $^{^{12}}$ In Examples 10 and 11 *maido* and ve are interchangeable. It would be possible to insert the particle i into Example 10, so it would read Ea *muada* i *maido* It would also be possible to simply say Ea *muada* i followed by the dependant clause. As far as we know each of these variations has the same meaning. So far no examples of Ea *muada* ve have been found.

 $^{^{13}}$ alepose is a contracted form of the underlying form alaposa-e. In the contracted form the second vowel a becomes e.

¹⁴ See Appendix B for an explanation of i.

¹⁵ ibid page 294

15) Ea pipigo n-a lodo, malada, asu lodo lou, pipigo lou, asu ls work PREP-NH night day time go night INTS 16 work INTS go

malada. Manoa-na boa. day_time rest-NOM none

I worked at night and during the day, night time came again and I worked and continued until the following day. There was no time to rest.

16) Ei iubi a ase-n-a aliusu. Ei ase-pala-la. Aliusu i
3s strike NH mouth-POS-NH snake 3s mouth-open-RDP snake 3s

ase-pala-la, Klemen iubi a ase-na. mouth-open-RDP ****** strike NH mouth-3sPOS

He struck the snake's mouth. It opened its mouth. The snake opened its mouth and Klemen struck its mouth

2.4 HEAD-amplification

"HEAD-amplification is a relation between two communication units in which one of the units communicates all the information in the other together with some further information." The extra information can be about location, time, manner or instrument. In the first example the amplification unit gives information about instrument, and in the second example it gives information about location.

17) Klemen iubi a ase-na. Ei iubi a lumusu.

***** strike NH mouth-3sPOS 3s strike NH spear

Klemen struck its mouth. He struck (it) with a spear.

18) M-a lipu min-ei pu. Ei pu bilesi u-tano min-e And-NH axe POS-3s fall 3s fall straight DT-down PREP-HM

tame-tubu-na. KIN-grandchild-3sPOS

And his axe fell. It fell right down to his ancestors.

17 ibid page 295

¹⁶ lou is used as an intensifier when it modifies a noun or an intransitive verb and lei is used, as in Example 19, when it modifies a transitive verb.

2.5 GENERIC-specific

"In the GENERIC-specific relation, the specific part gives more precise detail. The GENERIC unit includes the information which is in the specific unit." In the following example from Meramera the specific communication unit precedes the GENERIC. The GENERIC is in bold.

19) Sou guale lei a moe tasa, sou langi-sobe ei m-oata.

3pl take INTS NH pandanus_mat one 3pl cover 3s DA_above

M-e sou guale a tanga-tanga n-e sou, sou tau oata min-ei. and-HM 3pl take NH basket-RDP POS-HM 3pl 3pl put on PREP-3s

Sou tau oov-i¹⁹ ei...
3pl put hide-TRANS 3s

They took another pandanus mat and covered him from above. They took their baskets and put them on top of him. They hid him...

2.6 Comparison-HEAD

The relation of **comparison-HEAD** is based on the point of similarity between two units."²⁰ In Meramera the connectives *mane* or *tomane* are used when two things are similar, as in Examples 20 and 21. The connective *an-e/a* follows the adjective when a comparative degree is indicated, this can be seen in Example 22. The intensifier *lou* can optionally precede *ane* as in Example 23. In Meramera the tendency is that when a comparison is made, no information is left implicit and the item/person to which the comparison is being made is repeated in the second proposition, as in Example 23.

20) Helen ei lago man-e Mai. **** 3s long like-HM ***

Helen is as tall as Mai.

21) Ei toman-a maubi-na, moni toman-a maubi-na i se-sele boa 3s like-NH fight-NOM CONTR like-NH fight-NOM 3s real-RDP NEG

It looks like fighting but it isn't real fighting.

22) Bialla ei buo an-e Ulamona.

**** 3s big PREP-HM *******

Bialla is bigger than Ulamona.

²⁰ ibid page 297

¹⁸ ibid page 295

¹⁹ oov-i is a contraction of the underlying form oovu-i

In Meramera the superlative degree is often indicated by using the comparative degree with information stated that more than two people are being compared. This can be seen in Example 23. The intensifier *sele* can sometimes be used to indicate a superlative, as can be seen in Examples 24 and 25.

23) Rowan vele vauta, moni Ishmael vele vauta lou an-e Rowan.

***** run fast CONTR ****** run fast INTS PREP-HM *****

```
Klemen vele vauta lou an-e sulu olu.

****** run fast INTS PREP-HM3du both
```

Rowan runs fast but Ishmael runs faster than Rowan. Klemen runs faster than both of them

24) Bialla ei buo an-e Ulamona, moni e Kimbe ei a aubu **** 3s big PREP-HM ***** CONTR HM **** 3s NH place

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buo-buo sele min-e West New Britain.
big-RDP INTS PREP-HM *** *** *****
```

Bialla is bigger that Ulamona but Kimbe is the biggest town in West New Britain.

25) Anskar ei bisii-sii an-e Davidson. Theodora ei bisii-sii ***** 3s small-RDP PREP-HM ******* 3s small-RDP

sele. INTS

Anskar is smaller than Davidson. Theodora is the smallest.

Although there is no point of similarity in the following example the construction is the same as would appear in a **comparison-HEAD** relation which describes a comparative degree.

26) A mauli-na min-au ei sea an-a mauli-na min-e NH live-NOM POS-1s 3s different PREP-NH live-NOM PREP-HM

```
sou buo-buo.
3pl big-RDP
```

My life (then) was different from the life of adults.

Alternatively a comparison which indicates a positive relation can be expressed by the verb *muga* (to be first/to be better). This verb can be used to make a more general

comparison than the examples listed above although the structure is very similar. The superlative can be expressed by *muge sulu/sou* (to supercede the two/all) The verb *muga* cannot be used when a negative comparison is made, for example *Ulamona is smaller than Bialla*.

```
27) Ishmael m-e Rowan su soke a v-in-ele-na n-e sulu. M-e
***** and-HM ***** 3du begin NH run-NOM<sup>21</sup> POS-HM 3du and-HM

Ishmael ei muga an-e Rowan. Mulimuli Klemen ei tamai vele m-ei
***** 3s be_first PREP-HM ***** later ***** 3s also run and-3s

mug-e<sup>22</sup> sulu.
be_first-TRANS 3du
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Ishmael and Rowan began their race and Ishmael came before Rowan. Later Klemen also ran and he came before the two of them.

2.7 Manner-HEAD

"In **manner**-HEAD relations, the **manner** clarifies and supports the HEAD by providing information which answers a question, "In what way, how did the event take place?" It often refers to something which happened simultaneously." In Meramera the word toman-e/a is used to indicate this relation and the HEAD precedes the manner

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28) Muilogo i goli a pipigo-na, toman-e tina-na i vei l-ei
****** 3s do NH work-NOM like-HM mother-3sPOS 3s say PREP-3s

iodo.
DEM
```

Muilogo did her work as her mother told her to.

2.8 Contrast-HEAD

"The relation of **contrast-HEAD** occurs when there are at least two points of difference between the units and one point of similarity. One of the points of difference involves an opposition."²⁴ Normally in Meramera *moni*²⁵ is used to indicate contrast

²¹ The stem *vele* is marked by two nominalisers, the infix -in- and the suffix -na

²² mug-e is a contraction of the underlying form muga-e.

²³ ibid page 298

²⁴ ibid page 299

²⁵ moni can be used to indicate contrast or also as a limiter as in Example 2

however it is also possible to use m-. In the following examples the point of similarity is not made explicit. In Example 29 asu and ougu share meaning because they are reciprocal concepts, this is also the case in Example 30 with *inosi* and *eili*. 26

29) *Eina* ei asu u-sivo seidei. moni eau ougu luma. my mother 3s go DT-garden today CONTR 1s stay house

My mother went to the garden today, but I stayed at home.

30) Sou vuso ino-si, **m-**e eau moni eili. 3pl all go-PERF and-HM 1s LIM exist

They all went and I am the only one who stayed.

2.9 Reason-RESULT

"In the reason-RESULT relation the proposition which has the role of reason answers the question "Why this result?""²⁷ In Meramera this relation can be marked with the words vuna, maido /m- and seido. When vuna is used the RESULT precedes the reason, however when maido and seido are used the reason precedes the RESULT. The clause which comes first is the part which the speaker wishes to emphasise. Thus in Example 32 the speaker is strongly condemning the hearers and this is made explicit because the fact that they just stand back and watch appears in the first clause. We think that there may be a difference in the use of seido and maido m- . maido m- tends to be used when the speaker wishes to make a stronger statement. Thus in a hortatory text where the speaker is challenging the listeners maido m- is used rather than seido. vuna maido is also used in this way as seen in Example 34. In direct speech it is possible to communicate a reason-RESULT relation with no connective, as seen in Example 35.

31) *Ei lae-si*, paga lodo-si. vu-na 3s be afraid-PERF reason-3sPOS INTS night-PERF

She was afraid because the night had come.

²⁶ *ibid* page 300 Larsen explains this in more detail.

²⁷ ibid page 306

32) N-e amtou ite tase moni a muina, maido m-a IRR²⁸-HM 2pl look away LIM NH continually THE PRO and-NH

vulo-vulo-na sie. cease-RDP-NOM DEM

You just stand back and watch, therefore this (work) does not progress.

33) Ei masalo sele a golu vi-vi. Seido ei vei l-e 3s desire INTS NH thing fat-RDP CON 3s say PREP-HM

natu-na lua do maido, "... child-3sPOS two DEM thus

She longs very much for meat, so she says to her two children, "....

34) Amite tove sou m-ei loi sele amiteu, vu-na maido, 1pl.ex try 3pl and-3s make_difficult INTS 1pl.ex reason-3sPOS thus

mai-nani n-a aubu n-e eitou a mai-buloi-na DA-here PREP-NH village POS-HM 1pl.in NH REC-help-NOM

boa.

We tried but it was not easy for us because there was no cooperation coming from the community.

35) Ea bale, ea ngolo. 1s be tired 1s sleep

I was tired so I slept.

2.10 Means-RESULT

"Means-RESULT is the relationship in which the means proposition answers the question "How did this result come about?""²⁹ We have found no connective in Meramera which shows this relation. As far as we can find, this relation is either expressed by using two independant clauses, see Example 36, or by using an imperative as in Examples 37 and 38.

²⁹ ibid page 307

²⁸ Meramera does not have tense, rather realis and irrealis modes. In Meramera the irrealis marker *n*-can mark normative, imperative, optative, deontic, future, intentional and probable actions.

36) Ea sagali, ea lapuale a 1s be strong 1s pull NH snake

Being strong, I pulled the snake.

37) *N-eita* vole vauta, m-e eita oava IRR-1du.in paddle fast and-HM 1du.in flee

Let us paddle fast, and flee!

magili pilu e 38) *N-eito* Hideki, n-eito sau-vu-vule IRR-1pl.in stand with HM ***** IRR-1pl.in translate-RDP³⁰ NH

in-ade min-e eitou, n-i gali u-lilo min-a NOM-say POS-HM 1pl.in IRR-3s enter DT-inside PREP-NH leaf-RDP

in-ade Salemo. buo min-a п-е big POS-NH NOM-say POS-HM God

By standing with Hideki, let us translate our language so that it will go into the big book of the Word of God.

2.11 Purpose-MEANS

Purpose-MEANS is a relationship in which the MEANS proposition answers the question "What was done in order to achieve this purpose?""31 There are two ways of conveying this relation in Meramera. Firstly the irrealis marker can be used as in Examples 39 and 40. This can optionally be preceded by ve as seen in Example 41. Alternatively the purpose proposition can be marked by the preposition mina followed by a nominalised verb, see Example 42. This construction tends to occur more frequently in written texts than in speech.

39) Ei asu u-sivo, n-i pa go-n-a 3s go DT-garden IRR-3s get thing-POS-NH NOM-eat

She went to the garden to get (some) food.

40) *N-eitou* tau a go-n-a in-ani tunu-tunu u-tano,. IRR-1pl.in put NH thing-POS-NH NOM-eat hot-RDP DT-down

n-ei uba IRR-3s to_cool

Let us put down the hot food to cool!

31 ibid page 308

³⁰ The stem is sauvule and the reduplication is the infix -vu-.

41) Seido ei asu usi-no n-a CON 3s go DT-there PREP-NH river

ve n-i avutu. CON IRR-3s bathe

So he went to the river to bathe.

42) Su buloi e ei a in-asu usi-no min-a malalei-na aani-na 3du help HM 3s NH NOM-go DT-there PREP-NH see-NOM eat-NOM

taula do. big DEM

They helped him go there to see the big feast.

2.12 Concession-CONTRAEXPECTATION

"The concession-CONTRAEXPECTATION relation has an element of "unexpectedness." There are three parts: 1) a cause (the concession part), 2) an expected effect, and 3) an unexpected result (the CONTRAEXPECTATION part)."32 In Meramera the second part (the expected effect) is left implicit. There are two ways of expressing the concession-CONTRAEXPECTATION relation. The connective moni can be used as in Examples 43 and 44. It is however also possible to omit this connective as in Example 45. In direct speech after the concession proposition it is possible to simply say boa, which indicates that the action in the concession part did not achieve its goal as was expected or hoped for, see Example 46.

43) Va-nu-nua so tilo-muli e ei, maigogoi a malada padilua. man-RDP³³ 3pl look-follow HM 3s up to NH day seven

Moni sou ma poge ete CONTR 3pl NEG find NEG 3s

The people looked for him for seven days, but they did not find him.

sele, moni 44) Ea ugu tabaa a papao tasa ma vele oto. 1s sit long time INTS CONTR NH car one NEGrun NEG

I waited a very long time, but no car came.

³² ibid page 309

³³ The stem is *vanua* and the reduplication is the infix -nu-.

45) *Euma* bili ei a go-n-a in-ani. ei ma kale ete. my father give 3s NH thing-POS-NH NOM-eat 3s NEG want NEG

My father gave him some food (but) he did not want it.

46) Ea tilo-tilo, 1s look-RDP NEG

I looked for it, but didn't find it.

2.13 Grounds-CONCLUSION

"The grounds-CONCLUSION relation answers the question "What fact is this conclusion based on?""34 There are various ways in which this relation can be expressed in Meramera. The connective seido can be used, as in Example 47. The adverb nane can also indicate a grounds-CONCLUSION relation. It appears after the subject of the CONCLUSION proposition, as seen in Example 48. If the CONCLUSION proposition is a prediction then the irrealis marker is used with no connective, see Example 49. In all of the above cases the grounds precedes the CONCLUSION. However, in Example 50 the thematic pro-form maido followed by the connective m- is used and in this case the CONCLUSION precedes the grounds.

47)*Moni* sou ma poge ete CONTR 3pl NEG find NEG3s

Seido sou vuso n-a aubu sou muada i, ve PREP-NH village 3pl know 3s³⁵ CON 3s

mate-si avena tasa. n-a die PERF PREP-NH place one

But they did not find him. So all the people from the village thought, that he had died somewhere.

matetengi-na seidei, ei nane 48) *Ei ma* asu oto n-a 3s NEG go NEG PREP-NH teach-NOM today 3s perhaps

sobe. be sick

He did not come to school today perhaps he is sick.

³⁴ ibid page 311

³⁵ See Appendix B for an explanation of i.

49) Ausa tala paulu ei palea-si, bisii moni adavu **n-**ei cloudbig black 3s appear-PERF small LIM rain

pи. fall

A big black cloud has appeared so it will rain in a little while.

50)A gona eita asu-asu ieli a bolo eili boa. maido NH place 1du.in go-RDP DEM NH pig exist none THE PRO and-NH

mada-mada oto n-a buse ei ma dog 3s NEG bark-RDP NEG PREP-NH pig

There are no pigs in this place where we have been, therefore the dog hasn't barked

2.14 Grounds-EXHORTATION

"The grounds-EXHORTATION relation is most like the grounds-CONCLUSION relation, however in grounds-CONCLUSION the CONCLUSION is a statement and in grounds-EXHORTATION the EXHORTATION is always a command."³⁶ In Meramera no connective is used to indicate this relation. The grounds-EXHORTATION propositions can come in any order, as is shown in Examples 52 and 53.

ei tang-tangi! 51) Asu u-luma si-mon-moni-na, natu-mu go DT-house right now-?³⁷ child-2sPOS 3s cry-RDP

Go home now, your child is crying!

oavi ei tun-tunu, ma pige-pige NH fire 3s hot-RDP NEG touch-RDP NEG

The fire is hot, do not touch!

53) Ma pige-pige lei a oavi, ei tun-tunu sele! NEG touch-RDP NEG NH fire 3s hot-RDP INTS

Don't touch the fire, it is hot!

³⁶ ibid page 311

³⁷ The meaning of simonmonina is right now, however we are not sure how best to segment it. A possible way could be si-mon- moni- na

^{? -}RDP- LIM- here

2.15 Condition-CONSEQUENCE

"The **condition-**CONSEQUENCE relation is also of the cause-EFFECT type. However, the cause, that is, the **condition**, is either hypothetical or there is some element of uncertainty."38 In Meramera the condition proposition is always marked with the word man-e/a and it always precedes the CONSEQUENCE.

54) M-iman-e ei longe, ei n-i vei maido, ".... and-NEUT if-HM 3s hear 3s IRR-3s say thus

And if he hears (this), he will say thus, "...

i buo mamau, bibi ue a 55) **Man-**a s-in-obe tavine n-e if-NH NOM-sick³⁹ 3s big bad man or NH woman IRR-HM 3du

mate.

die

If the sickness is too serious, the man or woman will die.

56) Man-e o ani a go-n-a in-ani pagu, n-a IRR⁴⁰-NH if-HM 2s eat NH thing-POS-NH NOM-eat bad

tia-mu n-i lasi. stomach-2sPOS IRR-3s ache

If you eat bad food, your stomach will ache.

57) Man-e o ani pala mavo, n-o ma vitolo oto seidei. if-HM 2s eat first taro IRR-2s NEG be hungry NEG now

If you had eaten (the) taro, you would not be hungry now.

³⁸ ibid page 312

³⁹ The stem *sobe* is nominalised by the infix -in-.

⁴⁰ This irrealis marker is optional because irrealis is already markers later on in the clause. Older speakers tend to include this marker and younger speakers tend to ommit it.

2.16 Adversative Constructions

The connective gae/dae is used when a speaker wants to express that the grounds proposition contains an undesired result. The grounds proposition always comes after the head or exhortation. In the following examples there is always an element of uncertainty and therefore the connective is followed by the irrealis marker n-. gae and dae are interchangeable, although older people tend to use gae and younger people dae

58) Bonu, ma nga-ngala lou u-tano, gae n-ea ngala sobo turtle NEG hold breath-RDP NEG DT-down lest IRR-1s breath blocked

a dasi!NH sea_water

Turtle, don't hold your breath and dive down, lest I choke on the sea water!

59) Su taboboli iiti sele a luma, dae n-e sou sanii sou ite. 3du cover INTS INTS NH house lest IRR-HM 3pl some 3s see

They completely covered the house so that people wouldn't see.

3. Logical Relations at Discourse Level

At discourse level there are various connectives which are used: seido, io/de, maido/maidolo/maido m-, tamai/golu tasa, moni. We will discuss the use of each of these in the following pages.

3.1 The use of seido

Seido is sometimes used to mark an episode break or a change of development in a narrative text. We have no examples of seido being used at discourse level in our hortatory or instructional texts. In the following example, seido marks the start of a new development in the narrative. A group of men have been travelling up the river trying to find a pilot who has crashed. The point where the father suggests that they stop marks them arriving at the place where they will find this pilot.

60) Sou vole muli Padi u-oata n-a lete-na. Seido 3pl paddle along **** DT-on PREP-NH head-3sPOS CON

euma vei maido, "N-eitou manoa muga na."
my_father say thus IRR-1pl.in rest first here

They paddled along the Padi River, up to the river head. And then my father said, "Let's rest here first!"

Seido can also be used when there is a switch from background to foreground information, this can be seen in Example 61. In the preceding clauses the narrator explains how the village people presume that *Diaa* has died when in fact he has been swallowed by a giant fish. When the narrator switches back to the action, that is what the fish is doing, this is marked with *seido*.

61) Seido taula i somiale Diaa i mava-e⁴¹ ei iodo, ei CON big fish 3s feel *** 3s heavy-TRANS 3s CIRC 3s

vele u-lilo n-a mado n-a lolo-pat-pati tasa. go DT-in PREP-NH shore PREP-NH mountain-RDP-float one

Meanwhile, the big fish, feeling the weight of Diaa inside of him, swam towards the shore of an island.

It is possible to indicate that an event is important by adding -lo to seido. Seidolo is used in a similar way to seido, but seems to have more weight. This can be seen in the following example. A big fish has been pursuing a young boy for a long time and finally the boy reaches some coral reef and the fish swims away. Seidolo marks the important event of the fish swimming away.

62) **Seido-lo** a aia taula do-lo i veteliu u-lau. CON-RDP⁴² NH fish big DEM-RDP 3s return DT-sea

And finally the big fish returned to the sea.

Seido moni is almost always used at the end of a text; narrative, instructional and hortative, to indicate that the speaker or narrator has come to an end.

3.2 The use of io/de

io and de are interchangeable and the use of them depends on individual preference. They have a temporal element to them, often appearing before a time phrase, refer back to Example 1. It is also interesting to note that in some texts where time phrases

⁴¹ mava-e is a contraction of the underlying form mavaa-e

⁴² See Appendix E for an explanation of the consonant shift which has occurred in the reduplication.

appear frequently *io/de* do not appear at all, so it would appear that the time phrases are replacing *io/de*. *io/de* are used to signal the start of a speech or a narrative and are also used to indicate a new topic in a speech or a new development in a story. Compared with *seido* which we described above *io/de* are used more frequently. They do not carry as much weight in meaning as *seido* does and appear within episodes, marking only a slight change in topic or development. They often seem to function as a breathing or pausing point.

63) De, ea kale n-a lange-liu a t-in-agu n-e Hideki CON 1s want IRR-1s throw-back NH ask-NOM⁴³ PREP-HM*****

usi-nani n-e eitou. DT-here PREP-HM 1pl.in

Now, I want to answer Hideki's question to us.

In the following example *de* is used to indicate a new development in a narrative. Two brothers are in their boat on the ocean and the younger of the two looks out to sea. In doing this action he sights a dangerous fish and the entrance of this fish marks the start of a new development in the story.

64) De bisii-sii n-e sulu, ve n-i gemu u-lau. Ei CON small-RDP PREP-HM 3du CON IRR-3s see DT-sea 3s

ite sele moni a aia taula. see INTS LIM NH fish big

Now, the younger of the two happened to look out to sea. He was surprised to see a big fish.

de/io can be used when a chronological list of events or actions is given. The subject does not need to remain the same. This can be seen in the following two examples. In Example 66 the clause marked with io could also be interpreted as a response to what happens previously.

65) Su vole usi-no, su ontola. De sulu sali a oaga u-oata. 3du paddle DT-there 3du anchor CON 3du pull NH canoe DT-up

The two paddle there and anchor. And then they pull up the canoe.

⁴³ In this case the stem is *tagu* and this is nominalised with the infix -in-.

66) Su sivo u-tano, su magili laelae⁴⁴
3du climb down DT-down 3du stand on

min-a moe. **Io** tama-na m-e tina-na PREP-NH pandanus_mat CON father-3sPOS and-HM mother-3sPOS

su vei maido, 3du say thus

The two climbed down and stood on a pandanus mat. Then her father and mother said this....

It is worth noting that both *io* and *de* are used in leave taking. At the end of interaction, as a speaker is leaving he simply says "Io!" or "De!" according to his preference. The other person responds in the same way.

3.3 The use of maido/maidolo

maido/maidolo are usually used where a reason-RESULT relation is shown. At discourse level they sometimes occur towards the end of a section or a speech as a way of concluding the preceding information. They are normally followed by the conjunction m-e/a. The speaker gives lots of facts or information and then states what the consequence of these facts are or what these facts lead him to conclude. This is in the format You have/haven't done this and this, so therefore these are the consequences. This can be seen clearly in the following two examples. Example 67 appears at the end of a section where the speaker has been rebuking the village people for not helping with the work of Bible translation. In Example 68 maido appears at the start of the concluding paragraph of a speech exhorting people to get involved in Bible translation. As is discussed in footnote 9 maido has a semblative function and it typically stands in place of either the preceding clause or even the whole of the preceding sentence.

67)N-e amtou ite tase moni a muina, maido m-a IRR-HM 2pl look away LIM NH continually THE PRO and-NH vulo-vulo-na sie.

cease-RDP-NOM DEM

You continually ignore (the work of translating the Bible) and therefore it has come to a stand still.

⁴⁴ laelae has two meanings: either to fear or on. This latter meaning occurs very rarely.

68) Maido m-e amiteu kak-e⁴⁵ amtou n-e mu buloi THE PRO and-HM 1pl.ex ask-TRANS 2pl IRR-HM 2pl 2pl help

sagali e amiteu. strong HM 1pl.ex

Therefore we urge you to help us more.

As seen above in the case of *seidolo*, *maidolo* although having the same function as *maido* is used when a more important conclusion is being made. Example 69 appears at the end of a narrative, the point of which is to explain where the people of Bali come from.

69) Maido-lo⁴⁶ m-e sou e Bali, sou a palea-n-e sou THE PRO and-HM 3pl HM *** 3pl NH appear-NOM-HM 3pl

mai-nani n-e Lolobau.
DA-here PREP-HM *****

And thus the people of Bali have their origin in Lolobau.

3.4 The use of tamai/golu tasa

Both tamai and golu tasa are used to connect units of discourse in the form of a list. tamai is used when an additional piece of information is being given, and serves to connect the two units of discourse.

70) Ei n-i ma gaga-ga oto sala. **Tamai** ei n-i 3s IRR-3s NEG wander-RDP NEG outside CON 3s IRR-3s

ma avutu oto, n-i ma siili oto. NEG bathe NEG IRR-3s NEG comb hair NEG

She should not wander around outside. Furthermore she should not bathe or comb her hair.

The following example illustrates a similar use of *tamai*, however it is not taken from a natural text, rather it is taken from a translation of a Shell Book.

⁴⁵ kak-e is a contraction of the underlying form kaka-e.

⁴⁶ maidolo is a reduplicated form of maido.

71) *Ieli tamai*, *min-a malada eitou da-dani a mauma*, DEM CON PREP-NH day 1pl.in plant-RDP NH garden

n-eitou buloi e sou. IRR-1pl.in help HM 3pl

Furthermore when we plant a garden we should help them. (older people)

golu tasa is used when either a new topic is introduced or when more detailed information is given about what has come before. In Example 72 in the preceding text the speaker has been complaining about village people's reluctance to be involved in Bible translation. He then goes on more specifically to address older and younger men and as he makes this transition golu tasa is used. By using golu tasa the speaker is also putting emphasis on what he has to say.

72) Golu tasa ei maido. Amtou vanua buo-buo n-a aubu pilu thing one 3s thus 2pl men big-RDP PREP-NH village with

e sele-banini ala-la-ba, man-e amiteu bili e amtou a HM KIN-small young-RDP⁴⁷ when-HM pl.ex give HM 2pl NH

lau-lau n-e amtou toe-bi-le-lesi, n-e amtou ma goli leaf-RDP IRR-HM 2pl CAUS-straight-RDP⁴⁸ IRR-HM 2pl NEG do

ete.

NEG

One problem is this, you older village people along with the younger people do not do anything when we give you a book to check.

As the speaker goes on to make a second point, about how the village people are only willing to work for money, golu tasa lou is used.

73) Golu tasa lou maido. Amtou damtale moni a pipigo-na thing one INTS thus 2pl think LIM NH work-NOM

min-a guale-na vatu min-e amtou oto. PREP-NH earn-NOM money PREP-HM 2pl REFL

Another problem is this, all you are interested in when you work is the money that you will earn.

The prefix toe- is the causative marker, the stem is bilesi and the infix -le- marks reduplication.

⁴⁷ The stem is *alaba* and reduplication is marked by the infix -*la*-.

3.5 The use of moni

We would expect *moni* to indicate contrast at discourse level, as it does at sentence level, but we have found no examples so far to show this.

4.Conclusions

In this paper we have attempted to describe the different connectives used in Meramera to indicate logical relations. These are used in both spoken and written texts. We have discovered that several different connectives are used, both at clause and discourse level. However, it is not always necessary to use a connective to indicate a logical relation, sometimes the context provides enough information.

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6. Appendices

Appendix A

Negation in Meramera

1. Standard Negation

Two particles are used in Meramera to express standard negation. These are ma and otolete and appear before and after the verb respectively.

As can be seen in Example 1 ma V ete is generally used with transitive verbs, whereas ma V oto is generally used with intransitive verbs, see Example 2. There are some exceptions to this rule.

1) Ei ma kale ete eau. 3s NEG like NEG TR 1s

He does not like me.

2) Ei ma mate oto.
3s NEG die NEG_ITR

It did not die

2. Imperative Negation

Imperative negation is used in a similar way to standard negation. The two particles ma and lou/lei are used. These two particles appear before and after the verb and as in the case of standard negation a distinction is made between transitive and intransitive verbs. ma V lou is generally used with intransitive verbs and ma V lei is used with transitive verbs. See the following examples. As above there are some exceptions to this rule which cannot be accounted for.

3) Ma pige-pige lei a oavi NEG touch-RDP NEG_TR NH fire

Do not touch the fire!

4) O ma lae-lae lou. 2s NEG be afraid-RDP NEG ITR

Do not be afraid!

Appendix B

Meramera Personal Pronouns

Meramera personal pronouns are shown in Table 1. These forms occur both in subject and object positions. Listed in brackets are shortened forms for each pronoun. These mostly occur in subject position. Thus they could be marking the nominative case. More research needs to be carried out to ascertain whether this holds true or not.

Table 1: Meramera Personal Pronouns

	1	2	3	
singular	eau	00	ei	
	(ea)	(o)	(i)	
dual		amulu	sulu	
		(amu, mu)	(su)	
dual incl.	eitau			
	(eita, ta)			
dual excl.	amilu			
	(ami)			
plural		amtou	sou	
		(amto, mu)	(so)	
plural incl.	eitou			
	(eito, to)			
plural excl.	amiteu			
	(amite, te)			

Appendix C

Possession in Meramera

1. Inalienable Possession

In Meramera nouns are divided into two classes based on possession: those which are inalienably possessed and those which are alienably possessed. The following table shows inalienable possessive suffixes. The forms in bold are the forms which appear in this paper.

Table 1: Meramera inalienable possessive suffixes

	1	2	3
singular	-gu	-mu	-na
dual		-neamulu	-nesulu
dual incl.	-neitau		
dual excl.	-neamilu		
plural		-neamtou	-nesou
plural incl.	-neitou		
plural excl.	-neamiteu		

2. Alienable Possession

The following table shows alienable possessive pronouns in Meramera. Those forms in bold appear in this paper.

Table 2: Meramera alienable possessive pronouns

	1	2	3
singular	minau	minio	minei
dual		mineamulu*	minesulu (nesulu)*
dual incl.	mineitau*		
dual excl.	mineamilu*		
plural		mineamtou*	minesou (nesou)*
plural incl.	mineitou (neitou)*		
plural excl.	mineamiteu*		

^{*}For ease of reading all of these forms appear in the examples in this paper as two words. (eg: minesou would read mine sou)

The forms which appear in brackets are contractions of the proper form.

These can easily be confused with the inalienable possessive suffixes in Table 1.

Although the surface structures of these contracted forms are identical to those in Table 1 the underlying forms are different.

3. Possessive NPs

3.1 Inalienably Possessed Nouns

When the "possessor" of an inalienably possessed noun is a noun the affix -n- occurs after the stem to indicate that the noun is possessed. The suffix -e or -a is then added. When the possessor is HUMAN (mostly proper names and kinship terms) the suffix -e is used. When the possessor is NON-HUMAN (other nouns) the suffix -a is used. These suffixes are glossed as HM (human noun marker) and NH (non-human noun marker) respectively.

POSSESSED POSSESSOR
1) natu-n-a kuleko
child-POS-NH chicken

The chicken's child

POSSESSED POSSESSOR
2) natu-n-e Salemo
child-POS-HM God

God's child

3.2 Alienably Possessed Nouns

Alienably possessed nouns function in a very similar way to inalienably possessed nouns when their possessor is a noun. The preposition *min*- appears after the possessed noun indicating that it is possessed. *min*- is then followed by the suffix -e or -a. As in the case of inalienably possessed nouns -e comes before a HUMAN possessor and -a comes before a NON-HUMAN possessor. See Examples 3 and 4.

POSSESSED POSSESSOR

3) *luma min-a bolo* house PREP-NH pig

A pig's house

POSSESSED POSSESSOR
4) *luma min-e Michael*house PREP-HM ******

Michael's house

In many instances the preposition min- is contracted to n-, thus it would be possible to say:

luma n-a bolo or *luma n-e Michael* house PREP-NH pig house PREP-HM ******

This contracted form is used just as frequently as the full form and could be easily confused with the device used to mark inalienably possessed nouns.

Appendix D

The Particle i

In Meramera there is a particle *i* which occurs after the subject, after the verb or clause finally. We suggest that this particle has three different functions and outline these suggestions below.

- i) *i* often occurs directly after the subject, particularly when it is phonologically long. We suggest that it is functioning as a 3rd person singular pronoun copy. See Example 1. The NP can also followed by a coreferential pronoun in 3rd person dual and 3rd person plural.
 - 1) N-a malada tasa tama-n-e sulu i mate. PREP-NH day one father-POS-HM 3du 3s die

One day the father of the two died.

- ii) i often directly follows the verb and can occur when there is an object, a complement clause or when there is neither of these. See Examples 2, 3 and 4 respectively. i occurs most commonly however between the verb and a complement clause. In most cases i is optional, with the exception of the verb muada which is normally followed by i. (see Example 2) We suggest that in these cases i is a 3rd person singular pronoun.
 - 2) Ea ma muada oto i. 1s NEG know NEG 3s

I don't know!

3) Ivu amulu n-e mu inu i a taogo min-au.. truly 2du IRR-HM 2du drink 3s NH container PREP-1s

Truly, you will drink of my cup.

4) O damu i ei a doana obu ue boa? 2s think 3s 3s NH good tree or NEG

Do you think it's a good tree or not?

We have found one example where *i* is used as part of an idiom. When the verb saga stands on its own it means to be surprised but when it is followed by *i* it means suddenly. See Example 5.

5) Vele tase lei a malada sanii lou saga i ei tau go away INTS NH day some INTS surprised 3s 3s put

a vua-vua-naNH fruit-RDP-3sPOS

Some more days went by again and suddenly it bore its fruit.

- iii) Sometimes *i* occurs clause finally. We suggest that in this position it is functioning as a relativiser, marking a relative clause which indicates time or location. See Examples 6 and 7 respectively.
 - 6) Amtou asu usi-nani mu guale a aubu n-a m-un-onge 2pl go DT-here 2pl take NH place PREP-NH rejoice-NOM⁴⁹

Euma ei masusul-i⁵⁰ m-ei vile-ale-si min-e amtou, my father 3s prepare-TRANS and-3s choose-PERF PREP-HM 2pl

n-a ilala magamaga i palea alaba i. PREP-HM time ground 3s appear new REL

You come here, you receive the place of rejoicing which my Father prepared and chose for you at the time when the earth was created.

7) Amiteu vele usi-no min-a luma amiteu ngolo i.
1pl.ex run DT-there PREP-NH house 1pl.ex sleep REL

We traveled to the house where we would sleep.

iv) Other than the possibilities outlined above *i* could be a boundary marker for a preceding complex constituent as in Example 4. It could also be functioning as a topicaliser. This would be supported by Examples 1, 2, 10,13 and 16 in the main text.

⁴⁹ This verb is nominalised by the infix -un- the stem is monge.

⁵⁰ masusul-i is a contraction of the underlying form masusulu-i.

Appendix E

Table 1: Derivational chart for Meramera demonstratives and circumstance markers.

	STEMS					
	DEM	(that, those)	DEM / CIRC	(that, those)	DEM	(this, these)
PHONE	de-	de-le	do-	do-lo	li	li-li
φ	<i>de</i> 635		do 995		<i>li</i> 211	
[e]	<i>e-de</i> 92	<i>e-de-le</i>	<i>e-do</i>		<i>e-li</i> 24	
[ei]	<i>ei-de</i>		ei-do 52	ei-do-lo		
[ie]	<i>ie-de</i>	ie-de-le	<i>ie-do</i> 556	ie-do-lo	<i>ie-li</i> 313	<i>ie-li-li</i> 36
[iei]			iei-do			
[io]			<i>io-do</i> 189	<i>io-do-lo</i>		
[o]			<i>o-do</i> 350	<i>o-do-lo</i>		
[ue]	<i>ue-de</i>	ue-de-le	ue-do		<i>ue-li</i>	

This table shows how the different forms used for demonstratives and circumstance markers in Meramera are derived. de and do and are used most frequently out of all of the forms and are the underlying form. The forms dele, dolo and lili are reduplications of the underlying forms. In the case of dele and dolo a consonant shift has occurred and l replaces d in the second syllable. $(dede \Rightarrow dele, dodo \Rightarrow dolo)$ Both the underlying form and the reduplicated form can be preceded by the phones listed in the table. More research needs to be carried out to ascertain whether the use of these is influenced by their phonological surroundings. Similarly, more research needs to be carried out to ascertain when the underlying form is used and when a reduplication is used. The numbers which appear in each section of the table show how often each form occurs within a corpus of 20 natural texts.

Appendix F

Intensifiers in Meramera

In Meramera there are several different adverbs of intensity each of which are used in different circumstances. In this paper we have glossed all of these as INTS. We list each of them below and give a description of how they are used.

iiti, palipali are used to indicate entirety. They could be glossed as totally or completely in English. Although they have the same meaning they are not interchangeable. The verb, adjective or noun which is modified dictates which of them is used

1) Maubi-na ei pulu iiti. fight-NOM 3s finish INTS

The fighting had completely finished.

2) Ei ani palipali a popo.3s eat INTS NH pawpaw

He ate all of the pawpaw.

lou/lei are generally used when repetition or addition are indicated, so they could be glossed in English as *again*. *lou* is also used to indicate comparison, see Example 23 in the main text.

3) E Ulevun ei lulu lou. HM ***** 3s burn INTS

Mount Ulawun errupted again.

4) Ei oole lei a tia-n-e taula. 3s cut INTS NH belly-POS-HM big fish

He cut the belly of the big fish again.

paga is most often used to modify time phrases. It also sometimes modifies the verbs oovu (uninhabited) and bualalo (deserted)

5) Ei lae-si, vu-na paga lodo-si. 3s be afraid-PERF reason-3sPOS INTS night-PERF

She was afraid because the night had come.

6) Aubu i paga oovu-osi. village 3s INTS hide-PERF

The village became completely deserted.

sele is used most frequently of all the intensifiers and can be used fairly generically. The English equivalent would be *very* or *indeed*. It can occur after another intensifier, see Examples 5 and 59 in the main text.

7) Maido m-a buse i sinoa sele. THE PRO and-NH dog 3s be angry INTS

So the dog became very angry.