

NOTES FROM THE KOMO LANGUAGE
DISCOVER YOUR GRAMMAR WORKSHOP

First Draft

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Table of Contents

0	Preface	4
1	Introduction	5
2	Noun (Zaga)	9
3	Modifying the noun phrase.....	11
4	Pronouns and Possessives	15
5	Simple Sentences	18
6	Verbs (Kam Yay).....	22
7	Transitive and Intransitive Verbs.....	25
8	Complex Sentences and Verbal Derivation	28
9	Other ways to use noun phrases.....	31
10	Story: Donkey, Dog and Goat	35

0 *Preface*

These notes were developed and written during a workshop held in August, 2014 in Asosa. The purpose of this book is to make the Komo community aware of the wealth and variation found in the Komo language. Languages possess intricate systems of forms and rules, which all speakers use in their daily lives, often without being consciously aware of them. Many of these forms and rules are presented in this little book.

It also needs to be pointed out that the purpose of this book is not to present a full and comprehensive description of the Komo language. This would be beyond the scope of this work, and it would require a different approach. Many forms of the Komo language are not even mentioned in here, and some areas of the Komo grammar have been omitted altogether. Also, this book attempts to use terminology which is understandable by a wide audience. The hope is even that it can be translated into the Komo language to make it fully accessible to all Komo speakers.

This workshop could not have been possible without the following individuals. We would like to thank the Komo participants- Tolosa Abdela, Abdulrahim Ali, Asadik Bashir, Sumale Pogi and Gerenya Tesfaye. We would also like to thank the workshop translator Mathewos Befekadu, the workshop facilitator Andreas Joswig, and the organizers Fekadu Derressa and Anne-Christie Hellenthal. Thank you all for your hard work.

SIL Ethiopia

1 Introduction

The Komo language is predominantly spoken by the Komo people living in the Mao-Komo Special Wereda of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. Komo people can also be found in some areas in the Gambella region. The population of Komo speakers in Ethiopia is approximately 8000 according to the 2007 census. It is unclear whether figure also includes speakers of Gwama, a related language. Gwama speakers have been known to identify ethnically as Komo in Ethiopia and there is no mention of the Gwama group in the 2007 census.

Previous work on Komo is limited to an unpublished grammar sketch by Burns (1947), an unpublished manuscript by Yehualashet (2008), and two forthcoming publications by Otero (2014).

1.1 Orthography

The orthography contains the following letters:

1.1.1 Vowels:

a	low central vowel /a/	kama	‘maize’
e	mid front vowel /ɛ/	me	‘goat’
i	high front vowel /i/	bishi	‘work’
ɨ	near high front vowel /ɨ/	mish	‘sky’
o	mid back vowel /ɔ/	osh	‘stone’
u	high back vowel /u/	tul	‘gourd’
ʊ	near high back vowel /ʊ/	ssu	‘river’

1.1.2 Consonants:

p	voiceless labial stop /p/	pog	‘back’
b	voiced labial stop /b/	bib	‘cow’
pp	labial ejective stop /p’/	ppin	‘ashes’
m	labial nasal /m/	mada	‘place’
w	labial semivowel /w/	wapp	‘warthog’
t	voiceless alveolar stop /t/	tom	‘spear’
d	voiced alveolar stop /d/	dam	‘honey’
tt	alveolar ejective stop /t’/	tta	‘mouth’
dd	alveolar implosive stop /d/	ddiw	‘bird’
ss	alveolar ejective affricate /ts’/	sse	‘ear’
z	alveolar fricative /z/	zaga	‘name’
n	alveolar nasal /n/	nez	‘honey badger’
r	alveolar flap /r/	rita	‘hyena’
l	alveolar lateral approximant	lett	‘tongue’
sh	palatal fricative /ʃ/	she	‘tooth’
y	palatal approximant /j/	yen	‘oil’
k	voiceless velar stop /k/	kur	‘smoke’
g	voiced velar stop /g/	gish	‘hole’
kk	velar ejective stop /k’/	kkaw	‘dog’
h	glottal fricative /h/	hambal	‘camel’

In addition to the segments shown above, tone also plays a major role in Komo. A comprehensive analysis of tone is not found in these notes.

1.2 Outline

This grammar sketch of Komo is organized according to the structure of the language. Section 2 will deal with the nouns, section 3 with modifiers of the noun phrase, section 4 with pronouns and possessives, section **Error! Reference source not found.** with simple sentences, section 6 with verbs and person markings, section 7 with transitive verbs, section **Error! eference source not found.** with complex sentences and verbal derivation, and section 9 with other types of noun phrases and adverbs. Finally, all aspects of the grammar will be discussed in their proper context (section 10), illustrated by the story '*The donkey, the dog and the goat*'.

For the purpose of this grammar sketch, we will use the following basic linguistic terms:

- noun
- number
 - singular
 - plural
- gender
 - masculine
 - feminine
- modifying expression
- numeral
- demonstrative
- pronoun
 - personal pronoun
 - object pronoun
 - possessive pronoun
- person
 - 1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person

- Role of the Noun Phrase
 - predicate
 - subject
 - object
 - possessive
 - dative
 - locative
 - directional
 - ablative
 - comitative
 - instrumental
- verb
 - intransitive
 - transitive
 - derivation: causative, passive, reciprocal
- adverb

All these terms will be defined in later sections.

1.3 Different kinds of words

All sentences consist of several words. These words can be classified according to how they look (form) and what they do (function). The following are some of the different kinds of word categories we will see in this grammar.

- Verbs / kam yay: **sha, dum, ip, kkosh**
- Nouns/ zaga: **bib, me, kkaw, kura**
- Numerals / denagi: **dde, su, dish**
- Modifying expressions: **basara, tulina**

Of these, nouns and verbs are most common. You will find them in almost every sentence in your language.

2 Noun (Zaga)

Nouns are words that refer to people and things; they often indicate countable and tangible objects. The majority of nouns in Komo do not inherently distinguish number (singular, plural).

Gi Tta Kom, dee da bashii ari ddalagi bibin i kim ba yay.

2.1 Gender

Gender is generally considered to be the grammatical distinction between *male* and *female* of the thing or person the word indicates. Gender often correlates with the natural sex of a person or animal. Many Komo nouns, specifically those referring to humans, distinguish masculine and feminine gender.

Gi Tta Kom, yay ba gwaz gi ya ba up sokin.

Example 1

A yiba haur ke.

A man came.

Bbamit haupp ke.

A woman came.

Komo employs separate words to indicate the gender of animals. These words precede the noun they modify. For male animals the word **ton** is used. **Kuman** is used to indicate female animals.

Female nouns:

Yay ba up:

bbamit	woman		
at bbamit	girl	kuman bib	cow

Male nouns:

Yay ba gwaz:

yiba	man		
at gwaz	boy	ton bib	bull

2.2 Number

Number here can be loosely defined as the distinction between *one* or *more than one* entity. In Komo, number is also related to the gender of the noun.

Example 2

A ton bib haur ke.

An ox came.

Gu ton bib iun ke.

Oxes came.

Kuman bib haupp ke.

A cow came.

Gu kuman bib iun ke.

Cows came.

In Komo, singular nouns denoting masculine referents are often preceded by **a**, though this is not always the case. To make some nouns plural, **gu** occurs before the noun. Number and gender in Komo needs more in-depth investigation.

The following chart lists some possible number markers:

	marker	example
singular	a	a waga waga
plural	gu	gu waga

3 *Modifying the noun phrase*

In Komo, a lot of things can be done with a noun. If some information is added to the noun, we call the result a noun phrase. The following elements can be added to a noun phrase: demonstratives, numerals, and other modifiers.

3.1 Demonstratives

Demonstratives are types of words that can be found in a noun phrase. Demonstratives help the speaker to show something; they identify more clearly what the speaker refers to. They can signal distance from the speaker.

Demonstratives = words that define a noun's reference

The demonstrative system in Komo is very rich. Demonstratives can distinguish degrees of distance from the speaker. Below are some examples of demonstratives in Komo. Demonstratives follow the noun they modify.

Mada da ddishin gi mada da shittin kkettin zaga ba ulagi.

3.1.1 Near the speaker demonstratives

The demonstrative **ba** is used for masculine, feminine and plural nouns to indicate a distance very near the speaker.

Yaba dee da ddishin uli ga ba gi dii da ba yay ba zaga ba gwaz gi dde.

Yaba dee da ddishin uli ga ba gi dwi da ba yay ba zaga ba bbamit gi dde.

Example 3

a osh ba	this stone
a yi lidi ba	this thief
bbamit ba	this woman

3.1.2 Far from the speaker demonstratives

The demonstrative **diitin** is used for masculine nouns and **duutin** is used for feminine nouns for distances farther from the speaker.

Yaba dee da shittin uli ga diitin da ba yay ba zaga ba gwaz gi dde. Yaba dee da shittin uli ga duutin da ba yay ba zaga ba bbamit gi dde.

Example 4

osh diitin	that stone
yi lidi diitin	that thief
bbamit duutin	that woman

Near demonstratives define a noun as near to the speaker.

Far demonstratives define a noun as far from the speaker.

3.1.3 Number marking of demonstratives

The far demonstrative **diitin** is used for both masculine and feminine plural nouns.

Yaba dee da shittin uli ga diitin da ba yay ba zaga ba dee da ddalin.

Example 5

Near	gubi ba	this house
	gu gubi ba	these houses
Far	gubi diitin	that house
	gu gubi diitin	those houses
	gu up diitin	those women

3.2 Numerals

Numerals are words which can be added to a noun phrase. They are used to indicate the exact number of the noun in a noun phrase.

Numeral = a word that is employed for counting.

Numerals refer to a particular number of items of the noun they refer to. Below are some Komo numerals.

Denagi ba Tta Kom.

dde	one	su	two	dish	three
dogon	four	buss	five	kanagidde	six
kanasu	seven	kanadish	eight	kanadogon	nine
kkoshkkolo	ten				

In Komo, nouns precede the numeral.

Gi Tta Kom, zaga titin tag ga denagi.

sa gi dde	one tree	gubi gi dde	one house
sa i su	two trees	gubi i su	two houses
sa i dish	three trees	gubi i dish	three houses

3.3 Modifying Expressions (‘Adjectives’)

Modifying expressions are other words which can be added to a noun. They provide additional information to the noun such as size, color or shape among other properties. These expressions can seem similar to what *adjectives* do in other languages. Below are some examples. In Komo, the modifying expressions follow the noun they modify and agree with the noun in gender and in number.

Example 6

paarsha basara	a beautiful horse
bulan ssina	a black cloth
she ppatana	a white tooth
bib ppelina	a red cow
yi gwaz tulira	a tall boy
bbamit ttittappa	a slim girl

Modifying expressions can distinguish the number and gender of a noun as seen in the examples below.

Example 7

singular masculine	plural	gloss
basara	basana	beautiful
ssira	ssina	black
ppattara	ppattana	white
ppelira	ppelina	red
tulira	tulina	tall
ttittara	ttittana	slim

3.4 The order of elements in a noun phrase

In Komo, the order of some elements found in a noun phrase are as follows: [*noun – modifying expression – numeral – demonstrative*]

Example 8

gu tom tulina i dogon ba
these four long spears

gu giba bbissina a dish ba
these three strong men

Changing the order of some of the elements in the phrase is not allowed. The sentence below shows that numerals cannot precede modifying expressions in Komo.

Example 9

***gu tom i dogon tulina ba**
these four long spears

4 *Pronouns and Possessives*

4.1 Pronouns

Pronouns are words that take the position of nouns. The meaning of a pronoun can only be determined by looking at the context.

4.1.1 Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns make important personal distinctions in the language. They can distinguish person (1st, 2nd, 3rd), and number (singular, plural). The speaker is called the 1st person, the person spoken to is called the 2nd person, and the person spoken about is called the 3rd person. In Komo there are 8 different personal pronouns, 4 for the singular and 4 for the plural. The 1st person plural pronoun **ana** includes the hearer as compared to **amun**, which does not include the hearer.

Da uga amun, a yiba di sigirin hapar. Da uga ana, a yiba di sigirin bashir hapa, abgur ish gi ana.

	sg		pl	
1.	aka payā	I ran	ana payà amun payan	we ran
2.	ay payi	you ran	um payim	you ran
3.	har payir happ payipp	he ran she ran	hun payin	they ran

	sg	pl
1.	aka	ana amun
2.	ay	um
3.	har happ	hun

4.2 Possessive Constructions

Possessive constructions can describe a relationship between two nouns. These constructions can be used for concepts such as ownership or belonging. The order of the nouns and other words used in these constructions is important in Komo.

Possessive constructions in Komo are composed of the possessed noun followed by **ba** followed by the possessor noun.

Kiitaman ba dee, zaga bir, sokin i tta bii. Bashin sokin shi i pog.

Example 10

moltta ba yi lidi	bag of the thief
giza ba yi lus	money of the trader
gubi ba bbamit	house of the woman
sin ba paarsha	tail of the horse
bbakum ba yi kot	daughter of the farmer

4.3 Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns are also used to describe a relationship in particular constructions. Possessive pronouns can often take the place of a noun phrase. Possessive pronouns in Komo must follow the noun they modify.

Example 11

gu kura ba Asadik
Asadik's donkeys

gu kura bir
his donkeys

In the examples above, the noun is replaced by a pronoun; in this case the possessive pronoun replaces the noun referring to the owner. The examples below illustrate the possessive pronouns in Komo.

Example 12

gu kura bam	my donkeys
gu kura bini	your donkeys
gu kura bir	his donkeys
gu kura bana	our donkeys
gu kura babun	our donkeys
gu kura bum	your (pl) donkeys
gu kura bun	their donkeys

The following chart contains the possessive pronouns in Komo.

possessive pronouns	sg	pl
1	bam	bana babun
2	bini	bum
3	bir bipp bin	bun

5 *Simple Sentences*

Sentences can consist of a *subject* and a *predicate*. The subject can be considered the thing or person that the sentence ‘talks about’. The predicate is ‘what is being said about’ the subject. The predicate often has a verb. For now, we will be looking at subjects and verbs. Other elements may also belong to the sentence. Here are a few examples simple sentences.

Had hay kketin kiitaman ba had yay (subject) gi kam yay (verb).

Example 13

Subject	Predicate	
A yikot ba	bbissir sa.	This man is a good farmer.
Bbamit	ishipp.	The girl sleeps.
Kam bam	bbissir sa	My brother is very clever.
Ay	tai yazu bam.	You are my friend.

5.1 Subjects (**Kiitaman ba had yay**)

A *subject* is the thing or person the sentence can be about. Usually the subject is a noun phrase or a pronoun. In Komo, the subject can often be expressed by a noun phrase or a pronoun before the verb. In Komo, the subject is often clear from the form of the predicate, and therefore does not have to be expressed explicitly.

Kiitaman ba had yay tan zaga gi Tta Kom.

5.2 Predicates

A *predicate* can be understood simply as ‘what that is being said about the subject’. Predicates can be verbs or other classes of words. In Komo, predicates most often consist of verbs or elements that have properties of verbs (See section 6 for Verbs in Komo). One common verb in Komo is **ta**. This verb can be

used to link two noun phrases and fulfil different communicative functions.

5.2.1 Equative construction

Often the speaker wants to say that the ‘subject’ is the same as something or someone. This type of relationship between subject and predicate is often referred to as an *equative* construction. In Komo, an equative construction consists of an optional noun phrase followed by the verb **ta** followed by another noun phrase. The verb **ta** links the two noun phrases.

Subject	Predicate	
A yiba ba	tar yikot.	This man is a farmer.
Ay	tai yazu bam.	You are my friend.

If the subject is pronominal, it may or may not occur in initial position in the construction as the subject is always marked on the verb **ta**. The examples below illustrate the Komo equative construction.

Example 14

Aka tanā yikot.	I am a farmer. (1 st person singular)
Ay tai yikot.	You are a farmer. (2 nd person singular)
Har tar yikot.	He is a farmer. (3 rd person singular)
Happ tapp bbabikot.	She is a farmer. (3 rd person singular)
Ana tanà gikot.	We are farmers. (1 st person plural)
Um tam gikot.	You are farmers. (2 nd person plural)
Hun tan gikot.	They are farmers. (3 rd person plural)

5.2.2 ‘Adjectival’ predicates

‘Adjectival’ predicates are semantically similar to modifying expressions (seen in 3.3) and can also be used as predicates to express the subject as having a certain quality. The words that express these qualities share the structural properties of verbs.

They follow the subject and agree with the subject in number and in gender.

Example 15

Subject	Predicate	
A manga nii	ppelir.	This mango is red.
Arni ar yiba	shigir sa.	That man is very bad.

5.2.3 Numerals as predicates

Numerals can be used as predicates when the speaker wishes to express the number of the subject. In Komo, there are two ways to express a numeral as a predicate. Either the verb **ta** can be employed in a construction similar to the ones above, or the numeral itself can behave like a verb and agree with the preceding noun phrase in number and gender.

Example 16

Subject	Predicate	
Hun	dishin.	They are three.
Hun	tan giba dish.	
Har	takur gi dde.	He was first.

5.2.4 Possessives as predicates

When the subject is being said to belong to someone, the predicate is either a possessive pronoun, or a possessive noun. The possessive pronoun occurs after **ta** and a determiner, both of which agree with the subject in gender and number.

Example 17

Subject	Predicate	
Nia	tan da bini.	This is yours.
A kura dii	tar di ba yikot.	That donkey is the farmer's.

5.2.5 Modifications to the predicate

In the Komo language, the predicate can be negated. The auxiliary verb **bash** can be used in constructions to negate verbal predicates as seen below. In these clauses, the verb **bash** agrees with the subject in gender and in number followed by the verb stem.

Example 18

Subject	Predicate	
Har	tar yikot.	He is a farmer.
Har	bashir ta yikot.	He is not a farmer.
A manga	ppelir ke.	The mango is red.
A manga	bashir ppel.	The mango is not red.

A predicate can also be used in different times. Past or present time in Komo is still under investigation. The following examples illustrate a contrast between present time and past time.

Example 19

Subject	Predicate	
Har	tar yikot	He is a farmer.
Har	takur yikot	He was a farmer.
A manga	ppelir ke.	The mango is red.
A manga	ppelkur ke.	The mango was red.

6 Verbs (*Kam Yay*)

The *verb* is the cornerstone of most sentences in Komo, as in many sentences the predicate is a verb. Verbs can describe events, processes, states or actions. They can even describe qualities as seen in the previous section. The verb shows the most variation in its forms.

Had yay ashiin gi Tta Kom kketin kam yay.

Example 20

Subject	Predicate	
Ssu	kanin ke.	The river flows.
Ba o	ishipp ke.	The girl is sleeping.
Gu kam bam	kkoshin ke.	My brothers fight.
A baa bini	wuur ke.	Your father died.

6.1 Person marking on the verb

In the Komo language, the verb often agrees with the subject. A subject in the 1st person singular requires the verb to mark the 1st person singular, and so on. The following verb shows the markers for all persons:

Dee da sokin i kim ba kam yay sunin yay ba kiitaman ba had yay. Gu kiitaman ba had yay maata gwaz maata up maata ddalin.

Example 21

Aka unā pay.	I will run.
Ay ui pay.	You will run.
Har ur pay.	He will run.
Happ upp pay.	She will run.
Ana unà pay.	We will run.
Amun unam pay.	We will run.
Um um pay.	You will run (pl).
Hun un pay.	They will run.

As can be seen, the markers for the person are suffixes on the verb. These suffixes agree with the verb in number and gender.

6.2 Time Expressions

In Komo, time can be expressed in many different ways. A common way is by including a word or phrase that explicitly states the time. Some verbs can mark certain temporal expressions in Komo. The verb marks not only the person, but it also gives information about the timing of the sentence. The following examples show different temporal expressions in Komo (See Section 9.3 for temporal adverbs).

Example 22

Payipp gi kiim.

Yesterday, she ran.

Sokon payipp dolba.

Right now she is running.

Upp pay gi ssanga.

Tomorrow she will run.

To describe a future event or an intention the auxiliary verb **u** is used. This verb precedes the lexical verb stem and agrees with the subject in person and number.

For events in the present, there are various possibilities. An event can be described as ongoing at this very moment. To describe an action that is happening at the time of speaking, Komo uses **sokon** before the verb, which agrees with the subject.

Example 23

Sokon payipp.

She is running.

An event can be described as habitual by including the adverb **teshiin** in the sentence.

Example 24

Teshiin payipp.

She (always) runs.

6.3 Positive and negative verbs

Komo speakers can use an auxiliary verb to make negative statements. The auxiliary verb **bash** makes a negative statement. **Bash** occurs before the main verb and agrees with the subject in person and number.

Example 25

Aka tanā yi lidi.

I am a thief.

Aka bashā ta yi lidi.

I am not a thief.

Payā.

I run.

Bashā pay.

I don't run.

7 *Transitive and Intransitive Verbs*

So far we have only looked at verbs which need to be accompanied by a subject. Some verbs need other noun phrases to be complete. These sentences require a subject and an object. These verbs are called *transitive verbs*. Verbs which only need a subject are called *intransitive verbs*.

Transitivity is the ability of a verb to take an object.

Had ya ashiin kketin kam yay gi kiitaman ba had yay bal shem. Had yay gi dde gi dde kketin hadagi ba had yay bal shem. Kam yay gi dde gi dde kkwalin hadagi bal shem.

Here are some examples of transitive and intransitive verbs in Komo.

Kam yay da kkwalin hadagi bal shem tan:

Example 26

ttor	kiik	sho	sig
cut	give	sew	listen
transitive	transitive	transitive	transitive

Kam yay da bashin kkwal hadagi bal shem tan:

Example 27

kwii	pay	gaza	wu
fall	run	know	die
intransitive	intransitive	intransitive	intransitive

Some verbs, however, can be used in both ways.

7.1.1 Object marking

The *subject* of the sentence is usually the person doing it, and the *object* is usually the thing or person which is affected by

the action. About the subject you ask with ‘who?’ – about the object you ask with ‘whom?’

In the following examples, the subject is in the first position of the sentence, and the object follows the verb.

Kiitaman ba had yay sokin i pog ba kam yay. Hadagi ba had yay sokin i tag ba kam yay.

Example 28

A kkaw wassir bura.

The dog bit the cat.

Bura wassip kkaw.

The cat bit the dog.

7.2 Pronominal objects

In Komo, the same independent pronouns can occur in subject or object position. Another option is to mark the pronominal object on the verb using suffixes.

I kim ba kam yay, a kiitaman ba had ya sokin teshiin. A hadagi ba had yay sokin te gi dde gi dde.

Example 29

Adoshar yilir aka.

Adoshar saw me.

Adoshar yilirak.

Adoshar yilir ana.

Adoshar saw us.

Adoshar yilirana.

Adoshar yilir amun.

Adoshar saw us.

Adoshar yiliram.

Adoshar yilir um.

Adoshar saw you (pl).

Adoshar yilirum.

Adoshar yilir har.

Adoshar saw him.

Adoshar yilar.

Adoshar yilir happ. **Adoshar yilirapp.**
 Adoshar saw her.

Adoshar yilir hun. **Adoshar yilirun.**
 Adoshar saw them.

The object suffixes are seen below.

object pronouns	sg obj	pl obj
1.	ak	ana am
2.	e	um
3.	ar app	un

8 *Complex Sentences and Verbal Derivation*

This section will look at different types of complex sentences in Komo. The term *complex* here is used to describe sentences containing more than one verb.

The sentences below show two types of complex sentences in Komo. The first sentence shows how two sequential events are expressed in one sentence. The subject is the same for both verbs.

Example 30

A baa bam yar kuma mada dee shu, ya shuur musi.

My father went to the market and bought bananas.

A baa bam yar kuma mada dee shu, ga shuu musi.

My father went to the market to buy bananas.

In the second sentence, the second verb expresses the reason for the event described by the first verb. In this type of complex sentence, the second verb is a bare stem occurring after **ga**.

Other complex sentences are used to show that actions are taking place at the same time:

Example 31

Happ da sokon payippgi, har shi sokon haur.

While she was running, he was coming.

8.1 Verbal Derivation

In Komo, *derived verbs* are formed by taking verb roots and adding other elements to them. The following sections show how the Komo language forms some derived verbs.

8.1.1 Nominalized Verbs

In Komo, a verb can be *nominalized* or ‘made into a noun’. When this occurs, the nominalized verb can do many things that nouns do, such as being the subject of a sentence. Verb stems occurring with **-agi** have properties of nouns in Komo. The following examples show nominalized verbs as the subjects of sentences.

Example 32

A ku ipagi tan dee da wolkun gi shwattin.

Drinking milk is important for children.

Kaagi ba wass basan sa.

Eating fish is good.

8.1.2 Causative

Causative verbs express an action where a person is made to do something by another person. In Komo, some of these are just different words:

Example 33

alam → **sun**

learn → teach

sha → **ub**

eat → feed

bbiss → **azab**

difficult → make difficult

Another way to express a causative in Komo is to use a complex sentence as seen below.

Example 34

Happ shapp mei.

She eats food.

Happ shusha shappar mei.

She makes him eat food.

8.1.3 Reciprocal

Reciprocal is loosely defined as the subjects doing an action to each other. As such, the subject is always in the plural. In Komo this is accomplished by a complex sentence containing two verbs. The first verb is **gama** followed by the second verb which agrees with the subject in person and number.

Example 35

shapp → **gama shappan** beat → beat each other
shuna → **gama shunan** love → love each other

8.1.4 Passive

Komo does not have a specific 'passive' construction where the subject is the target of the action. In Komo the 'passive' is formed by the verb showing only the object suffix.

Example 36

kkar → kkaar	he ate → it was eaten
shappir → shappar	he beat → it was beaten
kkoshir → kkoshar	he killed → it was killed
wussir → wussar	he closed → it was closed

9 *Other ways to use noun phrases*

So far we have seen noun phrases in three functions: As predicates, subjects and objects. Often they can be used in other ways.

9.1.1 Dative

A *dative* noun phrase indicates the person receiving something, or benefitting from something. The dative is marked in Komo by **ga**. About the dative you ask with ‘to whom?’

Example 37

A baa bam kiikir shum ga kkaw.

My father gave meat to the dog.

A daa bam kiikipp bulan ga happ.

My mother gave her a dress.

9.1.2 Locative

Locative expresses a general location. The noun phrase in the locative is marked by **i** as well as by the verb. About the locative you ask with ‘where?’

Example 38

Har bishir i lau bir.

He works at his home.

A baa bam shur mandul i mada dee shu.

My father sold tomatoes at the market.

9.1.3 Direction

Directional expresses a motion towards a location. The noun phrase in the directional case is marked by **kuma**. About the directional you ask with ‘where to?’

Example 39

A baa bam yar kuma mada dee shu.

My father went to the market.

9.1.4 Ablative

Ablative expresses a motion away from a location. The noun phrase in the ablative is marked by **gi**. About the ablative you ask with ‘from where?’

Example 40

A baa bam haur gi mada dee shu.

My father came from the market.

A baa bam haur kuma mada dee shu gi lau bir.

My father came to the market from his home.

9.1.5 Instrumental

Instrumental indicates the instrument or means used to execute an action. The noun phrase in the instrumental is marked by **gi**. About the instrumental you ask with ‘with what?’

Example 41

Mada dee shu shan gi watti.

The market was destroyed by fire.

A baa bam karir tta ttomo gi mutaapp.

My father opened the door with a key.

9.1.6 Comitative

Comitative indicates a person accompanying another person. A comitative noun phrase is marked by **gi** if the subject includes the speaker and **hun gi** if it does not. About the comitative you ask with ‘with whom?’

Example 42

Yi lidi karir tta ttomo.

The thief opened the door.

A baa bam hun gi yi lidi karin tta ttomo.

My father opened the door together with the thief.

Aka gi yi lidi karam tta ttomo.
 I opened the door with the thief.

The following chart lists some markers of Komo noun phrases:

case	marker	example
dative	ga	ga har.
locative	i	i lau.
directional	kuma	kuma lau.
ablative	gi	gi lau.
instrumental	gi	gi mutaapp.
comitative	gi / hun gi	hun gi gu giba.

9.2 Adverbs

Adverbs = non-inflecting words that describe a predicate.

The *adverb* gives additional information about the predicate. It answers questions about where, when, how or how much. Adverbs, in fact, can be of very different forms, and often they are derived from other kinds of words, like nouns, demonstratives or verbs.

9.2.1 Locative Adverbs

Locative adverbs = adverbs that indicate the place of an event

Komo has some locative adverbs. Some are underived, some are made from nouns or demonstratives.

Example 43

imu / amu	here
ima / ama	there
kuma kkassi	down
kuma mish	up
kuma goli	left
kuma kana	right

i mishi	on top of
ddish	near

9.2.2 Temporal Adverbs

Temporal adverbs = adverbs that indicate the time of an event

Here is a sample of Komo temporal adverbs:

Example 44

dolba	now
i pog	later
i tag	before
gi kan	today
gi ssanga	tomorrow
gi kiim	yesterday
koli nway	this year
gi ddena kim	a few days before
gi dden kwali	next year

9.2.3 Modal adverbs, Manner adverbs

Modal adverbs = adverbs that describe the manner of doing something

The following are modal adverbs in Komo. **Sa** ‘very’ is a special case of an adverb of degree.

Example 45

washa	quickly
gi ma ttinish	slowly
sa	very

10 Story: Donkey, Dog and Goat

Ttayitato ba gu kura hun gi kkaw gi me

Gu kura gi kkaw gi me in kuma mada koagi. Gibeni a dder yiba haur gi dududu. Hun dosha bbugishar i kim kuma. Gibeni, golin i mishi dududu. Ma igi, i ken. Lumun kuma kkassi. Gibeni a kura kiikir giza gi kiitaman ba dududu. Giza bir da ayn, tutugari. A kkaw ma kiikirgi giza, giza bir da ayn, bashgari tutu. A me shi, midapp giza, boipp i pog ba kkaw. Gibeni a kura da yilirgi dududu, bashir pay, yar dan. A kkaw shi da yilirgi dududu, uta guppiri dan. A me da yilippgi dududu paa boipp.

The following shows the text sentence by sentence, with the kind of word indicated under each word.

Gu	kura	gi	kkaw	gi	me	in	kuma
plural	noun	conj	noun	conj	noun	verb	adposition

mada koagi.
noun noun

Donkey, Dog and Goat went to a funeral.

Gibeni	a	dder	yiba	haur	gi	dududu.
adverb		noun	noun	verb	conj	noun

Then a man came by in a car.

Hun	dosha	bbugishar	i	kim	kuma.
pronoun	verb	verb		adposition	noun

They stopped and waited for him.

Gibeni	golin	i	mishi	dududu.
adverb	verb		adposition	noun

Then they got in the car.

Ma igi i ken. Lumun kuma kkassi
 adverb verb verb verb verb adposition noun

After going, they arrived. They got down.

Gibeni a kura kiikikir giza gi kiitaman.
 adverb noun verb noun noun

Then Donkey paid the driver.

Giza bir da ayn tutugari.
 adverb noun verb verb

His change was returned to him.

A kkaw ma kiikirgi giza, giza bir da ayn
 adverb verb noun noun pronoun verb

bashgari tutu
 verb verb

When Dog paid, his change wasn't returned to him.

A me shi midapp giza boipp i pog ba kkaw
 noun verb noun noun adposition noun

Goat didn't have any money, she hid behind Dog.

Gibeni a kura da yilirgi dududu bashir pay
 adverb noun verb noun verb verb

yar dan
 verb adverb

So Donkey doesn't run when he sees a car, he walks freely.

A kkaw shi da yilirgi dududu uta guppiri dan
 noun verb pron verb verb verb

Dog, however, when he sees a car, just chases and barks at it.

A me	da yilippgi	dududu	paa	boipp.
adverb	noun	noun	verb	verb

Goat runs away afraid when she sees a car.