

Tentative Grammar Description

for the Ubir [ubi] Language

spoken in Oro Province

Written by Bray Boreret and Bradley Aira with
assistance by Jason Carwile

November 2015

<i>Table of contents</i>	
1. INTRODUCTION.....	8
2. WRITING SYSTEM AND SOUNDS.....	9
3. NOUNS AND NOUN PHRASES.....	9
3.1. Pronouns and Possessive Suffixes.....	9
3.1.1. Pronouns.....	9
3.1.2. Possessive Pronouns.....	10
3.1.3. Possessive Suffixes.....	11
3.1.4. Reflexive Pronouns.....	12
3.1.5. Translation Issues for Pronouns.....	13
3.2. Nouns.....	13
3.2.1. Singular and Plural Nouns.....	13
3.2.2. Translation Issues for Singular and Plural Nouns.....	14
3.3. Adjectives.....	14
3.3.1. Adjectives in general.....	14
3.3.2. Comparatives.....	15
3.3.3. Translation Issues for Adjectives.....	16
3.4. Numerals and Number-Marking.....	17
3.4.1. Traditional Counting System.....	17
3.4.2. Other Quantity Words.....	18
3.4.3. Ordinal Numbers.....	18
3.4.4. Other Number-related things.....	19
3.4.5. Translation Issues for Numerals and Number Marking.....	20
3.5. Demonstratives and Articles.....	20
3.5.1. Articles.....	20
3.5.2. Demonstratives.....	20
3.5.3. Translation Issues for Articles and Demonstratives.....	21
3.6. Basic Noun Phrase Structure.....	21
3.6.1. Noun Phrase Examples.....	21
3.6.2. Translation Issues for Noun Phrases.....	22
3.7. Possession.....	22
3.7.1. Direct (Inalienable).....	22
3.7.2. Indirect (Alienable).....	22
3.7.3. Translation Issues for Possession.....	23

4. POSTPOSITIONS.....	23
4.1. Examples.....	23
4.2. Translation Issues for (Prepositions / Postpositions).....	24
5. VERBS.....	24
5.1. Person and Number Marking.....	24
5.1.1. Subject Marking.....	24
5.1.2. Object Marking.....	24
5.1.3. Recipient Marking.....	25
5.1.4. Benefactive Marking.....	26
5.1.5. Translation Issues for Subject, Object, Recipient and Benefactive Markers.....	26
5.2. Tense: Past, Present, Future.....	26
5.2.1. Example:.....	26
5.2.2. Translation Issues Related to Tense.....	27
5.3. Aspect.....	27
5.3.1. Continuous:.....	27
5.3.2. Habitual.....	27
5.3.3. Repeated.....	28
5.3.4. Beginning.....	28
5.3.5. Completed.....	28
5.3.6. Translation Issues Related to Aspect.....	29
5.4. Realis and Irrealis Status.....	29
5.4.1. Examples.....	29
5.4.2. Translation Issues for Realis and Irrealis.....	29
5.5. Serial Verbs.....	30
5.5.1. Examples.....	30
5.5.2. Translation Issues for Serial Verbs.....	30
6. CLAUSES.....	30
6.1. Transitive clauses.....	30
6.1.1. Examples:.....	30
6.1.2. Translation Issues for Transitive Clauses.....	31
6.2. Intransitive clauses.....	31
6.2.1. Examples.....	31
6.2.2. Translation Issues for Intransitive Clauses.....	32
6.3. Di-transitive clauses.....	32

6.3.1. Examples:.....	32
6.3.2. Translation Issues for Di-transitive Clauses.....	33
6.4. Semantic roles (noun roles).....	33
6.4.1. Agent.....	33
6.4.2. Force.....	33
6.4.3. Experiencer.....	34
6.4.4. Stimulus.....	34
6.4.5. Possessor.....	34
6.4.6. Location.....	35
6.4.7. Source / Destination.....	35
6.4.8. Instrument.....	35
6.4.9. Accompaniment.....	36
6.4.10. Recipient.....	36
6.4.11. Beneficiary.....	36
6.4.12. Patient.....	37
6.4.13. Translation Issues for Noun Roles.....	37
6.5. Adverbs.....	37
6.5.1. Place.....	37
6.5.2. Manner.....	38
6.5.3. Time.....	38
6.5.4. Degree.....	39
6.5.5. Sentence Adverb.....	39
6.6. Negative Clauses and Negation.....	40
6.6.1. Examples.....	40
6.6.2. Translation Issues for Negative Clauses.....	41
7. SENTENCES.....	41
7.1. Conjunctions.....	41
7.1.1. Examples.....	41
7.1.2. Translation Issues Related to Conjunctions.....	42
7.2. Commands (Imperative Sentences).....	42
7.2.1. Examples.....	42
7.2.2. Translation Issues Related to Commands.....	42
8. Questions.....	42
8.1. Questions (Interrogative Sentences).....	42

8.1.1. Yes-No Questions.....	42
8.1.2. WH Questions.....	43
8.1.3. Translation Issues for Questions.....	43
9. Reason, Result, Purpose.....	43
9.1. Reason and Result.....	43
9.1.1. Translation Issues for Reason and Result.....	44
9.2. Purpose and Result.....	44
9.2.1. Translation Issues for Purpose and Result.....	45
10. Appendix.....	46

License



We are doing this work freely, to help our language community and others like it. We want to make sure that our community and others can benefit from our work. We give this permission for anyone to use this work, but only if they follow the rules of the “Creative Commons Non-Commercial Share Alike License”. In simple English, those rules are 1) My name must appear on any copies of this work, so people know I was the one who did it. 2) No one may use this work for making money in business, without my permission. 3) Anyone may build upon this work, but they must then share the resulting work the same way I am sharing.

Copyright

All our contributions to materials listed below are Copyright “Bray Boreret and Bradley Aira.” That means if someone wants permission to do something different from what it says above, they must ask this copyright holder.

Signed by:

Name: Bray Boreret	Language: Ubir	Province: Oro
Name: Bradley Aira	Language: Ubir	Province: Oro

The following works are covered by this form:

Description	Contribution	Signatures	Date
Tentative Grammar Description	Authors: Bray Boreret & Bradley Aira Editing: Jason Carwile	Bray Boreret Bradley Aira	30 Oct. 2015
Text collection - written	Bray Boreret & Bradley Aira	Bray Boreret Bradley Aira	30 Oct. 2015
Text collection - audio	Bray Boreret & Bradley Aira	Bray Boreret Bradley Aira	30 Oct. 2015

Preface/Disclaimer/Acknowledgments

This grammar is very tentative. It has been written by Bray & Bradley during the four-week long Discover Your Language Course at the PILAT Training Centre at Ukarumpa, EHP. At that course the two Ubir language speakers, Bray Boreret and Bradley Aira, were participants. So the data for this grammar was collected and written up very quickly and does not deal with all aspects of Ubir grammar. This tentative analysis is based on just four natural texts recorded and written by Bray & Bradley, and a selection of elicited sentences. There may well be errors due to the time pressure in producing this document, and some inconsistencies within the analysis. We are thankful to our mentor Jason for reading the paper, editing, and guiding the process. Despite its tentative nature, we hope this grammar will be helpful to speakers of the Ubir language, and to others who want to learn more about the language. Hopefully, it provides a foundation for others to build upon in the future.

Abbreviations and Symbols

1	first person(s), English: I, me, we
2	second person, English: you, Tok Pisin: <i>yu</i> , <i>yupela</i>
3	Third person, English: he/she/it/him/her
ADJ	adjective
EXC	exclusive, excluding the hearer
INC	Inclusive, including the hearer
SG	singular
DU	dual

1. INTRODUCTION

Language name:

Ubir [ubi]

Classification:

Oceanic

Location of Language Group:

Tufi, Oro, Papua New Guinea

Dialect(s) represented in this description:

Name(s) of contributor(s):

Bray Bororet, Bradley Aira, Jason Carwile

Period during which this information was collected:

October 7-November 4, 2015

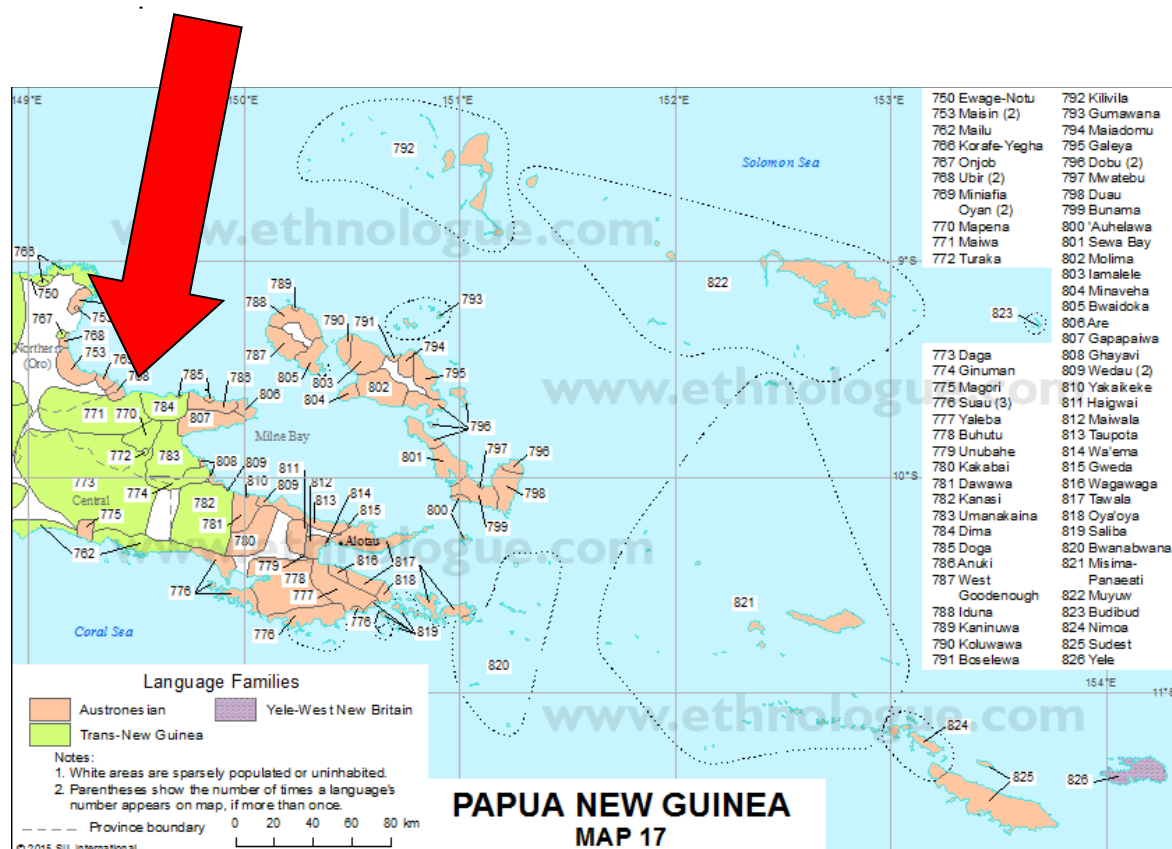
Location where most data has been collected:

PILAT, Ukarumpa, EHP, Papua New Guinea

Texts used to help produce this description:

Agim Akinatut an dudur.
Ayubis wat an on dudur.
Baikukenawai an dudur.
Goa wairaf inaras an dudur.
Masau an dudur.
Ray, James rus asi dudur.
Tafaror kanfoun an dudur.
Ubir goa emon wanat au Ukarumpa
Wengar rorous a Kwakwar.

Ubir Language Group



2. WRITING SYSTEM AND SOUNDS

There are no special characters in our orthography and use only the characters present in English.

3. NOUNS AND NOUN PHRASES

3.1. Pronouns and Possessive Suffixes

Our pronouns and possessive suffixes are shown in the tables in each section below.

3.1.1. Pronouns

Pronouns are words like *I*, *you* and *they* in English, which stand in place of other noun phrases. We call these “free pronouns” because they are words in their own right, and are not parts of other words.

1st person (1) = the speaker, English *I*, *me*, *we*

2nd person (2) = the listener, English *you*

3rd person (3) = neither the speaker nor the listener, English *he/she/it/him/her/them/they*

Singular (SG) = just one person/thing, English *I/he/she/it/him/her*

Dual (DU) = two people/things, Tok Pisin *mitupela/yutupela/tupela*

Plural (PL) = more than one, English *we/they/them*

1st person exclusive (1 EXC) = the speaker and some other people, but not the listener, Tok Pisin *mipela*

1st person inclusive (1 INC) = the speaker and the listener (and maybe other people too), Tok Pisin *yumi*

Table 3.1.1.1: Free Pronouns

		Pronoun	English / Tok Pisin equivalent
SG	1st person	<i>yau</i>	I
	2nd person	<i>om</i>	you
	3rd person	<i>on</i>	he, she, it
PL	1st person inclusive	<i>yot</i>	we / <i>yumi</i>
	1st person exclusive	<i>wei</i>	we / <i>mipela</i>
	2nd person	<i>omi</i>	you / <i>yupela</i>
	3rd person	<i>osi</i>	they

Here are some examples of pronouns in the Ubir language:

Example 3.1.1.1: Free Pronouns

A) **Word** *wei ferein amonai warui*

Gloss 1.pl plane inside enter

Free We entered the plane.

B) **Word** *ari wei bisiyi yen*

Gloss now 1.pl with.us staying

Free Now we are staying together.

Rule: Our language does not have different pronouns for subjects and objects. Even in the presence of a noun, sometimes a pronoun is used directly following.

3.1.2. Possessive Pronouns

Table 3.1.2.1: Possessive pronouns

		Possessive pronoun	English / Tok Pisin equivalent
SG	1st person	<i>au</i>	'my'
	2nd person	<i>am</i>	'your'
	3rd person	<i>an</i>	'his, her ,its'
PL	1st person inclusive	<i>ati</i>	'our' / 'bilong yumi'
	1st person exclusive	<i>wai</i>	'our' / 'bilong mipela'
	2nd person	<i>ami</i>	'your' / 'bilong yupela'
	3rd person	<i>asi</i>	'their'

Example 3.1.2.1: Possessive pronouns

A) **Word** *Wei wai goa atamanin ifeu.*

Gloss 1.pl our house old fell

Free Our old house fell down.

B) **Word** *Yau au nikok boboun.*

Gloss 1.sg my knife new

Free My knife is new.

Summary: Usually the possessive pronoun comes before the noun. Also, it is more natural to include the regular pronoun along with the possessive pronoun, though it is acceptable to use only the possessive.

3.1.3. Possessive Suffixes

A possessive suffix is a part at the end of a word showing whose it is. These are often used with words for family relationships or body parts (such as *ear*, *eye*, *brother* or *father*), rather than using a separate word.

Table 3.1.3.1: Possessive suffixes

		Possessive suffix	Word with possessive suffix	English / Tok Pisin equivalent
SG	1 st person	-u	<i>taiu</i>	my little brother
	2 nd person	-m	<i>taim</i>	your(s) little brother
	3 rd person	-n	<i>tain</i>	His little brother
PL	1 st person inclusive	-t	<i>tait</i>	Our(incl) little brother
	1 st person exclusive	-i	<i>taii</i>	Our(excl) little brother
	2 nd person	-m	<i>taim</i>	Your(pl) little brother
	3 rd person	-s	<i>tais</i>	Their little brother

In our language, possessive suffixes are used to express family relationships and body parts. It is important to note that the 2nd person singular and plural use the same suffix and can only be known by context.

Example 3.1.3.2:

Yau matau

‘my eye’

Om ayom

‘your mother’

On awan

‘his mouth’

Osi matas

‘their eyes’

On fifi on yau taiu.

That boy is my small brother

Rule about possessive suffixes: The only words discovered so far to use these suffixes are family relationships and body parts.

3.1.4. Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are words like *myself* and *himself*. They are used when the actor and patient refer to the same person.

Table 3.1.4.1: Reflexive pronouns

		Reflexive pronoun	English / Tok Pisin equivalent
SG	1 st person	<i>ekesiu</i>	myself / <i>mi yet</i>
	2 nd person	<i>ekesim</i>	yourself / <i>yu yet</i>
	3 rd person	<i>ekesin</i>	himself, herself ,itself
PL	1 st person inclusive	<i>ekesit</i>	ourselves / <i>yumi yet</i>
	1 st person exclusive	<i>ekesi</i>	ourselves / <i>mipela yet</i>
	2 nd person	<i>ekesim</i>	yourselves / <i>yupela yet</i>
	3 rd person	<i>ekesis</i>	themselves / <i>ol yet</i>

Example 3.1.4.1: Reflexive pronouns

A) Word *Osi ekesis wat au masau sinau.*
 Gloss 3.pl themselves only to garden went
 Free They went to the garden alone.

B) Word *On ekesin mom inai ebobosag.*
 Gloss 3.sg himself only went fishing
 Free He went fishing alone.

3.1.5. Translation Issues for Pronouns

Rule about translating pronouns:

Some pronouns, like 'on' can be used as a demonstrative. They have other uses besides just pronouns.

3.2. Nouns

3.2.1. Singular and Plural Nouns

Table 3.2.1.1: Markers used to show singular/plural on nouns

Marker	“Job” of the marker	Example on/with a word	What kind of words use the marker?	Equivalent in English / Tok Pisin
<i>singular</i>	an	<i>masau</i>	on	his
<i>singular</i>	au	<i>masau</i>	yau	my
<i>plural</i>	ati	<i>masau</i>	yot	our
<i>plural</i>	wai	<i>masau</i>	wei	we-us

Example 3.2.1.1: Singular nouns

A) Word *an masau*.

Gloss His garden

B) Word *au masau*.

Gloss my garden

C) Word *yau au kuke*

Gloss 1.sg my Dog

D) Word *Yau masau kaitamom ater iyaras*

Gloss 1.sg garden one burn burnt

Example 3.2.1.2: Plural nouns

A) Word *ati masau*.

Gloss our(incl) garden

B) Word *wai masau*.

Gloss our(excl) garden

C) Word *Kuke engon nim*

Gloss dog all five

- D) **Word** *Yau masau nim ateren siyaraten*
Gloss 1.sg garden five burn burnt

Rule for plural on nouns: Singular and plural differences are not marked on our nouns. We must use another word to know how many. It can be a pronoun, a numeral, or the markers on the verb.

3.2.2. Translation Issues for Singular and Plural Nouns

Think about when translating Nouns:

3.3. Adjectives

3.3.1. Adjectives in general

Adjectives are words which describe a noun. Adjectives might describe the size, shape and colour of something, the age or feelings of a person, or the appearance of a place. In Ubir language, adjectives describe Nouns.

Example 3.3.1.1: Adjectives in noun phrases

- A) **Word** *Agim dirigagamin gagamin bibitan.*
Gloss Rock shapeless big heavy

- B) **Word** *Orot dibon kadidin guggurin.*
Gloss man short fat black

Adjective Summary Statement 1: In my Ubir language there are many adjectives.

Adjective Summary Statement 2: : In my ubir language adjectives come after the noun.

Adjective Summary Statement 3: It is easy to use more than one adjective to describe a noun in my Ubir language.

Adjective Summary Statement 4: There are many adjectives in my language.

Example 3.3.1.2: More than one adjective in a noun phrase

- A) **Word** *Jeverei kafakakain usin kakakaiin mamarag obinfafa.*
Gloss girl small colour white pretty Very good

- B) **Word** *Wengar roroun kaitamom rifuin gagamin.*
Gloss tree leaf one green big

Adjective Summary Statement 5: Adjectives describing size and color often end with 'in'. Though this is not likely a suffix.

Some adjectives can be recognised by a suffix -fafa or -bag and both mean 'very'. For example, obinfafa, momoginfafa, gagaminfafa, and gagaminbag.

Example 3.3.1.3: Markers that work with adjectives

A) **Word** *obin-fafa*

Gloss good-very

B) **Word** *gagamin-bag*

Gloss big-very

In our language, certain suffixes can be added to adjectives like -fafa and -bag.

Example 3.3.1.4: Words or markers that make adjectives stronger and less strong

A) **Word** *Kafakakain wawanin*

Gloss more strong(hard)

B) **Word** *Kafakakain samin samin*

Gloss more soft

3.3.2. Comparatives

Example 3.3.2.1: How we compare things in our language

A) **Word** *Om am kuke on aukwatun ato yau noau on ausasan*

Gloss you your dog is Bit.big and me mine is Bit.small

Free Your dog is a bit big and mine is a bit small.

B) **Word** *On on ekakaf tiwag men yau ba*

Gloss he is respect well not me like

Free He is well respected unlike me.

Rule/Summary Statement1: In Ubir we compare by using two clauses. One will describe the first and the other will describe the second. The word 'ba' is a comparative marker that equates the qualities of the two or contrasts them if used with the negative marker 'men'.

Example 3.3.2.2: How to say something is the best of all, or antap tru

- A) Word *On jever on momoginfafa*
 Gloss that lady is very pretty
- B) Word *Oyau wabin Everest on weroromin anbabaton*
 Gloss mountain name Everest is tall very
- C) Word *On jever on momginfafa men jever fani ba*
 Gloss that woman is very pretty not woman some like
 Free That woman is the prettiest.

3.3.3. Translation Issues for Adjectives

(You may want to discuss this here, or you can write rules. Adding examples is always good.)

Example 3.3.3.1: How to translate Adjectives

- A)
- | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Word | <i>Tefan</i> | <i>doron</i> | <i>aburun</i> | <i>warur</i> | <i>afen</i> | <i>kifurubin</i> | <i>obinfafa.</i> |
| Gloss | hair | long | nose | sharp | cheek | indentation | very pretty |
| Free | The long hair, sharp nose, and indentation on the cheek is very pretty. | | | | | | |
- B)
- | | | | |
|-------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Word | <i>Kokoin</i> | <i>bibitan</i> | <i>gagaminfafa.</i> |
| Gloss | huge | heavy | very big |

Rules about translating adjectives: It is straightforward how to translate adjectives. Adjectives directly follow the noun they modify and can come in groups of adjectives that are not limited and can be rearranged with no change in meaning.

Rules about translating comparatives: Comparatives normally require two clauses though the word 'ba' can be used to equate their qualities without a full clause. It is the qualities themselves that must be compared such as 'large' vs. 'small' that are ascribed to the nouns.

3.4. Numerals and Number-Marking

3.4.1. Traditional Counting System

Table 3.4.1.1: Traditional counting system

Number	Tok Ples	English meaning (if there is one)
1	<i>kaitamom</i>	
2	<i>ruam</i>	
3	<i>ton</i>	
4	<i>bat</i>	
5	<i>nim</i>	
6	<i>Nimtereban kaitamom</i>	tereban 'add'
7	<i>Nimtereban ruam</i>	
8	<i>Nimtereban ton</i>	
9	<i>Nimtereban bat</i>	
10	<i>uyotoat</i>	
11	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan kaitamom</i>	anyayatan 'lid, top'
12	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan ruam</i>	
13	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan ton</i>	
14	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan bat</i>	
15	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan nim</i>	
16	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan nimitereban kaitamom</i>	
17	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan nimitereban ruam</i>	
18	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan nimitereban ton</i>	
19	<i>Ouyotoat anyayatan nimitereban bat</i>	
20	<i>Orot kaitamom</i>	orot 'men'
30	<i>Orot kaitamom anyayatan uyotoat</i>	
40	<i>Orot ruam</i>	
50	<i>Orot ruam anyayatan uyotoat</i>	
60	<i>Orot ton</i>	
70	<i>Orot ton anyayatan uyotoat</i>	
80	<i>Orot bat</i>	
90	<i>Orot bat anyayatan uyotoat</i>	
100	<i>Orot nim</i>	

Number Rule 1: We usually use our traditional numbers when translating scripture, counting fish, and teaching children (especially elementary).

For other numbers we use English at the market, asking someone to bring a number of items, during church services, sports, counting money, and most other situations. We usually use English counting except the times above when we use traditional counting.

Number Rule 2: Numbers usually come after the main noun and are interchangeable with adjectives.

3.4.2. Other Quantity Words

Quantifiers are words like *some*, *many*, *all*, or *a few* in English, which do not tell us a specific number, but rather a general quantity.

Example 3.4.2.1: Quantifiers

A) **Word** *Sabu yabo sinai sebitafaror.*

Gloss people many went worship

B) **Word** *Fifirig ruamom rura roa kaitamom siabar senan.*

Gloss boys few coconut stick one carry going

Free Some boys carried a stick of coconuts.

C) **Word** *On wasi matan kaitamom on iyafan woitai?.*

Gloss 3.sg taro eye one 3.sg who gave

Free He gave an eye(bunch) of taro?

Word	Gloss	Used with:
<i>ruamom</i>	<i>few</i>	<i>People and things</i>
<i>sigaraba</i>	<i>many</i>	<i>People and things</i>
<i>yabo</i>	<i>many, plenty</i>	<i>People and things</i>
<i>tutufin engon</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>People and things</i>
<i>tafinin kaitamom</i>	<i>one pair (four coconuts)</i>	<i>coconut</i>
<i>roa kaitamom</i>	<i>one bundle (plenty coconuts) and (four sago)</i>	<i>coconut</i>
<i>matan kaitamom</i>	<i>one pair (four taros)</i>	<i>taro</i>
<i>Iman kaitamom</i>	<i>one pair (four sago)</i>	<i>sago</i>
<i>fani</i>	<i>some</i>	<i>People & Things</i>

3.4.3. Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers are used to show the order in a group of items, like *first*, *second*, *third* in English.

Example 3.4.3.1: *ainauin, bairuin, baitonin, baibatin, bainimin.*

- A) **Word** *Yau au dura ainauin on atonio a bairuin on ato*
Gloss me my word first is this and second is that
Free My first word is this and my second is that
- B) **Word** *Ubir an baiab ainauin bairuin on inai bainimin farat*
Gloss ubir it's counting first second it went fifth only
Free Ubir counts first, second and only up to fifth.

Word	Gloss
<i>ainauin</i>	first
<i>bairuin</i>	second
<i>baitonin</i>	third
<i>baibatin</i>	fourth
<i>bainimin</i>	fifth

This is how we would translate some ordinal numbers into our language:

Rev. 9:13 ‘The **sixth** angel blew his trumpet’

- A) **Word** *Namon anea nimtereban kaita ba on dour ibabain*
Gloss then angel Five.plus one turn 3.sg cone.shell blew

Mark 14:41 ‘He came the **third** time’

- B) **Word** *On ra baitonin ba inat*
Gloss He time third the came

3.4.4. Other Number-related things

Example 3.4.4.1: Other numbers

- A) **Word** *Tafinin ta*
Gloss pair one
- B) **Word** *Iman ta*
Gloss hand one
- C) **Word** *Matan ta*
Gloss eye one
- D) **Word** *Roa ta*
Gloss bundle one
- E) **Word** *Orot ta.*
Gloss man one

3.4.5. Translation Issues for Numerals and Number Marking

Rules for translating numbers: Numerals are interchangeable with adjectives. They come after the noun they modify. After 5, there is no difference between cardinal and ordinal numbers.

3.5. Demonstratives and Articles

In English, an **indefinite article** tells us that an item is one of a set of things (for example, *a car*). A **definite article** tells us that we are supposed to know which member of the set it is (*the car*) or that it is the only one of its kind (*the sun*). Many PNG languages do not have articles, but some do.

A **demonstrative** (often called a “pointing” word) points you towards the place where the people or things are. They might be near the person speaking (for example *this* dog), or somewhere away from the person who is speaking (for example *that* man), or in some other direction or place.

3.5.1. Articles

Table 3.5.1.1: Articles in our language

We have found no evidence of an article in our language yet.

3.5.2. Demonstratives

Table 3.5.2.1: Demonstratives

Demonstrative	Equivalent in English / TP
<i>atonio</i>	this/these
<i>atonu</i>	that/those

Example 3.5.2.1: Sentences with demonstratives

A) **Word** *Atonio on yau au kuke.*

Gloss This is me my dog

Free This is my dog.

B) **Word** *Atonio sabu on komasis.*

Gloss this people are bad

Free These people are bad.

C) **Word** *Atonu kuke gagamis ruam babaisigeris.*

Gloss those dogs big two noisy

3.5.3. Translation Issues for Articles and Demonstratives

Rule about translating Articles and Demonstratives: Demonstratives come before the noun they describe.

3.6. Basic Noun Phrase Structure

A **noun phrase** is a group of words that together describe a particular object, such as ‘those two big noisy dogs’ in English. Usually there is a common order for the different parts of speech in a noun phrase.

3.6.1. Noun Phrase Examples

Example 3.6.1.1:

A)	Word	Wengar	roroun	rifuin	, yawasin	a	gagamin	kaitamom	on		
	Lex./Word Gloss	tree	leaf	green	fresh	and	big	one	that		
	Lex./Word Cat.	n	n	adj	adj	correlconn	adj	num	dem		
B)	Word	Yau	au	wengar	roroun	mururin	kaitamom	yawasin	gagamin	tani	on
	Lex./Word Gloss	1.sg	my	tree	leaf	red	one	fresh	big	other	that
	Lex./Word Cat.	pron	poss	n	n	adj	num	adj	adj	***	dem
C)	Word	Osi	fifirig	gugudis	ton	on	sareu	eib	mes	sinai.	
	Gloss	3.pl	boys	small	three	3.sg	river	wash	for	went	

Rule for ‘normal’ word order in Noun Phrases:

Demonstrative - Possessive – Noun Phrase – Noun – Adjectives/Numeral

Example 3.6.1.2: Noun Phrases, Different word orders

A)	Word	<i>Roroun</i>	<i>mururin</i>	<i>kaitamom</i>	<i>on</i>		
	Gloss	leaf	red	one	3.sg		
B)	Word	<i>Atonio</i>	<i>roroun</i>	<i>mururin</i>	<i>kaitamom</i>		
	Gloss	this	leaf	red	one		
C)	Word	<i>Baiyobo</i>	<i>ainauin</i>	<i>ebiyoboet</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>mabinai,</i>	
	Gloss	example	first	show	it's	far	
D)	Word	<i>ato</i>	<i>baiyobo</i>	<i>bairuin</i>	<i>ebiyoboet</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>bisinai.</i>
	Gloss	and	example	second	show	it's	near

Rules for when word order can change in Noun Phrases:

3.6.2. Translation Issues for Noun Phrases

Rules for translating Noun Phrases: Nouns and Noun phrases can sometimes be next to each other in a descriptive fashion inside of a larger noun phrase.

Example 3.6.2.1: How to translate Noun Phrases

- A) Word *wa* *bereber*
Gloss canoe tree (a specific kind)
Free A canoe made out of bereber wood
- B) Word *bereber* *wa*
Gloss tree (a specific kind) canoe
Free A canoe made out of bereber wood

3.7. Possession

3.7.1. Direct (Inalienable)

Direct possession is when a possessed noun has part of the word itself telling you who it belongs to, usually as a possessive suffix. For example, *tew* ‘my little brother’ in Awad Bing has the possessed noun *te* with a first person singular possessive suffix *-w*. Direct possession is usually used for nouns which *have* to belong to someone, such as body parts and family members. These kind of nouns are said to be **inalienable**. Examples of direct possession are given in section 3.1.3.

Direct possession in my language:

Direct possession in Ubir occurs with family relationships and body parts using predictable suffixes outlined in section 3.1.4.

3.7.2. Indirect (Alienable)

Indirect possession is when you have one or more words that go with a possessed noun to show you who it belongs to, as in *nanew aab* ‘my house’ in Awad Bing. Often indirect possession is used for **alienable** nouns, which do not *have* to belong to someone (like *house* or *car*).

Example 3.7.2.1: Noun Phrases - Indirect (alienable) possession

Indirect possession uses possessive pronouns similar to the suffixes but occur before the noun and are separate words. They are outlined in section 3.1.3.

3.7.3. Translation Issues for Possession

Rule for translating Possessives:

4. POSTPOSITIONS

4.1. Examples

These are some examples of postpositions in our language:

Example 4.1.1: Postpositions

- A) **Word** *Sabu simama ato on inat goa amon'ai irui.*
Gloss people staying and he came house inside went in
Free The people were staying and he came inside the house.
- B) **Word** *Sabu simama ato kuke on goa babanai irabob.*
Gloss people staying and dog it house under died
Free The people were staying and the dog died under the house.

Word	Gloss
<i>amonai</i>	<i>in / during</i>
<i>auman</i>	<i>with</i>
<i>aietunai</i>	<i>over / above</i>
<i>amosi</i>	<i>through / among</i>
<i>aurin</i>	<i>about / for / to</i>
<i>babanai</i>	<i>under</i>
<i>bisinai</i>	<i>near</i>
<i>gibunai</i>	<i>after</i>
<i>rebenai</i>	<i>across</i>
<i>kounai</i>	<i>behind</i>
<i>nanai</i>	<i>before</i>
<i>emon</i>	<i>off / of</i>

4.2. Translation Issues for (Prepositions / Postpositions)

(Write here anything you find difficult or need to remember when translating articles and demonstratives)

When translating prepositions / postpositions we should think about:

5. VERBS

5.1. Person and Number Marking

5.1.1. Subject Marking

Many languages have markers on the verb to show who or what the **subject** is. The following table shows the subject markers in our language:

Table 5.1.1.1: Verbs - Subject markers

		Subject marker	Example of a verb with subject marker	English / Tok Pisin translation
SG	1 st person	<i>a-</i>	<i>arab</i>	Mi paitim
	2 nd person	<i>u-</i>	<i>urab</i>	Yu paitim
	3 rd person	<i>i-</i>	<i>irab</i>	Em paitim
PL	1 st person inclusive	<i>ta-</i>	<i>tarab</i>	Yumi paitim
	1 st person exclusive	<i>wa-</i>	<i>warab</i>	Mipela paitim
	2 nd person	<i>wo-</i>	<i>worab</i>	Yupela paitim
	3 rd person	<i>si-</i>	<i>sirab</i>	Ol paitim

5.1.2. Object Marking

Many languages also have markers on the verb to show who or what the **object** is. The following table shows the object markers in our language:

Table 5.1.2.1: Verbs - Object markers

		Object marker	Example of a verb with object marker	English / Tok Pisin translation
SG	1 st person	<i>-iu</i>	<i>urabiu</i>	You hit me.
	2 nd person	<i>-im</i>	<i>arabim</i>	I hit you
	3 rd person		<i>arab</i>	I hit him.
PL	1 st person inclusive	<i>-it</i>	<i>iborarabit</i>	He was hitting us (inc)
	1 st person exclusive	<i>-i</i>	<i>iborarabi</i>	He was hitting us (exc)
	2 nd person	<i>-im</i>	<i>aborarabim</i>	I was hitting you (pl)
	3 rd person	<i>-is</i>	<i>aborarabis</i>	I was hitting them

5.1.3. Recipient Marking

Some languages have markers on the verb to show who or what the **recipient** is, for verbs where something is given to someone. The following table show the recipient markers in our language.

Table 5.1.3.1: Verbs - Recipient markers

		recipient marker	Example of a verb with recipient marker	English / Tok Pisin translation
SG	1 st person	-eu	uitem	You gave to me
	2 nd person	-em	aitem	I gave to you
	3 rd person	-ai	aitai	I gave to him
PL	1 st person inclusive	-et	itet	He gave to us (inc)
	1 st person exclusive	-ei	itei	He gave to us (exc)
	2 nd person	-em	aitem	I gave to you
	3 rd person	-es	aite	I gave to them

It is important to note that what was previously the object marker now marks the recipient of a ditransitive clause.

A) Word *Yau pencil Brad a-it-ai*
 Gloss 1.sg pencil Brad 1.sg-gave-3.sg

B) Word *Yau pencil osi a-it-es*
 Gloss 1.sg pencil 3.pl 1.sg-gave-3.pl

5.1.4. Benefactive Marking

Some languages have markers on the verb to show who or what the **beneficiary** is, when somebody does something for someone else. These are called **benefactive** markers. The following table shows the benefactive markers in our language:

Table 5.1.4.1: Verbs - Benefactive markers

		Benefactive marker	Example of a verb with benefactive marker	English / Tok Pisin translation
SG	1 st person	- <i>iu</i>	<i>ibaisiu</i>	I helped myself
	2 nd person	- <i>im</i>	<i>aibaisim</i>	I helped you
	3 rd person	- <i>in</i>	<i>aibaisin</i>	I helped him/her
PL	1 st person inclusive	- <i>it</i>	<i>taibaisit</i>	We all helped ourselves
	1 st person exclusive	- <i>i</i>	<i>waibaisi</i>	We helped ourselves
	2 nd person	- <i>im</i>	<i>waibaisim</i>	Help yourselves
	3 rd person	- <i>is</i>	<i>sibaisis</i>	Helped themselves

The only difference we noticed between object markers and these is that there is a marker for 3.sg when there is a beneficiary while a normal object marker does not mark 3.sg.

5.1.5. Translation Issues for Subject, Object, Recipient and Benefactive Markers

When translating markers related to people/things involved in an action we should remember:

5.2. Tense: Past, Present, Future.

5.2.1. Example:

Example 5.2.1.1: Past

A) Word *Yau rarab aitem*
 Gloss 1.sg yesterday saw.you

Example 5.2.1.2: Present

A) Word *Yau aitem*
 Gloss 1.sg see.you

Example 5.2.1.3: Future

- A) Word *Yau arimon anitem*
Gloss 1.sg in.the.future will.see.you

5.2.2. Translation Issues Related to Tense

When translating tense we need to think about: The distinction between past, present and future are not made grammatically in Ubir. We need context and the use of realis/irrealis to know the difference.

5.3. Aspect

Aspect has to do with the timing of an action or event itself, for example if it is continuing, completed, repeated, and so on.

5.3.1. Continuous:

Continuous aspect (—) describes an action or event that is viewed as carrying on at some point in time. For example, in Tok Pisin, *mi ritim buk i stap* or *mi wok long ritim buk*.

The continuous aspect is marked by reduplication on the verb.

Example 5.3.1.1: Continuous

- A) Word *Jeverei kafakakain on nana eseserer.*
Gloss girl small that still laughing
Free The small girl is still laughing.
- B) Word *Yau on nana buk ab-iab*
Gloss 1.sg that still book reading
Free I am reading a book.

5.3.2. Habitual


Habitual aspect (- - - -) describes an action or event that happens several times, whether in the past or the present. For example, in Tok Pisin, *em i save ritim buk*, or in English ‘he **used to** read books’ or ‘he **often** reads books’.

In Ubir we mark habitual aspect on the verb by adding the suffix -otin.

Example 5.3.2.1: Habitual

- A) **Word** *On buk Baiab-otin*
Gloss He book reader
Free He reads books often.
- B) **Word** *On orot on baikobootin.*
Gloss 3.sg man 3.sg joker
Free The man jokes often.


5.3.3. Repeated

Repeated aspect () describes an action or event that happens repeatedly over a short time. For example, in Tok Pisin, *em i singaut singaut*.

Example 5.3.3.1: Repeated: On kuke on araboboiotin anbabaton.

- A) **Word** *Orot iyasisir ato weira ton iroboge.*
Gloss man rejoice and time three jumped
Free The man jumped three times.


5.3.4. Beginning

Beginning aspect () describes an action or event that is viewed as just beginning. For example, in Tok Pisin, *em i stat long wok*.

Example 5.3.4.1: Beginning aspect:

- A) **Word** *On bobo ibo-suruf.*
Gloss He work started
- B) **Word** *On ayai ibosuruf*
Gloss 3.sg run started
- C) **Word** *Yau ayai abosuruf*
Gloss 1.sg run started

5.3.5. Completed

Completed aspect () describes an action or event that is viewed as having finished. For example, in Tok Pisin, *em i ritim buk pinis*, or in English 'he read a book'.

Example 5.3.5.1: Completed aspect:

- A) **Word** *On buk iyab isawar*
Gloss He book read finish
- B) **Word** *Fifi on buk iyab isawar nono.*
Gloss boy 3.sg book read finish already

5.3.6. Translation Issues Related to Aspect

When translating aspect we need to think about:

5.4. Realis and Irrealis Status

PNG languages often have a difference between realis and irrealis status. **Realis** refers to the more real and certain events, while **irrealis** refers to possible or doubtful events.

5.4.1. Examples

Example 5.4.1.1: Realis and Irrealis

- A) **Word** *Yau rarab anai regai abibib.*
Gloss 1.sg yesterday went bush hunting
Free Yesterday, I went hunting in the bush.
- B) **Word** *Yau rarab atan regai atabib mes ato aisuweigan.*
Gloss 1.sg yesterday go bush hunting for and tired
Free Yesterday, I was going to go hunting in the bush but was tired.
- C) **Word** *Yau raso arimon anan regai anabib.*
Gloss 1.sg tomorrow will go bush hunting
Free Tomorrow I will go hunting in the bush.

5.4.2. Translation Issues for Realis and Irrealis

When translating realis and irrealis: There are several forms of realis and irrealis and is likely more complicated than shown here. But the simplest is that there is a prefix *n-* that marks irrealis and a null form for realis.

5.5. Serial Verbs

Serial verbs mean two or more verbs that go together and that show closely related actions. Often both (or all) the verbs keep at least some of their basic meaning. The whole group of verbs acts as one unit and often the verbs in the group all have the same subject (and object). For example, the meaning of the English verb *bring* is expressed in many PNG languages with a serial verb meaning '(go) get come'. Another example is Tok Pisin, 'Kisim kam'.

5.5.1. Examples

Here are some examples of serial verbs in our language:

Example 5.5.1.1: Serial Verbs

- A) **Word** *Orot bairuin on orot ainuin an fidu ibo imatabir inai itai.*
Gloss man second 3.sg man first his bow took return went gave
Free The second man went, took, returned, and gave the first man's bow to him.
- B) **Word** *awau nanatu anboes wanayai wangat.*
Gloss spouse.my children take will.run out
Free I will take my wife and children and we will run out.
- C) **Word** *Yau arimon men awau nanatu anboes wanayai wangat on.*
Gloss 1.sg will not spouse.my children take will.run out that
Free I will not take my wife and children and run out.

5.5.2. Translation Issues for Serial Verbs

When translating serial verbs: Each verb will take its own subject marker. Though they are often the same marker, they can be different. However, the object marker is only found on one of the verbs in a serial verb construction.

6. CLAUSES

6.1. Transitive clauses

Transitive clauses include a subject, a verb and an object.

6.1.1. Examples:

Our usual word order for a transitive clause is SOV.

Here are some examples:

Example 6.1.1.1: Word order in transitive clauses

- A) Word *Yau foro ayo.*
 Gloss 1.sg pig spear
 Free I speared a pig.
- B) Word *Kuke foro sigi.*
 Gloss dog pig bit
 Free The dog bit the pig.

6.1.2. Translation Issues for Transitive Clauses

When translating transitive clauses:

6.2. Intransitive clauses

Intransitive clauses contain a verb that usually cannot take an object. For example, *he walked*, *he laughed*, *he jumped* in English.

6.2.1. Examples

Here are some examples of intransitive clauses:

Example 6.2.1.1: Intransitive clauses

- A) Word *ato foro irabob.*
 Gloss and pig died
 Free And the pig died.
- B) Word *Fifi orot ikikin.*
 Gloss child man carry
 Free The boy carried

Here are some examples of intransitive clauses with verbs of movement:

Example 6.2.1.2: Movement verbs

- A) Word *ato yau anat*
 Gloss and 1.sg came
- B) Word *Yau ayai*
 Gloss 1.sg ran

Example 6.2.1.3: Voluntary and involuntary actions

- A) Word *yau ayai*
 Gloss 1.sg ran
- B) Word *yau assi*
 Gloss 1.sg sneezed

C) Word *foro irabob*
Gloss pig died

D) Word *irabob*
Gloss it.died

E) Word *orot isawau*
Gloss man sick

Example 6.2.1.4: Process verbs, and other verbs

TypeExampleHere

TypeExampleHere

6.2.2. Translation Issues for Intransitive Clauses

When translating intransitive clauses: If there is no object marker and no serial verb construction, we can suspect it is an intransitive clause. From what we see, intransitive clauses almost always follow the SV order with no additional morphemes or different word orders. Since there are subject markers, a verb can stand alone without a separate word.

6.3. Di-transitive clauses

Clauses that have both an object and a recipient are called **di-transitive**. An English example is: *I gave the book to him.*

6.3.1. Examples:

Example 6.3.1.1: Di-transitive clauses (that have recipients)

A) Word *Orot buk turan itai.*
Gloss man book friend gave
Free The man gave a friend a book.

B) Word *Wei bayu sabu waites.*
Gloss 1.pl food people gave
Free We gave the people food.

C) Word *Wei on sabu bayu waites.*
Gloss 1.pl that people food gave
Free We gave the people food.

D) Word *Orot bairuin on orot ainuin an fidu ibo imatabir inai itai.*
Gloss man second that man first his bow took return went gave
Free The second man took, returned, went, and gave the first man's bow to him.

- E) **Word** *Orot bairuin on fidu ibo imatabir inai orot ainauin itai*
Gloss man second that bow took return went man first gave
Free The second man took, returned, went, and gave the first man the bow.

This is our usual order for sentences that have recipients: The simplest is Agent-Patient-Recipient-Verb. As the sentence is more complex, the word order is not so simple.

6.3.2. Translation Issues for Di-transitive Clauses

When translating di-transitive clauses: The word order (syntax) is very important. To change the word order, additional words must be added to convey the same meaning.

6.4. Semantic roles (noun roles)

6.4.1. Agent

An **agent** deliberately makes an action or event happen. E.g. ‘**Cain** murdered his brother’

Example 6.4.1.1: Agent

- A) **Word** *Orot iyoai foro iyo irabob.*
Gloss man spear pig speared died
Free The man speared the pig with a spear and it died.

6.4.2. Force

A **force** makes an action happen but not deliberately. E.g. ‘**the wind** blew down Job’s house’.

Example 6.4.2.1: Force

- A) **Word** *Sareu igat wengar ikokouen sifufusas.*
Gloss water out tree uproot fell
Free The flood uprooted the trees and they fell.
- B) **Word** *afoi gagamin imatar tafanam engon iraran.*
Gloss drought big happened place whole dried
Free A big drought happened and the whole place dried.

6.4.3. Experiencer

An **experiencer** does not control what happens, and they are not changed by what happens. They feel what happens with their senses or emotions. E.g. ‘**Samuel** heard the sheep’, ‘**Jonah** felt angry’.

Example 6.4.3.1: Experiencer

- A) Word *Leah dura komasin itatam ato iyatatab.*
Gloss Leah word bad heard and was.angry
Free Leah heard bad news and was angry.
- B) Word *Fifi turan duran itatam ato iyababan.*
Gloss boy his.friend news heard and was.sad
Free The boy heard news about his friend and was sad.

6.4.4. Stimulus

A **stimulus** is something that is seen, thought about, or felt. E.g. ‘I saw a **dog**’, ‘The man thought about his **daughter**’.

Example 6.4.4.1: Stimulus

- A) Word *Jever nanatun auris iyamari.*
Gloss woman her.children for thought
Free The woman thought about her children.
- B) Word *Orot dura komasin itatam ato iyatatab.*
Gloss man word bad heard and was.angry
Free The man heard bad news and was angry.

6.4.5. Possessor

A **possessor** is someone who has something. E.g. ‘**Joseph** has a coat’.

Example 6.4.5.1: Possessor

- A) Word *wei on er wai masau auman.*
Gloss 1.pl that with our garden have
Free We have our garden. (We work hard.)
- B) Word *Wei wai goa on boboun a gagamin.*
Gloss 1.pl our house that new and big
Free Our house is new and big.

6.4.6. Location

A **location** is where an action or event takes place. E.g. 'Eli slept in **his bed**', 'She found the coin under **the table**'.

Example 6.4.6.1: Location

- A) Word *Osi nuai nan sabu sigatures.*
Gloss 3.pl island there people found
Free They found people on the island.
- B) Word *Kuke on teboi yenbubur.*
Gloss dog that veranda sleeping
Free The dog was sleeping on the veranda.

6.4.7. Source / Destination

A **source** is where something moves from, a **destination** is where something moves to. E.g. 'Abraham travelled from **Ur** (source) to **Haran** (destination)'.

Example 6.4.7.1: Source & Destination

- A) Word *Wanigela emon warabon au Port Moresby*
Gloss Wanigela from traveled to Port Moresby
Free We traveled from Wanigela to Port Moresby.
- B) Word *Kainantu emon wanai au Ukarumpa*
Gloss Kainantu from went to Ukarumpa
Free We went from Kainantu to Ukarumpa.

6.4.8. Instrument

An **instrument** is used by someone to make something happen. E.g. 'Jael killed Sisera with a **tent peg**' 'Saul attacked David with a **spear**'.

Example 6.4.8.1: Instrument

- A) Word *Ray on siwa ibo ato James ifaitan.*
Gloss Ray 3.sg stick took and James chased
Free Ray took a stick and chased James
- A) Word *Orot bairuin on fawasai kiwiu iyo.*
Gloss man second that spear bird speared
Free The second man speared the bird with a spear.

6.4.9. Accompaniment

An **accompaniment** is someone who does something with someone else. E.g. ‘Moses went to Pharaoh with **his brother**’.

Example 6.4.9.1: Accompaniment

- A) Word *Bradley on an kuke gugudis ruam mat sareu*
Gloss Bradley that his dog small two with river
Word *sirabon rebenai sabu fani mat sinai baikuken mes. awai*
Gloss cross Other.side people some with went hunting for
Free Bradley crossed the river to the other side with his two small dogs and went hunting with some people.
- B) Word *Orot baitonin ba inat ibaisis mat fawas sesasafen.*
Gloss man third 3.sg came helped with spear sharpened
Free A third man came and helped sharpen spears.

6.4.10. Recipient

A **recipient** receives something from someone else. E.g. ‘The angel gave food to **Elijah**’.

Example 6.4.10.1: Recipient

- A) Word *Jever on bayu nanatun ites siyam.*
Gloss woman that food children gave ate
Free The woman gave food to the children and they ate.
- B) Word *Jeverei on buk turan itai*
Gloss girl that book friend gave
Free The girl gave a book to a friend.

6.4.11. Beneficiary

A **beneficiary** is someone who benefits from an action done by someone else. E.g. ‘Dorcas made clothes for **the children**’.

Example 6.4.11.1: Beneficiary

- A) Word *Yau awau on nanatui asi bayu ibotitiwag.*
Gloss 1.sg spouse that children their food prepared
Free My spouse prepared food for the children.
- B) Word *Ben on rawan rus asi goa boboun iyon.*
Gloss Ben that in-law both their house new built
Free Ben built a new house for himself and his in-laws.

6.4.12. Patient

A **patient** is someone or something an action happens to. E.g. 'John ate **a locust**'.

Example 6.4.12.1: Patient

A) **Word** *Peter on wasi foro auman iyan.*

Gloss Peter that taro pig with ate

Free Peter ate taro and a pig.

A) **Word** *Osi ogi sirukou ifeu.*

Gloss 3.pl banana pushed fell

Free They felled a banana tree.

6.4.13. Translation Issues for Noun Roles

When translating Noun roles:

6.5. Adverbs

6.5.1. Place

Example 6.5.1.1: Place Words

Word	Gloss
<i>nin</i>	here
<i>nio</i>	here
<i>atonio</i>	this
<i>nan</i>	there
<i>ato</i>	that

Example 6.5.1.2: Phrases showing place

A) **Word** *Wei foro nin warab.*

Gloss 1.pl pig here hit

Free We hit the pig here.

- B) **Word** *Fifi oyau babanai nan ifeu*
Gloss boy mountain under there fell
Free The boy fell from the mountain.

6.5.2. Manner

Example 6.5.2.1: Manner words

Word	Gloss
<i>sunubsunub</i>	slowly
<i>kakafai</i>	carefully
<i>sasasan</i>	quickly
<i>aumiaet</i>	loudly
<i>baiduduranin</i>	miraculously
<i>komasinai</i>	badly

Example 6.5.2.2: Phrases showing Manner

- A) **Word** *on anbib on sunubsunub*
Gloss 3.sg walk that slowly
- B) **Word** *orot on kakafai nan oyau tefanai wa eboai*
Gloss man that carefully there mountain on.top vehicle drives
Free The man carefully drives the vehicle on the mountain.

6.5.3. Time

Word	Gloss
<i>rarab</i>	yesterday
<i>ari</i>	ari
<i>raso</i>	tomorrow
<i>fomenei</i>	morning
<i>fom</i>	night
<i>rafufur</i>	always
<i>Wera tata</i>	sometimes
<i>asuku</i>	rarely

Example 6.5.3.1: Time words

A) Word *osi rarab sinat*

Gloss 3.pl yesterday came

B) Word *fifi tatarin on etotou*

Gloss boy baby that crying

Free The baby boy is crying.

Note We know that it is now because of continuous aspect.

6.5.4. Degree

Word	Gloss
<i>fafa</i>	very
<i>ambabaton</i>	too
<i>fofonin</i>	enough
<i>forabin</i>	hot
<i>sibuin</i>	cold

Example 6.5.4.1: Degree words

A) Word *kuke on gagaminfafa*

Gloss dog that big.very

B) Word *goa on kafakakain ambabaton*

Gloss house that small tiny

6.5.5. Sentence Adverb

Word	Gloss
<i>yababanai</i>	sadly
<i>yatatabai</i>	angrily
<i>tait</i>	perhaps
<i>anitin</i>	probably

Example 6.5.5.1: Sentence adverb words

6.6. Negative Clauses and Negation

Negative clauses are those which include a meaning like *no* or *not* in English.

6.6.1. Examples

Example 6.6.1.1: Words that say 'no'

- A) **Word** *Yau auriu on rura ambin.*
Gloss 1.sg For.me that coconut nothing
Free I do not have a coconut.
- B) **Word** *Rura ambin on mes bayu men tanfis on.*
Gloss coconut nothing that so food not squeeze that
Free There is no coconut so we did not squeeze (cream) it.

Example 6.6.1.2: Negative commands

- A) **Word** *Men uniamai!.*
Gloss NEG make.it
Free Don't do that.
- B) **Word** *Men unruyein!.*
Gloss NEG touch.it
Free Don't touch that.

Example 6.6.1.3: Strong negatives

- A) **Word** *Men meyan uniamai!!.*
Gloss NEG ever make.it
- B) **Word** *abimom eruruyein!!.*
Gloss must.not touch.it

Example 6.6.1.4: Words with a negative meaning

TypeExampleHere

TypeExampleHere

6.6.2. Translation Issues for Negative Clauses

When translating negative clauses:

7. SENTENCES

7.1. Conjunctions

7.1.1. Examples

Word	Gloss
<i>a</i>	and
<i>ai</i>	Or
<i>mes</i>	If,/ so
<i>baise</i>	But
<i>yabin</i>	because
<i>anwerai</i>	When,/ while,/ whenever,/ since

Example 7.1.1.1: Conjunctions

A) **Word** *Osi men sinai sigayam on yabin usan iyayar on mes*

Gloss they not go school that because rain raining that for

Free They did not go to school because it was raining.

B) **Word** *Meyan unnanat on karun au buk auman ebo enat*

Gloss when coming that please my book with take come

Free When you come, please bring my book with you.

Note *Meyan unnanat on* is a complete clause. However, there is not connecting word between these two clauses.

C) **Word** *Yau agogoi pineapple anan baise auriu on pineapple ambin*

Gloss 1.sg wanted pineapple eat but For.me that pineapple no

Free I wanted to eat pineapple but I have no pineapple.

7.1.2. Translation Issues Related to Conjunctions

When translating conjunctions: We can join clauses together without a conjunction sometimes like example B above. Conjoining words come before the clause they refer to.

7.2. Commands (Imperative Sentences)

7.2.1. Examples

Example 7.2.1.1: Commands

A) **Word** *E'nai yeib!*.
Gloss You.go bath

B) **Word** *Om men uni'fonaseir!*.
Gloss 2.sg NEG disobey

7.2.2. Translation Issues Related to Commands

When translating commands:

8. Questions

8.1. Questions (Interrogative Sentences)

8.1.1. Yes-No Questions

Example 8.1.1.1:

A) **Word** *Osi sabu asi yawas min usagob?*
Gloss 3.pl people their lifestyle these know
Free Do you know these people?

B) **Word** *Om min arimon unifonabo?*.
Gloss 2.sg this will obey
Free Will you obey?

8.1.2. WH Questions

When we want to find out more than just 'yes' or 'no', in English we ask questions using question words such as *Who? What? Which? How many? When? Where? How? Why?* (People sometimes call these WH questions because most of these English question words start with wh.)

Word	Gloss
<i>meyan</i>	when
<i>menan</i>	which
<i>abifan</i>	what
<i>menan</i>	where
<i>iyafan</i>	who
<i>aibo</i>	why
<i>mamaba</i>	how

Example 8.1.2.1:

- A) **Word** *Yau au bayu on menan?*
Gloss 1.sg my food that where
Free Where is my food?.
- B) **Word** *Meyan weie tanan tanam teteren?*
Gloss when then go eat picnic
Free When are we going for picnic?.

8.1.3. Translation Issues for Questions

When translating questions:

9. Reason, Result, Purpose

9.1. Reason and Result

Here are some sentences that show a reason and a result in our language.

Example 9.1.1: Reason and Result

	<i>Result</i>	<i>Reason</i>
A) Word	<i>yau abiyasisir yabin on God ibaisiu</i>	
Gloss	1.sg am.happy because that God helped.me	
Free	I am happy because God helped me.	

	<i>Result</i>	<i>Reason</i>
B) Word	<i>yau on arab yabin on yau irabiu</i>	
Gloss	1.sg 3.sg hit because 3.sg 1.sg hit	
Free	I hit him because he hit me.	

Reason/Result Rule:

Usually, the result comes before the reason.

9.1.1. Translation Issues for Reason and Result

When we translate Reason/Result sentences, we need to think about we need to think about what order we put the sentence to sound most natural in Ubir.

9.2. Purpose and Result

Here are some sentences that show a purpose and a result in our language.

Example 9.2.1: Purpose and Result

	<i>Result</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
A) Word	<i>Yau au town anai yabin yau agogoi bayu attobon</i>	
Gloss	1.sg to town went because 1.sg wanted food buy	
Free	I went to town because I wanted to buy food.	

	<i>Result</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
B) Word	<i>On wengar itar isur goa yonin aurin</i>	
Gloss	3.sg tree cut down house build for	
Free	He cut down a tree for building a house.	

Purpose/Result Rule:

Usually, the result comes before the purpose.

9.2.1. Translation Issues for Purpose and Result

When we translate Purpose/Result sentences, we need to think about what order we put the sentence to sound most natural in Ubir.

10. Appendix

Ayubis wat an on dudur.

Picture story

Word *Orot tani imair an fawas esasafin*

Gloss man a sat his spear sharpening

Cat. n art v pro n v

Free A man sat sharpening his spear.

Word *Orot turan inat ibaisin rus an fawas sesasafen .*

Gloss man friend came helped both his spear making

Cat n pro v v pro pro n v

Free A man's friend came and helped him sharpening his spears.

Word *On orot turan taniba inat ato ibaisis mat an fawas sesasafen*

Gloss That man friend another came and helped with his spear sharpening

Cat dem n pro adj v conn v post pro n v

Free The man's other friend came and helped them sharpening his spears.

Word *On orot turan ainauin on , orot ainauin an*

Gloss that man friend first that man first his

Cat dem n pro num dem n num pro

Word *fawas a fidu on iboen weie fawas tani fiduai iyein*

Gloss spear and bow that took.them than spear a bow put

Cat n conn n dem v conn n art n v

Word *weie itifair ato mamaba kiwiu inyoai on ebinonotai*

Gloss than pulled.it and how bird to.spear that thinking

Cat conn v conn *** n v dem v

Free That man's first friend took the spears and the bow of his friend, and put one spear on the bow and pulled it and was thinking about how to spear the bird.

Word *Ato on orot min fawas tani fiduai iyein*

Gloss and that man same spear a on.bow put

Cat conn dem n conn n art v v

Word *itifair kiwiu kuak rorounai emama on inyoai mes*
Gloss pulled.it bird pawpaw stem staying that spear for.
Cat v n n n v dem v post
Free And that man put one spear on the bow and pulled it to spear a bird sitting on the pawpaw's stem.

Word *On min kiwiu iyo ato kiwiu fawas auman ifeu*
Gloss he same bird speared and bird spear with fell
Cat dem conn n v conn n n post v
Free He speared the bird and it fell with the spear.

Word *On orot kiwiu taniba iyo ato oneb fawas auman ifeu*
Gloss that man bird another speared and also spear with fell
Cat dem n n adj v conn adj n post v
Free That man speared another bird and it also fell with a spear.

Word *Namon orot bairuin on orot ainauin an fidu ibo imatabir inai itai*
Gloss Then man second that man first his bow took return went gave
Cat *** n num dem n num pro n v v v v
Free Then the second man returned and gave the bow to the first man.

Baikukenawai an dudur.

This is my hunting story

Word *Ratani fomenei , yau natu rui wai fawas waboen ,*
Gloss one.day morning me son both our spears took
Cat n n pro n pro pro n v

Word *wai kuke wayores ato wanai regai baikukenawai mes*
Gloss our dogs called and went bush hunting. for.
Cat pro n v conn v n v post
Free One morning me and my son got our spears called our dogs and went into the bush to hunt.

Word *Waikukenawai wanan ato wai kuke foro tani sigaturai* ,
Gloss were.hunting going and our dogs pig. a found
Cat v v conn pro n n art v

Word *sifaitan iyayai inai wengar ann aurin ato nan itawar* ,
Gloss chased ran went a.tree legs to and there stood
Cat v v v n n post conn adj v

Word *wei wayai wanai ato yau foro ayo irabob* ,
Gloss we ran went and me pig. speared died
Cat pro v v conn pro n v v

Word *ato uram astin ann iman auten ato abogai natu orot*
Gloss and string cut legs hands tied and lift child man
Cat conn n v n n v conn v n n

Word *ikikin ato wamatabirmen wanat waiaugo* .
Gloss carried and return came our.home
Cat v conn v v adj

Free We were hunting and our dogs found one pig, chased it and it ran to a tree and stood at the trunk. We ran to the pig and I speared it. Then I cut the string and tied the hands and legs, lifted it and my son carried it and we returned home.