MARING SENTENCES

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0 INTRODUCTION

The Maring language is spoken by 8,000 people in the Mt.Hagen Sub-District of the Western Highlands District. The language area is located 40 miles North-East of Mt.Hagen. Maring is in the Jimi Sub-family of the Central Family in the East New Guinea Highlands Stock.

This paper was based on 1 1/2 hours of recorded text collected from speakers at the Kompiai village. Guidance for this paper was given by Charles Peck, whose help was appreciated.

So far, only seven sentence types have been found. These are: Quote, Non Speech Quote, Hypothetical Condition, Narrative, Alternative, Antithetical, and Similarity.

1 ABBREVIATIONS

–	morpheme break
.	used to separate two English words or abbreviations which are a translation of only one vernacular morpheme
1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
act	actual aspect (similar to past tense)

des   desiderative

ds   different subject following

du   dual

hab   habitual aspect

obj   object marker

pl   plural

pot   potential aspect

rel   relation marker

s   singular

ss   same subject following

trans   transition

2   QUOTE SENTENCE

Quote Sentences include quoted speech and also quoted thoughts.

A Quote Sentence consists of an optional Introductory Quote Formula base whose exponent contains a clause ending with the independent form of the verb di "to say", or the independent form of the verb phrase deeb kani "to think", followed by an obligatory Quote base whose exponent is any utterance, and terminated by an obligatory Closing Quote Formula whose exponent contains an allomorph of e plus the reiteration of the verb "to say" or "to think" in a dependent or independent form.

Quote Sentence

Slots:	± Introductory Quote Formula	+Quote	+Closing Quote Formula
Fillers:	Clause ending with independent form of _di_ Clause ending with independent form of _deeb_ _kani_	any utterance	_e_ plus dependent or independent form of _di_ _e_ plus dependent or independent form of _deeb_ _kani_
Special Features:	verb must be a verb of saying or thinking		verb must be a reiteration of the verb of saying or thinking

Rules:

(1) Identical verb stems must occur in the Introductory Quote Formula and the Closing Quote Formula bases.

(2) _e_ is a free form and consists of the following forms: _e, me, we, ye_. The function of these forms is to make a transition between the Quote base and the verb in the Closing Quote Formula. They have no other meaning. _e_ occurs when the previous word ends in a consonant. _ye_ occurs when the previous word ends in _i_. _me_ and _we_ occur following all other vowels.

(3) When the dependent form of _di_ is used in the Closing

Quote Formula, <u>yire</u> "thus" may be added followed by the independent form of <u>di</u>.

(4) When the Closing Quote Formula uses the dependent form of <u>di</u>, the Quote Sentence is always found to be embedded in another sentence.

(5) Occasionally <u>e</u> is omitted from the Closing Quote Formula.

Examples:

(a) The following example has the Introductory Quote
     Formula base, and the Closing Quote Formula has the
     independent form of <u>di</u>.

<u>dee-moi</u>	<u>ai</u>	<u>pokesenal</u>	<u>skul</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>yi-deem</u>
say-1du.act	we.two	vocational	school	trans	say-3pl.hab

<u>reema</u>	<u>pee-je</u>	<u>wu-moi</u>	<u>ye</u>	<u>dee-moi</u>
to	go-des	come-1du.act	trans	say-1du.act

     'The two of us said, "We want to go to (the place) they
     call vocational school, so the two of us came", the two
     of us said.'

(b) The following example has the Introductory Quote
     Formula base, and the Closing Quote Formula has the
     dependent form of <u>di</u>.

<u>anya</u>	<u>se</u>	Abros <u>yimai</u>	<u>se</u>	dee-mi	<u>yin</u> yuarama
my.father	and	Abros old.man	and	say-3du.act	you what

<u>yi-don</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>dee-be</u>
say-2s.hab	trans	say-3du.ss

     'My father and old man Abros said, "What are you
     saying?", the two of them said.'

(c) The following example omits the Introductory Quote
Formula base, and the Quote Sentence is shown to be
embedded in another sentence.

yena yang wu-mi   reema awere   mi-bi
now just come-2du.act   there doing.nothing stay-2du.pot

ye   d-a-k   reema awere   mi-moi
trans say-3s.act-ds   there doing.nothing stay-1du.act

' "You two have come just now, so you will stay there
doing nothing", he said, so the two of us stayed there
doing nothing.'

(d) The following example has the Introductory slot
omitted, and the Closing Quote Formula has the
dependent form of the verb phrase deeb kani "to think"
(literally, "saying" and "knowing").

akamai   ye   sareere   se meedi pee-bon   e
tomorrow trans Saturday and these go-1pl.pot   trans

dee-b   ke-b
say-3pl.ss knknow-3pl.ss

' "Tomorrow Saturday we will go", they thought.'

(e) In the following example the dependent form of di in
the Closing Quote Formula is followed by yire plus the
independent form of di.

d-a   tap   wudi yanga ye   mee-ni
say-3s.act something good just   putting stay-2pl.pot

kop ra ye   mee-ni-k   dede   pee-da-k
but one putting stay-2pl.pot-ds slowly go-3s.pot-ds

yen-eem   dee-n-eek   ku   au-ni   ye
you.all-obj say-1s.pot-ds   money give-2pl.pot   trans

dee-ba   yire d-a
say-3s.ss thus say-3s.act

'He said,"You all will look after the things very
carefully, but if you all look after one (of the
things) and it gets lost I will speak to you all and
you all will give money", he said.'

(f) In the following example, e is omitted from the
Closing Quote Formula.

d-a	yuara	tap	ra	ma	d-an
say-3s.act	what	something	a	obj	say-2s.act

o	dee-ba
exclamation	say-3s.ss

'He said,"What did you say?", he said.'

3   NON SPEECH QUOTE SENTENCE

A Non Speech Quote Sentence consists of an obligatory
Non Speech Quote Formula base whose exponent contains a
clause ending with the independent form of the verb kani
"to see, hear,know", plus the suffix -k "different subject
following", followed by an obligatory Non Speech Quote
whose exponent contains a clause ending with the
independent form of mi "to be, stay" with or without the
suffix -k.

Non Speech Quote Sentence

Slots:	+Non Speech Quote Formula	+Non Speech Quote
Fillers:	Clause ending with the independent form of kani plus -k	Sentence or Clause ending with independent form of mi with or without -k
Special Features:	verb must be independent form of kani plus -k	last verb is mi

Rules:

(1) The independent form of <u>mi</u> with suffix <u>-k</u> may occur two or three times within the Non Speech Quote base.

(2) The independent form of <u>mi</u> with or without suffix <u>-k</u> usually occurs as the last verb in the Non Speech Quote, but sometimes it does not occur.

(3) The Non Speech Quote Formula base sometimes permutes to a position following the Non Speech Quote base, in which case the verb <u>kani</u> can be dependent or independent and does not have the suffix <u>-k</u>. In this case also the verb <u>mi</u> does not occur in the Non Speech Quote base.

Examples:

(a) In this example the independent form of <u>mi</u> with suffix <u>-k</u> occurs three times within the Non Speech Quote base.

<u>pee-ba</u>   <u>kan-a-k</u>   <u>keese</u> <u>yingub</u>   <u>ra</u>
go-3s.ss see-3s.act-ds there pig's.house a

<u>mi-a-k</u>   <u>ai-ba</u>   <u>mi-a-k</u>   <u>abogeep</u> <u>ri</u>
be-3s.act-ds sleep-3s.ss be-3s.act-ds buttocks this

<u>yang</u> <u>yipai</u> <u>mi-a-k</u>
just clear be-3s.act-ds

'Having gone, he saw a pig's house was there, it (the pig) was sleeping, and it's buttocks were showing clearly.'

(b) In this example <u>mi</u> does not occur as the last verb in the Non Speech Quote base.

<u>kan-eek</u> <u>ama</u>   <u>kai</u> <u>Enri</u> <u>ni</u>   <u>kai</u> <u>mi</u>
see-ds   my.mother and Henry his.father and his.mother

kai meedi meedeema wo-m-eek   koka   kai
and these obj.pl   come-3pl.act-ds my.grandfather and

meedi meedeema wo-m-eek
these obj.pl   come-3pl.act-ds

'I saw my mother and Henry's father and mother and my

grandfather come.'

(c) In this example the independent form of mi occurs as

the last verb in the Non Speech Quote base.

kanee-moi-k   maikol   kai meedi meedeema nyokai daram
see-1du.act-ds Michael and these obj.pl   kaukau drum

yodoi ra reema ga-ba   mi-a
big   a on   cook-3s.ss   be-3s.act

'We two saw Michael and others cooking kaukau on a big

drum.'

(d) In this example the Non Speech Quote Formula base

occurs following the Non Speech Quote base, and kani

is in the independent form.

awere   apenai apenai yang lee-be   kanee-mon
nothing little little just make-1pl.ss know-1pl.act

'We only learnt a little how to do it.'

(e) In this example the Non Speech Quote Formula base

occurs following the Non Speech Quote base, and kani

is in the dependent form.

ti kui-dum   reema ke-be
tea plant-3pl.hab   obj   know-1pl.ss

'Learning how they plant tea.'

4 HYPOTHETICAL CONDITION SENTENCE

This Sentence type does not frequently occur and only a few examples were found in the 1 1/2 hours of recorded text used for this analysis.

A Hypothetical Condition Sentence consists of an obligatory Condition base whose exponent contains a word, phrase, clause or sentence with an independent verb in the Actual aspect form, plus the word deekon "if". This Condition base is followed by an obligatory Result base whose exponent contains a clause or sentence with an independent verb in the Actual aspect form plus the suffix -k, or plus the word deekon.

Hypothetical Sentence

Slots:	+ Condition	+ Result
Fillers:	Word, phrase, clause or sentence with an independent verb in the Actual aspect form, plus deekon "if"	Clause with an independent verb in the Actual aspect form either plus the suffix -k, or plus the word deekon
Special Features:	Actual aspect form of verb plus deekon.	Actual aspect form of verb, plus -k or plus deekon.

Examples:

(a) In this example the Result base has an independent verb in the Actual aspect form plus the word deekon.

These last two words could acceptably be replaced by
wal-a-k without any change in meaning.

kop   kuase   kai   wo-b   pee-b
but   Kuase.peple   line come-3pl.ss   go-3pl.ss

abeerakui   kai   ma   yo-m   deekon kiap
Abeerakui.people   line obj kill-3pl.act   if   Kiap

wo-ba   yang kuase   ying   ri   pola
come-3s.ss   just Kuase.people   house this all

yo-ba   wal-a   deekon
kill-3s.ss   leave-3s.act   if

'But if the Kuase people go and kill the Abeerakui
people the Kiap will come and kill all the Kuase
people.'

(b) yoko p-o   deekon nako awere   m-eek
     he   go-3s.act   if   I   doing.nothing   stay-1s.act.ds

     'If he goes I will do nothing.'

The meaning of the above sentence is as given, but the
literal translation is 'If he went I stayed doing
nothing.'

(c) nako-ma d-an   deekon weda p-eek
     I-obj   say-2s.act   if   then go-1s.act.ds

     'If you tell me I'll go.'

(d) nikolas   deekon weda p-on-eek
     Nicholas   if   then go-2s.act-ds

     'If (you are someone like) Nicholas you will go.'

5   NARRATIVE SENTENCE

    A Narrative Sentence consists of an optional
Recapitulation base whose exponent contains a clause whose

verb is the same as the last verb in the preceding
sentence, followed by any number of optional Bases whose
exponent contains a clause or sentence ending in a
dependent verb, and followed by an obligatory Base whose
exponent contains a clause or sentence, whose last verb is
independent.

Narrative Sentence

Slots:	±Recapitulation	± Base^{n-1}	+ Base$_n$
Fillers:	Clause	Clause or sentence ending in a dependent verb	Clause or sentence, whose last verb is independent
Special Features:	verb is same as last verb in preceding sentence	dependent verb only	last verb is independent

Examples:

(a) The following example consists of two sentences. The
first sentence begins with a Recapitulation base, and
ends with peemoi. The second sentence begins with a
Recapitulation base, namely peemoik. This example was
taken from a text in which the previous sentence ended
with gaba mia.

ga-ba   mi-a-k   weda reema pee-moi
cook-3s.ss be-3s.act-ds then there go-ldu.act

pee-moi-k   nyokai yang meedi aw-o-k
go-ldu.act-ds kaukau just these give-3s.act-ds

nee-be	ye-be	reema	mi-be	ai-moi
eat-1du.ss	put-1du.ss	there	stay-1du.ss	sleep-1du.act

'He was cooking and we went. We went and he gave us
some kaukau, we ate and we slept there.'

(b) The following example has a Recapitulation base,
peebe, followed by a Base expounded by a Non Speech
Quote sentence. The sentence following this example
begins with kogiang le miemeek......

pee-be	kanee-moi-k	waba	reema	kogiang
go-1du.ss	see-1du.act-ds	boys	obj	work

l-e	mie-m
make-rel	be-3pl.act

'Going, he saw boys working.'

(c) The following example does not have the Recapitulation
base, and is an exponent of the Quote base of a Quote
sentence.

anya	se	keemowai	se	yire	koj	ra	yu-mi-k
my.father	and	Keemowai	and	thus	pig	a	kill-3du-ds

bi-e	yi-ba	p-o-k	yena	weda	pee-mi-k
spear-rel	get-3s.ss	go-3s.act-ds	now	then	go-3du-ds

me	nako	keeme	ai-b	m-eek	awa
and	I	below	sleep-1s.ss	be-1s.act.ds	self

y-a-k	weda	w-i
put-3s.act-ds	then	come-1s.act

'My father and Keemowai killed a pig, spearing it,
it went, then they went and I slept by myself, and now
I came.'

6 ALTERNATIVE SENTENCE

An Alternative Sentence consists of an obligatory
Statement base whose exponent contains a clause or
sentence with an independent verb, followed by an
obligatory Link base whose exponent is <u>map</u> "or", followed
by an optional Alternative base whose exponent is a
clause or sentence with an independent verb.

Alternative Sentence

Slots:	+ Statement	+ Link	± Alternative
Fillers:	Clause or sentence with independent verb	<u>map</u> "or"	Clause or sentence with independent verb
Special Features:	verb is independent	<u>map</u>	verb is independent

Examples:

(a) kupa pid kub ba   duk   lee-da   map pi
    Kupa Pid area go.3s.ss garden make-3s.pot   or

    ying keenga mia-ba   koj yo-ba   se-da
    house here   stay-3s.ss pig kill-3s.ss cook-3s.pot
    'Kupa will go to the Pid area and make a garden or he
    will stay here and kill a pig and cook (it).'

(b) weda nodong nyig boi   map
    now   Nodong water go.1du.pot or
    'Will we go to the Nodong river or not (or what)?'

7 ANTITHETICAL SENTENCE

An Antithetical sentence consists of an obligatory
Thesis base whose exponent contains a clause or sentence
with an independent verb, followed by an obligatory Link
base whose exponent is kop "but", followed by an obligatory
Antithesis base whose exponent is a clause or sentence with
an independent verb.

Antithetical Sentence

Slots:	+ Thesis	+ Link	+ Antithesis
Fillers:	Clause or sentence with independent verb	kop "but"	Clause or sentence with independent verb
Special Features:	verb is independent	kop	verb is independent

Examples:

(a) gabriel gona y-a-k   robat y-a-k   nan
    Gabriel Gona put-3s.act-ds Robert put-3s.act-ds I

    y-e-k   l-a-k   kam meeda beel-e
    put-1s.act-ds make-3s.act-ds rain some wash-rel

    yi-mon   kop yang wu-mon
    get-1pl.act but just come-1pl.act

    'Gabriel Gona and Robert and I, the rain washed us but
    we still came.'

(b) yoko-ma ke-b   y-i   kop sep   na-d-i
    he-obj see-1s.ss get-1s.act but speech not-say-1s.act

    'I found him but I didn't talk (to him).'

(c) <u>kogiang</u> <u>la-ben</u>   <u>kop ku</u>   <u>ra</u>   n-au-n
    work   make-2s.pot but money some not-give-1s.pot

    'You will work but I will not give (you) money.'

8 SIMILARITY SENTENCE

A Similarity Sentence consists of an obligatory Similarity Base$_1$ whose exponent contains a clause or sentence with an independent verb in either actual aspect or habitual aspect, but not potential aspect, followed by an obligatory Link whose exponent is <u>me</u> <u>ri</u> "like this", followed by an obligatory Similarity Base$_2$ whose exponent is a clause or sentence with an independent verb, which may be any aspect.

Similarity Sentence

Slots:	+ Similarity Base$_1$	+ Link	+ Similarity Base$_2$
Fillers:	Clause or sentence with independent verb, in actual aspect or habitual aspect form only	<u>me</u> <u>ri</u> "like this"	Clause or sentence with independent verb
Special Features:	independent verb in actual aspect or habitual aspect form only	<u>me</u> <u>ri</u>	verb is independent in any aspect

Rules:

(1) <u>pi</u> or <u>me</u> <u>ri</u> <u>pi</u> may be added after <u>me</u> <u>ri</u> in the Link base.

Examples:

(a) kop ri   pi   awere gapa yodoi me   ri   bi-a-k
    but this and just star big   like this shine-3s.act-ds

    mi-a
    be-3s.act

    'But it was shining just like a big star.'

(b) yu kai bab   le-b   lee-deem   me   ri   me
    man line fight make 3pl.ss make-3pl.hab like this like

    ri   pi al sep   kogiang lu-dumon   ri   yire yang
    this and we speech   work   make-1pl.hab this thus just

    'We do speech work like men fight.'

(c) yin yoko mi-a   me   ri   asi   yire yang mi-ben
    you he   be-3s.act like this later thus just be-2s.pot

    'Later on you will be like he is.'

(d) waba   meeda mie-b   ki   rose   rose
    children some be-3pl.ss   there pretence pretence

    dee-b   l-e   wadee-deem   me   ri   pi
    say-3pl.ss   make-rel   go.about-3pl.hab   like this and

    na-yu-dumon
    not-say-1pl.hab

    'We don't talk like some children who go about telling

    lies.'