Please note: This paper is tentative and in need of revision in the light of further study since it was written.
INTRODUCTION

This paper is submitted to fulfill the requirements of the Grammar Essentials for Arifama-Miniafia as spoken in the Miniafia dialect. The corpus used in the analysis was collected in Utukwaf Village and also at Ukarumpa between the dates January 1974 and March 1975. Of that time approximately 6 months were spent in Utukwaf itself.

Texts in the corpus were primarily narrative and collected in the following manner. First, they were recorded on magnetic tape. Second, a literate Miniafia man, Gideon #2 Mes, transcribed them from tape. Last, I went over the tapes and transcriptions with Gideon to ascertain internal consistency and also to work out translations into English (both literal and free). I am indebted to Gideon, his father (Gideon #1), Koyari Baida, Carson Rataba, Marjory Yarob, and Violet Mes who at various times served as story tellers.

In the analysis of the data I wish to express gratitude to my language teacher, Rodney Yabubi, for his patient and kind assistance as I have tried to unravel the "mysteries" of his language. I hope that this preliminary analysis reflects the language truthfully, if not adequately.

Lastly, I wish to say thank you to Elizabeth Murane. Her prior experience in the field of grammar analysis proved a goldmine of useful clues and helpful guidance to me as we worked out various difficulties in this analysis.
1. Stems

1.1. Derived Stems. Miniafia has several types of derived stems.

A - Verb stem + yan = adjective or noun

1) moro 'he died' + yan = morobyan 'dead'
2) kaifa 'he kept' + yan = kaifayan 'keeper'

B - bai + verb stem/adjective = noun (gerund)

1) bai + tab 'it cooked' = baietab 'cooking'
2) bai + yow 'he fought' = baiyow 'war'
3) bai + bais 'he helped' = baibais 'help'
4) bai + gewasin 'good' = baigewasin 'goodness' 'blessing'

C - i + intransitive verb stem = transitive verb stem

1) i + tab 'it cooked' = itab 'he cooked (it)'
2) i + rurub 'he bathed' = irurub 'he bathed (him)'

D - Reduplication + verb stem = noun

1) sikof 'he hung' sikosikof = 'hanger'
2) dudun 'he hammered' dudududun = 'a hammer'
3) botan 'he held' botabotan = 'handrail'

Derived stems are common and maybe coined and used with relative freedom.

The texts I have elicited are primarily narrative, historic, and basically active and do not involve very many of these derived words.

1.2. Compound Stems. Compound stems have not been observed. Those instances where two stems appear to combine are actually close knit sequences of two words which constitute a phrase. Example: mar 'day' + bow 'it got them' = mar bow 'lightning'.

With a change in tense, person markers maybe added to the verb stem, and/or tense markers. With the following results:
mar ebowbow = 'lightning is striking'
mar nabow = 'lightning will strike'

In addition, we feel that these are two words because no nonsuspect consonant clusters occur within a word.

2. Words

2.1. Class Separation. While there are definite classes of words in Miniafa, there is also the capability for an item from one class to also function as an item in another class. The following class changing types have been observed.

A - Some adjectives take verbal prefixes and function as a verb.

1) kaka-fy-in 'respected'  a _ kaka-fy 'I respect'
    respect-sing. 1s-respect

2) huruf-ih 'wet'  i _ huruf 'you got wet'
    wet -pl  2s - wet

B - Some nouns take verbal affixes and act as a verb.

1) bov 'paddle'  a - bov 'I paddle'
    1s-paddle

2) yahib 'tree name'  ku _ yahib 'you (sing.) sweep'
    2s - tree name

C - Some verb stems occasionally accept possessive pronominal prefixes and act as a possessed noun.

1) wa?an 'he did it'  ana _ wa?an 'his actions'
    3s poss.-do

2) yamo 'he hunted'  ana _ yamo 'his hunting'
    3s poss.-he hunted

D - Some adjectives accept possessive pronominal affixes and act as a noun.

1) virurumin 'long'  ana _ virurumin 'his length'
    3s poss.-long

2) kikim-in 'small'  kikim-u 'smallness-my'
    small-1s poss.
Of these types of class changing items the ones most encountered are those which become verbs by the addition of verbal prefixes. Items from the smaller closed classes of words (i.e. pronouns, prepositions, etc.) have not been observed to change classes.

2.2. Distinct Word Classes

A - Nouns. A noun occurs as the subject, object, or indirect object of the verb. It fills the head slot in any noun phrase, the referent slot of a possessive phrase, the axis slot of an axis-relator type phrase, and the apposition slot of an appositional phrase. Nouns take noun affixes and must be divided into subclasses based on the possessive affixes they accept and also how or whether they are pluralized.

1) Possession. Possession is of four types. One of these is a phrase and will be dealt with under phrases. The other three are affixes indicating remote, intimate, and parental possession.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Remote</th>
<th>Intimate</th>
<th>Parental</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>my</td>
<td>au-</td>
<td>-u</td>
<td>-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thine</td>
<td>a-</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>his</td>
<td>ans-</td>
<td>-n</td>
<td>-h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>our(excl)</td>
<td>ai-</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>our(incl)</td>
<td>ata-</td>
<td>-t</td>
<td>-t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>your</td>
<td>a-</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their</td>
<td>hai-</td>
<td>-hi</td>
<td>-hi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) Remote. These markers are prefixes and are used with animals, objects, and some adjectives and verb stems (see:2.1).

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{au-haru} & \\
\text{my-dog} & \\
\text{ana-bar} & \\
\text{his-house} &
\end{align*}
\]

Of the nouns of this class, all but one optionally occur without possession (of 'friend' must occur possessed).

b) Intimate. This set of suffixes is obligatorily used with body
parts, wives, offspring, younger siblings, and purpose/benefactive words.

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{arih-} & \quad \text{awa-} \\
\text{hair-my} & \quad \text{wife-their}
\end{align*} \]

c) **Parental.** These suffixes occur obligatorily with some nouns from kinship terms. These relationships all involve respect of the speaker.

\[ \begin{align*}
tama & + \ y \\
\text{father} & \quad \text{my}
\end{align*} \]

\[ \begin{align*}
hina & + \ y \\
\text{mother} & \quad \text{my}
\end{align*} \]

\[ \begin{align*}
iva & + \ y \\
\text{uncle/aunt} & \quad \text{my}
\end{align*} \]

2) **Pluralization.** Plurals are affected in several ways.

a) Most nouns cannot be pluralized, their number being reflected by modifying ajectives.

\[ \begin{align*}
1) & \quad \text{haru} \quad \text{gagame} + \text{ih} \\
& \quad \text{dog} \quad \text{large} \quad \text{pl}(z_f)
\end{align*} \]

\[ \begin{align*}
2) & \quad \text{uma-} \quad \text{kikim} + \text{ih} \\
& \quad \text{hand-my} \quad \text{small} \quad \text{pl}(z_f)
\end{align*} \]

b) A second class of nouns makes their plural by adding -ina to nouns possessed by either 1st or 3rd persons or -ana to nouns possessed by a 2nd person. This class of nouns is the same as that taking parental type possessive suffixes.

\[ \begin{align*}
1) & \quad \text{tama-} \quad \text{tama-} \quad \text{tama-} \quad \text{tama-} \\
& \quad \text{father-his} \quad \text{father-his-pl}
\end{align*} \]

\[ \begin{align*}
2) & \quad \text{hina-} \quad \text{hina-} \quad \text{hina-} \quad \text{hina-} \\
& \quad \text{mother-your} \quad \text{mother-your-pl}
\end{align*} \]

c) A third method of indicating plural form is used by the kinship term tei- 'younger sibling' but no other examples have been found. In this word, -ti- is attached to the stem before the possessive marker is added.
A

1) tei-ti-n = teitin 'his younger siblings'
younger sibling-pl-his

2) tei-it-t = teiti 'our younger siblings'
stem-pl-our(incl.)

d) Some nouns are pluralized by reduplication.

1) natun 'his son' natunatun 'his sons'

2) regah 'chieftain' regaregah 'chieftains'

e) Those words indicating female persons are pluralized by changing
their forms in the following ways:

1) babite 'adolescent girl' baibitar 'adolescent girls'

2) babin 'woman' baibin 'women'

3) babine 'old woman' baibina?ah 'old women'

3) Source. Nouns and place names are optionally suffixed by -ne (V)ne
meaning 'from'.

B. Verbs. Verbs, along with nouns, form the two most open and numerous
classes of words in Miniafa. A verb fills the predicate slot in a
clause and a head slot in the verb phrase. Verbal prefixes are different
from all other sets of affixes though there are a few homophonic forms.

1) avu a-wa?an 'I do it'
   I 1s.-do

2) o a-wa?an 'you're doing'
   you 2s. poss. do

C. Adjectives. An adjective fills the modifier slot of a noun phrase.
Adjectives have their own set of suffixes. This affixation shows whether
its referent is singular -in or plural -ih. Actually intricate possession suffixes

1) haru kikim-in 'small dog'
dog small-sing.

2) haru rofah kikim-ih 'two small dogs'
dog 2 small-pl. descriptive

1) Color adjectives do not accept any kind of affixation and make the
superlative degree by using the word maiyo 'really'.

2) Some adjectives optionally act as adverbs.

1) awu fakar-im a-rab 'I hit hard'
   I hard -s 1s-hit

In such cases the adjective fills the manner slot.

3) Descriptive adjectives are capable of two inflectional degrees:
ordinary and superlative. The superlative degree is expressed by the
addition of -sin to the end of the singular, ordinary shape of the
adjective.

1) gewasin 'good (sing.)'   gewasin-sin 'very good'
2) fakarim 'hard'          fakarim-sin 'very hard'
3) gagamin 'big'           gagamin-sin 'very big'

Superlative degree optionally is also indicated by a phrase. This
applies to all adjectives.

1) fakarim 'hard'   fakarim maiyo 'really hard'
                hard     really

This is the normal method of showing superlative degree with color
adjectives.

1) kyes 'white'      kyes maiyo 'really white'
              white really

2) ahiv 'green'      ahiv maiyo 'really green'
                green really

D. Adverbs. Adverbs only occur in the manner tagmeme. They accept no
affixation.

1) awu hamenamo a-nan 'I come slowly'
   1s slowly 1 come

Adverbs are optionally modified by maiyo 'really'. Adverbs do not show the
number of their referents.
E. Temporals. Temporals are words which express time. They may not be possessed but have a set of suffixes that indicate real or unreal tense.

1) **biyi** 'when'

   **biyika** (**biyi** + **-ka**) = 'when did'
   **biyibo** (**biyi** + **-bo**) = 'when will'

2) **maras** 'day other than today'

   **marasika** (**maras** + **ika**) = 'before today'
   **marasibo** (**maras** + **ibo**) = 'after today'

F. Purpose/Benefactive Words. This class includes only two members: **isa-** and **aur-**. Both of these words are formed by suffixing the word stem with markers showing intimate possession and thus linking them to their referents. See 2.2.A.1. for the list of suffixes and 4.6.5. for examples of their use with these words within a grammatical construction. The most common English gloss for both words is 'because of' or 'on behalf of'.

G. Accompaniment Words. Accompaniment words fill the relator tagmemes of the accompaniment R.A. phrase. This closed class of words is subdivided as to whether the nouns involved are both alike in their mode of locomotion. Birds fly, fish swim, other animals walk, objects must be driven or carried.

1) Accompaniment of Dissimilars. This involves the single stem **oma-** and its dual or plural suffixes (dual = **-n**, plural = **-h**) which show whether the referents are two or more in number. It applies to all associations of unlike nouns.

   1) **ayu si** **oma-n** **a-nan**
      **ls** fish with-dual we-go
      'I carry a fish'

   2) **ayu wa** **oma-n** **a-nan**
      **ls** canoe with-dual we-go
      'I'm going in a canoe'

   3) **aki wa** **rciab oma-h** **a-nan**
      **we** canoe two with-pl we-go
      'We are going in 2 canoes'
2) Accompaniment of Similars. This involves the stem -airi- 'together' with its affixes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dual</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ex.</td>
<td>airi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 inc.</td>
<td>airit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>airi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>hairi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Only if one of the 3rd persons referred to is alone (i 'he'). If the speaker is referring to two groups of people, he must use the phrase, i etalmak 'they all'.

1) $i \overline{\text{avu airi}} a \overline{\text{-na -n}}$ $\frac{3s/pl.}{1\text{pl. exc.}}$ tense go "We (dual exclusive) will go'.

2) $i \overline{\text{avu bairi}} a \overline{\text{-na -n}}$ $\frac{3s/pl.}{1\text{inc. pl.}}$ tense go "We (pl. exclusive) will go'.

3) $o \overline{\text{avu airit}} a \overline{\text{-na -n}}$ $\frac{2s}{1\text{inc. pl.}}$ tense go "We (dual inc.) will go'.

4) $\overline{\text{okwa avu bairit}} a \overline{\text{-na -n}}$ $\frac{2\text{pl}}{1\text{inc. pl.}}$ tense go "We (pl. inc.) will go'.

5) $i \overline{\text{o hairi}} k\overline{\text{wa -na -n}}$ $\frac{3s/pl.}{2\text{s dual accomp.}}$ $\frac{2\text{pl.}}{\text{tense go}}$ "You (two) will go'.

6) $i \overline{\text{o bairi}} k\overline{\text{wa -na -n}}$ $\frac{3s/pl.}{2\text{s pl. accomp.}}$ $\frac{2\text{pl.}}{\text{tense go}}$ "You (pl) will go'.

H. Particles. There are subclasses of particles.

1) Responses. This is a closed set of only two members, en 'no' and ei 'yes'. They accept no affixation and fill the response tagmeme of the sentence periphery. The en also occurs as a type of linkage in a sentence type that need further analysis.

2) Pronouns. This closed class of words fills the same slots as do nouns. They are distinguished from nouns, however, on the following
basis:

a) They cannot be possessed.

b) Nominal pluralizing methods cannot be employed.

c) The pronouns in Miniaflia are as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
    \text{avu} & \quad \text{I} \\
    \text{aki} & \quad \text{we(excl.)} \\
    \text{o} & \quad \text{thou/you(pl)} \\
    \text{it} & \quad \text{we(incl.)} \\
    \text{i} & \quad \text{he/they} \\
    \text{okwe} & \quad \text{you(pl)}
\end{align*}
\]

3) Conjunctions. The word \text{o} 'or' occurs between two nouns in a coordinate Noun Phrase. The word \text{baise} 'but' occurs between two independent clauses and sets them up in contrast to one another.

4) Interrogatives. This class of words includes question words such as \text{abisitan} 'what', \text{menika} 'where', and \text{bot} 'who'.

5) Numerals. This class of words includes all numbers and the terms \text{etimak} 'all' and \text{svabin} 'nothing'. Now English is commonly used for numbering, especially those numbers above ten.

\[
\begin{align*}
    \text{taiimun} & \quad \text{one} \\
    \text{umad} & \quad \text{two} \\
    \text{tounu} & \quad \text{three} \\
    \text{kwafe?en} & \quad \text{four} \\
    \text{umad ron} & \quad \text{five} \\
    \text{umad ron taiimun} & \quad \text{six} \\
    \text{umad ron ron} & \quad \text{ten}
\end{align*}
\]

6) Locatives. Words from this relatively small, closed class fill the location slot in a clause and the axis slot in an axis-relation phrase. Locatives are divided into locationals, demonstratives, and directionals.

a) Locationals indicate where an object or person is.
A-M

1) **gem tafan inu?in** 'It is on the table'
   table atop it sleeps

2) **gem baban inu?in** 'It is under the table'
   table under it sleeps

3) **gem sisibin inu?in** 'It is beside the table'
   table beside it sleeps

4) **i bace ema?am** 'he is below'
   he below

5) **i iti?i ema?am** 'He is here'
   he here

6) **i no ema?am** 'He is over there'
   he over there

7) **i natu?i ema?am** 'He is over there'
   he over there

b) Demonstratives overlap with locatives in that they function as
   locatives in the locational slot. These words function as
demonstratives when they fill the modifier slot of a basic noun
phrase and fill the topic slot of an equational clause.

1) **iti?i gewasin** 'this is good'

2) **iti?i gewashih** 'these are good'

3) **sawar iti?i gewashih** 'these things are good'
   things these good

4) **natu?i gewasin** 'that is good'

5) **sawar natu?i gewashih** 'those things are good'
   things those good

c) **Directional.** One directional word has been observed. It
   is au 'to'

7) **Comparative Word.** The word *kafa?imo* is used to show comparative
degree but is also an adjective meaning 'small'.

8) **Similes.** Two types of simile have been observed.
A - M

a) Verbal Simile. The word na?at operates on the sentence level between clauses. Its meaning is 'like' and it may occur alone or in conjunction with ube or uban.

b) Common Similes. The words ube and uban also mean 'like' but operate on the phrase level or in combination with na?at.

1) hi -n kafa?i na?at uban 'they went on like that 3pl go small time like like for a little while'

2) haru ube e -nu -numuw 'he runs like a dog'
dog like he aspect run

3. Verbs

3.1. General Description of Verb Classification. Verbs in Miniafia are separated into classes as to their method of forming continuative aspect and also as to whether they are transitive or intransitive.

A - Classification as to Method of Showing Continuative Aspect.

1) Reduplication. Most verbs show continuative aspect by reduplicating a part or all of the stem.

a) A single syllable verb stem with a simple nucleus completely reduplicates itself.

1) tab -a + tab redupl. trans. vowel he cooks 'it was cooking'

2) ?in -a -?in redupl. trans. vowel he sleeps 'he was sleeping'

b) A single syllable verb stem with a complex nucleus reduplicates the 1st consonant and vowel.

1) ka -kaif redup. he keeps 'he was keeping'

2) ba -bain redup. he steals 'he was stealing'
c) A stem of more than one syllable reduplicates the first syllable.

1) du __-dudun
    redupl. he nails 'he was nailing'

2) ta __-tabar
    redupl. he steers

2) The addition of the prefix b-. Stems that form continuative aspect in this way all begin with vowel initial /i/.

1) e- b- it- in
    3s cont. gives him 'he is giving him'

2) b- iyafar
    cont. he sends 'he was sending'

B - Classification as to Transitivity. Verbs that accept object suffixes are classified apart from those that do not. Some intransitive stems, however, may change classes as outlined in 1.1.C.

3.2. From Verb Stem to Verb. The verb fills the Head tagmeme of Verb Phrases and the Predicate of clauses.

\[
\text{TrV} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
+ \text{Person} & \pm \text{Tense} & \pm \text{Aspect} & + \text{Stem} & + \text{Object} & \pm \text{Emphasis} \\
\hline
1s & a- & & & & -aka~ka \\
2s & ku- & & & & \\
3s & =\emptyset & & & & \\
1pl exc. & a- & & & & \\
1pl inc. & ta- & & & & \\
2pl & ka- & & & & \\
3pl & te- & & & & \\
\hline
\text{int.} & \text{nason-} & \text{cond.} & \text{ta=} & \text{eot-} & \text{(cont)} & \text{trans.} & \text{stem} & \text{u=} & \text{ls} & \text{Ø=} & \text{2s} & \text{Ø=} & \text{3s} & \text{i=} & \text{1pl. exc.} & \text{it=} & \text{1pl. inc.} & \text{i=} & \text{2pl.} & \text{ih=} & \text{3pl.} \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

Intr. V = +Person +Tense +Aspect +Stem +Emphasis

3.2.1. Tense. There are two major tenses in Miniafia.

A - Real. This tense includes present, past, and customary actions, and their continuatives. The verb stem standing alone (or with its obligatory object marker in the case of transitive stems) represents 3rd person singular past action. The addition of emphasis indicates past with emphasis.

1) bat 'he stood (stands)' batake 'he stood (emph.)'
The addition of aspect to the original stem indicates past continuative action:

1) ba-bat 'he was standing'
2) bi-rurub 'he was bathing (him)

The stem with present person marker only indicates a customary action, but aspect maybe added to indicate present continuing action.

1) e-bat 'he stood'
2) e-ba-bat 'he is standing'

B - Unreal. This tense includes verb formations which indicate possible future action. The simple addition of the tense prefix indicates the unreal tense, the shape of the morpheme indicating whether the action is intended (na- n-) or may, could or should occur (ta- t-)

1) na-bat 'he will stand'
2) n-i rurub 'he will bathe (him)'
3) ta-bat 'he may stand'
4) t-i rurub 'he may bathe (him)'

Emphasis (-aka) also occurs with this tense as does aspect, however the two may not co-occur in this tense.

3.2.2. Person as Related to Tense. Person markers are obligatory. The shape of 2nd person singular and 3rd person singular and plural markers changes to indicate present continuative or customary action.

A - Second Person Singular Marker. The shape of this marker is i in all verbs except when the action is present continuative or customary. In these cases it becomes ku-.

B - 3rd Person Markers. The shapes of these markers are q for singular and hi- except in verbs expressing present continuative or customary action.
In these cases, singular becomes -e- and plural te-.

3.2.3. Object Markers. Object markers are obligatory when a transitive stem is used. The set is closed and no alternate sets or forms have been observed.

-\text{-u} 1st sing.
-\text{-i} 1st pl. (exc.)
-\text{-i} 2nd sing.
-\text{-it} 1st pl. (inc.)
-\text{\emptyset} 3rd sing.
-\text{\emptyset} 2nd pl.
-\text{\emptyset} 3rd pl.

3.2.4. Emphasis. The emphasis tagmeme emphasizes the tense of the verb. It may be used with either Real or Unreal tenses. It does not occur with aspect except in real tense when the person markers indicating a present continuing action are also present.

1) \text{e-}ba-\text{-bat} -\text{-aka-} he is standing (emph)' \text{3s Asp. stand emph}

3.2.5. There are no special imperative forms that can be used to indicate affirmative commands. Such commands are implied by use of the punctilliar aspect preceded by a 2nd person subject markers. Negative commands, however, do have a special form and are made in either of two ways.

A - By means of a phrase utilizing the negative \text{men} with a verb made up of 2nd person marker, tense marker, and stem.

1) \text{men i-na-rurub} 'Don't bathe!' \text{neg. 2s fut bathe (stem)}

B - By means of the prefix, \text{abi-}.

1) okwe \text{abi} \text{-rurub} 'Don't swim! (you pl.)' \text{2pl. neg. imper. bathe}

2) o \text{abi} \text{-rurub} 'Don't swim (you sing.)' \text{2s neg. imper. bathe (stem)}

\textbf{NOTE:} Two things should be noted about this form:

1) It is often used colloquially without the free pronoun so that the number of subject is insignificant.
2) The form is homophonous with that meaning 'I am bathing you (sing. or pl.).'

1) ə (okwa) a-b-irurub-ə
    2s (2pl.) I-cont.-bathe you(pl)

3.2.6. Additional inflexional affixes. No other inflexional affixes have been observed.

4. Phrases

4.1. Verb Phrases.

4.1.1. Derivative Verb Phrases. These phrases consist of verb sequences and are of two types. An optional manner slot may occur between the two predicates in the case of the completive type.


1) a-a ə-sawar  'I finished eating'
    I eat he finish

2) a-iwa(an) kakaf ə-sawar  'I finished doing it poorly'
    I do it poorly he finish

B - Repetitive. This type consists of predicate repetition and semantically indicates that the action continued or is continuing over a period of time.

Rep. Ph = +(+V: any vb)\n
1) hi-nan hi-nan  'They kept going'
    they went they went

2) hi-yow hi-yow hi-yow  'they kept on fighting'
    they fight they fight they fight

NOTE: A maximum of four repetitions have been noted in text.

4.1.2 Process Verb Phrases

A - Initiatory

1) ə-na -busuruf ə-na -a  'he will being to eat'
    3s will begin 3s will eat

2) ta-na -busuruf ta-na -bow  'we will start to work'
    we will start we will work

16
A - M

B - Motion

1) a-na -n a-na -rurub 'I will go to bathe'
   Is tense go Is tense bathe

2) a-rabon a-tar 'I will go across to cut'
   Is go across Is cut

4.1.3. Idiomatic

A - Meteorological

1) mar ∅-to 'day break' or 'it got light'
   day it got

2) mar ∅-fo 'twilight' or 'it became dark'
   day

B - Metaphorical

1) bauv miho a-mo -morob 'I am hungry'
   food for Is aspect hungry

2) mih ∅-i e-fot 'stop thinking that'
   gall bladder your Is close

4.1.4. Desiderative Verb Phrases. This type consists of +Des:kok + H:any verb.
   The tense of the head must always be unreal since the action has not been yet
   realized.

1) ayu a -ko -kok a-na ∅-b 'I want to get it'
   Is asp. desire Is tense get(it)

4.2. The Noun Phrase

4.2.1. Basic Noun Phrase. This phrase consists of an optional demonstrative
   slot filled with a demonstrative, an obligatory head filled by a noun or a
   compound noun phrase, an optional quantifier slot filled by a numberal, and up
   to two optional modifier slots filled by adjectives. Noun phrases have always
   been observed to occur with a head.


1) + Dem. + Head + Q
   iti?i cro -orot touma gagni-h 'these three big Utukwaaf men'
   these (pl) men three big pl
4.2.2. **Substantive Noun Phrase.** This Phrase type consists of an obligatory item slot filled by a noun or a place name followed by a second obligatory item slot filled by a noun.

\[
\text{Sub.N.Ph.} = +\text{Item}_1\text{in/pl.n} +\text{Item}_2\text{in}
\]

1) \( +\text{Item}_1^\text{aiwob} +\text{Item}_2^\text{orot} \)
   \[
   \begin{array}{ll}
   \text{chief} & \text{man} \\
   \text{"chief"} & \\
   \end{array}
   \]
2) \( \text{Utukwaf} +\text{kek} \)
   \[
   \begin{array}{ll}
   \text{Utukwaf} & \text{child} \\
   \text{"child from Utukwaf"} & \\
   \end{array}
   \]
3) \( \text{Kayara} +\text{for} \)
   \[
   \begin{array}{ll}
   \text{bush} & \text{pig} \\
   \text{"wild pig"} & \\
   \end{array}
   \]

4.2.3. **Pronominal Phrase**

\[\text{Pr.Ph.} = +\text{Hi:ps.pn/pr.n.} +\text{Mod:akis-}/\text{er-}\]

The pronominal phrase consists of an obligatory Head filled by a personal pronoun or a proper noun and an obligatory modifier slot filled by \text{ar-} 'possession' or \text{akis-} 'only' whose suffixes agree with the pronoun in the Head. The slots cannot be expanded and modifiers are quite limited. When the modifier slot is filled by a first or second person form the head is not filled by a proper noun.

1) \( \text{ayu akis-u} \)
   \[
   \begin{array}{ll}
   \text{I} & \text{only I} \\
   \text{"I myself" or "I alone"} & \\
   \end{array}
   \]
2) \( \text{i akis-th} \)
   \[
   \begin{array}{ll}
   \text{they} & \text{only they} \\
   \text{"they themselves" or "they alone"} & \\
   \end{array}
   \]
3) \( \text{David ar -in} \)
   \[
   \begin{array}{ll}
   \text{poss. 3s} & \\
   \text{"David's"} & \\
   \end{array}
   \]
4) \( \text{a ar -i} \)
   \[
   \begin{array}{ll}
   \text{2s poss. 2s} & \\
   \text{"thine"} & \\
   \end{array}
   \]

4.2.4. **Possessive Phrase.** There are two types of possessive phrases: basic and emphatic.
A - Basic Possessive Phrase. This phrase consists of an obligatory possessor filled by a noun, basic noun phrase, an apposition noun phrase, or a pronominal phrase and an obligatory Item slot filled by a possessor noun or a noun phrase.

B.Poss.Ph. = +Poss:n/b.m.ph./ap.ph./pn.ph. +ITEM:poss.n./b.m.ph.

1) Utukwaf orot Rodney ana-for rofab kikimih
   Utukwaf man his pig 2 small(pl)

   'Rodney, the Utukwaf man's two small pigs'

2) Gideon akis-in ana-bar 'The house of Gideon himself'
   Gideon only he his house

NOTE: When the modifier is ar, the Item does not accept possessive prefixes.

1) Gideon ar ___in bar 'Gideon's house'
   Gideon poss. 3s house

B - Emphatic Possessive Phrase. This phrase consists of an optional Referent filled by a proper noun, place phrase, appositional noun phrase or a basic noun phrase, an optional Item slot filled by a noun or basic noun phrase and an obligatory possessor filled by a pronominal phrase whose only filler for the modifier slot is ar.

              +POSS:pn.ph. +H +Mod:ar-

1) Utukwaf orot Rodney for rofab kikim-th i ar ___in
   Utukwaf man Rodney pig 2 small (pl) he poss. he

   'the two small pigs are Rodney's, the man from Utukwaf'

2) Gideon bar i ar ___in 'Gideon's house'
   Gideon house he poss. he

4.3. Co-ordinate Phrases. A co-ordinate phrase consists of two or more obligatory heads optionally joined by a conjunction. The fillers of the head slots determine the specific co-ordinate phrase type.

co.ph. = +H +(CONJ. + H)^n
The number of heads possible appears to be open, but no more than three have been observed in text. Also, the heads of such phrases are not greatly expanded and each head more often than not contains no more than two words.

4.3.1. **Co-ordinate Noun Phrases.** This phrase type consists of an obligatory head filled by any noun phrase, an optional conjunction filled by SetActivePhrase "or" and an obligatory head filled by any noun phrase.

\[
\text{Co.N.Ph.} = \text{+Hi:ary n.ph.} + (\text{+CONJ:} \circ \text{+Hi:ary n.ph.)}
\]

1) \(\text{wah oh havu 'taro, banana, and betel nut'}\)
   \(\text{taro banana betel nut}\)

2) \(\text{wah o oh o havu 'taro, banana, or betel nut'}\)
   \(\text{taro or banana or betel nut}\)

3) \(\circ\ a\ _\text{for nagami-n} \text{ ayu au-haru furumi-n}\)
   \(\text{you your pig big (sing.) 1 my dog black (sing.)}\)
   \('\text{your big pig and my black dog'}\)

4.3.2. **Co-ordinate Numeral Phrases.** This phrase type consists of an obligatory head slot filled by a number, an optional conjunction slot filled by SetActivePhrase "or", and an obligatory head slot filled by a number.

\[
\text{Co.Num.Ph.} = \text{+H} + (\text{CONJ:} \circ \text{+H})^n
\]

1) \(\text{ro?ab o toumu 'two or three'}\)
   \(\text{2 or three}\)

4.3.3. **Co-ordinate Temporal Phrase.** This phrase consists of an obligatory head filled by a temporal, an optional conjunction slot filled by SetActivePhrase "or" and an obligatory head slot filled by a temporal.

\[
\text{Co.Tmp.Ph.} = \text{+H:temp +CONJ:} \circ \text{+H:temp}
\]

1) \(\text{bon maras 'today and tomorrow'}\)
   \(\text{today tomorrow}\)

2) \(\text{bon o maras 'today or tomorrow'}\)
   \(\text{today or tomorrow}\)
4.3.4. Co-ordinate Location Phrase. This phrase type consists of an obligatory head filled with a place name or a location relator axis phrase, an optional conjunction filled by o 'or', and an obligatory head filled by a place name or a location relator axis phrase.


1) Utukwaf Tufi  "Utukwaf and Tufi"
   Utukwaf Tufi

2) Utukwaf o Tufi  "Utukwaf or Tufi"
   Utukwaf or Tufi

3) ber ama'm ovaw ama'm  'at the house and in the mountains'
   house there mountain there

4.4. Co-ordinate Adjective Phrase. This phrase consists of two obligatory heads, each filled with an adjective, and an accompaniment slot filled by oman 'with'.


1) furumin kwe's oman  'black and white'
   black white with

4.5. Appositional Phrase. This phrase type consists of 2 obligatory tagmemes, the Item and the Apposition.

   [noun
   [pronoun
   [co-ord.n.ph.
   [Temporal
   [Location
   [loc.R.A.Ph.
   [Temporal
   [Location
   [loc.R.A.Ph.

NOTE: Fillers within the brackets are permitted to co-occur, i.e. temporals co-occur only with temporals.

4.5.1. Appositional Noun Phrase.


1) te'in Mes  'His younger sibling, Mes'
   his younger sib. Mes

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2) \text{Awanu kabal} \quad 'it, the Awanu stone'
   \text{it Awanu stone}
   \text{item A}
3) \text{bai 1 ayu au-bai} \quad 'the food, my food'
   \text{food it I my food}

4.5.2. Temporal Appositional Phrase.


1) \text{maras Sande} \quad 'tomorrow Sunday (next Sunday)'
   \text{tomorrow Sunday}
2) \text{maras mar oman} \quad 'tomorrow morning'
   \text{tomorrow day with}

4.5.3. Locational Appositional Phrase.


1) \text{babe bar te amaim} \quad 'down at the other house'
   \text{down house other there}
2) \text{no amaim} \quad 'there, over there'
   \text{over there there}

4.6. Relator Axis Phrase. These phrases consist of an obligatory axis which
is related to the clause in which it is occurring by a relator which always occurs
after the axis.

\text{Rel.Ax.Ph. = +A:prn. +Rel:comp.}
\text{N. Ph. loc.}
\text{pl. n wat 'inst'}
\text{B. Poss. Ph. purp.}
\text{Loc.}

4.6.1. Accompaniment R.A. Phrase. In the accompaniment R.A. phrase the axis
is filled by nouns, pronouns, N.P., and the relator are the listed under
accompaniment words (see 2.2.F).

1) \text{ayu o airtit} \quad 'you and I together'
   \text{I you we two together}
2) \text{for mamu oman} \quad 'a pig and a bird together'
   \text{pig bird together}
3) it bairit  'we together'
    we we all together

4.6.2. Location R.A. Phrase. amaim is the only relator that occurs with
locatives, nouns, and place names to form the location R.A. phrase.

1) Utukwaf amaim  'at Utukwaf'
   Utukwaf there

2) biva-u amaim  'at my place'
   body-my there

3) tafan amaim  'there on top'
   atop there

and instrument is expressed by the relator, wat.

1) a-u wat  'on foot'
   leg my inst.

2) wa wat  'by canoe'
   canoe inst.

4.6.4. Resemblance R.A. phrase. This phrase consists of an obligatory axis
filled with a noun and one of two obligatory relators, ube or uban. Both
relators mean 'like'.

Res. R.A.Ph. = +Axis:n/pn. +relator:ube/uban

1) nalat uban  'like that'
   that like

2) haru ube  'dog like'
   dog like

4.6.5. Purpose R.A. Phrase. This phrase type consists of an obligatory axis
filled by a noun or a pronoun and an obligatory relator filled by isa- or
aur-. The two items take the same intimate possessive suffixes and their
grammatical function appear to be identical with the third and more common
purpose relator, imih.

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4.7. **Adjective Phrase.** This phrase consists of an obligatory adjective optionally modified by the negative and/or the superlative.

\[
\text{Adj.Ph.} = \pm \text{Neg.} \pm \text{Adj.} \pm \text{Superlative}
\]

1) (yabat) men kikimin
   storm neg. small(sing.)
   '(the storm is) not small'

2) men gewasin maivo
   not good-s really
   'not very good'

4.8. **Long Phrase.** Long phrases have not been found in the texts analysed. For this reason I do not know whether a tendency exists to shift the location of such phrases within the clause or not.

5. **Clauses**

5.1. **Independent Clause.** Four basic clause types occur in Miniafia. They are equational, transitive, intransitive, and quotative. Idioms, desideratives, and other types of speech all fit into one of these three patterns, depending on the type of action or the lack of it.

5.1.1. **Equational Clause.** This clause type consists of obligatory Topic and Comment tagmemes preceded optionally by Time and Location. The equational clause is set apart from other clause types in that it takes different obligatory tagmemes and has no predicate. Further, peripheral tagmemes are quite restricted.
NOTE: In text only one of the two optional Tagmemees has been noticed to occur
but through elicitation I obtained examples of both Tagmemees occurring
in the same utterance.

1) Example from Text: $T$  topic  Comment
   $\text{bon tuwar ta en}$  'Today (there is)
today war other no no more war'

2) Elicited form: $\text{bon iti} \text{tuwar ta en}$  'Here today (there
   today here war other no is) no more war'

The peripheral Tagmemees optionally exchange positions. The obligatory slots
however remain in the stated order.

5.1.2. Transitive Clause. This clause type consists of an obligatory predicate
and eight optional peripheral Tagmemees. The possibilities are outlined by the
formula below. The transitive clause is different from the other clauses in
that it takes an optional object and also has its predicate filled with a
transitive verb.
Of the optional slots only a maximum of four have been observed in text. Elicitation resulted in some examples of more of these tagmemes within the same construction, but the language helper disliked its resultant length.

The Predicate, Negative, Subject, Object, and object slots usually follow the order given here. The other optional slots, however, change their positions in the construction freely without any observable affect on the meaning of the utterance.

1) From text: 
   \[ S \quad L \quad T \quad O \quad P \quad \text{Accompl.} \]
   we(excl) leg-our it-from today children we-bore finish
   "We have borne children"

2) From text: 
   Purp. 
   0
   imih it ai-efan bar-imih taferam-amih
   That's why we(incl) our-place house-for village-for
   P
   hi-nwet
   they-look
   "that's why they looked for our own place, house, & village.

3) Elicited: 
   men bon imih iti-i orot bairi haru a-rab sawar
   not today that's why here man with dog we-hit finish.
   "That's why we men didn't finish hitting the dog today"

5.1.3. Intransitive Clause. This clause type consists of an obligatory predicate and different peripheral optional tagmemes. All eight of these tagmemes have never been observed to be present together in the same construction in text. Elicited utterances on the other hand, have been obtained which contain all eight optional tagmemes in one clause. In text, a maximum of four optional tagmemes have been observed to occur in one clause. Intransitive clauses never occur with the object tagmeme and intransitive verbs always manifest the predicate.
NOTE: Of the tagmemes in this clause type, Predicate, Negative Subject, Accompaniment, are normally found in the same positions. All other tagmemes can and do optionally move around within the clause with no observable change in meaning resulting. The Manner slot is generally found near the predicate, but not always.

Text has yielded some examples of two Locative or two Temporal slots occurring within the same clause. The two fillers may be the same or different. Study to date has not shown the significance of the extra slots when they contain the same fillers.

1) From text: 
\
\[\text{aki tamain} \quad \text{Turihu ufi Tuturin amain hi -tufuw we(excl) fathers-our Turihu later Tuturin there they-born}\]

'Our fathers were born at Turihu or later at Tuturin'

2) From Text: 
\[\text{komur baijib} \quad \text{na?at} \quad \text{ø -sawar year how many like that it-finished}\]

'How many years went by like that?'

3) From text: 
\[\text{bon iba} \quad \text{Turihu -u marasika ø -g today brother-in-law my before he said}\]

'Before (but) today my brother-in-law said'

4) Elicited: 
\[\text{Neg. S Ac Inst. L T M men orot heiri abay -amain itii-maim bon omet not man with spear with here place today hard}\]

\[\text{P hi -ni -yow they will fight}\]

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'The men will not fight hard with spears here today.'

5.1.4. Quotative Clause. This clause type consists of two subtypes which will be described separately: introductive and summary. These are different from other clauses in that their nuclear tagmemes are different; fillers are restricted, and peripheral slots are limited.

A) Introductive Quotative Clause. This clause subtype consists of an obligatory predicate preceded by two optional tagmemes (author & addressee). Either predicate optionally occurs alone and both are permitted to occur in one clause.

Intro. Quot. Cl. =

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>+ Author</th>
<th>+ Addressee</th>
<th>+ Predicate</th>
<th>+ Predicate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prn.</td>
<td>prn.</td>
<td>uw 'said'</td>
<td>o 'said'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noun</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orot</td>
<td>babin</td>
<td>φ -uw</td>
<td>φ -o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man</td>
<td>woman</td>
<td>3s say</td>
<td>3s say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B) Summary Quotative Clause. This is a stereotyped clause that is optionally used to close a quotation. It consists of a simile construction i na?at ube followed by the predicate, uw, conjugated to manifest proper subject tense, aspect, and object.

Sum. Quot. Cl. =

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>+ Sim.</th>
<th>+ P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i na?at ube</td>
<td>φ -uw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like that</td>
<td>3s say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2. Sequences of Verbs. It is common in this language to have sequences of different verbs. Six verbs have been observed in one such string. These strings usually show either consecutive actions or types of action engaged in within the same time period.
A - M

Example: hi - ma? hi - tar hi - bow hi - a hi - ma? hin
they stayed they chopped they worked they ate they stayed they went

'They stayed, they chopped, they worked, they ate, they stayed, they went'

Such sequences are interpreted as separate clauses each consisting of one
obligatory predicate for the following reasons.

1. They are each complete forms in themselves since they fulfill the
   requirements of the basic clause type patterns.

2. They optionally occur separately each with its own subject, manner
   word, or other optional tagmemes characteristic of the basic clause
   types.

The final verb of many of these series is hin 'they went' or hima? "they
stayed'. At present, the exact function of these words is not understood. It
may later be found that these words act as a summary of the action on the sentence
level.

Sequences of two verbs in which one of them is restricted as to its affixation
are considered verb phrases and have been dealt with under that section.

5.3. Merged Sentences. If the example given above were to have one or more
additional non-verbal slots preceding it, it would be considered a merged sentence.

1. Ac L P P P
1. bairi imaim hi - ma? hi - tar hi - bow hi - a hi - ma? hin
WITH there they stayed they chopped they worked they ate they stayed
they went

'They lived together'

In this case, all the verbs of the sequence share the accompaniment and
also the locative and therefore, the entire utterance is considered one merged
sentence.
A - M

Neg. 0  P  P  P
2. men isikar i -na -b i -na -kakir i -n -it -u
not stick you will get you will break you will give to me

'Don't get the stick, break it, or give it to me.'

5.4. Dependent Clauses. Dependent clauses have the same form as independent ones except that a word is added to the construction that makes the whole dependent.

5.4.1. Included Clauses.

A) Object Clause.

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{axis} \\
0 0 0 \\
\text{relator} 0 0 0 \\
\text{P} \text{P} \text{P} \\
\end{array} \]

1. ei hi -tari -tar imaim a-?it-in
wood they aspect chop there I see 3s

'I saw where they were chopping wood.'

B) Temporal Clause.

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{axis} \\
0 0 0 \\
\text{relator} 0 0 0 \\
\text{S} \text{P} \\
\end{array} \]

1. bel 6 -rab ana-veya sabu hi -ru?ay

'When he hit the ball, the people gathered.'

C) Location Clause.

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{axis} \\
0 0 0 \\
\text{relator} 0 0 0 \\
\text{P} \text{P} \\
\end{array} \]

1. ei hi -tari -tar imaim a-ma? -am
wood they aspect chop there I aspect stay

'I am staying where they were chopping wood.'

NOTE: The construction of both the Location and Temporal clause types are the same and may indicate that the Miniafia speaker does not differentiate between Locative and Temporal in these examples.

5.4.2. Subordinator Type Dependent clauses. These clauses are basically independent clauses which are made dependent by a temporal, a purpose word, or intonation.
A - M

A. Subordinator Initial (Temporal Type)

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
& T & L & P & O & P \\
1. & bi\text{-}yibo & Utukwaf & ta-na & -n & si & ta-na & -yow \\
& when & we tense & go & fish & we tense & spear
\end{array}
\]

'When we go to Utukwaf we will spear fish'

B. Subordinator Initial (Cause/Purpose Type)

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
P & P & T & P \\
1. & i & -na & -t\text{af} & isanamih & boro & hi & -na & -n \\
& you tense & call & because/for & him & later & they tense & come
\end{array}
\]

'Because you will call, they will come.'

C. Intonation Subordinator (Conditional Type)

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
& P & T & P \\
1. & ayu & o & a-ta & -rab & ya & -\# & \# & -na & -sol\text{ar} \\
& I & you & I tense & hit & belly & your & he tense & sharp
\end{array}
\]

'Were I to hit you, you would get angry.'

6. SENTENCES. Sentence level features of Miniafia have not been adequately analyzed, however, some general factors have been noted as follows.

6.1. End of Sentence. The end of a sentence appears to be signalled by a falling intonation and a pause of varying length. The new sentence is then signalled by a rising intonation and (especially in the case of procedural texts) word recapitulation.

\[
\begin{array}{l}
1. & ufurun & tain & Mes & yen. \\
& later & younger & sib(his) & Mes & he & came & up. & He & stood.... \end{array}
\]

'Later his younger brother, Mes, came up. He stood....'

Nothing has been noted that would distinguish between narrative or conversational sentence endings.

6.2. Clause Joining. Rising intonation on the Predicate appears to be the primary signal which indicates that one independent clause should be linked with the next in a sentence. Two independent clauses are normally juxtaposed.
with rising intonation and a lack of pause between the two. Two free conjunctions optionally serve to join clauses as well: o 'or' and baəse 'but'. This, however, is less common than simple juxtaposition. Of the conjunctions, o is the more common of the two.

6.3. Conditional Sentences. There do not appear to be any conditional words as such in this language. Conditional sentences certainly occur, but the conditional state is signalled by the unreal tense on the predicate in conjunction with rising intonation linking that clause with the following one. No conditional sentences came to light in the texts analyzed, however, elicitation has produced what would seem to be conditional forms. The first part of each appears to be the conditional part of the statement. Reversal of the parts makes it a declarative sentence.

A. boro taun ta-var men ta-tan
   later rain may fall neg. we(incl) may go.
   'Later, if the rain falls, we won’t go.'

B. boro tanm no-var men ta-nan
   later rain will fall neg. we(incl) will go
   'Later if/when the rain falls, we won’t go.'

NOTE: Though the English glosses do not reflect it, these utterances indicate an attitude on the part of the speaker. The first example reflects an attitude that disbelieves the possibility of rain falling. The second example accepts rain as real and quite possible.

C. Marasika taun ta-var men ta-tan amih
   before rain may fall neg we(incl) may go ?
   'If it had rained, we would not have come.'

NOTE: The function of amih is uncertain in this case but often indicates purpose in other utterances. In all cases the initial time word is optional. Further study may reveal this to be a contrary to fact construction.
6.4. Number of Clauses Possible in One Sentence. As many as 12 clauses have been observed to co-occur within the same sentence without the occurrence of any type of connective. Two things have been noted in the texts, however:

A. Emphasis is shown by drastically shortening the sentences, many times right down to simple predicates.

B. In longer sentences optional tagmemes are rare, especially after the first two clauses in the sentence.

No difference has been distinguished as to number of clauses in conversational versus narrative sentence types. Long sentences are shortened by using falling intonation on the clause.

6.5. Co-ordinate versus Subordinate Linkage of Clauses. Clauses most often are joined in a co-ordinate relationship because there are no medial verb constructions. Subordinate relationships do frequently occur within the sentence, however.

1. Hai -urar hai -merar te -re -rereb Bchorot their house underpart their front yard they aspect sweep Bchorot
   oro -rot te -mi -misir a -awa -h hi -uw -i (pl) men they aspect get up pl wife their their told them
   'The Bchorot women are sweeping under their houses and their front yards, and the Bchorot men are getting up and saying to their wives...'

2. Na -atube hi -bat imaibo kokorok misir Afarewa uw -i LIKE that they stand then chicken stand Afarewa tell him
   'They stood like that, then the chicken stood and told Afarewa...'

3. bell a -rab ana -veva sabu hi -runay bell 3s hit 3s poss day people 3pl gather
   'People gathered when he hit the bell.'

6.6. Special Interrogative forms that expect a "yes" or a "no" answer have not been observed.
6.7. Quotations are usually direct with the author often specifically mentioned in an introductive quotative clause. The quotation is optionally closed by a reiteration of the first predicate portion of the introductive quotative clause preceded by i i nafatube 'he like that'.

   1. Rodney uw —i o """".', i nafatube uw —i Rodney he told him he said (quote) he like that he told him.

6.8. Clause Sequences thus far observed have always followed a strict chronological ordering of the events narrated.

7. Sequences of Sentences

7.1. Subject Identification. The subject, once stated, need not be restated in following sentences unless changes of subject occur in between that may confuse the hearer. In that case, a restatement of the subject occurs in the Subject tagmem slot of the clause in which the initial actor is first spoken of again.

   The use of a free pronoun before a predicate is in all cases optional and does not refer to any predicate of a previous sentence.

   In transitive clauses where both actor and object are the same person and number, the order of the clause level optional subject and object tagmemes becomes quite important. The subject always precedes the object in such cases. In addition an object suffix is attached to the verb stem which helps to minimize confusion.

   In the narrative texts analyzed so far, restatement of the actors and objects occurred quite frequently. This may be because they changed frequently or because the narrator wanted to make the story easier for me to follow.

7.2. Logical Connections

7.2.1. Contrast is shown by use of the conjunction baiye "but" between two clauses. A form of contrast is also indicated by use of the conjunction, o 'or' between sentences.

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A - M

1. syu ako - kok ana - n baise a- ta - ma
   I  I asp want I will go  but I may stay
   'I want to go, but I may stay.'

2. φ - na o men  φ - na  amih
   he go or neg he go  ?
   'Did he go or not?'

7.2.2. Result and Cause. These are often indicated by simple clause sequences.

The following construction is also possible.

1. hi - wowan - ih . imih hi - fut ....
   they force them. purp they fired

   'They forced them. [Therefore] they got fed up....'

Or, it optionally occurs following the predicate, stating the cause.

1. hi - fut . hi - wowan - ih  imih
   they tired. they force them prup.

   They got fed up [because] they forced them.

No difference in structure has been noted that would set these sentence types
apart from other narrative sentences.

7.3. Paragraph Indicators. I have not noted any special markings to indicate
paragraph endings. The words savar 'it finished' and basit 'all right' may
serve this function, but my work has not brought me to any definite conclusions
on that score.

7.4. A narrative is usually ended by the following statement or a variation of
it:

1. au - tur  yamaninaban iti?i a - isavar  'here I finish my story'
   my word boundary here  I finish
8. Unresolved Issues.

8.1. Trouble Spots.

I believe that further work is needed in all areas of Minafia grammar. Special research, however, is recognized as especially needed in the following areas: Subject identification, didactic interrogatives, conditional statements, linkage, sentence types and phenomena, and all areas on paragraph and discourse levels. As well, I recognize that my analysis thus far has been basically based on narrative texts supplemented with elicited material. This corpus must be broadened to include other types of material before anything truly definitive can be said.

Further, I would like to re-examine the tense system in the light of future research. My decision to describe it in terms of real and unreal stemmed from a desire to simplify my statement and a "feeling" I have had about how the people look at tense. This also fits in with some statements made by Arthur Capell regarding the tendency in some Austronesian groups to look at tense as real versus unreal rather than the way Indo-European languages do. Hence, my own description of Minafia tense.

8.2. Construction Types.

8.2.1. Result and Cause. (See: Sentences 7.2.2.)

1. hi -wovan -ih  imih hi -fut
   they force  them purp  they tired

   'They forced them. [Therefore] they got fed up.'

2. hi -fut.  hi -wovan -ih  imih
   they tired.  they force  them purp.

   'They got fed up [because] they forced them.'

8.2.2. Contrary Result. This construction has not been observed. (See: Conditional Sentences. 6.3.)

8.2.3. Imperative. (See: Verb 3.6.)
1. men i-na-rurub  
   neg 2s tense bathe  
   'Don't bathe!'  

2. abi-rurub  
   Neg. imp. bathe  
   'Don't bathe!'  

NOTE: The latter examples may be interpreted as either imperative or a simple declarative.

8.2.4. "Yes" and "No" Interrogatives differ from a declarative statement by the intonation. Declarative statements have final falling intonation and interrogatives have rising final intonation.

1. boro 1-na-n  
   later 2s tense go  
   'Later will you go?'

2. boro 1-na-n  
   later 2s tense go  
   'Later you will go.'

8.2.5. Eliciting Interrogative. This form does not involve any structural change from basic sentence formation. A question word such as biyi 'when' or menika 'where' simply precedes the statement.

1. o i-na-n  
   Thou thou tense go  
   'You will go.'

2. biy o i-na-n  
   when 2s 2s tense go  
   'When will you go?'

8.2.6. Didactic Interrogatives have not been observed to this point in the analysis.

8.2.7. Negation. This involves the basic sentence simply preceded by men 'not'.

1. ḟ-ne-n  
   he tense go  
   'He will go.'

2. men ḟ-ne-n  
   neg he tense go  
   'He will not go.'

8.2.8. Resemblance is shown by stating the items compared followed by the word ta?imoh 'one'.

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1. yumata -h ta'imoh 'They look the same.' appearance their one

8.2.9. Verbal Simile.

1. orot e -nu -runuw haru ube 'The man is running like a dog.' man he asp run dog like

2. mamu e -robo -rob feleb ase 'The bird flies like a plane.' bird he asp. fly plane like

8.2.10. Comparative Degree.

1. iti?i orot i -kafa?imo auyabin i urunamain iti?i oro -orot this man he comp. large he after this (pl) man

'This man is larger than these men.'

2. iti?i kafa?imo awa -n yen i ufunamain iti?i this comp. mouth his he went up he after this

'This [one] is fuller than this [one].'

8.2.11. Benefaction. (See Purpose R.A. Phrase 4.6.5.)

1. o auy -i a-bag 'I work on your behalf.' thou purp thy I work

2. auy i sa -u / -iwa?an 'He did [it] for me.' I purp my he did

3. auy sur -u / -iwa?an 'He did [it] for me.' I purp my he did

8.2.12. Causative. (See Result & Cause. 7.2.2.)

1. hi -wovan-inh imih hi -fut they force them purp they tired

'They forced them. Therefore they got fed up.'

2. tama -h / -iso?ar kek bay e -a father his he force child food he eats

'His father made the child eat the food.'

8.2.13. Verbal Comparison

A. Easier of the Difficult

1. kafa?imo haram a -iki?a?ub haise kafa?imo fokar a -sib comp. easy I unbotten but comp. hard I tear off

'I unbutton [it] more easily than I tear it off.'

1. me i-na-ma o seb i-na-ma
   ground you will stay or veranda you will stay
   'You will stay on the ground or on the veranda.'

2. fiyow i-na-tom i-na-yawas en i-na-morob
   medicine you tense drink you tense better no you tense die
   'You will drink medicine and get better and [if] not you will die.'

3. seb i-na-ma baise men kabai tafan i-na-ma
   veranda you tense stay but neg. stone atop you tense stay
   'You will stay on the veranda but not atop the stone.'

4-5. seb i-na-ma o kabai tafan i-na-ma
   veranda you tense stay or stone atop you tense stay
   'Will you stay on the veranda or atop the stone?'

NOTE: Rising intonation on the first clause of this utterance is the only clue in this utterance that indicates that it is a question.

6. i j-na-an o i j-na-ir
   he 3s tense eat or he 3s tense sleep
   'Will he eat or sleep?'

8.2.15. Passive. No passive voice has been found in Miniafa. Nor have I found any constructions that would suggest the idea of passivity.

8.2.16. Abstracts

life = yawas*
death = morob*
present = yasisir*
goodness = baigewasin
weakness = ririmamaim

thought = not*
fear = biru*
joy = yasisir*
truth = tur
peace = muwarob

NOTE: 1) Word classes are difficult to isolate in Miniafa and the starred words above accept either noun or verb affixes (see: Words 2.1.).
2) Note the homophonous form yasisir.

Most emotions are expressed by idioms which include the seat of the emotion followed by a predicate (see: Idioms 8.3.).

8.2.17. Implied Speech. I have not found any examples of implied speech in this language. Judgement must be withheld on the matter, however, until higher level phenomena are analyzed. To date, only direct quotation has been noted.

8.2.18. Figures of Speech. I do not feel confident enough to speculate as to frequency of occurrence.

A. Similes.
   1. kek i si abe
   child he fish like
      'The child is like a fish.'

B. Metaphor.
   1. itihi orot i haru
      this man he dog
      'This man is a dog.'

This statement refers to the male dog's unfaithfulness to his mate and the same quality in the man.

C. Euphemism.
   1. orot ana-sawo ra?at
      man his sick big
      'He died.'

D. Hyperbole. I have not observed this in the language.

E. Metonymy. Not observed at work in this language.

F. Apostrophe.
   1. are 'Oh!'
   2. O bariau 'O Europeans!'
   3. o mi?itube 'O what!'

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A. Personification. As yet it is not known if these examples are truly
personification or not.

1. yabat φ -misir
   storm he get up

2. waru φ -numuw
   wind he run

H. Irony. Not observed to date.

I. Synecdoche. Not observed to date.

8.2.19. Foreign Article and Concepts. With most items and concepts recently
introduced the Miniafia people bring along the foreign word or a variant form
of it as well. The word may then be affixed and used as a Miniafia word.

1. ana-felen e -nan
   his plane he is coming
   'His plane is coming.'

The people have also accepted some English words to express concepts that
were difficult for them to express in Miniafia.

1. a-ni -trai
   I tense try
   'I will try.'

Some objects have been given vernacular names however.

1. ura φ -φ , ma-fana
   buttock your it was staying
   'Chair'

8.2.20. Ellipsis. As yet use of ellipsis is not fully understood. Old
information is not repeated so it appears to act like ellipsis.

1. ayu men a -ko -kok ta -na -sam ta -na -cot
   I neg I aspect desire we tense argue we tense court
   'I don't want us to argue and (go) to court.'

8.2.21. Cause and Effect Clauses. (See: Result and Cause 7.2.2.)

Further study needs to be done in this area but reversal of order is permitted
and does not appear to affect the meaning.
1. hi-wowan-ih  imih  hi-fut
   they force them purp. they tired

   'They forced them, therefore they got fed up.'

2. hi-fut  hi wowan-ih  imih
   'They got fed up because they forced them.'

8.2.22. Numbers from one to five are usually referred to in the vernacular.

Numbers larger than ten are almost always said in English. Very large numbers
are usually not handled except by the cover term memurih 'many'.

8.3. Idioms.

1. ruhi  -g  e-fot
   gall bladder your he is closing

   'Stop thinking that.'

2. ya-n  tu-ru?um
   belly his it broke

   'He tired.'

3. ya-n  so?ar
   belly his he sharpened

   'He got angry.'

4. ya-n  õ-matar
   belly her it began

   'She became pregnant.'