A grammar of Lumun : a Kordofanian language of Sudan

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15. **cĭk** 'place(s)': noun and grammaticalizations

There is a noun **cĭk** 'place(s)', functioning as a common noun, and there are grammaticalizations of this noun. I distinguish two grammaticalizations: 1) a "vague-reference" particle **cɪk** and 2) a pragmatic marker **cík**- 'just, exactly' which is proclitic to locative constituents.

In this chapter, I will first discuss the noun **cĭk** 'place(s)', then the "vague-reference particle" **cɪk**, then the locative proclitic **cík**-. I'll end with a few remarks on the lexical item **ɲcɪk**.

15.1. The noun **cĭk** 'place(s)'

cĭk 'place(s)' functions as a regular noun. It can have modifiers agreeing with it (first and second example below), and it can function as subject (first example), object (second example), or be preceded by a prepositional proclitic (third example).

cɪk	**έɲ-c-í**	**c-ɔ́-ʈʊk**
place	DEM-C-NEARSP	C-of-dog

this is the place of the dog (the place where the dogs always stays, for example in a corner of the compound)

a-áppɔ́	**ɔ́ʈ-í.at**		**cɪk**	**c-ʊnnʊ́kkwakɔʈ.ɛ**	**appɪk**
CONJ-Tocho	IT:DEPINCOMPL-find:DEPPRFV		place	C-be_closed.PLUR:COMPL	all

and the Tocho found all places closed (fr. written story)

ʊl	**w-ɔ-nɔ-cɪk**	**ɪ-c-ɔnʊ́**	**kəɽan**	**ɪttɪ**	**ʈáɽʊ**
people	C-of-on-place	RES-C-have	name	that	Ʈaɽʊ

people of the place which is called Ʈaɽʊ

cĭk 'place(s)' can often be replaced by the more commonly used noun **kaɽən/aɽən** 'place':

ɔ-kín	**ʈ-akkakáʈɛ**	**nɔ-cɪk**	**ɪ-c-éllá**	**tácɔ́**	**nán**
PERS-3A	C-come:PST	on-place	RES-C-not_have:INCOMPL	grass	on:ABS

they came to a place where there was no grass (which does not have grass on it)

ɔ-kín   ṭ-akkakáṭɛ   nɔ-kaɽə́n í-k-ɛ́llá   tácɔ́ nán
PERS-3A   C-come:PST   on-place   RES-C-not_have:INCOMPL grass on:ABS

they came to a place where there was no grass (which does not have grass
on it)

cǐk can be directly preceded by **ń-** in its reading '(away) from', which
is only possible for locative constituents (see 16.5):

ámmá w-ɛ́ɔ́.t   ana w-íɔt   ól   ɲ-cɪk   áppɪk
if   PRO.C-go:COMPL and PRO.C-find:INCOMPL people with-place all

when they go they will find people from everywhere (i.e. from all places)
(fr. written story)

Unlike **cǐk** 'place', **kaɽən/aɽən** 'place(s)' cannot be immediately
preceded by **ń-** expresssing 'from'. In order for **ń-** to express 'from', a
PPC must precede **kaɽən/aɽən** turning it into a locative phrase first:

ámmá w-ɛ́ɔ́.t   ana w-íɔt   ól   n-n-aɽə́n   appɪk
if   PRO.C-go:COMPL and PRO.C-find:INCOMPL people with-on-places all

and when they go (lit.: have gone) they find people from all places

cǐk relates here paradigmatically to the prepositional phrase **n-aɽên**
'on places', not to the noun. The reference of **cǐk** seems somewhat
more abstract than the reference of **(k)aɽən**. The translation
('everywhere' versus 'from all places') tries to reflect this.

cǐk lacks a singular/plural opposition, but can have singular or plural
reference, as shown in the example with **ń-** interpreted as 'from'. It
has also plural reference in the earlier given example about the
Tocho, as can be seen from the Pluractional verb modifying **cǐk**.
Replacement of **cǐk** in this clause is by the plural noun **aɽən**:

a-áppɔ́   ɔ́ṭí.at   aɽən   w-ʊnnʊ́kkwakɔṭ.ɛ   appɪk
CONJ-Tocho find:DEPPRFV places C-be_closed.PLUR:COMPL all

and the Tocho found that all places were closed

In the examples below, the English translations have an expletive
subject where Lumun has **cǐk**. Replacement by **kaɽən** is not possible

here. Though perhaps slightly vaguer, the reference of **cǐk** is still close to the notion of 'place' or also 'time':

m-p-ɔkɪɲá.t		**ana**	**cɪk**	**c-a.ɪk**	**c-íʈɪmat**
1-become_tired:COMPL		and	place	C-be:PR	C-become_dark:INCOMPL

I am tired and it is getting dark (i.e.: the place is getting dark)

cɪk	**c-ănn-ɔ́ká**	**c-áŋkɔ**	**ɪppa**	**nɔ.ppan-ǐ**
place	C-NEG-be:DEPCOMPL	C-be_hot:INCOMPL	hotly	inside-Q

is it not terribly hot inside? (i.e.: is the place not terribly hot inside?)

cɪk	**c-ɛɔ́.t**	**ana**	**m-p-ɔkɪɲâ.t**
place	C-go:COMPL	and	1-C-become_tired:COMPL

it is late and I am tired (lit.: the time has gone)

Unlike English expletive 'it', **cǐk** cannot be used in other contexts. For example, English 'it is raining' does not make use of **cǐk** in Lumun, but is expressed as **kapɪk kaɪk kápɔ** 'the rain is falling'. I therefore regard the sentences above as containing the noun **cǐk** 'place(s)', not the vague reference particle.

15.2. The vague-reference particle **cɪk**

Morpho-phonologically and tonally, the vague-reference particle deviates from the noun. The particle will be referred to as 'VREF **cɪk'.**

Morpho-phonology and tone of VREF ***cɪk***

After a vowel-final verb (or adjective) the initial consonant of VREF **cɪk** can be articulated as a soft palatal fricative, which is regular, but it can also be entirely omitted, which is not regular. The latter realization is represented below:

mpallá cɪk	'I will sweep'	[mbalːá-ɪkˀ]
mpaʈəkɔ́ cɪk	'I will eat'	[mbaʈᵊɰɔ́-ɪkˀ]
ɔʈəkʊ cɪk	'eat!'	[ɔʈᵊɰʊ-ɪkˀ]
mpɔʈəkkáʈɛ cɪk	'I ate'	[mbɔʈᵊkáðɛ-ɪkˀ]

In case of adjacent ɪ's a small glide is inserted after ɪ:

ɪkkɪ cɪk   'sit down!'   [ɪkɪ-ʲɪk˺]

Elision of **c** is particularly common in frequently occurring items, such as **ɔká cɪk** 'be' and **ɪkkɔ cɪk** 'sit, stay'. In the Present of 'be', c-**aîk**, **c** can no longer be realized. Its remnant (**ɪk**) has become a fixed part of the verb.

Tone

The particle is tonally irregular, as will be exemplified below. Because of this, I represent it without tone. The absence of tone marking does not imply that I regard it as a low-toned item.

In the citation form with the verb, **cɪk** is realized with a low tone, e.g. **ɪkkɔ cɪk** 'sit, stay' and **ɔká cɪk** 'be'. In the case of **ɪkkɔ cɪk** this is unexpected, since the incompletive TAM-stem **ɪkkɔ** has a floating high tone. It may, however, point at a rising tone, since, in final position a rising tone may be realized low (see 3.2.2). In other environments, **cɪk** can receive a high tone from a preceding element (resulting in a prepausal falling tone). This is compatible only with a low tone:

ɔ-kakká	**p-i̯céṭ.ɛ**	**ɔ-lɔ́ttɪ**	**cîk**
PERS-Kakka	C-lay_down:COMPL	PERS-Lɔttɪ	VREF

Kakka has laid Lɔttɪ down

pʊɽʊpé	**p-ɔɽɛ**	**cîk**
bird	C-red	VREF

the bird is reddish

Apart from cases like afore-mentioned **ɪkkɔ cɪk** 'sit, stay', there are other cases in which **cɪk** does not receive a high tone from a preceding verb with floating high tone. For example:

k-kw-ɔ́ṭi̯ɔṭ-ín	**ɔ́ṭə́kka**	**ɪttɪ**	**á-ɪmma**	**cɪk**
3-C-send:COMPL-O1	become:DEPINCOMPL	that	SUBJ-(2-)see:DEPINCOMPL	VREF

he sent me so that you will be able to see (Acts 9:17)

cɪk itself brings a high tone to a following element. The high tone on **akká** comes from **cɪk**:

ɔ-kín	ṭ-á-ík	ṭ-íkkɔt	púl	cɪk	ákka	p-ɔ́ŋɔ́
PERS-3A	C-be-VREF	C-sit_up_with:INCOMPL	person	VREF	that	C-sick

they sit up with the man because he is ill

cɪk modifying an adjective can have a prepausal falling tone, as shown above, but also a prepausal high tone:

ɔ-paŋ	ɪ-p-ɔ́parɪ	ɪ-p-ôttɛ	cík
PERS-sibling	RES-C-female	RES-C-small	VREF

the youngest sister (i.e. the youngest of three or more sisters)

There is no underlying tone pattern that can account for all these different tonal realizations. I therefore represent VREF **cɪk** without tone.

*Environments of VREF **cɪk***

VREF **cɪk** occurs in two environments:

- in combination with a verb;
- in combination with an adjective.

In combination with a verb, three types can be distinguished:

1. **cɪk** as fixed part of the verb, functioning as part of the verbal lexeme. These combinations typically have lexicalized semantics as compared to the verb without it, but a notion of 'place' (or 'time') can often still be recognized;
2. In combination with certain transitive verbs with which an object is expected, **cɪk** functions as a non-referential element that marks that the verb is used without object;
3. In combination with verbs which are expected to co-occur with a locative constituent, **cɪk** functions as a non-referential element that changes the focus of the clause (that is, the part which is understood as the main new information) from the locative

constituent to the verb itself. There can still be a locative constituent in the clause, but this constituent is now somewhat more "backgrounded".

In combination with an adjective **cɪk** functions as a modifier. It tends to make the reference of the adjective somewhat vaguer, semantically comparable to the English suffix ' -ish'. In one case it makes the reference more precise or absolute. Only a few adjectives can co-occur with **cɪk**.

Whether or not a verb or adjective can or must co-occur with **cɪk** is lexically determined. In fact, with verbs, the boundary between **cɪk** as common noun denoting 'place' and **cɪk** as VREF particle is not always so clear-cut.

15.2.1. **cɪk** as part of the verbal lexeme

In several cases, **cɪk** is part of the verbal lexeme. Next to a verb with **cɪk** there is often a verb without it, and the verb with **cɪk** has acquired lexicalized semantics. A notion of 'place(s)' (or time) can in several cases still be recognized, but synchronically **cɪk** as fixed part of the verb is better regarded as VREF particle, also because it is tonally different from the noun. **cɪk** as part of the noun can paradigmatically relate to different constituents. Some examples with **cɪk** paradigmatically relating to an object of the verb without it follow here:

ɔllâ	'wipe (something) away'
ɔllá cɪk	'sweep' (combines with a locative phrase, not an object)

ɔccɔ̂	'take, receive (something)'
ɔccɔ́ cɪk	'be late' (lit.: take time)

m-p-ɔccɔ́.t   **kəɽan**   **ɪttĭ** …
1-C-receive:COMPL   name   that

I have received the name … (my name is …)

m-p-ɔccɔ́.t   **cɪk** …
1-C-receive:COMPL   VREF

I am late

In other cases, **cɪk** paradigmatically relates to a locative phrase:

ɔkkɔ̂   'pass' (typically followed by a locative phrase)
ɔkkɔ́ cɪk   'be/remain alive, survive'

m-p-a.kkɔ   **ɪ-kaṭə́r**
1-C-pass:INCOMPL   in-road

I will pass through the road

m-p-a.kkɔ́   **cɪk**
1-C-pass:INCOMPL   VREF

I will survive

In again other cases, the counterpart without **cɪk** is an intransitive verb, which can easily occur alone. Note in the third example that the verb with **cɪk** has the locative-applicative **t**, but not its counterpart without it.

ịrrɔ   'jump, fly'
ịrrɔ cɪk   'bow'

aŋkɔ   'be hot, boil' (INTR.)
aŋkɔ cɪk   'be silent'

ʊra   'escape'
ʊrat cɪk   'become lost'

The following verb with **cɪk** is a passive derivation, relating to a transitive verb without it. Compare:

ɔkʊ́ccɛt   'prepare (something)'
ɔkʊ́ccɛttat   'be prepared' (by somebody)
ɔkʊ́ccɛkɔt cɪk 'be ready, be prepared' (by one's own doing)

In a few cases the verbs with and the verb without it have developed quite different semantics (assuming that there is a relationship, which is actually not certain):

ɪɔt	'find'
ɪɔt cɪk	'disappear'

ɪkkɔ	'may'
ɪkkɔ cɪk	'sit, stay'

Finally, some verbs with **cɪk** have no counterpart without it:

ɪntat cɪk	'disappear'
ɔccɔ́kkɔt cɪk	'get leprosy'

cɪk as part of the verbal lexeme does not always immediately follow the verb. In derivations of verbs with increased valency the added object comes between the verb and **cɪk**. Compare the two examples below. In the second, which was given earlier in this chapter but is repeated here, the verb **ɪkkɔ cɪk** has the locative-applicative derivation (**t**) which introduces an extra argument (**pʊl**). This argument comes before **cɪk**.

ɔ-kín	**t̪-á.ík**	**t̪-íkkɔ**	**cɪk**	**ɪ-cʊ̞ɛ́**	**c-ɔ-pɪra**
PERS-3A	C-be:PR	C-sit:INCOMPL	VREF	in-buttock	C-of-tree

they are sitting under the tree

ɔ-kín	**t̪-á.ík**	**t̪-íkkɔt**	**pʊ́l**	**cɪk**	**ákka**	**p-ɔ́ŋɔ́**
PERS-3A	C-be:PR	C-sit_up_with:INCOMPL	person	VREF	that	C-sick

they sit up with the man because he is ill

15.2.2. **cɪk** marking the absence of an expected object

With transitive verbs, the absence of an overt object establishes object reference to something or someone mentioned earlier in the text or otherwise understood from the context. In combination with some verbs with which an object is expected, the vague reference particle **cɪk** marks that the verb is used without an object.

Compare the following three examples with **ɪna** 'know', and also the next three with **ɔɽəkɔ̂** 'eat':

kəllán	**k-ɪna**	**lɔ́n**	**l-ɔppɔ́t**
old_woman	c-know:INCOMPL	words	c-many

the old woman knows many things

kəllán	**k-ɪná**
old_woman	c-know:INCOMPL

the old woman knows it / these things

kəllán	**k-ɪna**	**cîk**
old_woman	c-know:INCOMPL	VREF

the old woman is wise

m-p-a.ɪk	**p-a.ɽəkɔ́**	**pa-p-əɽɛk**
1-C-BE:PR	C-eat:INCOMPL	thing-C-some

I am eating something

m-p-a.ɪk	**p-a.ɽəkɔ̂**
1-C-BE:PR	C-eat:INCOMPL

I am eating it

m-p-a.ɪk	**p-a.ɽəkɔ́**	**cɪk**
1-C-BE:PR	C-eat:INCOMPL	VREF

I am eating

The verb **ɪmma** 'see' implies an object. With **cɪk**, **ɪmma** refers to the ability to see, as opposed to being blind (whether literally or metaphorically):

k-kw-ɔ́ʈịɔ̣ʈ-ín	**ɔ́ʈɔ́kka**	**ɪttɪ**	**á-ɪmma**	**cɪk**
3-C-send:COMPL-O1	become:DEPINCOMPL	that	SUBJ-(2-)see:DEPINCOMPL	VREF

he sent me so that you will be able to see (Acts 9:17)

cɪk is not used for substitution of an argument that is introduced through the (valency-increasing) application of a Benefactive or Causative derivation. These derivations imply the presence of a beneficiary or a causee, respectively – whether overtly mentioned or

understood from the context. In such cases the use of **cɪk** marking that the verb lacks this additional object would be contradictory to the application of the derivation. The second object in these derivations (the object required by the non-derived verb), however, can be replaced by **cɪk**. An example:

k-kw-ímmíɛ.t　　pʊl　　cɪk
3-C-make_see:COMPL　　person　　VREF

s/he made the person see (the person was blind before)

Some verbs which can take an object can also be used alone. These verbs typically have a certain object by default. An example is **ɛrɛ** 'speak'. Its default object **lɔn** 'words' can, but needs not be mentioned:

k-kw-á-ík　　p-érɛ
3-C-be-VREF　　C-speak:DEPINCOMPL

s/he is speaking

Other examples are **ɔrâ** 'cultivate' and **ɔkákɔ** 'grind'. **ɔrâ** can be combined with different objects (for example onions, tobacco), but its object by default is **mĩl** 'sorghum'. **mĩl** is also the default object of **ɔkákɔ**, though other things can be ground, particularly also **məkal** 'sesame'. With both verbs **mĩl** can be explicitly mentioned, but also left out: in the latter case it is still understood as the object. Several examples of **ɔrâ** can be found in 'The story of the jackal'. The animals cultivate in that story, but what they cultivate (sorghum) is, throughout the story, never explicitly mentioned.

… a-kɪn　　ɔrâ
CONJ.PERS-3A　　cultivate:DEPINCOMPL

and they cultivated (the usual crop, namely sorghum) ('The story of the jackal')

ɔrâ can also take the noun **cɪ̌k** 'place(s)' as object. **ɔrá cɪk** does not mean 'cultivate' (the action alone), but 'cultivate the piece of land':

… a-kın	ɔrá	cık
CONJ.PERS-3A	cultivate:DEPINCOMPL	place

and they cultivated the piece of land

15.2.3. **cık** marking the absence of an expected locative constituent

Locative 'be' (**ɔkâ**) co-occurs with a locative constituent. When VREF **cık** replaces the locative constituent, **ɔkâ** takes on an existential reading. Compare the following examples:

pʊl	p-ɔ-nɔppət	p-ɔká.t	ı-pırâ
person	C-of-Nɔppət	C-be:COMPL	in-tree

the person of Nɔppət was in the forest

pʊl	p-ɔ-nɔppət	p-ɔká.t	cık
person	C-of-Nɔppət	C-be:COMPL	VREF

the person of Nɔppət existed

*pʊl	p-ɔ-nɔppət	p-ɔkâ.t
person	C-of-Nɔppət	C-be:COMPL

In the following clause with the Past TAM of **ɔkâ** 'be' **cık** gives an existential reading of the verb (first exampe below). Here, however, **cık** can also be absent. In that case, 'be' rather functions as a copular verb, with the clause introduced by **ámmakka** as the predicate complement of the copula (second example below):

ɛl-l-ı	l-ɔka.káʈɛ	cık	ámm.akka	pól	p-ır̺ê.t
DEM-C-NEARSP	C-be:PST	VREF	like	person	C-say:COMPL

these things happened just like the man had said

ɛl-l-ı	l-ɔka.káʈɛ	ámm.akka	pól	p-ır̺ê.t
DEM-C-NEARSP	C-be:PST	like	person	C-say:COMPL

these things happened just like the man had said

In chapter 12 on verbal inflection it was shown that the auxiliary verb 'be' can also be combined with **cık**. For example, TAMs expressing continuous action typically have **cık**. They draw the hearer's attention towards the action having some duration:

kəllán   k-ɔká.t   cɪk   a-k-ɔ́kəṭaccê-k
old_woman   C-be:COMPL   VREF   CONJ-C-watch:INCOMPL-O3

the old woman was watching him / the old woman was there, watching him

In some cases, there seems to be a pragmatic difference between absence and presence of **cɪk** in combination with **ɔkâ**. Compare the following examples. The first, with **cɪk**, is a general (unsolicited) piece of information, the second a confirmative answer:

ṭ-ɔkwarəttɪkɔt   kápík   ṭ-á.ká   cɪk   nɔ́-kamʊṭĕ
NOM-remember.PLUR God   C-be:INCOMPL VREF on-celebration

there will be remembering God at the celebration (general information about what will happen at the (Christmas) celebration) (fr. written essay)

ṭ-ɔkwarəttɪkɔt   kápík   ṭ-á.ká   nɔ-kamʊṭĕ
NOM-remember.PLUR God   C-be:INCOMPL on-celebration

remembering God will be there at the celebration (answer to the question if God will be remembered at the celebration)

ɔɽɔ 'land, alight' is another verb that must co-occur with a locative constituent but can take **cɪk** instead:

pʊɽʊpé   p-ɔɽɔ.t   nɔ-pɪrâ
bird   C-land:COMPL   on-tree

the bird has alighted in the tree

pʊɽʊpé   p-ɔɽɔ.t   cîk
bird   C-land:COMPL   VREF

the bird has alighted

Unlike Benefactives and Causatives, productively applied Locative-applicative derivations can take VREF **cɪk**. Apart from conveying an awareness that there is a spatial component to the action, there seems to be no difference between a clause with underived verb and a clause with derived Locative-applicative and **cɪk**. Compare the following examples with **ɔɽɪa** 'become red, ripe' (the first) and its Locative applicative derivation **ɔɽɪat** 'become red, ripe at' (the second and third). **nɔ-pɪrâ** 'on the tree' is replaced by **cɪk**:

aɽəpʊ w-ɔɽɪâ.t   'the fruits have become ripe'
aɽəpʊ w-ɔɽɪá.ʈɛ nɔ-pɪrâ   'the fruits have become ripe on the tree'
aɽəpʊ w-ɔɽɪá.ʈɛ cɪk   'the fruits have become ripe'

The next examples contrast the transitive verbs **uttɛ** 'vomit' and **uttɛt cɪk** 'vomit at'. The third example contains a spatial notion though it remains unspecified.

ʊkʊl	**w-a.ɪk**	**w-úttɛ**	**ʈʊɽît**
child	C-be:PR	C-vomit:INCOMPL	food

the child is vomiting the food

ʊkʊl	**w-a.ɪk**	**w-úttɛt**	**ʈʊɽít**	**nɔ-capʊ́**
child	C-be:PR	C-vomit_at:INCOMPL	food	on-ground

the child is vomiting the food on the ground

ʊkʊl	**w-a.ɪk**	**w-úttɛt**	**ʈʊɽít**	**cɪk**
child	C-be:PR	C-vomit_at:INCOMPL	food	VREF

the child is vomiting the food

The content of the stomach is the object of **uttɛ** understood by default. This means that the verb can be used without object and that the object cannot be replaced by **cɪk.**

ʊkʊl	**w-a.ɪk**	**w-úttɛ**
child	C-be:PR	C-vomit:INCOMPL

the child is vomiting

***ʊkʊl**	**w-a.ɪk**	**w-úttɛ**	**cɪk**
child	C-be:PR	C-vomit:INCOMPL	VREF

the child is vomiting

Whether or not verbs allow for replacement of the object or a locative constituent by **cɪk** is lexically determined.

15.2.4. **cɪk** modifying adjectives

As mentioned in chapter 10 on adjectives, certain colours can be combined with **cɪk**. Colours with **cɪk** refer to a resembling colour. In such cases, **cɪk** paradigmatically relates to adverbs. Compare:

pʊɽʊpé	**p-ɔɽɛ**	**ɪttɪ̆ŋ**
bird	C-red	very

the bird is very red

pʊɽʊpé	**p-ɔɽɛ**	**cîk**
bird	C-red	VREF

the bird is reddish

cɪk can also be combined with at least some verbs related to colour terms, for example with **ʊpʊka** 'become white', which is related to the adjective C-**ɪpʊk** 'white':

pʊl	**ɪ-p-ɔká.t**	**p-ʊpʊkát̪.ɛ**	**cɪk**
person	RES-C-be:COMPL	C-become_white_at:COMPL	VREF

a man who was whitish (for example from disease)

ɔttê / ɔt̪t̪ê 'small' is another adjective that can be collocated with **cɪk**. In this case, **cɪk** makes the adjective more precise or absolute. The combination with **cɪk** refers only to the youngest sibling. Compare:

ɔ-paŋ	**ɪ-p-ɔ́parɪ**	**ɪ-p-ɔ̂ttɛ**
PERS-sibling	RES-C-female	RES-C-small

a small sister / a younger sister (i.e. the youngest of two sisters, or a younger, but not the youngest in a family with more sisters)

ɔ-paŋ	**ɪ-p-ɔ́parɪ**	**ɪ-p-ɔ̂ttɛ**	**cík**
PERS-sibling	RES-C-female	RES-C-small	VREF

the youngest sister

In the next example, the sentence in which **cɪk** is absent expresses that the person is still relatively young (for a certain purpose, for example for marriage). The second sentence, with **cɪk**, makes a statement in a more absolute sense: 's/he is still a child'.

k-kw-árəṭʊk   **p-ɔttê**
3-C-be_still   C-small

s/he is still young (implication for example: she can still get married)

k-kw-árəṭʊk   **p-ɔttê**   **cík**
3-C-be_still   C-small   VREF

s/he is still a child

C-**ɔttê** 'small' forms part of the expression **papɔttê** 'a little, a little time', which derives from **papʊ pɔttê** 'small thing'. **papɔttê** can be used with and without **cɪk**. In the first example below, without **cɪk**, it denotes a period of time of short duration. In the second, with **cɪk**, it refers to a moment shortly before (or after) the moment of speech.

m-p-a.ɪk   **p-â.ŋɔkɔ**   **pá.p.ɔ́ttê**
1-C-be   C-rest:INCOMPL   short_time

I am resting a little

m-p-aa.t   **pá.p.ɔ́ttê**   **cík**
1-C-come:COMPL   short_time   VREF

I just arrived

15.3. Locative proclitic **cík**- 'just, precisely'

Proclitic **cík**- can be attached to a prepositional phrase or a noun with locative semantics. It typically functions as a confirmative particle, expressing that something (indeed) happens or happened on that very spot. The use of proclitic **cík**- presupposes that the place is known (identifiable) for the hearer. Proclitic **cík**- can also be used when the locative constituent is a further precision of a preceding statement or question. Examples will be given after some remarks about morpho-phonological and tonal properties of the proclitic.

*Morpho-phonological and tonal properties of proclitic **cík**-*

The realization of proclitic **cík**- is determined by the initial sound of the word to which it is attached. It assimilates to a following consonant resulting in a (short) voiceless plosive or a short sonorant,

or is realized as a soft fricative/approximant before a vowel: this is all fully regular. For example:

cɪ-nɔ-pərrɔ̂k   'on the very chair' (glossed: LOC-on-chair)

The clitic differs from the noun and the vague reference particle when it comes to slow or careful (cut up) speech: the final **k** of the clitic will not be pronounced as [kˀ]. The clitic is either rendered as [cɪ] or, when followed by the prepositional proclitic **ɪ-**, as [cɪɥɪ], showing its clitic nature. Before **a** some speakers fully elide **k**:

cɪ-akkʊ́mân 'since (precisely) then'

Proclitic **cík-** brings a high tone to a following element, but cannot itself receive a high tone unless through tone bridge, which is compatible with either a rising or a high tone. Unlike the noun **cǐk** it has no prepausal realization. As I do in such cases (see 3.8), I assign it a high tone.

cík- procliticizes to locative phrases. Its use assumes that the place is identifiable for the hearer and it tends to convey a sense of 'precisely', 'especially' or 'only' at that place. In the example below, it is assumed that the hearer knows the chair of the speaker:

m-p-a.ɪk	**p-íkkɔ**	**cɪk**	**cɪ-nɔ-pərrɔ́k**	**p-ɪn**
1-C-be:PR	C-sit:INCOMPL	VREF	LOC-on-chair	C-POSS1

I am sitting on this very chair of mine (in a telephone conversation, the chair is known to the addressee)

The difference between presence and absence of the clitic is generally subtle and can be rather difficult to capture in English translation. 'Just', 'precisely' or 'the very' actually tend to be somewhat too strong.

A typical situation in which **cík-** will be used is the following:

ŋ-kw-a.ɪk p-a.ɛɔ́   karə-ṭa / m-p-a.ɪk p-a.ɛɔ́   tɔʊmâŋ /
2-C-be:PR   C-go:INCOMPL where-QW   1-C-be:PR   C-go:INCOMPL   Tɔʊmâŋ

kərɛn   tɔ́ʊmâŋ / cɪṭ-ṭɔ-nɪmérí-ɔ̂n
where   Tɔʊmâŋ /   LOC-at.PERS-Nɪmɛrɪ-PL

where are you going? / I am going to Tɔʊmâŋ / where in Tɔʊmâŋ? / to Nimeri's house

Two further examples follow here:

… a-kw-íṛḭkɔ.t   cɪ-nɔ́-cúṛâŋ
CONJ-3-tie_at:DEPINCOMPL   LOC-on-stick(k.o.)

and she tied it onto the stick (In the story, the stick has already been introduced. **cɪk-** draws extra attention to the ornament being put in place)

arrɪɛṭ.ɛ   wɛk w-əṛɛk cɪc-cénəkɛt ána w-əṛɛk cɪc-cénəkɛt
make_cross:IMP leg C-some LOC-there_not_far and C-some   LOC-there_not_far

put one foot just there and the other one just there! (the speaker points at the places, the addressee should put his feet precisely at those places) (fr. written story)

cík- can be used on a constituent that has a locative role in a certain context, though it lacks prepositional marking or inherently locative semantics. Compare the following examples:

k-kw-ɔ́kkʊttá.t   círí   c-ɔ́-wɛ́k
3-C-be_hit:COMPL   joint   C-of-leg

s/he was hit at the ankle

k-kw-ɔ́kkʊttá.t   cɪc-círí   c-ɔ́-wɛ́k
3-C-be_hit:COMPL   LOC-joint   C-of-leg

s/he was hit precisely at the ankle

The presence of VREF **cɪk** does not stand in the way of addition of **cík-** to the locative phrase:

m-p-a.ɪk   p-íkkɔ   cɪk   cɪc-cəné
1-C-be:PR   C-sit:INCOMPL   VREF   LOC-here

I am sitting right here

ɔ-kín   ṭ-ɔɽəkk.áṭɛ   cɪk   cɪ-nɔ́ɽá   w-ɔ́-káɲcâŋ
PERS-3A   C-eat:PST   VREF   LOC-on_top   C-of-big_flat_stone

they ate right on the big flat stone (the hearer is assumed to know the stone)

cík- cannot be used before a question word. The knowledge that **cík-** presupposes on the part of the hearer is incompatible with the question word. Compare:

n-ṭ-ɔká.t   kárɘ́-ṭá   máí
2A-C-be:COMPL   where-QW   just_before

where have you (PL) been just now?

*n-ṭ-ɔká.t   cɪk-kárɘ́-ṭá   máí
2A-C-be:COMPL   LOC-where-QW   just_before

cík- can be proclitic to a temporal prepositional phrase (first example below), but not to every time-adverbial word (third example below):

k-kw-ânn-aŋkɔt   ɪttɪ   k-kw-ítta   cɪ-nɔ-ṭυpót   én-ṭ-í
3-C-NEG-want:DEPCOMPL   that   3-C-get_married:INCOMPL   LOC-on-year   DEM-C-NEARSP

she does not want to get married this year

m-p-aa.t   máí
1-C-come:COMPL   just_before

I have just arrived

*m-p-aa.t   cɪ-máí
1-C-come:COMPL   LOC-just_before

Prepositional **ń-** 'with, by, (away) from' can precede locative phrases, expressing 'from'. In such cases **ń-** comes before proclitic **cík-**:

m-p-i̧cánṭet   mɛccɪn   ɲ-cɪk-ɪ-ci̧ŋkî̧
1-C-lie_down_for:PST   yesterday   with-LOC-in-sun

I slept yesterday from sunrise

m-p-i̧cánṭet   mɛccɪn   *cɪ-n.tɪ-ɪ-ci̧ŋkî̧
1-C-lie_down_for:PST   yesterday   LOC-from-in-sun

Proclitic **cík-** is a fixed part of the following adverbs:

cɪt.tɔ́.kɪ́t   'firstly, at first' (< **cík-** + **tɔ** 'up at' + **kɪ́t** 'eyes')
cɪn.nɔ́.môn   'firstly, at first' (< **cík-** + **nɔ** 'on' + ?)
cɪt̪.t̪án   'far, far away' (< **cík-** + **t̪án** 'there' (see 16.6 and 17.1.2))

Two examples:

ana	**kɪt**	**k-akkakát̪ɛ**	**cɪt.tɔ́.kɪ́t**
and	wild_chicken	C-come:PST	firstly

and the wild chicken arrived first

ɛɛ	**kʊrɪ**	**cɪt̪.t̪án**
stab:IMP	cry	far

cry out loudly!

15.4. The lexical item **ɲcɪk**

There is an item **ɲcɪk** consisting of prepositional **ń-** 'with, by, (away) from' and VREF **cɪk**. It behaves like a single low-toned item, not like clitic **ń-** + another element, since **ń-** cannot receive a high tone, but here it can. **ɲcɪk** is part of fixed lexical combinations. Lacking a clear meaning, but often still containing some notion of 'place', I gloss it as a single lexical item 'from_VREF'. **ɲcɪk** must be distinguished from **ɲ-cɪ̆k** 'from place(s)'. An example with **ɲcɪk** is given in chapter 16.5. Some examples with **ɲcɪk** follow here:

ɔkúɽɛ	**man**	**ɲ́.cɪk**
make_move_up:DEPINCOMPL	house	from_VREF

to make a house rise up from nothing (when the building was started there was nothing)

ɔkúɽɛ	**kɪt**	**ɲ́.cɪk**
make_move_up:DEPINCOMPL	wild_chicken	from_VREF

to make a wild chicken appear from nothing (typical situation: the chicken could not be seen, you throw something to where you think it is, then it suddenly flies up and appears as if from nowhere).

ŋ-kw-a.kkwín-ɔ́k   kunu   ɲ́.cɪk
2-C-hit_for:INCOMPL-O3   ear   from_VREF

you fix your ear to him/her (you must listen to him/her carefully. Lit.: you hit for him/her the ear (…). The picture is that somebody holds his ear turned to the sound, concentrating to catch it)

m-p-ɔkwɛɾɔ́.t   kuŋku   ɲ.cɪk
1-C-graze:COMPL   knee   from_VREF

I have grazed my knee (through quick contact with a rough place)