A GRAMMAR OF RESÍGARO

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Bound in three volumes

VOLUME II

SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS
Chapter 4

GROUP LEVEL

The Group is set up as a level of construction above the Word and below the Piece, for describing certain structures in the Verb hierarchy. Strictly speaking, it may be termed a sub-level, since it is not relevant to the other classes.

Types are set up within the Group on the basis of internal structure, and sub-classes are set up on the basis of distribution in the Verb Piece and in other structures.

4.1. Verb Group.

4.1.1. Contrast.

The Verb Group (VG) has the following contrastive-identificational features:

i) Its Head is filled by a verb word.

ii) In its complex form, the periphery is filled by a Basic filler (cf. below), an adjective stem, a Noun Phrase, a Concomitant Phrase, an Instrument Phrase, or a relator.

4.1.2. Variation.

Two types of Verb Group are set up on the basis of internal structure.
\[ VG_i = ^{+H:Vb_{1/2}} \]
\[ VG_{ii} = ^{+Periph:Basic/AjSt_{4}/NP_{2}/CP_{2}/IP/relr} ^{+H:Vb_{1}} \]

When the filler of the Peripheral slot is an NP, this does not have a greater expansion than \(^{+Lim:Pn} ^{+H:Nn} \), and if the Limiter tagmeme occurs, assimilation between the two is obligatory. The pronoun does not necessarily refer to the same extra-linguistic entity as the Clause-level Subject of the verb in the Predicate.

In a dictionary check that produced 392 different verb groups, the numbers corresponding to each type and sub-type were as follows:

- Type i: 239
- Type ii: 153
- being, Sub-type i: 148
  - with \( k\&\hat{a} \): 101
  - with \( 4\& \): 45
  - with \( t\&? \): 2
- Sub-type ii: 5

4.1.2.1. Verb Group Type i, "Simple".

All verbs occur in Verb Group type i.

e.g. \( k\&\hat{a} \) "to make, to do"

\( j\&^{1} \) "to be"

\( a?m\&\hat{a} \) "to eat"

\(^{1}\)In the imperative, \( j\& \) becomes \( i\&\hat{a} \). cf. 3.1.2.6.1.1.(i), above.
Chapter 5
PIECE LEVEL

The Piece is set up as a level of construction above the Group and below the Phrase, for describing certain structures in the Verb hierarchy. Strictly speaking, it may be termed a sub-level (like the Group), since it is not relevant to other classes.

Types are set up within the Piece on the basis of internal structure. It is not necessary to set up sub-classes at Piece level.

5.1. Verb Piece.

5.1.1. Contrast.
The Verb Piece (VbPce) has the following contrastive-identificational features:

i) It consists of a Head and (in type ii) an Auxiliary, both of which are filled by Verb Groups.

ii) When the Auxiliary occurs, the filler of the Head slot is marked with an auxiliary indicator.

5.1.2. Variation.
The Verb Piece may be simple or complex, and different types are established accordingly.

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\[ \text{VbPce}_i = \text{H:VG} \]

\[ \text{VbPce}_{ii \text{ (Composite formula)}} \]
\[ = +\text{aux ind } +\text{H:VG } +\text{aux ind } +\text{Aux:VG} \]

5.1.2.1. Verb Piece Type i, "Simple".

This consists of a sub-class 1 or 2 Verb Group only.

e.g. a?mitú "to eat"
khú "to do"
já "to be"
kainēe khú "to kill"
kainēe já "to die"

5.1.2.2. Verb Piece Type ii, "Complex".

Two sub-types of complex Verb Piece are established.

5.1.2.2.1. Sub-type i, "Positive Action".

\[ \text{VbPce}_{ii.i} = +\text{H:VG}_{1/2} +\text{aux ind:} +\alpha\{-\text{me}\} +\text{Aux:} +\alpha\text{VG}_{1} \]

where \( \alpha \) reads: -me occurs with i?pí and te?š?(nu)
-š? " " khú

The Verb Group filling the Head slot is modified in accordance with the following rules:

i) Any final vowel except /i/ becomes /e/. /i/ remains unchanged.\(^1\)

\[ ^1 \text{cf. 3.1.2.6.2.1.}(xii), \text{above.} \]

The only exception to this rule is the verb group te?khé "to fetch", where final /i/ becomes /e/:

- te?khéme no?pí "I go to fetch"
- te?khéeké nokhú "I used to fetch"
Chapter 6

PHRASE LEVEL

The Phrase is set up as a level of construction above the Word\(^1\) and below the Clause. "Phrase" is defined as a sequence or potential sequence of words which functions as a unit, as in Pickett:

"By 'potential sequences' I mean a sequence of words or a single word which is potentially expandable to a unit of two or more words by addition of optional modifiers. Traditionally, phrases have been assumed to be composed of more than one word. [Here she refers to Bloomfield, 1933:178.] In descriptions with the tagmemic model, however, conciseness and simplicity of statement are gained by considering phrase to include those single words which are potentially expandable to full phrases. In addition to providing conciseness, such a description also more accurately reveals the structural relationships, since when the single noun which is potentially head of a phrase occurs in the Subject slot, it is not a different kind of unit but a representative of the phrase unit." (1960:33)

Phrases are divided into classes on the basis of their distribution in Clause-level slots. Some classes of phrase are endocentric (consisting of a Head plus or minus various modifiers), while others are exocentric (consisting of an Axis and a relator). The endocentric phrases are described first, and then the Axis-Relator phrases.

Types are set up within most classes on the basis of

\(^1\)The Verb Phrase is a special case, coming as it does above the sub-level Piece in the verb hierarchy.
Chapter 7

CLAUSE LEVEL

The Clause is set up as a level of construction above the Phrase and below the Sentence. All clauses consist of a Predicate, plus or minus certain other clause-level tags, such as Subject, Object, Causative Object, etc., according to clause type.

Clauses are divided into classes on the basis of their distributional possibilities in sentence types and other structures. In Resìgaro the Declarative, Interrogative, and Imperative classes are distributed principally in the sentence, and the Nominalized and Relativized Clause classes are distributed recursively in the Declarative Clause and other lower-level structures.

Types are set up within each class on the basis of internal structure. These types correspond to varying degrees of transitivity, from non-transitive through to tri-transitive.

In the description which follows, the constituents of the Clause are described first, and the structure of each type of each Clause class is described next -- i.e.,
clause-level tagmemes are described one by one, and then the clauses in which these tagmemes function are described. This is followed by a description of the distribution of the Declarative clause.

After the description of the Declarative clause, Interrogative and Imperative clauses are derived by multiplication, and this section is followed by two which deal with dependent clauses: nominalization and relativization.


In view of the varied structure and widespread distribution of clause-level tagmemes, it is advantageous to describe them consecutively before going on to the description of the clauses themselves, instead of describing them one at a time as they crop up in different clause types, which at the same time would have the disadvantage of overburdening the description of clause structure with detail not immediately relevant and liable to distract attention from this structure.

Clause-level tagmemes are either nuclear or peripheral. Nuclear tagmemes are diagnostic of clause types, while peripheral tagmemes are not.

For instance, if an Object tagmem occurs in a clause, that clause must be at least transitive. If a Dative Ob-
ject occurs, it must be at least ditransitive. Likewise, if a clause cannot have an Object, it is intransitive (or non-transitive). Thus, the presence (or obligatory absence) of these tagmèmes indicates (along with other tagmèmes) the type of clause in question.

Non-diagnostic tagmèmes, on the other hand, may occur in most -- and in some cases in all -- clause types, without affecting in any way the identification of the clause. Examples are the tagmèmes that indicate the spatio-temporal context of an event or state described by a clause.

Non-diagnostic tagmèmes are, by their very nature, optional.¹ Diagnostic tagmèmes, however, are not always obligatory -- so long as they are understood in the context. A key example is the Object tagmème, which is frequently omitted. But the very possibility of occurrence of a nuclear tagmème in one construction, as opposed to its obligatory absence in another, is diagnostic.

A problem was encountered with the Dative or Dative Object tagmème, which cannot occur in non-transitive and intransitive clauses when the DOP manifesting it contains an NP in the axis slot, but can occur in these clauses

¹Unless one analyses at levels beyond the sentence, when certain tagmèmes here viewed as optional in certain contexts may be seen to be obligatory because of the broader context. However, in the present description, analysis does not go beyond the sentence.