Words in Ama

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Abstract

This paper is part of a morphosyntactic description of Ama, a Papuan language spoken in Papua New Guinea. It contains a brief phonology and sections on morphology, word classes and phrases.

Complex verb morphology is typical of Papuan languages and Ama is no exception. Person, number, gender and case are marked on the verb as are tense, aspect and mood. Suppletive verb stems are common. Their main function is to express number according to an ergative - absolutive system. Noun morphology is less complex. There is a three-way gender distinction, but even that is mainly marked on the verb.

One of the more interesting features of the verb morphology in Ama is its split case-marking system. Apart from the already mentioned ergative - absolutive system, Ama also features an active - non-active system as well as a neutral ditto. These three case marking systems are morphologically marked on the verb. A fourth system is marked by clitics on the nominal phrase and includes more peripheral case roles. In addition, its degree of animacy will sometimes determine an argument's role.

List of Abbreviations[1]

∅	zero morpheme		FUT	future
*	ungrammatical		GEN	genitive
( )₃	a grammatical structure repeated up to (3) times		GIVE	benefactive
			GO	progressive
/	either or		gram.	grammatical
+	portmanteau		IMP	imperative
=	equal		IN/incl.	inclusive
1	first person		INAL	inalienable possession
2	second person		IR	irrealis
3	third person		IT	iterative
A	actor		KIN	kinship
ABL	ablative		LOC/Loc.	locative
ADJ/Adj.	adjectiv(e/al)		M/masc.	masculine
ADV/Adv.	adverb(ial)		MAL	malfactive
ADVR	adverbialiser		MIST.ASMP	mistaken assumption
AG	agent		N	noun
ALL	allative		NC	nominalised clause
AN	animate		NEG	negative
ATEL	atelic		NG	noun group
BEN	benefactive		NONP/non-pl.	non-plural
C	compound gender		NP	noun phrase
C	consonant (in phonology)		NS/non-sg.	non-singular
CDA	compounding: direction away		NUM	number
			P/pl.	plural
CDT	compounding: direction towards		PAT	patient
			PERF	perfect
CON	contrast(ive)		PERP	peripheral phrase
Cond.	conditional		PR	present
CP	comment (phrase)		PROG	progressive
D/dl.	dual		PRON/Pron.	pronoun
DEM/dem.	demonstrative		PROP	proper name
DIR	direction		PUT	stative
DNT	deontic		QW	question word
DV	dummy verb		RC	relative clause
EMPH	emphasis		RED	reduplication
EPST/Epist.	epistemic		RFLX	reflexive
ERG	ergative		RIR	remote irrealis
EV	evaluating		RPST	remote past
EX/excl.	exclusive		S/sg.	singular
F/fem.	female		SEE	try
FAV	favour		SEND	change of place or condition
FOC	focus marker			
FRUST.INT	frustrated intention			

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[1] The verbs in capital letters, e.g. GIVE, GO, PUT, have the grammatical function stated here.
  The abbreviations using the lower case are used in running text, tables and in free translations.

SF	singular feminine	TOPQ	topic marker in a question
sfxs	suffixes	TPST	today's past
SHOOT	on behalf of	U	undergoer
SM	singular masculine	UNQ	unique
SPEC	specifier	V	verb
STAT	stative	V	vowel (in phonology)
syll.	syllable		
TAKE.FROM	malfactive	WALK.ABOUT	scattered action
TAM	tense, aspect, mood	YPST	yesterday's past
Temp.	temporal		
TOP	topic marker		

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is a description of the phonemes, morphemes, words and phrases of the Ama language, also called Sawiyanu. The forms encountered will be described in a basically structural way "interpreting them in the light of the language's essentially human and communicative character" (Payne 1997:11).

Ama is a fairly typical Papuan language, conforming to many of the features of these languages as they are described in Foley (1986:12). It is basically a verb final language. It has a simple noun morphology, but the verb morphology is complex. There are suppletive verb stems (marking number). Actor[2] and undergoer agreement is marked on the verb as are tense and mood. There is a three-way gender distinction in the nouns, which is, however, mainly marked on the verb. Though Ama lacks the switch reference system typical of many other Papuan languages (ibid.:183f), this is amply compensated for by the widespread topic marking system described in Årsjö (1994).

One of the intriguing features of the language is its grammaticalised split case-marking system (see section 5.1.4 (Marking Person, Number, Gender and Case) for details).

The organisation of the paper is as follows. In section 2 some general information about the language will be given. Section 3 is an abbreviated description of the phonology. In section 4 the morphology, including its morphophonemics, will be described. In this section seven morphological processes[3] will be presented: suffixation, prefixation, stem modification, suppletion, reduplication, compounding and cliticisation, and it will be noted in what language specific operations[3] these processes are used, e.g. marking of tense, aspect or mood in the verb or marking inalienable possession on kinship nouns. Describing the word classes in section 5, it will be noted, especially in regards to the verb, that different morphological processes may be used for the same operation, e.g. marking of number. Section 6 describes the different phrases in the language. Section 7 is a brief summary of the paper.

2. LANGUAGE INFORMATION

The Ama language is spoken by a group of people in the Ambunti district of the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG). The people are semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers. Children grow up learning to speak the language. Especially the boys also learn to understand Tok Pisin, one of the national languages. As they grow older they learn to speak it. Women do not usually speak Tok Pisin though some understand it. There are about 450 speakers of this language group.

According to Wurm (1982), Ama is a Papuan language, belonging to the Left May (or Arai) Phylum-Level Family, which comprises, apart from Ama, five other language groups: Rocky Peak, Iteli, Nimo, Bo and Owiniga. Rocky Peak is, however, actually part of the Iteli language. The languages are mutually unintelligible even though the total population of the Left May family is only about 1500. Within the language group of Ama there is no dialect variation.

The Ama language is mentioned in some works on language classification by Laycock (1973) and Wurm (1982). There is a published survey report by Conrad and Dye (1975). There are also a number of unpublished manuscripts specifically on the Ama language as well as a few published papers. Papers concerning the phonology are: S. and B. Årsjö (1974), B. Årsjö (1980), Tillitsson (1987) and S. and B. Årsjö (1994). Issues relating to the orthography/writing system are discussed in: S. and B. Årsjö (1981) and Clifton (1988). Årsjö (1994) is a fairly detailed description of Ama's extensive topic marking system. There are no known descriptions of the other languages in the language family.

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[2] The terms 'actor' and 'undergoer' are used following Foley & Van Valin (1984).

[3] The terms 'morphological process' and 'morphological operation' are used in accordance with Payne (1997:376). (See section 4.2 (Morphological Processes) for details.)

This paper is part of a more detailed description of the Ama grammar than has earlier been attempted, though a sketch can be found in S. and B. Årsjö (1975), S. Årsjö (1978a, 1978b) and B. Årsjö (1978a, 1978b). In this paper morphemes, words and phrases are covered in some detail. The data[4] for the paper was collected between 1973 and 1991 under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL). It was mainly collected in the village of Kawiya where the author lived intermittently for about half of the period mentioned above. People from all other Ama villages visited regularly. The data consists of 97 texts, 33 transcribed oral and 64 written. It also includes a dictionary with about 1700 entries and a number of locally authored and translated books including the New Testament. A wordlist based on the New Testament contains 11 307 unique forms.

3. PHONOLOGY

The phonology of the Ama language will be presented in an abbreviated form using mainly tables and examples. The basic segmental features will be presented first. It will be followed by sections on syllable patterns and suprasegmentals. The last section outlines the orthography.

3.1 Basic Features

3.1.1 Consonants

There are twelve phonemic consonants in Ama.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p	t			k	
Nasal	m	n				
Fricative	ɸ	s				h
Approximant				j		
Lateral Approximant			ɭ			

/w/ voiced labio-velar approximant

/kʷ/ voiceless unaspirated labialised velar plosive

Note: The plosives are unaspirated.

The /s/ is more retracted, [s̠], than the corresponding English sound.

The /h/ is rare and occurs only preceding /a/, except for loan-words.

The /kʷ/ occurs only morpheme initially preceding /a/, /ai/ and /au/.

Examples of phonemic consonants in word initial and medial position

/p/	/pau/	'chest band'	/w/	/wamɒ/	'mosquito'
	/apu/	'tail'		/ewɒ/	'water'
/m/	/ma/	'possum'	/t/	/ta/	'fire'
	/imɒ/	'talk'		/itɒɭɒ/	'bitter'
/ɸ/	/ɸau/	'look out!'	/n/	/nu/	'house'
	/aɸɒi/	'sago shoot'		/ijanɒkɒ/	'pain'

Words in Ama

/s/	/sa/	'rain'		/j/	/ju/	'mountain'
	/asi/	'ground'			/sijɒli/	'big'
/ʎ/	/ʎa/	'fish'		/h/	/hani/	'what'
	/aʎu/	'child'			/jɒhapɒu/	'bean'
/k/	/ku/	'mark'		/kʷ/	/kʷami/	'sweetheart'
	/iki/	'claw'			/pu-kʷai/	'hear!' (IR-perceive)

Phonological variation of consonants

The following phonemic consonants have more than one allophone:

/n/   [ŋ]   occurs before /k/ instead of /nɒ/ in rapid speech
      ti-noki   /tinɒke/   [tɪŋke]   come.P-1NS.EX.A 'we (excl.) came'

      [n]   occurs elsewhere

/ɸ/   [ʍ]   occurs before /u/
            /fu/   [ʍu]   'pig'

      [ɸ]   occurs elsewhere

/ʎ/   [ɾ]   an alveolar flap, occurs following /tɒ/. It also occurs in free variation with /ʎ/ following /sɒ/.

            /tɒlɒ/   [trɒ]   'stand'
            /sɒli/   [səɾɪ]/[səʎɪ]   'black'

      [ʎ]   occurs elsewhere

/k/   [kʷ]   occurs word medially between /u/ and /a/, /ai/ or /ɒi/
      [k]   occurs elsewhere. This means that the contrast between /k/ and /kʷ/ is neutralised in this
             position
             utukai   /utukai/   [utʊkwaɪ]   leave   'leave'
             tu-kwai /tukwai/   [tʊkwaɪ]   PR-perceive   'hears'

Contrasts, consonants

The following series contrast:

/p/	/pau/	'breast band'	—		
/ɸ/	/ɸau/	'watch out!'	—		
/m/	/imau/	'kind of bark'	/ma/	'possum'
/w/	/wau/	'sorcery'	/wa/	'what (did you say)?'
/t/	/tau/	'three'	/ta/	'fire'
/n/	/nau/	'cup'	/na/	'yes'
/s/	/sau/	'stand up (pl.)'	/sa/	'rain'
/ʎ/	—		/ʎa/	'fish'
/j/	/jau/	'dead'	/ja/	'I/me'
/k/	/kau/	'take away'	/ka/	'built'
/kʷ/	—		/kʷa/	'edge'
/h/	—		/ha/	'comfort'

3.1.2 Vowels

There are seven phonemic monophthongs and four phonemic diphthongs in Ama.

Vowels: Monophthongs

	Front	**Back**
Closed	i	u
Half-closed	e	o
Half-open		ɔ
Open	a	ɒ

Note: The phonetic manifestation of /i/ is always [ɪ].

The /e/ is always slightly raised.

Examples of phonemic monophthongs in word initial, medial and final position

/i/	/isaunɒ/	'tongue'	/u/	/unu/	'shoot him'
	/sijɒɭɒ/	'name'		/puwɒ/	'up'
	/kɒɭɒni/	'animal'		/aɭu/	'child'
/e/	/ewɒ/	'water'	/o/	/o/	'bird'
	/keki/	'saw'		/tonɒ/	'skin'
	/ɸənɒpe/	'tobacco'		/mɒto/	'true'
			/ɔ/	/ɔnɒ/	'drum'
				/ani-jɔ-knɒ/	'bring down' (bring-CDT-go.down)
				/kɔ/	'jaw'
/a/	/anɒ/	'get'	/ɒ/	/ɒɭi/	'seed'
	/ɐnapɒ	'barren'		/nɒni/	'woman'
	/uɭuwa/	'wash'		/nɒkɒ/	'man'

Phonological variation of monophthongs

The following phonemic monophthongs have more than one allophone:

/a/	[ɐ]	occurs morpheme initially before a syllable containing a diphthong, or if more than one syllable follow, or in any position if unstressed

		anoi	/anɒi/	[ɐnʌɪ]	'my mother'
		t-amoli	/tamɒli/	[tɐmɭɪ]	'PR-go.upriver'
		kawi-yo-tumo	/kawijɔtumɒ/	[kɐwɪ'jɔtʊmɒ]	'take-bring-come'

	[a]	occurs elsewhere

/u/	[ʊ]	occurs in unstressed positions
		/muɭu/ [mʊ'ɭu] 'heart'
	[u]	occurs elsewhere

/ɒ/	[∅]~[ˠ]	∅ varies with [ˠ] (a very weak manifestation of the phoneme) in unstressed positions between /p/-/ɭ/, /ɸ/-/ɭ/, /m/-/ɭ/, /t/-/ɭ/, /k/-/ɭ/ and /ɸ/-/n/, /m/-/n/, /k/-/n/. Between /ɸ/-/ɭ/, /m/-/ɭ/, and /m/-/n/ [ˠ] is the preferred variant.
		/kɒɭɒɭi/ [kɭɒ'ɭɪ] 'open (pl.)'
		/mɒɭɒpɒi/ [mˠɭʌ'pɛɪ] 'many'

[ə]~[ʌ]	[ə] varies with [ʌ] in unstressed position though neither occurs word finally.

Word initially, and following [j] and [w], [ʌ] is the preferred variant.

/tɒpɒlimɒ/	[tə'pʅimɒ]	'sew'
/amɒlɒki/	['ɐmʅʌkɪ]	'night'
/wɒli/	[wʌ'ʅɪ]	'my friend'
/ɒsi/	[ʌ'sɪ]	'land'

[ɒ]	occurs elsewhere

Vowels: Diphthongs

ai	ɒi
au	ɒu

Note: /ai/ and /au/ have the stress on the first vowel: ['aɪ], ['aʊ]

/ɒi/ and /ɒu/ have the stress on the second vowel except for the allophone [ɛɪ]; [ʌ'i]/['ɛɪ], [ʌ'u]/[ɒ'u]

(The loudness and length that are the two parts of stress in Ama are part of the vowel quality. For further details see section 3.3.1 (Stress and Length).)

Examples of phonemic diphthongs in word initial, medial and final position

/ai/	/ainɒ/	'pandanus fruit'	/ɒi/	/ɒinɒ/	'like that'
	/itɒunijaimɒ/	'good'		/kɒnɒi-sɒ/	'later today' (now-ALL)
	/ɒʅai/	'today'		/mɒi/	'we (incl.)/you (pl.)'

/au/	/auwa/	'my brother'	/ɒu/	/ɒuwɒsi/	'be ashamed'
	/isaunɒ/	'tongue'		/sɒuwai/	'surpass'
	/kau/	'take away'		/kɒu/	'adornment'

Phonological variation of diphthongs

The following phonemic diphthongs have more than one allophone:

/ɒi/	[ɛɪ]	occurs word initially and medially		
		/ɒinɒ/	[ɛɪnɒ]	'like that'
		/ɒiʅɒ/	[ʅɛɪʅɒ]	'rice'
	[ʌɪ]	occurs elsewhere		
		/kɒnɒi/	[knʌɪ]	'now'
/ɒu/	[ɒu]	occurs following /w/		
		/ɒʅuwɒu/	[ʌʅʊwɒu]	'dog'
	[ʌu]	occurs elsewhere		

Contrasts, all vowels including diphthongs

The following series contrast:

/i/	/ki/	'plain'	/ti/	'come (pl.)'	/si/	'a type of fruit'
/e/	/ke/	'see'			/fase/	'help'
/a/	/ka/	'built'	/ta/	'fire'	/sa/	'rain'
/u/	/ku/	'mark'	/tu/	'thumb'	/su/	'thorn'
/o/	/ko/	'cloud'	/to/	'sago'	/so/	'exchange'
/ɔ/	/kɔ/	'jaw'				
/ɒ/	/kɒ/	'build'	/tɒ/	'bread fruit'	/i-sɒ/	'said to her' (say-3SF.ABS)

/ai/	/akai/	'put'			/sainɒ/	'understand'
/au/	/kau/	'take away'	/tau/	'three'	/sau/	'stand up (pl.)'
/ɒi/	/kɒi/	'we/us (excl.)'	/tɒi/	'they/them'	/sɒi/	'let's go'
/ɒu/	/kɒu/	'adornment'	/tɒu/	'faeces'		

3.2 Syllable Patterns

There are only two syllable patterns in Ama. They are V and CV. The V syllable only occurs word initially and in one syllable words. The vowel may be a monophthong or a diphthong.

Syllables[5]

		One Syll. Word	**Word Initial**	**Word Medial**	**Word Final**
V		/a/ 'tree'	/i.wɒ/ 'leaf'		
		/ai/ 'sickness'	/au.wa/ 'brother'		
CV		/ta/ 'fire'	/nɒ.ni/ 'woman'	/ʌ.lu.wɒu/ 'dog'	/nɒ.kɒ/ 'man'
		/kɒi/ 'we/us (excl.)'	/ɒu.wɒ/ 'anoint'	/i.sau.nɒ/ 'tongue'	/a.lu.wai/ 'follow'

3.3 Suprasegmentals

In this section stress, length, nasalisation, tone and intonation[6] will be briefly described. Stress, length and nasalisation are not contrastive, whereas tone and intonation are.

3.3.1 Stress and Length

A phonological word in Ama is defined as having one stressed syllable. Stress is in most cases predictable as it occurs on the heaviest syllable of the word. Heaviness is usually tied to vowel quality but sometimes to certain suffixes. There are certain words, however, where these two criteria fail to predict the stress.

There are two parts to stress in Ama: loudness and length, i.e. a stressed syllable has a longer vowel than an unstressed one.

The hierarchy of heaviness

The stress is usually placed on the heaviest syllable in the word. In Ama a heavy syllable is a syllable with a heavy nucleus consisting of a vowel that as part of its quality is louder and longer than other vowels in the same word. For example, the vowel /a/ is always louder and longer than /i/ or /u/. It has been found, depending on vowel quality, that all vowels including diphthongs can be arranged in a hierarchy of heaviness. Usually a syllable with a heavy vowel is stressed if there is no syllable with a nucleus that is higher up in the hierarchy. Starting with the heaviest vowel, the hierarchy is as follows:

/ai/, /au/	/isikɒkai/	[ɪsɪkɒ'kaɪ]	'plant'
	/auwa/	['auwa]	'my brother'
/a/	/ɒisamu/	[ɛɪ'samʊ]	'sago pudding for initiation'
	/nakɒ/	['nakɒ]	'blood'
	/ani/	['anɪ]	'louse'

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[5] The period in the example words in the table signals the syllable juncture.

[6] These features will be marked in the phonetic writing only where relevant for the discussion.

/ɒi/, /ɒu/	/ɒini/	['ɛɪnɪ]	'flatter'
	/ititɒuni/	[ɪtɪ'tɒunɪ]	'good (pl.)'
/ɔ/	/ɔl̪ɒ/	['ɔl̪ɒ]	'tree grub'
/i/	/il̪ɒlu/	['ɪl̪ʌl̪ʊ]	'cargo'
/u/	/ul̪o/	['ul̪o]	'wound'
/e/, /o/	/enɒ/	['enɒ]	'seed'
	/tonɒ/	['tonɒ]	'skin'
/ɒ/	/nɒkɒ/	[nʌ'kɒ]	'man'

A syllable containing the vowel /ɒ/ is stressed only if there are no other kind of vowel present in the word.

1)	/nɒni/	[nə'nɪ]	'woman'
2)	/anijɒpa/	[ʌnɪjʌ'pa]	'forever'
3)	/sɒl̪ɒ/	[sə'l̪ɒ]	'laugh'

If a two or more syllable word contains only one kind of vowel the last occurrence tends to attract the stress.

4)	/unu/	[ʊ'nu]	'shoot him'
5)	/isi/	[ɪ'sɪ]	'garden'

Heavy suffixes

There are certain suffixes that attract stress, and are therefore called "heavy". Seemingly they bypass at least part of the above hierarchy. Some of them are:

/-kɒ/	[-kɒ]	'3NS.U'
/-kɒnɒ/	[-knɒ]	'go down'
/-jɔ/	[-jɔ]	'moving towards'

6) *fasi-**ko*** [fasɪ'kɒ]
help-3NS.U
'help them'

7) *t-amu(-)**kono*** [tɐmʊ'knɒ]
PR-go(-)down
'goes down'

8) *kawi-yo-tumo* [kɐwɪ'jɔtʊmɔ]
take.away.AN-CDT-come
'bring him'

Another suffix /-tɒnɒ/ '3INAL', used on inalienable nouns, perturbs the stress so that it falls on the syllable immediately preceding it.

9) /auwa/ ['auwa] 'my brother'
brother.my

10) /auwa-tɒnɒ/ [au'watənɒ] 'his/her brother'
brother-3INAL

There are certain words that seem to be exceptions to the above stress rules, for example:

    11)   /ewɒ/   [e'wɒ] 'water'

Length

As mentioned above length is part of stress in Ama. Stressed syllables have longer vowels.

    12)   /ɒnu/   [ʌ'nu:]   'there'

    13)   /ani/   ['a:nɪ]   'louse'

3.3.2 Nasalisation

Nasalisation is a common phonetic feature of the Ama language, but it is not phonemic. Within a word, all vowels preceded by a nasal consonant are nasalised until a non-nasal consonant occurs to break it. The semi-vowels /j/ and /w/ do not block the spreading, however.

    14)   /nɒni/   [nɔ̃nĩ]   'woman'

    15)   /nɒkɒ/   [nʌ̃kɒ]   'man'

    16)   /nijɒu/   [nĩjʌ̃ũ]   'nest'

There is one exception: /a/   [ã]   'tree'

There is no word with the phonetic form *[a].

3.3.3 Tone

There is phonemic word tone contrasting on one and two syllable words. The contrastive patterns are a rising / and a rising-falling /\ tone on the last stressed syllable.

    17)   / í:/   'string bag'

    18)   / î:/   'tooth'

    19)   /ɒ'mú:/   'nose'

    20)   /ɒ'mû:/   'moon'

3.3.4 Intonation

There are four contrastive intonation patterns in Ama: **falling**, signalling a final statement, **level**, signalling a non-final statement, **rising**, signalling a temporal sequence and **rising-falling**, signalling a question.

The examples under this heading are in orthography. The following punctuation is used to signal the four intonation patterns: falling intonation is marked in the orthography by a full stop,

            level intonation by a comma,

            rising intonation by a semi-colon and

            rising-falling intonation by a question mark.

Falling Intonation Pattern   -   Final statement

    21)   *Noko mo   utukai-ki-∅.*
          man   TOP leave-RPST-1/3S.A
          'The man left.'

Level Intonation Pattern   -   Non-final clause

    22)   *Sa   tumo somiso mo, ya mana-imo.*
          rain come without TOP 1S go-FUT
          'If it does not rain I will go.'

Rising Intonation Pattern - Time sequence

23) *Nu-ki-noki,   nu-ki-noki,   nu-ki-noki;   Ama-ki   mo*
     go-RPST-1NS.EX.A go-RPST-1NS.EX.A go-RPST-1NS.EX.A a.name-plain TOP

     ti-ki-noki.
     come-RPST-1NS.EX.A
     'We went and went and went and (finally) arrived at Ama.'

Rising-Falling Intonation Pattern- Question

24) *Ni no   hani?*
     his TOPQ what
     'What is this?'

3.4 Orthography

The following orthography is used for the Ama language since 1980.[7]

/a	e	ɸ	h	i	k	kʷ	ɭ	m	n	ɒ	ɔ	p	s	t	o		u	w	j /
<a	i	f	h	i	k	kw	l	m	n	o	o	p	s	t	u,uo		u	w	y >
<A	I	F	H	I	K	Kw	L	M	N	O	O	P	S	T	U,Uo		U	W	Y >

3.4.1 Orthographic Conventions

Phonemic tone is not written.

Based on psycholinguistic testing the following under-differentiating is practised, i.e. the same orthographic symbol is used for more than one phoneme as follows:

/i/	<i>	/isɒni/	<isoni>	'here and now'
/e/	<i>	/enɒ/	<ino>	'seed'
/u/	<u>	/kuɭu/	<kulu>	'write'
/o/	<u>	/tonɒ/	<tuno>	'skin'
/ɔ/	<o>	/ɔnɒ/	<ono>	'drum'
/ɒ/	<o>	/nɒkɒ/	<noko>	'man'

The phoneme /o/ is usually written <u> only in words of more than one syllable. In one-syllable words /o/ is written <uo>.

/u/	<u>		'flower'
/o/	<uo>		'bird'

This under-differentiation is possible because the phonemes /e/ and /o/ are relatively rare and /ɔ/ is extremely rare.

Also based on psycholinguistic testing word initial /ɒ/, /ɒɪ/ and /ɒu/ are written as <a>, <ai> and <au> respectively, for example:

25) [ʌnu]   /ɒnu/   <**a**nu>   'there'

26) [ɛɪpɪjɛɪ]   /ɒipijɒi/   <**ai**piyoi>   'cassowary'

3.4.2 Punctuation

The following punctuation is used:

Period: Falling intonation - Final statement
Comma: Level intonation - Non-final clause
Semi-colon: Rising intonation - Time sequence
Question-mark: Rising-Falling intonation - Question

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[7] Orthographic conventions are indicated within < >. As usual, the phonemes occur within / /.

4. MORPHOLOGY

Just glancing down a page of interlinerised text of Ama gives the impression that it is a highly **agglutinative** language. The following example is illustrative:

27) *fu   t-un-a-li-noki*
    pig   PR-shoot-CDA-go.upriver-1NS.EX.A
    'We are going upriver to shoot a pig.'

This is, however, somewhat misleading as there are also other processes going on apart from affixation, and they apply differently to different word classes.

The first thing to be observed then is that, as far as word **structure** goes, there are two types of words: **verbs and non-verbs**. In non-verbs, comprising all word classes except the verb, there are only a few and mostly regular morphological processes going on. In **verbs**, on the other hand, there are many processes going on at the same time, and many of them show an **irregular** pattern. In the table, in section 4.2.1 (Overview of Morphological Processes), it can be seen that six morphological processes are going on in the verb, while the other word classes share four processes between them and none using more than three processes.

There are three entwined case systems in Ama encoded in the verb morphology: active - non-active, neutral and ergative - absolute. Terminology in this area basically follows Comrie (1981:104f, 117f). Considering nominal core-arguments in the clause, there are three "primitives":
   the single core argument of the intransitive clause (S)
   the agent of the transitive clause (A)
   the patient of the transitive clause (P)
In Ama the basic, most underlying case system is the **active - non-active system**. In this system the single core argument of the intransitive clause could be either the same as A or P depending on the semantics of the verb it is an argument of. Typical verbs where S=A would be *run*, *jump*, *sit*, i.e. verbs signalling actions where control is involved. This type of core argument is an 'actor' in Ama (see below). It is also one of the core arguments in a transitive clause. Typical verbs where S=P are *die*, *get sick*, *fall*, i.e. verbs signalling actions where control is absent. This type of core argument is an 'undergoer' in Ama (see below). It is also one of the core arguments in a transitive clause.

However, the active - non-active system is only part of the total case marking method in Ama. There is a morphological person-based split, so that depending on person, number and gender all three systems mentioned above are used. In the **ergative - absolutive** system the S and the P are marked the same, i.e. the single core argument of the intransitive clause is marked the same as the patient of the transitive clause. This system is in Ama used to mark gender and to some extent number. In the **neutral** (ibid.:118) system the "three primitives" are all marked the same. This system applies to second person in Ama and is a truth with modification as will be shown in section 5.1.4.2 (Neutral Case). The case system, including all its splits, will be described in section 5.1.4 (Marking Person, Number, Gender and Case). There is also a case system signalled by clitics on the noun phrase involving also peripheral arguments like locationals and temporals. This is described in section 6.2.3.2 (Case Marking of Noun Phrases).

Partly because of the split case system it has not seemed possible to define a subject or object[8] for this language, so the terms **actor** and **undergoer** have been adopted from Foley and Van Valin (1984). An intransitive clause has either an actor or an undergoer as its only core argument (see above). A transitive clause has one of each.

Another issue to be addressed here concerns the fact that, as the verb root in many cases varies with number and sometimes also with gender, it is desirable to find a **basic verb form** from which other forms could, at least to some degree, be predicted. The most neutral form there is in the language is **the third person singular masculine**[9]**.** It is a bare verb root, which may be used as a noun. It may be conjugated for person (including number, gender and case), tense and mood, as well as other more peripheral verb categories.   This basic form is in many cases the same regardless of number of participants. This is the unmarked form used in the gloss of the examples. In section 5.1.1 (The Basic Verb Form) this form will be further discussed. Paradigms for three regular verbs will be given in section 5.1.2.2.1 (Basic Verb Paradigms).

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[8] The other problem with defining the terms 'subject' and 'object' in Ama is the topic marking system . The marking of topic in Ama was described in Årsjö (1994).

[9] Somewhat simplified this form will be understood as referring either to the actor or the undergoer depending on the lexical meaning of the verb. It is also understood as realis and today's past tense which are signalled by zero morphemes as is the third person actor in a transitive clause.

Most operations are inflectional but, as will be seen in section 4.3 (Derivation versus Inflection), some could be interpreted as either **inflectional** or **derivational**.

There are some rather **long root morphemes** in the language. It is plausible that there has been a change over time so that some operations that used to be productive are no longer so. These morphemes are **synchronically one** but **diachronically complex**. These will be commented on as they occur.

There are six productive morphological processes: **prefixation**, **suffixation**, **reduplication**, **stem modification**, **suppletion** and **compounding**. In addition **cliticisation** occurs at different levels.

There are five types of morphemes: **roots, stems, prefixes, suffixes** and **enclitics**[10].

The organisation of this section is as follows. Section 4.1 presents types of morphemes. In 4.2 the morphological processes, including cliticisation, will be presented starting with an overview. In section 4.3 inflection and derivation will be discussed. Section 4.4 contains morphophonemic rules.

4.1 Types of Morphemes

There are roots, affixes, and clitics in Ama. The affixes may be either prefixes or suffixes. Infixes do not occur.[11] A stem consists of a root that may have been augmented by reduplication or compounding[12] and may be further affixed. Below are some examples of each. For more examples and complete paradigms of prefixes, suffixes and clitics see section 4.2 (Morphological Processes).

Roots	**Stems**	**Prefixes**		**Suffixes**		**Enclitics**	
fasi	*fasi-ko*	*to-*	'PRESENT'	*-no*	'3NS.A' [13]	[-]*mai* 'LOCATIVE'	
'help'	help-3NS.U	*po-*	'IRREALIS'	*-nuwo*	'2NS'	[-]*yo* 'AGENT'	
	'help them'			*-koni*	'1NS.IN.A'		
yousi	*yousi-moi*	*ku-*	'down below'	*-moko*	'1NS.U'	[-]*woi* 'WITH'	
'sit'	sit-GO(=PROG)	*ti-*	'inside'	*-so*	'3SF.ABS'		
	'he was sitting'	*you-*	'up'				
ki	*ki-ya-tumo*			*-ki*	'REMOTE PAST'		
'see'	'see-CDA-come'			*-imo*	'FUTURE'		
	'came to see him'						
fu	*fu-aluwou*			*-wo*	'NON-SINGULAR'		
'pig'	pig-dog						
	'family'						
siyoli	*si-siyoli*						
'big'	RED.NS-big						
	'big (non-sg.)'						

4.2 Morphological Processes

The term 'morphological process' is used in accordance with Payne (1997:376). For Payne a '**morphological process'** is a structural process regardless of function, e.g. suffixation. He contrasts this with the '**morphological operation'**, which is a language specific function signalled by one structure or another, e.g. plural formation in English. This terminology has been adopted in this paper.[14]

In Ama there are six productive morphological processes: prefixation, suffixation, reduplication, stem modification, suppletion and compounding. All of these processes take place in the verb. Some occur on other word classes as well (see table in next section). Cliticisation also occurs at different levels.

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[10] The difference between an affix and a clitic in this language is that an affix is affixed to one particular word class while a clitic "floats" and may attach itself to any of a number of word classes. Both are different from a particle in that they carry no stress of their own.

[11] but see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics), Rule 6 for an exception

[12] A root may also be modified or suppleted (see sections 4.2.5 (Stem Modification) and 4.2.6 (Suppletion) respectively).

[13] The square brackets refer to the fact that the clitics are phonetically bound but grammatically free (see section 4.2.8 (Cliticisation)).

[14] It should be noted that in Ama several processes may occur together in one operation. This is especially true in regards to marking number on verbs, where stem modification usually occurs together with reduplication (see sections 4.2.4.1 (Reduplication in the Verb) and 4.2.5 (Stem Modification) for details).

4.2.1 Overview of Morphological Processes

Suffixation is the most common morphological process. A number of different suffixes function in the verb expressing such things as person, number, gender and case (actor and undergoer/absolutive), as well as tense, deontic mood and negative. There are also a few suffixes occurring on nouns. **Prefixation** only occurs on verbs and is used to express epistemic mood and some locative specifications.

28) *p-aiyolo-**so-mosi-ki-no***
    IR-teach-3SF.ABS-IT-RPST-3NS.A
    'They used to teach her.'

29) *ni-ya*   ***to**-fasi-**k-a-yo-koni***
    here-UNQ   PR-help-3NS.U-CDA-go.up-1NS.IN.A
    'Let's go up and help them.'

30) *inai-**tono***
    male's.sister-3INAL
    'his/their sister'

Reduplication is often an augmentative operation used to increase number. It applies mainly to verbs and adjectives. In the verb reduplication and stem modification often work together. In the pronoun reduplication has a contrastive function.

31) *ami-mo*   ***ami-**ami-ko*[15]
    strong-S   RED.NS-strong-3NS.U
    'strengthen him'   'strengthen them'

32) *noko siyoli*   *noko **si**-siyoli*
    man   big   man   RED.NS-big
    'an important man'   'important men'

33) *toi*   ***to**-tai*
    3P   RED.EMPH-3P
    'they'   'they (contrastive focus)'

Stem modification and **suppletion** are used to change some verbal stems according to number and, seemingly, for some common verbs, gender as well.

34) *tukolo*   *tukuwoli*
    kill   kill.NS
    'kill him'   'kill them'

35) *moi*   *mano-so*   *nu*
    go   go-3SF.ABS   go.P
    'I/he went'   'she went'   'they went'

36) *yousi*   *si-so*   *si*
    sit   sit.(P)-3SF.ABS   sit.P
    'I/he sat'   'she sat'   'they sat'

Compounding of roots occurs mostly in the verb. It is commonly used to express direction and location. There are two different affixes that bind the roots together (see section 4.2.7 (Compounding) for details). There are also a number of verb roots that are used to express semantic and grammatical functions. Among the grammatical functions of compounding aspect and benefactive are prominent.

37) *fonopoi **ifolomu**-ko-**tolo**-∅*
    tobacco   smoke-3NS.U-stand-TPST
    'I/he stood smoking.'

38) *na   po-**ki**-ya-**tumo**-∅-∅*
    FOC   IR-see-CDA-come-IMP-S
    'Come and look at him (you sg.)!'

---

[15] This is a verb derived from an adjective. Many non-derived verbs may also be reduplicated to indicate an increase in number but then the operation is never regular.

39) *ai   t-**uwo**-mono-**moi***
    sickness   PR-afflict-1S.U-GO
    'I'm always sick.'

40) *yo mo anoi   mo   na   **kalo**-so-**wa**-∅-mono-ki*
    1S TOP   mother.1   TOP   FOC   die-3SF.ABS-TAKE.FROM-GIVE1-1S.U-RPST
    'My mother died leaving me (alone).'

Cliticisation, finally, functions on phrase and clause level. There are a number of enclitics expressing e.g. case. (For a definition of 'clitic' in Ama see footnote 10.)

41) a*lu ai   uwo   mo atino-**yo**   kau na   hausi-**so***
    child   sickness   afflict TOP mother.3-AG   take FOC   clinic-ALL
    'When a child is sick his mother must take him to the hospital.'

The following table shows what the different morphological processes are used for. The table also includes cliticisation.

Morphological Processes

Prefixes	Suffixes	Re-duplication	Com-pounding	Stem Modification	Suppletion	Cliticisation
VERBS						
Locative	Person	Number	Aspect	Number	Number	()[16]
Epist. Mood	Gender		Benefactive	(Gender)[17]	(Gender)	
	Case		Direction			
	Tense		Location			
	Negative		Evaluation			
	DNT Mood		Other			
	Number DNT					
	Derivational					
NOUNS						
	Inalienable Possession	(Number)	(Complex Nouns)			()
	Derivational					
PRONOUNS						
		Contrast. Focus (personal)	Dual (personal)			()
			Adj./Adv. Dem.Pron.			Adj./Adv. Dem.Pron. [18]

---

[16] A () in this column means that a clitic may occur on the word class in question, but if it does, it marks the whole phrase or, if occurring on a verb, the whole clause.

[17] An (xxx) in any column means that the process is of minor importance for the operation within parenthesis.

[18] On some demonstrative pronouns and conjunctions the case clitics occur word medially as part of a compounding process and in that way are more like a particle or possibly a compounding suffix.

Prefixes	Suffixes	Re-duplication	Com-pounding	Stem Modification	Suppletion	Cliticisation
			ADJECTIVES			
	(Derivational)	Number				()
			ADVERBS			
	Derivational	(Number)				
			CONJUNCTIONS			
			Complex Conjunctions			Complex Conjunctions
			QUESTION WORDS			
		(Number)				()
			INTERJECTIONS			
						Discourse
			PARTICLES			
			None			
			NOUN PHRASES/CLAUSES			
	Temp./Cond. Clause					Case
						Discourse
						Co/Sub-ordination

4.2.2 Prefixation

   Prefixes only occur on verbs in Ama and are used to express two things: epistemic mood and location. The locative prefixes occur closest to the stem. The epistemic mood prefixes are obligatory on finite verbs, while on non-finite verbs they cannot be there. The locative prefixes are not grammaticalised.

$$\begin{array}{lllllll} \textbf{(-2)} & \textbf{(-1)} & \text{head-stem} & (1) & (\text{stem}(2)) & (3) & (4) & (5) \\ V \rightarrow & \textbf{(EPST)} & \textbf{(LOC)} & \text{stem} & (U/ABS) & (\text{root}(U/ABS))_3{}^{19} & (\text{TENSE/DNT}) & (A/NUM) & (\text{NEG}) \end{array}$$

   The prefixes will be listed in the order they occur, counting outwards from the stem. For varying shape of some prefixes see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics).

4.2.2.1 First Order Prefixes (-1)

Location   *tu-*   'inside, upriver'

                      fu-   'outside, downriver'

                      ku-   'down below'

                      you-   'up above'

   42)   ∅-***tu***-si
         R-inside-sit.P
         'they sat inside/upriver'

   43)   *a   to-**fu**-ikai-tolo*
         tree   PR-downriver-plant-stand
         '(he) is downriver planting a tree'

---

[19] Further verb stems (root plus certain suffixes) are used to express some grammatical and semantic features (see section 4.2.7.1 (Compounding of Verb Stems).

44) ∅-***ku***-*toi*
R-below-sleep
'I/he slept down below'

45) ∅-***you***-*tolo*
R-above-stand
'I/he stood up above'

4.2.2.2 Second Order Prefixes (-2)

Epistemic Mood   ∅   'realis'[20]

to-   'weak realis (present)'

po-   'irrealis'

pa-   'remote irrealis'

Morphophonemc Rules 1 and 2 apply. See section 4.4 (Morphophonemics).

46) *ya ∅-tumo-ki*
1S   R-come-RPST
'I came'

47) ***to***-*nu*
PR-go.P
'they are going'

48) ***t***-*i-ko*
PR-say-3NS.U
'they are saying'

49) *nona-yo   **po**-ko-ko-∅-∅*
2S.EMPH-AG   IR-see-3NS.U-IMP-S
'You (sg.) look at them!'

50) ***pa***-*ko-ko-∅-wo*
RIR-see-3NS.U-IMP-NS
'Look at them later (you pl.)!'

51) ***pa***-*ko-ko-no-so*
RIR-see-3NS.U-3NS.A-NEG
'they did not see them'

4.2.3 Suffixation

Suffixes occur on verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. In addition there is a suffix that may occur on the clause. There are both inflectional and derivational suffixes. The inflectional suffixes occur mainly on the verb and will be listed in section 4.2.3.1. Inflectional suffixes of the noun and a clause suffix will be listed in sections 4.2.3.2 and 4.2.3.3, respectively. The derivational suffixes will be listed in section 4.2.3.4.

For varying shape of some suffixes see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics).

4.2.3.1 Inflectional Suffixes in the Verb

Person, number, gender and case may be expressed on the verb in suffixes expressing three or four of these categories[21].   More simply said, suffixes express actor (or just number in deontic mood) and undergoer/absolutive. Tense, or deontic mood, and one kind of negation are also signalled by suffixes. Epistemic mood and deontic mood do not co-occur except in the imperative mood.

On a finite verb form tense or deontic mood are obligatory, while on a non-finite verb form they cannot be there. Whether the actor or the undergoer is obligatory depends on the individual verb. Also, there are other processes involved in marking these categories. (see section 5.1.4 (Marking Person, Number, Gender and Case). The negative suffix is of course not obligatory.

---

[20] This zero morpheme will not be indicated in any other examples than those in sections where prefixes or epistemic mood are in focus.

[21] Gender only applies to third person singular.

The head stem may be a root or a stem that has been augmented to increase number by a derivational suffix, reduplication, stem modification or suppletion.

	(-2)	(-1)	head-stem	(**1**)	(stem (2))	(**3**)	(**4**)	(**5**)
V →	(EPST)	(LOC)	stem	(**U/ABS**)	(root (U/ABS))$_3$[22]	(**TENSE/DNT**)	(**A/NUM**)	(**NEG**)

The suffixes signalling person, number, gender and case are especially complicated as there are splits in the morphological person marking as follows:

Gender (only expressed in third person singular) is marked as **ergative - absolutive**.

Second person (singular and plural) have mostly **neutral** marking, but in a transitive verb there are portmanteau morphemes expressing first and third person actors with second person undergoers. All these occur as a fourth order suffixes, i.e. in the "actor" slot.

First person (singular and plural) and **third person plural**, have **active - non-active marking**.

This means that undergoer and absolutive suffixes are first order suffixes, (U/ABS), in the formula above. Actor, ergative, neutral and personal portmanteau suffixes are fourth order suffixes, A, in the formula.

The suffixes will be listed in the order they occur, counting outwards from the stem.

4.2.3.1.1 First Order Suffixes (1)

Undergoer and absolutive suffixes are first order suffixes.

Undergoer Agreement (1S/NS, 3NS)   *-mono* '1S'   *-moko* '1NS'

    -ko '3NS'

_____

    -kuwano 'reciprocal'

    -komo 'disambiguating suffix for 1/2 NS'

52) *to-kokolomo-**mono***
    PR-be.afraid-1S.U
    'I am afraid'

53) *iwo   usoiyo soliyaki-yo ufiyai-**moko**-kai-∅*
    water flood big-AG   hinder-1NS.U-PUT-1/3S.A
    'The flood is hindering us.'

54) *i-**ko**-ki-∅*
    say-3NS.U-RPST-1/3S.A
    'I/he/she said to them'

55) *imo lukasi-**kuwano**-ki-no*
    talk speak-each.other-RPST-3NS.A
    'They spoke with each other.'

56) *to-fasi-**komo**-nuwo*
    PR-help-1/2NS.U-3A+2NS.U
    'he/she/they help you'

Absolutive Agreement (3S)   basic form[23]   'masculine gender'

    -so   'feminine gender (3SF.ABS)'

    -ko   'compound gender (3C.ABS)[24]'

57) *na   **fasi**-ki-no*   *na   **liyai**-ki*
    FOC   help-RPST-3NS.A   FOC walk.about-RPST
    'They helped him.'   'I/he went for walk.'

---

[22] Further verb stems (root plus certain suffixes) are used to express some grammatical and semantic features (see section 4.2.7.1 (Compounding of Verb Stems).

[23] The basic form **is** the masculine form (see section 5.1.1 (The Basic Verb Form))

[24] This suffix is the same as the third person non-singular undergoer suffix which is glossed 3NS.U. For compound gender see section 5.2.1 (Gender).

58) *nau   aloma-**so**-ki-no*   *mano-**so**-ki*
plate   take.away-3SF.ABS-RPST-3NS.A   go-3SF.ABS-RPST
'They took away the plate.'   'She went.'

59) *puko   aloma-**ko**-ki-no*   *puko   ti-yomu-**ko***
book   take.away-3C.ABS-RPST-3NS.A   book   PR-say-3C.ABS
'They took away the book.'   'The book says ...'

4.2.3.1.2 Third Order Suffixes (3)

There are **no second order suffixes** as their place is occupied by modifying verb roots/stems. Third order suffixes are tense and deontic mood suffixes.

Tense	*-ki*	'remote past'
	-a	'yesterday's past'
	∅	'today's past'
	-imo	'future'

There are four tense suffixes, including a zero morpheme, expressing tense: remote past, yesterday's past, today's past and a future tense. For present a prefix, *to-* 'present', expressing a middle category between realis and irrealis mood, is used (see section 5.1.3.3.1 (Epistemic Mood: Weak Realis).)

60) *tino/toku   i-mono-**ki**-no*
day.before.yesterday/before   say-1S.U-RPST-3NS.A
'Day before yesterday/before they said to me …'

61) *fai   no-s-**a**-noki*
yesterday   eat-3SF.ABS-YPST-1NS.EX.A
'We ate her (a sow) yesterday.'

62) *somosai tumo-∅*
morning   come-TPST
'I/he came this morning.'

63) *amuwoi-so   mano-so-**imo***
tomorrow-ADVR   go-3SF.ABS-FUT
'She will go tomorrow.'

Deontic mood suffixes may occur instead of the tense suffixes above.

Deontic Mood	∅	'imperative'
	(*-su*	'imperative with *soi* 'go' only (see example (65) and section 5.1.2.1 (Simple Verbs))
	-i	'prohibitive'
	-u	'obligative'

The **imperative** is signalled by one of the irrealis prefixes and a postulated zero morpheme. It is only used in second person.

64) *po-fasi-ya-tumo-∅-wo*
IR-help-CDA-come-IMP-NS
'Come and help me (you pl.)!'

65) *soi-**su**-∅*
go-IMP-S
'Go (you sg.)!'

The **prohibitive** is signalled by the suffix *-i* 'prohibitive'. It is used with second and third person actors. In second person the verb in this mood is preceded by the adverb *noiyo* 'don't'. In third person the actor suffixes are retained.

66) *noiyo mano-**i**-∅*
don't   go-PROH-S
'Don't go (you sg.)!'

67) *nukutai fu   mo   uno-**i**-no*
village   pig   TOP   shoot-PROH-3NS.A
'They shouldn't shoot a domesticated pig.'

The **obligative** is mainly used in third person. It is signalled by the suffix *-u,* having the meaning of 'must' or 'should'. It forms complex morphemes with a few unique suffixes, which are used only together with this suffix. These other suffixes express third person actor (singular/none versus non-singular), tense (present versus future) and undergoer (first/third person versus second person). The first and third person undergoer and absolutive suffixes are regular first order suffixes, while the second person undergoer suffixes are unique and have their own place as can be seen in the formula below.

OBLG	→	stem	(1/3U)	(3A)	**OBLG**	(2U)		(TENSE)
OBLG	→	stem	(1/3U)	(∅ 'S'/none)	-***u***(-)	(-*koni-* 'S')		(∅ 'PR')
				(-*w-* 'NS')		(-*konu/konuwu-* 'NS')		(-*mo* 'FUT')

The reason that these undergoer and tense suffixes are not described as fourth and fifth order suffixes is that they do not fit that structure, the most serious problem being that the actor suffixes occur before the tense suffix, while in all other moods it is the other way around (see 4.2.3.1 (Inflectional Suffixes in the Verb)).

Obligative (must/should)

Undergoer	Singular (or no) Actor	Non-Singular Actor
1S (*-mono*)	*-mon-u*(*-mo*) -1S.U-OBLG(-FUT)	*-mono-w-u*(*-mo*) -1S.U-NS.A-OBLG(-FUT)
1NS (*-moko*)	*-mok-u*(*-mo*) -1NS.U-OBLG(-FUT)	*-moko-w-u*(*-mo*) -1NS.U-NS.A-OBLG(-FUT)
2S (*-koni*)	*-u-koni*(*-mo*) OBLG-2S.U(-FUT)	*-w-u-koni*(*-mo*) NS.A-OBLG-2S.U(-FUT)
2NS (*-konu/-konuwu*)	*-u-konuwu*(*-mo*) OBLG-2NS.U(-FUT)	*-w- u-konuwu*(*-mo*) -NS.A-OBLG-2NS.U(-FUT)
3SM (∅)	*-u*(*-mo*) -OBLG(-FUT)	*-w-u*(*-mo*) -NS.A-OBLG(-FUT)
3SFBS (*-so*)	*-s-u*(*-mo*) -3SF.ABS-OBLG(-FUT)	*-so-w-u*(*-mo*) -3SF.ABS-NS.A-OBLG(-FUT)
3NS (*-ko*)	*-k-u*(*-mo*) -3NS.U-OBLG(-FUT)	*-ko-w-u*(*-mo*) -3NS.U-NS.A-OBLG(-FUT)

Morphophonemic Rules 8-10 apply (see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics).

68) *aluwai-**yu-mo***   *aluwai-**w-u-mo***
follow-OBLG-FUT   follow-NS.A-OBLG-FUT
'he/she must follow him'   'they must follow him'

69) *im-**u-koni-mo***   *im-**u-konu**(**wu**)-**mo***
talk-OBLG-2S.U-FUT   talk-OBLG-2NS.U-FUT
'he/she must talk to you (sg)'   'he/she must talk to you (pl.)'

70) *alu   na   tol-**u***
child   FOC   stand-OBLQ
'the boy must stay'

71) *kal-**u-mo***
die-OBLQ-FUT
'he must die'

72) *koli-kali-**yu-konu-mo***
RED.NS-die-OBLG-2NS.U-FUT
'you (pl.) must die'

For further discussions see 5.1.3.3.2 (Deontic Mood: Obligative).

4.2.3.1.3 Fourth Order Suffixes (4)

Actor, ergative, neutral, personal portmanteau (1/3A+2U), and deontic number suffixes are fourth order suffixes.

Actor Agreement (1S/NS, 3NS)	∅	'1S'	**-*noki***	'1NS.EX[25]
			-koni	'1NS.IN
			-no	'3NS'

A fourth order suffix is also another kind of portmanteau suffix than discussed so far, namely one that comprises first person non-singular inclusive with the future tense, *-monoi* '1NS.IN.A+FUT'.

73) *yo mo anoi-so na i-s-a-no-ki-∅*
1S TOP mother.1-ALL FOC say-3SF.ABS-CDA-go.straight-RPST-1/3S.A
'I went to my mother and said ...'

74) *ti-ki-**noki***
come.P-RPST-1NS.EX.A
'We came.'

75) *toni lamo-woi to-koliyalo-**koni***
bow arrow-WITH PR-kill.with.weapon-1NS.IN.A
'Let's kill it with bows and arrows.'

76) *nuwo mo noko-yo na no-ki-**no***
snake TOP man-AG FOC eat-RPST-3NS.A
'Some men ate the snake.'

77) *moi nu-**monoi***
1P.IN/2P go.P-1NS.IN.A+FUT
'we (incl.) will go'

Ergative Agreement (3S)		⌈ '3SM'
	∅	⎰ '3SF'
		⌊ —

The compound ergative form is hardly viable as this gender refers to something inanimate.

78) *anoi-yo i-mono-ki-∅*
mother.1-AG say-1S.U-RPST-1/3S.A
'My mother said to me ...'

79) *apou-yo i-mono-ki-∅*
father.my-AG say-1S.U-RPST-1/3S.A
'My father said to me ...'

The gloss 1/3S.A includes 1S.A and 3S.ERG.

Neutral Agreement (2S/NS)

Note the functional variability of these suffixes in example (83).

-ni	'2S'		*-nuwo*	'2NS'[26]

---

[25] The same form may also function as a portmanteau suffix expressing both the actor and the undergoer (see below).

[26] Both of these forms may also function as portmanteau suffixes expressing both the actor and the undergoer (see below).

80) *moi-so*   *to-mano-**ni***
where-ALL   PR-go-2S
'Where are you (sg.) going?'

81) *wafi-so*   *nali*   *to-fasi-moko-**nuwo***
happy-ADVR   really   PR-help-1NS.U-2NS
'Thank you (pl.) very much for helping us.

82) *usukuno-ki-**ni***   *usukuno-**mono**-ki*
fall-RPST-2S   fall-1S.U-RPST
'you (sg.) fell'   'I fell'

Portmanteau Agreement (1/3A+2U)

One of the actor agreement suffixes, *-noki* '1NS.EX.A' and both of the neutral suffixes, *-ni* '2S' and *-nuwo* '2NS' (see examples (74), (80), (81)) may, if they occur on transitive verbs, function as portmanteau morphemes expressing also the undergoer. This makes them ambiguous. There is one more such suffix (*-nukuwo*) which always expresses both actor and undergoer. Note that these suffixes are fourth order suffixes, as are the ordinary actor suffixes making these portmanteau suffixes more actor than undergoer-like (see formula in section 4.2.3.1 (Inflectional Suffixes in the Verb).)

         -noki   '1A+2S.U // 1NS.EX.A'   *-nukuwo* '1A+2NS.U'

         -ni   '3A+2S.U // 2S'   *-nuwo*   '3A+2NS.U // 2NS'

83) *t-imo-**noki***   *t-imo-**nukuwo***
PR-say-1NS.A.EX // 1A+2S.U   PR-say-1A+2NS.U
'we'll say to him'   'I/we'll say to you (pl.)'
'I/we'll say to you (sg.)'

    *t-imo-**ni***   *t-imo-**nuwo***
    PR-say-2S // 3A+2S.U   PR-say-2NS // 3A+2NS.U
    'you'll (sg.) say to him'   'you'll (pl.) say to him'
    'he/they'll say to you (sg.)'   'he/they'll say to you (pl.)'

Number (deontic mood)

If the verb is in imperative or prohibitive mood only number must be marked instead of any of the other fourth order suffixes above.

                ∅   'S'

             -wo   'NS'

84) *na*   *po-ni-mono-∅-∅*   *na*   *po-ni-mono-∅-**wo***
FOC   IR-give.P.PAT-1S.U-IMP-S   FOC   IR-give.P.PAT-1S.U-IMP-NS
'Give them to me (you sg.)!'   'Give them to me (you pl.)!'

85) *noiyo*   *uwo-mono-i-∅*   *noiyo*   *uwo-mono-i-**wo***
don't   afflict-1S.U-PROH-S   don't   afflict-1S.U-PROH-NS
'Don't hurt me (you sg.)!'   'Don't hurt me (you pl.)!'

4.2.3.1.4 Fifth Order Suffix (5)

A negative marker that only occurs in epistemic mood is a fifth order suffix.

Negation[27]   *-so*   'NEG'

The negation suffix *-so* co-occurs with the remote irrealis prefix *pa-*.

86) *pa-nu-ki-noki-**so***
IR-go.P-RPST-1NS.EX.A-NEG
'we did not go'

---

[27] There are several negative constructions. These will be described in section 5.1.6 (Marking Negative).

The only negation suffix that may occur in deontic mood is the prohibitive -***i*** (see above).

4.2.3.2 Inflectional Suffixes in the Inalienable Noun

Most verbs in Ama are alienable but a few are inalienable. They are the ones that express kinship or other kinds of human relationships (see section 5.2.3 (Kinship Nouns)). The inalienable suffixes are:

Inalienable Possessive	∅	'1'
	-no	'2'
	-tono	'3'

87) *auwa-∅*   *auwa-**no***   *auwa-**tono***
      brother-1INAL   brother-2INAL   brother-3INAL
      'my/our brother'   'your brother'   'his/her/their brother'

88) *woli-∅*   *woli-**no***   *woli-**tono***
      friend-1INAL   friend-2INAL   friend-3INAL
      'my/our friend'   'your friend'   'his/her/their friend'

4.2.3.3 A Clause Suffix

Dependent clauses are usually constructed with the topic marker *mo*, but there is one exception: the ambiguous temporal/conditional clause that is marked by *-aki* 'when/if' followed by the topic marker *mo*. This is the only function of *-aki*.

Temporal/Conditional Clause	*-aki*	'when/if'

89) *isi   kiyo   noko-yo   t-**aki**   mo   uo   mulu   si-siyoli*
      garden   owner   man-AG   come.P-WHEN/IF   TOP   evil   heart   RED.NS-big

   uwo-ko-imo
   afflict-3NS.U-FUT
   'When/if the owners of the garden come they will be really angry.'

4.2.3.4 Derivational Suffixes

The difference between inflection and derivation is not clear cut in Ama. Some verbal suffixes could be interpreted as either inflectional or derivational, or even as part of the verbal stem. This will be discussed in section 4.3 (Derivation versus Inflection). However, there are a few derivational suffixes that apply to the noun, adjective and adverb. These will be listed in this section.

A Derivational Suffix in the Noun, Adjective or Adverb

A suffix *-a* 'unique' makes the singled out entity unique in its class. It is mostly used on nouns but also on adjectives and adverbs. Often the basic form is repeated immediately following the unique form. Morphophonemic Rules 8-10 apply (see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics).

Unique in a Class	*-a*	'unique'

90) *Kot-**a**   Koto*
      God-UNQ   God
      'the real God'

91) *iw-**a**   iwo*
      water-UNQ   water
      'real water (not anything mixed in)'

92) *naino*   *nain-**a***
      hand   hand-UNQ
      'hand'   'right hand'

93) *siyoli-**ya**   siyoli*
      big-UNQ   big
      '**the** biggest'

94) *motu-**wa***
      true-UNQ
      'absolutely true'

A Derivational Suffix in the Noun

> **Specific**   *-ta*   'specifier (masc.)'

95) *uo   noko-**ta***
     evil   man-SPEC
     'the evil man'

96) *aluwou-yo tukolo   noko-**ta***
     dog-AG   kill/bite man-SPEC
     'the man who got bitten by a dog'

For more details see section 6.2.1 (The Noun Group).

A Derivational Suffix in the Adverb

The adverbialiser changes an adjective into an adverb.

> **Adverbialiser**   *-so*   'adverbialiser'

97) *alu   siyoli*   *alu   mo   siyoli-**so** to-soni*
     child big   child TOP big-ADVR PR-cry
     'a big child'   'The child is crying very much.'

4.2.4 Reduplication

Reduplication is usually an augmentative process in Ama changing a word (verbs, nouns, adjectives and a few question words) from singular to non-singular. It may be complete but is usually only partial. Its most obvious characteristic is that it is very irregular and often works together with stem modification and/or suffixation.

Partial reduplication occurs in a number of verb forms signalling that the absolutive argument is non-singular. There are a few nouns where non-singular is marked by reduplication. Number is marked on the adjective by whole or partial reduplication. A few question words and adverbs may also be reduplicated to signal non-singular. Reduplication also occurs on pronouns, where it signals contrastive focus.

In the verb, noun and some common adjectives reduplication is very irregular. Though it is obvious from the forms that some kind of reduplication is taking place it is usually not possible to predict the forms. It is plausible that these forms are the result of a diachronic development and are no longer part of a synchronic process. If a verb is reduplicated to indicate non-singular it is seldom the only morphological process taking place in that operation. Stem modification and suffixation are often part of the same operation.

Complete reduplication occurs in the adjective and a few verbs, which cannot be inflected for number, and results in two words due to stress patterns. This is, however, included here for the sake of completeness.

4.2.4.1 Reduplication in the Verb

Certain verbs are reduplicated to indicate non-singular of an absolutive argument. What verbs, and how they will be reduplicated, is not predictable. Usually stem modification and suffixation are part of the same operation. However, there are a few reduplication patterns that may be observed.

If the verb root starts with a vowel it is the following syllable[28] that will be reduplicated, usually with a vowel change, the reduplicated syllable occurring immediately preceding the syllable it is a reduplication of.

$$\text{RED.NS}_I \rightarrow \text{VC}_1\text{V}_1 \rightarrow \text{VC}_1\text{V}_2\text{C}_1\text{V}_1$$

Reduplication in the Verb I

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
ati/itati 'carry on shoulders'	*ati* carry.on.shoulders	*i-**ta**-ti* carry-RED.NS-carry
ifasiyaimo/ifofasi 'hit'	*ifasi-yai-mo* hit-S-S	*i-**fo**-fasi* hit-RED.NS-hit
akai/isikokai 'put'	*akai* put	*isi-**ko**-kai* put-RED.NS-put

---

[28] Alternatively, you may say that the first consonant is reduplicated with a non-predictable vowel inserted.

                             Words in Ama

If the verb root starts with a consonant the first syllable is reduplicated sometimes with a vowel change.

$$\text{RED.NS}_{II} \rightarrow C_1V_1 \quad \rightarrow \quad C_1V_{1/2}C_1V_1$$

Reduplication in the Verb II

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
foiyono/fufoimuwano 'fly'	*foiyono* fly	**fu**-*foi-muwano* RED.NS-fly-NS
fumo/fufumuwano 'run'	*fumo* run	**fu**-*fu-muwano* RED.NS-run-NS
soni/sosonuno 'cry'	*soni* cry	**so**-*sonuno* RED.NS-cry

Sometimes the reduplication is more complete with or without a vowel change.

$$\text{RED.NS}_{III} \rightarrow \text{Vroot} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{Vroot}_{(Mod)}\text{Vroot}$$

Reduplication in the Verb III

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
kalo/kolikali 'die'	*kalo* die	**koli**-*kali* RED.NS-die
koumi/koukoumuwano 'climb up'	*kou-mi* climb.up-S	**kou**-*kou-muwano* RED.NS-climb.up-NS
molo kau(kau) 'shut one's eye(s)'	*(molo) kau* (eye) shut	*(molo)* **kau**-*kau* (eye) RED.NS-shut
kalikalimi(ko) 'slander (pl.)'	**kali**-*kali-mi* RED.NS-slander-S	**kali**-*kali-mi-ko* RED.NS-slander-S-NS

The reduplication in the last example refers to the wagging of the tongue, not to the person(s) being slandered.

There is a group of verbs that cannot be inflected. These are completely reduplicated to indicate number. Due to stress patterns this results in two words. They are included here for the sake of completeness.

$$\text{RED.NS}_{IV} \rightarrow \text{Vroot} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{Vroot Vroot}$$

Reduplication in the Verb IV

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
kapu (kapu) 'eat'	*kapu* eat	**kapu** *kapu* RED.NS eat
kolo (kolo) 'throw'	*kolo* throw	**kolo** *kolo* RED.NS throw

4.2.4.2 Reduplication in the Noun

Only a few nouns have special non-singular forms. Reduplication is one of two processes used for this (see section 5.2.2 (Number). The reduplication patterns used are similar to those described above for the verb.

Reduplication in the Noun

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
alu/alalo 'child/children'	*alu* child	*a-**la**-lo* child-RED.NS-child
sawi/susawi 'widow/widows'	*sawi* widow	**su**-*sawi* RED.NS-widow
loilo 'rice'	_	**loi**-*lo* RED.P-rice

4.2.4.3 Reduplication in the Adjective

Adjectives are always reduplicated to indicate non-singular. Usually the reduplication is complete, but some common adjectives have special only partially reduplicated forms. The reduplication patterns used are similar to those described above for the verb. However, complete reduplication gives two main stresses. As a word is defined as a phonological unit with one main stress, complete reduplication results in two words. This is, however, included here for the sake of completeness.

Reduplication in the Adjective

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
itouniyaimo/*ititouni* 'good'	*itouniyaimo*[29] good	*i-**ti**-touni* good-RED.NS-good
koiyau/*kopokoiyau* 'bad'	*koiyau* bad	***kopo**-koiyau* RED.NS-bad
(*si*)*siyoli* 'big'	*siyoli* big	***si**-siyoli* RED.NS-big
kwalu (*kwalu*) 'stupid'	*kwalu* stupid	***kwalu** kwalu* RED.NS stupid

98) *noko si-siyoli*
     man   RED.NS-big
     'big men'

Complete reduplication of *siyoli* 'big' means 'very big'.

99) *noko **siyoli siyoli***
     man   big   big
     'a very big man' / 'very big men'

4.2.4.4 Reduplication in Other Word Classes

There are a few question words and adverbs that are completely reduplicated to, in some way, increase number. These reduplications constitute two words.

Reduplication in Other Word Classes

Singular	Non-Singular
moloi 'how'	***moloi** moloi* 'how many'
isoi 'a long time'	***isoi** isoi* 'a long(ER) time'

4.2.4.5 Reduplication in the Pronoun

The pronoun may be reduplicated for emphasis to indicate **contrastive focus**. It is always the first syllable that is reduplicated. If the reduplicated syllable contains a diphthong the last vowel segment is dropped. There is a vowel change in the final syllable of the reduplicated word.

RED→ $C_1 o(i)$ → $C_1 o C_1 a(i)$

Reduplication in Personal Pronouns

Meaning	Basic	Reduplicated
to 'he/she'	*to* 3S	***to**-ta* RED.EMPH-3S

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[29] This adjective is probably an old verb form as it has recognisable "verbal" parts: *itouni-yai-mo* good-S-S 'good'. Even though the form seems to contain a suffix that is sometimes specifically masculine *-mo* '(3)S(M.ABS)' it does not vary with gender.

        noko   itouniyaimo   *noni   itouniyaimo*
        man   good   woman   good
        'a good man'   'a good woman'

toi 'they'	*toi* 3P	**to**-*tai* RED.EMPH-3P
koi 'we excl.'	*koi* 3P.EX	**ko**-*kai* RED.EMPH-1P.EX

For complete paradigms see section 5.3.1 (Personal Pronouns).

4.2.5 Stem Modification

Stem modification is one of the mechanisms used to change the number of a verb root from singular to non-singular referring to an absolutive argument.

As with reduplication it is plausible that these forms are the result of a diachronic development and are no longer part of a synchronic process.

Even if the modification may be totally irregular it is not uncommon that an initial *a* changes to an *i* or a final *i* changes to an *o* to indicate non-singular, while the rest of the modification is due to reduplication or non-predictable.

Stem Modification

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
alomani/ilomani 'take away'	**a**lomani take.away	**i**lomani take.away.P
atokoli/itatokoli 'carry on one's head'	**a**tokoli carry.on.head	**i**-*ta-tokoli* carry-RED.P.U-carry.on.head
ali/alo 'put in a bag'	al**i** put.in.bag	al**o** put.in.bag.P
anali/inalo 'put inside'	**a**na**li** put.inside	**i**na**lo** put.inside.P
atolikai/itolosikai 'lean'	**a**tol**i**-*kai* lean-PUT	**i**tol**o**-*si-kai* lean.P-sit.P-PUT
tukolo/tukuwoli 'kill'	*tukolo* kill	*tukuwoli* kill.NS

If the non-singular forms are glossed P, the dual roots are the same as the singular ones. If the non-singular roots are glossed NS they include dual.

4.2.6 Suppletion

Suppletion is yet another mechanism to change the number of the verb root from singular to non-singular. Sometimes it is hard to know if the process should be called stem modification or suppletion as the processes work along a continuum. The first example in the following table would also fit under stem modification, while the last example in the previous table would also fit here as an example of suppletion.

Suppletion

Meaning	Singular	Plural
ano/i	*ano*	*i*
'get'	get	get.P
afoli/saloso	*afoli*	*saloso*
'throw'	throw	throw.P
tolo/yousi/toi/si	*tolo/yousi/toi*	*si*
'stand/sit/lie'	stand/sit/lie	stand/sit/lie.P
tumo/ti	*tumo*	*ti*
'come'	come	come.P
moi/nu	*moi*	*nu*
'go'	go	go.P

The dual roots are the same as the singular forms for these verbs.

4.2.7 Compounding

Compounding is a process whereby a word comes to consist of more than one root or stem morpheme. It is a regular process in the verb. Compounding also occurs involving some nouns, pronouns and conjunctions.

4.2.7.1 Compounding of Verb Stems

A verb may consist of up to four verb stems. More has not been observed. The first stem is the head of the verb word. The following roots or stems act as modifiers of the head. Only certain verb roots occur in this position. They may be stative, verbs of motion, adjectival, perceptive and/or benefactive. They express such concepts as location, direction, evaluation, aspect and benefactive. This is, however, not an exhaustive list.

The formula of the structure of the verb is repeated here to facilitate understanding of how the different verb roots (actually stems, as an undergoer/absolutive suffix may have to co-occur with a root depending on the transitivity of that particular verb) are joined. The modifying stems occur instead of a second order suffix, as it were.

	(-2)	(-1)	head-stem	(1)	(**stem (2**))	(3)	(4)	(5)
V →	(EPST)	(LOC)	stem	(U/ABS)	(**root (U/ABS**))$_3$	(TENSE/DNT)	(A/NUM)	(NEG)

The internal order of the modifying stems is as follows:

(STAT) (FAV) (BEN/MAL) (STAT) (DIR/LOC) (ATEL/EV/OTHER) (PROG/IT)

The verb stems expressing aspect, those expressing benefactive and a few others do not keep their basic meaning. However, this does not necessarily mean that they do not vary with person, number, gender or case. Some, like the benefactive and one of the aspects do. On the other hand, some of the other modifying stems keep their basic meaning but do not respond to the above variables. For a summary chart see section 5.1.2.2.2 (Compound Verbs). Each group of modifying verb stems are described below in the following order: location, direction, evaluation, aspect, benefactive and "other".

Morphophonemic Rule 17 (see section 4.4) applies in compounding, whereby a secondary verb root starting with *a* drops that *a*.

4.2.7.1.1 Compounding to Express Location

To express location a stative verb root is juxtaposed to the head of the verb. Four roots may occur in this position. These roots keep their basic lexical meaning and they vary with the number and gender of the actor.

Singular/Dual[30]   **Plural**

tolo   'stand/live/be'   *si*   stand/sit/lie/live/be

yousi   'sit/be'

toi   'lie'

---

[30] It is more common that the distinction in verb forms is singular - non-singular. For an over-view of marking of number at all levels of the language see section 5.2.2.1 (Overview of Marking of Number). See also section 5.1.4.3.1 (Ergative-Absolutive Marking to Express Number).

100) *a   ɸu-**ikai-tolo**-ki*
     tree   downriver-plant-stand-RPST
     'I/he was downriver planting trees.'

101) ***ifolomu-ko-si**-∅-noki*
     smoke-3NS.U-sit.P-TPST-1NS.EX.A
     'We sat smoking.'

4.2.7.1.2 Compounding to Express Direction

Two verb roots may be joined by the juncture morphemes *-a-* 'direction away' and *-yo-* 'direction towards' to express direction in regards to a deictic centre. The second verb root expresses motion. While there are only four locative prefixes (see section 4.2.2 (Prefixation)) there are seven allative verb roots. In addition *tumo* 'come' and *-you* 'move up' also have this function. This last form is not preceded by any juncture morpheme and the full form **ayou*/**you* does not occur.

When used in compounding the allative verb roots are abbreviated more than other modifying verb roots, and none of them vary with number or gender in this position. They keep their basic meaning. For further details of the allative verbs see section 5.1.5.2 (Allative Marking on the Verb).

Locative prefix (be ...)	Allative Verb	Shortened Verb Form used in Compounding	Meaning of Allative Forms
tu-	*amoti*	*-ti*	'go inside'
fu-	*amufu*	*-fu*	'go outside, downriver'
	amoli	*-li*	'go upriver'
you-	*amiyo*	*-yo*	'go up'
ku-	*amukono*	*-kono*	'go down'
	amuno	*-no*	'go straight (to a place)'
	----	*-lo*	'go all over'
	tumo	*tumo*	'come'
		-you	'move up'

102) *iwo   **ki-ya-kono**-ki-∅*
     water   look-CDA-go.down-RPST-1/3S.A
     'I/he/she went down to look at the river.'

103) ***ki-ya-fu**-ki-∅*
     look-CDA-go.outside/downriver-RPST-1/3S.A
     'I/he/she went outside/downriver to look at it.'

104) *to-**kwai-ya-yo**-koni*
     PR-perceive-CDA-go.up-1NS.IN.A
     'Let's go up and hear.'

105) *yo   mo   tuo   t-**an-a-no**-∅*
     1S   TOP   sago   PR-get-CDA-go.straight-1/3S.A
     'I'm going to get some sago.'

106) *fu   **samo-k-a-lo**-ki-no*
     pig   hunt-3NS.U-CDA-go.all.over-RPST-3NS.A
     'They went all over the place hunting for pig.'

107) *po-**ko-k-a-tumo**-∅-∅*
     IR-see-3NS.U-CDA-come-IMP-S
     'Come and look (you sg.)!'

108) *tuo   **ani-yo-kono**-ki-noki*
     sago   get-CDT-go.down-RPST-1NS.EX.A
     'We brought sago down.'

109) *yo mo   nu-so   **kau-si-yo-ti-∅-∅***
      1S TOP house-ALL   get.AN-3SF.ABS-CDT-go.inside-TPST-1/3S.A
      'I took her into the house.'

110) *naino **a-ki-you***
      hand   get-3C.ABS-move.up
      'lift (his) hand up'

Morphophonemic Rule 11 applies to any morpheme preceding -*yo* 'towards' and -*you* 'move up' (see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics).

4.2.7.1.3 Compounding to Express Evaluation

Two verb stems may be joined together to evaluate an event. The second verb stem is either of two adjectival verb stems:

itouniyaimo   'be good'

koiyaumo   'be bad'

Both these verbs are derived adjectives. When used in a compound they do not vary with the number or gender of either the actor or the undergoer. They keep their basic meaning.

111) *no-na-ni   imo-so   **kwai-itouniyaim**-aki   mo, noko-yo*
      that-FOC-this talk-ALL   perceive-good-WHEN/IF TOP man-AG
      'When a man hears well ...'

112) *mulu tomoki-so   na   to-**si-itouniyaimo**-koni*
      heart stone-ALL   FOC   PR-sit.P-good-1NS.IN.A
      'We have peace.'

113) *noko **uwo-koiyaumo**-ki-no*
      man   afflict-do.bad-RPST-3NS.A
      'They hurt the man badly.'

4.2.7.1.4 Compounding to Express Aspect

There are four verb stems that function as aspect markers. According to morphophonemic Rule 17 any initial *a* is lost where applicable (see 4.4 (Morphophonemics)).

akai	'put'	-*kai*	'stative'
moi	'go'	*moi*/*mana*-	'progressive'
*amosi/**mosi*	'?'	-*mosi*	'iterative'
aluwai	'follow'	-*luwai*	'atelic'

Morphophonemic Rule 16 (see section 4.4) applies to the root *moi* 'go'

There is no verb root **amosi*/**mosi* but based on the fact that the three other aspect markers are verb roots it is plausible that there once was such a verb.

These verb roots, except the last one, when functioning as aspect markers do not keep their basic meaning, and do not vary with number or gender of any argument. (Regarding the verb root -*luwai* 'atelic' see below in this section.)

114) *muwo-so-**kai**-∅-mono-ki-no*
      mark-3SF.ABS-PUT-GIVE1-1S.U-RPST-3NS.A
      'They marked her for me.'

115) *i-so-**kai**-ki-∅*
      say-3SF.ABS-PUT-RPST-1/3S.A
      'I/he/she promised her.'

116) *fufoli-**kai***
      forget-PUT
      'forget completely'

117) *toni mo   to-falo-ulu-**mano**-no,*   *noko-yo   falo-**moi**-∅-∅*
bow TOP   PR-carve-NS-GO-3NS.A   man-AG   carve-GO-TPST-1/3S.A
'The men keep carving bows'   'The man kept carving'

118) *ya to-fasi-mono-**mano**-ni*
1S   PR-help-1S.U-GO-2S
'You are always helping me.'

The root *-mosi* 'iterative' usually co-occur with the irrealis prefix (see Epistemic Mood 5.1.3.3.1).

119) *po-fasi-mono-**mosi**-ki-∅*
IR-help-1S.U-IT-RPST-1/3S.A
'He/she helped me again and again.'

The form *-luwai* 'atelic' varies with person and number of the undergoer. Its specific meaning when used in a grammatical sense is complex. The compound forms it occurs on are all atelic. It also increases the valence of the head-verb by one.

120) *mulu-molo-**luwai***
heart-path-FOLLOW
'believe'

121) *solitono-**luwai***
dream-FOLLOW
'he dreamt **about him**'

122) *kwai-**luwai***
perceive-FOLLOW
'look intensively'

123) *noko si-siyoli … to-tamiyo-**luwai**-ko,   toi-ni   noko nokolalo-so*
man   RED.NS-big PR-?[31]-FOLLOW-3NS.U 3P-GEN man women-ALL
'The leaders use force on their people.'

4.2.7.1.5 Compounding to Express Benefactive

There are three sets of verb stems marking three kinds of benefactive relationships: common benefactive, malfactive and 'on behalf of' respectively.

There are two undergoers in the common benefactive and the malfactive: the patient, and the person who is the benefactee. The verb stem varies with both.

These verb stems do not keep their basic meaning.

Common Benefactive

The common benefactive construction uses a verb meaning 'give'. This verb has three suppletive roots based on the person, number and gender of the benefactee, and one suppletive root based on the number of the patient.

a-   'give one thing (masc.) to first person'

a-noni 'give one thing (masc.) to second person and third person masculine'

a-ti   'give one thing (masc.) to many people'

ni   'give many things to one person'

The feminine benefactee form is based on the root for plural benefactee.

a-ti-so 'give one thing (masc.) to third person (fem.)'

Morphophonemic Rule 17 apply, i.e. the initial *a* is lost (see section 4.4).

124) *muwo-∅-mono*
mark-GIVE1-1S.U
'marked for me'

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[31] There is no form **tamiyo*. The form *ami*, on the other hand, means 'strong'. The explanation may be lost in the past.

125) *kumo-**noni***
write-GIVE2/3
'write (a letter) to him'

126) *kumo-**ti**-so*
write-GIVE.3P/F-3SF.ABS
'write (a letter) to her'

127) *paso   kumo-**ti***
letter   write-GIVE.3P/F
'write (a letter) to them'

128) *imo   lukaso-**ni***
talk   speak-GIVE.P.PAT
'speak with him (many words)'

129) *tuo   foloulu-**ni**-ko-ki-∅*
sago   break.P-GIVE.P.PAT-3NS.U-1/3S.A
'I/he/she broke the sago and gave it to them'

Malfactive

The malfactee series is built on the common benefactive. All non-plural forms, referring to the patient, are preceded by the common verb *wa* 'take from'. For plural patient the simple benefactive verb root *ni* 'give.P.PAT' is replaced by *-wai*[32] 'take.P from'.

wa-	'one harmful thing (masc.) done to first person'
wa-noni	'one harmful thing (masc.) done to second and third person'
wa-ti	'one harmful thing (masc.) done to many people
wa-ti-so	'one harmful thing (masc.) done to feminine person
wai	'many harmful things done to one person'

130) *posaso-ko-**wa**-noni-ki-no*
reveal-3NS.U-TAKE.FROM-GIVE2/3-RPST-3NS.A
'They witnessed against him (in court).'

131) *atino   mo   alu   mo   kalo-**wa**-ti-so-ki*
mother.3   TOP   child   TOP   die-TAKE.FROM-GIVE.3P/F-3SF.ABS-RPST
'The child had died for his mother.'

132) *muwoni noiyo i-**wai**-ko-i-wo*
money   don't   get.P-TAKE.FROM.P-3NS.U-PROH-NS
'Don't take their money from them!'

133) *polamu-ko-**wai**-mono*
steal-3NS.U-TAKE.FROM.P-1S.U
'steal from me'

Benefactive 'On Behalf Of'

The 'on behalf of' series is built on the common verb *unu* 'shoot' and is often used to increase transitivity with the function of doing somebody a favour. While the other benefactive verb stems increase the valence by two this one only increases it by one. The basic forms are:

unu	shoot	'shoot/favour first and second person and third person singular masculine'
u-so	shoot-3SF.ABS	'shoot/favour third person singular feminine'
uku	shoot.3NS	'shoot/favour third person non-singular'

As with the other benefactive verb stems this one, too, uses the regular undergoer suffixes for the benefactee.

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[32] This form is not *wa-i*, at least not in a synchronic perspective.

134) *yo-**unu***
    do-SHOOT
    'do (something) for him'

135) *yomu-**u-so**-kai-ki*
    say-SHOOT-3SF.ABS-PUT-RPST
    'promise in regard to her'

136) *Isiso mo   noko nokolalo komaso-monoi kalo-**uku**-ki*
    Jesus TOP man   women   all-OBLQ   die-SHOOT.3NS-RPST
    'Jesus died for all people.'

4.2.7.1.6 Other Compounding of Verbs

Apart from the above there are other verbs occurring as modifiers of a head-stem and in that position having a grammatical or some other special function. The following list is not exhaustive.

	Lexical meaning	Grammatical/special meaning
ki	'see'	'try'
liyai	'walk about'	'scattered action'
-taikiyo	'send'	'change of place or condition'

The form **ataikiyo*/**taikiyo* does not occur.

None of the above verb roots varies with number or gender of the undergoer or actor in this position. They do not keep their basic meaning.

The following verb roots basically keep their basic meaning. The last one varies with the number of the undergoer.

soli	'dip'	'dip'
tomasimo	'be together with'	'be together with'

137) *yo-**ki***
    do-SEE
    'try to do (it)'

138) *na   kwai-ko-**ki**-yoimo*
    FOC   perceive-3NS.U-SEE-FUT
    'I/he/she will try them (in court).'

139) *na   ti-**liyai**-ki*
    FOC   come.P-WALK.ABOUT-RPST
    'They came from all directions.'

140) *i-ko-**taikiyo***
    say-3NS.U-SEND
    'send a message to them'

141) *solinamu-mo-**taikiyo***
    black-S-SEND
    'become black'

142) *fu   na   tukuwoli-**soli**-ki*
    pig FOC   kill.NS-dip-RPST
    'The pigs drowned.'

143) *noko nokolao-woi tolo-**tomasi**-ko-imo*
    man   women-WITH   stand-be.together.with-3NS.U-FUT
    'He will stand together with other people.'

4.2.7.2 Compounding Involving Non-Verbs

Compounding of nouns are extremely rare. When it occurs the total meaning is not the sum of the parts as can be seen from the examples.

144) *fu-aluwou*
pig-dog
'family'

The stem *mulumolo-* 'thinking process' is a compound of *mulu* 'heart' and *molo* 'path' and is used in some verbs.

145) *mulu-molo-luwai*
heart-path-FOLLOW
'believe in someone'

146) *mulu-molo-ko*
heart-path-3NS.U
'think about something'

A shortened form, *-fa*, of the adjective *koufa* 'small' is used as a diminutive on nouns. This is a regular operation. This diminutive does also occur on a few verb stems.

147) *alu-fa*   *noni-fa*   *a-fa*
child-small   woman-small   tree-small
'baby'   'young teenage girl' 'stick'

148) *no-sai-no*   ***amuno-fa**-mo-ki*
that-ABL-that   go.straight-small-S-RPST
'He went a short bit.'

The dual forms of the personal pronouns are compound forms. The plural forms are reduced through apocope and the shortened form is joined to the numeral *ti* 'two'.

149) *koi*   *ko-ti*
1P.EX   1P.EX-two
'we excl.'   'we two excl.'

Most demonstrative pronouns are compound forms.

150) *i-so-ni*   *anu-na-ni*   *no-sai-no*
here-ALL-here   there-FOC-here   there-ABL-there
'here & now'   'that'   'then'

4.2.8 Cliticisation

All clitics in Ama occur on phrase and clause level, though some of them have discourse function. Mostly clitics occur on the noun phrase and may, then, cliticise to a noun, pronoun or adjective. Cliticisation may also occur on a verb. Clitics in that position function at clause level. There are three kinds of clitics based on their function: case clitics, discourse clitics and a relational clitic.

For the use of clitics in demonstrative pronouns and temporal adverbs see sections 5.3.2 (Demonstrative Pronouns) and 5.5.1 (Temporal Adverbs) respectively.

Clitics are phonologically bound, but grammatically they are free forms. This is marked in the description in the following sub-sections[33] by a hyphen in square brackets [-]. Only enclitics (post-clitics) occur.

4.2.8.1 Case Clitics

Marking case by cliticisation on the noun phrase is one of several strategies of case marking in Ama. The

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[33] though not in any examples

following case markers occur:

[-]*ni*   'genitive'

[-]*yo*   'agent, instrumental'

[-]*so*   'allative, benefactive'

[-]*sai*   'ablative'

[-]*mai*   'locative'

[-]*monoi*   'reason, purpose, oblique'

For more details see section 6.2.3.2 (Case Marking of Noun Phrases).

151) *la   mo   iwo   siyoli-**ni** koloni*
      fish TOP   water big-GEN   animal
      'Fish are the animals of the sea.'

152) *Liyali-**ni**   nu*
      a.name-GEN house
      'Liyali's house'

153) *Wau   nali-no   noko komaso noko-**yo** no-ko-**monoi**.*
      share really-there man   all   man-AG   eat-3NS.U-OBLQ
      'Sharing in order for all people to eat.'

154) *lamo-**yo**   yau*
      arrow-AG   dead
      'dead from an arrow'

155) *koi   mo   Yowiya yu-**sai**   Akolu yu-**so**   naukolo*
      1P.EX TOP   a.name hill-ABL   a.name hill-ALL   build.hunting.shelter

      na   samo-ko-s-a-ti-ki-noki
      FOC   hunt-3NS.U-sit-CDA-go.inside-RPST-1NS.EX.A
      'We went in from Yowiya hill to Akolu hill to build a hunting shelter to stand (there) hunting for (pig).'

156) *yo-**so**   po-ni-mono-∅-∅*
      1S-ALL IR-give.P.PAT-1S.U-IMP-S
      'Give them to me!'

157) *solo-**sai**   mo   na   ti-yousi*
      laugh-ABL TOP   FOC   PR-sit
      'Having (learnt to) laugh he sits.' (about child development)

158) *na   si-ki-noki,   Akolu yu-**mai**   mo*
      FOC   sit.P-RPST-1NS.EX.A   Akolu hill-LOC   TOP
      'We were at Akolu hill'

159) *asa-**monoi**   to-tumo*
      1S.EMPH-OBLQ PR-come
      'He is coming because of me.'

4.2.8.2 Discourse Clitics

There are three discourse clitics.

[-]*su*   'contrast'
[-]*noi*   'emphatic'
[-]*wo*   'mistaken assumption'

The clitic -*su* 'contrast' cliticises to noun phrases to mark contrast. The clitic -*noi* 'emphatic' cliticises to genitive and demonstrative forms as well as to some question words to emphasise and point out. The clitic -*wo* 'mistaken assumption' cliticises to any phrase or clause.

160) *Koino   mo   Kuto-so   pa-mulu-molo-luwai-ki-∅-so*
Cain   TOP   God-ALL   RIR-heart-road-FOLLOW-RPST-1/3S.A-NEG

*Aipolo-**su**   mo   na   mulu-molo-luwai-mana-ki-∅*
Abel-CON   TOP   FOC   heart-road-FOLLOW-GO-RPST-1/3S.A
'Cain did not believe in God. **But** Abel, **he** kept believing in him.'

161) *ni-**su**   mo   ya-ni-**noi***
this-CON   TOP   1S-GEN-EMPH
'**This** is **mine**.'

162) *hani-**noi***
what-EMPH
'What is this?'

163) *ya pi-yomu siyoli-**wo***
1S IR-think big-MIST.ASMP
'I thought it was big (but it was not).'

4.2.8.3 Relational Clitic

There is clitic that occur on noun phrases or on a clause and have either co-ordinating or sub-ordinating function depending on the nature and structure of the argument it is relating to:

[-]*woi*   'with'

NP[-]*woi* NP[-]*woi*   (examples (164))

NP[-]*woi*   (example) (165)

CLAUSE/NP [-]*woi*   *muwoi* (example (166), (167))
            [-]WITH   NEG

It functions in three contexts: co-ordination of noun phrases of equal importance, sub-ordination of noun phrases of unequal importance and sub-ordination of a noun phrase or clause with a negative particle in order to negate the phrase or clause.

164) *ya-ni   alalo-**woi**   noni-**woi**   mo   tiya   na   si-ki*
1S-GEN   children-WITH   woman-WITH   TOP   hunger   FOC   sit.P-RPST
'My children and wife were hungry.'

165) *to mani toni-**woi***
3S   also   bow-WITH
'He too, has/had a bow.'

166) *yo mo   toni mo   a-ko-**woi**   muwoi*
1S TOP bow TOP get-3NS.U-WITH   not
'I did not get the bow.'

167) *Tuo-**woi**   muwoi, tuo mo   uwofa   na.*
sago-WITH   not   sago TOP finished   FOC
'There was no sago, it was all gone.'

4.3 Derivation versus Inflection

The difference between a derivational affix and an inflectional is not clear cut in Ama. Only one affix is typically derivational in that it changes one word class into another: the suffix -*so* 'adverbialiser', changing an adjective into an adverb.

168) *somoi-**so**   po-tumo-∅-∅*
quick-ADVR   IR-come-IMP-S
'Come quickly!'

Another suffix -*a* 'unique' does not change the word class but makes the singled out entity unique in its class.

169) *im-**a***   *imo*
     talk-UNQ   talk
     'meaning/summary of something said'

170) *naino*   *nain-**a***
     hand   hand-UNQ
     'hand'   'right hand'

A third derivational suffix is -*ta* 'specifier. It is used for a certain form of characterisation described in section 6.2.1 (The Noun Group).

171) *nokolalo toitati noko-**ta***
     women   four   man-SPEC
     'the man with four wives'

In addition to the above mentioned clearly derivational suffixes there are a number of suffix-like morphemes referring to number of participants that are best interpreted as derivational. These occur irregularly, mostly, in some verb forms to indicate number along an absolutive system. They are seldom the only indication of number and do not occur at all on other words with the same function. A hypothesis is that they are no longer part of a synchronic grammatical process, but represent an earlier stage of the language.

-*mo*   '(third) singular (masculine absolutive)'

-*yai*   'singular'

-*mi*   'singular'

-*ulu*   'non-singular'

-*muwano*   'non-singular'

Suffix-like Morphemes Marking Number

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
'good'	*itouni-**yai**-**mo*** good-S-S 'good'	*i-ti-touni* good-RED.NS-good 'good (pl.)'
'run'	*fu-**mo*** run-S 'I/he ran'	*fu-fu-**muwano*** RED.NS-run-NS 'they ran'
'climb up'	*kou-**mi*** climb.up-S.A 'I/he climbed up'	*kou-kou-**muwano*** RED.NS-climb.up-NS 'they climbed up'
'shout'	*alola-**mo*** shout-S 'I/he shouted'	*alola-**muwano*** shout-NS 'they shouted'
'stand up'	*auwono* stand.up 'I/he stood up'	*auwono-**ulu*** stand.up-NS 'they stood up'
'marry male(s)'	*au* marry.a.man 'she married him'	*au-**lu*** marry.a.man.NS 'she married them'

Morphophonemic Rule12 apply to the suffix -*ulu* (see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics).

The most interesting of these is the suffix -*mo* 'singular'. Historically this seems to be the third singular masculine absolutive form, which in the language, as it is spoken today, has lost most of its masculine quality as shown in the following two examples where one of the female forms has the masculine suffix as part of the stem and the other does not.

172) *i(-)**mo**-ki-∅*   *fu(-)**mo**-ki*
say(-3SM.ABS)-RPST-1/3S.A   run(-3SM.ABS)-RPST
'I/he/she said to him'   'he ran'

173) *i-**so**-ki-no*   *fu(-)**mo**-**so**-ki*
say-3SF.ABS-RPST-3NS.A   run(-3SM.ABS)-3SF.ABS-RPST
'they said to her'   'she ran'

In a few verbs that may be either intransitive or transitive the undergoer and absolutive suffixes, including the somewhat elderly -*mo* with the masculine meaning intact, are clearly derivational and increase the valence by one. A typical example is *alosi* 'turn'.

174) *noko-yo alosi-ki*   *namoli-yo alosi-mo-ki-no*
man-AG   turn-RPST   back-AG   turn-S-RPST-3NS.A
'the man turned around'   'they turned their back to him'

175) *noni-so-monoi   alosi-so-ki-no*
women-ABL-OBLQturn-3SF.ABS-RPST-3NS.A
'they turned towards the woman'

This operation also works for deriving verbs from adjectives.

176) *noko-yo alaloni apitono-so   **koiyau-m**-aki-no   mo   ta-ni   alalo-so*
man-AG   children father.3-ALL   bad-S-WHEN/IF-3NS.A TOP 3S-GEN children-ALL

*mani **kopo-koiyau-ko**-i-no-mo*
also   RED.NS-bad-3NS.U-FUT-3NS.A-FUT
'When people mistreat a father they mistreat his children as well.'

Apart from what has been said above, there are also reasons to consider operations involving number marking by reduplication, stem modification and suppletion as derivational, as well as all operations involving undergoer and absolutive marking. The choice of number of participants is a semantic choice more than a grammatical. A verb word, or a whole clause, may function as a noun phrase in Ama. If it does, the above mentioned categories are still marked on the verb, while other operations are either optional or cannot be there at all. This will be illustrated with the frame: "... is OK." It is not possible to use the same stem when number or gender of participants is changed.

177) ***mano**   mo   waliyo*
go   TOP OK
'It is OK for me/him to go.'
'*It is OK for her to go.'
'*It is OK for them to go.'

178) ***mano-so**   mo   waliyo*
go-3SF.ABS   TOP OK
'It is OK for her to go.'

179) ***nu** mo   waliyo*
go.P TOP OK
'It is OK for them to go.'

180) *noko **fasi-ko**   mo   waliyo*
man   help-3NS.U TOP OK
'It is OK to help people.'

181) *molo **kau-kau**   mo   waliyo*
eye   RED.NS-shut   TOP OK
'Shutting one's eyes is OK.'

A verb root that also may be interpreted as derivational is -*kai* 'stative' as it is part of some basic verb stems, e.g. *atoli**kai*** 'lean on'. Verbs with this extra root attached may also function as a noun.

182) *muwo-ko-**kai**-∅-mono   mo   waliyo*
mark-3NS-PUT-GIVE1-1S.U   TOP OK
'It is OK to mark them for me.'

Affixes that may **not** be interpreted as derivational are the modal prefixes, the actor, tense, deontic mood, and negative suffixes. Other affixes and modifying verb roots come somewhere between.

183) ***to**-tumo mo waliyo*
    IR-come TOP OK
    'Coming is OK.'

184) **tumo-**ki-ni*   *mo   waliyo*   *nona   tumo mo waliyo*
    come-RPST-2S TOP OK   2S.EMPH come TOP OK
    'It was OK for you to come.'   'It is/was OK for you to come.'

It seems that the categories of derivational and inflectional operations are best described as working along a continuum.

Derivational   Inflectional

←——→

adverbialiser	number	stative	other	mood
	undergoer			tense
	absolutive			actor sfxs
				ergative sfxs
				neutral case sfxs
				actor+undergoer sfxs
				negative
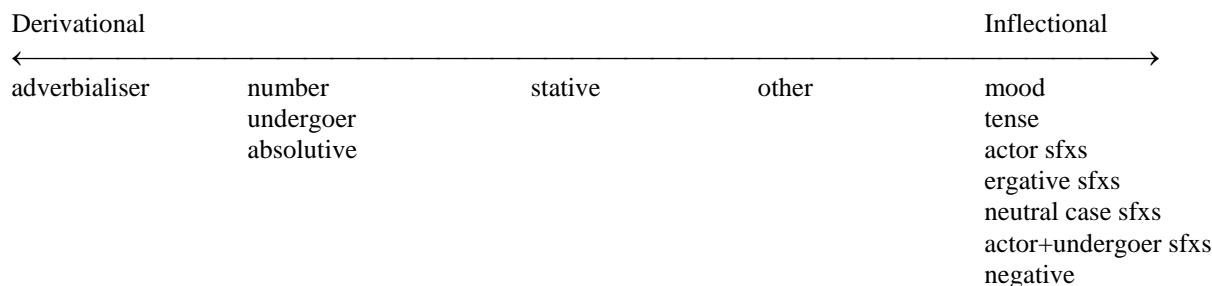
4.4 Morphophonemics

There are a number of morphophonemic rules. Rules 1-2 apply to prefixes, Rules 3-12 to suffixes, Rules 13-14 to reduplication and Rules 15-17 to certain verb roots with regular stem modification involving other segments than the last vowel.

Modal Prefixes

Rules 1 and 2 apply to the prefixes *to-* 'present' and *po-* 'realis'.[34]

Rule 1

$$V \rightarrow [\alpha back] \quad / \quad \underline{\quad} \quad C$$
$$\{w/kw/y\}$$

The vowel in the modal prefixes *to-* 'present' and *po-* 'realis' varies in backness with the following consonants: /w/[35], /k^w/ and /j/.

185)   ***tu**-waso-so-∅*   PR-beat-3SF.ABS-1/3S.A   '(he) is beating her'

186)   ***pu**-kwai-∅-∅*   IR-perceive-IMP-S   'hear!'

187)   ***ti**-yousi*   PR-sit   '(he) is sitting'

188)   ***to**-nu*   PR-go.P   'they are going'

Rule 2

$$V \rightarrow \varnothing \quad / \quad \underline{\quad} \quad V$$

The vowel in the modal prefixes *tV-* 'present' and *pV-* 'realis' is deleted preceding another vowel.

189)   ***t**-i-∅*   PR-get.P-1/3S.A   '(he) gets it all'

Future Tense and Prohibitive Suffixes

Rules 3 and 4 apply to the suffixes *-imo* 'future' and *-i* 'prohibitive'.

Rule 3

$$\varnothing \rightarrow yo \quad / V \quad \underline{\quad}i$$

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[34] Orthographic symbols are used if not otherwise specified.

[35] If *w* is followed by *i* the rule does not apply,
  for example: *to-wiyoluko-∅*   PR-show.somebody.some.things-1/3.S.A   '(he) is showing them some things'

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{[-back]} \\ \text{/o/} \end{array} \right.$$

An extra syllable *-yo* is inserted preceding the suffixes *-imo* 'future' and *-i* 'prohibitive', if the verb stem ends in a front vowel or the phoneme /o/ (spelled <u>).

190)	*afoli-**yo**imo*	throw-FUT	'(he) will throw it'
191)	*noiyo afoli-**yo**i-∅*	PROH throw-PROH-S	'don't throw it'
192)	*samuku-**yo**imo*[36]	watch.over-FUT	'(he) will watch over him'
193)	*ko-imo*	build-FUT	'(he) will build it'

Rule 4

u   →   o   / ___i

If the verb stem ends in /u/ this vowel is changed to /ɒ/ (spelled <o>) preceding /i/.

194) *fu un**o**-imo*   (*unu*   'shoot')
      pig   shoot-FUT
      '(he) will shoot a pig'

195) *sosono mo   isi-ko-ut**o**-i-ni-mo*   (*utu*   'cook/burn')
      grass   TOP   cut-3C.ABS-cook-FUT-2S-FUT
      'you will cut and burn the grass'

Exception to Rules 3 and 4

Two common verb roots are irregular and by-pass Rule 3: *si* 'sit (pl.)' and *ti* 'come (pl.)'. Instead the vowel in the root is changed from *i* to *o* preceding *i*.

196)	*noiyo **so**-i-wo*	PROH sit.P-PROH-NS	'don't stay'
197)	***to**-imo*	come.P-FUT	'they will come'

One common verb root is irregular and by-pass Rule 4: *nu* 'go (pl.)'. Instead an extra syllable, *-wo-,* is inserted preceding *i*.

198)	*nu-**wo**imo*	go.P-FUT	'they will go'

Future Tense Suffix

Rules 5, 6 and 7 all apply to the suffix *-imo* 'future' only.

Rule 5

mo   →   ∅   / ___so
[-imo]   [NEG]

When the future tense is negated the future tense marker *-imo* is reduced to *-i*.

199) *tumo-i**mo***   *pa-tumo-i-so*
      come-FUT   RIR-come-FUT-NEG
      '(he) will come'   '(he) will not come'

Rule 6

imo-A.SFX   →   i-A.SFX-mo

When the actor suffix[37] is added to the future tense marker this suffix is infixed within the future tense marker. If it is a negative future, the actor suffix precedes the negative suffix.

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[36] /samuk**o-**jɛimo/

[37] With actor, in this context, is meant: actor, portmanteau actor+undergoer, as well as neutral case. First and third person singular is a zero, which does not appear in the glossing of future tense.

200) *tumo-**i-ni-mo***   *pa-tumo-**i-ni-so***
      come-FUT-2S-FUT   RIR-come-FUT-2S-NEG
      'you (sg.) will come'   'you (sg.) will not come'

Rule 7

    noki   →   ki   / i___mo
    nukuwo   kuwo

When the portmanteau morphemes *-noki* and *-nukuwo* are infixed within the future tense marker *-imo,* they are reduced to *-ki* and *-kuwo* respectively. In the following examples Rule 3 also applies.

201) *fasi-**yoi-ki-mo***   *fasi-**yoi-kuwo-mo***
      help-FUT-1A+2S.U-FUT   help-FUT-1A+2NS.U-FUT
      'I/we will help you (sg.)'   'I/we will help you (pl.)'

Suffixes Starting with *-a* and the Suffix *-u* 'obligatory'

Rules 8, 9 and 10 apply to yesterday's past tense suffix *-a*, the compounding juncture morpheme *-a*, the temporal/conditional morpheme *-aki* and the suffix *-u* 'obligatory'. Rules 8 and 9 apply before Rule 10 except for the common verbs *si* 'sit (pl.)' and *ti* 'come (pl.)'. Irregular is also the verb *nu* 'go (pl.)'. The rules also apply irregularly to the derivational suffix *-a* 'unique'. For all exceptions see below.

Rule 8

    V   →   yV   / V   ___
    {a/u}   {a/u}   ⌈[-back]
                                 ⌊/o/

Rule 9

    V   →   wV   / au/ou___
    {a/u}   {a/u}

The first syllable of any suffix starting with *a* and the suffix *-u* 'obligative' becomes *-ya/-yu* following a front vowel or the phoneme /o/ (spelled <u>). They become *-wa/-wu* following /*au*/ and /*ou*/.

202) *tuo   a-**ya**-no*
      sago   harvest-CDA-go.straight
      'go and harvest sago'

203) *ki-**ya**-tumo*
      see-CDA-come
      'come to see him'

204) *asa-yo   hamuku-**ya**-∅*[38]
      1S.EMPH   help-YPST-1/3S.A
      'I helped him yesterday'

205) *koli-kali-**yu**-konu-mo*
      RED.NS-die-OBLG-2NS.U-FUT
      'you (pl.) must die'

206) *samuku-**yu**-mo*
      watch.over-OBLG-FUT
      'he/she must watch over him'

207) *auwoni-you-**wa***
      rise-up-YPST
      '(he) rose yesterday'

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[38] /hamuk**o**-ja/

208) *noko-so   na   au-**wu**-mo*[39]
     man-ALL   FOC   marry.a.man-OBLG-FUT
     'she must marry'

Rule 10

$$V \rightarrow \emptyset \ / \ \_\_ \ V$$
$$\{a,u\}$$

A vowel followed by a suffix starting with *a* or followed by the suffix *-u* 'obligatory' is lost.

209) ***an**-a-tumo*   (*an**o***)
     get-CDA-come   get
     'come to get it'   'get'

210) *ifou   na   mano-**s**-u-mo*   (*mano-so*)
     back   FOC   go-3SF.ABS-OBLG-FUT   go-3SF.ABS
     'she must go back'   'go (fem.)'

211) *ulai noko tukuwoli foli-monoi   na   kal-**u***   (*kalo*)
     but   man kill.NS compensation-OBLQ   FOC   die-OBLG   die
     'but he must die in retribution for killing (some) men'   'die'

Exceptions to Rules 8, 9 and 10

Two common verb roots *si* 'sit (pl.)' and *ti* 'come (pl.)' are irregular and by-pass Rule 8. Rule 10 applies directly to them.

212) *na   **s-a**-tumo*
     FOC   sit-CDA-come
     'they came and stayed'

213) *fai   **t-a***
     yesterday   come.P-YPST
     'they came yesterday'

214) *atiyai-so   na   **s-uo**-mo*[40]
     careful-ADVR   FOC   sit.P-OBLG-FUT
     'they must be careful'

One common verb root *nu* 'go (pl.)' is irregular and Rule 9 applies instead of Rule 10 for any suffixes starting with *a*. The obligative form, however, is regular and Rule 10 applies.

215) *nu-**w**aki mo*
     go.P-WHEN/IF TOP
     'when/if they go …'

216) *n-**uo**-mo*
     go.P-OBLG-FUT
     'they must go'

The suffix *-a* 'unique' is irregular in the following way. If the root ends in *i* or *o* Rules 8 and 10, respectively, apply in a regular way.

217) *siyoli-**ya***   (*siyoli*)
     big-UNQ   big
     '**the** biggest'   'big'

218) *nok-**a**   noko*   (*noko*)
     man-UNQ   man   man
     'a man (not a ghost)'   'man'

---

[39] In this form the suffix *-wu* is a variant of *-u* and not *-w-u* 'NS.A-OBLQ'. The plural form is *au-lu-w-u-mo* marry.a.man-NS.U-NS.A-OBLQ-FUT 'they must marry (one husband each)'

[40] The following orthographic convention applies: the vowel /o/ is in one syllable roots spelled <uo> and in roots of more than one syllable usually <u> (see Orthographic Conventions 3.4.1). This means that the obligative suffix *-u* usually is spelled <u>, but could be spelled <uo> as in this case and in example (216).

If the root ends in *u* Rule 9 applies instead of Rule 10.

219) *fu-wa*   (*fu*)
     pig-UNQ pig   pig
     'a real pig'   'pig'

If the root ends in *a* none of the above rules applies.

220) *sa-a*   *sa*   (*sa*)
     rain-UNQ rain   rain
     'the worst of rains'   'rain'

Juncture Morpheme *-yo*

Rule 11 applies to the compounding juncture morpheme *-yo*.

Rule 11

    V   →   i   / ___ yo
                          [compounding juncture]
                          you

When the juncture morpheme *-yo* 'towards' is used to join two verb roots the preceding vowel is changed to *i*. This rule also applies to any root preceding the morpheme *-you* 'move up'.

221) *ani-yo-tumo*   (*ano*)
     get-CDT-come   get
     'bring it'   'get it'

222) *tomoki ani-you-ki-∅*
     stone   get-move.up-RPST-1/3S.A
     '(he) lifted the stone up'

Non-Singular Suffix *-ulu*

Rule 12 applies to the suffix-like morpheme *-ulu* 'non-singular'.

Rule 12

u →   ∅   / u___
[**u**lu]

The first vowel *u* in *-ulu* 'non-singular' is lost when it follows another *u*.

223) *au-lu*
     marry.a.male-NS
     'marry men'

Reduplication

There are a number of rules relating to reduplication. Most reduplication occurs in the verb. Its function is to increase the number of an absolutive argument. Reduplication also occurs in the noun, adjective and in a few adverbs and question words all with the function of increasing number. Pronouns are reduplicated to indicate contrastive focus.

Most of this reduplication is, however, only partially regular and only applies to certain forms in a non-predictable and irregular way. It is believed that these rules are residues from former diachronic operations. See section 4.2.4 (Reduplication) for details.

However, there are two rules that are regular and these will be repeated here as Rules 13 and 14. Rule 13 applies to most adjectives and simple verbs (see section 5.1.2.1 (Simple Verbs)) and Rule 14 applies to pronouns.

Rule 13

Rule 13 applies to simple verbs and adjectives to signal non-singular.

RED.NS → ADJ/Vroot → ADJ/Vroot ADJ/Vroot

The whole root is exactly reduplicated. This results in two words due to stress patterns.

Complete Reduplication: Adjective and Simple Verb

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
kapu (*kapu*)	*kapu*	**kapu** *kapu*
'eat'	eat	RED.NS eat
kolo (*kolo*)	*kolo*	**kolo** *kolo*
'throw'	throw	RED.NS throw
sopo (*sopo*)	*sopo*	**sopo** *sopo*
'tall'	tall	RED.NS tall
ukolo (*ukolo*)	*ukolo*	**ukolo** *ukolo*
'weak'	weak	RED.NS weak

A few very common adjectives have irregular forms in non-singular (see section 5.4.1 (Reduplication of Adjectives).

Rule 14

Rule 14 applies to personal pronouns to signal emphasis or contrastive focus.

RED.EMPH→ C_1 o(i) → C_1 oC_1 a(i)

The first syllable is reduplicated. If the reduplicated syllable contains a diphthong the last vowel segment is dropped. There is a vowel change in the final syllable of the reduplicated pronoun from *o* to *a*..

Reduplication in Personal Pronouns

Meaning	Basic	Reduplicated
to	*to*	**to**-*ta*
'he/she'	3S	RED.EMPH-3S
toi	*toi*	**to**-*tai*
'they'	3P	RED.EMPH-3P
koi	*koi*	**ko**-*kai*
'we excl.'	3P.EX	RED.EMPH-1P.EX

The rule does not apply to first person singular. For complete paradigms see section 5.3.1 (Personal Pronouns).

Verb Roots

Rules 15-17 apply to certain verb roots with regular stem modification involving other segments than the last vowel.

Rule 15

Rule 15 applies to verb roots with the shape *Coni*.

Coni → Cino / ___i

Metathesis occurs in a verb root of the shape *Coni* when a suffix starting with *i* follows. The vowels switch place and the root becomes *Cino*

224)	*to-soni*	PR-cry	'(he) is crying'
225)	*noiyo **sino**-i-∅*	PROH cry-PROH-S	'don't cry'
226)	*a-noni-ki-∅*	give-GIVE2/3-1/3S.A	'(he) gave it to him'
227)	*a-**nino**-imo*	give-GIVE2/3-FUT	'(he) will give it to him'

Rule 16

Rule 16 applies to verb roots with the shape *Coi*.

Coi→ Cano /[-final]

A verb root of the shape *Coi* is changed to *Cano* as soon as any suffixes are added.

228) *yo to-**moi***   *yo **mano**-ki*   *mo-ti*   *to-**mano**-nuwo*
    1S PR-go   1S go-RPST   1P.IN/2P-two   PR-go-2NS
    'I'm going'   'I went'   'Are you two leaving?'

Rule 17

Rule 17 applies to verb roots starting with the vowel *a*, when they appear as a modifying root in a compound verb.

    a → ∅ /verb root___

A verb root starting with an *a* is lost when functioning as a modifier in compound verb.

229) *kumo-**noni***   ***anoni***
    write-GIVE2/3   give
    'write (one paper) to him'   'give one thing to him'

230) *muwo-so-**kai**-∅-mono-ki-no*   (***a**kai*)   (***a**-mono*)
    mark-3SF.ABS-PUT-GIVE1-1S.U-RPST-3NS.A   put   give-1S.U
    'they marked her for me'   'put'   'give one thing to me'

5. WORDS

There are nine word classes based on their function as well as on how affixes are distributed among them. They are **verbs**, **nouns**, **pronouns** (including demonstratives), **adjectives** (including numbers), **adverbs** (including manner, temporal and locational adverbs), **conjunctions**, **interjections** and **particles**. In addition there are **question words** that actually are a collection of words from other word classes, but because of their similar function they will here be considered a word class of their own.

5.1 Verbs

Verbs constitute an open class of words that function as heads of verb phrases. There are two types based on structure. **Complex verbs** take prefixes marking mood and locative and suffixes marking e.g. tense and person. **Simple verbs** take no affixation, but some may occur together with an inflected auxiliary.

231) *koi   mo   wiko mo   ti-woi   na   **∅-si-ki-noki***
    1P.EX TOP week TOP two-WITH FOC R-sit.P-RPST-1NS.EX.A
    'We were (there) for two weeks.'

232) *ya-ni   anoi   mo   ai   **t-uwo-so***
    1S-GEN mother.1 TOP sickness PR-afflict-3SF.ABS
    'My mother is sick.'

233) *tuo   komu ∅-i-ko-ki-∅*   ***kusomi***
    sago head   R-AUX-3NS.U-RPST-1/3S.A   take.hold.of
    'I/he/she took (some) lumps of sago.'

234) ***so-sonuno**-woi*   *futo*
    RED.NS-cry-WITH   finished
    'Their crying was over.'

There are two main classes of verbs: **intransitive and transitive**, based on whether a verb takes one or two arguments. An intransitive verb may be either **active or non-active** (see Active and Non-Active 5.1.4.1 for details). However, it may also be seen that many verbs vary in form with the number of the absolutive argument connected with it. In accordance with this system, the Ama verbal system could be described as **ergative-absolutive**. Gender marking also follow the ergative-absolutive system (see Ergative-Absolutive 5.1.4.3). In addition, second person is split but to a large extent it is marked in a **neutral** way, i.e. actors and undergoers are usually marked the same. If it is not, **portmanteau** morphemes expressing both the actor and the undergoer are used.

5.1.1 The Basic Verb Form

A verb root in Ama may vary with number and sometimes gender. That being the case, it is desirable to find a **basic verb form** from which other forms could, at least to some degree, be predicted. The most neutral form there is in the language is **the third person singular masculine.** It is a bare verb root, which may be conjugated for person (including number, gender and case), tense and mood, as well as other more peripheral verb categories. This basic form is in many cases the same regardless of number of participants. This is the unmarked form used in the gloss of the examples.

In an **intransitive non-active** verb the basic form is congruent with 3SM.

In an **intransitive active** verb the basic form is ambiguous, being congruent with both 1S or 3SM.

In a **transitive** verb the basic form is congruent with 3SM **undergoer**, while for the **actor** zero morphemes are postulated making it congruent with both 1S or 3S.

See section 5.1.2.2.1 (Basic Verb Paradigms) for an overview of person marking.

For definitions of 'active' - 'non-active' and 'actor' - 'undergoer' in Ama see sections 4 (Morphology) and 5.1.4 (Marking Person, Number, Gender and Case).

The basic form is also understood as realis and today's past tense, both of which are signalled by zero morphemes. The following examples illustrate the use of the basic form. The focus marker functions as a frame for bare forms in these examples.

235) *na* ∅-***kalo***-∅   (a non-active intransitive verb, which takes an undergoer as its
     FOC R-die-TPST   only argument; the basic form is congruent with 3SM)
     'He died.'

236) *na* ∅-***moi***-∅   (an active intransitive verb, which takes an actor as its only
     FOC R-go-TPST   argument; the basic form is congruent with both 1S and 3SM)
     'I/he just left.'

237) *na* ∅-***fasi***-∅-∅   (a transitive verb, which takes both an undergoer and an actor as
     FOC R-help-TPST-1/3S.A   arguments; the basic form is congruent with 3SM undergoer.
     'I/he/she just helped him.'   There are zero morphemes postulated for 1S.A and 3S.ERG
          making this form congruent with both first and third person   actors, glossed as
     1/3S.A)

5.1.2 Basic Verb Structure

A verb consists of at least one verb root. There are two types of verbs based on their structure: simple and complex. A simple verb takes no affixes. A complex verb takes a variety of them. It may also consist of more than one verb root.

5.1.2.1 Simple Verbs

There is a type of verb that takes no affixation. This type has two sub-types: imperative simple verbs and common simple verbs. The imperative simple verbs are listed in the first column. They are only used as imperatives (or hortatives). The common simple verbs are listed in the second column. These verbs may be used in any context where a complex verb can be used. Some of them are fully reduplicated (usually two words) to indicate non-singular of its absolutive argument.

Imperative Simple Verbs		**Common Simple Verbs**	
awi	'wait!'	*kolo*	'throw'
fau	'look out!'	*kusumi*	'get'
fuo	'take it!'	*sai*	'know' (never reduplicated)
fuwoi	'move!'	*sosoli*	'don't know'
kapu kapu	eat! (always reduplicated)	*tu*	'break'
kuku	'come!'	*ukou*	'grab' (RED: *ukoukukou*)
soi	'let's go! (hortative)		

238) *toni   kusumi*
bow   get
'get/got the bow'

239) *tomoki   **kolo***   *tomoki   **kolo**   **kolo***
stone   throw   stone   RED.NS   throw
'throw a stone'   'throw stones'

240) ***kuku**, na   po-tumo-∅-∅*
come! FOC   IR-come-IMP-S
'Come!!'

241) *toi **fau**,   atiyai-so   na   s-uo-mo*
3P lookout   careful-ADVR FOC   sit-OBLG-FUT
'They better look out and be careful.'

242) *koi   mo   **sai**   muwoi, koi   mo   **sosoli***
1P.EX   TOP   know   NEG   1P.EX   TOP   know.not
'We really don't know.'

The common simple verbs may be preceded by an auxiliary, *imo*, totally avoid of meaning, but which can be inflected as any complex verb form. This auxiliary is a separate word. If there is no auxiliary to indicate non-singular, the reduplicated form is used as shown in example (239). In the example below the form of the auxiliary is *i-ko*, which is congruent with a third person non-singular undergoer, in this case the lumps of sago.

243) *tou   komu   **i-ko-ki-∅**   **kusumi***
sago   head   AUX-3NS.U-RPST-1/3S.A   get
'I/he/she got several lumps of sago.'

One of the imperative/hortative simple verbs *soi* 'let's go!', which in its simple form i hortative, may actually take a couple of affixes to indict imperative and also number as shown below.

soi-wo   let's go (pl.)!

soi-su[41]   go!

soi-su-wo   go (pl.)!

There is one further simple verb that does not fit either of the just described types: *fi* 'do'. It is only used in one context: the mode frustrated intention. It is never reduplicated. See section 5.1.3.3.4 (Mode).

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[41] The suffix *-su* 'IMP' only occurs on this form.

244)   *tukolo-monoi louwa*   ***fi***
       kill-OBLQ   FRUST.INT do
       '(they) want(ed) to kill him but …'

5.1.2.2 Complex Verbs

Complex verbs take several kinds of affixes. There are two kinds of prefixes expressing location and epistemic mood respectively. Suffixes express undergoer/absolutive, tense (or deontic mood), actor (or number in deontic mood) and negation. None of the affixes are obligatory in all environments.

Complex verbs may also consist of more than one verb root/stem, where the first root/stem is the head and the following roots/stems function a modifiers, expressing among other things aspect and benefactive. Up to three modifying roots/stems have been observed. The modifying verb stems occur instead of second order suffixes. They are not obligatory.

The head stem may be a root or a stem that has been augmented to increase number by a derivational suffix, reduplication, stem modification or suppletion.

The following formula shows the structure of a complex verb:

	(-2)	(-1)	head-stem	(1)	(stem (2))	(3)	(4)	(5)
V →	(EPST)	(LOC)	stem	(U/ABS)	(root (U/ABS))$_3$	(TENSE/DNT)	(A/NUM)	(NEG)

Epistemic mood and deontic mood do not co-occur, except to express the imperative (see section 5.1.3.3.2 (Deontic Mood)).

5.1.2.2.1 Basic Verb Paradigms

Disregarding the modifying verb stems for the time being the next four examples show some typical verb structures.

245)   *∅-imo-ki-∅*
       R-say-RPST-1/3S.A
       'I/he/she said to him'

246)   *to-ku-no-ko-no*
       PR-down.below-eat-3NS.U-3NS.A
       'they are down below eating'

247)   *pa-ti-ki-noki-so*
       RIR-come.P-RPST-1NS.EX.A-NEG
       'we (excl.) did not come'

248)   *na   po-fasi-mono-∅-wo*
       FOC   IR-help-1S.U-IMP-NS
       'Help me (you pl.)!'

However, the verbal system in Ama is, as far as person, number, gender and case marking go, irregular and not fully predictable. Verb stems may vary in form with number and sometimes with gender. There is also a semantic split in the verbs themselves in active - non-active, making the marking of person mainly active - non-active. Second person, however, is split between a neutral system and a system with portmanteau morphemes expressing both the actor and the undergoer. Gender is only marked in third person singular and then in an ergative - absolutive way. All this makes many verb forms not very transparent. Some verb paradigms on invariable verb stems with regular suffixation may be helpful. Three paradigms follow: intransitive active, intransitive non-active and transitive.

Intransitive Active: *liyai* 'walk about'

Person	Singular	Non-Singular
1EX	*liyai*	*liyai-**noki***
1 IN		*liyai-**koni***
2	*liyai-**ni***	*liyai-**nuwo***
3M	*liyai*	
3F	*liyai-**so***	*liyai-**no***
3C	*liyai-**ko***	

Intransitive Non-Active: *usukuno* 'fall'

Person	Singular	Non-Singular
1EX	*usukuno-**mono***	*usukuno-**moko***
1 IN		
2	*usukuno-**ni***	*usukuno-**nuwo***
3M	*usukuno*	
3F	*usukuno-**so***	*usukuno-**ko***
3C	*usukuno-**ko***	

Transitive: *fasi* 'help' and *aloma* 'take away'[42]

↓U/A→	1S	2S	3S	1NS.EX	1NS.IN	2NS	3NS
1S	—	*fasi-**mono**-ni*	*fasi-**mono**-Ø*	—	—	*fasi-**mono**-nuwo*	*fasi-**mono**-no*
2S	*fasi-**noki***	—	*fasi-**ni***	*fasi-**noki***	—	—	*fasi-**ni***
3SM	*fasi-Ø*	*fasi-**ni***	*fasi-Ø*	*fasi-**noki***	*fasi-**koni***	*fasi-**nuwo***	*fasi-**no***
3SF.ABS	*fasi-**so**-Ø*	*fasi-**so**-ni*	*fasi-**so**-Ø*	*fasi-**so**-noki*	*fasi-**so**-koni*	*fasi-**so**-nuwo*	*fasi-**so**-no*
3C.ABS	*aloma-**ko**-Ø*	*aloma-**ko**-ni*	*aloma-**ko**-Ø*	*aloma-**ko**-noki*	*aloma-**ko**-koni*	*aloma-**ko**-nuwo*	*aloma-**ko**-no*
1NS	—	*fasi-**moko**-ni*	*fasi-**moko**-Ø*	—	—	*fasi-**moko**-nuwo*	*fasi-**moko**-no*
2NS	*fasi-**nukuwo***	—	*fasi-**nuwo***	*fasi-**nukuwo***	—	—	*fasi-**nuwo***
3NS	*fasi-**ko**-Ø*	*fasi-**ko**-ni*	*fasi-**ko**-Ø*	*fasi-**ko**-noki*	*fasi-**ko**-koni*	*fasi-**ko**-nuwo*	*fasi-**ko**-no*

When the actor, neutral and portmanteau suffixes (see section 4.2.3.1.3 (Fourth Order Suffixes (4)) co-occur with the future tense marker there are further complications. These actor and actor-like suffixes are infixed within the future tense suffix (according to Morphophonemic Rules 6 and 7, see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics)). In addition, the first person non-singular inclusive is totally irregular. The different forms will be shown in the next paradigms. Morphophonemic Rule 3 applies to both verbs, i.e. the form of -*imo* 'future' is -*yoimo*, following *i*. The portmanteau suffixes are shown in the second of the following tables with the transitive verb *fasi* 'help'.

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[42] A different verb is used to show the paradigm for 3C.ABS as the compound gender almost entirely comprises in-animate nouns.

Actor and Future Tense: *liyai* 'walk about'

Person	Singular	Non-Singular
1EX	*liyai-yoimo*	*liyai-yoi-**ki**-mo*
1 IN		*liyai-**monoi***
2	*liyai-yoi-**ni**-mo*	*liyai-yoi-**nuwo**-mo*
3M	*liyai-yoimo*	
3F	*liyai-**so**-imo*	*liyai-yoi-**no**-mo*
3C	*liyai-**ko**-imo*	

Actor+2 Person Undergoer and Future Tense: *fasi* 'help'

↓U/A→	1A	3A
2S.U	*fasi-yoi-**ki**-mo*	*fasi-yoi-**ni**-mo*
2NS.U	*fasi-yoi-**kuwo**-mo*	*fasi-yoi-**nuwo**-mo*

5.1.2.2.2 Compound Verbs

As mentioned in section 4.2.7.1 (Compounding of Verb Stems), extra verb roots, some with an undergoer suffix attached, may appear between first and third order suffixes. Verb forms with four verb roots/stems have been observed. The second, third and fourth of these may express a number of grammatical and semantic notions including location and direction, aspect, benefactive, change of place or condition and "trying" (for a full list see below). If these modifying stems start with an *a* this is lost according to Morphophonemic Rule 17 (see section 4.4). Allative verbs lose more (see below).

The modifying stems occur in the slot of a second order suffix. Their internal order is as follows:

(**STAT**) (FAV) (BEN/MAL) (**STAT**) (DIR/LOC) (**ATEL**/EV/OTHER) (**PROG/IT**)

It may be noted that all roots/stems belonging to the same group have a common place in this order except for the roots functioning as aspect markers (marked in bold). The root (*a*)*kai* 'put', marking stative aspect, occurs in different places depending on if it marks a benefactive or non-benefactive argument. In example (251) it marks both.

249) *apou   mo   iwo   louwa   **ki**-ya-**kono**-ki-∅*
     father.my   TOP   water   FRUST.INT   see-CDA-go.down-RPST-1/3S.A
     'Father went down wanting to look at the river, but ...

In example (249) there are two roots the second one expressing direction.

250) *uo   mo   na   **louk**-a-**tumo**-**liyai**-ki-no*
     bird   TOP   FOC   wash-CDA-come-walk.about-RPST-3NS.A
     'The birds came from all around to have a bath.'

In example (250) there are three roots. The two last ones expresses direction toward speaker and scattered action respectively.

251) ***muwo**-so-**kai**-∅-mono-**kai**-ki-no*
     mark-3S.ABS-PUT-GIVE1-1S.U-PUT-RPST-3NS.A
     'she is in the state of being promised to me by them'

In the last example there are four verb roots, the head morpheme *muwo* 'mark', -*kai* 'stative' from *akai* 'put' occurring twice, and ∅ is the zero morpheme for benefactive from *a-* 'give to first person'.

Below is a list of verb roots that may occur as modifiers in a verb word. A few forms occurring in compounding cannot occur as head roots but only as modifiers (marked with a hyphen). They are classified as

verb roots on the basis of their relationship to forms that can. A parenthesis means that the part embraced by it is omitted in compounding. The list is not exhaustive.

	Lexical meaning	**Modified Meaning**	**Varies with Number**
Location			
tolo	'stand/live/be (non-pl.)'	'stand/live/be (non-pl.)'	yes
yousi	'sit/be (non-pl.)'	'sit/be (non-pl.)'	"
toi	'lie (non-pl.)'	'lie (non-pl.)'	"
si	'stand/sit/lie/live/be (pl.)'	'stand/sit/lie/live/be (pl.)'	"
Direction/Allative			
(*amu*)*ti*	'go inside'	'go inside'	no
(*amu*)*fu*	'go outside, downriver'	'go outside, downriver'	"
(*amu*)*li*	'go upriver'	'go upriver'	"
(*ami*)*yo*	'go up'	'go up'	"
(*amu*)*kono*	'go down'	'go down'	"
(*amu*)*no*	'go straight (to a place)'	'go straight (to a place)'	"
-lo	'go all over'	'go all over'	"
tumo	'come'	'come'	"
-you	'move up'	'move up'	"
Evaluating			
itouniyaimo	'be good'	'be good'	no
koiyaumo	'be bad'	'be bad'	"
Aspects			
(*a*)*kai*	'put'	'stative'	no
moi/mano	'go'	'progressive'	"
-mosi	'?'	'iterative'	"
(*a*)*luwai*	'follow'	'atelic'	yes
Benefactive			
(*a*)-∅	'give (non-pl.) to me/us'	'benefactive'	yes
(*a*)-*noni*	'give (non-pl.) to you (sg.)/(pl.)//him'	'benefactive'	"
(*a*)-*ti*	'give (non-pl.) to her/them'	'benefactive'	"
ni	'give (pl.) to ... '	'benefactive'	"
Malfactive			
wa	'take (non-pl.) from me/us	'malfactive'	yes
wa-noni	'take (non-pl.) from you (sg.)/(pl.)//him'	'malfactive'	"
wa-ti	'take (non-pl.) from her/them	'malfactive'	"
wai	'take (pl.) from ...'	'malfactive'	"
Favouritism			
unu	'shoot (me/us//you (sg.)/(pl.)//him)'	'favour'	yes
u-so	'shoot(her)'	'favour'	"
uku	'shoot (them)'	'favour'	"
Other			
ki	'see'	'try'	no
liyai	'walk about'	'scattered action'	"
-taikiyo	'send'	'change of place or condition'	"
soli	'dip'	'dip'	yes
tomasimo	'be together with'	'be together with'	"

5.1.3 Marking TAM

5.1.3.1 Tense

There are four suffixes, including a zero morpheme, expressing tense: remote past, yesterday's past, today's past and a future tense. For present a prefix, *to-* "present", expressing a middle category between realis and irrealis mood is used.

Tense	*-ki*	'remote past'
	-a	'yesterday's past'
	∅	'today's past'
	-imo/-i	'future'

The common future form is *-imo*. An alternate form *-i* is used together with the two modal particles *aiko* 'lest' and *poi* 'perhaps'.

252) *tino/toku*   *ko-ko-**ki**-noki*
day.before.yesterday/before   see-3NS.U-RPST-1NS.EX.A
'Day before yesterday/before we saw them.'

253) *somu fai*   *no-k-**a**-noki*
meat   yesterday   eat-3NS.U-YPST-1NS.EX.A
'We (excl.) ate the meat yesterday.'

254) *somosai nu-∅*
morning   go.P-TPST
'They went this morning.'

255) *amuwoi-so*   *tumo-so-**imo***
tomorrow-ADVR   come-3SF.ABS-FUT
'She will come tomorrow.'

256) *wonikaluso **aiko** kalo-mono-**i***
lest   lest   die-1S.U-FUT
'Lest I die.'

257) *auwa-tono*   ***poi***   *mano-**i***
brother-3INAL   perhaps   go-FUT
'his brother will perhaps go'

258) *tiya-woi-su*   *na*   ***to**-si-koni*
hunger-WITH-CON   FOC   PR-sit.P-1NS.IN.A
'But we (excl.) are hungry.'

Morphophonemic Rules 8-10 apply to yesterday's past tense *-a* and Rules 3-7 apply to the future tense *-imo* (see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics)).

5.1.3.2 Aspect

There are six aspect categories expressed in Ama by two different strategies as is shown below.

Aspects

Aspect	Verb Root	Aspectual Adverb in VP
Iterative	(*po-*) *-mosi* 'iterative'	
Progressive	*-moi/-mano-* 'go'	
Stative	*-kai* 'put'	
Atelic	*-luwai* 'follow'	
Perfect		*yasoi, yopoli* 'have/be'
Prospective		*amai* '(not) yet'

Both the iterative and the progressive may be used for the **habitual** aspect.

The suffix -*mosi* 'iterative' usually co-occurs with the irrealis prefix (see section 5.1.3.3.1 (Epistemic Mood)).

For the alteration between *moi* and *mano* 'go/PROG' see Rule 16 in section 4.4 (Morphophonemics).

The stative aspect marker is the verb root *akai* 'put', with the *a* lost according to Morphophonemic Rule 17.

The form *yasoi* 'have/PERF' is used with action verbs like 'come' and *yopoli* 'be/PERF' is used with more stative verbs like 'sit'.

The prospective aspect marker *amai* means 'not yet' when used with punctual verbs and 'yet' when used with stative verbs.

259) *p-ifasiyaimo-mono-**mosi**-ki-∅*
IR-hit-1S.U-IT-RPST-1/3S.A
'He/she hit me again and again.'

260) *na   t-aiyolo-ko-**mano**-no*   *na   t-aiyolo-ko-**moi**-∅-∅*
FOC   PR-teach-3NS.U-GO-3NS.A   FOC   PR-teach-3NS.U-GO-TPST-1/3S.A
'They keep teaching them.'   'I/he/she keep(s) teaching them.'

261) *muwo-so-**kai**-∅-mono-ki-no*   *na   imo-**kai**-ki-∅*
mark-3SF.ABS-PUT-GIVE1-1S.U-RPST-3NS.A   FOC   say-PUT-RPST-1/3S.A
'They marked her for me.'   'I/he/she promised him.'

262) *Koto-so   mulu-molo-**luwai***
God-ALL   heart-road-FOLLOW
'believe in God'

263) ***yasoi*** *tumo-∅*   ***yopoli*** *ti-yousi*
PERF   come-TPST   PERF   PR-sit
'(He) has come.'   '(He) is here.'

264) ***amai*** *tumo-imo*   ***amai***   *ti-yousi*
(not.)yetcome-FUT   (not.)yet   PR-sit
'(He) hasn't come yet (but will).'   '(He) is still here.'

5.1.3.3 Mood and Mode[43]

There are three kinds of moods signalled on the verb in Ama: epistemic mood, deontic mood and conative mood[44]. In addition there are other non-factual modes signalled in the verb phrase or in the clause.

5.1.3.3.1 Epistemic Mood

There are four prefixes expressing epistemic mood, two of them used for realis and two for irrealis:

Epistemic Mood   ∅   'realis'

                          to-   'weak realis (present)'

                          po-   'irrealis'

                          pa-   'remote irrealis'

Morphophonemic Rules 1 & 2 apply to *to-* 'weak realis' and *po-* 'irrealis' (see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics)).

Realis

Realis is the mood used to express that which is considered real, including even future events. It is the mood that is used to tell what has actually happened or what is sure to happen. It is signalled by a zero morpheme.

265) *noko ∅-tumo-ki*
1S   R-come-RPST
'The man came.'

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[43] Following Bybee (1995:2) 'mood' "refers to a formally grammaticalised category of the verb which has a modal function", while, in this paper, 'mode' is used for any type of modality that is not marked morphologically on the verb.

[44] Foley (1986:152): "the actor *tries* to perform the action"

266) *ya ∅-mano-imo*
    1S R-go-FUT
    'I will go.'

Weak Realis

The weak irrealis is used to express that which the speaker considers not to be quite as sure as the realis, namely that which is still in progress.

Ama does not have a present tense (see above), but this is the form used to express anything that takes place in the present time or is just about to happen. The reason it has not been analysed as a tense is that all tenses are expressed by suffixes, while this category is expressed by a prefix of the same kind as the epistemic prefixes. This mood, the weak realis, is signalled by the prefix *to-*.

267) ***to-****ti-noki*
    PR-go.P-1NS.EX.A
    'We are coming.'

A form that may suggest that this mood may be interpreted as a tense is the form where the prefix *to-*'weak realis' and the prefix *pa-* 'remote irrealis', from the same series of modal prefixes, occur together. This particular form is used to deny something in the present.

268) ***pa-to****-fasi-mono-∅*   *yasoi mano-so*
    RIR-PR-help-1S.U-1/3S.A PERF go-3SF.ABS
    'She isn't helping me; she has left.'

Irrealis

The irrealis is signalled by the prefix *po-*. It has several functions that all express that which is somewhat unsure:

<u>Immediate imperative</u>: Here the irrealis prefix is the only marking though a zero suffix is postulated for the imperative.

269) *nona-yo*   ***po****-ko-ko-∅-∅*
    2S.EMPH-AG IR-see-3NS.U-IMP-S
    'You (sg.), look at them now.'

<u>Iterative aspect</u>: To express iterative aspect in the past the irrealis prefix *po-* always co-occurs with the iterative suffix *-mosi*.

270) ***p****-aiyolo-ko-mosi-ki-∅*
    IR-teach-3NS.U-IT-RPST-1/3S.A
    'I/he/she used to teach them.'

<u>Past state that has been changed</u>: This is similar to the previous function.

271) *toku koi mo to-ta*   *uo noko-ta*   ***po****-si-ki-noki*
    earlier 1P.EX TOP RED.EMPH-3S enemy man-SPEC IR-sit.P-RPST-1NS.EX.A
    'Earlier we (excl.) were his enemies.'

<u>Mistaken assumption</u>: Used on verbs with the general meaning of 'say' to express a mistaken assumption. It co-occurs with the clitic ***-wo*** 'mistaken assumption', that cliticises to the phrase or clause expressing that assumption.

272) *noni mo sai muwoi, **pi-****yomu-so-ki,*   *noko siya-wo*
    woman TOP know NEG   IR-think-3SF.ABS-RPST man one-MIST.ASMP
    'The woman didn't know, she thought (it was) another man.'

<u>Contrary-to-Fact Conditional</u>: Both verbs in a contrary-to-fact conditional are marked with *po-* 'irrealis'.

273) *fu mo **p-****unu-∅*   *mo fona **p-****ani-yo-tumo-noki*
    pig TOP IR-shoot-1/3S.A TOP leg IR-get-CDT-come-1A+2S.U
    'If I had shot a pig I would have brought you a leg.'

Remote Irrealis

The remote irrealis is signalled by the prefix *pa-*. It has two functions that both express that which the speaker considers unreal in the sense that is so much in the future that it is unlikely to happen, or it is non-factual.

Future Imperative: Here the remote irrealis prefix *pa-* is the only marking though a zero suffix is postulated for imperative.

274) ***pa**-ko-k-a-kono-∅-∅*
RIR-see-3NS.U-go.down-IMP-S
'Look at them later!'

Negative: The remote irrealis prefix *pa-* co-occurs with the suffix *-so* 'negative'.

275) ***pa**-kwai-ko-ki-no-so*
RIR-perceive-3NS.U-RPST-1NS.A-NEG
'They did not hear them.'

In this construction *pa-* 'remote irrealis' may co-occur with *to-* 'present'.

276) ***pa-to**-kokolo-komo-moko-so*
RIR-PR-be.afraid-1/2NS.U-1NS.U-NEG
'We are not afraid.'

5.1.3.3.2 Deontic Mood

The following suffixes may occur instead of the tense suffixes to express deontic mood.

Deontic Mood	∅	'imperative'
	-i	'prohibitive'
	-u	'obligative'

Imperative: This is signalled by a postulated zero morpheme, one of the irrealis prefixes and the lack of tense and actor suffixes. It is only used in second person. The irrealis prefix *po-* signals immediate imperative and the remote irrealis prefix *pa-* signals future imperative. Non-singular is marked by the suffix *-wo*.

277) *po-ki-ya-tumo-∅-∅*   *pa-ki-ya-tumo-∅-wo*
IR-see-CDA-come-IMP-S   RIR-help-CDA-come-IMP-NS
'Come and look at it now (you sg.)!'   'Come and look at it later (you pl.)!'

Prohibitive: This is signalled by the suffix *-i* 'prohibitive'. It is used for second and third person. In second person the verb in this mood is preceded by the adverb *noiyo* 'don't'. Non-singular is marked by the suffix *-wo*. In third person the actor suffixes are retained.

278) *noiyo   tumo-**i**-wo*
don't   come-PROH-NS
'Don't come (you pl.)!'

279) *iwo   koiyau mo   siko-**i**-no*
water bad   TOP   drink-PROH-3NS.A
'They shouldn't drink.'

Obligative: This is signalled by the obligative suffix *-u*. The obligative is mainly used in third person, but it may be used in first and second person, if the verb is non-active (examples (286) and (287)). The obligative suffix forms portmanteau morphemes with third person actor, second person undergoer and tense morphemes, which are different from the suffixes used in epistemic mood.

The following formula, repeated from section 4.2.3.1.2 (Third Order Suffixes (3):Obligative), will help to explain the system. For a complete paradigm see that section.

OBLG	→	stem	(1/3U)	(3A)	**OBLG**	(2U)	(TENSE)
OBLG	→	stem	(1/3U)	(∅ 'S'/none)	*-u*(-)	(*-koni-* 'S')	(∅ 'PR')
				(*-w-* 'NS')		(*-konu/konuwu-* 'NS')	(*-mo* 'FUT')

Morphophonemic Rules 8-10 apply (see section 4.4).

The actor is third person, and there is a singular (∅) versus non-singular distinction (-*w*-).

The undergoer marking of second person is in contrast to the portmanteau morphemes used in epistemic mood to signal second person undergoer with first or third person actor (see section 5.1.4.2.1 (Actor-Undergoer Agreement Suffixes for Second Person)). It is far from clear what could have triggered the use of special second person undergoer morphemes to be used nowhere in the language but in the obligative mood!

Instead of the regular tense forms there is a present (∅) versus future (-*mo*) distinction, though the future is by far the more common. It seems the present form (without the -*mo*) is mostly used with stative verbs, where the state in question is already a fact (examples (289) and (290)).The following macro-morphemes tied to specific examples may be of help to understand the obligative mood:

-(*w*)-*u*-(*mo*)   (examples (280), (281), (282), (285), (286), (289), (290))
-(A)-OBLQ-TENSE

-(*w*)-*u*-*koni*-(*mo*)   (example (283), (284))
-(A)-OBLQ-2S.U-TENSE

-(*w*)-*u*-*konu/konuwu*-(*mo*)   (example (287), (288))
-(A)-OBLQ-2NS.U-TENSE

281)   *aluwai-**yu-mo***
     follow-OBLG-FUT
     'he/she must follow him'

281)   *aluwai-**w-u-mo***
     follow-NS.A-OBLG-FUT
     'they must follow him'

282)   *Yamu   p-im-a-yo   amuwoi-so   ki-mon-a-f-**u-mo***
     a.name   IR-say-CDA-go.up   tomorrow-ADVR   see-1S.U-CDA-go.downriver-OBLG-FUT
     'Go up and tell Yamu that he must go downriver to see me tomorrow.'

283)   *im-**u-koni-mo***
     talk-OBLG-2S.U-FUT
     'he/she must talk to you (sg).'

284)   *na-ni   siyolo mo   na   kaluwai-**yu-koni-mo***
     2S-GEN   name   TOP   FOC   call-OBLG-1NS.IN.A-FUT
     'He must call your name.'

285)   *kal-**u-mo***
     die-OBLQ-FUT
     'he must die'

286)   *kalo-mon-**u-mo***
     die-1S.U-OBLG-FUT
     'I must die'

287)   *koli-kali-**yu-konu-mo***
     RED.NS-die.U-must-2NS.U-FUT
     'you (pl.) must die' (plural signalled by the verb stem)

288)   *imo-w**u-konu**(**wu**)-**mo***
     talk-OBLG-2NS.U-FUT
     'they must talk to you (pl.)'

289)   *tofolo   tan-**u***
     never.mind   lie-OBLG
     'He should stay.'

290)   *amai na   tu-tol-**u***
     (not.)yet   FOC   inside-stand-OBLQ
     'He must stay inside.'

Words in Ama

Intransitive active verbs with a separate non-singular verb root do not take the non-singular actor suffix in the obligative mood.

291) *s-**uo**-mo*[45]
    sit.P-OBLG-FUT
    'they must sit'

5.1.3.3.3 Conative Mood

The conative mood expresses that which the actor tries to perform (Foley 1986:152). In Ama, as in many other Papuan languages, it is expressed by a compound verb involving the verb root 'see', in Ama *ki*, which occurs as the modifying root in a compound verb. It is invariable in that position.

292) *ya ti-yo-**ki***
    1S PR-do-see
    'I'll try'

293) *kwai-ko-ki*
    perceive-3NS.U-see
    'hear court cases'

5.1.3.3.4 Mode

In addition to the morphological moods there are four modes expressing varying degrees of uncertainty: frustrated intention, believing, doubt and warning. These are signalled by various constructions in the phrase and clause as described below.

Frustrated Intention

The mode of frustrated intention is used to signal events that were intended but did not actually happen, were not completed or the result was not all that could have been desired. It is marked in the verb phrase by the particle *louwa* 'frustrated intention' preceding or following the verb. The verb is uninflected and marked by the oblique case marker *-monoi*, if the modal particle follows the verb. The simple dummy verb *fi* 'do' may in that case follow the modal particle. The meaning of these different constructions is basically the same.

294) *yo mo lolai mo a **louwa** to-fu-ikai-tolo*
    1S TOP today TOP tree FRUST.INT PR-downriver-plant-stand
    'I was downriver today wanting to plant a tree but ...'

295) *ma u-so-monoi **louwa** (fi)*
    possum shoot-3SF.ABS-OBLQ FRUST.INT (do)
    '(He) want(ed) to shoot the possum but ...'

Believing

An opinion may be expressed by the modal particle *nako* with the approximate meaning of 'I think' followed by the topic marker *mo*.

296) ***nako** mo moi mo muo muo yapoli ki-ya-no-ki-nuwo*
    I.think TOP 1P.IN/2P TOP RED.NS a.grass PERF see-CDA-go.straight-RPST-2NS
    'I think you went to see if there was any grass'

Doubt

The particle marking doubt is usually followed by the topic marker. It is often used to express doubts relating to alternatives. It may follow any phrase but it may also precede a verb phrase.

297) *waliyo **poi** mo wiyou **poi** mo*
    all.right perhaps TOP no perhaps TOP
    'Is it all right or isn't it?'

298) *amuwoi-so **poi** (mo) tumo-i*
    one.day.removed-ALL perhaps TOP come-FUT
    'Perhaps he will come tomorrow.'

---

[45] see footnote 40

Warning

Warning is expressed by an adverb *wonikaloso* with the approximate meaning 'lest' and the modal particle *aiko* also meaning 'lest'. The adverb will appear first in the clause and the modal particle will precede the verb. Any clauses following continuing this series will have the modal particle preceding the verb.

299) *wonikaluso ta-ni   au-so   **aiko** kiyo-i-ni   / polimano noko-ni   naino-so*
     lest   3S-GEN body-ALL   lest take-FUT-2S / police   man-GEN hand-ALL

   ***aiko** kiyo-i-ni   / kalopulo nu-so   **aiko** kiyo-i-ni*
     lest take-FUT-2S / prison   house-ALL   lest take-FUT-2S
     'Lest you'll be taken to him (person in authority), lest you'll be taken to the police, lest you'll be put in prison.'

5.1.4 Marking Person, Number, Gender and Case

There are three competing systems for marking person, number, gender and case: Suffixes are distributed along an active - non-active scale except for gender and for marking second person. The morphological operations expressing number are distributed along an ergative - absolutive system as are the gender suffixes. Second person are partly neutral. The active - non-active system is the more basic one and marks case.

5.1.4.1 Active and Non-Active

There are two main classes of verbs: intransitive and transitive. An intransitive verb has only one argument, while a transitive verb has two. The intransitive verb may be either active or non-active. If the verb takes an actor, as its only argument, it belongs to the active sub-class of intransitive verbs. If the verb requires an undergoer, as its only argument, it belongs to the non-active sub-class of intransitive verbs. A transitive verb has both an actor and an undergoer as it needs two arguments. In accordance with this system the Ama verbal system could be described as **active - non-active**.

Some verbs from each group are:

Intransitive - Active		**Intransitive - Non-Active**		**Transitive**	
moi	'go'	*kalo*	'die'	*fasi*	'help'
tolo	'stand'	*kokolo*	'be afraid'	*tukolo*	'kill'
alosi	'turn'	*usukuno*	'fall'	*kausi*	'get'
toi	'sleep'	*uwo*	'(be) afflict(ed)'	*aliyoni*	'call'

The following examples are the plural forms of one verb each from the above groups. The plural forms are used because they show more clearly then the singular how the active verbs take an actor and the non-active verbs take an undergoer.

300) *to-nu-**noki***   *nu*   'go (pl.)'
     PR-go.P-1NS.EX.A
     'We (excl.) are going.'

301) *to-koli-kali-**moko***   *koli-kali* 'die (non-sg.)'
     PR-RED.NS-die-1NS.U
     'We are dying.'

302) *t-aliyoni-**moko**-no   t-aliyoni-ko-**noki***   *aliyoni-ko* 'call (non-sg.)'
     PR-call-1NS.U-3NS.A   PR-call-3NS.U-1NS.EX.A
     'They are calling us.'   'We (excl.) are calling them.'

5.1.4.1.1 Actor Agreement Suffixes

The following suffixes mark the actor in transitive verbs and in intransitive actor oriented verbs. The suffix *-noki* '1NS.EX may also occur as a portmanteau suffix which makes it ambiguous (see section 5.1.4.2.1 (Actor-Undergoer Agreement Suffixes for Second Person)).

Actor	basic form/ ∅	'1S'	*-noki*	'1NS.EX
			-koni	'1NS.IN
			-no	'3NS'

Second person has neutral case marking (see section 5.1.4.2 (Neutral Case)). Third person singular is absolutive (see section 5.1.4.3.2 (Ergative-Absolutive Marking to Express Gender)).

303) *na* ***tumo****-ki*
FOC   come-RPST
'I/he came.'   (The basic form agrees with both 1.S.A and 3SM.ABS; see section 5.1.4.3.2.)

304) *yo mo   ma   u-so-ki-∅*
1S TOP possum   shoot-3SF.ABS-RPST-1/3S.A
'I shot a possum.'

305) *na   si-ki-**noki***
FOC   sit.P-RPST-1NS.EX.A
'We (excl.) sat (there).'

306) *isi   t-isi-k-a-li-**koni***
clearing PR-clear-3NS.U-CDA-go.upriver-1NS.IN.A
'Let's go upriver to clear a garden.'

307) *ma   mo   alalo-yo   na   no-so-ki-**no***
possum TOP children-AG FOC eat-3SF.ABS-RPST-3NS.A
'Some children ate the possum.'

5.1.4.1.2 Undergoer Agreement Suffixes

Pure undergoer agreement is only used for first person, singular and plural, and third person plural. In addition, the reciprocal may occur in the place of an undergoer agreement.

Undergoer	*-mono*	'1S'	*-moko*	'1NS'
			-ko	'3NS'
			-kuwano	'reciprocal'

Second person has neutral case marking (see next section). Third person singular is absolutive (see section 5.1.4.3.2 (Ergative-Absolutive Marking to Express Gender)).

308) *t-usukuno-**mono***
PR-fall-1S.U
'I am falling'

309) *noko wai-monoi na   pa-samuku-**moko**-moi-∅-∅*
man   old-OBLQ FOC RIR-watch.over-1NS.U-GO-IMP-S
'Keep protecting us from the old man (you sg.)!'

310) *aluwai-**ko**-ki-∅*
follow-3NS.U-RPST-1/3S.A
'I/he/she followed them'

311) *mi   t-ano-fasi-**kuwano**-koni*
bone PR-get-help-each.other-1NS.IN.A
'Let's help each other with the work.'

5.1.4.2 Neutral Case Suffixes

Neutral case marking applies to second person only in Ama. The term 'neutral' comes from Comrie (1981:118) and refers to the case when the single core argument of an intransitive clause and both core arguments of a transitive clause are all marked the same. In Comrie's words "all three primitives" have the same form.

Neutral Case   *-ni*   '2S'   *-nuwo* '2NS

312) *na no   hani-yo uwo-ni*
     2S TOPQ what-AG afflict-2S
     'What has happened to (afflicted) you (sg.)?'

313) *hani   t-ano-nuwo*
     what   PR-get-2NS
     'What are you (pl.) getting/doing?'

314) *moi-so   to-mano-ni*
     where-ALL PR-go-2S
     'Where are you (sg.) going?'

See also examples (316) and (317). However, the neutral case is not as neutral as it might seem. In a transitive clause there is a partial contrast depending on the actor.

5.1.4.2.1 Actor-Undergoer Agreement Suffixes for Second Person

The neutral suffixes *-ni* '2S' and *-nuwo* '2NS' and the actor suffix *-noki* '1NS.EX.A' may, when they occur on transitive verbs, function as portmanteau morphemes expressing both the actor and the undergoer. This makes them ambiguous. There is one more such suffix (*-nukuwo* '1A+2NS.U') which, as can be seen from the gloss, has a more precise meaning.

1/3A+2U   *-noki* '1A+2S.U // 1NS.EX.A'   *-nukuwo* '1A+2NS.U'

                       -ni   '3A+2S.U // 2S'   *-nuwo*   '3A+2NS.U // 2NS'

These suffixes are fourth order suffixes, i.e. they are actor-like. This makes it hard to call them absolutive suffixes even though they partly have the distribution of such suffixes.

315) *to-fasi-noki*
     PR-help-1NS.EX.A // 1A+2S.U
     'we (excl.) will help him'
     'I/we (excl.) will help you (sg.)'

316) *to-fasi-ni*
     PR-help-2S // 3A+2S.U
     'you will (sg.) help him'
     'he/she/they will help you (sg.)'

317) *to-fasi-nuwo*
     PR-help-2NS // 3A+2NS.U
     'you (pl.) will help him'
     'he/she/they'll help you (pl.)'

318) *to-fasi-nukuwo*
     PR-help-1A+2NS.U'
     'I/we (excl.) will help you (pl.)'

To disambiguate some of the above constructions there is another suffix *-komo-* '1/2NS.U' that is never used on its own but may optionally precede the two portmanteau suffixes *-nuwo* '3A+2NS.U' and *-nukuwo* '1A+2NS.U'. It is often also used with *-moko* '1NS.U'.

319) *to-fasi-komo-nuwo*   *to-fasi-komo-nukuwo*
     PR-help-1/2NS.U-3A+2NS.U   PR-help-1/2NS.U-1A+2NS.U
     'He/she/they will help you (pl.).'   'I/we will help you (pl.).'

     to-fasi-komo-moko-no
     PR-help-1/2NS.U-1NS.U-3NS.A
     'They will help us.'

5.1.4.3 Ergative-Absolutive

An ergative-absolutive system is evident in the marking of number and gender in Ama.

                                                       Words in Ama

5.1.4.3.1 Ergative-Absolutive Marking to Express Number

Many verb roots vary in form with the number of the absolutive argument connected with it, i.e. an active intransitive root/stem may vary according to the number of its actor, a non-active intransitive root/stem may vary according to the number of its undergoer, but a transitive root/stem may only vary according to the number of its undergoer. In accordance with this system, the Ama verbal system could be described as **ergative-absolutive**. There are four ways in which number could, according to this system, be signalled in the stem: suffixation, reduplication, stem modification and suppletion. Dual is usually the same as the plural stem but for some common roots the singular is used for dual as well. One very important fact about Ama verb forms, in connection with marking number, is that a great many of them are irregular. In fact, it is hard to find a system that is in any way regular.

	Singular	**Dual**	**Plural**

Intransitive active: verb root varies with number of actor

320)	*soni*-ki	same as plural	*so-sonuno*-ki
	cry-RPST		RED.NS-cry-RPST
	'I/he cried'		'they/the two of them cried'
321)	*mano*-ki	*mano*-ki-no	*nu*-ki
	go-RPST	go-RPST-3NS.A	go.P-RPST
	'I/he went'	'the two of them went'	'they went'

Intransitive non-active: verb root varies with number of undergoer

322)	na kalo-mono-imo	same as plural	na koli-kali-moko-imo
	FOC die-1S.U-FUT		FOC RED.NS-die-1NS.U-FUT
	'I will die'		'we/the two of us will die'

Transitive verb: verb root varies with number of undergoer

323)	*alomani*-ki-no	*alomani*-ko-ki-no	*ilomani*-ki-no
	take.away-RPST-3NS.A	take.away-3NS.U-RPST-3NS.A	take.away.P-RPST-3NS.A
	'they took it[46] away'	'they took the two things away'	'they took the things away'
324)	*ano*-ki-no	*a*-ko-ki-no	*i*-ki-no
	get-RPST-3NS.A	get-3NS.U-RPST-3NS.A	get.P-RPST-3NS.A
	'they got it'	'they got the two things'	'they got the things'

5.1.4.3.2 Ergative-Absolutive Marking to Express Gender

There is a three-way classification of nouns in Ama based on gender but which is morphologically marked on the verb: masculine, feminine and compound. The compound gender comprises nouns referring to in-animate things that are considered to be made up of many parts. Typical examples are bundles of things and mechanical items (see 5.2.1 (Gender)).

The system for the morphological marking of gender on the verb is mainly realised by ergative and absolutive suffixes. However, the masculine absolutive is inherent in the basic form.

Gender	basic form	'3SM.ABS	$\varnothing$ ⎤	
	-*so*	'3SF.ABS'	$\varnothing$ ⎬	'3S.ERG(/1S.A)'
	-*ko*	'3C.ABS(/3NS.U)'	– ⎦	

Sometimes stem modification and suppletion works together with the suffixes to mark gender.

Meaning	**Masculine**	**Feminine**	**Compound**
'come'	*tumo*	*tumo-so*	*tumo-ko*
'go'	*moi*	*mano-so*	*mano-ko*
'take away'	*alomano*	*aloma-so*	*aloma-ko*
'sleep'	*toi*	*ta-so*	*ta-ko*
'give him/her/-'	*anoni*	*ati-so*	—

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[46] inanimate verb root (see "Get"-Verbs and Animacy 5.2.4.4)

As can be seen from the above only the feminine absolutive suffix *-so* is unique. The compound absolutive suffix *-ko* is the same as the non-singular undergoer suffix, and the ergative suffix, a proposed zero morpheme, ∅, is the same as the first singular actor suffix. An ergative suffix for compound gender is hardly viable because as a gender suffix it can only refer to something inanimate.

In example (328), the middle form, the compound gender and the third person dual undergoer form are ambiguous. This is common in the language. The plural form is shown to the right for comparison.

325) **afoli**   **moi-∅**
     throw   go-YPST
     'throw it/him'   (basic form agrees with 3SM.ABS)   'he went'

326) *kwai-**so**-ki-no*   *liyai-**so**-ki*
     perceive-3SF.ABS-RPST-3NS.A   walk.about-3SF.ABS-RPST
     'they listened to her'   'she went for a walk'

327) *palulo   aloma-**ko**-ki-no*   *palulo   tumo-**ko**-ki*
     aeroplane take.away-3C.ABS-RPST-3NS.A   aeroplane   come-3C.ABS-RPST
     'they piloted the plane'   'the plane came'

328) **ano**-ki-no   *a   a-**ko**-ki-no*   *a   i-ki-no*
     get-RPST-3NS.A   tree get-3C.ABS-RPST-3NS.A   tree get.P-RPST-3NS.A
     'they got something'   'they got a bunch of firewood'   'they got many logs'
                              'they got two logs'

329) *nau   a-**so**-ki-no*
     cup(fem.) get-3SF.ABS-RPST-3NS.A
     'they got a cup'

330) *mano-no*   *tou   mano-**ko***
     go-3NS.A   faeces   go-3C.ABS
     'the two of them went'   'defecate'

There is an obsolete suffix *-mo* that seems to have survived as part of some irregular verb stems. Synchronically it is best to interpret it as part of the root/stem as can be seen from the last part of example (332).[47]

331) *i(-)**mo**-ki-∅*   *fu(-)**mo**-ki*
     say(-)S-RPST-3S.ERG/1S.A   run(-)S-RPST
     'he/she/I said to him'   'he ran'

332) *i-**so**-ki-no*   *fu(-)**mo**-**so**-ki*
     say-3SF.ABS-RPST-3NS.A   run(-)S-3SF.ABS-RPST
     'they said to her'   'she ran'

5.1.4.4 Benefactive

As mentioned earlier, benefactive is signalled by additional verb stems in the verb. There are three verb stems used depending on how the benefactee is effected by the event expressed by the head stem in the verb: the common benefactive - an event is beneficent to somebody, the malfactive - an event effects somebody in a negative way and the 'on behalf of' benefactive' - something is done to somebody as a favour.

In the common benefactive and the malfactive constructions there are two undergoers involved, which will be called the 'patient' and the 'benefactee/malfactee'. The 'on behalf of' construction usually marks the benefactee.

5.1.4.4.1 Common Benefactive

The modifying verb roots used for common benefactive are the ones, which, when used in a head stem, mean 'give'. Before giving a paradigm and examples for the common benefactive the verb forms meaning 'give' will be presented.

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[47] This suffix *-mo* is also used to increase the valence of some verbs (see Derivation versus Inflection 4.3). The gloss S for 'singular' seems to fit most of its occurrences (if it needs to be separate from the stem).

The Verb 'Give'

There are two verb roots, the bound root *a-* 'give (non-plural patient)' and the free root *ni* 'give (plural patient)' on which all verb forms meaning 'give' in Ama are based. Most forms can be predicted from knowing the following verb stems for the verb 'give':

a-	give1	'give one thing (masc.) to first person'
a-noni	give-2/3	'give one thing (masc.) to second person and to third person singular masculine'
a-ti	give-3P/F	'give one thing (masc.) to many people
a-ti-so	give-3P/F-3SF.ABS	'give one thing (masc.) to feminine person
ni	give.P.PAT	'give many things to one person'

This verb has two undergoers, that which is given, the patient and the person to whom it is given, the benefactee. The form varies with both. (For paradigms of undergoer, absolutive, neutral and actor+undergoer portmanteau suffixes see above in sections 5.1.4.1-5.1.4.3).

The suffixes marking the patient is inserted in the middle of the forms at the left hyphen. They are undergoer and absolutive suffixes described above in section 5.1.4.1.2 (Undergoer Agreement) and 5.1.4.3.2 (Ergative-Absolutive Marking to Express Gender). The forms used for the plural patient have their own suppletive root *ni*.

a-so-noni	'give one thing (fem.) to second and third person'
a-ko-noni	'give one thing (comp.)/two things to second and third person'
ni	'give many things to one person'

The suffixes marking the benefactee occur last. Here the whole range of suffixes described in sections 5.1.4.1-5.1.4.3 are used.

For further details see chart below, which, of course, also applies when the verb is used as a head stem.

A few examples follow of the use of the verb 'give' as a head stem.[48]

333) *ami   no   mo   nona-yo   no   **a-mono**-ki-ni*
    strong   that   TOP   2S.EMPH-AG   that   give-1S.U-RPST-2S
    'that power that you gave me'

334) *yo   mo   ami   siyoli   yasoi   **a-noni**-ki-**nukuwo***
    1S   TOP   strong   big   PERF   give-GIVE2/3-RPST-1A+2NS.U
    'I have given you (pl.) strong power.'

335) *asi   **a-ti**-ki-∅*
    land   give-GIVE.3P/F-RPST-1/3S.A
    'I/he/she gave them land'

336) *pusi   toniyoi   p-**a-so-ti-so**-∅-wo*
    cat   female   IR-give-3SF.ABS-GIVE.3P/F-3SF.ABS-IMP-NS
    'Give the female cat to her (you pl.).'

337) *tomoki   muwoni   molopoi   na   **a-ko-noni**-ki-no*
    stone   money   many   FOC   give-3NS.U-GIVE2/3-RPST-3NS.A
    'They gave him a heap of coins.'

338) *nau   po-**ni**-mono-∅-∅*
    cup/plate   IR-give.P.PAT-1S.U-IMP-S
    'Give me the plates (you sg.)!'

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[48] The gloss GIVE for 'benefactive' is used through-out the paper to show the relationship to the verb meaning 'give'.

The Use of the Verb 'Give' to Indicate Common Benefactive

When the verb 'give' is used for the grammatical category of benefactive, the first vowel *a-* is lost, according to Morphophonemic Rule 17 (see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics)). This leaves, for the **non-plural patient** forms, only the benefactee part of the verbs, which is through-out the paper glossed as follows:

∅	GIVE1	'first person benefactive'
-noni	GIVE2/3	'second person (all forms) and third person singular masculine benefactive'
-ti	GIVE.3P/F	'third person plural/third person singular feminine benefactive'

For the plural patient forms, there is the root:

ni-	GIVE.P.PAT	'singular benefactee' (but plural patient)

This, together with the facts given above for the verb forms meaning 'give', results in the following paradigm for common benefactive in Ama.

Benefactee	←————————————Non-Plural Patient————————————→			←Plural Patient→
	Singular Patient Masc.	Singular Patient Fem.	Singular Patient Comp. & Dual Patient	Plural Patient
1S	*∅-mono*	*-so-∅-mono*	*-ko-∅-mono*	*ni-mono*
1NS	*∅-moko*	*-so-∅-moko*	*-ko-∅-moko*	*ni-moko*
2S+1A	*-noni-noki*	*-so-noni-noki*	*-ko-noni-noki*	*ni-noki*
2S+3A	*-noni-ni*	*-so-noni-ni*	*-ko-noni-ni*	*ni-ni*
2NS+1A	*-noni-nukuwo*	*-so-noni-nukuwo*	*-ko-noni-nukuwo*	*ni-nukuwo*
2NS+3A	*-noni-nuwo*	*-so-noni-nuwo*	*-ko-noni-nuwo*	*ni-nuwo*
3SM	*-noni*	*-so-noni*	*-ko-noni*	*ni*
3SF	*-ti-so*	*-so-ti-so*	*-ko-ti-so*	*ni-so*
3NS	*-ti*	*-so-ti*	*-ko-ti*	*ni-ko*

The form *-ko* in the third column, may refer to dual number as well as to compound gender. Also, the aspect marker *-kai* 'stative' (from the verb 'put') may occur between the different suffixes that are part of the benefactive forms (345) and (346).

339) *paso   kumo-**noni**-ki-no*
     letter   write-GIVE2/3-RPST-3NS.A
     'They wrote a letter to him.'

340) *paso kumo-**ti-so**-ki-no*
     letter write-GIVE.3P/F-3SF.ABS-RPST-3NS.A
     'They wrote a letter to her.'

341) *paso   kumo-**ti**-ki-no*
     letter   write-GIVE.3P/F-RPST-3NS.A
     'They wrote a letter to them.'

342) *paso kumo-∅-**moko**-ki-no*
     letter write-GIVE1-1NS.U-RPST-3NS.A
     'They wrote a letter to us.'

343) *koloni wasi-**ni**-ki-no*
     animal   give.party-GIVE.P.PAT-RPST-3NS.A
     'They gave a party for him (lots to eat!).'

344) *koloni wasi-**ni-ko**-ki-no*
     animal   give.party-GIVE.P.PAT-3NS.U-RPST-3NS.A
     'They gave a party for them (still lots to eat!).'

345) *Koto-so   muwo-**ko**-kai-**noni**-monoi*
     God-ALL   mark-3NS.U-PUT-GIVE2/3-OBLQ
     'in order to set them aside for God'

346) *samuku-ko*   *noko muwo-**ko**-kai-**ti**-ya-lo-ki-∅*
watch.over-3NS.U   man   mark-3NS.U-PUT-GIVE.3P/F-CDA-go.all.over-RPST-1/3S.A
'rulers were appointed over them (through the ages)'

347) *noki-tono   mo   auwoni-you-**ni-ko**-ki-∅*
man-3INAL   TOP   rise-move.up-GIVE.P.PAT-3NS.U-1/3S.A
'Her husband woke them up.' (the reason for the plural patient root *ni* 'give pl. patient' is unclear)

5.1.4.4.2 Malfactive

The malfactee series is built on the common benefactee series. A malfactive verb root is added to the forms described for the common benefactive. It occurs immediately preceding ∅/*noni*/*ti* 'GIVE', that is, the patient suffix precedes it (see example (348)). For non-plural patients, "the thing taken", the verb root is *wa* 'take from'. For plural patient the corresponding verb root is -*wai* 'take (pl.) from'.

wa	'one harmful thing done to first person'
wa-noni	'one harmful thing done to second person and to third person singular masculine'
wa-ti	'one harmful thing done to many people
wa-ti-so	'one harmful thing done to feminine person
wai	'many harmful things done to one person'
wai-ko	'many harmful things done to many people'

As can be seen from example (351), this form is not always malfactive as far as meaning is concerned.

348) *noko mo   auwa-tono-ni   noni   polamo-**so-wa-noni**-ki-∅*
man   TOP   brother-3INAL-GEN   woman   steal-3SF.ABS-TAKE.FROM-GIVE2/3-RPST-1/3S.A

na   kau-so-ki-∅
FOC   take.away.AN-3SF.ABS-RPST-1/3S.A
'The man took his brother's wife from him and married her.'

349) *alu   mo   lomu-**wa-ti**-ki*
 child   TOP   run.away-TAKE.FROM-GIVE.3P/F-RPST
'The child ran away from them.'

350) *atino   mo   alu   mo   kalo-**wa-ti-so**-ki*
mother.3   TOP   child   TOP   die-TAKE.FROM-GIVE.3P/F-3SF.ABS-RPST
'The child had died for his mother.'

351) *popuwo   amiyaikiyo-**ko-wai-ko***
evil.spirit   drive.out-3NS.U-TAKE.FROM.P-3NS.U
'drive out evil spirits from (people)'

5.1.4.4.3 Benefactive 'On Behalf Of'

The 'on behalf of' series is built on the verb root *unu* 'shoot'. It is often used to indicate a favour but not always (see example (353). The basic forms are:

unu	shoot	'a favour done to first and second person and third person singular masculine'
u-so	shoot-3SF.ABS	'a favour done to third person singular feminine
uku	shoot.NS	'a favour done to third person non-singular'

The benafactee is signalled by the different suppletive roots of the verb *unu* and the undergoer/absolutive suffixes. There is no patient indicated.

On Behalf of

unu-mono	'SHOOT-1S.U'	*unu-moko*	'SHOOT-1NS.U
unu-noki	'SHOOT-1A+2S.U'	*unu-nukuwo*	'SHOOT-1A+2NS.U
unu-ni	'SHOOT-3A+2S.U'	*unu-nuwo*	'SHOOT-3A+2NS.U
unu	'SHOOT(3SM.ABS)'	*uku*	'SHOOT.3NS.U'
u-so	'SHOOT-3SF.ABS'		

352) *na   pi-yo-**u-so**-∅-wo*
FOC   IR-do-SHOOT-3SF.ABS-IMP-NS
'Do (something) for her (you pl.)!'

353) *tomoki ifolo-ko-**uku**-ki-no*
stone   throw-3NS.U-SHOOT.P-RPST-3NS.A
'They threw stones at them.'

354) *hani-monoi to-tumo-**unu**-moko-ni*
what-OBLQ   PR-come-SHOOT-1NS.U-2S
'What have you come to do to/for us?'

355) *itu   to-kolali-**unu**-noki*   *itu   to-kolali-**noni**-noki*
door   PR-open-SHOOT-1A+2S.U   door   PR-open-GIVE2/3-1A+2S.U
'I/we'll open the door for you (as a favour).'   'I/we'll open the door for you (by necessity).'

Sometimes an increase in transitivity seems to be the main purpose of using this construction. In the following example *uku* refers to the patient *molo* 'coconut ' and *-noni* 'give' to the benefactee "him".

356) *molo   to-liyo-**uku**-noni-∅*
coconut   PR-climb.up-SHOOT.P-GIVE2/3-1/3S.A
'I/he/she climbed up to get some coconuts for him.'

5.1.5 Marking Locative and Allative Case on the Verb

There are four prefixes expressing location and seven allative verb roots expressing direction. In addition the verb root *tumo* 'come' functions as an allative verb root. Neither of these categories are grammaticalised on word, phrase or clause level. They are not optional on discourse level, however, as they form an important part of the overall deictic system of the language. A shortened verb root *-you* 'move up' has a more restricted distribution.

5.1.5.1 Locative Marking on the Verb

The locative case expresses where a certain action takes place. There are four prefixes to express this.

Locative   *tu-*   'inside, upriver'

fu-   'outside, downriver'

ku-   'down below'

you-   'up above'

These prefixes often co-occur with a stative verb but there are other favoured combinations as well (example (359)).

357) *na   **tu**-tolo-ki*
FOC   inside-stand-RPST
'He was (stood) inside/upriver.'

358) *Liyli   isi   **to-fu**-isi-ko-tolo*
a.name   clearing   PR-downriver-clear-3C.ABS-stand
'Liyali is downriver clearing a garden.'

359) *la   imo mo   na   **ku**-kiyo-taikiyo-ki-no*
fish net   TOP FOC down-move-SEND-RPST-3NS.A
'They threw in the fishnet.'

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360) *noni*   **you**-*tolo-so-ki*
       woman   up.above-stand-3SF.ABS-RPST
       'The woman was (stood) up (there).'

5.1.5.2 Allative Marking on the Verb

The allative is expressed by seven verb roots. These verbs will first be outlined in their full forms and thereafter their use in compounding expressing allative will be described. They have slightly irregular forms for plural and feminine as can be seen in the following table. One of them *-lo* 'go all over' has no corresponding full verb form.

Allative Verbs

Meaning	Non-Plural	Plural	Feminine
'go inside'	*amo-ti*	(*ti*)	*amu-siyo-ti*
'go outside/downriver'	*amu-fu*	*fu*	*amu-siyo-fu*
'go upriver'	*amo-li*	*li*	*amu-siyo-li*
'go up'	*ami-yo*	*yo*	*amu-siyo-yo*
'go down'	*amu-kono*	*kuno*	*amu-siyo-kono*
'go straight'	*amu-no*	(*nu*)	*amu-siyo-no*
'go all over'	**amu-lo*	*	*

The form *ti,* in the third column, is the same form as *ti* 'come (pl.)'

The female forms of these verbs use an irregular form of *-so* 3SF.ABS only occurring in this set of verbs

The form *nu,* in the third column, is the same form as *nu* 'go (pl.)'.

361) *na*   **amukono**-*ki*
       FOC   go.down-RPST
       'I/he came down.'

362) *to-ti*   *mo*   *asiyofolo-so*   **amufu**-*ki-no*
       3P-two   TOP   outside-ALL   go.outside-RPST-3NS.A
       'The two of them went outside.'

363) *yu*   *siyoli-sai* **kuno**-*ki*
       mountain   big-ABL   go.down-RPST
       'They went down from the big mountain.'

364) *yu*   *nukutai asi-so*   **amu-siyo-yo**-*ki*
       mountain   village   ground-ALL   go-3SF.ABS-go.up-RPST
       'She went up to a mountain village.'

When used in compounding these verbs are shortened a little more than other verbs. Usually only an *a* is deleted according to Morphophonemic Rule 17 (see section 4.4 (Morphophonemics)), but for these verbs also the next syllable is deleted. In their shortened forms these verb roots are similar to the locative prefixes but only one is exactly the same as the corresponding prefix, *-fu* 'outside/downriver'.

Allative	*amo**ti***	*-ti*	'go inside'
	*amu**fu***	*-fu*	'go outside, downriver'
	*amo**li***	*-li*	'go upriver'
	*ami**yo***	*-yo*	'go up'
	*amu**kono***	*-kono*	'go down'
	*amu**no***	*-no*	'go straight (to a place)'

    *amu**lo**   *-lo*   'go all over'

In compounding these shortened verb roots may occur preceded by two different juncture morphemes *-a-* 'direction away' and *-yo-* 'direction towards'.

Any verb may occur as the head stem in a compound form with *-a-* 'direction away', but with *-yo-* 'direction towards' only verbs meaning 'bring/take/get' occur.

365) *ya ki-ya-**kono**-i-kuwo-mo*
   1S look-CDA-go.down-FUT-1A+2NS.U-FUT
   'I will come down to see you.'

366) *koi mo kwai-k-a-**fu**-ki-noki*
   1P.EX TOP perceive-3NS.U-CDA-go.outside/upriver-RPST-1NS.EX.A
   'We went outside/upriver to hear them.'

367) *yo mo mi t-an-a-**no**-∅*
   1S TOP bone PR-get-CDA-go.straight-1/3S.A
   'I'm going to work.'

368) *imo to-lukas-a-**lo**-ki-no*
   talk PR-speak-CDA-go.all.over-RPST-3NS.A
   'They spoke without saying much. (*-lo* 'go all over' is here used in a figurative sense, which is often the case)

369) *noko toitati iyali-so   kolisi-yo-**no**-ki-∅*
   man four group-ALL get.AN.P-CDT-go.straight-RPST-1/3S.A
   'I/he/she got four men and brought them'

The verb root *tumo* 'come' functions in exactly the same way as the allative suffixes.

370) *ya ki-ya-**tumo**-ki-∅*
   1S look-CDA-come-RPST-1/3S.A
   'I came to look at it.'

371) *ai   ai   noko koli-yo-**tumo**-ki-no*
   RED.NS sickness man bring.AN.P-come-RPST-3NS.A
   'They brought sick people.'

There is one other form *-you* 'move up' that occurs with "bring-get-take" verbs.

372) *p-ani-**you**-∅-∅*
   IR-get-move.up-IMP-S
   'Lift it up!'

5.1.6 Marking Negative

There are six ways of marking negation in Ama. Three of them involve affixation or a clitic on the verb word.

Negative Marking

Negative	Marking on Verb	Marking in Phrase
Finite Verb Forms	*pa- -so* 'not'	
Non-Finite Verb Forms	*-woi muwoi* 'not'	*-woi muwoi* 'not'
Prohibitive	*noiyo -i* 'don't!'	*noiyo -i* 'don't
Conditional		*somiso mo* 'if not'
NPs		*somiso* 'without'
Non-VPs		*muwoi* 'not'

The negation suffix *-so* always co-occurs with the remote irrealis prefix *pa-*. The clitic *-woi* 'with' is the relational clitic which here occurs on the bare verb stem followed by a negative particle *muwoi*. Prohibitive is marked by the suffix *-i* on the verb. The verb is preceded by the negative particle *noiyo* 'don't'. The adverb *somiso* 'without' is used to negate nouns and in negative conditionals.

373) *alu* ***pa**-soni-ki-**so***
child RIR-cry-RPST-NEG
'The child didn't cry.'

374) *toi mo nu-**woi** **muwoi***
3P TOP go.P-WITH NEG
'They didn't go/they won't go.'

375) ***noiyo** yo-**i**-wo*
don't do-PROH-NS
'Don't do (that) (you pl.).'

376) *sa tumo **somiso** mo yo mo na po-tumo*
rain come without TOP 1S TOP FOC IR-come
'If it hadn't rained, I would have come.'

377) *koloni **somiso** tumo-ki*
animal without come-RPST
'He came without (any) meat.

378) *nokokai **muwoi***   *siyoli **muwoi***
boy not   big not
'It is not a boy.'   'It is not big.'

5.2 Nouns

Nouns constitute an open class of words that may take case clitics and function as the head of noun phrases. There are three classes of nouns based on gender: masculine, feminine and compound (see next section). Gender is marked on the verb, not on the noun itself. Number is only rarely marked on the noun itself, but it is marked on the verb and in the noun phrase. The number categories are: singular, dual and plural. Kinship and other relational types of nouns are inalienably possessed. Some syntactic arrangements in the phrase and clause are based on the animacy of the participants involved.

There is no formal difference between proper and general nouns. Mass nouns are encompassed within the compound gender class. Nouns denoting some body parts are used in the traditional numerical system (see section 5.4.3 (Numerical System)). There are a few abstract nouns.

A noun consists of a noun root and **may** take case marking clitics, but that will be described under the noun phrase as that is the level it is functioning on (see Noun Phrases 6.2).

379) *ulai asa-ni*   ***noni-yo** i-mono*
but 1S.EMPH-GEN woman-AG say-1S.U
'but my wife said to me'

380) ***fonopi-ni** ai mo tau-woi si*
tobacco-GEN sickness TOP three-WITH sit.P
'There are three sicknesses from tobacco.'

381) *na i-ko-ki-∅,*   ***noko** molopoi-so*
FOC say-3NS.U-RPST-1/3S.A man many-ALL
'I/he/she said to a lot of men'

5.2.1 Gender

There are three classes of nouns based on gender: masculine, feminine and compound. The last category refers to nouns which are considered to consist of more than one part. The noun class is not marked on the noun but on the verb, mainly by suffixation, but on a couple of verbs also by suppletion and stem modification. All verbal marking is according to an ergative-absolutive system (see section 5.1.4.3.2 (Ergative-Absolutive Marking to Express Gender)).

It is not possible to define the noun classes exactly but some tendencies can be noticed. To the **feminine noun class** belongs all nouns denoting animate female referents. Words denoting birds and fish are feminine. Many loan words are also feminine.

382) ***aluwou** siya mo muwo-yo na ifasiyai-**so**-ki-∅,   Tokwai-yo*
dog one TOP bush.knife-AG FOC hit-3SF.ABS-RPST-1/3S.A a.name-AG
'one of the dogs got hit with a bush knife by Tokwai'

383) **wopola** … *ta-ni   nu   mo   a   touwo-so   to-**tas**-a-yo-moi*
     bush.hen   3S-GEN house TOP tree branch-ALL PR-lie.3SF.ABS-CDA-go.up-GO
     'a bush hen ...she flies up to sleep in her "house" on a tree branch'

384) **pouwo** … *iwo   poi-so   to-tolo-**so**-moi*
     kind.of.fish   water   inside-ALL PR-stand-3SF.ABS-GO
     'a 'pouwo' lives deep in the water'

The **compound noun class** encompasses non-animate nouns where the referent can be seen as having many parts. Typical compound nouns are words denoting piles and heaps of things as well as mass nouns e.g. water and sand. Many loan words belong to this class as the referents are seen as having many parts, e.g. book, aeroplane.

385) **tou**   *to-mano-**ko***
     faeces   PR-go-3C.ABS
     'defecate'

386) **iwo**   *lou-**ko**-ki-no*
     water   wash-3C.ABS-RPST-3NS.A
     'They bathed.'

387) **puko**   *a-**ko**-ki-∅*
     book   get-3C.ABS-RPST-1/3S.A
     'I/he/she got the book.'

388) **palulo**   *to-tumo-**ko***
     aeroplane   PR-come-3C.ABS
     'An aeroplane is coming.'

The **masculine noun class** is the biggest. To it belongs all nouns denoting animate male referents as well as most everyday nouns. Synchronically this is the unmarked form, though diachronically there is a rest of marking by *-mo* which is no longer productive.

389) **noko** *mo*   **fu**   *ki-ki-∅*
     man   TOP pig   see-RPST-1/3S.A
     'The man saw a (male) pig.'

390) **noko** *mo*   **nu**   *to-**ko**-∅*
     man   TOP house PR-build-1/3S.A
     'The man is building a house.'

391) **noko**-*so*   *p-i**mo**-∅-∅*   **noko**-*yo*   *fu**mo**-ki*
     man-ALL   IR-say-IMP-S   man-AG   run-RPST
     'Say to (the) man (you sg.)!'   'The man ran.'

5.2.2 Number

The number categories in the language are singular, dual and plural. These categories are marked at several levels of the language, but most prominently on the verb. A very few nouns with human referents have reduplicated or suppleted non-singular forms. Some abstract nouns, e.g. *ai* 'sickness' are fully reduplicated, resulting in two words, when referring to a non-singular entity.

Number in Nouns

Meaning	Singular	Non-Singular
'child/children'	*alu*	*a-la-lo* child-RED.NS-child
'woman/women'	*noni*	*nokolalo* women
'widow/widows'	*sawi*	*su-sawi* RED.NS-widow
'sick people'	*ai*	***ai ai*** *noko* RED.NS sickness man

5.2.2.1 Overview of Marking of Number

The number categories of singular, dual and plural are marked at several different levels of the Ama language. Below is an overview:

(1) in the verb	obligatory	suffixation reduplication stem modification suppletion	} singular, dual, plural
(2) in the noun	a few, mostly, human nouns	reduplication suppletion	} singular, non-singular
(3) in the noun phrase	most human nouns	(*noko*) *ti* 'two' *iyali* 'group'	dual plural
(4) in an adjective used attributively in an NP or as a comment in a CP	obligatory	reduplication	singular, non-singular
(5) in the personal pronoun	obligatory	stem modification suppletion compounding	} singular, dual, plural

The form … *noko ti* '… and somebody else' (in (3) above) is used for nouns that are not in themselves plural. Compare examples (397) and (400).

392) ***alu***   *siyoli to-tumo-Ø*
    child   big   PR-come-1/3S.A
    'a big child is coming'

393) ***alalo***   ***si****-siyoli*   *to-**ti***
    children   RED.NS-big   PR-come.P
    '(some) big children are coming'

394) ***alalo***   ***si****-siyoli*   *ti*   *to-tumo-**no***
    children   RED.NS-big   two   PR-come-3NS.A
    'two big children are coming'

395) ***alu***   *mo*   *siyoli*
    child   TOP   big
    'the child is big'

396) ***alalo***   *mo*   ***si-****siyoli*
    children   TOP   RED.NS-big
    'the children are big'

397) ***alalo   ti   mo   si-****siyoli*
children two TOP RED.NS-big
'the two children are big'

398) ***anoi****   to-tumo-****so***
mother.1   PR-come-3SF.ABS
'my mother is coming'

399) ***anoi****   iyali   to-****ti***
mother.1 group PR-come.P
'my mothers are coming'/'my mother and some other people are coming'

400) ***anoi****   noko ti   to-tomu-****no***
mother.1 man   two PR-come-3NS.A
'my two mothers are coming'/
'my mother and somebody else are coming'

401) *to*   *to-ti*   *toi*
3S   3P-two   3P
'he/she'   'the two of them'   'they'

402) *yo*   *ko-ti*   *koi*
1S   1P.EX-two   1P.EX
'I'   'the two of us (excl.)'   'we (excl.)'

5.2.3 Kinship Nouns

Kinship and other relational type nouns are inalienably possessed. The following suffixes are used to express these relationships:

∅	'first person'
-no	'second person'
-tono	'third person'

The terms for 'mother' and 'father' are irregular.

Inalienable Possession

Meaning	'first person' ∅ 'my/our ...'	'second person' *-no* 'your ...'	'third person' *-tono* 'his/her/their ...'
'mother'	*anoi*	*anoni*	*atino*
'father'	*apou*	*apono*	*apitono*
'a man's sister/fem. parallel cousin'	*inai*	*inai-no*	*inai-tono*
'maternal uncle'	*ala*	*ala-no*	*ala-tono*
'friend'	*siyoku*	*siyoku-no*	*siyoku-tono*

403) *inai-**tono***   *inai-**no***   *iyali*   *inai-∅*   *noko ti*
male's.sister-3INAL   male's.sister-2INAL group   male's.sister-1INAL man   two
'his/their sister'   'your sisters'   'my/our two sisters'

5.2.4 Animacy

There are four operations in the clause, phrase and word structures that are based on the animacy of the participants. One has to do with what argument is interpreted as the actor in a transitive clause, when the arguments are equal except as to animacy. Another, concerns the agent, whether it triggers verbal agreement or not. Yet another has to do with locational marking of noun phrases where the head refers to something animate. Finally, there are certain verb forms that are inherently animate or inanimate.

5.2.4.1 Actor or Undergoer, a Question of Animacy

The following example may seem to have two possible interpretations, because both participants are third person singular masculine. In reality the second interpretation is blocked due to animacy.

404) ***noko*** *mo* ***fu*** *unu*-ki-Ø
man TOP pig shoot-RPST-1/3S.A
'The man shot a pig.'
'*A pig shot the man.'

The topic marker may be used to mark the pig instead of the man. That would not change the fact that it was the man who shot the pig. Word order may change, placing *fu* 'pig' first or placing *noko* 'man' after the verb, or in several other ways, but it will always be the man who shot the pig, because he is higher on the animacy scale than the pig. The scale is as follows:

humans
animals
things

The only grammatical clause, where the pig would shoot the man, would be to use the case marker *-yo* 'agent' on the pig. However, most Ama speakers would consider that nonsense as that is not the kind of story they would make up.

405) ?*noko mo* *fu*-***yo*** *unu*-ki-Ø
man TOP pig-AG shoot-RPST-1/3S.A
'A pig shot the man.'

5.2.4.2 Agent or Instrument, a Question of Animacy

There are several case roles marked by clitics on the noun phrase in Ama. This will be described in section 6.2.3.2 (Case Marking of Noun Phrases). One of the case markers is *-yo* and marks the agent, which in Ama includes the instrumental case. This case marking triggers verbal agreement, if the marked entity is animate. An inanimate entity does not normally trigger verbal agreement, but there are exceptions if the argument refers to a "natural force" like wind or water (example (408). For details see section 6.2.3.2.1 (The Agent).

406) *nu* *mo* ***noko-yo*** *na* *ko-ki*-***no***
house TOP man-AG FOC build-RPST-3NS.A
'(Some) men built the house.'

407) *noko mo* ***muwo*** *kolukuwa kolukuwa*-***yo*** *tokoso-i-mano-ki-no*
man TOP bush.knife RED.NS crooked-AG cut-get.P-GO-RPST-3NS.A
The men were cutting and collecting (grass) with long crooked knives.

The plural forms in the verb in this example refer to the grass (*i* 'get.P') and the men (*-no* 3NS.A).

408) ***imonu-yo*** *ufasi-foli-komo-mok-a-lo-Ø-ki*
storm-AG toss-throw 2/3NS-1NS.U-CDA-go.all.over-RPST-1/3S.A
'The storm tossed us all over the place.'

5.2.4.3 Locational Marking and Animacy

Animate nouns do not take any of the locational case clitics to indicate physical position. To express these concepts a genitive construction has to be used as follows:

409) **anoni*-***so*** *po-moi*-Ø-Ø
mother.2-ALL IR-go-IMP-S
'Go to your mother!'

410) *anoni*-***ni*** *au*-***so*** *po-moi*-Ø-Ø
mother.2-GEN body-ALL IR-go-IMP-S
'Go to your mother!'

411) *Pita*-***ni*** *au*-***sai*** *to-ti-noki*
Peter-GEN body-ABL PR-come.P-1NS.EX.A
'We are coming from Pita.'

412) *noko*-***ni*** *au*-***mai*** *mo* *waliyo*
man-GEN body-LOC TOP OK
'Being near people is OK.'

5.2.4.4 "Get"-Verbs and Animacy

There are different verb roots depending on animacy for verbs meaning to 'get', 'bring' and 'take'. The forms also vary with number. The "bring" forms are based on the "take"-forms for animate nouns and on the "get"-form for inanimate nouns.

Animate		**Inanimate**	
kausi	'get'	*ano*	'get'
koliso	'get (non-sg.)'	*a-ko* get-3NS.U	'get (dl.)/(compound gender)'
		i	'get (pl.)'
kau	'take'	*aloma*	'take (non-pl.)'
koliyono	'take (non-sg.)'	*iloma*	'take (pl.)'
kau-wiyo-tumo 'bring' take.AN-CDT-come		*ani-yo-tumo* get-CDT-come	'bring'
koli-yo-tumo 'bring (non-sg.)' take.AN.NS-CDT-come		*a-ki-yo-tumo* get-3NS.U-CDT-come	'bring (dl.)/(compound gender)'
		i-yo-tumo get.P-CDT-come	'bring (pl.)'

413) *ya-ni   puko p-**a-k**-a-no-∅-∅*
     1S-GEN   book   IR-get-3C.ABS-CDA-go.straight-IMP-S
     'Go get my book!'

414) *noni   **kau**-so*
     woman   take.AN-3SF.ABS
     '(to) marry a woman'

415) *palulo   **aloma**-ko*
     aeroplane   take-3C.ABS
     '(to) pilot a plane'

416) *toi-ni   alalo   **koli**-yo-tumo-ki-no*
     3P-GEN   children   take.AN.NS-CDT-come-RPST-3NS.A
     'They brought their children.'

5.2.5 Proper Names

Proper names behave in many ways like any other noun. Names of animate beings may occur as an agent, take the allative case marker to indicate that it is an undergoer or be an oblique argument. But as they refer to animate entities, they do not take any of the locational case clitics to indicate physical position. To express that, a genitive construction has to be used. A geographical name will usually be in the allative, ablative or locative case. Other case marking is possible, if it occurs as a topic or comment in a verb-less clause. A proper name may occur in a noun phrase with a genitive or adjective as an attribute. In fact, a common way of expressing family type relationships, corresponding to a surname is through a genitive construction.

417) ***Nikiyamo**-ni   **Imamoi***
     a.name-GEN   a.name (female)
     'Nikiyamo's daughter Imamoi'

418) ***Imali** siyoli-woi **Imali**   koufa-woi*
     a.name big-WITH a.name small-WITH
     'the big Imali and the small Imali'

419) ***Ayamo**-ni   au-so   ti*
     a.name-GEN   body-ALL   come.P
     'they came to Ayamo'

There are two lists of proper names for people, one male and one female. Children from the same mother are given these names in numerical order, which gives them the meaning of first, second, third etc. with an additional lexical sex component, e.g. 'First Male', 'Second Female' etc.. The lists go up to eleven.

	Male	**Female**
1.	*Imu*	*Ayamo*
2.	*Nikiyamo*	*Yamoi*
3.	*Yamu*	*Yamuwai*
4.	*Imali*	*Imali*
5.	*Imamu*	*Imamoi*
6.	*Imowa*	*Yotolo*
7.	*Liyali*	*Lawoi*
8.	*Yaliyo*	*Apu*
9.	*Simoso*	*Sitoi*
10.	*Noisa*	*Imowai*
11.	*Lapuwo*	*Siyolo*

In addition there are more personal, given names like *Sipolu* 'gecko (fem.)', *Kapu-kapu* 'eat!', which are associative in nature, and foreign names like *Pita* 'Peter', *Alopoi* 'Albert' and *Moili* 'Mary'.

5.2.6 Abstract Nouns

There are some abstract nouns. A few examples are:

amoloki	'night'	*ai*	'sickness'
aniyopa	'eternity'	*suo*	'exchange'
folosu	'darkness'	*tiya*	'hunger'
nuwoi	'a certain day'	*ulololi*	'sleep'
saponi	'light'		
upimo	'afternoon'		

There are also some concrete nouns with extended abstract meanings:

mi	'bone'	(work)
mulu	'heart'	(mind, emotions)
ulo	'sun'	(day)

420) *mi   t-ano-no*
bone PR-get-3NS.A
'They are working.'

421) *yo mo   mulu to-kalo-mono*
1S TOP heart PR-die-1S.U
'I'm worried.'

422) *ulo siya*
sun one
'one day'

5.3 Pronouns

Pronouns constitute a closed class of words. There are two sub-classes: personal (including possessive) and demonstrative pronouns. Personal pronouns substitute for animate nouns. One of the functions of demonstrative pronouns is to substitute for inanimate nouns. They also substitute for higher grammatical units even whole paragraphs as well as discourse external entities.

5.3.1 Personal Pronouns

There is a three way distinction in number in the pronominal forms: singular, dual and plural.

423) *yo*   *ko-ti*   *koi*
      1S   1P.EX-two   1P.EX
      'I/me'   'we/us two (excl.)'   'we/us (excl.)'

The dual pronouns are compound forms, in that the plural forms are reduced through apocope and then joined to the root morpheme *ti* 'two'.

DUAL   →   Coi ti   →   Coti

There are two types of personal pronouns: regular and emphatic. Most of the emphatic pronouns are partial reduplications of the regular forms. It is always the first syllable that is reduplicated. If the reduplicated syllable contains a diphthong the last vowel segment is dropped. There is a vowel change in the final syllable of the reduplicated word.

RED → C_1 o(i)   → C_1 oC_1 a (i)
                                        (ti)

The forms for first and second person singular are irregular.

Regular Personal Pronouns

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
1 exclusive	*yo/ya*	*koti*	*koi*
1 inclusive		*moti*	*moi*
2	*nono/na*	*moti*	*moi*
3	*to/ta*	*toti*	*toi*

The second of the singular forms are used when no topic marker follows.

Emphatic Personal Pronouns

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
1 exclusive	*asa*	*kokati*	*kokai*
1 inclusive		*momati*	*momai*
2	*nona*	*momati*	*momai*
3	*tota*	*totati*	*totai*

The pronouns function as heads of noun groups (see section 6.2 (Noun Phrases)), which substitute for noun groups with nouns as heads. There are restrictions as to what enclitics a pronoun can take. As a personal pronoun always refers to animate beings they can not take any of the locational case clitics to indicate physical position as described in section 5.2.4.3 (Locational Marking and Animacy). There are also restrictions as to modifiers that can occur with a pronoun (see section 6.2.1 (The Noun Group: Structure II)).

The personal pronouns are not used much in the language as the verbal suffixes, marking actor and undergoer/absolutive, actually carry a lot more information. The free pronouns only mark person and number, while the suffixes also mark gender and case. The third person pronouns are used in non-verbal clauses and also in order to topicalise without repeating the noun. First and second person are more frequently used, corresponding to proper names and kinship terms used in third person. The emphatic pronouns are mostly used to indicate contrastive focus.

424) ***to*** *mo   asi   uo-fa*
      3S   TOP   ground   bird-small
      'He is a small bird (living on the) ground.'

425) ***yo***   *mo   anoi   mo   aisamu   1978-mai*
      1S   TOP   mother.1   TOP   sago.for.feast   1978-LOC

      na   kalo-so-wa-∅-mono-ki
      FOC   die-3SF.ABS-TAKE.FROM-GIVE1-1S.U-RPST
      'My mother died on me in 1978.'

The **possessive pronouns** are formed by adding the genitive clitic *-ni* to any of the above pronominal forms.

426) ***ya-ni***   *alu*
     1S-GEN   child
     'my child'

427) ***to-ta-ti-ni***   *nu*
     RED.EMPH-3P-two-GEN   house
     'the house belonging to the two of them (nobody else's)'

428) ***toi-ni***   *molo koiyau mo*   *si-siyoli*   *// ulai afonimai-so//*
     3P-GEN   road   bad   TOP   RED.NS-big   //   but   for.nothing-ADVR//

     mo-mai-yo-su   *na*   *t-aiyalo-ko-mano-nuwo*
     RED.EMPH-2P-AG-CON FOC   PR-teach-3NS.U-GO-2NS
     'Their behaviour is very bad, because it is you (pl.) who are teaching them.'

There is one **reflexive pronoun** *amu* used for all persons together with an emphatic free pronoun.

429) *to-ta*   ***amu***   *tukolo-ki*
     RED.EMPH-3S   RFLX   kill-RPST
     'He killed himself.'

430) *mo-ma-ti*   ***amu***   *mo*   *na*   *pa-hamuku-kuwano-∅-wo*
     RED.EMPH-1P.IN/2P-two   RFLX   TOP   FOC   RIR-help-each.other-IMP-NS
     'The two of you must help yourselves (and settle your disagreement).'

5.3.2 Demonstrative Pronouns

The demonstrative pronouns show a binary division: 'here' and 'there'. There are five basic demonstrative pronominal roots based on that distinction. In addition there are two other roots *aino* 'about that previously mentioned' and *noino* 'like this'. The following table will show some of their individual peculiarities.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Root	i-	ni	anu	au	no	aino	noino
Meaning	here/now	here/now/this	there/that	there	there/then/that	about that	like this
Root only	√						
Exophoric	√	√	√	√			√
Anaphoric					√	√	
Cataphoric							√
In Conjunctions					√		

Here are some of the more common demonstrative pronouns, adverbs and conjunctions. The internal structure is shown in bold[49]. In addition, these pronominal forms may take further nominal clitics (see section 6.3 (Locative Phrases)).

DEM

anu	'that', 'there'	(exophoric free **pronoun**/locational <u>adverb</u>)
ni	'this', 'here'	(exophoric free **pronoun**/locational <u>adverb</u>)
no	'that'	(anaphoric free **pronoun**)
aino	'about that'	(anaphoric **pronoun**)
noino	'like this'	(cataphoric **pronoun**)

DEM-FOC-here

anu-na-ni	'that ...'	(exophoric adjectival **pronoun** (in a noun group))
ni-na-ni	'this ...'	(exophoric adjectival **pronoun** (in a noun group))
no-na-ni	'that ...'	(anaphoric adjectival **pronoun** (in a noun group))
aino-na-ni	'about that ...'	(anaphoric adjectival **pronoun** (in a noun group))
noi(no)-na-ni	'like this ...'	(exophoric adjectival **pronoun** (in a noun group))

DEM-UNQ-(here)

ni-ya	'exactly here'	(exophoric locational/temporal <u>adverb</u>)
ni-ya-ni	'this specific'	(exophoric adjectival **pronoun** (in a noun group))

DEM-ALL-here

i-so-ni	'here & now'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb</u>)
ni-so-ni	'here'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb)</u>
au-so-ni	'there & now'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb</u>)
no-so-ni	'there'	(anaphoric locational <u>adverb</u>)

DEM-ABL-other.side

i-sai-mi	'on this side'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb</u>)
au-sai-mi	'on the other side'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb</u>)

DEM-ABL-there

i-sai-no	'here & then'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb</u>)
au-sai-no	'there & then'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb</u>)
no-sai-no	'then'	(anaphoric CONJUNCTION)

DEM-there

ni-no	'that'	(exophoric adjectival **pronoun**)

DEM-LOC-there

i-mai-no	'here'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb</u>)
ni-mai-no	'here'	(exophoric locational <u>adverb</u>)
no-mai-no	'at that time'	(anaphoric CONJUNCTION)

DEM-OBLQ-there

no-monoi-no	'therefore'	(anaphoric CONJUNCTION)

431)   **ni**-*su*   *mo*   *yani*   *aluwou*
this/here-CON   TOP   1S-GEN   dog
'This/here is my dog.'

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[49] The term 'exophoric' is used when a linguistic unit refers "directly … to the extra-linguistic situation" (Crystal 1985). The term 'anaphoric' is used when a linguistic unit refers to something already expressed. The term 'cataphoric' is used when a word refers forward (ibid.).

432) *fu* **aino** *imo*
pig about.that talk
'a story about a pig'

433) *ta-ni siyolo mo* **noino** *kaluwai-yoi-ni-mo Mou*
3S-GEN name TOP like.this call-FUT-2S-FUT a.name
'You will call him Mou.'

434) *to-ta-yo* **noino**[50] **mo** *ulo mo noko komaso noko-so*
RED.EMPH-3S-AG like.this TOP sun TOP man all man-ALL

to-wi-kolo-ko-moi
PR-shine-surround-3NS.U-GO
'He causes the sun to shine on all people.'

435) **anu-na-ni** *noko nokolalo, toi-su mo sai muwoi.*
there-FOC-here man women 3P-CON TOP know NEG
'But those people over there they don't know.'

436) *imo* **ni-no** *nono mo sai*
talk here-there 2S TOP know
'You know this talk.'

437) *na po-moi yo mo* **ni-ya** *ti-yousi*
FOC IR-go 1S TOP here-UNQ PR-sit
'You go, I stay just here. / "Good-bye!"'

438) **i-so-ni** *pi-yousi-∅-∅*
here-ALL-here IR-sit-IMP-S
'Sit here (you sg.)!'

439) **i-sai-no** *yousi-ki*
here-ABL-there sit-RPST
'I/he sat here.'

440) *Iyono mo kalopulo nu-so kiyo-kai-ki-no.*
John TOP prison house-ALL take-PUT-RPST-3NS.A

Imo-fa mo **no-so-ni** *kolom-a-tumo-ki,*
talk-small TOP there-ALL-here spread-CDA-come-RPST
'John had been taken to and was in prison. A rumour was spread and came there, ...'

441) *iwo* **au-sai-mi** *asi noko*
water there-ABL-other.side ground man
'men from the other side of the river'

442) **no-sai-no** *mo ya-ni noni mo alu nokokai na*
there-ABL-there TOP 1S-GEN woman TOP child boy FOC

ki-ki // amu Akuso-mai, ulo mo 18-mai si-so-ki //
see-RPST // moon August-LOC sun TOP 18-LOC sit.P-3SF.ABS-RPST //

no-mai-no *mo tiya-woi-so na si-so-ki,*
there-LOC-there TOP hunger-WITH-ALL FOC sit.(P)-3SF.ABS-RPST
'Then my wife bore a male child. On the 18th of August she gave birth. At that time she was very hungry, ...'

443) *ai t-uwo* **no-monoi-no** *wiyou mano-woi muwoi*
sickness PR-afflict there-OBLQ-there no go-WITH not
'He is sick. Therefore he does not want to go.'

5.4 Adjectives

Adjectives constitute an open class of words functioning as modifiers in the noun phrase, where it follows the head, and as modifiers in the noun group where it precedes the head. It also functions as the head of a modifier phrase in the verb-less clause. The adjectives may take the same kind of enclitics as nouns, but that will be described under the heading of Noun Phrases in section 6.2, as that is the level they are functioning on.

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[50] What is marked bold is a causative construction with this demonstrative pronoun.

Quantifying words are part of the adjective class. Numerals will also be described under this heading even though most of them are nouns and some are noun phrases.

Here are some common adjectives:

siyoli	'big'	*molopoi*	'many'
koufa	'small'	*siyai*	'some', 'one of two'
sopo	'tall'	*siya*	'one'
foku	'short'	*toitati*	'four'

444) *noko* **siyoli**   **siyoli** *noko-ta*   *noko mo* **siyoli**
      man   big   big   man-SPEC   man   TOP   big
      'a/the big man'   'a big man'   'the man is big'

445) *noko* **siya**
      man   one
      'another man'

5.4.1 Reduplication of Adjectives

Adjectives are reduplicated to indicate non-singular. For most adjectives the reduplication is complete, resulting in two words.

foku	short	'short'	*foku foku*	RED.NS short	'short (non-sg.)'
nakiyai	red	'red'	*nakiyai nakiyai*	RED.NS red	'red (non-sg.)'

446) *nu* **sopo** **sopo**
      house RED.NS tall
      'high houses'

447) *iyo* **siyai**   *iyo* **siyai** **siyai**
      ear   some   ear   RED.NS   some
      'one ear'   'both ears'

For four very common adjectives the reduplication is partial, unpredictable or even non-existent:

siyoli	big	'big'	*si-siyoli*	RED.NS-big	'big (non-sg.)'
koufa	small	'small'	*kou-lolo-fa*	small-NS-small	'small (non-sg.)'
itouni-yai-mo	good-S-S	'good'	*i-ti-touni*	good-RED.NS-good	
	'good (non-sg.)'				
koiyau	bad	'bad'	*kopo-koiyau*	RED.NS-bad	'bad (non-sg.)'

448) *noko* **si-siyoli**
      man   RED.NS-big
      'big men'

When *siyoli* 'big' precedes any adjective, it means 'very'

449) *aipiyoi* **sopo** **siyoli**
      cassowary tall   big
      'a very tall cassowary'

5.4.2 Verb Derivation from Adjectives

Verbs may be derived from some adjectives by adding appropriate undergoer suffixes.

450) *nu*   *mo*   *to-**siyoli-mo**-taikiyo-moi*
      house TOP   PR-big-S-SEND-GO
      'The house keeps getting bigger and bigger.'

451) *au*   *tuno* *tokosonasi-komo-moko no*   *moloi* **i-ti-touni-komo-moko**-*monoi*
      body   skin   cut-1/2NS.U-1NS.U   TOPQ   how   good-RED.NS-good-1/2NS.U-1NS.U-OBLQ
      'How can cutting our skin make us good? (It cannot!)'

See also section 4.3 (Derivation versus Inflection).

5.4.3 Numerical System

The traditional numerical system is partly based on body parts. Often the enclitic *-woi* 'with' is attached to the numeral.

siya	one	'one'
ti(*-woi*)	two(-WITH)	'two'
tau(*-woi*)	three(-WITH)	'three'
toitati	four	'four'
tu(*-woi*)	thumb(-WITH)	'five'
naino siya uwai	hand one finish	'five'
toufo(*-woi*)	navel(-WITH)	'six'
nano siya(*-woi*)	breast one(-WITH)	'seven'
nano ti(*-woi*)	breast two(-WITH)	'eight'
noimi siya(*-woi*)	collar bone one(-WITH)	'nine'
noimi ti(*-woi*)	collar bone two(-WITH)	'ten'
naino ti(*-woi*) *uwai*	hand two(-WITH) finish	'ten'
molo siya(*-woi*)	eye one(-WITH)	'eleven'
molo ti(*-woi*)	eye one(-WITH)	'twelve'
pounu	many	'many'

452) *nokolalo* **toufo-woi**
women navel-WITH
'six women'

453) *alalo* **naino ti uwai**
children hand two finish
'ten children'

Ordinal numbers are expressed by adding the oblique clitic *-monoi* and number of times by adding the locative clitic *-mai*.

454) *tau-monoi*   *ti-mai*
three-OBLQ   two-LOC
'third'   'twice'

For higher numbers, and as an alternative to these traditional numbers, English numbers are used.

5.5 Adverbs

Adverbs are a mixed group of words that in some way function as modifiers. They most typically modify a verb or, as the head of a locative or temporal phrase, the whole clause. When the adverb modifies the verb directly it immediately precedes the verb. Only very few adverbs may modify an adjective.

There are three classes of adverbs based on their function: temporal, locational and manner. Manner adverbs belong to a large open class based on the open class of adjectives. Temporal and locational adverbs belong to smaller classes, possibly closed but not easily defined (so no attempt at a definition has been made here). Typical of many temporal and locational adverbs are that they make use of the locative, allative and ablative case clitics.

5.5.1 Temporal Adverbs

Temporal adverbs function as heads of temporal phrases. Some examples from this class are the following:

konoi	'now/today'	*toku*	'earlier'	
lolai	'today'	*namoli-sai*	'later'	(back-ABL)
amuwoi	'one day later/tomorrow'	*amuwoi-tino*	'another time'	
fai	'one day earlier/yesterday'	*makolu*	'far away in the future'	
tino	'two days removed'			
tauno	'three days removed'			

These basic temporal stems may occur on their own, but with the help of the locational clitics they are used to express past and future. The locational clitics are:

-so	'allative'	(used to specify future)
-sai	'ablative'	(general)
-mai	'locative'	(exact)
no clitic		(past)

Note that this use of the clitics is different from the use described on phrase level where the clitics specify the relationship to the verb. Here they are used to modify the meaning of a temporal adverb. (Compare the use of clitics in demonstrative pronouns in section 5.3.2)

Not all clitics may be used with all temporal adverbs, however. Some common combinations are presented in the following examples:

455) *konoi* · *konoi-mai* · *konoi-so*
now · now-LOC · now-ALL
'now' · 'just now' · 'later today'

456) *amuwoi-so* · *amuwoi-sai*
one.day.later-ALL · one.day.later-ABL
'tomorrow' · 'one day later'

457) **amuwoi-so** · *im-a-tumo-i-ni-mo*
one.day.removed-ALL · say-CDA-come-FUT-3A+2S.U-FUT
'He will come and talk to you tomorrow.'

458) *fai* · *fai-ni-sai*
one.day.earlier · one.day.earlier-GEN-ABL
'yesterday' · 'one day earlier'

459) *tino* · *tino-so* · *tino-sai*
two.days.removed · two.days.removed-ALL · two.days.removed-ABL
'day before yesterday' · 'day after tomorrow' · 'two days later'

460) *makolu-mai-so*
far.away.in.future-LOC-ALL
'in the future'

In addition to the above list there are certain compounds in use like in the following example:

461) *tauno-ni* · *amuwoi-so*
three.days.removed-GEN · one.day.later-ALL
'three days after tomorrow'

462) **tauno-ni** · **fai-ni-sai** · *ai-unu-ki-no*
three.days.removed-GEN · one.day.earlier-GEN-ABL · dig-SHOOT-RPST-3NS.A
'They buried him four days later.'

The temporal conjunctions may also be classified as temporal adverbs looking at their temporal function (but see Conjunctions 5.6).

5.5.2 Locational Adverbs

There are two types of locational adverbs. One type are part of the bigger word class of demonstrative words (see section 5.3.2 (Demonstrative Pronouns) for basic information about this word class). The other type is a class of adverbs, where some are topographical and some relational in nature. The demonstrative adverbs will be presented first.

5.5.2.1 Demonstrative Adverbs

There are several demonstrative adverbs. Two of them consist of simple roots, *ni* 'here' and *anu* 'there', but the rest have three parts: two demonstrative roots separated by a case clitic. The first demonstrative root signals the 'here' and 'there'. The clitic signals direction or position. The second demonstrative is partly predictable from the case clitic chosen (see below).

DEM$_1$		CASE		DEM$_2$	
i-	'here'	*-so*	'allative'	*ni*	'here'
ni	'here'	*-sai*	'ablative'	*no*	'there'
au	'there'	*-mai*	'locative'	*-mi*	'on the other side'
no	'there'				

The second demonstrative root is predictable as follows:

-so	'allative'	triggers	*ni*	'here'		(adverbs with *-so* have both a locative and allative function)
-sai	'ablative'	triggers	*no*	'there',	*-mi* 'on the other side'	
-mai	'locative'	triggers	*no*	'there'		

A locational adverb usually functions as the head of a locative phrase. An exception is the two basic forms below, which may be either adverbs or demonstrative pronouns. When functioning as adverbs they occur in the verb phrase immediately preceding the verb.

anu	'there/that'	(exophoric **adverb**/free pronoun)
ni	'here/this'	(exophoric **adverb**/free pronoun)

463) ***ni***   *toi*
      this/here   lie
      '(He) is here.'

464) ***anu***   *tolo*
      that/there   stand
      '(He) is there.'

Other adverbs are:

i-so-ni	'here'	(exophoric allative & locative adverb)
here-ALL-here		
i-sai-no	'from here'	(exophoric ablative adverb)
here-ABL-there		
i-sai-mi	'on this side'	(exophoric ablative adverb)
here-ABL-on.other.side		
i-mai-no	'here (general position)'	(exophoric locative adverb)
here-LOC-there		
ni-so-ni	'here'	(exophoric allative & locative adverb)
here-ALL-here		

ni-mai-no here-LOC-there	'here (general position)'	(exophoric locative adverb)
au-so-ni there-ALL-here	'there'	(exophoric allative & locative adverb)
au-sai-no there-ABL-there	'from there'	(exophoric ablative adverb)
au-sai-mi there-ABL-on.other.side	'on the other side'	(exophoric ablative adverb)
no-so-ni there-ALL-here	'there'	(**anaphoric** allative & locative adverb)

The adverbs with the root *ni* and *i-*, both with the basic meaning of 'this/here', are synonymous though the adverbs with *i-* are much more common.

All locational adverbs are exophoric, i.e. referring to the linguistic situation, except *nosoni* 'there' which is anaphoric, i.e. it refers back to something said or written. It is based on the anaphoric pronoun *no* 'there/that'.

465) *kalopulo   nu-so   kiyo-kai-ki-no   imo-fa   mo*
prison   house-ALL   take-PUT-RPST-3NS.A   talk-small TOP

    no-so-ni   *kolom-a-tumo-ki*
there-ALL-here   spread-CDA-come   RPST
'They had put him in prison, and the rumour spread to there.'

466) ***au-so-ni***   *tolo-kai-no*
there-ALL-here   stand-PUT-there
'(He) is there.'

467) ***i-sai-no***   *ti-liyai-yoimo*   ***au-sai-no***   *ti-liyai-yoimo*
here-ABL-there   come.P-WALK.ABOUT-FUT   there-ABL-there   come.P-WALK.ABOUT-FUT
'They will come from all directions.'

468) *ya-ni   asi   mo   **i-sai-mi***
1S-GEN   ground   TOP   here-ABL-other.side
'My ground is on this side.'

469) *iwo   toku   ilo   **au-sai-mi**   fiyamosiy-a-no-ki-no*
water   round   bank   there-ABL-other.side   appear-CDA-go.straight-RPST-3NS.A
'They landed on the other side of the lake.'

When the locational adverbs function in the locative phrase they may take further case clitics (see examples in section 6.3 (Locative Phrases)).

470) *iwo   ilo   au-sai-mi-**so**   to-ti-koni*
water   bank   there-ABL-other.side-ALL   PR-come.P-1NS.IN.A
'Let's go over to the other side of the river.'

5.5.2.2 Topographical and Relational Adverbs

There is a group of locational adverbs which are topographical and/or relational in that they refer to an already known location without making use of the demonstratives. They are:

puwo	'up'	*aumoifa*	'close to'
woi	'down'	*aluwa*	'far away'
aluwo	'upriver'	*kwa*	'alongside'
powo	'downriver'		

471) ***puwo-*** *so   to-moi*
up-ALL   PR-go
'I am/he is going up.'

472) ***powo-*** *so   t-amufu*
downriver-ALL   PR-go.downriver
'I am /he is going downriver.'

473) ***kwa-*** *sai   yousi-ki*
alongside-ABL   sit-RPST
'I/he was sitting at the side.'

5.5.3 Manner Adverbs

A manner adverb is often derived from an adjective[51] by the derivational suffix *-so*[52] 'adverbialiser'. It usually functions as a modifier in a verb phrase, preceding the verb, but it may also function on its own as a head of a modifier phrase.

474) ***siyoli-so***   *to-no-ko-mano-no*
big-ADVR   PR-eat-3NS.U-GO-3NS.A
'They always eat a lot.'

475) *fu   mo   **somai-so**   na   usukuno-ki*
pig TOP near-ADVR FOC fall-RPST
'The pig fell quickly.'

476) *toi-ni   siyolo   siyolo mo   **fofamo-so**   na*
3P-GEN   RED.NS name   TOP different-ADVR FOC
'Their names are/were different.'

The demonstrative *aino* 'about that' and *noino* 'like this' may, with the addition of the adverbialiser also function as a manner adverb.

477) ***aino-so***   *ti-yomu-ko*
about.that-ADVR   PR-say-3C.ABS
'(the book) says like that'

478) ***noino-so***   *pi-yo-∅-∅*   (showing)
like.this-ADVR   IR-do-IMP-S
'Do like this.'

There are also some manner adverbs that do not correspond to an adjective[53]. They modify adjectives and nouns as well as verbs. They often follow the phrase they modify, either as head of a modifier phrase or as a modifier of another phrase.

koma   'enough'

uwai   'finished'

futo   'finished'   (abstract)

uwofa   'finished'   (none to share)

muwoi   'not'

nali   'really'

awa   'planning to return today'   (usually modifies finite verbs within the verb phrase)

wonikalu-so   'lest' ("lest"-ADVR; appears clause initially but does not join
the   clause to the preceding one)

479) *ya-ni   imo mo   **koma/uwai***
1S-GEN   talk TOP enough/finished
'That is all I have to say.'

---

[51] The numerals based on body parts are of course not included here.

[52] The adverbialiser *-so* and the allative case clitic [-]*so* are homophones.

[53] The form *koma*(-)*so* 'all' functions as an adjective, for example: *noko komaso* man all 'all men'.

480) *noko mo* **koma**   *noko mo* **uwai**
man TOP enough   man TOP finished
'There are enough men.'   'There are no men.'

481) *imo mo* **futo**
talk TOP finished
'forgiven'

482) *tuo-woi* **muwoi** *tuo mo* **uwofa** *na*
sago-with NEG sago TOP finished FOC
'There is no sago, the sago is finished/none to share.'

483) *noko siyoli* **nali-no**   *ami* **nali-no**   *fumo* **nali**
man big really-there   strong really-there   run really
'a really big man'   'really strong'   'I/he really ran'

484) *noko mo* **awa**   *to-moi*
man TOP planning.to.return.today PR-go
'The man is leaving, planning to return today.'

485) **wonikaluso** *uo noko-yo aiko tukolo-i-ni*
lest evil man-AG lest kill-FUT-3A+2S.U
'Lest enemies will kill you'

5.6 Conjunctions

Conjunctions bind clauses, sentences or paragraphs together. They are:

no-sai-no	there-ABL-there	'then'
no-mai-no	there-LOC-there	'at that time'
nuwoi-no	certain.day-there	'at a certain time'
no-monoi-no	there-OBLQ-there	'because of that', 'so', 'therefore'
aino-so hani	about.that-ADVR what	'until'
ulai	but	'but' (signalling the unexpected)
o	or	'or' (binds phrases and clauses together)

The conjunction *ulai* 'but' is different from the others in that its main function is to contrast and disrupt an argument rather than connecting them. It is especially common in rhetorical questions, where the whole construction is often used to disrupt a sequence of connected thought.

486) *tiya na si-ki* // **no-sai-no** *mo ya na i-ko-ki-∅*
hunger FOC sit.P-RPST // there-ABL-there TOP 1S FOC say-3NS.U-RPST-1/3S.A
'They were hungry. Then I said to them'

487) *Moili-yo Isiso na ki-ki* // **no-mai-no** *Hilo komano noko-ta*
Mary-AG Jesus FOC see-RPST // there-LOC-there Herod government man-SPEC

siyoli tolo-ki
big stand-RPST
'Jesus was born by Mary. At that time Herod was the ruler.'

488) *aino-so iyamo-i-nuwo-mo* // **nuwoi-no** *ti-monoi na tumo-imo*
about.that-ADVR say.P-FUT-2NS-FUT // certain.day-there two-OBLQ FOC come-FUT
'You (pl.) will say like that. At that exact time I/he will come for the second time.'

489) *yau ku-tano-kai-no* **no-monoi-no** *fu-fu-muwan-a-kono-ki*
dead down.below-sleep-PUT-there there-OBLQ-there RED.NS-run-NS-CDA-go.down-RPST
'He lay down there dead, therefore they ran down.'

490) *kalumani-so-woi* **muwoi** *aino-so* **hani** *alu ki-ki-∅*
go.along.with-3SF.ABS-WITH NEG about.that-ADVR what child see-RPST-1/3S.A
'He did not touch her until she saw(bore) the child.'

491) ***ulai*** *nuwo mo noko-yo na no-ki-no*
but snake TOP man-AG FOC eat-RPST-3NS.A
'But the men ate the snake.'

492) ***ulai*** *somu no koiyau*
but meat TOPQ bad
'How can the meat be bad?/The meat wasn't bad, was it?'

493) *siyai mo sai poi mo **o** siyai mo sosoli poi mo*
some TOP know perhaps TOP or some TOP don't.know perhaps TOP
'Perhaps some know or perhaps they don't.'

Conjunctions are by no means the only junctions used in the language. Other strategies are juxtaposition, head-tail linkage, linking by using the topic marker *mo* (see Årsjö 1994) and morphological linkage (see section 4.2.3.3 (A Clause Suffix)).

5.7 Interjections

There are a number of interjections. Interjections are different from particles in that they have a common function: they are a response to something said or perceived. They take no affixes or clitics.

The particle *na* 'focus' may also function as an interjection, meaning 'yes', and may then take the clitic *-su* 'contrast'.

wuo   'yes'

yuo   'I don't know.'

na   'yes'

wiyou   'no'[54]

wa   'What did you say?'

woi   'I am grieving!!"

iii   'I am surprised.'

ha (ha ha ha)   'comfort!'

oi   'Hey!'

494) *nona no mano-i-ni-mo // **wuo**/**na**/**na-su**/**yuo**/**wa***
2S.EMPH TOPQ go-FUT-2S-FUT // yes/yes/yes-CON/I.don't.know/what.did.you.say
'Are you leaving? Yes/Certainly/I don't know/Pardon?'

495) *ya-ni alu **woi***
1S-GEN child I'm.grieving
'Oh my child!!!'

496) ***iii*** *siyoli **wiyou** na*
I'm.surprised big no FOC
'I couldn't believe it how big it was.'

497) *ya to-hamuku-noki **ha ha ha ha***
1S PR-help-1A+2S.U comfort …
'I'll help you; help is coming …'

498) ***oi*** *woli na po-fou-mono-∅-∅*
hey friend.1 FOC IR-wait.for-1S.U-IMP-S
'Hey! My friend, wait for me!'

---

[54] This interjection is not used to deny. A denial of example (494) would be:

    *yo mo mano-**woi muwoi***
    1S TOP go-WITH NEG
    'I'm not going.'

5.8 Particles

Particles are a heterogeneous class of words with diverse grammatical functions. They take no affixes but, if their place in the phrase is final, they may take an enclitic referring to the whole phrase. The particles may be divided into categories according to their function: aspectual, modal, nominal and discourse particles.

Aspectual Particles

amai   '(not) yet'

yasoi   'perfect'

yapoli   'perfect stative'

The particle *amai* means 'not yet' when used with punctual verbs and 'yet' when used with stative verbs.

499)   *tumo-woi   muwoi, amai*
       come-WITH NEG   (not.)yet
       '(He) has not come yet.'

500)   *ya amai   wiyo-nino-i-kuwo-mo   /   mi   mo*
       1S (not.)yet show-GIVE2/3-FUT-1A+2NS.U-FUT /   bone TOP
       'I have not shown you (pl.) the work yet.'

501)   *amai   s-uo-mo*
       (not.)yet sit.P-OBLG-FUT
       They must stay.

502)   *noko yasoi ti*
       man   PERF come.P
       'The men have come.'

503)   *imo siya yapoli kwai-ki-nuwo*
       talk one PERF   perceive-RPST-2NS
       'There is a "talk'' (and) you (pl.) have heard it.

Modal Particles

louwa   'frustrated intention'

poi   'perhaps'

nako   'I think'

noiyo   'don't'

aiko   'lest'

504)   *noni   tukolo-so-monoi   louwa   (fi)   yo-ki-no*
       woman   kill-3SF.ABS-OBLQ FRUST.INT (do)   do-RPST-3NS.A
       'They wanted to kill the woman, but ...'

505)   *na   louwa   tukolo-so-ki-∅*
       FOC FRUST.INT kill-3SF.ABS-RPST-1/3S.A
       'they wanted to kill her, but …'

506)   *komi-nalomano-monoi louwa   (fi)*
       hold-take.away-OBLQ FRUST.INT do
       '… want to arrest, but …'

507)   *no mo au   poi   mo   waliyo poi   mo*
       that TOP taboo perhaps TOP all.right perhaps TOP
       'Could (that be) taboo or is it OK?'

508)   *isi   kiyo noko-ta-yo   tum-aki   mo   moloi poi   mo*
       garden owner man-SPEC-AG come-WHEN/IF TOP how   perhaps TOP

       uwo-k-a-tumo-i
       afflict-3NS.U-CDA-come-FUT
       'When/if the owner of the garden comes what will he do to them?'

509) ***nako*** *mo yau noko-ta-so ki-ya-no-ki-nuwo*
I.think TOP dead man-SPEC-ALL see-CDA-go.straight-RPST-2NS
'I think you are going to look at the dead man.'

510) ***noiyo*** *mano-i-wo*
don't go-PROH-NS
'Don't go you (dl.).'

511) *wonikaluso noko nokolalo-yo* ***aiko*** *kwai-komo-i-nuwo*
lest man women-AG lest perceive-1/2NS.U-FUT-2NS
'Lest people will see you (pl.).'

Nominal Particles

komiyai 'like'

topi 'like in appearance'

mani 'also'

saso 'only'

iyali 'group/pluraliser'

512) *nuwo* ***komiyai*** *louwa t-ulolo-nuwo*
snake like FRUST.INT PR-escape.P-2NS
'You are planning to escape like snakes, but …'

513) *mulu iwo mo* ***topi***
heart water TOP like
'heart like water' (no character)

514) *molo kukumo soliyaki* ***komiyai*** *tano-kai-no a soliyaki* ***topi***
eye rubbish big like lie-PUT-there tree big like
'like having a piece of dirt in the eye (dirt) like a big (piece of) wood'

515) *ta-ni uo mo ta* ***topi***
3S-GEN evil TOP fire like
'his anger is like fire'

516) *noko nokolalo* ***mani*** *kufau-ko-liyai-ki*
man women also surprised-3NS.U-WALK.BOUT-RPST
'All around people were surprised.'

517) *nokolalo muwoi noko* ***saso***
women NEG man only
'no women only men'

518) *atino* ***iyali*** *to-ti*
mother.3 group PR-come.P
'His/her/their mother came together with some other people.'

Discourse Particles

mo 'topic marker'

no 'topic marker in a question'

na 'focus marker'

For more information about the topic marker see Årsjö (1994).

519) *ulo siya* ***mo*** *inai-woi anoi-woi* ***mo*** *aino lukolo i-monoi*
sun one TOP sister.1-WITH mother.1-WITH TOP pandanus pick get.P-OBLQ

na *mano-ki-no*
FOC go-RPST-3NS.A
'One day my sister and mother went to pick pandana fruit.'

520) *ulai anoi-woi inai-woi* ***no*** *aino lukolo i* ***no*** *sai*
but mother.1-WITH sister.1-WITH TOPQ pandanus pick get TOPQ know
'But did my mother and sister know (how) to pick pandana fruit? (They did not.)'

Words in Ama

5.9 Question Words

There are five basic question words (bold in list) used to elicit information. Formally they are very different but because of their similar function they constitute one class of words. The basic forms of the question words may be augmented, usually by enclitics (see the list below for details), to make them more versatile. They are:

noi		'who?'
noi-wo	who-P	'who? (pl.)'
noi-ni	who-GEN	'whose?'
hani		'what?/thing'
hani hani	RED.NS what	'things'
hani-monoi	what-OBLQ	'why?/don't!'
moloi		'how?'
moloi moloi	RED.NS how	'how many?'
moloi-monoi	how-OBLQ	'why?'
***moi**-so*	where-ALL	'where to?'
moi-sai	where ABL	'where from?'
maniwoi		'when? (past)'
maniwoi-so	when-ALL	'when? (future)'

The form *hani* 'what' has a secondary meaning of '(some)thing' as can be seen from examples (525) and (526).

521) *nona   no   **noi***
     2S.EMPH TOPQ who
     'Who are you?'

522) ***noi**-wo   noko*
     who-NS   man
     'Who are the men?'

523) *ni   no   **noi-ni**   nu*
     this TOPQ who-GEN house
     'Whose house is this?'

524) ***hani** t-ano-ni*
     what PR-get-2S
     'What are you doing?'

525) *yo mo **hani** mo sai   muwoi*
     1S TOP what TOP know NEG
     'I don't know anything.'

526) *nu   mo   **hani**   **hani** saso*
     house TOP RED.NS what   only
     'The house is full of things.'

527) ***hani-monoi** ti-yo-ni*
     what-OBLQ PR-do-2S
     'Why do you do (it)?/Don't do (it)!'

528) *ayou no   **moloi** to-falo-ulu-mano-nuwo*
     canoe TOPQ how   PR-carve-NS-GO-2NS
     'How do you (pl.) make canoes?'

529) *kakalo uo no* ***moloi moloi***
poultry bird TOPQ RED.NS how
'How many hens (& roosters)?'

530) ***moloi-monoi*** *to-tumo-ni*
how-OBLQ PR-come-2S
'Why are you coming?'

531) ***maniwoi*** *kalo-ki*
when die-RPST
'When did he die?'

532) ***maniwoi-so*** *mano-i-nuwo-mo*
when-ALL go-FUT-2NS-FUT
'When will the two of you be going?'

6. PHRASES

There are five classes of phrases based on function in the clause: verb phrases, noun phrases, temporal phrases, locative phrases and modifier phrases.

The two main classes are the noun phrase and the verb phrase, encoding the main arguments of the clause. The verb phrase is the head of a verbal clause[55]. The noun phrase is the most versatile phrase. It may have a key function as actor or undergoer in the clause but also a more peripheral role such as a temporal, a locational or an instrumental argument. These different roles are marked by clitics and/or verbal agreement depending on role. Animacy is also important when the role of a noun phrase is assigned. A noun phrase may also function as either the topic or the comment in a verb-less clause.

Peripheral phrases are: the temporal phrase[56], the locative phrase and the modifier phrase. The temporal and locative phrases function mainly as peripheral arguments in the verbal clause. The modifier phrase functions mainly as a comment in the verb-less clause.

6.1 Verb Phrases

The verb phrase functions as the head of the verbal clause. It has the following structure:

VP → (ADV) (ASP) (FOC/DEM) (MODE) V

Aspect markers that occur here are: *yasoi* 'perfect'

yapoli 'perfect stative'

amai '(not) yet'

---

[55] There are two types of clauses in Ama: the verbal clause, which as its head has a verb phrase, and the verb-less clause which is defined a having a topic and a comment. The topic usually consists of a noun phrase, and the comment may consist of a noun phrase or a modifier phrase.

[56] A temporal or locative phrase may actually be a noun phrase (see sections 6.2.3.2.2 (The Allative) and 6.2.3.2.3 (The Ablative and the Locative).

Modal markers that occur here are: *louwa*   'frustrated intention'

                                             noiyo   'don't' (cannot co-occur with focus)

The verb phrase is the only obligatory constituent of the verbal clause. It is optionally preceded, counting outward from the verb, by the focus marker or, in the rare case, a simple demonstrative, and/or a modal or aspectual marker and/or an adverb. Only rarely are all the optional arguments present.

533) *na-so   na   po-ki-Ø-Ø*
shadow-ALL FOC   IR-see-IMP-S
'Look at the picture.'

534) *ya-ni   anoi   iyali mo   ni   si*
1S-GEN mother.1 group TOP here sit
'My mother and some other people are sitting here.'

535) *Imali   mo   yasoi   na   tumo*
a.name TOP PERF FOC come
'Imali has come.'

536) *yo mo   nu-so   na   louwa   mano-ki*
1S TOP house-ALL   FOC FRUST.INT go-RPST
'I wanted to go home, but …'

537) *noiyo sino-i-Ø*
don't   cry-PROH-S
'Don't cry (you sg.)!'

538) *Yowiya yu-so   mo   somai-so   pa-ti-ki-noki-so*
a.name   mountain-ALL   TOP fast-ADVR RIR-come.P-RPST-1NS.EX.A-NEG
'We didn't come quickly to Yowiya mountain.'

539) **?***alu mo   ami-so   yasoi   na   ifasiyaimo-ki-Ø   /*
child TOP strong-ADVR PERF FOC hit-RPST-1/3S.A /

ta-ni   woli-tono-so   mo
3S-GEN friend-3INAL-ALL   TOP
'The child has hit his friend hard'

The last example, though grammatically correct is too "heavy"[57] for normal speech but can be elicited out of context. Example (540) is a more realistic expression of the same content.

540) *wiyou /   yasoi ifasiyaimo-ki-Ø   //   alu   mo   woli-tono-so*
no   /   PERF   hit-RPST-1/3S.A   //   child   TOP   friend-3INAL-ALL

na ifasiyaimo-ki-Ø   /   ami-so   nali
FOC hit-RPST-1/3S.A   /   strong-ADVR really
'Wow, he/she has hit him! The child hit his/her friend, really hard.'

6.1.1 Verb Phrase Modifications

In this section I will outline some verb phrases that are in some way different from the most normal ones mentioned above. What they have in common is that the inflected verb is not last in the phrase. They are:

Negative[58]:   *-woi muwoi*   'non-finite negative'

Frustrated Intention: *-monoi louwa (fi)* 'non-finite frustrated intention'

Inflection by Dummy Verb: *imo* + simple V   'dummy verb' + simple verb

Strongly Certified: *na*   'focus' following non-finite verb

---

[57] the expression in Ama is: *ko   mo   muwoli*
                                        jaw TOP heavy
                                        '(It is) hard to say.'

[58] for a list of different negative constructions see section 5.1.6 (Marking Negative)

541) *nuwo mo* **somai-so** *kalo-woi* **muwoi**
snake TOP quick-ADVR die-WITH NEG
'The snake did not die quickly.'

542) *iwo* **woliyo-noni-monoi** *louwa* **fi**
water carry.in.container-GIVE2/3-OBLQ FRUST.INT do
'wanted to get water for someone but …'

543) *ma* **u-so-monoi** *louwa*
possum shoot-3SF.ABS-OBLQ FRUST.INT
'wanted to shoot a possum, but …'

544) *lamo* **i-ko-ki-∅** *kusomi*
arrow DV-3C.ABS-RPST-1/3S.A get
'I/he/she took the arrows.'

545) *tomoki* **imo-ki-∅** *kolo*
stone DV-RPST-1/3S.A throw
'I/he/she threw a stone'

546) *muwo-yo komiyai* **tokosiyai-mo na**
axe-AG like cut-S FOC
'cut like an axe'

6.2 Noun Phrases

There are three main types of noun phrase based on their internal structure: simple noun phrase, possessive noun phrase and co-ordinate noun phrase.

The noun phrase may function as actor or undergoer, or as an instrumental, temporal, locational or a more oblique argument in a verbal clause. It may also function in a verb-less topic-comment clause as either the topic or the comment. The function of the noun phrase is marked by case markers on the phrase itself and/or case marking on the verb or determined by the animacy of the head noun in the noun phrase.

The formal structure of the noun phrase will be described in section 6.2.2 (Formal Structure of the Noun Phrase) and the function in section 6.2.3 (Function of the Noun Phrase). Section 6.2.4 is about Noun Phrase Modifications. Nominal and relative clauses have an important part to play in the noun phrase. They will be described in sections 6.2.5.1 (The Nominalised Clause) and 6.2.5.2 (The Relative Clause).

However, before describing the noun phrase, it will facilitate the description to recognise a level in between the noun and the noun phrase, i.e., the noun group which will be defined below.

The formal reasons for setting up the level of the noun group will be presented here as a chart listing the differences between the noun group and the noun phrase followed by a few examples. With 'personal head nouns' is meant the specified and unspecified forms for 'man' and 'woman' in the examples below. For details see next section.

	Noun Group	Noun Phrase	(Example)
Word Order	head last	head first	(547)-(551)
Number of Modifiers	1	1-2/(3)	(548)
Personal Head Nouns	Different forms		(547)-(550)
RC/NC	NC	RC	(549), (550)
Dem.Adj.	Different forms		(551)

547)   *siyoli noko-ta*   *noko siyoli*
                  big   man-SPEC   man   big
                  'a big man'   'a/the big man'

548)   *si-siyoli*   *noko-ta*   *ti*   *noko si-siyoli*   *ti*
                  RED.NS-big man-SPEC man   man   RED.NS-big two
                  'two big men'   'two big men'

549)	*sai nukonu*	*noni no sai no*
	know woman.SPEC	woman that know that
	'a knowledgeable woman'	'a/the woman who knows'
550)	*yousi noko-ta*	*noko no ti-yousi no*
	sit man-SPEC	man that PR-sit that
	'a/the sitting man'	'a/the man who is sitting'
551)	*ni-na-ni alu*	*alu ni-no*
	here-FOC-here child	child here-there
	'this child'	'this child'

6.2.1 The Noun Group

The noun group is a category between the noun and the noun phrase. In the noun group, as shown above, the head is optionally preceded by a modifier. There are two types depending on if the head of the noun group is a noun or a pronoun. If the head is a noun, the modifier may be an adjective, an adjectival demonstrative, a noun phrase or a nominalised clause, but never more than one. If the head is a pronoun, the only modifier that may occur is a proper name or a kinship term.

More permanent characteristics of referents are specified in the noun group.

Structure I - Noun Group

NG$_I$ → (ADJ/DEM/NP/NC) N

Though any noun may be the head of a noun group the most common of noun group constructions are the ones where the head noun is a person with different forms for male and female, singular and non-singular. If both sexes are referred to, a masculine form is chosen. The forms are:

Singular:	*noko-ta*	man-SPEC	' a specific man'
	nukonu	woman.SPEC	'a specific woman'
Dual:	*noko-ta ti*	man-SPEC two	' two specific men'
	nokolalo ti	women two	'two specific women'
	noko ti	man two	'two specific persons' (see example (565))'
Plural:	*noko*	man	'specific men/persons'
	nokolalo	women	'specific women'

The forms *noko* means 'specific men/persons', if it has a modifier preceding it. Without anything preceding it, it means 'man' or 'men'. It is always glossed 'man'. The form *nokolalo* means 'specific women', if any modifiers precedes it, but 'women' if it is not preceded by a modifier.

552) *ami noko-ta*
strong man-SPEC
'a strong man'

553) *ni-na-ni nukonu*
this-FOC-this woman.SPEC
'this woman'

554) *Mosopi noko-ta ti*
Port.Moresby man-SPEC two
'two men from Port Moresby'

555) *ai ai uwo-ko nokolalo ti*
RED.NS sickness afflict-3NS.U women two
'two women stricken by sickness'

556) *alalo molopoi noko*
children many man
'men with many children'

557) *tuo   a-ya-no   nokolalo*
    sago   harvest-CDA-go.straight women
    'women who go to harvest sago'

A specific-generic relationship is sometimes expressed as a noun group as in example (558).

558) *polomoko koloni*
    cow   animal
    'cow'

Another kind of noun group are the title-like introductions to stories. Here the speaker/author uses the demonstrative pronoun *aino* 'about that' and/or the clitic *-monoi* 'oblique', in this context with the meaning "about".

559) *nuwo(-monoi) aino imo*
    snake(-OBLQ) about.that talk
    'a story about a snake'

560) *nu   ko-(monoi)   aino   imo*
    house build-(OBLQ) about.that talk
    'a story about building a house'

561) *alalo-monoi   imo*
    children-OBLQ talk
    'a story/talk about/concerning/for children'

The last example is ambiguous as to meaning because of the very general meaning of the oblique case clitic.

If the head is a pronoun the structure of the noun group is as follows:

Structure II - Noun Group

NG$_{II}$ $\rightarrow$ (PROP/KIN)   PRON

If the head noun is a personal pronoun, or more common in third person the pluralising nouns/(noun phrases) *iyali* 'group', *koli* 'family' or *noko ti* 'two persons', the modifier can only be a proper name or a kinship term. This type of noun group has to stand alone without any further modification in the noun phrase.

The pronoun can of course occur on its own, though the forms *iyali* 'group' and *koli* 'family' cannot.

562) *Alopoi asa*
    Albert   1S.EMPH
    'I Alopoi'

563) *Pita   koi*
    Peter   1P.EX
    'Pita and the rest of us'

564) ***koi***   *mo*   *Wewako-so*   *to-nu-noki*
    1P.EX   TOP   Wewak-ALL   PR-go.P-1NS.EX.A
    'We (excl.) went to Wewak.'

565) *anoi   noko ti*
    mother.1   man   two
    'my mother and another (probably father)'

566) *Laila   iyali*
    a.name   group
    'Laila and her friends'

567) *Tuti   koli*   *toi koli*
    a.name   family   3P   family
    'Tuti and his family'   'his/their family

6.2.2 Formal Structure of the Noun Phrase

As mentioned above There are three main types of noun phrase based on their internal structure: simple noun phrase, possessive noun phrase and co-ordinate noun phrase.

6.2.2.1 Simple Noun Phrase

The simple noun phrase has two sub-types: a noun group as head (Structure IA) or a demonstrative or question word as head (Structure IB).

6.2.2.1.1 A Noun Group as Head

A simple noun phrase with a noun group as head may consist of just a noun group or be followed by one or two modifiers. The kind of modifiers that may occur are adjectives, numerals, quantifiers, demonstratives and relative clauses. Though it is possible to elicit long noun phrases with up to three modifiers, they do not occur in natural speech. Most noun phrases have none or one modifier. A noun group with a pronoun as head can not be followed by any modifiers.

Structure IA - Simple Noun Phrase

$NP_I \rightarrow$ NG   (ADJ(x2))   (NUML/QNT)   (DEM)   (RC)

The second adjective is a modifier of the main adjective (see example (570). A demonstrative in this position, i.e. following the head, is rare. Demonstratives are usually placed before a noun as part of the noun group (see section 6.2.1 (The Noun Group)). This free demonstrative and a relative clause do not co-occur though simple demonstratives are part of the relative clause construction (see section 6.2.5.2 (The Relative Clause)).

568) *alu   koufa*
child   small
'a small child'

569) *alalo   lolofa ti*
children small   two
'two small children'

570) *noko ami   siyoli*
man   strong big
'a very strong man'

571) *noko si-siyoli*
man   RED.NS-big
'big men'

572) *imo ni-no*
talk   this-that
'this talk'

573) *puko* **noko-yo no   a-ko-∅-mono-ki-∅**   **no**   *ni   tako*
book   man-AG   there get-3C.ABS-GIVE1-1S.U-RPST-1/3S.A   there here   lie.3C.ABS
'The book the man got for me is here.'

A relative clause may replace the head noun and occur as a noun phrase all on its own. In that case the head is understood from the context.

574) **no   tumo-ki   no   *tano-kai-no-ki*
there   come-RPST   there   lie-PUT-there-RPST
'He who came slept here.'

Rather than having two adjectives follow the noun in a noun phrase, one of the nouns is fronted to within the noun group.

575) *sopo nu   siyoli*
tall   house   big
'a big and tall house'

6.2.2.1.2 A Demonstrative or Question Word as Head

A simple noun phrase may have as its head a demonstrative or one of the question words *hani* 'what' or *noi* 'who'. If that is the case there can be no modifiers.

Structure IB - Simple Noun Phrase

NP$_{II}$ → DEM/QW

576) ***ni-su***   *mo   ya-ni   pusi-fa*
this-CON   TOP   1S-GEN   cat-little
'**This** is my kitten.'

577) ***noi***   *tolo*
who   stand
'Who's there?'

578) ***hani-so***   *to-no-ni*
what-ALL   PR-eat-2S
'What are you eating?'

6.2.2.2 Possessive Noun Phrase

A possessive noun phrase has a simple noun phrase as head preceded by another noun phrase in the genitive case, marked by the clitic *-ni* 'genitive'.

579) *mo-ti-ni*   *nu   siyoli*
1P.IN/2P-two-GEN   house   big
'the big house belonging to the two of you/us (incl.)'

580) *Ayamo-ni   tuo   a-ya-no   asi*
a.name-GEN   sago   harvest-CDA-go.straight   ground
'Ayamo's sago ground'

6.2.2.3 Co-ordinate Noun Phrase

A co-ordinate noun phrase is a combination of simple noun phrases and/or possessive noun phrases. They are co-ordinated by the enclitic *-woi* occurring at the end of both/all co-ordinated phrases.

581) *Alopoi asa-woi   Ainowai-woi Politono-fa-woi   Luto-fa-woi*
Albert   1S.EMPH-WITH   a.name-WITH   a.name-little-WITH   a.name-little-WITH
'Alopoi I, myself, and Ainowai and little Politono and little Luto'

582) *Kwamo-woi   asa-woi*
a.name-WITH   1S.EMPH-with
'Kwamo and I'

583) *ya-ni   alalo-woi   noni-woi*
1S-GEN   children-WITH   women-WITH
'my children and my wife'

Accompaniment is a variant of co-ordination where only one noun phrase is marked by *-woi*. Verbal agreement may vary in this case.

584) *noni   mo   **alu-woi**   to-tumo-**so***
women   TOP   child-WITH   PR-come-3SF.ABS
'The woman is coming with her child.'

585) *noni   mo   **alu-woi**   to-tumo-**no***
women   TOP   child-WITH   PR-come-3NS.A
'The woman is coming with her child.'

6.2.3 Function of the Noun Phrase

In general terms, the noun phrase may function as actor or undergoer, or it may have a more peripheral function such as expressing different temporal and locative relationships. It may also have an instrumental or an all purpose oblique function. The function of the noun phrase is marked by nominal case clitics and/or by verb morphology, or determined by the animacy of the arguments. Nominal case marking is not grammatically

obligatory, while verbal marking of the two core cases actor and undergoer are. Animacy is of course an inherent category of the referent.

Verbal case marking was discussed in section 5.1.4 (Marking Person, Number, Gender and Case). The importance of animacy was discussed in section 5.2.4 (Animacy).

As nominal case marking is not grammatically obligatory, the question arises how to interpret an unmarked noun phrase. This will be discussed in the next section. The use of case clitics will be discussed in section 6.2.3.2 (Case Marking of Noun Phrases).

6.2.3.1 The Unmarked Noun Phrase

The actor and undergoer are obligatorily marked on the verb. Noun phrases referring to these two categories of participant do not need to be marked for case though they still maybe. If they are not, and if actor and undergoer are the same person, number and gender, the highest on the scale of animacy will normally be interpreted as actor.

> 586) *fu   mo   noko unu-ki-∅*
>   pig TOP man   shoot-RPST-1/3S.A
>   'A man shot the pig.'

> 587) *noko aluwou waso-ki-∅*
>   man   dog   beat-RPST-1/3S.A
>   'A man beat a dog.'

However, there may be exceptions, as in the following example:

> 588) *noko aluwou tukolo-ki-∅*
>   man   dog   kill/bite-RPST-1/3S.A
>   'A man killed a dog.'
>   'A dog bit a man.'

What happened here? Well, this particular verb is sensitive to animacy in another way. You can not tell which the actor is. It has to be marked. But the meaning of the verb depends on the animacy of the actor.

> 589) *noko-yo aluwou tukolo-ki-∅*
>   man-AG   dog   kill/bite-RPST-1/3S.A
>   'A man killed a dog.'

> 590) *noko aluwou-yo tukolo-ki-∅*
>   man   dog-AG   kill/bite-RPST-1/3S.A
>   'A dog bit a man.'

6.2.3.2 Case Marking of Noun Phrases

Though case marking on noun phrases is not obligatory, there is a choice of six to choose from. The definitions are adapted from Crystal (1985) for the Ama language.

-yo	'agent/instrumental'	the means whereby a particular action came about/ an inanimate entity casually involved in a verbs action
-so	'allative/benefactive'	motion to a place/ for the benefit of
-sai	'ablative'	motion away from a place
-mai	'locative'	location of an action
-ni	'genitive'	a possessive relationship
-monoi	'oblique'	includes a variety of relationships including reason, result and "concerning"

The most obvious observation from this list is that the core arguments, actor and undergoer, which are obligatorily marked on the verb, are missing from the list. They are the arguments that are most commonly unmarked. In general you can say that the more marginal an argument is the better its function in the clause has to be marked. So the actor and undergoer are seldom marked, because they are the most important. Another consequence of this general rule is that a topicalised argument may be unmarked for case though the relationship is of course implicit. This was referred to in Årsjö (1994).

6.2.3.2.1 The Agent

The category of agent in Ama can refer to both animate and inanimate entities. This means that agent can not only refer to the actor[59] but also to the 'instrument' which according to Crystal (ibid.), is "the inanimate entity casually involved in a verbs action". This case marker is the clitic *-yo* 'agent'

It is possible for a noun phrase that agrees with the actor marked on the verb, to be marked as an agent. It is never ungrammatical at the sentence level, but it is a marked construction at discourse level in that an actor marked by the agentive is very often a minor participant (see Årsjö (ibid.)). Apart from this discourse function, an animate noun phrase, functioning as actor, may also be marked as an agent to disambiguate between third person participants of the same gender or number, where the verb morphology is of no help.

591) *Liyali* **noko siya-yo** *fasi-ki-∅*
a.name man one-AG help-RPST-1/3S.A
'Another man helped Liyali.'

What is then the difference between the actor (marked on the verb) and the agent (marked on the noun phrase)? The difference is that an actor is almost always animate, and he is always marked on the verb. An agent, on the other hand, **may** be marked on the verb, i.e. if he is also the actor already so marked.

In the following example the agent marker is on a noun phrase referring to a human being agreeing with the actor marked on the verb by *-no* '3NS.A'.

592) *nuwo mo* **noko-yo** *na no-ki-**no***
snake TOP man-AG FOC eat-RPST-3NS.A
'The snake was eaten by some men'

An inanimate agent is usually an instrument and as such is not marked on the verb.

593) *nu   kololi   mi   mo* **molo-yo** *konosuwa-ko-mano-noki*
house build.NS bone TOP vine-AG tie-3NS.U-GO-1NS.EX.A
'The work of building houses (involves) tying (things together) with vines.'

In general then, an **animate** agent is always the same as the actor marked on the verb, while an inanimate agent does not usually agree with the verb. If it does, you could speak of 'personification'. In the following example a natural force, the flood in the river, has taken on an actor role. Other such forces are rain and winds.

594) *iwo   usoiyo soliyaki-yo na   ufiyai-moko-kai-∅*
water flood   big-AG   FOC hinder-1NS.U-PUT-1/3S.A
'The flood in the river hindered us.'

6.2.3.2.2 The Allative

The category of allative in Ama can also refer to both animate and inanimate entities. It is directional and marks a goal. In that way it may be used to mark location, as well as the benefactee and undergoer arguments. The case marker is *-so* 'allative' / 'to'.

The most neutral use of the allative case marker is to mark the nominal argument stating a place to which a movement is perceived. It occurs in connection with an active intransitive verb like *moi* 'go', which in itself is directional, as well as with any of the allative verb forms (see section 5.1.5.2 (Allative Marking on the Verb).

595) *yo mo* **Mosopi-so**   *mano-imo*
1S TOP Port.Moresby-ALL   go-FUT
'I will go to Port Moresby.'

596) *moi   tuo t-i-ya-kono-koni*   **kwai-so**
1/2P sago PR-get.P-CDA-go.down-1NS.IN.A   swamp-ALL
'Lets go down to the swamp and get some sago.'

---

[59] see introduction in section 4 (Morphology)

A less obvious use of this case marker is when it occurs on the noun phrase in a clause where the verb phrase has a head like *tolo* 'stand'. It seems to express a more specific location then the locative *-mai* 'at' (see next section).

> 597) *alu   mo   **hausi   nu-so**   to-tolo*
> child TOP   hospital house-ALL   PR-stand
> 'The child is in hospital.'

The same case marker is used to mark the benefactive argument. A verb like 'give' triggers the allative case marker on the noun phrase referring to the benefactee. There is direction involved here, too.

> 598) ***nokolalo-so***   *ati*
> women-ALL   give.3P/F
> 'giving it to the women'

Finally, as it is possible to mark a noun phrase functioning as actor with the agent marker, it is also possible to mark an undergoer with the allative marker, in which case it agrees with the verbal marking of undergoer on the verb. This says something about the semantics of the verb, implying that it is in some way directional.

> 599) ***hani-so***   *to-no-ni*
> what-ALL   PR-eat-2S
> 'What are you eating?'

> 600) *tisa   mo   **alalo-so**   na   i-**ko**-ki-∅*
> teacher TOP   children-ALL   FOC   say-3NS.U-RPST-1/3S.A
> 'The teacher said to the children'

This case marker is also used in temporal and locational adverbs but here it has more of a semantic function. This was described in sections 5.5.1 (Temporal Adverbs) and 5.5.2 (Locational Adverbs).

6.2.3.2.3 The Ablative and the Locative

Apart from the allative case clitic *-so* 'to' there are two other clitics that are locational in nature. They are the ablative *-sai* 'from' and the locative *-mai* 'at'. The clitic *-mai* usually expresses a location in a general area. The allative *-so* 'to' is used in a locative sense for a more specific location. The clitics *-sai* 'from' and *-mai* 'at' may also be used on nominalised clauses to give them a temporal function in the clause.

> 601) ***Ama-ki-sai***   *poi   mo   to-tumo-ni*
> a.name-plain-ABL   perhaps   TOP   PR-come-2S
> 'Perhaps you are coming from Ama.'

> 602) ***nu-mai***   *to-tolo*
> house-LOC   PR-stand
> '(He) is near the house.'

> 603) ***nu-so***   *ti-yousi*
> house-ALL   PR-sit
> '(He) is sitting in the house.'

The clitics *-so* 'allative' and *-mai* 'locative' may be combined to mean a specific place within a general area.

> 604) ***nu-mai-so***   *tolo*
> house-LOC-ALL   stand
> '(He) is at the house.'

The ablative and the locative case markers may also be used to mark a temporal argument. Occurring on a nominalised clause they have this function.

> 605) ***solo-sai***   *na   ti-yousi*
> laugh-ABL   FOC   PR-sit
> 'Having (learnt to) laugh he sits.'

606) ***tiya   uwo-mai   na   to-soni***
hunger   afflict-LOC   FOC   PR-cry
'When he is hungry he cries.'

Apart from the above these case markers are also used in temporal and locational adverbs, but here they have more of a semantic function. This was described in sections 5.5.1 (Temporal Adverbs) and 5.5.2 (Locational Adverbs).

6.2.3.2.4 The Genitive

The genitive case marker is *-ni* 'genitive. It is used to connect two phrases within the possessive noun phrase. The genitive phrase precedes the head phrase. The head of the genitive phrase may be a pronoun.

607) ***Imali-ni   aluwou***
a.name-GEN   dog
'Imali's dog'

608) ***koi-ni   fu***
1P.EX-GEN   pig
'our pig'

609) ***Pita-ni   auwa-tono***
Peter-GEN   brother-3INAL
'Pita's brother'

For inalienable possession see section 5.2.3 (Kinship Nouns).

6.2.3.2.5 The Oblique

The oblique case marker is *-monoi* 'oblique'. It is used to mark a noun phrase or clause that is in a loose relationship to a verb phrase. In that way it marks reason and purpose and also such things as 'concerning', 'about' and 'for'. It is usually so that the argument marked by the oblique does not agree with the verb but there are exceptions (see example (615)).

610) *hausi-so   mo **ai-monoi**   to-tumo*   (intransitive   verb)
hospital-ALL   TOP sickness-OBLQ PR-come
'I/he come(s) to the hospital because I am/he is sick.'

611) *hausi-so   mo **malosino-monoi** to-tumo*   (intransitive   verb)
hospital-ALL   TOP medicine-OBLQ   PR-come
'I/he come(s) to the hospital in order (to get) medicine.'

612) ***alalo-monoi**   ya ti-yomu*   (intransitive   verb)
children-OBLQ   1S PR-say
'Concerning the children I think …'

613) ***fu**   (**unu**)-**monoi**   imo   to-lukaso-noki*   (intransitive   verb)
pig   (shoot)-OBLQ   talk   PR-speak-1NS.EX.A
'They spoke about shooting the pig.'

614) ***ai-monoi**   to-samiyaikiyo-koni*   (intransitive   verb)
sickness-OBLQ   PR-be.free-1NS.IN.A
'We are free from sickness.'

615) ***nokotalo-monoi**   itu   po-kolali-**unu**-∅-∅*   (transitive verb with benefactive
important.man-OBLQ   door   IR-open-SHOOT-IMP-S   compounding)
'Open the door for the important man.'

In the last example the direct undergoer is *itu* 'door'. The verb is augmented by the 'on-behalf-of' benefactive *unu* and the noun phrase marked by *-monoi* agrees with this form.

A combination of the two case clitics *-so* 'allative' and *-monoi* 'oblique' yields a form meaning 'towards'.

616) ***isi-so-monoi**   nu-ki*
garden-ALL-PBLQ   go.P-RPST
'They went towards the garden.'

6.2.4 Noun Phrase Modifications

The noun phrase, as described in the preceding sections, may be modified to facilitate wider functions. In that way it may be negated or compared. It may also be marked for topic and focus in order to establish its function in the discourse.

Negation: NP + *muwoi* 'negative'

                NP + *somiso* 'without'

Comparison: NP + *komiyai* 'like (general)'

                NP + *topi*   'like (appearance)'

                NP + *noino*   'like this (doing)'

Discourse: NP + *mo*   'topic'

                NP + *no*   'topic question'

                NP + *na/nalino*   'focus/really'

617) *noko muwoi popuwa na/nali-no*   (two modified NPs)
       man   NEG   evil.spirit FOC/really-there
       '(It was)not a man, (it was) a spirit.'

618) *koloni somiso*
       animal without
       '(having) no meat'

619) *apitono komeyai/topi/noino*
       father.3   like
       'being/looking/doing like his father'

620) ***nono no***   *hani-so*   *to-no-ni*
       2S   TOPQ what-ALL   PR-eat-2S
       'What are you eating?'

621) ***yo mo***   *fu*   *somu to-no-∅*
       1S TOP pig meat PR-eat-1/3S.A
       'I'm eating pig meat.'

6.2.5 Clauses Embedded within the Noun Phrase

There are two kinds of clauses that may be embedded within the noun phrase: the nominalised clause and the relative clause. The nominalised clause has different functions, but one of its functions is to specify characteristics of the thing referred to by a noun, in the same way a relative clause does. The formal difference between a nominalised clause and a relative clause is that tense and actor marking is possible in the relative clause, but not in the nominalised clause, and that the nominalised clause (in the function described here) precedes the head noun, while the relative clause follows it.

The verb phrase has to be final in both the nominalised and the relative clause, and the topic and focus markers may not occur anywhere within them.

6.2.5.1 The Nominalised Clause

The verb in a nominalised clause do not take all the categories possible in a normal clause. It is not possible to mark mood, tense, actor or common negative. 'Actor' in this context includes neutral and portmanteau case marking (see sections 5.1.4.2 (Neutral Case) and 5.1.4.2.1 (Actor-Undergoer Agreement Suffixes for Second Person)). The common negative is replaced by the more nominal form *somiso* 'without' (see 5.1.6 (Marking Negative)).

The nominalised clause when functioning as an attribute within the noun phrase is part of the noun group (see section 6.2.1 (The Noun Group), and precedes the head noun.

622) ***tuo utu-kai***   *nukonu*   *mo ya-ni   anoi*
       sago cook-PUT woman.SPEC TOP 1S-GEN mother.1
       'The woman cooking sago is my mother.'

623) ***tumo somiso*** *noko-ta   mo   ai   t-uwo*
come without man-SPEC TOP sickness PR-afflict
'The man who did not come is sick.'

624) ***noko-yo polomu-ko*** *toni lamo-woi   ikoli-ko-mano-ki-no*
man-AG steal-3NS.U bow arrow-WITH look.for-3NS.U-GO-RPST-3NS.A
'They were looking for the bows and arrows that were stolen.'

6.2.5.2 The Relative Clause

The relative clause follows the head noun or replaces it. It is marked by the demonstrative anaphoric pronoun *no* 'there/that' or the exophoric *ni* 'here/this' immediately preceding **the verb** in the relative clause and the anaphoric *no* 'there/that' following it.

Structure - Relative Clause

RC   →   CLAUSE (less V) *no/ni*   V   *no*
                                    there/here   there

625) *molo* **no**   ***p-aluwai-mano-ki-no***   **no**
road   there   IR-follow-GO-RPST-3NS.A there
'the road they are following'

626) *imo wiyo-ti-ki-∅*   ***toi-yo   toku   no   kumo-ki-no   no***
talk   show-GIVE.3P/F-RPST-1/3.A 3P-AG   earlier   there   write-RPST-3NS.A there
'I/he/she showed them what they had written earlier.'

627) ***ni   kulu-kai-ki-∅***   ***no*** / *no   mo*
here   write.P-PUT-RPST-1/3S.A there / there TOP
'This that I/he/she wrote, that …'

6.3 Locative Phrases

The locative phrase functions as an optional phrase in the verbal clause. It may also function as either the topic or the comment in a verb-less clause. The structure of the locative phrase is as follows:

Structure - Locative Phrase

LP   →   NP (ADV) / ADV

A locative phrase may consist of a noun phrase or a locational adverb or both with the adverb following the noun phrase. The relationship of the locative phrase to the verb is signalled by the locational clitics: allative, ablative and locative. If the head of the locative phrase is a demonstrative adverb, these clitics are sometimes omitted. They may also be omitted if the phrase is topicalised.

The locative phrase may occur anywhere in the verbal clause even, but rarely, following the verb phrase.

628) *anoi   mo* ***isi-so***   *mano-so-ki*
mother.1 TOP garden-ALL   go-3SF.ABS-RPST
'My mother went to the garden.'

629) ***no-so-ni-so***   *na   pa-ki-ya-no-∅-wo*
there-ALL-here-ALL   FOC RIR-see-CDA-go.straight-IMP-NS
'…go and look there'

630) *iyanoko siyoli na   uwo-k-a-tumo-imo*   ***i-so-ni-so***
pain   big   FOC afflict-3NS.U-CDA-come-FUT   here-ALL-here-ALL
'Coming here they will be experience pain.'

631) ***iwo   ilo   au-sai-mi-so***   *to-ti-koni*
water   bank   there-ABL-other.side-ALL   PR-come.P-1NS.IN.A
'Let's go over to the other side of the river.'

632) ***sokoni au-sai-mi-sai***   *souwa-ya-lo-ki-noki*
left   there-ABL-other.side-ABL   go.pass-CDA-go.all.over-RPST-1NS.EX.A
'We went past on the left side.'

633) ***moi-so***   *to-mano-ni* // *yo mo* ***aluwo-so***   *to-moi*
where-ALL   PR-go-2S   // 1S TOP upriver-ALL   PR-go
'Where are you going? I'm going upriver.'

634) ***nu   komu puwo-mai*** *tomoki-mo-ki-∅*
house head   up-LOC   stone-S-RPST-1/3S.A
'(It) stopped over the roof.'

635) ***i-so-ni-so***   *mo   waliyo*
here-ALL-here-ALL TOP all.right
'(It's) all right here.'

636) *ya-ni   apou-ni   asi   mo*   ***aluwa-so***
1S-GEN father.1-GEN ground TOP far.away-ALL
'My father's ground is far away.

637) *aluwou mo*   ***au-so-ni***
dog   TOP there-ALL-here
'The dog is over there.'

6.4 Temporal Phrases

The temporal phrase functions as an optional phrase in the verbal clause. It may also function as either the topic or the comment in a verb-less clause. The structure of the temporal phrase is as follows:

Structure - Temporal Phrase

TP   →   (ADV)   NP / ADV / NC

A temporal phrase may consist of a noun phrase or a temporal adverb, or both with the adverb preceding the noun phrase. The locational clitics in the temporal adverbs are lexicalised and do not express a relationship with the verb (see section 5.5.1 (Temporal Adverbs)). However, if a nominalised clause functions as a temporal phrase it is marked by the locative clitic *-mai* 'locative'.

The temporal phrase may occur anywhere in the verbal clause even, but rarely, following the verb phrase.

638) *ulai* ***konoi*** *no   moi   no   molo no   hani-sai to-nu-koni*
but   now   TOPQ 1P.IN/2P TOPQ road   TOPQ what-ABL PR-go.P-1NS.IN.A
'But what road are we going to go now?'

639) ***nuwoi   siya*** *mo apou   iyali koi   mo*
certain.day one   TOP father.1 group 1P.EX TOP

naukolo-s-a-ti-ki-noki
build.hunting.shelter-sit.P-CDA-go.inside-RPST-1NS.EX.A
'On a certain day my father and the rest of us went inside (the bush) to stay and build a hunting shelter.'

640) *yo mo ai   uwo-ki   /* ***amoloki siyoli*** *mo*
1S TOP sickness afflict-RPST / night   big   TOP
'I was sick in the middle of the night.'

641) ***tino-so***   *palulo   tumo-ko-imo*
two.days.removed-ALL   aeroplane come-3C.ABS-FUT
'Day after tomorrow the aeroplane will come.'

642) ***tauno-ni***   ***amuwoi-sai***   *mano-ki-no*
three.days.removed-GEN one.day.removed-ABL go-RPST-3NS.A
'Four days later the two of them went.'

643) ***amuwoi-so***   *mo waliyo*
one.day.removed-ALL   all right
'Tomorrow is all right.'

644) *yo mo* ***amuwoi-so***
1S TOP one.day.removed-ALL
'I'm for tomorrow.'

Words in Ama

645) **amuwoi-tino-so**   *mo   siyoli*
one.day.removed-two.days.removed-ALL   TOP   big
'Another time (it) will be big.'

646) *fai   amoloki*
yesterday   night
'yesterday night'

647) **Ama-ki-so   amai   tolo-mai   /   ni-mai-no   na   i-mono-ki-ni**
a.name-plain-ALL   (not.)yet   stand-LOC   /   here-LOC-that   FOC   say-1S.U-RPST-2S
'While I was still here at Ama you said to me …'

If the temporal modifier phrase is topicalised the clitics may not occur.

648) *sosono mo* **konoi-monoi-so** *ki-so   to-tolo-ko*
grass   TOP   now-OBLQ-ALL   field-ALL   PR-stand-3C.ABS

amuwoi   mo *isi-ko-uto-i-ni-mo*
one.day.removed   TOP   cut-3C.ABS-cook-FUT-2S-FUT
'The grass will stand through the day and tomorrow you will cut it and burn it.'

6.5 Modifier Phrases

The modifier phrase occurs only in the verb-less clause usually as a comment but it may also appear as a topic. The head of a modifier phrase is an adjective, simple or reduplicated, or an adverb.

649) *auto   mo* **sopo**
iron.wood.tree   TOP   tall
'The iron wood tree is tall.'

650) *mamo iwo-ni   la   mo* **siyoli siyoli**
salt   water-GEN   fish   TOP   big   big
'Salt water fish are very big.'

651) *imo mo* **koma**
talk   TOP   enough
'end of talk'

652) **ami   mo   wiyou / ami   siyoli nali-no**
strong   TOP   no   / strong   big   really-there
'Strong wow! Very strong indeed!'

6.6 Modifications of Peripheral Phrases

In this section some modifications of the locative, temporal and modifier phrases, i.e. the peripheral phrases, will be outlined. These are similar to what has been described for the noun phrase (see section 6.2.4 (Noun Phrase Modifications)).

Negation: PERP + *muwoi*   'negative'

Comparison: PERP + *noino*   'like this'

Discourse: PERP + *mo*   'topic'

                     PERP + *no*   'topic question'

                     PERP + *na/nalino* 'focus/really'

653) *iwo   lolofa-ni   la   mo* **si-siyoli   muwoi**
water   small.NS-GEN   fish   TOP   RED.NS-big   NEG
'River fish are not big.'

654) *nu   siyoli-sai / amuwoi-so / sopo   muwoi*
house   big-LOC / one.day.removed-ALL / tall   NEG
'not from the big house / not tomorrow / not tall'

655) *koufa noino*
small   like.this
'small like this' (showing)

656) ***molo-mai no*** *hani*
road-LOC TOPQ what
'What's that by the road?'

657) *alu-fa* *mo* ***yau na***
child-small TOP dead FOC
'The child is dead.'

658) *fai* *na/nalino*
yesterday FOC/really
'(it was) yesterday'

659) ***itouniyaimo mo*** *wiyou*
good TOP no
'Fantastic!'

7. SUMMARY

The aim of this paper has been to outline the structure of the Ama language from morpheme to phrase and to state the function of each structure found. As has been shown, this language conforms to many typical features of Papuan languages, such as having a simple noun morphology but a complex verb ditto, featuring suppletive verb stems, marking of actor and undergoer agreement, as well as of tense, aspect and mood. Also in accordance with its Papuan nature, there is a three-way gender distinction in the nouns, but this is also marked on the verb.

One of the more striking features of the Ama language is its split case marking system. As has been shown, there is a three-way split morphologically marked on the verb: active - non-active, ergative - absolutive and neutral. It would make an interesting study to try to find a model that would account for such a split. Another interesting aspect of the case system is that it has been impossible to define the categories of subject and object for Ama. This is, however, not only due to the split case system but also to the importance of topic marking as described in Årsjö (1994). Pursuing this subject (i.e. the lack of 'subject' and 'object') would make another interesting study.

It is the aim of the author to complete this description of the Ama language in a forthcoming paper which will describe clause and sentence structure, as well as some discourse features, especially that of focus marking.

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Nuwo aino imo 'A Story about a Snake'
An Interlinearised Text in the Ama Language

1) *Nuwo   aino   imo.*
   snake   about.that talk
   'A Story about a Snake

2) *Nuwo   mo   Liyali-yo   na   ki-ya-tumo-ki-∅,*
   snake   TOP   a.name-AG   FOC   see-CDA-come-RPST-1/3S.A
   Liyali came to see the snake,

3) *na   i-ko-ki-∅,   noko   molopoi-so,*
   FOC   say-3NS.U-RPST-1/3S.A   man   many-ALL
   and he said to all the men,

4) "*Kuku,*
     come
   "Come,

5) *nuwo   siyoli   mo   ni   toi.*
   snake   big   TOP   here   lie
   there is a snake over here.

6) *Toni   lamo-woi   p-i-yo-tumo-wo*
   bow   arrow-WITH   IR-get.P-CDT-come-NS
   Bring your bows and arrows

7) *to-koliyalo-koni."*
   PR-kill.with.weapon-1NS.IN.A
   and let us kill it."

8) *Noko   mo   toni   lamo-woi   na   i-ki-no,*
   man   TOP   bow   arrow-WITH   FOC   get.P-RPST-3NS.A
   The men got their bows and arrows

9) *na   koliyalo-ki-no.*
   FOC   kill.with.weapon-RPST-3NS.A
   and killed it.

10) *Wiyou,*
    no
    No!!

11) *nuwo   mo   somai-so   kalo-woi   muwoi,*
    snake   TOP   quick-ADVR die-WITH   NEG
    the snake did not die quickly,

12) *mi siyoli ano-mano-ki-∅.*
    bone big   get-GO-RPST-1/3S.A
    it kept up the work.

13) *Somai-so kalo-woi muwoi,*
    quick-ADVR die-WITH   NEG
    It did not die quickly,

14) *tamiyoko-yo koliyalo-mano-ki-no mo,*
    axe-AG   kill.with.weapon-GO-RPST-3NS.A   TOP
    (but) when they over and over again had aimed killing blows with an axe

15) *no-mai-no mo yau.*
    there-LOC-there TOP   dead
    then it died.

16) *No ki-ki-no mo;*[1]
    there see-RPST-3NS.A   TOP
    When they saw it (dead),

17) *na alomano-ki-no, nu-so.*
    FOC take.away -RPST-3NS.A   house-ALL
    they took it home.

18) *Wiyou,*
    nej
    Wow!!

19) *nuwo mo siyoli nali-no,*
    snake   TOP big   really-there
    the snake was really big,

20) *na kokolomo-mono-ki.*
    FOC be.afraid-1S.U-RPST
    and I was afraid.

21) *Ulai asa-su no moloi koliyalo-monoi?*
    but   1S.EMPH-CON   TOPQ   how   kill.with.weapon -OBLQ
    I could never have killed it.

22) *Uo noko-ta siyoli nali-no.*
    evil   man-SPEC   big   really-there
    He was a very evil thing.

23) *Ulai nuwo mo noko-yo na no-ki-no.*
    but   snake   TOP   man-AG   FOC eat-RPST-3NS.A
    But the snake was eaten by the men.

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[1] A semikolon stands for rising intonation which emphasises the time sequence.

24) ***Ulai   somu   no   koiyau?***
but   meat   TOPQ   bad
The meat isn't bad, is it?

25) ***Noko   to-tai   mo   itouniyaimo   to-no-ko-mano-no.***
man   RED.EMPH-3P   TOP   good   PR-eat-3NS.U-GO-3NS.A
The men (not I) ate (the meat) well.

26) ***Nuwo   somu   mo   wiyou,***
snake   meat   TOP   no
Snake meat is fantastic,

27) ***usutono-so.***
sweet-ADVR
delicious.

28) ***Noko-yo   to-no-ko-mano-no   mo,***
man-AG   PR-eat-3NS.U-GO-3NS.A   TOP
When the men eat,

29) ***usutono-so.***
sweet-ADVR
(it is) delicious.

30) ***Ya-ni   nuwo   aino   imo   mo   koma.***
1S-GEN   snake   about.that   talk   TOP   slut
My story about the snake is finished.'

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