A grammar of Hamar : a South Omotic language of Ethiopia

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10 Complex clauses

In the following sections the various clauses which show syntactic and semantic dependency to a nominal or verbal head will be described. Complex clauses in Hamar are composed of syntactically dependent clauses preceding the main clause. Dependent clauses are generally marked by converbs and various dedicated verbal suffixes, and they can be combined together in clause-chaining. Clause level coordination has been dealt along with phrase-level coordination in chapter 8, section 8.5.

10.1 Subordinate clauses

Subordinate clauses in Hamar precede the main clause and contain dependent verb forms marked by the suffixes listed in table 10.1. Subordinate clauses cannot form a complete utterance and must be syntactically embedded within a main clause (independent paradigms which can instead make up main clauses were overviewed in chapter 9). Hamar, as other Afro-Asiatic languages of Ethiopia (Azeb & Dimmendaal 2006, *inter alia*), has non-finite verb forms which mark clausal dependency relations and which are referred to as converbs. Not all the subordinating suffixes listed in table 10.1 are converbs: some dependent verb forms are not considered converbs strictly speaking since they do not depend on the main final verb for tense and aspect reference, whereas converbs inherit tense specification from the main final verb. Subordinated clauses are signaled by a short pause before the following clause: this is marked in the examples by a comma.

Table 10.1: Subordinating suffixes

suffix	**gloss**	**definition**
-te	SE	same-event converb
-ise	CNV1	general converb
-énka	CNV2	different subject converb
-o	PURP	purposive
-ánna	OPT	optative
-xa	PAST.CONT	past continuous
-isaxa	PAST.PF	past perfect
-ika	PF.CONT	past perfect continuous
-ína	COND	veridical conditional

10.1.1 Converbs

There are three converb markers in Hamar. *-te* (glossed as SE) is used for dependent verb forms which predicate actions which are conceived to be part of the same event predicated by the main verb. The same-event converb is always co-referential with the following verb. The marker *-íse* (CNV1) is used for both simultaneous and

anterior actions, whereas *-énka* (CNV2) marks dependent verbs whose subject is not co-referential with that of the main verb. The converb markers *-te* and *-ise* are interchangeable in some contexts and can be used to form both adverbial and complement clauses. The three converbs are all used to form complex predicates in periphrastic expressions of aspect (cf. chapter 9, section 9.1.7).
The same-event converb marker *-te* is suffixed to the citation form of the verb to mark simultaneity and unity with the action expressed by the following verb. The verb following the same-event converb can be either a dependent verb form or a main final verb. The marker is often realized as [*-tte*] when the verb root ends in a glottal stop (1a), but some speakers use both variants with any type of verb root (1b), (2).

(1a) **noqó** **baʔá-tte** **niʔá!**
water bring-SE come.IMP.2SG
come and bring water!

(1b) **ínta** **há=na** **qánte** **saxá** **saʔáti** **lammá-xa**
1SG 2SG=DAT DAT tomorrow hour two-INS
yaatí **baʔá-te** **niʔ-ó=i=de**
sheep bring-SE come-PURP=1SG=PFV
tomorrow at two I will come and bring a sheep for you

The following two examples are extracted from the same folk tale and feature both the same-event converbs *zagá-te* and *zagá-tte*:

(2a) **ínta** **gugána** **zagá-te** **i=da-yiʔ-é**
1SG lightning look.for-SE 1SG=IPFV-go-PRES
I go to look for lightning

(2b) **silláma** **gugána** **zagá-tte** **dul**
bogeyman lightning look.for-SE IDEO.go
Bogeyman went to look for a lightning

The subject of the same-event converb is coreferential with the subject of the following verb:

(3a) **guní** **ɗaaɓá-ise,** **dongár-ɗan** **gaʔá-tte** **dees-idí**
snake stand.up.CNV1 elephant-ACC bite-SE kill-PF
Snake lifted his head, bit and killed Elephant

(3b) **dattâ** **ɗaaɓá-te** **dorqá-ɓ**
wild.animal:M stand.up-SE sit-NARR
the male wild animal woke up and sat down

(3c) **dattóno** **maqasá-te** **gob-idí**
wild.animal:F.S bleed-SE run-PF
the female wild animal ran away while bleeding

(3d) **kilánqi-no** **kɛ́ɛn** **sará-te** **yiʔ-idí**
eagle-F.S 3:ACC catch-SE go-PF
the eagle caught him and went away

The same-event marker semantically coordinates verb phrases, but the verb marked by *-te* is syntactically subordinated to the following verb.
The same-event converb occurs in the periphrastic expressions of irrealis and progressive aspect (see chapter 9). The marker *-te* can join two or more dependent verbs, see for instance example (4), where it joins the two lexical verbs functioning as complements of the existential construction expressing progressive aspect.

(4) **háile.sellási** **gállo** **báako-rra** **mɛ́ɛ** **gɛ́laba-n-shet**
Haile.Selassie enemy:F.S Báako-ABL down Gálaba-F.OBL-ALL2
gobá-te **yiʔá-te** **ko = dáa-de**
run-SE go-SE 3F = exist-PFV
the Amhara are running and going from Baako down to Dhaasanac[53]

The converb marker *-te* used in existential constructions for the expression of progressive aspect can be occasionally substituted for the general converb *-ise*, cf. (5a) and (5b):

(5a) **ooní-n** **woisá-te** **ki = dáa-de**
house-F.OBL stand:CAUS-SE 3 = exist-PFV
they are building the house

(5b) **ooní-n** **woisá-ise** **ki = dáa-de**
house-F.OBL stand:CAUS-CNV1 3 = exist-PFV
they are building the house

The obligatory argument of the verb *maccá* ‘finish’ is always marked by *-te*, see section 10.1.7 for further details on complement clauses:

[53] Hamar *gal* refers to Amhara, or generally ‘enemies’, and Haile Selassie is used with reference to the Amhara enemies. The Dhaasanc people are called *Gɛ́laba*, see maps in chapter 1.

(6) **worsá-te** **ha = macc-ína**
stir-SE 2SG = finish-COND
if you finish stirring […]

As shown in examples (4), (6) above and in (7) below, the verb following the same-event converb can be a dependent verb form. In (7) the converb *tiáte* is syntactically dependent on the following general converb *qaɗáise*:

(7) **qáashi-n** **tiá-tte** **qaɗá-ise,** **karámɓa-na**
leather.cloak-F.OBL take-SE wear-CNV1 calabash-PL
tiá-ise, **éen-na** **qolɓá-ise,**
take-CNV1 people.F.OBL-DAT fetch-CNV1
burí-n-ka **imɓá = ko** **imɓ-é**
morning-F.OBL-INS give:PASS = 3F give:PASS-PRES
taking and wearing the leather cloak, taking some calabashes, fetching it for the people, in the morning it (coffee) is given

Example (7) illustrates the use of the general converb marker *-ise*, which is roughly translated as a gerundive form. The general converb however can refer to actions which are simultaneous or anterior with respect to the following (main) verb. The general converb joins together several subordinated clauses as shown in (7) and (8).

(8) **waakí** **kínka** **gishá-ise** **mashá-ise** **isá-ise**
cow together herd-CNV1 slaughter-CNV1 eat-CNV1
kínka **daínta-n** **jammar-idí**
together life-F.OBL begin-PF
herding, slaughtering and eating cattle together, they *started* their life together

The tense and aspect of the main verb determines that of the converb: cf. the past reference in (9a) with the future reference in (9c).

(9a) **gamálla** **ɠɛá-ise** **ki-niʔá-de**
camel:PL hit-CNV1 3 = come-PFV
they came herding camels

(9b) **kidí** **pər** **qáski-n** **baʔá-ise** **darán** **gará-ɓ**
3 again dog-F.OBL bring-CNV1 3.ALL1 let-NARR
so he brought the dog and left it with him

(9c) **wó = ɗan** **deesá-ise** **wongá** **tiá** **ki = ti-é**
1PL = ACC kill-CNV1 cow:PL take 3 = take-PRES
he will kill us and take the cows (lit. after killing us, he will take the cows)

When the subject of the subordinate clause is different from the subject of the main verb, the converb marker *-énka* is suffixed to the verb root. The different-subject converb can take pronominal subject marking if the subject of the subordinate clause is not overtly stated.

(10a) **han = yi?-énka** **ínta** **eefá = i = da** **eef-é**
2SG = go-CNV2 1SG cry = 1SG = IPFV cry-PRES
When you leave I will cry

(10b) **kí = na** **wa** **ool-énka** **gudirí** **ni?á-ise**
3 = DAT another bray-CNV2 hyena come-CNV1
kɛ́ɛn **dees-idí**
3:ACC kill-PF
when (Donkey) brayed at him one more time, Hyena came and killed him

(10c) **qáu-n-te** **kin = zag-énka** **dabí-no**
forest-F.OBL-LOC 3 = want-CNV2 wild.animal-F.S
t'if **kai-idí**
IDEO.disappear get.lost-PF
when he searched in the forest, the animals disappeared

The different-subject converb is occasionally found in subordinated clauses which are co-referential with the main verb. The general converb is however more common in this syntactic context.

(11) **goín** **kin = yi?-énka** **baití-ɗan** **ki = aafá-de**
way.F.OBL 3 = go-CNV2 river-ACC 3 = see-PFV
when they went along the road, they saw a river

10.1.2 Temporal clauses

Apart from simultaneous and sequential temporal clauses coded by converbs, there are various ways of expressing aspectual distinctions in temporal clauses with past reference. The verb paradigms illustrated in table 10.2 are different from the converbs discussed in the previous section (10.1.1) because they have past reference (that is, they do not inherit tense and aspect from the final clause), and subject agreement is marked by short form I pronouns. There are two periphrastic ex-

pressions which use the dummy verb *hamá* as auxiliary, marked by the converb suffix *-énka*: these are treated here since they contribute to the encoding of aspectual distinction in temporal clauses. The dependent verb forms in table 10.2 form temporal subordinated clauses which are syntactically embedded in the final matrix clause.

Table 10.2: Aspectual distinctions in temporal clauses

Past Continuous	ko = **wuc'**á-xa 'while she was drinking'
Past Perfect	ko = **wuc'**á-isaxa 'after she drank'
Past Perfect Continuous	**wuc'**á-ika kon = ham-énka 'after she had been drinking'
Inceptive	**wuc'**-ánna kon = ham-énka 'when she was ready to drink'

The suffix *-xa* attaches to the citation form of the verb in a dependent clause to mark continuous aspect:

(12a) **dommá** **igirá** **ɠɛá-xa,** **kidí** **háqa** **wa**
rain:PL DEM2.PL hit-PAST.CONT 3 tree another
demí-r **woyá-ɓ**
side-IN stand-NARR
while it was raining a bit, he stood next to a tree

(12b) **yáa** **kánki-xa** **yi?á-xa,** **kánki** **róo** **si-idí**
2SG car-INS go-PAST.CONT car leg be.broken-PF
while you were going by car, a wheel broke

In the following excerpt the two temporal clauses preceding the matrix clause are both marked by the suffix *-xa*. The second temporal clause is an existential construction expressing progressive aspect: the existential predicator *dáa* cannot be marked by the perfective aspect *-de* which only occurs in independent clauses, and it is instead marked by the Past Continuous marker *-xa*:

(13) **simbále-n-shet** **méɛ** **ki = anshá-xa,**
Simbále-F.OBL-ALL2 down 3 = descend-PAST.CONT
ogó-sa **cóo** **simbále-n-sa** **ogó-te**
DEM2.F-GEN DOWN Simbále-F.OBL-GEN DEM2.F-LOC
yiʔá-te **ki = dáa-xa,** **ɛ́ɛ** **silémba**
go-SE 3 = exist-PAST.CONT man:M Silémba
hamɓ-ɛ̂ **somále** **kála-ɗan** **dees-idí-ne**
say:PASS-REL.PRES.M Somali one-ACC kill-PF-COP
when they were descending down towards Simbále, while they were going down in the area around Simbále, the man called Silémba killed one Somali

Verbs marked by the suffix *-xa* can be repeated to emphasize the duration and the iteration of an action: see for instance the repetition of the verb *kiyiʔáxa* 'he kept on going' in example (14) below:

(14) **kidí** **wongá** **ɠɛá-ise** **ki = yiʔá-xa,** **waakí** **ɠɛá-ise**
3 cow:PL hit-CNV1 3 = go-PAST.CONT cow hit-CNV1
ki = yiʔá-xa **yiʔá-xa** **yiʔá-xa,** **óo**
3 = go-PAST.CONT go-PAST.CONT go-PAST.CONT DST
kin = yesk-énka, **darán** **zóbo** **niʔ-idí**
3 = arrive-CNV2 3.ALL lion come-PF
while he kept on going and herding the cows, while he kept on going and going and herding the cattle, when he arrived over there, Lion came to him

Past Perfect in subordinated clauses is expressed by the suffix *-isaxa* attached to the citation form of the verb (15). The suffix can be realized as [isɔxa] if the verb root contains the back vowels [u] and [o] (16), however some speakers use this phonetic variant with any verb stem, see (17). In fast speech the velar fricative of the suffix can be reduced to [h]: [isaha]. Short form I pronouns are used for pronominal subject marking.

(15a) **ha = yiʔá-isaxa** **ínta** **eep-idí-ne**
2SG = go-PAST.PF 1SG cry-PF-COP
after you went I cried

(15b) **ko = ɗammá-isaxa** **wodí** **anc'-idí-ne**
3F = fall-PAST.PF 1PL laugh-PF-COP
we laughed after she fell

(15c) **gudirí** **deesá-isaxa,** **qáski** **aaɗimɓá-isaxa,** **gudirí**
hyena kill-PAST.PF dog hide:PASS-PAST.PF hyena
qáski-ɗan **aaf-idí**
dog-ACC see-PF
after the hyena killed and after the dog had hid, the hyena saw the dog

(16a) **gaitâ** **utá-te** **hattá-sa** **zulɔ́-te** **dorqá-isɔxa**
baboon:M climb-SE tree:M-GEN back:M-LOC sit-PAST.PF
after the baboon climbed and sat on the top of the trunk […]

(16b) **wórq-in** **ogó** **wúl-ɗan** **ki = dumá-isɔxa**
gold-F.OBL DEM2.F all-ACC 3 = grab-PAST.PF
after he took all that gold […]

(17a) **gudirí** **gi-idí,** **gudirí** **yin** **giá-isaxa**
hyena say-PF hyena so say-PAST.PF
Hyena said. After Hyena said so […]

(17b) **yin** **ki = giá-isɔxa,** **ɛ́ɛ-na** **pər** **kínka**
so 3 = say-PAST.PF man-PL again again
ɗalqá-ise, **óo** **noqó-xal** **ki = yiʔá-de**
talk-CNV1 DST water-AFF 3 = go-PFV
after he said so, the people consulted each other again and went there to Water

The actions expressed by the Past Perfect marker are conceived as completed before the action of the main verb takes place.
Other aspectual distinctions in subordinate temporal clauses can be made by means of periphrastic constructions. In order to express duration before a completed event in the past (Past Perfect Continuous), the verb *hamá* 'say' is used as auxiliary and it is marked by the different-subject converb marker *-énka*. The verb providing lexical content is marked by the suffix *-ika* and it can be repeated to emphasize duration in time:

(18a) **kínka** **yiʔá-ika** **yiʔá-ika** **yiʔá-ika** **ham-énka,**
together go-PF.CONT go-PF.CONT go-PF.CONT say-CNV2
qáski-be **ukulí-be** **bashaɗ-idí**
dog-COM donkey-COM be.tired:PASS-PF
after they had been going and going for long time, Dog and Donkey got tired

(18b) **wórqi-n** **ogó-ɗan** **zóbo** **yedá-ika** **yin = ham-énka,**
gold-F.OBL DEM2.F-ACC lion hold-PF.CONT REFL = say-CNV2
“wórq-in-ɗan **wo = kashim-é!”** **hamá-ise**
gold-F.OBL-ACC 1PL = share-PRES say-CNV1
ki = ɛ́ɛ-na **giá-de**
3 = man-PL say-PFV
after Lion had been holding that gold by himself for a while, the people said: “let’s share the gold!”

Inceptive aspect in subordinate clauses can be expressed with a complex paradigm which resembles the one used in independent clauses: the optative marker *-ánna* is suffixed to the complement verb (see chapter 9, section 9.1.7). However, the existential auxiliary which is normally used in independent clauses is substituted for the dummy verb *hamá* marked by the converb marker *-énka*:

(19a) **dattá-ɗan** **kat’-ánna** **kin = ham-énka**
wild.animal:M-ACC shoot-OPT 3 = say-CNV2
when he was about to shoot the male wild animal […]

(19b) **ooní-n** **kin = ard-ánna** **ham-énka**
house-F.OBL 3 = enter-OPT say-CNV2
when he was about to enter the house […]

10.1.3 Reason clauses

Reason clauses require the citation form of the verb followed by the reason marker *hattáxa*. Short form I subject pronouns are cliticized before the reason marker *hattáxa*. Deletion of the word-initial /h/ (MP4) and vowel coalescence (P5) take place between the subject clitic and the reason marker *hattáxa*:

(20a) **kí = ɗan** **eelá** **ɛttáxa** **ki = niʔá-de**
3 = ACC call 1SG.REAS 3 = come-PFV
he came because I called him

(20b) **gaitá-ɗan** **c’úba-m-be** **núu-m-be**
baboon:M-ACC smoke-F.OBL-COM fire-F.OBL-COM
baxarsá **kɔttáxa,** **gaitâ** **núu-n-sa**
sweat:CAUS 3F.REAS baboon:M fire-F.OBL-GEN
gidí-n-te **bulá-ise** **di-idí-ne**
middle-F.OBL-LOC jump-CNV1 die-PF-COP
because the smoke and the fire made the baboon sweat, the baboon jumped in the middle of the fire and died

(20c) **tumbuqúlo** **líkka** **yiʔá-ika** **ham-énka,** **pee-r**
worm little go-PF.CONT say-CNV2 ground-IN
ardá-ise **shiɗ-idí,** **shiɗá** **kɛttáxa,** **kéda**
enter-CNV1 stay-PF stay 3.REAS then
yiʔ-ána **dong**
go-REL.PAST.PL five
After Worm had been going for a while, he entered in the ground and stayed. Those who went were five since he stayed.

10.1.4 Conditional clauses

Conditional clauses in Hamar distinguish between veridical and potential conditions. The validity of the main clause (the apodosis) is considered to be true if the preceding dependent clause (the protasis) encodes a veridical condition, whereas the potential condition makes the situation expressed in the main clause hypothetical. Veridical conditional clauses are formed by suffixing the conditional marker *-ína* to the root of the verb in the protasis. Subject marking is obligatorily marked by short form I pronouns. Veridical conditional clauses express certainty and true statements, and in the examples below the English conjunction *if* can be substituted for *when*.

(21a) **ki=shiit-ína,** **aiziɛ̂** **agá-sa** **fáala-no**
3=be.soft-COND goat.hide:M DEM2.M=GEN flesh-F.S
gurtá~gurtaɗá
scrape.out~scrape.out:PASS
if it becomes soft, the excess flesh of that goat hide is scraped out

(21b) **kodí** **shánqo-shet** **ko=yiʔ-ína,** **búno** **baʔá-te**
3F Shanqo-ALL2 3F=go-COND coffee bring-SE
ko=yiʔ-é
3F=go-PRES
if she goes to Shanqo, she goes and brings coffee

(21c) **rɔɔ-tâ** **i=jug-ína,** **ínta** **dabí** **aaf-idí-ne**
leg-M 1SG=shake-COND 1SG wild.animal see-PF-COP
if I shake the leg, (it means that) I have seen a wild animal

Potential conditional clauses are formed by the perfect form of the verb followed by the optative marker *-ánna* (22).

(22a) **ínta** **diméka-dar** **róo-n-ka** **yiʔ-idi-ánna,**
1SG Dimeka-ALL1 leg-F.OBL-INS go-PF-OPT
qajá = i = da **qajaɗ-é**
be.cold = 1SG = IPFV be.cold:PASS-PRES
If I go to Dimeka on foot I become tired

(22b) **yáa** **daaqarɗ-idi-ánna** **kummá!**
2SG be.hungry-PF-OPT eat.IMP.2SG
if you get hungry, eat!

(22c) **doobí** **qan-idi-ánna,** **míri** **wo = shed-é!**
rain hit-PF-OPT waves 1PL = look-PRES
if it rains, let's watch waves (in the river)!

(22d) **kánki** **da-idi-ánna,** **shánqo** **yiʔá = ki** **yiʔ-é**
car exist-PF-OPT Shanqo go = 3 go-PRES
if there is a car, he will go to Shanqo

As shown by example (22c) and (22d) this strategy allows for general forms to function as the subject of the verb in the protasis. However, the optative marker can also be suffixed to short form I subject pronouns (see chapter 2 under vowel coalescence P5), and in this case the subject of the protasis needs to be specified for gender or number:

(23a) **káira** **parsí** **geɓí** **wuc'-idí** **kɔ́nna,**
Kaira beer a.lot drink-PF 3F:OPT
barɗá = ko **barɗ-é**
be.drunk = 3F be.drunk-PRES
if Kaira (F) drinks a lot of *parsí* beer she gets drunk

(23b) **yedí** **payá** **hayá-ise** **kumm-idí** **yénna,**
2PL good do-CNV1 eat-PF 2PL:OPT
durfé = da **durf-é**
be.fat.2PL = IPFV be.fat-PRES
if you eat well you will gain weight

Potential conditional clauses refer to hypothetical, yet possible, future events. As the examples above show, the verb in the apodosis is usually in the future tense, although the imperative or the jussive mood is also possible.
In a few instances the optative marker was found suffixed directly to the verb root, without the perfect marker *-idí*. Subject agreement in these examples is marked by

short form I pronouns on the verb. Discussing these examples was very hard and the speakers re-formulated them with the perfective form of the verb:

(24a)	**í = xal**	**éedi**	**qoléi,**	**beré**	**i = gar-ánna**
	1SG = AFF	person	exist.not	later	1SG = leave-OPT
	ɛ́ɛn	**ki = ge?-é**			
	1SG:ACC	3 = bite-PRES			
	there's nobody with me, if I leave (him) later he will bite me				

(24b)	**dattâ**	**káa**	**i = kat'-ánna,**	**beré**	**ɛ́ɛn**
	wild.animal:M	DEM1.M	1SG = shoot-OPT	later	1SG:ACC
	ga?á = ki	**go?-ó?**			
	bite = 3	bite-PRES.INT			
	If I shoot at this wild animal, will he bite me later?				

10.1.5 Purposive clauses

Purposive clauses are marked by the suffix *-o* which attaches to the verb root. The purposive marker *-o* can be used only if the subject of the purposive clause and that of the main clause are the same:

(25a)	**ínta**	**baín-te**	**shiiɗ-ó**	**i = da-yi?-é**
	1SG	river.F.OBL-LOC	wash:PASS-PURP	1SG = IPFV-go-PRES
	I go to wash myself in the river (lit. I go in order to wash myself in the river)			

(25b)	**dímeka-shet**	**qulí**	**shansh-ó**	**yi?á-te**	**ki = dáa-de**
	Dimeka-ALL2	goat	buy:CAUS-PURP	go-SE	3 = exist-PFV
	he is going to Dimeka in order to sell a goat				

If the subject of the purposive clause is different from the subject of the main clause, the jussive mood is used to express purpose:

(26)	**ɛ́eno**	**ko = kumm-é**	**imɓá = ko**	**imɓ-é**
	people:F.S	3F = eat-PRES	give:PASS = 3F	give:PASS-PRES
	it will be given so that the people can eat			

The purposive suffix *-o* is used in the paradigm for intentional future as well, see chapter 9 (9.1.3).

10.1.6 Non-verbal predication in subordinate clauses

In subordinate clauses non-verbal predication is expressed by means of the existential verb *dáa* which can be marked by the general converb *-ise*. The general converb *dáise* translates both temporal and reason clauses.

(27a) **wɔxá-sa** **qushumɓá** **líkka** **dá-ise**
ox:M-GEN horns small exist-CNV1
since the horns of the ox were small […]

(27b) **kidí** **kɛ́da** **ɓórle** **dá-ise**
3 then young exist-CNV1
when he was young […]

(27c) **éedi** **wáni** **ɛ́na∼ɛ́na** **dong** **dá-ise,** **adamá-n**
person some past∼past five exist-CNV1 hunt-F.OBL
mágo.parkí-n **yiʔá-da**
Mago.Park-F.OBL go-IPFV
some guys, long time ago, being five, were going to hunt in Mago Park

(27d) **kínka** **dá-ise,** **róoro** **wul** **kínka** **ki=yay-é**
together exist-CNV1 day all together 3=walk-PRES
when they were together, they used to walk together every day

The veridical vs. potential distinction in conditional clauses is not maintained in verb-less clauses. Non-verbal predication in the protasis is expressed by the optative marker suffixed directly to short form I subject pronouns: verb-less conditional clauses are identical to the potential conditional clauses shown in (23) above, except for the fact that the optative marker is suffixed to a pronoun.

(28a) **yáa!** **agá** **tigá-tte,** **ángi** **hánna,** **niʔá!**
2SG DEM2.M step-SE man 2SG:OPT come.IMP.2SG
you! if you are a man, step on that (log) and come!

(28b) **kidí** **paxála** **kɛ́nna** **parájni-n** **aapó-n** **wul**
3 clever 3:OPT foreigner-F.OBL mouth-F.OBL all
ɗesá **ki=ɗes-é**
know 3=know-PRES
he would know the whole language of the foreigners if he was clever

(28c) **ínta** **átti** **ɛ́nna** **kapá-na-xa** **ɗaaɓá=i=da** **ɗaaɓ-é**
1SG bird 1SG:OPT wing-PL-INS fly=1SG=IPFV fly-PRES
If I were a bird I would fly with wings

10.1.7 Complement clauses

There are two complementation strategies in Hamar, namely nominalization and clause chaining. The most common complementation strategy is that of using a nominalized verbal complement: the verbal element of a complement clause is nominalized by means of the relational marker *-n* suffixed to the citation form of the verb:

(29a) **yáa** **banqí-n** **zagá-n** **gará!**
2SG fight-F.OBL want-R stop.IMP.2SG
stop looking for war!

(29b) **murá-ɗan** **kat'á-n** **ɗes-ê**
gun-ACC shoot-R know-PRES.NEG.3
he does not know how to shoot a gun

(29c) **qáara** **dungurí-n** **jaagá-n** **ɗesá = ko** **ɗes-é**
vervet.monkey sandal-F.OBL sew-R know = 3F know-PRES
Vervet Monkey knows how to sew the sandals

(29d) **ímba-ɗan** **ooní-n** **ashká-n**
my.father-ACC house-F.OBL do-R
kalshá = i = da **kalsh-é**
help = 1SG = IPFV help-PRES
I'll help my father prepare the house

(29e) **kínka** **gobá-n** **kin = jammar-énka**
together run-R 3 = start-CNV2
when they started racing each other […]

The marker *-n* on the complement verb is analysed as relation marker because there are no arguments in favor of an analysis in terms of oblique case F.OBL. Verb complements cannot function as subject arguments thus it cannot be verified whether the nominalized verb marked by -n triggers feminine agreement. A sentence like 'dancing is tiring' in (30) below is expressed by a subordinate clause marked by the different-subject converb *-énka*:

(30) **in = guz-énka** **qaccá = ko** **qacc-é**
1SG = dance-CNV2 be.tired:CAUS = 3F be.tired:CAUS-PRES
when I dance, it will make (me) tired

The relational marker *-n* is not suffixed on interrogative complement clauses:

(31a) **qootí** **ɗooná** **dandayá-u?**
beehive build.beehive be.able-INT.COP
can you build a beehive?

(31b) **yáa** **ukulí** **mashá** **ɗesá-u?**
2SG donkey slaughter know-INT.COP
do you know how to slaughter a donkey?

(31c) **yáa** **dungurí** **jaagá** **ɗesá** **ɗes-ó?**
2SG sandal sew know.2SG know-PRES.INT
do you know how to sew sandals?

Clause-chaining as complementation strategy is used with some verbs which take a complement verb marked by the same-event converb marker *-te*. The complement of the verb *maccá* 'finish' for instance is always marked by the same-event converb marker *-te*:

(32a) **páala-n** **gurtá-tte** **maccá-ise**
flesh-F.OBL scrape.out-SE finish-CNV1
when you finish scraping out the excess meat […]

(32b) **búno-n** **wuc'á-te** **macc-idi-ánna**
coffee-F.OBL drink-SE finish-PF-OPT
if they finish drinking coffee […]

(32c) **waadimá-te** **macc-é!**
work-SE finish-IMP.2PL
finish work!

The same-event converb *-te* can mark also the verbal complement of the verb *yi?á* 'go', however the verb 'go' can take verbal complements marked by other converb markers, such as the purposive marker *-o* or the general converb marker *-ise*.

(33) **ínta** **ɗeeshá** **zagá-te** **i = da-yi?-é**
1SG medicine want-SE 1SG = IPFV-go-PRES
I go to look for a medicine

The complement of volitional and cognition verbs such as *zagá* 'want' and *qaabá* 'think' is always marked by the optative marker *-ánna:*

(34a) **kodí** **kalsh-ánna** **zag-idí**
3F help-OPT want-PF
she wanted to help

(34b) **shóqo-be** **kóopini-be** **kínka** **ki=gob-ánna** **qaabá-isaxa**
tick-COM squirrel-COM together 3=run-OPT think-PAST.PF
after Tick and Squirrel thought of racing each other […]

10.2 Quotative clauses

Indirect speech report is not possible in Hamar, hence quotative clauses are composed of direct speech utterances. In order to link a quotative clause to the clause headed by a quotative verb (such as *giá* 'tell', *berá* 'reveal', *oisá* 'ask'), the dummy verb *hamá* 'say' is used (in the following examples the dummy verb is highlighted by a surrounding box). The dummy verb gets the general converb marker *-ise*:

(35a) **"kála** **bish** **oolá!"** **hamá-ise** **qáski** **gi-idí**
one only bray.IMP.2SG say-CNV1 dog tell-PF
"Bray only once!", Dog said (lit. saying "bray only once!" Dog said)

(35b) **"wongá** **diibá-ise** **wóon** **ki=dees-é"** **hamá-ise**
cow:PL steal-CNV1 1PL:ACC 3=kill-PRES say-CNV1
t'álian-dar **boráana** **bersá-ɓ**
Italians-ALL1 Boraana reveal:CAUS-NARR
"they steal the cows and kill us", the Boraana informed the Italians

Quotative clauses are formally independent clauses since only independent verb forms can be used, and the dummy verb *hamá* functions as an argument of the matrix clause headed by the quotative verb.
The passive form of *hamá* is used always with the different-subject marker *-énka* and the temporal subordinative suffix *-xa*. These complementizers are used without pronominal subject marking and their function is to separate different conversational turns, for example in narratives involving longer sequences of direct speech:

(36a) **"yáa** **qáski** **macc-idú?"** **hamɓá-xa**
2SG dog finish-PF.INT say:PASS-PAST.CONT
"ínta **macc-idí-ne"**
1SG finish-PF-COP
"you, Dog, have you finished?", "I have finished"

(36b) **“koimó kashá!” hamɓ-énka “ínta koimó cóo**
fee pay.IMP.2SG say:PASS-CNV2 1SG fee DOWN
beré anshá-te kashá=i=da kash-é” hamá-ise
later descend-SE pay=1SG=IPFV pay-PRES say-CNV1
budámo giá-ise, cóo kánki-n-sa woyâ
lie say-CNV1 DOWN car-F.OBL-GEN stop
qulí gobá-ise yiʔ-idí
goat run-CNV1 go-PF
“pay the fee!”, “I will pay the fee later when I get off”, lying, at the car-stop downhill Goat ran away

The dummy verbs *hamáise* and *hamɓáxa* are used also as discourse fillers in the narrative flow, to connect information between main clauses (37a), to shift to a different topic (37b) or simply to pause the narrative flow in order to consider what to say next (37c):

(37a) **noqó núu-dar laalimá-ise, núu di-idí.**
water fire-ALL1 leak-CNV1 fire fee
hamɓá-xa kéda noqó-be kím=be
say:PASS-PAST.CONT then water-COM 3=COM
kínka wongá ɠiá-ise yiʔ-idí
together cow:PL hit-CNV1 go-PF
Water leaked over Fire, and Fire died. Then, Water together with him went herding the cows.

(37b) **éedi makkán kó=sa báski dáa.**
person three 3F=GEN lover exist
hamɓá-xa kéda geshô waakí ɠétte
say:PASS-PAST.CONT then husband:M cow hit.SE
gabá-n-dar waakí shansh-ánna ut-idí
market-F.OBL-ALL1 cow buy:CAUS-OPT go.out-PF
She had three lovers. Then, the husband went out to herd the cattle to the market to sell them

(37c) **ooní-n ard-ánna kin=de-énka, hai-tâ**
house-F.OBL enter-OPT 3=exist-CNV2 sun-M
ibán-in-ka oolá-ɓ, hamá-ise, ooní-n
afternoon-F.OBL-INS call-NARR say-CNV1 house-F.OBL
kin=ard-ánna yiʔ-énka gamurê kí=ɗan yedá-ɓ
3=enter-OPT go-CNV2 jackal:M 3=ACC catch-NARR
when (the rooster) was about to enter the house, he called at the sunset. Then, when he was about to enter the house, the jackal caught him

Similar to the dummy verb *hamá,* the verb *hayá* 'do' marked by the general converb *-ise* can also be used as a transition word between clauses:

(38a)	**ɛ́ɛ**	**deesá-ɓ,**	**hayá-ise**	**kí=sa**	**wongá**	**qaná-ɓ**
	man:M	kill-NARR	do-CNV1	3=GEN	cow:PL	hit-NARR

He killed the man, and he stole his cows.

(38b)	**qaskê**	**málsi**	**ti-ái,**	**hayá-ise**	**ogó-rra**	
	dog:M	change	take-NEG.PRES.3	do-CNV1	DEM2.F-ABL	
	pər	**qulí-sa**	**birr**	**kála**	**qolɛ́i**	
	IDEO.again	goat-GEN	birr	one	exist.not	

Dog does not take his change. Then, after that, Goat has not even one birr